

NABIE YUSUF (JOSEPH) AS*

Part 1

*(We must always say Alayhis Salaam when we mention the name of a Prophet. It means, "May ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala's blessing and mercy be on him")

Story Number

15

My Dear Children

In this issue we will start with the beautiful story of Nabie Yusuf (Joseph-Alayhis Salaam). There is an entire chapter (12) on him in the Glorious Qur'an. As it is a long an interesting story of him will have to break it up into 2 or 3 parts in our newspaper.

This story is of Nabie Yusuf (Alayhis Salaam) and his eleven jealous brothers. We as Muslims must stay away from jealousy as the Glorious Qur'an teaches us to stay away from this evil. Let us now read about our story and see how the evils of jealousy bring to a family and everyone around us.

YUSUF AND BENJAMIN ARE PROTECTED

Yusuf was the son of Yacub (Alayhis Salaam) and Raheel. From this marriage there was another son called Benjamin. The other ten sons were born from the other wives of Yacob (Alayhis Salaam).

Yusuf and Benjamin were not allowed to go and play with his other brothers as the father loved them more than the others and he feared that some harm will come to them. They played in the house and under the watchful eye of the father. One night when Yusuf was seventeen years old he had a strange dream. . When he woke up he was confused and wanted to know the meaning of this dream. He went to his father and said, "O my father I had a very funny dream. I dreamt that eleven stars together with the sun and the moon were prostrating themselves in front of me. Father please tell me what does this mean." His father smiled at him and said, "May ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) bless you as you will rise to a high position in the eyes of the Almighty. These are signs that you will be given great knowledge to be able to interpret dreams and you will be chosen as a Prophet." "But please do not tell any of your brothers as they will dislike you, be jealous of you and even try and kill you. Please be careful," his father warned him.

BROTHERS ARE JEALOUS

There was already jealousy growing among the 10 brothers because they saw how their father, Yacob (Alayhis Salaam) treated Yusuf and Benjamin differently to them. "Our father seems to love Yusuf and Benjamin more than us. We are strong and big and deserve to be loved more than the two as they are weak and small," said the brothers. Yusuf told his brothers about his dream and forgot about his father's advice. When the brothers heard this their jealousy got worse and turned to hate. The brothers had a secret meeting and decided to kill Yusuf or take him far away from home and leave him there for someone to find him or throw him in the well in the forest. "If Yusuf is not at home any more our father will love us more and forget about Yusuf," was the plan they had decided on.

The next day the brothers approach the father and said, "Father will you allow Yusuf to come and play with us today. While we are looking after the sheep grazing on the mountain-side we will be playing and having fun. Yusuf is our brother and we love him to also play with us." When the father heard this request he became worried and said, "I fear that some wolf might come and eat him up, while you are all engaged in play." "Never," replied the sons "We are strong enough to chase him away. And further the wolf will run away when he sees 10 of us." After some more pleas from his sons Yacob (Alayhis Salaam) reluctantly allowed Yusuf to go with them.

YUSUF IS THROWN INTO A WELL

As soon as they reached the forest with the sheep they got hold of Yusuf, removed his shirt and dragged him to the deep well and threw him into it without any feelings of love for their brother or any feelings towards their old father who could not see well any more. When Yusuf landed at the bottom he heard a voice saying, "Yusuf do not be afraid, ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) is with you and HE will protect you and also give you the opportunity to remind your brothers of this terrible evil." When he heard this voice he stopped crying and stopped calling his brothers to pull him out of the well.

As soon as they carried out their plan they sat down and decided what lies they were going to tell their father of what happened to Yusuf. After a long discussion they had all agreed and decide what they are going to tell their father. They will also soak his shirt in blood to give him some proof of their story. When they reached home they started shedding crocodile tears and approached the father and said, “

Father, father, a terrible thing happened to Yusuf. While we were running a race we left Yusuf to look after our things. A wolf must have come along when we were at the other end, attacked him and ate him up. When we returned to our belongings the only thing that we found of Yusuf was this blood soaked shirt of his.” They soaked the shirt in the blood of a goat that they slaughtered for this excuse. The father was saddened by what he heard and did not believe them as he found the blood stained shirt was not torn in shreds but still in one piece. Their father was a wise man and he knew that if a wolf ate him up his shirt would have been damaged and torn. He was a Prophet and he realised that no amount of fighting and scolding will help in this matter but to be patient and ask ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to protect Yusuf as HE knows the truth.

YUSUF IS TAKEN BY TRAVELLERS

As it became dark a caravan of travellers stopped near the well to spent the night there. The leader of the caravan asked one of them to go and draw some fresh water from the well. After the water drawer threw his bucket into the well he found that it was quite heavy and needed quite an effort to draw the bucket up. As the bucket reached the top the water drawer was very surprised to find a boy standing in the bucket and he called his companions, “Come quickly, come and see and help me. Come and see what I pulled out of the well.” When they reached the well everyone was surprised and also pleased to see such a handsome boy sitting in the bucket. They helped him out of the bucket. Instead of asking him questions of his home to return him, they all kept quite and made up their minds to take him with them to sell him for a profit.

When they reached Egypt they took Yusuf to the market place and started calling out, “Is there anyone who wants to buy a healthy, handsome boy? He can be useful to you. He is young and you can train him to do your work for you.” When Al Aziz, the minister of the Egyptian court saw him he bought him for a few dirhams and took him to his palace and asked his wife to look after him as their adopted son.

YUSUF IS SOLD TO THE PHARAOH

Yusuf lived a comfortable life in the palace and he respected Al Aziz and his wife for what they have done for him. He was loyal and very trustworthy towards them. He grew up to be a fine young man and everyone in Egypt came to know of this handsome young man with good manners and honest ways. One day the wife of Al Aziz approached Yusuf and asked him to seduce her. He immediately refused her advances and said, “I will not be disrespectful to the minister. He has been very kind to me and has a great amount of trust in me. And further more it is wrong in the eyes of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).” When the wife realised that that Yusuf refused she became angry and started running behind him. She managed to grab his shirt from behind as he opened the door to escape. As they reached outside they found Al Aziz standing there and the wife immediately accused Yusuf for molesting her and demanded that her husband must punish him. When Al Aziz found that the shirt was torn from the back he knew that she was at fault and not Yusuf.

A few days later she again approach Yusuf and when he refused she told him that he will be put into prison. “I don't mind as I will be safer in prison than that which you are demanding,” said Yusuf. A few days later, the innocent Yusuf was taken and thrown into prison.

To be continued in the next issue of Al Mujaddid. Don't forget to add this one to your Story Book collection.