

**NABIE YUSUF
(JOSEPH) AS*
Part 2**

*(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

16

My Dear Children

In this issue we will continue the second part of the beautiful story of Nabie Yusuf (Joseph-Alayhis Salaam). Remember there is an entire chapter (Number 12) on him in the Glorious Qur'an.

We continue the story 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 see how the evils of jealousy destroys the family and everyone around us and also how ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) protects those who are always on the straight path.

YUSUF IN PRISON

When Yusuf was thrown into prison he was much relieved. He felt that he was safer in prison especially from the woman with her evil ways. Al Aziz, the minister, was also happy that he was in prison as it was safer for him to be there.

While in prison he started teaching the other prisoners about the religion of Nabie Ebrahim, where they have to believe in one GOD, be honest and truthful. His excellent qualities and his character became known to all the prisoners and the guards. They all started speaking well of him and respected him for his honesty.

Two of the prisoners, a butler and a baker, approached him one day and asked him to interpret their dreams for them. The butler dreamt that he was pressing grapes (making wine) into the cup for the Pharaoh. The baker dreamt that while he was carrying a basket full of baked bread on his head the birds came along and ate it all up.

Before Yusuf interpreted their dreams he reminded them that ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) was the only God and belief in Him was the only true religion. He then informed the butler that he will be released and once again serve the Pharaoh and the baker will be hanged. Yusuf asked the butler to mention him to the Pharaoh when he is working there and plead for his release.

When the butler was soon released and started working in the palace of the Pharaoh he had forgotten to mention Yusuf to the Pharaoh. After about two years the Pharaoh had a strange dream where he saw seven fat cows been eaten by seven lean cows. He also saw seven dry ears of corn next to seven green ears of corn. The Pharaoh was very keen to know what the message of this dream was. He called all the wise men of his palace and asked them for an answer. As they could not interpret it accurately they said that it was just a dream as one sees many strange things when one sleeps.

When the butler heard what was going on and how the wise men of the palace were unable to interpret the dream he approached the Pharaoh and mentioned that he will be able to tell him tomorrow what his dream was all about. The butler remembered Yusuf and rushed off to prison to find out what the Pharaoh's dream was all about.

YUSUF INTERPRETS THE PHARAOH'S DREAMS

"O Yusuf I have not seen you for many years. I am sorry that I forgot to mention you to the Pharaoh. But I have a favour to ask of you. Can you tell me what the dream of the Pharaoh is all about." The butler started relating the whole dream to Yusuf.

After Yusuf listened attentively he said, "For seven years there will be more than enough food, fruit, vegetables and meat in Egypt. But after this good seven years there will be severe drought for the next seven years. There will be no grass and water for the cattle and sheep. They will die of hunger and thirst."

“Tell me Yusuf what should I tell the Pharaoh to do to help the people and the animals,” interrupted the butler.

“Tell the Pharaoh to store up as much food as possible when there is plentiful. This will be needed to last during the seven bad years,” said Yusuf.

“And what about the 7 green grains of corn and the 7 dry grains of corn,” was the impatient question of the butler who could not wait to get the answer and rush off to the palace.

“After the seven dry and bad years where nothing will grow, there will be enough water for the plants to grow again,” were the wise words of Yusuf.

The butler hastily greeted Yusuf and rushed off to the palace to relate the interpretation of the dream to the Pharaoh. When the Pharaoh heard this interpretation of his dream he was so pleased with this answer that he asked the butler to bring Yusuf to him. When the butler reached the prison and mentioned the good news to Yusuf he refused to leave his prison cell. Instead he told the butler to tell the Pharaoh, “I will only leave my prison cell and come to the palace. I do not to have any more trouble with the ladies. Otherwise I stay here in prison, as it is safer and better for me.”

YUSUF IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

When the Pharaoh heard this he immediately called the ladies of the palace and demanded the truth about the incident from them and also the behaviour of Yusuf. The ladies, who wrongfully accused Yusuf who were feeling very guilty said the following with their heads bowed down in shame, “Yusuf was innocent from the beginning. It was our fault. We asked him to do something that was wrong and improper. He is truthful, honest, clean and showed great respect all of us.”

When the Pharaoh heard this he became angry and called his guards to bring Yusuf immediately to the palace. When Yusuf was brought to the palace in his tattered and torn clothes the Pharaoh looked at him and said, “Let it be known that you are a free man and you have always been innocent. You were wrongly imprisoned. I have chosen you to the highest rank in my palace. You are the chief in charge of all the storage of the food during the 7 good years. You will also be the chief for distributing the food to the people during the 7 lean years.”

Yusuf who was delighted that the truth had finally come out and he was innocent and a free man again, accepted this position and said, “I will fill your storehouses. I will also guard them for I know what lies ahead for the people of Egypt.”

After the 7 good years the 7 bad years started. There was no rain, the water started drying up in the wells, the crops dried up and nothing would grow. When the people in Egypt started receiving food from the storehouses they were so pleased with Yusuf. They found Yusuf to be very honest, trustworthy and very fair to all the people. He did not treat the rich any better than the poor nor give the one more than the other. He saw to the needs of all the people. The people developed great respect for Yusuf.

YUSUF MEETS HIS BROTHERS

As the people in the surrounding areas and countries did not prepare themselves for the seven bad years they started running out of food and were forced to go to Egypt to buy food for their survival. When Yacub (Alayhis Salaam) living in Palestine, heard that food was available in Egypt he called his sons and requested them to go to Egypt to buy some food for the family, otherwise they will die of hunger and starvation.

After a long journey on foot they arrived in Egypt and made their way to the storehouses. There they first had to meet the most important Chief or official in charge of the distribution. Yusuf immediately spotted them as his brothers but they did not recognise him, as he was only 17 years old when they threw him into the well. They did not realise that that he was still alive.

After they greeted Yusuf, they begged him to sell them some corn as the family was near starvation and also informed him that they had a father that was blind and badly in need of food. When their bags were filled with corn Yusuf told them, “I have done you a favour by filling your bags with grain. In

return I ask you to return my favour to you.” They were happy to return the favour to Yusuf as he was very generous by filling their bags. The brothers said, “Your honour we will be happy to do anything that you ask for.” “You still have a small brother at home. I want you to bring him with you the next time you come back for some more food. I will not give you any more grain if you do not bring him with you,” was the request made by Yusuf. “We will certainly ask our father to send our little brother with us when we come to you again,” was their answer. Yusuf asked his servants to place their money in their bags without them knowing about it.

Although the journey back home was long and very tiring they were quite happy carrying the bags of grain on their shoulders. They could not wait to get home to show their father their good fortune and also tell him about the Chief who was so kind to them in Egypt. After walking for a few weeks they finally arrived home. Their father was happy to see them and rejoiced at the site of all the bags of grain that they had brought back with them. When they open the bags to inspect the grain they were all very surprised to find that all their money was returned to them. They all told their father of the Chief. How kind and generous he was towards them. How all the people of Egypt respected him and the Pharaoh gave him a high position in his kingdom.

“Father he has asked us for a favour when we return again for some more grain,” said the eldest son. He has asked us to bring our youngest brother, Benjamin with to Egypt when we return. He also warned us that we would not get any grain if we do not come with Benjamin. The father was saddened by this request as he thoughts went back to the time when Yusuf disappeared or eaten up by the wolves according to the brothers.

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