

Prophet Yunus (Jonah)

LEVEL: BEGINNER

The story of Prophet Yunus (Jonah), also known as Dhu Nnun, is mentioned in various parts of the Quran, and its details highlight the importance of repentance, faith, and reliance on Allah.

1. Yunus' Call to His People:

Prophet Yunus was sent by Allah to the people of Nineveh, a great city in Iraq. He called them to worship Allah alone and to abandon idol worship, warning them of Allah's punishment if they persisted in their disbelief. However, his people rejected his message, remaining stubborn and defiant. Allah says:

"And indeed, Yunus was among the messengers. [Mention] when he ran away to the laden ship." (As-Saffat: 139-140).

2. Yunus Leaving His People:

When the stubbornness and rejection of his people were prolonged, Yunus became angry and decided to leave the city without God's permission. He thought that punishment would soon befall his people after his departure, so he left them and boarded a ship heading elsewhere. Allah says:

"And [mention] the man of the whale (Jonah), when he went off in anger and thought that We would not decree anything upon him. And he called out within the darkness, 'There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.'" (Al-Anbiya: 87).



3. Yunus in the Belly of the Whale:

During the journey, the ship encountered a fierce storm and was on the verge of sinking. The passengers believed that there was a guilty person on board who must be thrown into the sea for the others to survive. After drawing lots several times, the lot fell on Yunus. They threw him into the sea, where he was swallowed by a great whale sent by God. Allah says:

"And he drew lots and was among the losers. Then the fish swallowed him, while he was blameworthy." (As-Saffat: 141-142).

4. Yunus' Repentance:

While Yunus was in the belly of the whale, he realized his mistake in leaving his people without Allah's permission and began to repent and pray. He called out to Allah in the darkness, acknowledging his wrongdoing, saying, "There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers." This prayer was the reason for his salvation, as God accepted his repentance and commanded the whale to release him onto the shore. Allah says:

"And he called out within the darkness, 'There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.' So We responded to him and saved him from the distress. And thus do We save the believers." (Al-Anbiya: 87-88).



5. Yunus' Salvation and Return to His People:

After the whale released Yunus onto the shore, he was sick and weak. God caused a plant of gourd to grow beside him, providing him with shade and sustenance until he recovered. Once he was well, God commanded him to return to his people in Nineveh. When he returned, he found that his people had all believed in God after witnessing signs and warnings. Allah says:

"And We threw him onto the open shore while he was ill. And We caused to grow over him a gourd vine." (As-Saffat: 145-146).

6. The Belief of Yunus' People:

When Yunus returned to his people, he found they had repented and regretted their disbelief. Allah accepted their repentance and lifted the punishment that would befall them.

God says:

"Then has there not been a single city that believed so its faith benefited it except the people of Jonah? When they believed, We removed from them the punishment of disgrace in worldly life and gave them enjoyment for a time." (Yunus: 98).

Lessons from the Story of Yunus:

- Repentance and Regret: The story of Yunus highlights the importance of repentance and returning to God, showing that God accepts the repentance of His servants even after they make mistakes.
- Patience and Trust in God: Yunus learned from his experience that patience and trust in God are the keys to overcoming difficulties.
- Faith and Hope: The story reinforces the belief that God never abandons His faithful servants and that He responds to their prayers when they sincerely turn to Him.
- Supplication: Yunus' prayer in the belly of the whale is one of the great supplications that Muslims are encouraged to recite in times of distress.

Activities

Fill in the Blanks

1. Prophet Yunus is also known as _____.
2. Yunus was sent to the people of _____.
3. Yunus boarded a _____ that encountered a fierce storm.
4. Yunus was swallowed by a great _____.
5. Yunus called upon Allah from within the _____.
6. Yunus said, "There is no deity except _____."
7. Allah caused a _____ vine to grow over Yunus.
8. When Yunus returned, he found that his people had _____ to Allah.

Multiple Choice

1. What was Prophet Yunus sent to teach his people?

- A. How to become wealthy
- B. To worship Allah alone
- C. How to become warriors
- D. How to build ships

2. Where did Prophet Yunus' people live?

- A. Makkah
- B. Madinah
- C. Nineveh
- D. Egypt

3. Why did Yunus leave his people?

- A. They accepted his message
- B. He wanted to travel
- C. He became upset with their continued rejection
- D. Allah commanded him to leave

4. What happened to the ship Yunus boarded?

- A. It reached the shore safely
- B. It encountered a fierce storm
- C. It caught fire
- D. It disappeared

5. What happened after Yunus was thrown into the sea?

- A. He reached an island
- B. He was rescued by another ship
- C. A whale swallowed him
- D. He returned to Nineveh

6. What did Yunus say while he was in the darkness?

- A. "I will save myself."
- B. "There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers."
- C. "My people have destroyed me."
- D. "I will never return to my people."

Activities

Put the Events in the Correct Order

Number these events from 1–6.

___ Yunus' people repented and believed in Allah.

___ Yunus was swallowed by the whale.

___ Yunus was sent to the people of Nineveh.

___ Yunus called upon Allah and repented.

___ Yunus left his people and boarded a ship.

___ Allah saved Yunus and returned him to the shore.

True or False

1. Prophet Yunus was sent to the people of Nineveh.
2. Yunus left his people with Allah's permission.
3. The ship encountered a severe storm.
4. Yunus was swallowed by a whale.
5. Yunus refused to repent while he was inside the whale.
6. Allah answered Yunus' supplication and saved him.
7. A gourd vine grew over Yunus after he was placed on the shore.
8. Yunus' people eventually believed in Allah and repented.

F. Who or What Am I?

1. I was a prophet sent to call my people to worship Allah alone. Who am I?
2. I was a great city in Iraq where Yunus' people lived. What am I?
3. I swallowed Yunus after he was thrown into the sea. What am I?
4. I grew beside Yunus and provided him with shade and nourishment. What am I?
5. I am the supplication Yunus made when he realized his mistake. What am I?

Activities

Short Answer

Why did Yunus leave his people?

What happened to Yunus after he was thrown into the sea?

What did Yunus realize while he was in the belly of the whale?

What did Yunus do after realizing his mistake?

How did Allah save Yunus?

What happened when Yunus returned to his people?

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ
إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

