

Prophet Yusuf (Joseph)

LEVEL: BEGINNER

Introduction

Prophet Yusuf (Joseph), peace be upon him, was one of the prophets of Allah. He was the son of Prophet Ya'qub (Jacob), peace be upon him, and one of his twelve sons.

The story of Yusuf, peace be upon him, is one of the most detailed stories in the Qur'an. Allah dedicated an entire surah to his story: Surah Yusuf. His life was filled with difficult trials, but through every trial, Yusuf remained patient, honest, and faithful to Allah.

His story teaches us that difficult circumstances do not mean that Allah has abandoned us. Sometimes, Allah's plan is working through situations that we do not understand.

1. Yusuf's Beautiful Dream

When Yusuf, peace be upon him, was still young, Allah gave him a remarkable dream. Yusuf saw eleven stars, the sun, and the moon prostrating before him.

Yusuf told his father, Ya'qub, peace be upon him, about the dream. Ya'qub understood that the dream had an important meaning. He knew that Allah had chosen Yusuf for something special.

Ya'qub advised Yusuf not to tell his brothers about the dream because he was concerned that they might become jealous and try to harm him. Allah says:

“When Yusuf said to his father, ‘O my father, indeed I have seen eleven stars and the sun and the moon; I saw them prostrating to me.’” Surah Yusuf 12:4

Think About It

Why do you think Ya'qub told Yusuf not to tell his brothers about his dream?

Answer: Ya'qub was protecting Yusuf from his brothers' jealousy. This teaches us that wisdom sometimes means keeping certain blessings or personal matters private.

2. Yusuf's Brothers Become Jealous

Yusuf was very dear to his father, Ya'qub. Some of Yusuf's brothers became jealous because they felt that their father loved Yusuf and his younger brother more than them.

Their jealousy became so strong that they began discussing how they could get rid of Yusuf.

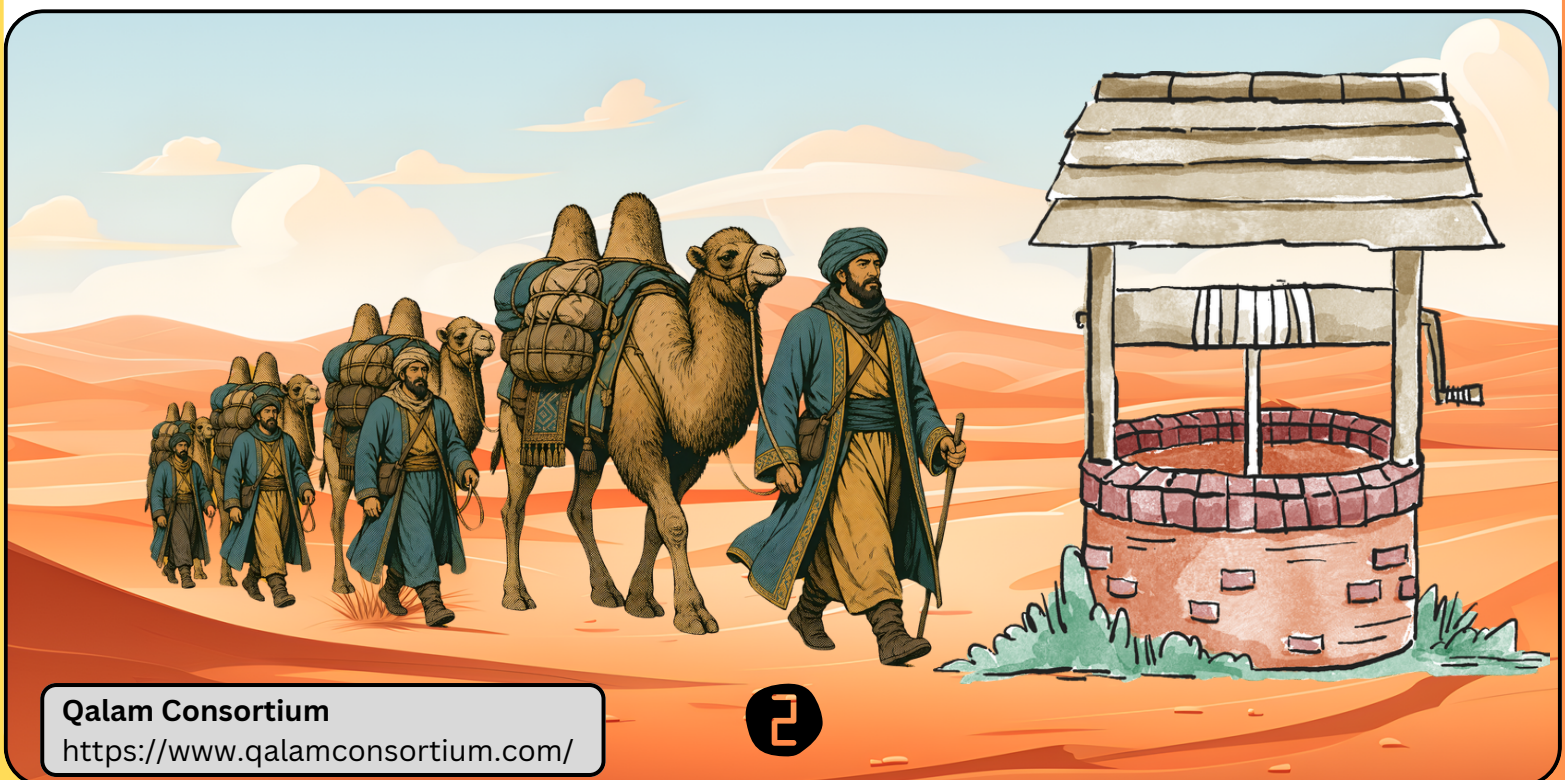
One brother suggested killing him, while another suggested throwing him into a well so that a passing traveler might find him.

Eventually, they took Yusuf with them and threw him into a well. Although Yusuf was alone and afraid, Allah did not abandon him. Allah says:

“So when they took him and agreed to put him into the bottom of the well, We inspired him, ‘You will surely inform them of this affair of theirs while they do not perceive.’” Surah Yusuf 12:15

The brothers then returned to their father and falsely claimed that a wolf had eaten Yusuf. They brought Yusuf's shirt with false blood on it as evidence.

Ya'qub realized that they were not telling the truth. Instead of giving up, he turned to Allah and remained patient.



3. Yusuf Is Taken to Egypt

A group of travelers later passed by the well. One of them lowered his bucket into the well and discovered Yusuf.

They took Yusuf with them and eventually sold him in Egypt.

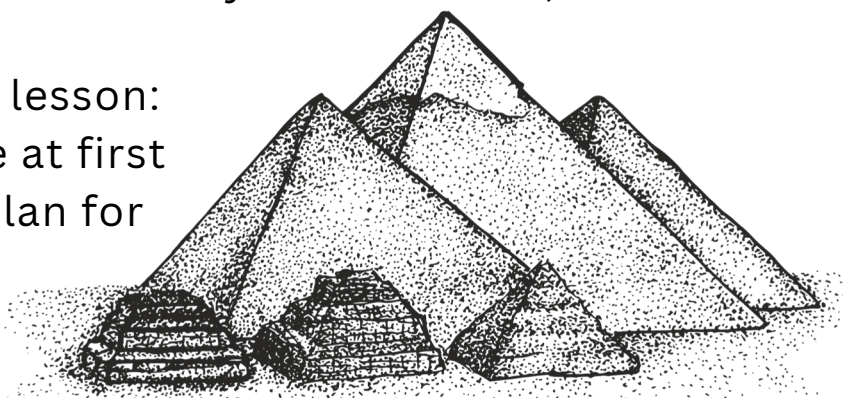
An important man in Egypt, known in the Qur'an as Al-'Aziz, purchased Yusuf. He instructed his wife to treat Yusuf well.

Allah says:

“And the one from Egypt who bought him said to his wife, ‘Make his residence comfortable. Perhaps he will benefit us, or we may adopt him as a son.’” Surah Yusuf 12:21

Yusuf had been thrown into a well by his brothers, but Allah brought him safely to Egypt.

This teaches us an important lesson:
A situation that looks terrible at first may become part of Allah's plan for something much greater.



4. Yusuf's Great Test

As Yusuf grew older, Allah gave him wisdom and knowledge. Yusuf was also known for his excellent character.

However, he faced another very difficult test.

The wife of Al-'Aziz tried to tempt Yusuf to commit a sinful act. She closed the doors and called him toward her.

Yusuf immediately refused chose obedience to Allah over his own desires. He said:

قَالَ مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ رَبِّي أَحْسَنَ مَثْوَايَ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ

“He said, ‘I seek refuge in Allah. Indeed, He is my master, who has made good my residence. Indeed, wrongdoers will not succeed.’”

Surah Yusuf 12:23

Yusuf was falsely accused, even though he was innocent. Eventually, he was sent to prison.

What Can We Learn?

Yusuf teaches us that doing the right thing does not always make our problems disappear immediately.

Sometimes, a person may do what is right and still face difficulties. But Allah knows the truth, and Allah does not forget those who obey Him.

5. Yusuf in Prison

Yusuf entered prison even though he was innocent.

While he was there, two prisoners came to him. Each had seen a dream and wanted Yusuf to explain its meaning.

Before interpreting their dreams, Yusuf reminded them about Allah and taught them about the truth of worshipping Him alone.

Yusuf then interpreted their dreams correctly.

He asked one of the prisoners who would be released to remember him and mention his situation to the king.

However, after the prisoner was released, he forgot about Yusuf for a period of time.

Yusuf remained in prison.

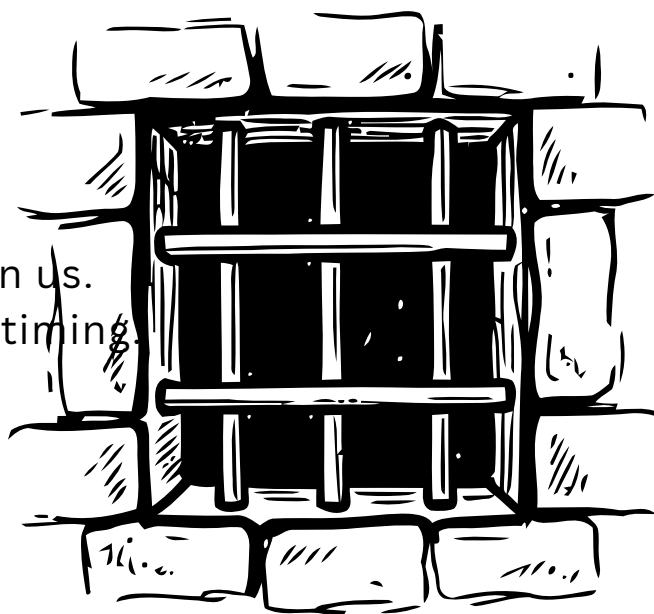
Once again, Yusuf had to be patient.

Lesson

Sometimes we ask Allah for something and it does not happen immediately.

That does not mean Allah has forgotten us.

Allah's timing is always wiser than our timing.



6. Yusuf Interprets the King's Dream

After some time had passed, the king of Egypt had a strange dream. He saw seven fat cows being eaten by seven thin cows. He also saw seven green ears of grain and seven dry ones.

The king's advisers could not explain the dream.

Then the former prisoner remembered Yusuf.

He went to Yusuf and asked him to explain the dream.

Yusuf explained that Egypt would experience seven years of abundant harvest, followed by seven difficult years of famine.

He also explained how the people should prepare during the years of abundance so that food would be available during the famine.

The king was impressed by Yusuf's wisdom and knowledge.

But Yusuf did not simply ask to be released from prison. He wanted the truth about his case to become clear first.

After Yusuf's innocence was established, he was released.

The king then appointed Yusuf to an important position overseeing the storehouses and resources of Egypt.

Allah had transformed Yusuf's situation completely.

The young boy who had once been thrown into a well had become a trusted leader in Egypt.

Yusuf

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7. Yusuf Meets His Brothers Again

The famine eventually affected the surrounding lands, including the land where Yusuf's family lived.

Yusuf's brothers traveled to Egypt to purchase food.

They stood before Yusuf, but they did not recognize him.

Yusuf recognized them.

He did not immediately reveal his identity. Instead, he dealt with them wisely and asked them to bring their younger brother, Benjamin, when they returned.

After several events, Yusuf eventually revealed the truth. He said: "I am Yusuf, and this is my brother. Allah has certainly favored us. Indeed, whoever fears Allah and is patient, then surely Allah does not allow the reward of those who do good to be lost." Surah Yusuf 12:90

The brothers realized that the powerful man standing before them was the brother they had thrown into the well many years earlier.

They were afraid of what Yusuf might do to them.

But Yusuf chose forgiveness.

He did not take revenge.

Instead, he forgave them.

8. Yusuf's Family Is Reunited

Yusuf asked his brothers to bring their father and the rest of their family to Egypt.

After years of separation, Yusuf was finally reunited with his family.

His father, Ya'qub, was reunited with his beloved son.

The dream Yusuf had seen when he was young had finally become a reality. Allah says:

وَرَفَعَ أَبَوَيْهِ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَخَرُّوا لَهُ سُجَّدًا وَقَالَ يَا أَبَتِ هَذَا تَأْوِيلُ رُؤْيَايَ مِنْ قَبْلُ قَدْ جَعَلَهَا رَبِّي حَقًّا

“And he raised his parents upon the throne, and they bowed to him in prostration. And he said, ‘O my father, this is the explanation of my vision before. My Lord has made it a reality.’” Yusuf 12:100

The prostration mentioned here was a gesture of honor and respect according to the law of that time. It was not worship. Worship belongs to Allah alone.

Yusuf recognized that everything good that happened to him came from Allah.

The Greatest Lessons from the Story of Yusuf

1. Be Patient

Yusuf experienced many difficult situations:

- He was separated from his father.
- His brothers betrayed him.
- He was thrown into a well.
- He was sold as a slave.
- He was falsely accused.
- He was imprisoned.

Yet Yusuf remained patient.

His story teaches us that patience does not mean that life will never be difficult. It means remaining obedient to Allah while facing difficulty.

2. Trust Allah

Yusuf could not see the future when he was sitting at the bottom of the well.

He could not know that the well would lead him to Egypt.

He could not know that prison would eventually lead him to a position of authority.

He could not see how all of these events would eventually bring his family back together.

But Allah knew the entire plan.

This teaches us to trust Allah even when we cannot understand what is happening.

3. Protect Yourself from Sin

When Yusuf was tempted to commit a serious sin, he immediately sought refuge in Allah.

He did not allow his desires to control him.

This teaches us that a believer must choose what pleases Allah, even when doing so is difficult.

4. Forgive Others

Yusuf had every reason to be angry with his brothers.

They had harmed him when he was young and caused him to be separated from his father for many years.

Yet when Yusuf finally had power over them, he chose forgiveness rather than revenge.

True strength is not simply having the ability to punish someone. Sometimes, true strength is having the ability to forgive.

5. Allah Does Not Waste the Reward of Good Deeds

One of the most powerful statements in the story is:

إِنَّهُ مَنْ يَتَّقِ وَيَصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“Indeed, whoever fears Allah and is patient, then surely Allah does not allow the reward of those who do good to be lost.”

Surah Yusuf 12:90

Yusuf's life is a powerful example of this truth.

His patience, faith, honesty, and obedience to Allah were never wasted.

يوسف

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Activities

Fill in the Blanks

Yusuf — Ya'qub — Egypt — prison — patience — brothers — well —

1. _____ was the father of Yusuf.
2. Yusuf's _____ became jealous of him.
3. They threw Yusuf into a _____.
4. Yusuf was eventually taken to _____.
5. Yusuf spent time in _____ even though he was innocent.
6. Yusuf showed great _____ throughout his difficulties.
7. _____ is the main prophet in this story.

Multiple Choice

1. Who was Yusuf's father?

- A. Ibrahim
- B. Musa
- C. Ya'qub
- D. Nuh

2. What did Yusuf see in his dream?

- A. Seven mountains
- B. Eleven stars, the sun, and the moon
- C. A large ocean
- D. Seven rivers

3. Why did Yusuf's brothers become jealous of him?

- A. They thought he was stronger than them.
- B. They believed their father loved Yusuf more.
- C. Yusuf had more money than them.
- D. Yusuf refused to work with them.

4. Where did Yusuf's brothers throw him?

- A. Into a river
- B. Into a cave
- C. Into a well
- D. Into a prison

5. What did Yusuf do when he was tempted to sin?

- A. He ran away from Allah's command.
- B. He asked his brothers for help.
- C. He sought refuge in Allah.
- D. He accepted the temptation.

6. What did Yusuf interpret for the king?

- A. A dream
- B. A letter
- C. A map
- D. A book

Activities

Who Said It?

Choose the person who said or expressed the idea.

1. "O my father, indeed I have seen eleven stars..."

- A. Yusuf
- B. Ya'qub
- C. Yusuf's brother
- D. The king

2. "I seek refuge in Allah."

- A. The king
- B. Yusuf
- C. Ya'qub
- D. One of the prisoners

3. "I am Yusuf, and this is my brother."

- A. Ya'qub
- B. The king
- C. Yusuf
- D. Al-'Aziz

Place the events in correct order:

1. Yusuf was one of the sons of Ya'qub.
2. Yusuf told all of his brothers about his dream.
3. Yusuf's brothers threw him into a well.
4. Yusuf was taken to Egypt.
5. Yusuf committed a sin when he was tempted.
6. Yusuf spent time in prison.
7. Yusuf was able to interpret dreams by Allah's permission.
8. Yusuf took revenge on his brothers when he became powerful.
9. Yusuf eventually reunited with his family.
10. Yusuf's story teaches us the importance of patience.

Put the Events in Order

Number these events from 1–8.

- ___ Yusuf was reunited with his family.
- ___ Yusuf was thrown into a well.
- ___ Yusuf interpreted the king's dream.
- ___ Yusuf saw his dream.
- ___ Yusuf was imprisoned.
- ___ Yusuf was taken to Egypt.
- ___ Yusuf's brothers came to Egypt for food.
- ___ Yusuf was appointed to an important position.

Activities

Match the Terms

Yusuf's dream

The well

Egypt

Prison

The king's dream

A. Yusuf was given an important position

B. Yusuf saw eleven stars, the sun, and the moon

C. Yusuf's brothers threw him there

D. Yusuf was taken there and later became a leader

E. Yusuf spent time there after being falsely accused

Answer the Questions

1. What did Ya'qub understand about Yusuf's dream?
2. Why did Yusuf's brothers become jealous of him?
3. How did Yusuf end up in Egypt?
4. Why did Yusuf refuse the temptation to sin?
5. Why was Yusuf put in prison?
6. What did Yusuf predict about Egypt's future?
7. How did Yusuf treat his brothers when he finally revealed his identity?
8. How did Yusuf's dream eventually come true?