



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

The Story of Prophet Yunus (AS)

يونس

In the belly of the whale, he called out and Allah answered.

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The Story of Prophet Yunus (AS)

“There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.”

Surah Al-Anbiya · 21:87

Come with me. Today, we're going on a journey... far, far away... and long, long ago.

Down... down... all the way to the bottom of the deep, dark sea. To the strangest place you have ever been.

Inside... the belly... of a giant whale.

It is dark there. And quiet. And warm. And a man is sitting all alone... in the dark... whispering to Allah.

But how did a man ever end up there, at the bottom of the sea... inside a whale?

Well... to know that, our story has to begin somewhere else completely. Far, far from any ocean at all... in a great and busy city.

Long, long ago... there lived a prophet named Yunus, alayhi salaam.

And Allah sent him to a great city. A busy city of tall gates and crowded streets... called Nineveh... in the land we now call Iraq.



The Patient Caller

But the people of that city had forgotten their Lord. They bowed down to statues they had carved with their own hands... and forgot the One who made them.

So Yunus called to them. Gently. Kindly. "Come back to Allah," he said. "He is the One who made you. He is the One who cares for you."

And he called to them again the next day. And the next. For years... and years. Softly. Patiently.

But the people only turned away. They covered their ears. They would not listen.

And slowly... Yunus grew tired. His heart grew heavy... heavy as a stone. And one day... he could carry it no longer. So he left. He walked away from the city... and away from his people...

before Allah had told him it was time to go.

Yunus walked... until he came to the sea. And there, at the edge of the water... a ship was setting sail.

So he stepped on board. And the ship slipped away from the shore... out onto the wide, dark water.



The Ship and the Storm

At first, it was calm. The soft waves lapped against the wood. Tap... tap... tap.

But then... the wind began to rise. The sky turned grey. Then darker. Then black.

And the sea began to heave. Up... and down. Up... and down. The little ship rocked. The waves grew tall... tall as walls... tall as mountains.

The ship was too heavy. It groaned. It could not carry everyone safely through such a storm. So the sailors drew lots... to choose who must go. And the lot... fell upon Yunus.

He looked out... at the dark and rolling sea. The cold spray on his face. And so... Yunus went down... into the water.

Down he went. Into the cold. Into the dark. The waves closed over his head... and the world above grew quiet.

And then... Allah sent a great fish. A whale... bigger than the whole ship. It rose up from the deep... and it opened its great mouth... and swallowed Yunus whole.

And that, little one... is how he came to be in the belly of the whale... right where our story began.



Into the Deep

Deep beneath the sea. Inside the belly of a whale. It was dark. So very, very dark.

The dark of the whale... inside the dark of the deep, deep sea... inside the dark of the night. Darkness... upon darkness... upon darkness. No light. No people. No sound at all... but the slow, muffled beat of the ocean, far away.

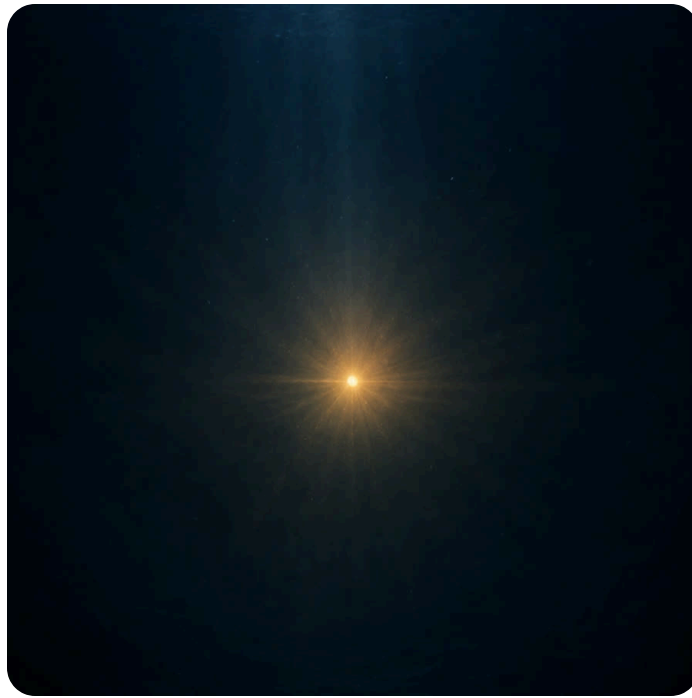
And there... in the deepest dark there ever was... Yunus did not give up.

Even in his fear... even in his sadness... he turned, with his whole heart... back to Allah. And he spoke three small lines... into the quiet.

Lā ilāha illā anta...

There is no god... but You.

Subhānaka...



The Words in the Dark

Glory be to You.

Innī kuntu mina-ẓ-ẓālimīn.

I was wrong... and I am sorry.

He said it softly. And then again. And again. The words drifted out... into the dark water.
There is no god but You...

And Allah heard him. Of course He heard him. Allah hears the smallest whisper... even from the belly of a whale... even from the bottom of the sea. Allah was never far from Yunus. Not for a single moment.

And Allah answered His prophet... and saved him from the dark.

Slowly... the great whale carried Yunus back. Up... and up... toward the light. And it laid him down, gently, on a wide, open shore.

The sand was soft. The air was warm. And Yunus was so very weak... soft and tired... like a little newborn bird.



The Open Shore

But Allah was kind to him. He made a green plant grow... right there beside him. Wide, cool leaves... spreading out... like a soft green blanket of shade.

And little by little... day by day... Yunus grew strong again. And then he went home. Back to his city. Back to his people.

And this time... they were waiting for him. This time... they listened. Every single one of them... turned back to Allah. A whole city... saved. Because one heart, in the dark... turned back to its Lord.

And now... slowly... we rise up out of the deep... and the great sea grows calm and soft behind us... as we travel back... all the way home. To right here. Right now.

But you can carry Yunus's words with you... wherever you go. Because whenever you feel lost... or sad... or alone in the dark... you can turn to Allah, just like he did. Allah always hears you. He is never, ever far.

He sees you. He cares for you.

So carry these words with you... today, and always. They mean... there is no god but You... glory be to You... I was wrong, and I am sorry.

Lā ilāha illā anta... subḥānaka... innī kuntu mina-ẓ-ẓālimīn.

Talk about it

Read a question aloud and let your child answer before you show the choices. Then ask: what would you have done?

1. Which city did Prophet Yunus call back to Allah?

- a. Nineveh
- b. Madinah
- c. Mecca

2. What did Prophet Yunus's people do when he called?

- a. They turned away
- b. They came running
- c. They built a masjid

3. In Prophet Yunus's story, what happened out at sea?

- a. A great storm came
- b. The sea split apart
- c. The sun shone warm

4. In Prophet Yunus's story, why did he leave his city?

- a. His heart grew heavy
- b. To find a new city
- c. He was sent away

5. In Prophet Yunus's story, what came up from the deep?

- a. A great whale
- b. A tall wave
- c. A small boat

6. In Prophet Yunus's story, how did the sailors choose?

- a. They drew lots
- b. The captain chose
- c. Everyone voted

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a



Hear this story

Read it again online, or listen to it narrated in the Sukun Kids app.

sukunkids.app/stories/yunus

Sukun Kids: stories of the prophets for Muslim children, narrated for bedtime.

Retold for children from the Qur'an and the classical tafsir of Ibn Kathir and Ma'arifur Qur'an. Free to print and share for home, school, masjid and homeschool use. Please do not sell it. © Sukun Kids.