



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

The Story of Prophet Yusuf (AS)

يوسف

Alone in the dark of the well, Allah was watching over him.

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The Story of Prophet Yusuf (AS)

"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

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

We're going into a grand palace hall, in the land of Egypt. Standing tall at the front is one of the most powerful men in the whole country, the trusted official in charge of the storehouses.

And in front of him... standing... are a group of tired, hungry travellers, who have come begging for grain to feed their families. They do not know who this powerful official really is. But he knows exactly who they are.

Because long, long ago... these very men threw him into a deep, dark well... and left him there... when he was just a boy. And now, at last, they stand before him, and he has the power to help them. Will he take his revenge? Or will he do something no one expects?

To find out how a boy from a well became a trusted leader in Egypt... our story has to start with a dream. This is the story of Prophet Yusuf... alayhi salaam.

A long time ago... in a land of wide deserts and endless skies... there lived a boy named Yusuf. He was kind. He was honest. And his father... Prophet Yaqub, alayhi salaam... loved him deeply.

Yusuf told his father about a remarkable dream.

"Baba... I had a dream last night. I saw eleven stars... the sun... and the moon. And all of them... were bowing down to me."

Yaqub explained that Allāh would choose Yusuf and teach him to understand dreams. But he warned his son about sharing this dream.

"Yusuf," he said quietly. "Don't tell your brothers about this dream. They might make a plan against you."

Why would a father say that?

Because Yaqub knew... his older sons were already jealous of Yusuf. They saw how close Yusuf was to their father. And jealousy... can make people do terrible things.

And it did.

One day... the brothers came up with a plan. They told Yaqub they wanted to take Yusuf out to play. But instead... they took him far from home... and lowered him down into a deep... dark well.

Then they went back... smeared his shirt with blood... and told their father a wolf had taken Yusuf.

Yaqub held that shirt in his hands... and he knew. He knew they were lying. But his heart broke all the same.

And he said something powerful. "Fa sabrun jameel... wallāhu al-musta'ānu alā mā tasifoon."



The Eleven Stars

Beautiful patience. And Allāh is the one I turn to... against what you describe.

Even in his pain... Yaqub turned to Allāh.

Down in that well... Yusuf sat in the darkness. It was cold. It was silent. And he was completely alone.

He turned to Allāh... and he trusted.

And deep in that darkness... Allāh revealed a promise to Yusuf.

"You will tell them of this day... a day when they will not even recognize you."

Yusuf held on to that promise. And Allāh didn't forget him.

A few days later... a caravan of travelers stopped near the well for water. They lowered a bucket into the darkness... and when they pulled it back up... there was Yusuf... holding on.

"A boy!" the man gasped.

They lifted him out into the sunlight. The darkness of the well was behind him.

The travelers took him on a long journey... across the desert... all the way to Egypt. Can you imagine? A boy from a small village... riding through the dunes... under a sky full of stars... not knowing where he was going.

But Allāh knew.

In Egypt... a powerful man known as Al-Aziz bought Yusuf. He brought him home and said to his wife... "Take care of this boy. He may be of great benefit to us."

And so Yusuf grew up in that house. When he reached maturity, Allāh gave him wisdom and knowledge.

As Yusuf grew older... he became known for his character. Everyone who met him could see there was something special about him.

But not everyone around him had good intentions.

One day... someone in that house tried to get Yusuf to do something wrong. Something that would go against everything Allāh had taught him.



The Journey to Egypt

And Yusuf refused.

"Ma'ādhallāh," he said. "I seek refuge in Allāh." He would not betray the trust of the household where he lived.

But even though Yusuf did the right thing... he was accused of doing wrong. They lied about him. And he was thrown into prison.

Think about that. He did nothing wrong. And he still ended up in a cell.

Yusuf continued to do good. He turned to Allāh. And in prison... two young men recognised his goodness.

When two prisoners had dreams they couldn't understand... they came to Yusuf.

"We can see you are a good man," they said. "Tell us what our dreams mean."

Yusuf explained their dreams. But first... he told them about Allāh. Even in prison... Yusuf was calling people to the truth.

That is real strength. Choosing what is right... even when life is unfair.

Years passed. And then one night... the King of Egypt had a strange dream.

Seven fat, healthy cows... being swallowed by seven thin, weak ones. And seven green stalks of grain... alongside seven dry ones.

He called his advisors. His scholars. His wisest men. "Tell me what this means," he demanded.

They shrugged. "Just a confused dream," they said. "We cannot explain dreams like these."

But it did mean something. And deep in the prison... was the man who would explain it.

One of the king's servants remembered a man named Prophet Yusuf, alayhi salaam... who understood dreams.

So the man went to Yusuf in prison and asked about the dream.

And Yusuf explained. "The seven fat cows are seven years of good harvest. Plant and save as much grain as you can. Because after that... seven years of drought will come. The people will need everything you stored."



The Trial and the Prison

The man carried the answer back. The king sent for Yusuf. This was a plan to prepare for the hungry years.

But Yusuf did not leave prison yet. He sent the messenger back to ask about the accusation. He wanted the truth to come out.

And it did. The women confirmed his innocence. Then Yusuf came before the king, who offered him a trusted position.

Then Yusuf said... "Ij'alnee alā khazā'inil ard... innee hafeezun aleem."

Put me in charge of the storehouses of the land. I am trustworthy and knowledgeable.

And just like that... the boy from the well... the man from the prison... became one of the most powerful people in all of Egypt.

The seven good years passed. And then... the drought came. No rain. Crops withered. People across the region went hungry.

But Egypt had food. Because Yusuf had planned ahead.

And one day... a group of men walked into the great hall to ask for grain.

Yusuf looked at them. He recognised them.

It was his brothers.

They were older now. Worn from the journey. But Yusuf recognized every single one of them. They didn't recognize him, though. To them... he was just a powerful Egyptian official.

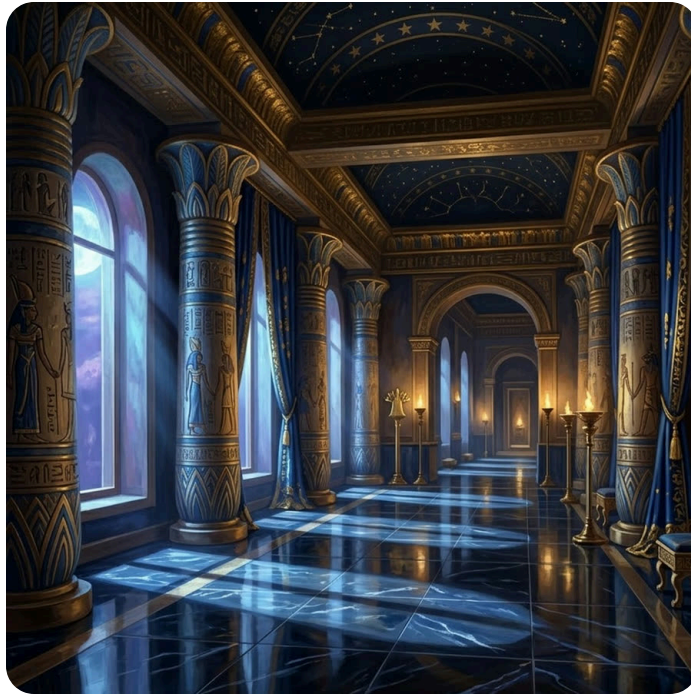
Yusuf could have shouted. He could have turned them away. But he didn't.

He was kind. He gave them grain. He treated them with dignity. Even after everything they had done... Yusuf chose mercy over anger. His strength showed in how he treated them.

Then Yusuf said... "Next time you come... bring your youngest brother."

He meant Binyamin. His only full brother. The one he hadn't seen since he was a child.

When Binyamin finally came to Egypt... Yusuf pulled him aside. Away from the others. And he whispered...



The King's Dream

"I am your brother. I am Yusuf."

Yusuf reassured Binyamin. Later, by a plan Allah arranged, Binyamin stayed with him. A measuring cup had been placed in his bag; he had not stolen it. The other brothers returned home, except the eldest, who stayed behind. Prophet Yaqub, alayhi salaam, urged them to keep searching. They came back to Egypt, asking for help again.

Finally... it was time.

Yusuf looked at all his brothers. And he asked them a question.

"Do you know... what you did to Yusuf and his brother... all those years ago?"

The room went silent. The brothers stared at him.

"Are you... Yusuf?"

"Anā Yusuf... wa hādhā akhee."

I am Yusuf. And this is my brother.

The brothers admitted they had been wrong and that Allah had favoured Yusuf.

And Yusuf said... "Lā tathrība alaykumul yawm... yaghfirullāhu lakum... wa huwa arhamur rāhimeen."

No blame on you today. May Allāh forgive you. He is the most merciful of those who show mercy.

And there, little one, is the answer to the question we began with. Would he take his revenge? No. He chose mercy.

After everything. The well. The prison. The years of separation. Yusuf forgave them. He forgave their wrong without pretending it had been right.

Then Yusuf gave his brothers a shirt to take home. "Take this to my father," he said. "Place it over his face... and he will see again."

Because Prophet Yaqub, alayhi salaam, had cried so much over the years... that he had lost his sight.

And when that shirt touched Yaqub's face...



The Reunion

By Allah's permission, he could see again.

"Did I not tell you?" Yaqub said. "I know from Allāh... what you do not know."

The whole family traveled to Egypt. Yusuf welcomed his parents and brought them close. The long separation was over.

And then... Yusuf's parents and all his brothers bowed before him.

This was a greeting of honour permitted in their time, not worship. We do not bow or prostrate to people. Our bowing and prostration belong to Allah alone.

Just like the dream. The eleven stars... the sun... and the moon.

The dream from when he was just a boy... had finally come true.

And Yusuf prayed.

"Rabbi qad ātaytanee minal mulk... wa allamtanee min ta'weelil ahādeeth... fātiras samāwāti wal ard... anta waliyyee fid dunyā wal ākhirah... tawaffanee muslimā... wa alhiqnee bis sāliheen."

My Lord... You have given me authority... and taught me the meaning of dreams. Creator of the heavens and the earth... You are my protector in this world and the next. When my life ends, let me die as a Muslim... and join me with the righteous.

After everything he went through... Yusuf didn't ask for more power or more wealth. He asked Allāh... to let him die with faith. And to be among the good people.

That is the story of Prophet Yusuf. A boy who dreamed. A boy who was betrayed. A man who was patient. And a soul... that never stopped trusting Allāh.

From a well... to a prison... to a palace. That is what Allāh's plan looks like. You can't always see it. But it is always there.

And now... slowly... we leave that long-ago palace behind... and travel back home. To right here. Right now.

But carry Yusuf with you, wherever you go. His brothers hurt him... yet he forgave them. He was thrown in a well, and locked in a prison... yet he never once stopped trusting Allah. And in the end, Allah reunited his family and fulfilled the dream. Because you can't always see Allah's plan... but it is always, always there.

So carry a piece of Yusuf's own prayer with you. It means... my Lord... join me... with the righteous.

Wa alḥiqnī bi-ṣ-ṣāliḥīn.

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. In Prophet Yusuf's story, what did he see in his dream?

- a. Eleven stars bowing
- b. A sea splitting open
- c. A great ship

2. What did Prophet Yusuf's brothers tell their father?

- a. A wolf took Yusuf
- b. Yusuf went to Egypt
- c. Yusuf ran away

3. Who dreamed of eleven stars bowing down?

- a. Prophet Yusuf
- b. Prophet Musa
- c. Prophet Ibrahim

4. How did Prophet Yusuf come out of the well?

- a. A bucket lifted him
- b. He climbed out alone
- c. His father found him

5. In Prophet Yusuf's story, where did his brothers leave him?

- a. In a deep well
- b. In a river basket
- c. On a big ship

6. Where was Prophet Yusuf sent, even though he did no wrong?

- a. Into a prison
- b. To the palace
- c. Back to his father

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



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