

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT YUSUF عليه السلام



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GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT YUSUF ﷺ

Yusuf ﷺ is mentioned twenty-seven times by name in the Noble Qur'an and an entire surah is named after him.

Nabi ﷺ said, “The noblest of people was Yusuf, who was the son of a Nabi of Allah, Ya'qub ﷺ, who was the son of a Nabi of Allah, (Ishaq ﷺ), who was the son of the Khaleel (friend) of Allah, Ibraheem ﷺ.”

The story of Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ is replete with lessons and advices.

Yusuf ﷺ's Dream

Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ saw a dream in which eleven stars, the sun and the moon are prostrating before him. When he related this dream to his father, Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ immediately realised what it meant and warned Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ not to relate it to his brothers in case shaytan uses it as a means to spur them into harming him.

The Killer Plot

The brothers approached Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ and said to him in a very loving and caring tone, “Dear father! Please allow Yusuf to join us for an outing. He is still a child and would love to be with us to enjoy himself and to play. They assured Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ that they only meant well and would do everything to protect Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ.

Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ permitted the youth to take Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ with them. They took Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ into the forest with the intention of disposing of him and after deliberation, forced him into a well. The brothers reddened the shirt of Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ with the blood of some animal and returned home that night crying and wailing. They told Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ in one voice that they had been racing with each other and had left Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ behind. It was then that a wolf attacked and devoured him. They presented the shirt as evidence and said that he would not believe them despite them speaking the truth.

When Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام saw the shirt still intact, he said to his sons, "What an intelligent wolf it must have been to devour Yusuf without even tearing his shirt?!" Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام then told them that Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام was not eaten by any wolf, but that they had devised a plot against him. He then chose to bear the hardship with patience and continued praying to Allah for help.

A Slave in the Royal Mansion

A caravan halted at this well for water. A man lowered in his bucket and as he pulled the rope up, he was stunned to see a handsome young lad clinging to it. He immediately called the others and told them the good news of a beautiful young lad he had found. They decided to hide Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام and then sell him as a slave in Egypt.

Eventually, the chief minister of Egypt, outbid all the others and took Yusuf عليه السلام to his mansion. He gave instructions to his wife to care for and honour the lad since he saw great potential in him. He even considered the probability of adopting him as a son since he had no children of his own.

A Most Trying Test

When Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام grew into a handsome young man, whose beauty was incomparable, Zulaykha, the wife of the minister became attracted to him. She devised a plan to seduce him and be alone with him for herself. When she shut all the doors of the room and tried to seduce him, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام sought the protection of Allah. He then tried to advise her to fear Allah, but to no avail.

Yusuf عليه السلام immediately started to run away from Zulaykha. She then started to run after him and, as she grabbed at his shirt, she ripped off a portion of it as he broke away. He had just managed to run out of the door, when the Chief minister appeared. When Zulaykha saw her husband in front of them, she pleaded innocence and pinned the blame on Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام.

She was now accusing Yusuf عليه السلام of molesting her, to give the impression that she was innocent and a victim of Yusuf عليه السلام's sexual desire. Though bewildered, Yusuf عليه السلام denied it. Allah caused an infant child to testify in favour of Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام. When the witnesses looked at the shirt and found that it was torn at the back, and not the front, they realised that she was guilty.

The Beauty of Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام

The women of the town found out that Zulaykha had become infatuated with Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام. They began teasing her for falling for her slave. Eager to defend herself, she contrived a plan. She invited all the women to a banquet and arranged that Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام enter the room at a time when the women were busy cutting fruit. As soon as they saw him, their jaws dropped and they were so astonished by his appearance that they cut their hands and exclaimed in one voice, "This cannot be a human (because no human can possibly be so handsome)! He must surely be a noble angel".

Zulaykha was overjoyed to have proven to the women that she was no fool for trying to seduce such a man and then said to them, "This is what you were criticising me for. Indeed, I attempted to seduce him against his will, but he escaped. If he does not do as I command him, he shall certainly be imprisoned and he will definitely be humiliated".

Many years in Prison

Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام was sent to prison to safeguard the public image of the Chief minister's wife, even though he was innocent of committing any crime.

Allah Ta'ala blessed Yusuf عليه السلام with an extraordinary gift; the ability to interpret dreams. It so happened that two men were then brought to prison with Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام. One was the cupbearer of the king; the other was the king's cook. Both men had vivid dreams, and they were anxious to have them explained. The king's cook dreamed that he

stood in a place with bread on his head, and two birds were eating the bread. The cupbearer dreamed that he was serving the king wine. The two went to Yusuf عليه السلام and told him their dreams, asking him to give them their meaning.

First, Yusuf عليه السلام called them to Allah. Then he said that the cook would be crucified and that the cupbearer would return to the service of the king. Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام then proceeded to inform the innocent one that he should speak to the king about setting him free since he was jailed unlawfully. After the cupbearer returned to service, shaytan made him forget to mention Yusuf عليه السلام's name to the king. Therefore, Yusuf عليه السلام remained in prison for a few more years, but he was patient while praying to Allah.

The King's Dream

It then happened that the king himself saw a dream which disturbed him greatly. He saw seven lean cows swallowing seven fat cows and also saw seven fresh ears of corn being consumed by seven dry ears of corn. When he consulted those around him to interpret this dream for him, they brushed it off as a dream that had no meaning. The news reached the cupbearer and Yusuf عليه السلام came to mind. The king sent the cupbearer to ask Yusuf عليه السلام about the dream.

He told them that they would have seven years of prosperity, during which time they were to use only that much of grain as they required. The rest was to be stored for seven years of drought that were to follow. Thereafter, they would have a year of abundance once more and they would enjoy the fruits of the earth. The seven lean cows and seven dry ears of corn therefore represented the seven years of drought.

Yusuf عليه السلام's is proven Innocent

The king was impressed with what he heard; he commanded that Yusuf عليه السلام be set free from prison and presented to him at once. When

the king's messenger went to the prison to get Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام, He refused to leave the prison unless his innocence was proven.

The king therefore summoned the women and demanded that they speak the truth. They declared, "We do not know of any evil in him (he is innocent)". When Zulaykha saw that the women would not stand with her, she was forced to admit, "The truth is now out. I attempted to seduce him against his will and he is of the truthful (he did not try to seduce me)".

The king then met Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام, was very pleased to meet him and appointed him as one of his ministers.

Yusuf عليه السلام meets his Brothers

When the drought struck, Hazrat Yauqub عليه السلام sent ten of his sons, all except Bin Yaameen, to Egypt to purchase provisions. When the ten brothers arrived before Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام, they did not recognise him although he recognised his brothers.

Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام told them that if they ever needed to return for more grains, they would have to bring their step-brother along with them. They assured him that they would gladly fulfil his command but that they would have to get their father's permission. As an inducement to return with their brother, Yusuf عليه السلام ordered his servant to secretly place the money they had paid, into one of their grain sacks.

When the brothers discovered the money in their luggage, they told their father that their monies must have been returned in error and they needed to return it as soon as possible. They then begged Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام to send Bin Yaameen as well to collect another load, promising that they would protect him. Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام decided to send Bin Yaameen as well. He reminded them: "Allah is witness to your pledge." He then advised them to enter the city through several different gates.

When they arrived in Egypt, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام was overjoyed to see that his brothers had kept their word to bring Bin Yaameen along.

When the brothers were ready to leave, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام ordered one of his attendants to place a cup secretly in Bin Yaameen's luggage. When the brothers were ready to set out, the gates were locked, and the court crier called out: "O you travellers, you are thieves!" Surprised, the brothers asked what it was that was stolen. The announcer informed them that a valuable cup had been stolen and anyone who found it would receive a camel's load of goods as a reward.

Bin Yameen held back in Egypt

The brothers assured the man that they were not thieves. However, the man asked what punishment was acceptable to them if they were found guilty. The brothers replied that the thief himself would be handed over as recompense. The chief officer ordered his soldiers to start searching the caravan. He had given instructions for Bin Yameen's bag to be the last to be searched. In their rage, the brothers insolently exclaimed, "If he has stolen then surely his brother before him must have also stolen". However, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام maintained his composure and kept silent.

When the brothers realised that they had failed to honour their pledge to their father to bring Bin Yaameen back, they tried to beg Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام to forgive Bin Yaameen and to rather take one of them in his place. However, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام told them that it would be unjust to punish someone for the crime of another and this was therefore impossible.

It was then that the eldest brother refused to return with the rest and told the others: "We promised our father in the name of Allah not to fail him. I will, therefore, stay behind and will only return if my father permits me to do so."

Hazrat Ya'qub's ﷺ Grief

The father was deeply hurt. Only prayer could comfort him and strengthen his faith and patience. Weeping all those years for his beloved son Yusuf ﷺ - and now one more of his best sons had been snatched from him - Ya'qub ﷺ almost lost his sight. Allah inspired Ya'qub ﷺ with the thought of instructing his sons to search for Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ. When they arrived Yusuf ﷺ asked the brothers if they remembered what they had done to Yusuf and his brother when they were still ignorant. When they heard this question, they were perplexed to know that the minister should know what they had done to Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ, unless he was Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ. Realising that they had been wrong, all they could do was admit their guilt and acknowledge that Allah had indeed favoured him by raising him from the depths of the well to the height of the throne of Egypt. Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ forgave all that they did. He then instructed them to return home and to cast his shirt over the face of their father, which would restore his eyesight. They were then to bring the entire family to settle in Egypt.

The Fragrance reaches Ya'qub ﷺ

The caravan was on route to Egypt when Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ declared that he could smell the fragrance of Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ. When the people in the household of Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ heard him say this, they chided him for entertaining such hopes and assumed that he was speaking out of senility. However, they were surprised when the caravan arrived and the vision of Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ was restored. He then reminded the people that he knew things that they did not know. The brothers then sought forgiveness from Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ and he promised to make dua for their forgiveness.

The Grand Reunion

The family travelled to Egypt and when everyone had met and settled, Hazrat Yusuf ﷺ arrived and took his seat of honour, all the

courtiers and ministers bowed before him in reverence. It was then that Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام and his family also did the same. When they did this, Hazrat Yusuf عليه السلام exclaimed, "O my beloved father! This is the (realisation of the) interpretation of my past dream. Allah has surely made it come true".

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About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

