

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 38 - 42

### Learning Objectives:

- To provide an explanation of verses 38 - 42

### PRISON AS A CENTRE OF TRAINING

#### AYAH 38 – 42

وَاتَّبَعْتُ مِلَّةَ آبَائِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ ۚ مَا كَانَ لَنَا أَنْ نُشْرِكَ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ

38. And I follow the creed of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. It is not for us to ascribe any partner to Allah. This is by virtue of Allah's Grace upon us and upon all mankind, but most people do not give thanks.

يَا صَاحِبِي السِّجْنِ أَأَرْبَابٌ مُتَّفَرِّقُونَ خَيْرٌ أَمْ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ

39. O my prison mates! Are different masters better, or Allah, the One, the All-paramount?

مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ مِمَّا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ ۚ إِنْ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ۚ أَمَرَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

40. You do not worship besides Him but [mere] names that you and your fathers have coined, for which Allah has not sent down any authority. Sovereignty belongs only to Allah. He has commanded you to worship none except Him. This is the upright religion, but most people do not know.

يَا صَاحِبِي السِّجْنِ أَمَّا أَحَدُكُمَا فَيَسْقِي رَبَّهُ خَمْرًا ۖ وَأَمَّا الْآخَرُ فَيُصَلَّبُ فَتَأْكُلُ الطَّيْرُ مِنْ رَأْسِهِ ۚ قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ الَّذِي فِيهِ تَسْتَفْتِيَانِ

41. O my prison mates! As for one of you, he will serve wine to his master, and as for the other, he will be crucified, and vultures will eat from his head. The matter about which you inquire has been decided.

وَقَالَ لِلَّذِي ظَنَّ أَنَّهُ نَاجٍ مِّنْهُمَا اذْكُرْنِي عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ فَأَنَسَاهُ الشَّيْطَانُ ذِكْرَ رَبِّهِ  
فَلَبِثَ فِي السِّجْنِ بِضْعَ سِنِينَ

**42. Then he said to the one who knew would be delivered from among the two: 'Mention me to your master.' But Satan caused him to forget mentioning [it] to his master. So he remained in the prison for several years.**

According to Tafsir, this is the first time P Yusuf (AS) tells his fellow prisoners about his lineage that he is a descendant of Prophets Ibrahim, Ishaq and Yaqub, who were Prophets who received the divine revelations.

P Yusuf (AS) spent his time in prison wisely. He preached about Monotheism to his fellow prisoners, comforted those who were suffering and helped those who were sick. Hoping that the cup-bearer who had related his dream would have faith in his Lord, that would make him an honest person and would be very effective in helping the needy as he had a close position to the Pharaoh. As for the baker who was sentenced to death, he would be consoled and have hope by having faith in Allah, that this was not the end of his life but rather a beginning of a new and higher life in a new world which is eternal.

When the cup-bearer was free to go P Yusuf (AS) asked him to mention him to his King that he has imprisoned him wrongly. When he was released, Shaitan made him forget that he was given the message to tell the Pharaoh.

A narration on the authority of Imam al-Sadiq (A) says that Jibra'il (A) taught Yusuf the following prayer commanding him to say it following every obligatory prayer: "O God! make for me relief (from suffering) and an escape. Grant me sustenance in as much as I may reckon it and in as much as I may not reckon it."

### IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) Having a strong faith and rely only on Allah.
- 2) Have patience when facing difficulties.
- 3) Remember your ultimate goal

### REFERENCES

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3. The Holy Quran, Text Translation & Commentary B Ayatullah Nasir Makarem Shirazi