

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 43 - 49

### Learning Objectives:

- To provide an explanation of verses 43-59
- To memorise Surah Yusuf up to verse 49

### THE KING'S DREAM

#### VERSES 43 – 49:

وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ إِنِّي أَرَى سَبْعَ بَقَرَاتٍ سِمَانٍ يَأْكُلُهُنَّ سَبْعٌ عِجَافٌ وَسَبْعَ  
سُنْبُلَاتٍ خُضِرٍ وَأُخْرَى يَابِسَاتٍ ۖ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ أَفْتُونِي فِي رُؤْيَايَ إِن كُنْتُمْ  
لِلرُّؤْيَا تَعْبُرُونَ

43. The King said, 'I saw (in a dream) seven fat cows being devoured by seven lean ones, and seven green ears and seven others (that were) dry. O courtiers, give me your opinion about my dream, if you can interpret dreams.'

قَالُوا أَضْغَاثُ أَحْلَامٍ ۖ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَأْوِيلِ الْأَحْلَامِ بِعَالَمِينَ

44. They said, "(These are) confused nightmares, and we do not know the interpretation of nightmares.'

وَقَالَ الَّذِي نَجَا مِنْهُمَا وَادَّكَرَ بَعْدَ أُمَّةٍ أَنَا أُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِتَأْوِيلِهِ فَأَرْسِلُونِ

45. Said the one of the two who had been delivered, remembering (Joseph) after a long time: 'I will inform you of its interpretation; so let me go (to meet Joseph in the prison).'

يُوسُفُ أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُ أَفْتِنَا فِي سَبْعِ بَقَرَاتٍ سِمَانٍ يَأْكُلُهُنَّ سَبْعٌ عِجَافٌ وَسَبْعِ  
سُنْبُلَاتٍ خُضِرٍ وَأُخْرَى يَابِسَاتٍ لَّعَلِّي أَرْجِعُ إِلَى النَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

46. 'Joseph,' (he said), 'O truthful one, give us your opinion concerning seven fat cows who are eaten by seven lean ones, and seven green ears and (seven) others dry, that I may return to the people so that they may know (the truth of the matter).'

قَالَ تَزْرَعُونَ سَبْعَ سِنِينَ دَأَبًا فَمَا حَصَدْتُمْ فَذَرُوهُ فِي سُنْبُلِهِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّمَّا  
تَأْكُلُونَ

47. He said, 'You will sow for seven consecutive years. Then leave in the ear whatever (grain) you harvest, except a little that you eat.'

ثُمَّ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ سَبْعٌ شِدَادٌ يَأْكُلْنَ مَا قَدَّمْتُمْ هُنَّ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّمَّا تَخَصِمُونَ

48. Then after that there will come seven hard years which will eat up whatever you have set aside for them - all except a little which you preserve (for seed).

## ثُمَّ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ عَامٌ فِيهِ يُغَاثُ النَّاسُ وَفِيهِ يَعْصِرُونَ

**49. Then after that there will come a year wherein people will be granted relief and provided with rains therein.**

P Yusuf (AS) was lonely and forgotten in prison and remained there for many years. Some say he was there for seven years. He kept himself busy with self-development and imparting knowledge to his fellow prisoners.

One day the King of Egypt had a dream that seven fat cows were eaten by seven lean ones and there were seven ears of healthy corn and seven dried ones. The King thought that this was a sign of a revolution where the weak people, like the farmers, labourers and slaves would revolt and overpower the strong and the wealthy ones. He was very anxious and wanted to know what the real interpretation was. He asked his advisors, the magicians and fortune-tellers, if they could explain his dream. But none of them could interpret the dream because it had elements that they were not familiar with.

The cup-bearer who was in the palace remembered about P Yusuf (AS) and told the King that he knew somebody who could interpret dreams, without disclosing his name. The King sent him to find out. He came to the prison and told P Yusuf (AS) about the dream, not mentioning that it was the king's dream. He explained to the cup-bearer that the dream showed that in future there will be 7 years of abundant harvest of crop which will be followed by 7 years of drought resulting in famine. So they had to be careful when they have abundance of crop, not to consume everything but to preserve their harvest without separating it from the husks, so they could use it at the time of famine and also to save some seeds as well so it can be sowed again. Thereafter, they'll have a year of abundant water, either from rain or river Nile, in which the produce will flourish and they'll be able to again press grapes.

Ayatollah Nasir Makarem suggests that the fattened cow represents blessing or good times, according to ancient legend and green ears (of corn/wheat) represents a year.

Allama Tibrisi has said that the interpretation of dreams was one of the forty-six parts of Prophethood. This shows that knowledge of the unseen is a grace from the Almighty.

This incident changed the fate of P Yusuf (AS).

### IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) Allah does not forget anyone. With patience the right time will come
- 2) Knowledge of the unseen is a gift from Allah given to the Prophets

### REFERENCES

1. Commentary on Surah Yusuf - Compiled by : 'Ali 'Abdur-Rasheed
2. The Holy Quran, Text Translation & Commentary B Ayatullah Nasir Makarem Shirazi