

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 58 - 62

### Learning Objectives:

- Studying verses 58-62
- Examining Prophet Yusuf (as)'s attitude towards his brothers

### PROPHET YUSUF (AS) MEETS HIS BROTHERS

#### VERSES 58 - 62

وَجَاءَ إِخْوَةُ يُوسُفَ فَدَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَعَرَفَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ مُنْكَرُونَ

58. And Yusuf's brothers came and went in to him, and he knew them, while they did not recognize him.

وَلَمَّا جَهَّزَهُمْ بِجَهَّازِهِمْ قَالَ ائْتُونِي بِأَخٍ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَبِيكُمْ ؕ أَلَا تَرَوْنَ أَنِّي أُوفِي الْكَيْلَ وَأَنَا خَيْرُ الْمُنْزِلِينَ

59. And when he furnished them with their provision, he said: Bring to me a brother of yours from your father; do you not see that I give full measure and that I am the best of hosts?

فَإِنْ لَمْ تَأْتُونِي بِهِ فَلَا كَيْلَ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي وَلَا تَقْرُبُونِ

60. But if you do not bring him to me, you shall have no measure (of corn) from me, nor shall you come near me.

قَالُوا سَنُرَاوِدُ عَنْهُ أَبَاهُ وَإِنَّا لَفَاعِلُونَ

61. They said: We will strive to make his father yield in respect of him, and we are sure to do (it).

وَقَالَ لِفِتْيَانِهِ اجْعَلُوا بِضَاعَتَهُمْ فِي رِحَالِهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَعْرِفُونَهَا إِذَا انْقَلَبُوا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

62. And he said to his servants: Put their money into their bags that they may recognize it when they go back to their family, so that they may come back.

After the seven years of fertility, the times of drought arrived. People from all over Egypt came to Yusuf (AS) to buy their food. He treated all people with compassion and equity. He also distributed food to the people on the periphery of Egypt, like Canaan and Palestine, home to his family and forefathers.

The drought had continued to such an extent that Ya'qub (AS) found it necessary to send his sons, all of them, to Egypt to buy the family's food from the king. The journey took them eighteen days by foot. Some historical sources indicate that upon their arrival, their names and towns were registered with Egyptian officials. When Yusuf (AS) was notified of a caravan from Palestine, he recognized the names of his brothers in the registry and ordered that they be brought before him.

Nearly forty years had passed from the time when his brothers placed him in the well until this time and it is apparent that his brothers did not recognize him.

Each person who purchased food was given a quantity to fill whatever container they would bring with them. As many travelled by camel, they would be given food for each camel to carry. The reference in the verse to Kail is a reference to this type of measurement which is a measurement of volume as opposed to weight or number.

Yusuf (AS) did not leave it to chance alone that his brothers would return with Benyameen. He ordered his servants to put the property that they had given to purchase their food back into their luggage. Yusuf's (AS) plan was that when they would open their luggage upon their return they would discover that their money had been returned to them. Thinking that the money was returned mistakenly, Yusuf (AS) calculated that they would return with the money, as a gesture of nobility, to curry favour with the king.

After being honoured by the treasurer of Egypt and given a generous quantity of provisions, Yusuf's (AS) brothers are given the ultimatum to bring their brother or face being blacklisted.

During the drought, people generally came to the treasury in the spring and winter to stock up on enough provisions to survive until the next season. Yusuf (AS), therefore, knew that the drought would compel his brothers to return to him for provisions of the next season.

His brothers assured him that they would try earnestly to convince their father to release their brother into their care when they would return to Egypt. They now had to go to Ya'qub (AS) and ask for his second most beloved child, Benyameen.

Abu Baseer Narrates from Imam Baqir (as):

*"I heard Abu Ja'far (AS) speaking, he said: When Ya'qub failed to find Yusuf, his sorrow became intense upon him and he cried until his eyes became white due to sorrow. He had severe need and his situation changed. He had to provide food for his family from Egypt twice each year, in the winter and summer. He sent a number of his sons with some merchandise to Egypt with a group leaving. When they entered upon Yusuf, and that was after his appointment as al-'Azeez of Egypt, Yusuf recognized them but his brothers did not recognize him due to the awe of the king and his power.*

*He said: Place your merchandise in groups. Then he said to his servants: Hasten in these measurements and give them (what all they deserve). Then, when you finish, put their merchandise in their baggage and do not inform them of that. Then, they did (as ordered). Then, Yusuf said to them: It has become known to me that you have two others brothers for your father, what do they do? They said: Regarding the eldest of the two, a wolf ate him and as far as the younger, we left him with his father (who) is consumed with grief and he is compassionate toward him.*

*He (Yusuf) said: I would like you to bring him with you when you come for your provisions. "But if you do not bring him to me, you shall have no measure of (of corn) from me, nor shall you come near me. They said: We will strive to make his father yield in respect of him, and we are sure to do it."*

The next part of this hadith will be mentioned in the next section.

### IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) Even after the evil his brothers did to him – Prophet Yusuf (as) still acted kindly and compassionately towards them even though he was in a position of power and could have made life very difficult for them
- 2) Prophet Yusuf (as) was fair and generous in his dealings with people

### REFERENCES

1. Commentary on Surah Yusuf - Compiled by : 'Ali 'Abdur-Rasheed
2. An Enlightening Commentary into the Light of the Holy Qur'an vol. 7 by A Group of Muslim Scholars, under the direction of Ayatullah Allamah Al-Hajj Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imani.