

Surah Yusuf – Verses 63 - 68

Learning Objectives:

- Studying verses 63-68
- Understanding the events after Prophet Yusuf (as)'s brothers returned home

PROPHET YUSUF (AS)'S BROTHERS RETURN HOME

VERSES 63 - 68

فَلَمَّا رَجَعُوا إِلَىٰ أَبِيهِمْ قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مُنِعَ مِنَّا الْكَيْلُ فَأَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا آخَانًا نَّكَتَنَ
وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

63. So when they returned to their father, they said: O our father, the measure is withheld from us, therefore send with us our brother, (so that) we may get the measure, and we will most surely guard him.

قَالَ هَلْ آمَنُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا كَمَا أَمِنْتُكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَخِيهِ مِنْ قَبْلُ ۗ فَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ حَافِظًا ۗ
وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

64. He said: I cannot trust in you with respect to him, except as I trusted in you with respect to his brother before; but Allah is the best Keeper, and He is the most Merciful of the merciful ones.

وَلَمَّا فَتَحُوا مَتَاعَهُمْ وَجَدُوا بِضَاعَتَهُمْ رُدَّتْ إِلَيْهِمْ ۗ قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مَا نَبْغِي ۗ
هَذِهِ بِضَاعَتُنَا رُدَّتْ إِلَيْنَا ۗ وَنَمِيرُ أَهْلَنَا وَنَحْفَظُ أَخَانًا وَنَزِدَادُ كَيْلٍ بَعِيرٍ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ
كَيْلٌ يَسِيرٌ

65. And when they opened their goods, they found their money returned to them. They said: O our father! what (more) can we desire? This is our property returned to us, and we will bring corn for our family and guard our brother, and will have in addition the measure of a camel (load); this is an easy measure.

قَالَ لَنْ أُرْسِلَهُ مَعَكُمْ حَتَّىٰ تُؤْتُونِ مَوْثِقًا مِنَ اللَّهِ لَتَأْتُنِّي بِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ يُحَاطَ بِكُمْ ۗ
فَلَمَّا آتَوْهُ مَوْثِقَهُمْ قَالَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ مَا نَقُولُ وَكِيلٌ

66. He said: I will by no means send him with you until you give me a firm covenant in Allah's name that you will most certainly bring him back to me, unless you are completely surrounded. And when they gave him their covenant, he said: Allah is the One in Whom trust is placed as regards what we say.

وَقَالَ يَا بَنِيَّ لَا تَدْخُلُوا مِنْ بَابٍ وَاحِدٍ وَادْخُلُوا مِنْ أَبْوَابٍ مُتَفَرِّقَةٍ ۗ وَمَا أُغْنِي
عَنْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ۗ إِنَّ الْحُكْمَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ۗ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ ۗ وَعَلَيْهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ
الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ

67. And he said: O my sons ! do not (all) enter by one gate and enter by different gates and I cannot avail you aught against Allah; judgment is only Allah's; on Him do I rely, and on Him let those who are reliant rely.

وَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا مِنْ حَيْثُ أَمَرَهُمْ أَبُوهُمْ مَا كَانَ يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا
حَاجَةً فِي نَفْسٍ يَعْقُوبَ قَضَاهَا ۗ وَإِنَّهُ لَدُوٌّ عَلِيمٌ لِمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ
النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

68. And when they had entered as their father had bidden them, it did not avail them aught against Allah, but (it was only) a desire in the soul of Yaqoub which he satisfied; and surely he was possessed of knowledge because We had given him knowledge, but most people do not know.

Yusuf's brothers then returned to Kan'an rejoicing and well supplied although they were worried that if their father did not give his consent to send Benyameen back with them, the new 'Aziz (Prophet Yusuf (as)), would not receive them and no share would be allocated to them.

Thus, on their return to Kan'an, they told their father that the condition for receiving future supplies of grain would be for him to send Benyameen with them to Egypt.

They tried to convince their father by telling him that with the good graces of the king, they would protect their brother and bring an additional camel-load of food home from Egypt. As it was the practice to give each person a camel-load of food for their commodities, they would enjoy an extra camel-load with Benyameen accompanying them on their next trip to Egypt. This is why it is referred to as an easy measure.

Their father, who had never forgotten the memory of Prophet Yusuf (as), was overwhelmingly upset when he heard these words. Turning to them, he wanted to know whether he could have trusted them as he had trusted them before with Yusuf. He expressed that his heart was uneasy with handing over Benyameen to them, just as he had been uneasy with turning over Prophet Yusuf (as) forty years before.

However, as a man of God, Prophet Ya'qub (as) realized that all matters are in Allah (swt)'s Hands. If He protects Benyameen, then no one can harm him. His mercy is without limits and bounds. It is only this, meaning his knowledge of Allah (swt), that gives Prophet Ya'qub (as) any reassurance in sending Benyameen to Egypt.

Prophet Ya'qub (as) made his sons take a solemn oath to Allah (swt) that they would do everything within their power to return Benyameen to him unless they were completely overpowered, or, according to

some other sources - until they were all killed. It is thought that the brothers had shown some remorse for their prior misdeeds and after taking a solemn oath in God Almighty's name, Prophet Ya'qub (as) felt more at ease to send Benyameen to Egypt. He knew that each of their conscience would exhort them to be vigilant and determined with regard to protecting Benyameen.

In his parting advices, Prophet Ya'qub (as) advises his sons to enter into the city by various gates when they return to Egypt. It is said that those instructions were due to the fact that he did not want them to attract attention and jealousy as they were handsome men of good form and perfection and had received special treatment by the ruler of Egypt.

Nevertheless, he was quick to point out that in the final analysis, it was Allah that was the final Guarantor and Judge, and in Him and only Him should we put our trust, and from Him we must seek help, even when we take precautions. And that whatever God Almighty has decreed for them, he nor anyone else could prevent it from being fulfilled.

God Almighty's ruling or judgment in the affairs of His creation is His affair alone and no one can alter it. As a man of faith, however, Prophet Ya'qub (as) resigns himself to entrust his affairs to God Almighty and, thus, advises his sons to be reliant upon God Almighty as well.

The sons returned to Egypt (with Benyameen), they entered Egypt as prescribed by their father. As mentioned, Prophet Ya'qub (as) knew nothing could prevail them against the Will of Allah (swt), but it satisfied a need he felt due to the heaviness of his heart.

Finally, God Almighty attests to Prophet Ya'qub (as)'s knowledge and that his knowledge was granted from Himself. It also indicates that Prophet Ya'qub (as) had some insight into these affairs in which his sons were involved. This insight was due to his communication with God Almighty Who established his knowledge.

In the next part of the hadith mentioned in the previous section Abu Baseer Narrates from Imam Baqir (as):

"When they returned to their father, they opened their luggage and found their merchandise in it, they said: O our father! What (more) can we desire? This is our property returned to us! The measure for us is a measure of the camel's load. Therefore send with us our brother, (so that) we may get the measure, and we will most surely guard him...He said: I cannot trust in you with respect to him, except as I trusted in you with respect to his brother before.

Then, after six months when they needed provisions, Ya'qub sent them and sent with them a little merchandise and Benyameen. Due to that, Ya'qub made them take a solemn covenant with Allah (swt) that they would bring him back unless they were all encircled. So, they left with the group until they came to Yusuf.

IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) The Almighty favors whom He wishes.
- 2) The good that we do if we strive in His way is never wasted. Although some are given great rewards in this life, but the rewards in the next life are even greater and far more superior.

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