

Surah Yusuf – Verses 87 - 91

Learning Objectives:

- Studying verses 87 - 91
- Prophet Yusuf (as) reveals his identity

PROPHET YUSUF (AS) REVEALS HIS IDENTITY

VERSES 87 - 91

يَا بَنِيَّ اذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا
يَيْأَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

87. O my sons! Go and inquire respecting Yusuf and his brother, and despair not of Allah's mercy; surely none despairs of Allah's mercy except the unbelieving people.

فَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ قَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الْعَزِيزُ مَسَّنَا وَأَهْلَنَا الضُّرُّ وَجِئْنَا بِبِضَاعَةٍ مُزْجَاةٍ
فَأَوْفِ لَنَا الْكَيْلَ وَتَصَدَّقْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْزِي الْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ

88. So when they came in to him, they said: O chief! distress has afflicted us and our family and we have brought scanty money, so give us full measure and be charitable to us; surely Allah rewards the charitable.

قَالَ هَلْ عَلِمْتُمْ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ يُّوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ إِذْ أَنْتُمْ جَاهِلُونَ

89. He said: Do you know how you treated Yusuf and his brother when you were ignorant?

قَالُوا إِنَّكَ لَأَنْتَ يُوسُفُ قَالَ أَنَا يُوسُفُ وَهَذَا أَخِي قَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّهُ
مَنْ يَتَّقِ وَيَصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

90. They said: Are you indeed Yusuf? He said: I am Yusuf and this is my brother; Allah has indeed been gracious to us; surely he who guards (against evil) and is patient (is rewarded) for surely Allah does not waste the reward of those who do good.

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ آتَرَكَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَإِنْ كُنَّا لَخَاطِئِينَ

91. They said: By Allah! now has Allah certainly chosen you over us, and we were certainly sinners.

Prophet Ya'qub (as) ordered his sons to return to Egypt after praying for God to send the Angel of Death to him and inquiring from the Angel about the soul of Prophet Yusuf (as). Upon seeing their astonishment with regards to him asking them to enquire about Prophet Yusuf (as), as they were convinced of his demise, he warns them not to despair of God's Mercy as it is not among the characteristics of a believer.

Upon returning to Prophet Yusuf (as) the third time, they informed him that their family has suffered from the drought and that which they have brought in exchange for food is deficient. Their plea was to give the same measure of food as before in the same spirit of generosity as had been shown in their two previous trips. They requested that al-'Aziz be charitable with them, as Allah (swt) loves those who are charitable.

It has also been mentioned that they carried with them a letter from their father addressed to al-'Aziz, in which he informs the Aziz of his afflictions and requests him to release Banyameen. When Prophet Yusuf (as) read the letter, he kissed it, placed it on his eyes crying and wailing until his tears wet the shirt he was wearing. Then, he addressed his brothers: *"Do you know how your treated Yusuf and his brother when you were ignorant?"* Meaning his humiliation, his separation from his father at a young age, putting him into the well, conspiring to kill him and selling him as a slave for a paltry price. Then, their isolation of Banyameen until he became despised and rejected among his brothers. A subtle point here is that Prophet Yusuf (as) first informs them of their sins and, then, clarifies for them the path of forgiveness by adding: *"when you were ignorant"*.

Then, He alludes to the path which he and his brother have taken, the path of piety and patience which is eternally rewarded by God Almighty. Reminding them that whatever one does for the sake of goodness and piety, they will never be denied their reward as God Almighty never wastes the reward of those who do good. As with Prophet Yusuf (as) and his brother, their worldly rewards have come after many years of suffering the pain of separation and suffering the ill-effects of their sibling's jealousy. Even as they will soon enjoy the results of years of patience and prayer, what God Almighty has in store for them in the hereafter, in terms of rewards, cannot be compared with the worldly rewards, no matter how sweet and gratifying they may be.

Realizing that they have come full-circle and are now standing before their brother who they conspired to rid themselves of, they are awe-struck. If that alone was not sufficient to humiliate them, their brother is now one of the most powerful men in their world. They acknowledged that God Almighty has shown Prophet Yusuf (as) and his brother to be exalted over them in forbearance, knowledge, reasoning and goodness. With remorse, they admit that they were mistaken in choosing the path of action which they followed in their youth.

IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) Reliance on Allah (swt) combines having true patience, trust in His Plans and hope in His Mercy

REFERENCES

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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.

