

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 92 - 95

### Learning Objectives:

- Studying verses 92 - 95
- Prophet Yusuf (as) forgives his brothers and sends his shirt as “shifah” for his father

### PROPHET YUSUF (AS) – FORGIVENESS AND SHIFAH

#### VERSES 92 - 95

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ ۖ يَعْفُرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۖ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

92. He said: (There shall be) no reproof against you this day; Allah may forgive you, and He is the most Merciful of the merciful.

اذْهَبُوا بِقَمِيصِي هَذَا فَأَلْقُوهُ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِ أَبِي يَأْتِ بَصِيرًا وَأْتُونِي بِأَهْلِكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

93. Take this my shirt and cast it on my father's face, he will (again) be able to see, and come to me with all your families.

وَلَمَّا فَصَلَتِ الْعِيرُ قَالَ أَبُوهُمْ إِنِّي لَأَجِدُ رِيحَ يُوسُفَ ۖ لَوْلَا أَنْ تُفَنِّدُونِ

94. And when the caravan had departed, their father said: Most surely I perceive the scent of Yusuf, unless you pronounce me to be weak in judgment.

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ إِنَّكَ لَفِي ضَلَالِكَ الْقَدِيمِ

95. They said: By Allah, you are most surely in your old error.

Prophet Yusuf (as) shows the gracious and forgiving character that history has repeatedly recorded of countless prophets and men/women of G-d. He forgave them wholeheartedly for their past sins against him. He did not expect the shameful state of his brothers to continue, especially at the time of his success in particular, and to reassure them, he immediately said that they would not be threatened or blamed on that day, and they would not feel grief or sorrow due to the past. Then, Prophet Yusuf (as) prayed for their forgiveness to the most Merciful of the Merciful Who forgives the sins of those who repent.

On the occasion of the victory of Makkah, our Holy Prophet (saw) used similar words in forgiving those members of Quraish who forced him into exile and waged war against him. At the time of the conquest the pagans had sought refuge in the Ka'bah. 'Umar on that occasion said:

“We shall take revenge today!”

However the Holy Prophet (saw) replied:

“Today is the day of blessings”.

Then he asked the pagans what they thought. They said that they believed that all would be good, that the Holy Prophet (saw) was their sublime brother. The Holy Prophet (saw) said that his words that day were the same as those of Prophet Yusuf (as):

***“He said: ‘There is no reproach against you this day...’***

‘Umar then replied that he was ashamed of himself for what he said.

Imam Ali (as) said:

*“When you gain power over your adversary pardon him by way of thanks for being able to overcome him.”*

When Prophet Yusuf (as) was informed about the condition of his father, that he had lost his sight due to his excessive crying, Prophet Yusuf (as) gave his brothers his shirt stating that Prophet Ya’qub’s ailment will heal by putting the shirt on his face. He also asked his brothers to return with their whole families so that he could look after all of them.

3 important things to learn from this verse:

1. The shirt of Prophet Yusuf (as) has played a major role in his story:
  - a. Firstly it was brought to his father, torn and blood stained as proof of his “death”
  - b. Secondly it was torn from behind as proof that he was innocent in relation to Zulaikha pursuing him
  - c. Thirdly it was taken to his father again, this time as a cure for his blindness
2. Using the third point we understand that things associated with the men/women of G-d have special blessings – Just the shirt of Prophet Yusuf (as) healed and restored Prophet Ya’qub (as)’s eyesight. Thus it is not absurd to assume that the shrines and those things associated with our 14 Holy Infallibles (as) [such as their mausoleums, courtyards, the earth they are buried in, clothing, walls etc] have blessings and can cure our worldly and spiritual ailments.
3. Prophet Yusuf (as) displayed his noble character by asking his brothers to bring their families back with them so that he could look after all of them.

Finally, Allah (swt)’s grace became manifest. Beside themselves with joy, Prophet Ya’qub (as)’s sons took the shirt and headed for Kan’an. When the caravan departed from Egypt, their father said that he perceived Prophet Yusuf’s scent while people around him would not believe him. Those with him, the spouses of his children, his grandsons and granddaughters, and other members of his extended family, had long since taken Prophet Yusuf (as) for dead and thought this new assertion by Prophet Ya’qub (as) was nothing but an old man’s refusal to face reality - which to them was that Prophet Yusuf (as) was dead and thus could not return to his father.

### IMPORTANT LESSONS

- 1) Forgiveness when one is in a position to punish is adopting the beautiful characteristic of Allah (swt) – His Mercy, if we want Him to forgive us our sins, we need to learn to forgive others – even when we have the right to “punish” by not forgiving.
- 2) Taking recourse to objects, which are somehow associated with men of Allah (swt), is permitted and by virtue of this verse (and others and many ahadith) in fact recommended to help us gain nearness to Allah (swt).
- 3) Affluent people ought to provide for their less well to do relatives especially their elderly parents. The importance of “*Silatu-Raham*” and duty to look after our relatives have been emphasised time and time again.

### REFERENCES

1. Commentary on Surah Yusuf - Compiled by : 'Ali 'Abdur-Rasheed
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