

Surah Yusuf – Verses 8 - 10

Learning Objectives:

- To explain verses 8-10 of Surah Yusuf
- To memorise these verses
- To derive lessons from these verses

PLOTTING PROPHET YUSUF (AS)'S MURDER

Verses 8 - 10

إِذْ قَالُوا لِيُوسُفُ وَأَخُوهُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيْنَا مِنَّا وَنَحْنُ عُصْبَةٌ إِنَّ أَبَانَا لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

When they said: Certainly Yusuf and his brother are dearer to our father than we, though we are a (stronger) company; most surely our father is in manifest error:

اقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ أَوْ اطْرَحُوهُ أَرْضًا يَخْلُ لَكُمْ وَجْهُ أَبِيكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا مِن بَعْدِهِ قَوْمًا صَالِحِينَ

Slay Yusuf or cast him (forth) into some land, so that your father's regard may be exclusively for you, and after that you may be a righteous people.

قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ لَا تَقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ وَأَلْقُوهُ فِي غِيَابَتِ الْجُبِّ يَلْتَقِطُهُ بَعْضُ السَّيَّارَةِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ

speaker from among them said: Do not slay Yusuf, and cast him down into the bottom of the pit if you must do (it), (so that) some of the travellers may pick him up.

The step-brothers were jealous because they thought their father loved Yusuf more than them. They did not understand that their father perhaps was more affectionate towards Yusuf because he was younger and that his mother was not alive. They wanted their father to love them more as they were older, stronger and more capable to run his affairs. They felt that their father was being unfair as his love wasn't equal for his sons.

Jealousy clouds one's judgment and the brothers couldn't see clearly. When we are jealous we are only concerned about ourselves and can only see our gains. In order to see things objectively, we need to step out of self-love and forget our ego.

As a result of jealousy, the brothers decided to plot to either send him to a distant land or kill him. Knowing that this act was wrong they justified it by saying that they will become righteous after it. They thought

that they would be able to remove all traces of guilt and wrongdoing by becoming better afterwards. Because they wanted to repent afterwards shows that in their conscious, they had some fear of God. Knowingly committing a sin, while thinking of repenting after it, is but a deception of the soul and is not true regret. It's the intense regret that comes after unknowingly committing a sin is the true Tawbah.

They thought that the only way they would get their father's attention was if Yusuf was not there. There was no mention of love, aware that for their father it would be difficult to forget Yusuf and love them more.

However, one of the brothers suggested that they should throw him in the well so he can be rescued by passersby, as he was reluctant and not happy with their suggestions. Many a times we do things out of peer pressure, knowing that it's wrong but cannot stand up for the truth.

These verses teach us a very important lesson of the damaging effects of jealousy that can even lead us to the harming or killing of our flesh and blood. It is like an intense fire that not only burns our heart but also those around us. When we see that Allah has given blessings to others, we can wish for it for ourselves and at the same time not have a desire to take it away from them. This is known as envy and is ok as it can make us strive to achieve it in a positive way rather than destroying others in the process. This creates progress for both the individual and society. However jealousy (hasad) is when one wants to take it away from the other and is a major sin.

Imam Sadiq (a) says: *"A believer can envy but will not be jealous and a hypocrite will be jealous and will not envy."*

Imam Ali (a) has said: *"Jealousy does not bring with it except harm and anger that weakens the heart and makes the body sick."*

REFERENCES

1. Commentary on Surah Yusuf - Compiled by : 'Ali 'Abdur-Rasheed
2. http://www.academyofislam.org/courses/ali318/Qur_Appr_Surat_Yusuf_1_3.pdf