

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 19 - 22

### Learning Objectives:

- To understand verses 19-22 of Surah Yusuf
- To memorise verses 19-22 of Surah Yusuf

### PROPHET YUSUF (AS) BEING DISCOVERED IN THE WELL AND SOLD AS A SLAVE

#### VERSES 19-20:

وَجَاءَتْ سَيَّارَةٌ فَأَرْسَلُوا وَارِدَهُمْ فَأَدْلَى دَلْوَهُ ۚ قَالَ يَا بُشْرَىٰ هَذَا غُلَامٌ ۚ  
وَأَسْرُوهُ بِضَاعَةً ۚ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ

*There came a caravan, and they sent their water-drawer, who let down his bucket. 'Good news!' he said. 'This is a young boy!' So they hid him as [a piece of] merchandise, and Allah knew best what they were doing.*

وَشَرُّهُ بِثَمَنِ بَخْسٍ دَرَاهِمَ مَعْدُودَةٍ وَكَانُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الزَّاهِدِينَ

*And they sold him for a cheap price, a few dirhams, for they set small store by him. [12:19-20]*

P Yusuf (as) spent a few days alone in the well. Some historians say this lasted three days and others say it was ten days. Although he was sad, nervous and concerned, he had full trust in His Lord and knew that He will somehow send some help.

A caravan of travellers on their way to Egypt passed by and wanted some water. They tied their bucket to a long rope and lowered this into the well to fetch some water. P Yusuf (s) heard some voices and knew that there were travellers and when he saw their bucket lowered into the well, he caught hold of the rope tightly. He knew that this was his only chance of being rescued. As the travellers pulled up the bucket, they felt that it was very heavy. When the bucket finally came up, they were shocked to see a young boy holding on to the rope. These travellers found this boy and did not tell their whole group about it and hid him - as the ayah says, "hid him as a treasure." They were amazed at Yusuf's beauty. He had curly hair, large eyes, was of medium build and thick muscular arms and legs.

They decided to sell him as a slave and make some money. According to most of the commentators it was the brothers of P Yusuf (as) who sold him to the people of the caravan and Allah was aware of what they were doing.

### Related Story - The Holy Prophet (s) in the cave of Thaur

The Quraysh were plotting to kill the Holy Prophet (s) and Allah commanded him to leave Makkah in the night for Yathrib. He instructed Imam Ali (a) to sleep on his bed. The Quraysh blocked all the roads leading to Yathrib when they found out that the Prophet of Islam was missing. They hired men who could

help trace the location of travellers by their footprints. They had announced that a reward of 100 camels would be paid to the one who found the H Prophet (s).

A companion who was worried that he will be in trouble if he was discovered accompanied the Prophet in the cave. The Prophet reassured him that Allah is with them and He will protect them.

إِلَّا تَنْصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِي اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ  
إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا ۖ فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ  
لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا السُّفْلَى ۗ وَكَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ  
حَكِيمٌ

*If you do not help him, then Allah certainly helped him when the faithless expelled him, as one of two [refugees], when the two of them were in the cave, he said to his companion, 'Do not grieve; Allah is indeed with us.' Then Allah sent down His composure upon him, and strengthened him with hosts you did not see, and He made the word of the faithless the lowest; and the word of Allah is the highest; and Allah is all-mighty, all-wise. [9:40]*

The Quraysh sought the help of one of the best trackers, who traced the footprints of the Prophet of Islam to the cave of Thaur. As they approached the cave they saw that a spider's web blocked the entrance of the cave and wild pigeons had built a nest and laid eggs in it. They knew that nobody could have entered the cave without damaging the web. They returned without looking inside the cave. Allah protected his beloved messenger by this miracle.

#### VERSES 21-22:

وَقَالَ الَّذِي اشْتَرَاهُ مِنْ مِصْرَ لِامْرَأَتِهِ أَكْرِمِي مَثْوَاهُ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَنْفَعَنَا أَوْ نَتَّخِذَهُ  
وَلَدًا ۗ وَكَذَلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلِنُعَلِّمَهُ مِن تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ ۗ  
وَاللَّهُ غَالِبٌ عَلَىٰ أَمْرِهِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

*The man from Egypt who had bought him said to his wife, 'Give him an honourable place [in the household]. Maybe he will be useful to us, or we may adopt him as a son.' Thus We established Joseph in the land and that We might teach him the interpretation of dreams. Allah has [full] command of His affairs, but most people do not know.*

وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا ۗ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ

*And when he had attained his maturity, We gave him wisdom and knowledge: and thus do We reward those who do good.*

They brought him to the slave market of the capital city, Memphis, in order to sell him. The governor of Egypt bought him and brought him back to the palace. He said to his wife Zulaikha, who was a very

beautiful woman, treat him with honour and he may be of use to us or we can adopt him as a son, as they didn't have any children.

P Yusuf (as) saw two different sides of the city. One side was the magnificent splendour of Pharaoh and his great wealth. On the other side of the city he saw poverty and slavery.

Zulaikha nurtured P Yusuf (as) for nine years until he reached maturity. Being raised as son of the governor, Allah established him in Egypt with power and authority. Most people, however, were unaware that P Yusuf's (AS) position was a result of God Almighty's decree.

After reaching maturity, God Almighty gifted him with knowledge and wisdom that would guide him and keep him steadfast on the right path. The reference in the ayah "***We might teach him the interpretation of sayings***" was referring to the ability of P Yusuf (as) to interpret dreams and foretell future events.

### IMPORTANT LESSONS

1. Remember Allah is always with you – even though you are alone and feel that everybody has abandoned you. P Yusuf (as) had full trust in God
2. Try and find a solution to get yourself out of a difficult situation. P Yusuf (as) took advantage of the first opportunity
3. People do not comprehend the value of a person. They sold P Yusuf (as) and did not realise that he was the son of a Prophet who will one day become a Prophet himself.

### REFERENCES

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