

“Assuredly, in their narrative is a lesson for men of understanding...” (12:112)

Stories of the Prophets...

HAZRAT YUSUF (AS)



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men of understanding... “

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Stories of the Prophets

Hazrat Yusuf^{as}

Publications Department Lajna Ima'illah UK

Stories of the Prophets
Hazrat Yusuf (Peace be upon him)
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

My dear children

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more. May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Acknowledgements

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I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project. Under her direction, a team of lajna members, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to create this series of books suitable for young children telling the stories of the prophets mentioned in the Holy Quran.

The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Aalia Rahman; Humda Bilal; Atifa Ahmad; Hadiqa Asma.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of Jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as Secretary Ishaat

Guide for Parents

This book is one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Ima'illah UK based on the stories narrated in the Holy Quran.

They are designed for children of primary school age who can try to read by themselves and do the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran to read them for themselves.

We hope that you will be able to share the stories with younger children by reading to them and talking about the story. Then you can do the activities together.

May Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are beacons of light for humanity.

Hazrat Yusuf (as)

The story and character of Hazrat Yusuf (as) is one of the unique stories of prophets that you will learn from the Qur'an. This is because he came from a long line of prophets – his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all chosen as God's blessed messengers! In fact, even the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) himself, referred to Hazrat Yusuf (as) as the noblest of men because of their unique characteristic.

The story of Yusuf is also mentioned in the Bible, as is his family. However, they have slightly different names.

Yusuf → Joseph

Yaqub → Jacob

Ibrahim → Abraham

Nuh → Noah

His story is very important in the Holy Quran, in fact Hazrat Yusuf (as) is one of the prophets who has a chapter (Surah) of the Quran named after them!

You can see a timeline of prophets and his family tree on the next page.

Hazrat Adam (as)

Hazrat Nuh (as)

Hazrat Ibrahim (as)

Hazrat Ismael (as)

Hazrat Ishaq (as)

Bani Ismael

Bani Israil

Hazrat Muhammad (sa)

Hazrat Yaqub (as)

Ravbeen Bakr

Hazrat Yusuf(as)

Sham'oon

Banjamin

Laavi

Yahuda

Visakar

Zabulun

Dan

Taftani

Haad

Ashir

His childhood...

Hazrat Yusuf (as) grew up with 11 brothers, but from a young age his unique character was shown through dreams and other incidents. Hazrat Yusuf (as) was very different to his brothers. The first time his father noted this was when he narrated the story of his dream.



Hazrat Yusuf (as) explained that he saw a dream where 11 stars and the sun and moon bowed down to him. Hazrat Yaqub (as), his father, was happy to hear about this dream because he understood that Allah the Almighty would bless Hazrat Yusuf (as) with prophet hood.

He explained to his son that the dream was about his family; the 11 stars represented his 11 brothers, and the sun and moon represented his parents. It was significant that they bowed down to him because it meant that they would obey his authority.

Hazrat Yaqub (as) explained to Hazrat Yusuf (as) that God would teach him how to interpret dream. This part of the story is explained in Surah Yusuf, verse 5 onwards. The start of this surah also tells us

that these dreams that Hazrat Yusuf (as) would have were signs and prophecies for the future, some would be fulfilled in the life of Hazrat Muhammad (sa).

Having 11 brothers however was difficult and Hazrat Yaqub (as) warned his son to not tell his brothers of the visions he saw. He said they might grow jealous and band together against Hazrat Yusuf (as).

However, his brothers noted the unique characteristics of Hazrat Yusuf (as), and they saw how he was superior to them in every respect. They saw how close and dear he was to their father and they grew jealous. They did not like him being the centre of attention. So, just as Hazrat Yaqub (as) had predicted, they plotted against him.

When Hazrat Yusuf (as) was 11 or 12 years of age, his brothers met in secret and planned to kill him out of jealousy. One of his brothers however, thought it would be too cruel to kill him and instead they decided to throw him down a well so someone else could find and take him.

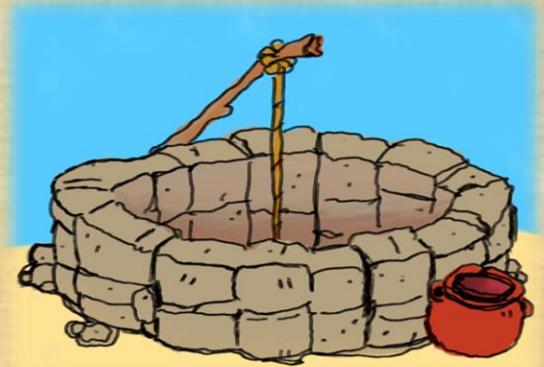
One day when they were on their way, they asked their father if they could take Hazrat Yusuf (as) with them to play. Their father, Hazrat Yaqub (as) said that it pains him for Hazrat Yusuf (as) to be away from him because he feared that an animal could attack him and he was too young to survive.

It seems that Hazrat Yusuf (as) was aware of their jealousy and wanted to keep Hazrat Yusuf (as) under his close protection.

But the brothers insisted, saying they were old enough to look after him and strong enough to fight any animal that might attack him. Reluctantly, their father agreed.

As planned, the brothers found a deep well and threw Hazrat Yusuf (as) to the bottom.

They took his shirt and left him all alone. Hazrat Yusuf (as) was distraught



and scared but Allah Almighty reassured him that He would rise Hazrat Yusuf (as) to greatness.

The brothers smothered fake blood over the shirt of Hazrat Yusuf (as) and returned to their father, crying. They lied saying they were playing games



and while they were racing a wolf caught Hazrat Yusuf (as) and devoured him.

They presented the fake-blooded shirt as evidence that they were speaking the truth.

Their father did not believe them but decided to remain patient.

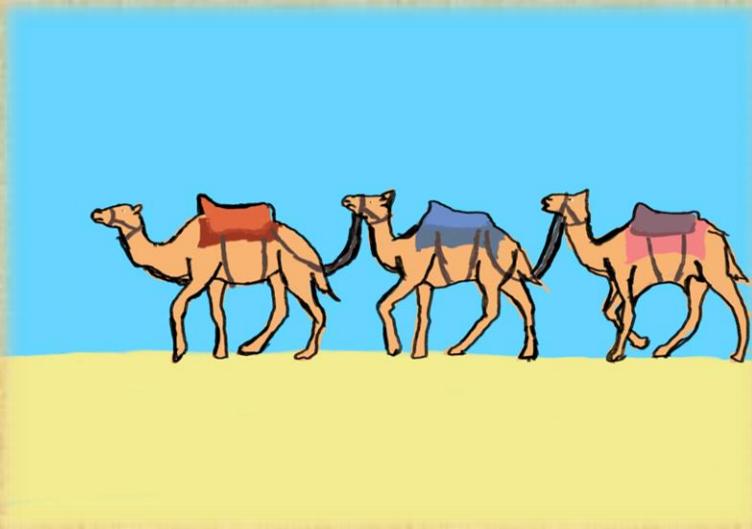
The Holy Quran says in verse 19 of Surah Yusuf,

“So now comely patience *is good for me*. And it is Allah *alone* Whose help is to be sought against what you assert.”

He saw that his sons were lying to him, and he knew he would not be able to find Hazrat Yusuf (as) alone.

So, he continued with Sabr, he knew that Allah would help him and protect his son.

Very soon after his brothers left him in a well, a caravan arrived near the well to collect some water.



The people in the caravan saw Hazrat Yusuf (as) and helped him out of the well, as he was young, they knew Hazrat Yusuf (as) would be a precious asset to them, so they kept him close.

His brothers returned to the well and saw that someone had rescued Hazrat Yusuf (as). They began to fear that he would be freed and Hazrat Yusuf (as) would return home. Therefore, instead they decided to sell him to the passing members in the caravan. They sold him for a very cheap price – just enough to ensure he would not return home to their father.

The man, who brought him, took him to Egypt, as Allah had intended, and made him an honourable man. He was the captain of a royal guard and had a high rank in society. He saw something precious in Hazrat Yusuf (as), he thought he would grow up to be a noble man. Therefore, he told his wife that they would not treat him as a slave; instead, she was to look after him as though he were their own son.

They looked after him well, and Hazrat Yusuf (as) grew up in Egypt to be a man of good judgement, knowledge, and strength.



Activity

In the story so far, we have learnt that the brothers of Hazrat Yusuf (as) were not always nice to him. However, both Hazrat Yaqub (as) and Hazrat Yusuf (as) knew to trust in Allah.

Can you think of some attributes that describe this?

Can you match up and find the definition of the following attributes of Allah?

The All– Seeing

الْمُؤْمِنُ

Al-Mu'min

The Provider

الْمُهَيِّمِنُ

Al-Muhaymin

The Guardian of
Faith

الْبَصِيرُ

Al-Basir

The Protector

السَّمِيعُ

As-Sami'

The All– Hearing

الرَّزَّاقُ

Al-Razzaq

Imprisonment

They looked after him well, and Hazrat Yusuf (as) grew up in Egypt to be a man of good judgement, knowledge, and strength.

Then, one day, when Hazrat Yusuf (as) was older, the wife of his master chose to seduce him. She failed in her attempts and Hazrat Yusuf (as) sought help from God.

He prayed ‘I seek refuge with Allah. He is my Lord’.

He prayed to Allah for protection and

told his master’s wife that her attempts were evil and that wrong doers never prosper. Allah declared



Hazrat Yusuf (as) as a “chosen servant” and protected him for temptations. He decided to escape the room they were in. However, as he ran away, she pulled his clothes and ripped them from the neck. As they reached the door, the master of Hazrat Yusuf (as) entered the room.

The master’s wife accused Hazrat Yusuf (as) of the evil wrongdoings. She lied to the master, saying he must be imprisoned for his evil doings.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) defended himself and explained what had actually happened.

A witness suggested that the best way to know who was telling the truth was from the ripped shirt. He said, if the shirt is ripped from the front, it means the woman is telling the truth¹⁵. However, if the shirt is ripped from the back, as it was, it meant that Hazrat

Yusuf (as) was the truthful one. From this, the master understood that the woman was lying and asked her to apologise.



The story of this incident became public, and people began to gossip about it. To stop false rumours spreading, the woman invited them to have a meal together. At this meal, Hazrat Yusuf (as) served the guests and they saw how he conducted himself – they found him to be a person of great dignity, with an almost angelic appearance.

Because of this, the gossip turned to disgrace the master's wife instead, tarnishing their good name. This made the master annoyed so, despite knowing that Hazrat Yusuf (as) was innocent, they imprisoned him in order to protect their name and to shift public opinion.

Let us recap what we have learnt so far.

Recall what you have read and try to answer the following questions:

1.) What dream did Hazrat Yusuf (as) have as a child?

2.) Why did his father warn him not to tell his brothers about his dream?

3.) Why did the brothers of Hazrat Yusuf (as) fetch a plan to kill him?

4.) How did God Almighty save him?

5.) What did Hazrat Yusuf (as) pray for when he was living with the Master in Egypt and how did God fulfil his prayer?

In Prison

Despite being sent to prison, people knew of his piety and innocence. This included the two men who were imprisoned in the same place as Hazrat Yusuf (as). They knew that he was righteous and a very spiritual person – so he used this as an opportunity to teach them of the oneness of Allah. He taught them about the power and might of Allah.



One day, they began to ask him to interpret their dreams for them. The first prisoner dreamed that he was pressing wine; Hazrat Yusuf (as) explained that this would mean the prisoner would pour wine for his lord to drink. This meant that he would soon be released from prison.

The second prisoner dreamt that he was carrying a basket of bread over his head and birds are eating from this bread. Hazrat Yusuf (as) explained that this meant he would be crucified and that the birds will eat from his head. This meant that he would die and a horrid death and his body discarded. The interpretation of both dreams came true and Hazrat Yusuf (as) asked the first prisoner, who was released, to remember and tell others of his gift – he hoped this would help free him from prison.

However, he forgot and Hazrat Yusuf (as) had to remain in prison for many more years.

In the book Hadiqatus-Saliheen (page 910, edition 2003), it is reported that the Holy Prophet (sa) said that when you see an evil dream, you should keep it to yourself because when it is announced it is more likely to be fulfilled.

Some years later, as Hazrat Yusuf (as) remained in prison, the King saw a dream which showed: “seven fat kine which seven lean ones were eating, and seven green ears of corn and seven others withered” .



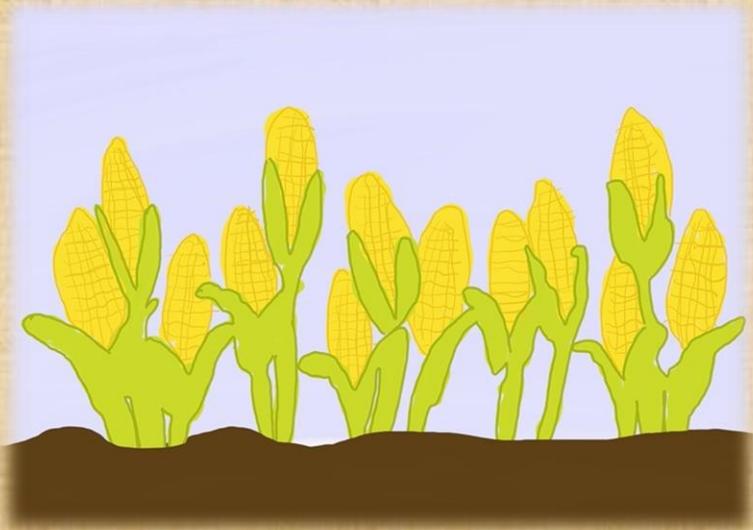
The King was convinced that this dream was important and that it held a hidden message so he went in search for someone who could explain the dream to him. This is when the man from prison remembered Hazrat Yusuf (as).

He told the king about the man in prison who could accurately interpret dreams and visions. Hazrat Yusuf (as) explained to the King what his dream meant:

“You shall sow for seven years, working diligently throughout; then leave, what you reap in its ear, except a little which you shall eat;

‘Then there shall come after that seven hard years, which shall consume all that you shall have laid by in advance for them except a little which you may preserve;

‘Then there shall come after that a year in which people shall be relieved and in which they shall give presents to each other. (12: 48-50)



This meant that the people of kingdom would go through 7 years of prosperity, and they would have lots of food and crops. They will then go through 7 years of famine and difficulty. From this, Hazrat

Yusuf (as) advised the King that they should grow corn for the years of famine and to preserve the corn by leaving it in its leaves to ensure it does not rot. He explained that the 7 years of famine would be so severe that they would have to ration food carefully.



Release

When the King heard this interpretation and advice, he decided to release Hazrat Yusuf (as) from prison. He understood that he was no ordinary man but he had special characteristics. However, Hazrat Yusuf

(as) refused and instead wanted a full enquiry into his imprisonment so that he could officially be declared innocent. This was very important to him because he wanted the King to know he was not an evil man, but he was falsely accused. Thus, the master's wife came forward and admitted that she lied and that Hazrat Yusuf (as) was indeed an innocent man.

The king offered to appoint Hazrat Yusuf (as) on a responsible position to bestow honour on him. However, Hazrat Yusuf (as) preferred to take charge of the finance department stating he was a good keeper and possess knowledge of these matters but also to give his attention to successfully run a department which was so deeply connected to the king's dream.

God says in the Holy Quran:

“And thus did We establish Joseph in the land. He dwelt therein wherever he pleased. We bestow Our mercy on whomsoever We please and We suffer not the reward of the righteous to perish”. (12:57)

This shows that even though the brothers of Hazrat Yusuf (as) disgraced him and sold him as a slave, and his master's wife falsely accused him of wrongdoings, he won the respect of the King. Allah bestowed him with this honour because he remained steadfast and he was an honourable man.

Family reunion

As Hazrat Yusuf (as) had interpreted, the 7 years of blessings came and went and the people of the kingdom were left to suffer the torments of the famine. This included the family of Hazrat Yusuf (as), his brothers who had sold him for nothing, simply because they were jealous. As Hazrat Yusuf (as) worked with the King he oversaw who came to collect rations for their family.



One day, his brothers came in search of food. Despite their wrongdoings, Hazrat Yusuf (as) treated them with kindness. He asked them to

return with their youngest brother, Benjamin, then they will be given their share of the food. So the brothers returned home and requested to their father if they could take their youngest sibling to collect their food. Hazrat Yaqub (as) was very hesitant to allow this because he missed Hazrat Yusuf (as) so much and he no longer trusted his children to keep their younger siblings safe. Nonetheless, he knew it was important to collect food and he trust Allah to keep him safe. Hazrat Yaqub (as) reminded them that Allah was Al-Baseer, all seeing and that He would know if the brothers caused any mischief. He also informed the brothers to all enter the kingdom from different gates.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) provided the brothers with their corn, as he had promised. He saw that the brother

lacked remorse for what they had done to Hazrat Yusuf (as) and they were still horrible people.

When Benjamin was alone with him he told him that he was also his brother – Hazrat Yusuf (as) did not trust his other brother, they abandoned him in a well



and Hazrat Yusuf (as) wanted to keep Benjamin safe.

Disclosing his true identity to Benjamin meant he could keep him safe if anything happened.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) began filling Benjamin's bag with corn and



accidentally dropped his measuring cup in the bag. A short while later someone noticed that one of the measuring jugs was missing and all the caravans were searched. It was found in Benjamin's bag and Hazrat Yusuf (as) knew this was a sign from Allah to keep Benjamin with him.

Just as they had quickly sold Hazrat Yusuf (as), they disowned Benjamin. They attempted to distance themselves from him.

When the brothers returned to their father, without Benjamin, he was distraught. This was the second son he had trusted with them, and he had let him down. Nonetheless, Hazrat Yaqub (as) displayed admirable patience and only complained to Allah of his sorrows. Hazrat Yaqub (as) commanded his sons to go and find his two lost sons because he knew

Allah's mercy and he knew they were both alive and well. The brothers left their father but did not do as they were told. Instead, they began to beg for corn from passers-by.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) was upset seeing his brothers degraded in such a way and decided to reveal himself to them all. He asked them what they did to Yusuf?

They were surprised and asked 'Are you Yusuf?'

He confirmed that he was indeed the brother they had abandoned and sold as a slave. He explained to them that begging and suffering left one degraded. The true way to become successful was to remain pious and patient, to work hard and trust that Allah would be the protecting friend you need.

This good nature of Hazrat Yusuf (as) inspired his brothers and they admitted that he deserved his high rank and that they themselves were sinners.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) exhibited his noble character by replying:

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِيْبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الْيَوْمَ ط يَغْفِرُ اللهُ لَكُمْ وَهُوَ اَرْحَمُ

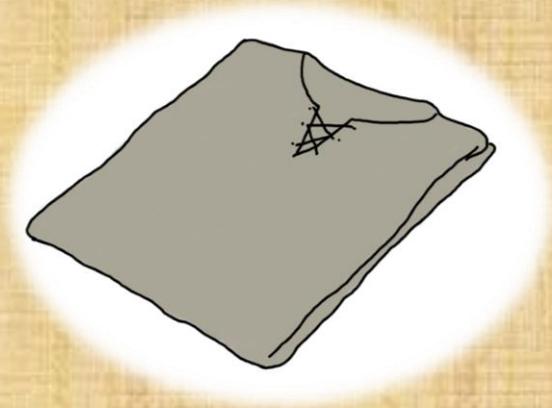
الرَّحِيْمِ ﴿٩٣﴾

He said, 'No blame *shall lie* on you this day; may Allah forgive you! And He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy. (12:93)

Hazrat Yusuf (as) gave his brothers his shirt to give to his father, so that the sight of the shirt might

please him and he may be able to forgive his sons. Even before the brothers reached their father, Hazrat Yaqub (as) knew that he would meet Hazrat Yusuf (as) despite the impossibility of this meeting. When the caravan departed, Hazrat Yaqub (as) said, 'Surely, I feel the scent of Joseph,'

When Hazrat Yaqub (as) saw his son's shirt his faith was elevated. He



told his other sons how his faith was not in vain. He forgave all his sons for their wrongdoing and encouraged them to seek true forgiveness for God Almighty.

Although the real mother of Hazrat Yusuf (as) had passed away, his father remarried and Hazrat Yusuf (as) respected his parents immensely.

He raised his parent's throne and they all prostrated to Allah for him.



Hazrat Yusuf (as) said that this was in fulfilment of his very first dream and vision of the stars, the moon, and the sun.

Remember children when we say Insha'Allah (if Allah Wills) so that God protects us from evil influences in our intentions. Hazrat Yusuf (as) said “Enter Egypt in peace, if it pleases Allah” which also shows his piety and humility.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) may have then taken his parents to meet the King or have them seated on his throne for deputies of Kings at that time used to have their thrones. The whole family then thanked God for raising Hazrat Yusuf (as) to such a high rank. However even at this meeting with his parents, having reached high status and being able to interpret dreams, Hazrat Yusuf (as) feels the love of

Allah, he turns to his Lord and Master by asking that his death may come whilst in a state of submission and righteousness.

Hazrat Yusuf (as) was buried in Egypt.



ACTIVITY

D K Y A Q U B L F L
Q D R E A M S I D J
S P Y U S U F S K X
Q P R I S O N H I P
B U C A M E L I N X
U W H Z E N W R G B
P Y R C I I F T M Q
I B R O T H E R F A
S K P R B I W E L L
P W H N W B H I E J

Search for the following words:

Yusuf, Yaqub, Dream, Brother, Well, Camel, Shirt,
Prison, Corn, King

Glossary

Pressing wine Wine is made from grapes, the process requires the fruit to be pressed and fermented

Pious/ piety A very spiritual person

Interpret To explain; some time things are not exactly as they appear, they have another meaning behind them

Crucify An ancient punishment, a method to kill someone for their sins

Sow Planting seeds

Diligently To look after something very careful and with lots of love

Preserve Look after and protect for the future

Well A deep hole in the ground where water is found

HAZRAT YUSUF AS

The story and character of Hazrat Yusuf (as) is one of the unique stories of prophets that you will learn from the Holy Qur'an. This is because he came from a long line of prophets – his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all chosen as God's blessed messengers.

