

## **SAFAR ISLAMIC STUDIES BOOK 7**

### **UNIT 4 – THE HISTORY OF ISLAM**

#### **Stories of the Prophets : Yusuf (A.S) Part 1**

Notes:

1. All Ahadith have been highlighted **blue**.
2. All revision questions have been highlighted **yellow**.

#### **Q1. What was Prophet Yusuf's dream?**

- He dreamt that 11 stars, the sun and the moon were all prostrating to him.

#### **Q2. Was this a good dream or a bad dream?**

- A good dream.

#### **Q3. Who did Prophet Yusuf tell about the dream?**

- His father, Yaqub (A.S).

#### **Q4. What did Prophet Yusuf's father say?**

- Yaqub (A.S) knew that this dream meant a great future was in store for Prophet Yusuf and he told him to keep the dream a secret from his brothers.

#### **Q5. How many brothers did Prophet Yusuf have?**

- 10 older brothers.
- 1 younger brother called Binyamin.

#### **Q6. Why did Yaqub (A.S) tell Prophet Yusuf to keep the dream a secret from his brothers?**

- His older brothers were very jealous of him.

#### **Q7. Why were the brothers jealous of Prophet Yusuf?**

- Prophet Yusuf and Binyamin were both the favourites of their father Yaqub and very close to him. The older brothers did not like this.

**Q8. After some time, what did the brothers decide to do?**

- They came up with a plan to get rid of their brother Yusuf by either killing him or abandoning him in a far place. The eldest brother came up with a different plan but they needed their father to agree for Yusuf to go with them first.

**Q9. After getting permission from their father, where did the brothers take Prophet Yusuf and what did they do with him?**

- The brothers told their father they were going out to play.
- They took Yusuf to a well far away and they threw him into a well.

**Q10. What did the brothers bring back to Yaqub (A.S) and what did they tell him?**

- The brothers took Prophet Yusuf's shirt, killed a lamb and stained the shirt with the blood. They brought this shirt back to their father.
- The brothers told their father that they had left Yusuf to look after their belongings whilst they were having a race. During this time, a wolf came and ate Yusuf.
- The brothers cried and gave the shirt to their father to make the story believable.

**Q11. Did Yaqub (A.S) believe his sons and what did he do?**

- Yaqub (A.S) knew that the tears were fake and his sons were lying.
- He felt helpless surrounded by his 10 sons and could not do anything.
- Yaqub (A.S) knew this was a test from Allah so he stayed patient and asked for Allah's help during this difficult time.

**Q12. What happened when Prophet Yusuf was inside the well and how did he feel?**

- Prophet Yusuf felt very alone in this cold and dark well.
- Allah sent revelation and reassured Yusuf that he was not alone and that soon a better time would come for him.

**Q13. Who found Prophet Yusuf in the well?**

- A group of travellers were passing by. They came to the well to collect water and found Prophet Yusuf!

**Q14. Why were the travellers happy upon finding Yusuf inside the well?**

- They were all excited to sell Yusuf as a slave and make some money.

**Q15. How much was Prophet Yusuf sold for and where?**

- 11 silver coins.
- He was sold in the markets of the grand city of Egypt.

**Q16. Who was Prophet Yusuf sold to?**

- The minister of Egypt and his wife Zulaykha.

**Q17. How long did Prophet Yusuf stay with the minister and his wife?**

- Many years! He grew up in his household.

**Q18. Describe Prophet Yusuf.**

- Beautiful character.
- Exceptionally good looks (very very handsome!).
- Blessed with knowledge.
- Blessed with good judgement.
- The ability to interpret dreams.

**Q19. What happened due to Prophet Yusuf's beautiful character and good looks?**

- The minister's wife Zulaykha started to develop feelings for Prophet Yusuf.

**Q20. Why did Zulaykha call Prophet Yusuf one day?**

- She was overwhelmed with desire and feelings for Prophet Yusuf and wanted to seduce him (this means she wanted to persuade him into doing sinful actions).

**Q21. Where did Zulaykha call Prophet Yusuf and what happened?**

- She called him into a private room and locked all the doors.
- She tried to persuade him into doing sinful actions.
- Prophet Yusuf turned to Allah and asked Him for help. He also tried to explain to Zulaykha that her husband is a good man and she shouldn't do this but Zulaykha did not listen.

- Prophet Yusuf tried to run away but Zulaykha grabbed his shirt from behind and it tore!
- As Prophet Yusuf opened the door, the minister was stood there and saw them alone in the room.

**Q22. Did Zulaykha accept her actions in front of her husband and what did she say?**

- No. Instead she put all the blame on Prophet Yusuf.
- She said, "What will you do to this man who tried to do a terrible act to your wife? Surely he should be imprisoned or tortured for this."

**Q23. How did the minister feel upon seeing this and hearing what his wife had to say?**

- The minister knew that Prophet Yusuf was a good and honest man so he didn't know what to believe.

**Q24. What did someone advise the minister to do?**

- To check Prophet Yusuf's shirt in order to find out the real truth.
- If the shirt is torn from the front = this will prove that Zulaykha tried to protect herself from Yusuf.
- If the shirt is torn from the back = this will prove that Zulaykha is lying and Yusuf tried to run away from her.

**Q25. What did the minister find when he checked the shirt and what did he do?**

- The shirt was torn from the back so Prophet Yusuf was proven innocent.
- The minister held his wife responsible and told her to repent for her bad actions.

**Q26. What did the women of Egypt begin doing after hearing of Zulaykha's actions?**

- They began to spread rumours and gossip around the city.
- Everyone spoke bad of Zulaykha and the upper class women (those with a high rank and lots of wealth) looked down on her as she tried to seduce her slave.

**Q27. What did Zulaykha want to prove and what did she do?**

- She wanted to prove that Prophet Yusuf was so good looking that if any of the other women were in her place, they would have done the same as she did.
- She devised a plan to test them.
- The plan: she called lots of women to a banquet in her home and present them with platters of fruit. She also gave them each a knife to cut the fruit.

**Q28. What did the women do upon seeing Prophet Yusuf walk through the room?**

- The women's eyes fell upon Yusuf and they could not stop looking at his beauty. Upon seeing him, they didn't realise that instead of cutting the fruit, they cut their hands!
- The women said: "This is not a man, this is an angel."

**Q29. What did Zulaykha say to all the women present in her home?**

- She explained that she tried to seduce Yusuf but he chose to stay pure and she told them that they had all now seen the reason why.
- Zulaykha threatened that if Yusuf did not do as she wanted, she would have him sent to prison and tortured.
- The women were now on Zulaykha's side after seeing how beautiful Prophet Yusuf was.

**Q30. What did Prophet Yusuf do upon hearing Zulaykha's threats?**

- He agreed to be sent to prison and tortured rather than falling into her trap and committing sins.
- He made Du'a to Allah and asked Him to protect him from Zulaykha's trap and not fall weak.

**Q31. Was Yusuf sent to prison?**

- Yes. The minister felt that he had to imprison Yusuf in order to save his reputation and prevent any more rumours from being spread. The minister knew that Yusuf was still innocent.

**Q32. Who else was present in prison with Prophet Yusuf?**

- 2 men.
- 1 man was the cup-bearer (the one to serve drinks etc) for the King.
- 1 man was a baker in the royal household.

**Q33. What did the 2 men inside prison dream about?**

- The cup-bearer dreamt : he had seen himself pressing grapes and turning them into wine for the king.
- The baker dreamt : he had seen himself carrying a basket filled with bread on his head, and birds were eating the bread.

**Q34. Why did the 2 men come to Prophet Yusuf upon waking up?**

- They heard that Prophet Yusuf had the ability to interpret dreams and were curious to know the meaning of their dreams.

**Q35. Did Prophet Yusuf tell the 2 men the meaning of their dreams straight away and why?**

- No... he told them they would learn the meaning in a short while before they finished eating their meal.
- The reason for this was that Prophet Yusuf wanted to spend some time to invite these 2 men to Islam. He also told them that this wouldn't take too long as he didn't want the 2 men to get bored or lose interest in Islam.

**Q36. What did Prophet Yusuf speak to the 2 men about before telling them the interpretation of their dreams?**

- About Prophet Yusuf's forefathers : Ibrahim, Ishaq and Yaqub. He spoke about the legacy of their prophethood.
- All of these people believed in Tawhid (the oneness of Allah) and also believed in the hereafter.
- He told the 2 men to reflect on the reality of all the gods they previously worship and how these idols etc only have names, but no power.

### Q37. What was the meaning of the dreams of the 2 men?

- The cup-bearer's dream : it meant that he would be released from prison and will return to serve the king.
- The baker's dream : the baker will be executed and his head will be eaten by wild birds.

### Q38. What request did Prophet Yusuf make of the man who was going to be released from Prison?

- He requested that upon going back into the service of the king, the man would mention Yusuf to him and remind him. This was because Yusuf had been forgotten after being imprisoned.

### Q39. Was Prophet Yusuf released after this request was made?

- No. Many years passed and nothing happened. Until one day, the king saw a dream...

(Continued from here in Part 2)

### About dreams in Islam

- ❖ The Ru'ya of a Muslim is part of the 46 parts of Prophethood.
- ❖ If a person is truthful in their speech, their dreams will also be more truthful.
- ❖ There are three types of dreams:
  1. A good dream which is good news from Allah.
  2. A bad dream which causes distress and is from Shaytaan.
  3. A dream which is the results of a person's own mind.
- ❖ What to do if you see a good dream? = say Alhamdulillah. You may share the dream with others who are close to you.
- ❖ What to do if you see a bad dream? = seek Allah's protection from the evil of the dream and don't mention it to anybody.
- ❖ What to do if you see a nightmare? = make a gesture of spitting to your left side three times. Seek protection from Allah, Shaytaan and the bad dream and

change the side you were sleeping on. By doing this, the Prophet (S.A.W) said the bad dream will not harm the person.

❖ What do dreams mean?

- This depends on what the person sees.
- It depends on what is happening in a person's life.
- A same dream may have different meanings for different people.

❖ Seeking interpretation : only go to somebody knowledgeable and pious when finding out the meaning of a dream rather than trying to find out from websites and books.

Important keywords to learn:

Da'wah	Invite someone to Islam.
Ru'ya	A good dream.
Ta'bir	To explain and interpret a dream.

Lessons from the story:

1. The Prophet (S.A.W) said that jealousy burns good deeds just like fire burns wood. So, stay away from jealousy because it can lead you to do greater sins, just like Prophet Yusuf's brothers did.
2. Everything a person has (wealth, beauty and intelligence etc) are blessings from Allah so always be happy with what you have. If you see something nice, say "Ma Shaa Allah".
3. Face all hardships with patience. We will receive reward and Allah will give us something better. The Prophet (S.A.W) said that no tiredness, anxiety, illness, sorrow, harm or sadness afflicts a Muslim, even if it's as small as the prick of a thorn - except that Allah will wipe away the person's sins because of it.
4. Even though Yaqub knew his sons were lying about Yusuf being eaten by a wolf, he chose to turn to Allah and be patient. This was wise as he could have been in



danger if he didn't stay patient in front of his 10 sons. From this we learn that we should always think about the consequences of our actions.

Aishah (R.A) said that whenever the Prophet (S.A.W) was given a choice between two matters, he would choose the less difficult option if it was not sinful.

5. Sometimes we can develop attraction for another person. We should never fulfil these desires and feelings in ways that Allah has not allowed. The Prophet (S.A.W) said that **the person who will have joy of being under the shade of Allah on the Day of Judgement will be the young man who was invited to commit a sin by a woman (or a woman invited by a man) and he stays away from that sin by saying he fears Allah.**
6. A true dream can be seen by anybody. This is because Allah is Merciful on all humans and the creation. However, seeing a true dream doesn't mean a person is on a high rank. Even non-Muslims can see true dreams.

### Did you know?

- ✓ Can someone see the Prophet (S.A.W) in a dream?
- Yes. Anybody can see the Prophet in a dream and the Prophet said that the person who sees him in a dream has actually seen him!

END OF CHAPTER