

SAFAR ISLAMIC STUDIES BOOK 7

UNIT 4 – THE HISTORY OF ISLAM

Stories of the Prophets : Yusuf (A.S) Part 2

Notes:

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

Q1. What did the King of Egypt see in his dream?

- Seven fat cows being eaten by seven lean cows.
- Seven green ears of corn and seven others that were dry and shrivelled.

Q2. Who did the King ask about his dream and what did they say?

- The King asked all his wise and learned counsellors but they couldn't make sense of it and they dismissed the dream as a confused vision.

Q3. What did the cup-bearer remember upon hearing the dream of the King?

- He remembered Yusuf (A.S), who was still in prison. With the King's permission, he asked to go and find Yusuf to ask him the meaning of the dream.

Q4. What interpretation did Yusuf (A.S) give for the dream?

- There will be seven good and plentiful years in which you will grow a lot of grain. After this, there will be seven years of famine.

Q5. What advice did Yusuf (A.S) give for the King?

- Sow the land as usual for seven years. But, from the harvest, store all the corn except a little which you will eat. When the seven years of famine occur, you will be able to eat from the stored crops. After this, there will be a year of abundant rain.

Q6. What did Yusuf (A.S) say when he was called to come in front of the King?

- Yusuf (A.S) refused as he wanted his innocence to be proven first. He called for the King to ask about what happened to the women who cut their hands.

Q7. What did Zulaykha and the women say when they were called in front of the King?

- They all admitted to their mistakes and told them that there was no evil from Yusuf (A.S)'s part. Zulaykha also admitted that she was the one who tried to seduce Yusuf and he is truthful.

Q8. What position did the King give to Yusuf (A.S)?

- The King announced Yusuf (A.S) as one of his trusted advisors.

Q9. What did Yusuf (A.S) ask to be in charge of?

- The treasures of the land.

Q10. When famine struck Egypt, why were people from surrounding countries coming to Egypt?

- The King had stored up food just as Yusuf (A.S) had advised and the people were coming to buy food.

Q11. Who was present amongst the people who came to buy food?

- Yusuf (A.S)'s brothers.

Q12. Did Yusuf (A.S) and the brothers recognise each other?

- Yusuf (A.S) recognised the brothers but the brothers did not recognise Yusuf.

Q13. What did Yusuf (A.S) say to the brothers after giving them plenty of food?

- Yusuf (A.S) noticed his younger brother Binyamin was missing and because he wanted to see him, he told the brothers that next time they come, they need to bring Binyamin with them. Otherwise, he would not give them lots of corn and they would not be able to get close to him.

Q14. What did Yusuf (A.S) do to ensure that the brothers would come with Binyamin?

- Yusuf (A.S) placed the traded goods that the brothers came with, back into their luggage so that they would see it when they get home and be eager to return.

Q15. Did Yaqub (A.S) trust his sons to take Binyamin with them to Egypt?

- It took much persuasion for Yaqub (A.S) to agree as he didn't trust his sons after what happened to Yusuf (A.S). Upon seeing that the traded goods were still inside their luggage, Yaqub (A.S) agreed but he made the brothers take an oath in Allah's name that they would bring Binyamin back safe and sound.

Q16. What did Binyamin say to Yusuf (A.S) when he went to Egypt?

- Yusuf (A.S) took Binyamin aside and told him that he was Yusuf. Binyamin told Yusuf that the brothers were mistreating him and he did not want to go back home with them.

Q17. What was Yusuf (A.S)'s plan to keep Binyamin with him?

- Yusuf (A.S) placed the king's drinking cup inside Binyamin's luggage. He then sent a servant to announce that there was a thief in the caravan of the brothers. Whoever returns the cup will receive a camel-load of grain and if they do not admit their theft, when the cup is found, the punishment of the criminal will be that they are enslaved and have to stay with Yusuf.
- The cup was found in Binyamin's luggage so Yusuf (A.S) kept him with him.

Q18. Why did the brothers start begging Yusuf (A.S)?

- The brothers remembered they had made an oath to their father to bring Binyamin back home safe and sound.
- Yusuf (A.S) did not agree, so they had to come home without Binyamin.

Q19. What happened to Yaqub (A.S) upon hearing the news of Binyamin?

- Yaqub (A.S) did not believe his sons and he went away from everybody. He was so upset and he cried so much that he became blind. However, he was still patient and had hope that his sons would return to him one day.

Q20. Why did the brothers go back to Yusuf (A.S) again?

- They were told by their father to go and search for his sons Yusuf and Binyamin. They begged Yusuf (A.S) for mercy and only had very little trading goods.

Q21. What did Yusuf (A.S) remind his brothers about?

- Yusuf (A.S) reminded them of what they did to their brother Yusuf and the brothers could not believe that this was their brother. The brothers recognised their faults and understood that Allah had looked after and favoured Yusuf (A.S).

Q22. Did Yusuf (A.S) take revenge for what he had been through?

- No, Yusuf (A.S) said to his brothers, "There is no blame on you this day! May Allah forgive you, He is the Most Merciful of those who have mercy."

Q23. What did Yusuf (A.S) give to his brothers and what instruction did he give?

- Yusuf (A.S) told the brothers to return home and place his shirt on Yaqub (A.S)'s face with which his eyesight would return. He also told them to return as a full family.

Q24. What could Yaqub (A.S) sense even though he was very far away?

- He could smell the scent of Yusuf (A.S).

Q25. Were Yusuf (A.S)'s brothers sorry for their mistakes?

- Yes, they accepted their faults and asked their father and Allah to forgive them.

Q26. When Yusuf (A.S)'s family arrived back in Egypt, what did they do and what was this the fulfilment of?

- Out of amazement and deep respect for Yusuf (A.S), his family and brothers prostrated before Yusuf. This was the fulfilment of the dream which Yusuf (A.S) had told his father about a long time ago.

Q27. Out of gratitude and awe of the way Allah favoured Yusuf, what Du'a did he make?

- "My Lord, You have given me authority, You have taught me the knowledge of interpreting dreams, Creator of the heavens and the earth, You are my Protector in this world and in the hereafter. Take my soul in true devotion to You and place me in the ranks of the righteous."

Important keywords to learn:

Istiqamah	To remain steadfast on one's faith, obedience and trust in Allah.
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Lessons from the story:

1. Even though the cupbearer forgot about Yusuf (A.S) being in prison, he didn't keep any grudges or be harsh towards him. Our religion teaches us we should never have a snobbish attitude or drive anybody away. Always make things easy for people.
2. Yusuf (A.S) offered his skills to the people even though most of them were non-Muslims. We should have concern for everyone in the society and be good volunteers.
3. When Yusuf (A.S) was in a position of power, he still chose to forgive instead of showing hatred and take revenge.

The Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Allah is Gentle and loves gentleness, and He gives on gentleness that which He does not give when showing harshness..."

4. With every hardship comes ease. During hardship, we need to establish Istiqamah and stay strong in our beliefs. Yaqub (A.S) and Yusuf (A.S) both stayed strong and had hope and trust in Allah.

Did you know?

- ✓ The Prophet (S.A.W) said the same words as Yusuf (A.S) when he entered Makkah and had conquered by saying to the people of Makkah that there is no blame on them.

Note: we should always give time and skills to people without expecting something in return. It is a rewardable act and a chance to help those in need. E.g. volunteering at a food bank, helping the needy etc...

END OF CHAPTER