

## Surah Yusuf – Verses 11 - 15

### **Learning Objectives:**

- To explain verses 11 to 15 of Surah Yusuf
- To memorise Surah Yusuf up to verse 15

### **PLOTTING PROPHET YUSUF (AS)'S MURDER**

#### **Verses 11-15**

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مَا لَكَ لَا تَأْمَنَّا عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَنَاصِحُونَ

*They said: O our father! What reason have you that you do not trust in us with respect to Yusuf? And most surely we are his sincere well-wishers:*

أَرْسَلْهُ مَعَنَا غَدًا يَرْتَعُ وَيَلْعَبُ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

*Send him with us tomorrow that he may enjoy himself and sport, and surely we will guard him well.*

قَالَ إِنِّي لَيَحْزُنُنِي أَنْ تَذْهَبُوا بِهِ وَأَخَافُ أَنْ يَأْكُلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَأَنْتُمْ عَنْهُ غَافِلُونَ

*He said: Surely it grieves me that you should take him off, and I fear lest the wolf devour him while you are heedless of him.*

قَالُوا لَئِنْ أَكَلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَنَحْنُ عُصْبَةٌ إِنَّا إِذًا لَخَاسِرُونَ

*They said: Surely if the wolf should devour him notwithstanding that we are a (strong) company, we should then certainly be losers.*

After devising a plan to remove P Yusuf (a) from their father's sight they now had to convince him to trust them and allow them to take him.

The brothers had decided that they will not kill him but throw him in the well instead. They address him respectfully and affectionately, "O our father", but with an underlying motive. They persuade him that he will enjoy himself and reassure him that they will take good care of Yusuf and protect him, as they love him. To cover up their lies they have to be convincing saying, "we wish him well", "we will take care of him" and using a lot of big talk "we are a strong group".

P Yaqub (a) does not deny that they should not have fun, but that he will be sad to separate from him and that he is afraid that the wolves may eat him if they are careless or busy playing.

Recreation is good and healthy and is necessary to rejuvenate. It can calm ones mind and lift the spirit. A hadith of Imam Ali (a) says; *The believer's time has three periods: The period when he is in communion with Allah; the period when he manages for his livelihood; and the period when he is free to enjoy what is lawful and pleasant.* (Nahjul Balagha, Hadith #390)

This does not mean the three periods are equal in time, but there should be a part for each of them.

There could be many reasons why P Yaquab (a) was reluctant to let P Yusuf (a) go. Ayatullah Nasir Makarim Shirazi says in his tafsir:

1. It's quite natural for P Yaquab (a) to be hesitant over being separated from his beloved P Yusuf (a), from ayah 13 " *It saddens me that you should take him away*"; or
2. He feared from the wolves who freely wandered the dessert and may take advantage of the opportunity of attacking a young child if neglected for even a moment, which is quite possible if kids are busy playing

فَلَمَّا ذَهَبُوا بِهِ وَأَجْمَعُوا أَنْ يَجْعَلُوهُ فِي غِيَابَتِ الْجُبِّ ۚ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ لَتُنَبِّئَنَّهُمْ  
بِأَمْرِهِمْ هَذَا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

***So when they went off with him they agreed that they should throw him into the bottom of the well. And we revealed to him, surely you will inform them of this deed of theirs while they do not know you. [12:15]***

P. Yaquab (a) allows P Yusuf (a) to go with his brothers. Throughout the night they are busy planning what they will do and also worried that their father should not change his mind. In the morning they prepare for the outing and take P Yusuf with him. P Yaquab (a) reminds them of his concerns once again. According to the narrations their father walks with them to the boundary of the city, embraces Yusuf and cried a little. He stood watching them as they left until they were out of sight. Whilst the father was watching, the brothers were respectful and affectionate with Yusuf. The moment they were out of sight they began to show their hatred and jealousy. Yusuf asked them to be compassionate but they didn't listen.

As per their plan, the brothers throw him into the well and leave. P Yusuf (a) started to cry and plead to Allah for help. At that time Allah inspires him, through an inner voice, that one day he will have the upper hand over his brothers. He will ask them about this deed of theirs though they will not recognise him. This gives him hope at a time when he is feeling lonely. He was sure that God was with him and promised him that things would change and one day his brothers would be humbled before him.

### Important Lessons

- 1) Do not be suspicious or accuse anyone before they have done something, just like P Yaquab (a) did not accuse his sons of plotting anything before they did so.
- 2) Do not share your secrets with others, especially those whom you do not trust. It can be used against you, like the brothers did.
- 3) Always remember that God is with you when you are on the right. This gives you a lot of strength and comfort, even when you are facing hardships.

### 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](http://www.academyofislam.org/courses/ali318/Qur_Appr_Surat_Yusuf_1_3.pdf)