

# The Story of Prophet Yusuf - Joseph (AS)



*In Memory of My  
Beloved Parents  
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*Please kindly recite Surah Fateha  
for them and all Marhumeen*

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**The Story of Prophet Yusuf - Joseph  
(peace be upon him): A Journey of  
Patience and Forgiveness**



## Prophet Yusuf's (Joseph) Wonderful Dream

A long time ago, in the land of Canaan, there lived a young boy named Yusuf (Joseph). He was the son of Prophet Yaqub - Jacob (peace be upon him), who loved him dearly. Joseph had eleven brothers, but his father showed him special love, which made his brothers jealous.



One day, Joseph had a strange and beautiful dream. He told his father, “I saw eleven stars, the sun, and the moon bowing down to me.”

Jacob, being a wise man, understood this dream was special. He said, “My dear son, do not tell your brothers about this dream, for they might become jealous.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:4–5; Holy Bible: Genesis 37:9–11)

And so will your Lord choose you ‘O Joseph’, and teach you the interpretation of dreams, and perfect His favor upon you and the descendants of Jacob—just as He once perfected it upon your forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Surely your Lord is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”  
(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:6)

## **The Brothers’ Plan**

Joseph’s brothers were unhappy with how much their father loved him. They decided to get rid of Joseph. One day, they convinced Jacob to let Joseph come with them to the fields.

They (Joseph’s brothers) said, “O our father! Why do you not trust us with Joseph, although we truly wish him well? Send him out with us tomorrow so that he may enjoy himself and play. And we will really watch over him.” He responded, “It would truly sadden me if you took him away with you, and I fear that a wolf may devour him while you are negligent of him.” They said, “If a wolf were to devour him, despite our strong group, then we would certainly be losers!”  
(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:11–14)

When they were far from home, they threw Joseph into



a deep, dark well. Then, they returned to their father with a lie. They showed him Joseph's shirt with fake blood and said, "A wolf ate him." Jacob was heartbroken but trusted Allah's (God's) plan.

And so, when they took him away and decided to throw him into the bottom of the well, We inspired him: "One day you will remind them of this deed of theirs while they are unaware of who you are." Then they returned to their father in the evening, weeping. They cried, "Our father! We went racing and left Joseph with our belongings,

and a wolf devoured him! But you will not believe us, no matter how truthful we are.” And they brought his shirt, stained with false blood. He responded, “No! Your souls must have tempted you to do something evil. So I can only endure with beautiful patience! It is Allah’s help that I seek to bear your claims.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:15–18)

## Joseph in Egypt

And there came some travelers, and they sent their water-boy who let down his bucket into the well. He cried out, “Oh, what a great find! Here is a boy!” And they took him secretly to be sold as merchandise, but Allah is All-Knowing of what they did. They later sold him for a cheap price, just a few silver coins—only wanting to get rid of him. The man from Egypt who bought him said to his wife, “Take good care of him, perhaps he may be useful to us or we may adopt him as a son.” This is how We established Joseph in the land, so that We might teach him the interpretation of dreams. Allah’s Will always prevails, but most people do not know. And when he reached maturity, We gave him wisdom and knowledge. This is how We reward the good-doers.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:19–22)





The wife of his master falsely accused him, and Joseph was sent to prison, even though he was innocent. In prison, Joseph used his God-given gift to interpret dreams. He helped two prisoners understand their dreams, and later, this gift brought him to the attention

of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

And one day the King said, “I dreamt of seven fat cows eaten up by seven skinny ones; and seven green ears of grain and seven others dry. O chiefs! Tell me the meaning of my dream if you can interpret dreams.” They replied, “These are confused visions and we do not know the interpretation of such dreams.” Finally, the surviving ex-prisoner remembered Joseph after a long time and said, “I will tell you its interpretation, so send me forth to Joseph.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:43–45)

He said, “Joseph, O man of truth! Interpret for us the dream of seven fat cows eaten up by seven skinny ones; and seven green ears of grain and seven others dry, so that I may return to the people and let them know.” Joseph replied, “You will plant grain for seven consecutive years, leaving in the ear whatever you will harvest, except for the little you will eat. Then after that will come seven years of great hardship which will consume whatever you have saved, except the little you will store for seed. Then after that will come a year in which people will receive abundant rain....”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:46–49)

The Pharaoh was so impressed that he made Joseph a leader in Egypt!

The King said, “Bring him to me. I will employ him exclusively in my service.” And when Joseph spoke to him, the King said, “Today you are highly esteemed and fully trusted by us.” Joseph proposed, “Put me in charge of the store-houses of the land, for I am truly reliable and adept.” This is how We established Joseph in the land to settle wherever he pleased. We shower Our mercy on whoever We will, and We never discount the reward of the good-doers. And the reward of the Hereafter is far better for those who are faithful and are mindful of Allah.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:54–57)



# The Reunion

When the famine came, Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize Joseph, but he knew who they were. Joseph decided to test them to see if they had changed.

And Joseph's brothers came and entered his presence. He recognized them but they were unaware of who he really was. When he had provided them with their supplies, he demanded, "Bring me your brother on your father's side. Do you not see that I give full measure and I am the best of hosts? But if you do not bring him to me next time, I will have no grain for you, nor will you ever come close to me again." They promised, "We will try to convince his father to let him come. We will certainly do our best." Joseph ordered his servants to put his brothers' money back into their saddlebags so that they would find it when they returned to their family and perhaps they would come back.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:58–62)

When Joseph's brothers returned to their father, they pleaded, "O our father! We have been denied further supplies. So send our brother with us so that we may receive our measure, and we will definitely watch over



him.” He responded, “Should I trust you with him as I once trusted you with his brother Joseph? But only Allah is the best Protector, and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.” When they opened their bags, they discovered that their money had been returned to them. They argued, “O our father! What more can we ask for? Here is our money, fully returned to us. Now we can buy more food for our family. We will watch over our brother, and obtain an extra camel-load of grain. That load can be easily secured.” Jacob insisted, “I will not send him with you until you give me a solemn oath by Allah that you will certainly bring him back to me, unless you are totally overpowered.” Then after they had given him their oaths, he concluded, “Allah is a Witness to what we have said.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:63–66)

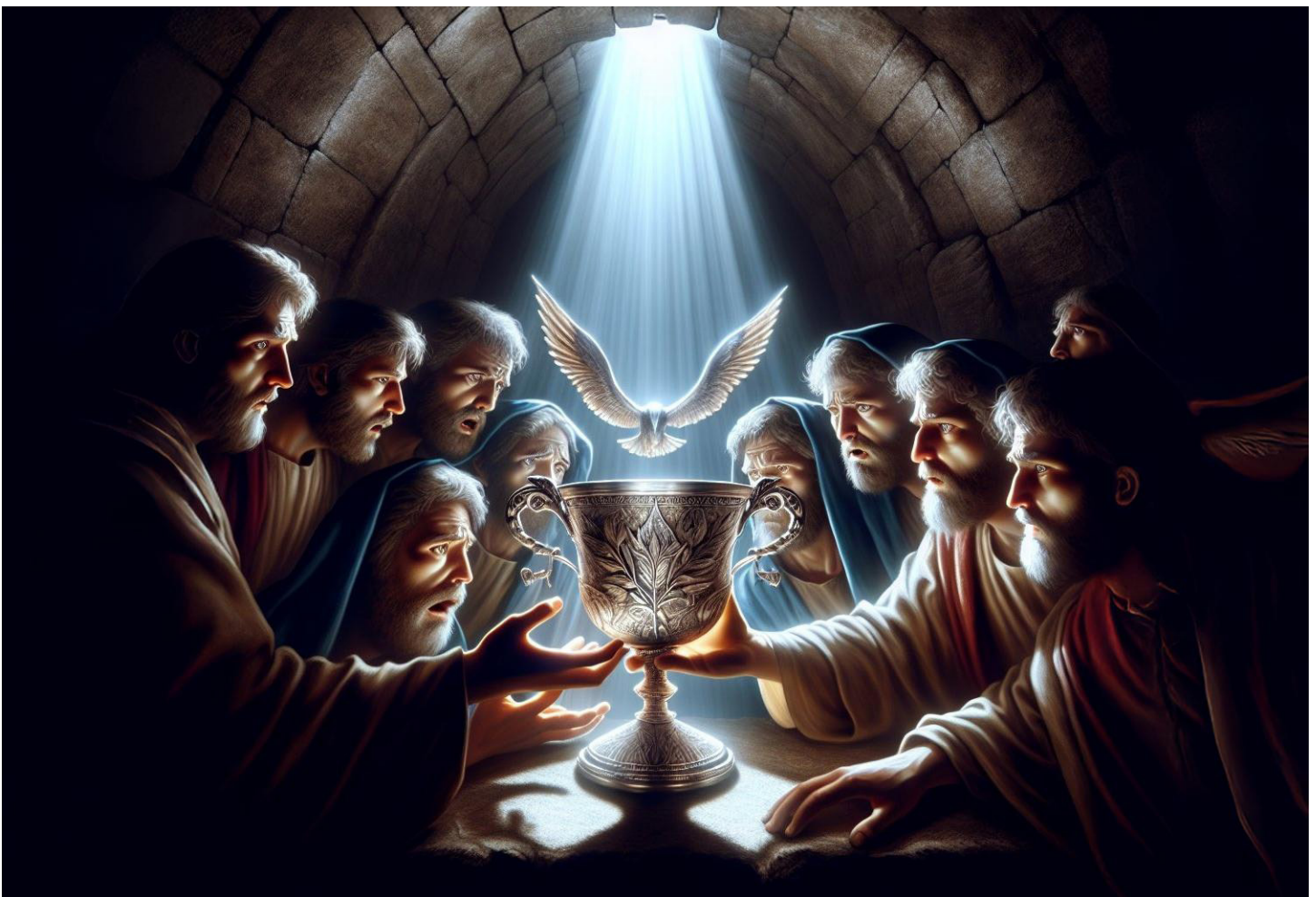
He then instructed them, “O my sons! Do not enter the city all through one gate, but through separate gates. I cannot help you against what is destined by Allah in the least. It is only Allah Who decides. In Him I put my trust. And in Him let the faithful put their trust.” Then when they entered as their father had instructed them, this did not help them against the Will of Allah whatsoever. It was just a desire in Jacob’s heart which he satisfied. He was truly blessed with great knowledge because of what We had taught him, but most people have no knowledge. When they entered Joseph’s presence, he called his brother Benjamin aside, and confided to him, “I am indeed your brother Joseph! So do not feel distressed about what they have been doing.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:67–69)

When Joseph had provided them with supplies, he slipped the royal cup into his brother’s bag. Then a herald cried, “O people of the caravan! You must be thieves!” They asked, turning back, “What have you lost?” The herald along with the guards replied, “We have lost the King’s measuring cup. And whoever brings it will be awarded a camel-load of grain. I guarantee it.” Joseph’s brothers replied, “By Allah! You know well that we did not come to cause trouble in the land, nor

are we thieves.” Joseph’s men asked, “What should be the price for theft, if you are lying?” Joseph’s brothers responded, “The price will be the enslavement of the one in whose bag the cup is found. That is how we punish the wrongdoers.” Joseph began searching their bags before that of his brother Benjamin, then brought it out of Benjamin’s bag. This is how We inspired Joseph to plan. He could not have taken his brother under the King’s law, but Allah had so willed. We elevate in rank whoever We will. But above those ranking in knowledge is the One All-Knowing.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:70–76)



To distance themselves, Joseph's brothers argued, "If he has stolen, so did his full brother before." But Joseph suppressed his outrage—revealing nothing to them—and said to himself, "You are in such an evil position, and Allah knows best the truth of what you claim." They appealed, "O Chief Minister! He has a very old father, so take one of us instead. We surely see you as one of the good-doers." Joseph responded, "Allah forbid that we should take other than the one with whom we found our property. Otherwise, we would surely be unjust."  
(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:77–79)

When they (Joseph's brothers) lost all hope in him (Benjamin), they spoke privately. The eldest of them said, "Do you not know that your father had taken a solemn oath by Allah from you, nor how you failed him regarding Joseph before? So I am not leaving this land until my father allows me to, or Allah decides for me. For He is the Best of Judges. (Said Joseph) Return to your father and say, 'O our father! Your son committed theft. We testify only to what we know. We could not guard against the unforeseen.'  
(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:80–81)

Joseph's brothers returned to their father Jacob and said:



Ask the people of the land where we were and the caravan we traveled with. We are certainly telling the truth.” He (Jacob) cried, “No! Your souls must have tempted you to do something evil. So I am left with nothing but beautiful patience! I trust Allah will return them all to me. Surely He alone is the All-Knowing, All-Wise.” He turned away from them, lamenting, “Alas, poor Joseph!” And his eyes turned white out of the grief he suppressed.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:82–84)

You can imagine the pain Jacob is feeling now that he even lost his son Benjamin after he already had lost Joseph. The pain of losing Joseph years earlier was still deep in his heart. In spite of his anguish and pain he is exercising patience and exhibit faith in Allah SWT.



They (Joseph's brothers) said, "By Allah! You will not cease to remember Joseph until you lose your health or even your life." He replied, "I complain of my anguish and sorrow only to Allah, and I know from Allah what you do not know. O my sons! Go and search diligently for Joseph and his brother. And do not lose hope in the mercy of Allah, for no one loses hope in Allah's mercy except those with no faith."

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:85-87)

In spite of the challenges Jacob faced, he does not lose hope in the mercy of Allah SWT.

When they (Joseph's brothers) entered Joseph's presence, they pleaded, "O Chief Minister! We and our family have been touched with hardship, and we have brought only a few worthless coins, but please give us our supplies in full and be charitable to us. Indeed, Allah rewards the charitable." He asked, "Do you remember what you did to Joseph and his brother in your ignorance?" They replied in shock, "Are you really Joseph?" He said, "I am Joseph, and here is my brother Benjamin! Allah has truly been gracious to us. Surely whoever is mindful of Allah and patient, then certainly Allah never discounts the reward of the good-doers." They admitted, "By Allah!

Allah has truly preferred you over us, and we have surely been sinful.” Joseph said, “There is no blame on you today. May Allah forgive you! He is the Most Merciful of the merciful!

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:88–92)

After Joseph’s brothers threw him in the well and all the years of suffering that Joseph went through being apart from his father and brothers, Joseph forgives his brothers. Indeed the Holy Quran inspires us to forgive.

Go with this shirt of mine and cast it over my father’s face, and he will regain his sight. Then come back to me with your whole family.” When the caravan departed from Egypt, their father said to those around him, “You may think I am senile, but I certainly sense the smell of Joseph.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:93–94)



They (people around him) replied, “By Allah! You are definitely still in your old delusion.” But when the bearer of the good news arrived, he cast the shirt over Jacob’s face, so he regained his sight. Jacob then said to his children, “Did I not tell you that I truly know from Allah what you do not know?” They begged, “O our father! Pray for the forgiveness of our sins. We have certainly been sinful.” He said, “I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness. He alone is indeed the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:95–98)

After all the pain his children had caused him, Jacob forgave them and even prayed to Allah SWT to forgive them.

When they entered Joseph’s presence, he received his parents graciously and said, “Enter Egypt, Allah willing, in security.” Then he raised his parents to the throne, and they all fell down in prostration to Joseph, who then said, “O my dear father! This is the interpretation of my old dream. My Lord has made it come true. He was truly kind to me when He freed me from prison, and brought you all from the desert after Satan had ignited rivalry between me and my siblings. Indeed my Lord

is subtle in fulfilling what He wills. Surely He alone is the All-Knowing, All-Wise.” “My Lord! You have surely granted me authority and taught me the interpretation of dreams. O Originator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Guardian in this world and the Hereafter. Allow me to die as one who submits and join me with the righteous.” That is from the stories of the unseen which We reveal to you O Prophet. You were not present when they all made up their minds, and when they plotted against Joseph. And most people will not believe—no matter how keen you are—. even though you are not asking them for a reward for this Quran. It is only a reminder to the whole world.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:99–104)



How many signs in the heavens and the earth do they pass by with indifference! And most of them do not believe in Allah without associating others with Him in worship. Do they feel secure that an overwhelming torment from Allah will not overtake them, or that the Hour will not take them by surprise when they least expect it? Say, O Prophet, “This is my way. I invite to Allah with insight—I and those who follow me. Glory be to Allah, and I am not one of the polytheists.” We only sent before you O Prophet men inspired by Us from among the people of each society. Have the deniers not traveled through the land to see what was the end of those destroyed before them? And surely the eternal Home of the Hereafter is far better for those mindful of Allah. Will you not then understand? And when the messengers despaired and their people thought the messengers had been denied help, Our help came to them at last. We then saved whoever We willed, and Our punishment is never averted from the wicked people. In their stories there is truly a lesson for people of reason. This message cannot be a fabrication, rather it is a confirmation of previous revelation, a detailed explanation of all things, a guide, and a mercy for people of faith.

(Holy Quran: Surah Yusuf 12:105–III)



## Lessons from Jacob

### I. Patience in the Face of Loss

When Jacob's beloved son, Joseph, was taken away by his brothers and later presumed dead, he displayed remarkable patience. Instead of giving in to despair, he placed his trust in Allah (God).

**Holy Quran:** Jacob said, "So patience is most fitting. And Allah is the one sought for help against that which you describe." (Surah Yusuf 12:18)

**Lesson:** Even in moments of heartbreak, we should remain calm and trust that Allah has a greater plan. True patience means relying on God's wisdom and timing.

## 2. Faith in Allah's Mercy

Despite the passage of many years, Jacob never lost hope of reuniting with Joseph. He repeatedly prayed to Allah, showing unwavering faith in His mercy.

**Holy Quran:** “O my sons, go and find out about Joseph and his brother and despair not of relief from Allah. Indeed, no one despairs of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people.” (Surah Yusuf 12:87)

**Lesson:** Patience is deeply connected to hope. No matter how difficult life becomes, believers are encouraged to trust in Allah's mercy and never give up.

## 3. Resilience Through Tears

Jacob mourned the loss of Joseph deeply, even to the point of losing his eyesight from crying. Yet, he continued to trust in Allah without complaint or anger.

**Holy Quran:** “And he turned away from them and said, ‘Oh, my sorrow over Joseph,’ and his eyes became white from grief, for he was [of that] a suppressor [of anger and sadness].” (Surah Yusuf 12:84)

**Lesson:** Grieving is natural, but we must balance our sorrow with faith. True patience means enduring pain while remaining connected to God.

## 4. Forgiveness and Love

When Jacob's sons admitted their wrongdoing and sought forgiveness, Jacob forgave them wholeheartedly and prayed for them.

**Holy Quran:** “[Jacob] said, ‘I will ask forgiveness for you from my Lord. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful.’” (Surah Yusuf 12:98)

**Lesson:** Patience often includes forgiving those who hurt us. Jacob's



willingness to forgive teaches us to rise above anger and embrace mercy.

## 5. Trusting God's Plan

Throughout his trials, Jacob trusted that Allah's plan would unfold in the best way, even when the situation seemed hopeless. This trust gave him the strength to persevere.

**Holy Quran:** \*”And I complain of my grief and sorrow only to Allah, and I know from Allah that which you do not know.”



# Lessons from Joseph's Story

**Patience in Trials:** Joseph endured his unjust imprisonment with faith and grace, teaching us to stay strong during difficult times.

**Trust in Allah:** He trusted Allah's plan, knowing that every trial has a purpose.

**Kindness and Service:** Even in hardship, Joseph helped others by interpreting dreams and sharing his faith.

**Prayer as a Refuge:** Joseph turned to prayer to stay connected to Allah and find strength.

*Joseph's time in prison is a powerful reminder that hardships are temporary and often lead to greater blessings if we remain patient, prayerful, and trusting in Allah.*

