

Verse 4: Dream of Nabī Yūsuf

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ كَوْكَبًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ رَأَيْتُهُمْ لِي سَاجِدِينَ

*When Yūsuf said to his father: O my father! surely I saw eleven stars and the sun and the moon-- I saw them prostrating to me.*

Nabī Yūsuf was the youngest son of Nabī Ya‘qūb. He and his brother Benjamin were from the same mother. The other brothers of Nabī Yūsuf were from a different wife of Nabī Ya‘qūb. Nabī Ya‘qūb was the son of Nabī Ishaq, the son of Nabī Ibrahim (a).

The story of Nabī Yūsuf begins with a meaningful dream. One morning Nabī Yūsuf woke up and excitedly went to look for his father. He told him about what he had seen in his dream. At that Nabī Yūsuf was a young child. Some say he was 9, others that he was 12 years old. It is interesting to note that the story of Nabī Yūsuf ends in Sura Yūsuf with the actual realization of the dream.

This was an important dream. Nabī Yūsuf remembered it properly. Sometimes people forget what they dreamt about, or forget parts of it. But Nabī Yūsuf remembered it clearly. The dream indicated humbleness of the sun, moon and stars before Nabī Yūsuf, not an actual physical prostration. Dreams of the Prophets foretell a reality that will happen. Some of their dreams do not require interpretation like the dream of Nabī Ibrahim when he saw himself sacrificing his son. Some dreams like the dream of Nabī Yūsuf require an interpretation.

Nabī Yūsuf tells the dream to his father to seek advice from him. Parents are the best people to go to when confused about something. They know you best and they also have the wisdom and experience that can benefit you. Nabī Yūsuf trusts his father’s judgment and is respectful in his conversation with him.

Nabī Ya‘qūb thought deeply about the dream of his son. He knew it foretold an important event. His son would reach such a status that the family would humble themselves before him. The objects of the dream symbolise real people – the family of Nabī Yūsuf.