

PLAY OF PROPHET YUSUF (A)

Introduction by Overall Narrator

Dear Parents, Salaamun Alaykum

Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an:

“Surely we have revealed it – An Arabic Qur'an, so that you may understand. We narrate to you the best of narratives, by Our revealing to you this Qur'an, before this you were certainly of those who did not know.”

These are Verses 2 and 3 of Surah-e-Yusuf, the 12th Chapter of the Holy Qur'an

Our Class this term has put together a short play on what the Qur'an says in the first 18 verses of this amazing Chapter. The Holy Qur'an has been our reference for this play. However, some parts added to the play are fictional to enhance the play.

Scene 1

Characters:

Prophet Yusuf, Prophet Ya'qub, Brother 1 (Shamon), Brother 2 (Zobolon), Brother 3 (Lawi), Brother 4 (Rawbin), Narrator

[Scene set in a field]

Narrator: The story of the beautiful Prophet Yusuf began when he was born to Prophet Yaqub and his beloved wife Rachel (also known as Rahil). Rachel gave birth to another child Benjamin, Yusuf's real brother, after which she died. Prophet Yaqub loved his son Yusuf very much. The rest of the 10 brothers were extremely jealous of Prophet Yusuf and could not bear to see the special love that existed between their father Yaqub and Yusuf. In the first scene we shall see Yusuf, who was about 12 years at the time. He has just had a dream in which he sees 11 stars, a moon and a son bowing to him.

[Yusuf paces up and down]

P. Ya'qub: My son? Yusuf? Is there something you want to say to me?

P. Yusuf: "O my father! I saw eleven stars and the sun and the moon: I saw them prostrate themselves to me!"

P. Ya'qub: This is a sign from Allah! There is a big message in this dream! O my son, do not relate your dream to your brothers, in case they plot against you. Surely shaytan is an open enemy to man. Do you understand? Do not tell about this dream to your brothers.

P. Yusuf: Yes Father, I understand. But what does this dream tell?

P. Ya'qub: And thus will your Lord choose you and teach you the interpretation of sayings and make His favor complete to you and to the children of Yaqoub, as He made it complete before to your fathers, Ibrahim and Ishaq; surely your Lord is Knowing, Wise.

Narrator: P. Yaqub advised his son not to relate his dream to his brothers who hated and envied him because they saw that their father loved him more than all of them, and that Yusuf was a very beautiful boy, a gift of Allah bestowed on him as a distinctive excellence. Allah says in Verse 7 of this Surah "Certainly in Yusuf and his brothers there are signs for those who are seeking the truth."

[P. Ya'qub walks off stage, brothers walk in]

P. Yusuf: Salam Alaikum!

B1 Shamon: What is going on? Are you ok? You look very happy?

B2 Zobolon: We heard you talking to father earlier! What were you telling him? What was he telling you? He looked very serious!

B3 Lawi: Oh come on! Tell us!

P. Yusuf: It was nothing, just advice from a father to a son.

B2 Zobolon: Come on, we love you so much! We are your brothers! We want to be included in your happiness too!

B4 Rawbin: Yes, maybe we will be able to help you as well!

P. Yusuf: Really, it was just father speaking to me and advising me. We are all trying to be near to Allah (SWT) and gain His Pleasure. I must go now....

[Yusuf leaves the stage] [The brothers just shake their heads and begin to talk]

B1 Shomon: Certainly Yusuf and his brother are dearer to our father than we, though we are a (stronger) company; most surely our father is in manifest error

B2 Zobolon: Let's kill Yusuf or cast him in some land so that our father's attention may only be us. We can ask for forgiveness after that!

B4: Can you imagine?! No Yusuf! No one to distract father from us! What do you think Lawi?

B3: Let us not kill Yusuf. If you must do something, then just throw him into the bottom of the well. Some travelers passing by might pick him up and take him into an unknown land, and we would be free from murder.

[They think about it...]

B4 Rawbin: That's a good idea! Let us go and ask father if we can take Yusuf out for the day.

[P. Ya'qub walks onto stage]

B1 Shomon: O look there he is...Let us ask him now.

B4 Rawbin: Father, father, father! We have something to ask you.

B3 Lawi: Can we, please take Yusuf for a day out with us? Please?

Prophet Ya'qub: You want to take Yusuf with you? ...I...I don't know. I don't think it is a very good idea...

B1 Shomon: O father, but why do you not trust us when it comes to Yusuf? Most surely we are his sincere well wishers, we are his brothers. We do love him after all.

B2 Zobolon: Send him with us tomorrow that he may enjoy himself and sport, and surely we will guard him well.

P. Ya'qub: Really, it saddens me that you should take him away, I fear that a wolf might devour him while you are heedless of him.

B4 Rawbin: There are 10 of us. That cannot happen. *If a wolf should devour him when we are there, then surely we are ones who will be the losers.*

[When Yusuf leaves Yaqub embraces him].

P. Ya'qub: Be in God's protection

Scene 2 (Well Scene):

Characters:

Prophet Yusuf, Brother 1 (Shamon), Brother 2 (Zobolon), Brother 3 (Lawi), Brother 4 (Rawbin), Narrator

Narrator: Prophet Ya'qub is very apprehensive about the whole idea and is sad to see Yusuf being separated from him, but he leaves it to the will of Allah and lets him go. The brothers take him away far away into the forest and agree to throw him into a well. Let us see what happens.

B1 Shomon: *[Smiling Sarcastically]* Oh I am so glad you came!

P. Yusuf: Yes Shamon! So am I! I love being with you all!

[B2 comes from behind and nudges Yusuf]

P. Yusuf: *[thinking it is a joke]* what are you doing?

[B1 pushes him then B4 comes and hits Yusuf as well]

P. Yusuf: Ouch!! Why are you hitting me? It hurts me!

B4 Rawbin: We don't like you!

P. Yusuf: But why? I am your brother. Son of Ya'qub!

B2 Zobolon: Our father loves you the most!

B4 Rawbin: Ya! He shows you so much affection and forgets about us!

[Yusuf started running and they kept catching him and trying to hit him. The boys grab Yusuf]

B4 Rawbin: Let's kill him!

B1 Shomon: No! Wait! Let's just go and leave him far away, let a wolf eat him!

B3 Lawi: Let's throw him in the well! He will either die, Or he'll be taken by some travellers and sold as slave! Whatever happens, it is a win win situation! He will be out of our way!

B2 Zobolon: Sounds good! Let us do it!

B1 Shomon: Wait! Take his shirt, so we have some proof for father! We shall tell him wolves ate him!

[They remove his shirt and push him into the well!]

P. Yusuf: *[looking at the sky]* O my brothers! Do you not know that Allah sees you all and He know their secret evil intentions.

B4 Rawbin: We'll turn to Allah in repentance afterwards and become good people!

B3 Lawi: Lets go! He cannot escape now!

P. Yusuf: why have you thrown me here?! I am your brother! I want to go back to my father! O Allah! Help me! O lord of Ibrahim, Ishaq and Yaqub, have mercy on my helplessness, weakness and tender age.

When he was placed in the well, Or locked in the dungeon
Betrayed by his own flesh and blood, Convicted of what he did not
Handsome Yusuf sighed, Allah is enough for me! X2

Narrator: Even though Yusuf was distressed, he was patient. An angel was sent down to reassure him that he would be safe. Allah says in Verse 15: *So when they had gone off with him and agreed that they should put him down at the bottom of the pit, and We revealed to him: You will most certainly inform them of this their affair while they do not perceive.*

Scene 3 (Back Home):

Characters:

Prophet Ya'qub, Brother 1 (Shamon), Brother 2 (Zobolon), Brother 3 (Lawi), Brother 4 (Rawbin), Narrator

Narrator: The brothers are now back home *and approach their father at night, weeping*. They pretend to be grieved and upset and weeping.

P. Ya'qub: Oh my sons, where is Yusuf?!

B1 Shomon: *O our father! surely we went off racing and left Yusuf by our goods, so the wolf devoured him, and you will not believe us though we are truthful.*

B3 Lawi: *[Holding a shirt with blood]* Look here this is proof.

B4 Rawbin: Oh father we are so sorry!

B2: Please forgive us father, we just wanted to take him to play!

P. Ya'qub: *Nay, your souls have made the matter light for you, but patience is good and Allah is He Whose help is sought for against what you describe.!*

Narrator: Meanwhile, at the well, according to a Hadith of the 6th Imam, the Angel Jibra'eel advised Prophet Yusuf to pray to Allah (SWT) with the following Du'a:

Oh Allah, I turn to You, praise be to You, there is no God except You! You are the Originator of the Heavens and the Earth, the Lord of Great things and Honour. Send your blessings on Muhammad and the Children of Muhammad, and make this easy for me, and find for me a way out and provide for me from what I know and what I don't know.

Narrator: The story of Yusuf doesn't end here. Through his travels and hardships Allah (SWT) tries and tests him to make him perfect as His Prophet. Prophet Yusuf constantly turns to Allah (SWT) for guidance and help, and trusts only in Him for a great outcome.

Overall Narrator: *Our class is grateful to have learnt the Story of Prophet Yusuf (A) up until here, and we cannot wait to find out what happens next. We've learnt that truly the Qur'an has the BEST of stories, and at every step there are lessons for us. We pray to Allah (SWT) that we can learn from these lessons and apply them to our lives so we can be better Muslims. Ameen*

Thank you for taking the time to come and watch us today, and we hope you enjoyed our presentation.