

Surah Yusuf, Verse 4

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

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

Reflections

- Nabi Yusuf tells his father about his dream. Seems like he has a close relationship with him.
- How did he feel about seeing such a dream. What emotions did he experience?

Tafsir

Nabi Yusuf was the youngest son of Nabi Yaqub. He and his brother Benyamin were from the same mother. The other brothers of Nabi Yusuf were from a different wife of Nabi Yaqub. Nabi Yaqub was the son of Nabi Ishaq, the son of Nabi Ibrahim (a).

The story of Nabi Yusuf begins with a meaningful dream. One morning Nabi Yusuf woke up and excitedly went to look for his father. He told him about what he had seen in his dream. At that time Nabi Yusuf 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 Nabi Yusuf ends in Sura Yusuf with the actual realization of the dream.

This was an important dream. Nabi Yusuf remembered it properly. Sometimes people forget what they dreamt about, or forget parts of it. But Nabi Yusuf remembered it clearly. The dream indicated humbleness of the sun, moon and stars before Nabi Yusuf, 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 Nabi Ibrahim when he saw himself sacrificing his son. Some dreams like the dream of Nabi Yusuf require an interpretation.

Nabi Yusuf 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. Nabi Yusuf trusts his father's judgment and is respectful in his conversation with him.

Nabi Yaqub 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 Nabi Yusuf.

Important Lessons

1) Seek advice from a father, mother, or a trusted elder, about something that confuses or worries you. Their wisdom and experience helps them to deal with issues better. Also, they have your interests at heart.

Ideas

- Discuss how children can go to parents for advice. Play a game, or act out scenarios on seeking advice. What are the etiquettes of such a conversation? Instil the idea of trust and confidence in parents with any issues the children might have, and the advantage of talking about it and seeking help.

- let students make a visual for the dream. Could be a drawing, a painting, a 3D image....