

Sura Yusuf, Verses 16-18

وَجَاءُوا أَبَاهُمْ عِشَاءً يَبْكُونَ

And they came to their father at night weeping.

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا إِنَّا ذَهَبْنَا نَسْتَبِقُ وَتَرَكْنَا يُوسُفَ عِنْدَ مَتَاعِنَا فَأَكَلَهُ الذِّبَابُ وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُؤْمِنٍ لَنَا وَلَوْ كُنَّا صَادِقِينَ

They said: O our father! we went off racing and left Yusuf by our goods. Then the wolf ate him, and you will not believe us though we are truthful.

وَجَاءُوا عَلَىٰ قَمِيصِهِ بِدَمٍ كَذِبٍ ۚ قَالَ بَلْ سَوَّلَتْ لَكُمْ أَنفُسُكُمْ أَمْرًا ۖ فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ ۗ وَاللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ عَلَىٰ مَا تَصِفُونَ

And they brought his shirt with false blood upon it. He said: Nay, your souls have made the matter light for you. But patience is good and Allah is He Whose help is sought for what you describe.

Reflections

those who lie are afraid they may not be believed, so they add extras – the brothers came -
.weeping, you will not believe us even though we are truthful
.the father hints that the matter is more serious than that -
what type of patience is required here? at the separation with Yusuf, at the evil actions of the -
. . . brothers, of waiting to see what would happen
.the best response to such a serious incident is patience and trust in Allah -

Tafsir

The brothers carried out their plan against Yusuf. Now they needed to plan what they would tell their father to make it look like a natural accident. They also wanted to gain his love and attention now that Yusuf would not be there. The method they chose was the same one Nabi .Yaqub had told them he was afraid of – a wolf had eaten him

Nabi Yaqub had been waiting for his sons to return. When they came he could not see Yusuf with them. The sons began to explain. They said they had gone off to race on their horses, playing

games etc. Yusuf who was much younger than them could not compete with them. So they left him behind with their goods. When they came back from their racing they saw that a wolf had attacked him and eaten him. The brothers showed him the shirt of Yusuf which they had stained with the blood of an animal. The brothers did not understand how wrong it was to lie to their father. Lying is a major sin and is disliked by God. Imam Hasan al-Askari (a) says; *All evil is locked in a room and its key is lying*

Nabi Yaqub looked at the shirt and knew that the story was a lie. It had blood on it but was not torn in any place. A wolf would have ripped the shirt apart. According to history, Nabi Yaqub took the shirt in his hands and asked why there were no signs of the wolf's teeth on it. Another tradition says he held the shirt and cried out; what type of a kind wolf is this? It ate my son but did not damage the shirt at all? He tells them their Nafs, the nafse Ammarah which invites people to do evil – has made this serious matter very light for them. They are able to get rid of their brother and lie to their father without feeling any guilt. He then fell to the ground and the brothers were afraid that the news had caused his death

After some time Nabi Yaqub gets up. He is calm. There is no complaint against God or hopelessness. He says he will be patient for that is beautiful. He will seek the help of Allah to deal with this situation. Although Nabi Yaqub wept for Yusuf for a long time, his heart had no resentment against God. That is the true meaning of patience. Emotion may show in the form of tears as this is a natural human reaction. But there are no thoughts or words of complaint against God

:(In Usule Kafi, the following hadith is quoted from Imam Sadiq (a)
A free human being is free in all circumstances. Should a misfortune befall him he bears it with patience (sabr). If calamities strike him, they don't shatter him. If taken captive and subdued; he turns hardship into ease, as was the case of Yusuf, the truthful and trustworthy (a). His freedom saved him from harm, although he was enslaved, subdued, and imprisoned. The darkness of the pit, the dread and whatever befell him did him no harm, until God favored him and made the insolent tyrant, who had been his master, his slave. Then God made him His apostle and through him was merciful to a people. In this way patience is followed by good. So be patient and reconcile yourself to patience in order to be rewarded

Important Lessons

.A lie is usually discovered quickly. It cannot fool others for a long time (1

The *Nafse Ammarah* of the human being invites him towards evil. Shaytan adds his (2) whisperings to it. This nafs and the Shaytan are the two biggest enemies of the human being in his progress towards God. It should be controlled and disciplined by understanding its evil nature .and not listening to it

Patience and trust in Allah are two powerful weapons to deal with any difficulty in life. They (3) strengthen the human being and allow him to handle things well. Imam Ali says: *The one who practices patience will never be deprived of success, even though it may take a long time.* And (the Holy Qur'an tells us, *Give good news to the patient.* (2:155

Ideas

discuss and do an activity/game on lying. It is important for children to understand the gravity - of telling lies. An example is drawing or making a mask of a face that lies. How would the eyes look? The expression? Children could also just speak a lie and others would detect how they can .tell the child is lying

Is patience a strength or a weakness? Divide the class into two. Put up scenarios. One group - ?reacts with patience, the other has no patience. What is the outcome in each case