

Sura Yusuf, Verse 56-57

وَكَذَلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَتَّبِعْ أَيَّهَا مَنَ شَاءَ نُنْصِيبُ بِرَحْمَتِنَا مَنَ
نَشَاءُ وَلَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

That is how We established Yusuf in the land that he may settle in it wherever he wished. We grant our mercy to whoever We wish, and we do not let the reward of those who do good to be .lost

وَلَأَجْرُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ

And the reward of the Hereafter is surely better for those who believe and are God conscious.

Reflections

- what reward is verse 56 talking about? of the world or of the Hereafter? If it is of the world what will that reward be? what are the differences between the rewards of the world and that of the Hereafter?
- only two groups of people have been mentioned as receiving a better reward of the Hereafter; those who have faith and those who are God conscious. Do these qualities go together? Can you have one without the other?
- what exactly is God consciousness?
- who are those who do good? What did Nabi Yusuf do to make him part of that group?

Tafsir

This section of the life of Nabi Yusuf ends with a reminder that this was the mercy of Allah that was granted to Nabi Yusuf which enabled him to go from place to place until he ended with an honorable position. The position allowed him to do a lot of good for others. Because of his good nature and his efforts to help others Allah also helps him attain a status in the world.

Not everyone will be rewarded in the world. Sometimes God rewards only in the Hereafter. Knowing that you have pleased Allah is the biggest reward in this world as well as in the Hereafter. It is a spiritual reward that cannot be compared to physical and material rewards.

Muhsinin are those who do good, the doers of *Ihsan* – a beautiful thought, word and/or action. God has praised the *Muhsinin* many times in the Quran as a special group of people. The Quran says; *Surely Allah loves the Muhsinin* (2:195). Nabi Yusuf has been described as a *Muhsin*, a *Mumin* and a *Muttaqi* in these verses showing his high rank with God.

Nabi Yusuf achieved a lot in this world. But Allah reminds us that the reward of the Hereafter is better. It lasts forever and will not end. It brings complete and absolute happiness without any negativity to spoil its pleasure.

Despite his position Nabi Yusuf remained a humble servant of Allah. Imam Sadiq (a) says about Nabi Yusuf that he was a free and thoughtful person. Neither the jealousy of his brothers, nor being thrown in the well, imprisonment in the prison, accusations against him, nor the power and authority given to him affected him negatively. That is how a true believer is. Circumstances of this world do not make him too happy or too sad, not too proud or too upset. All is from Allah and the most important thing is how we react to it.

Important Lessons

- 1) Everything is done according to the plan that Allah has for each human being. Allah established Nabi Yusuf in the land despite all the people who planned against him.
- 2) The good that any human being does never goes unrewarded. Even a small atom of good will be rewarded.
- 3) It is possible to have a high position in this world and to also have a status in the Hereafter.
- 4) Those who love Allah are more concerned about the Hereafter. Things of the world do not affect them much.

Ideas

- make a table or chart to show qualities of *Muhsinin*, *Muminin*, *Muttaqin*. Students can choose one quality to discuss/write about/apply in their lives and report on later . . .
- discuss and compare different ways in which God rewards people. What is the greatest reward? Achieving pleasure of Allah is described in Quran as the greatest (9:72).

