

Sura Yusuf, Verse 96

فَلَمَّا أَنْ جَاءَ الْبَشِيرُ أَلْقَاهُ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ فَارْتَدَّ بَصِيرًا ۗ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

So when the bearer of good news arrived, he cast it [the shirt] on his face and he regained his eyesight. He said, ‘Did I not tell you that I know from Allah what you do not know’?

Reflections

- how did Nabi Yaqub get back his eyesight?
- this must have been a very emotional time. How must the brothers be feeling at that time?
- what did Nabi Yaqub know that the others did not know? Was it knowledge or hope? What was he expecting from God?
- verses 86-87 say something similar. Why did Nabi Yaqub tell his sons the same thing before they left home?

Tafsir

Nabi Yaqub had sent his sons to Egypt to look for Yusuf and his brother Benyamin. The caravan had set off and Nabi Yaqub waited patiently. It was a tense time for the family. After a while, could be many days or even weeks, suddenly there was a shout that the caravan had arrived from Egypt. Unlike previous times, the sons of Nabi Yaqub entered the city smiling and excited. There was no sadness on their faces. Previously they would come with heavy hearts. The burden of knowing what they had done and seeing the grief of their father weighed heavily on them. This time the mood was completely different.

The brothers rushed to their father’s home. The brother who had the shirt is referred to as ‘Bashir’ in the verse, the giver of good news. That is the title of the Holy Prophet (s) also, as he gives good news of the mercy of Allah to the believers. The brother casts the shirt of Nabi Yusuf on the face of his father. Nabi Yaqub had not seen the shirt but as soon as the cloth covered his face he could smell something familiar. He realized it was the smell of Yusuf. He knew with certainty at that moment that his son was alive and a deep happiness filled his being. The world brightened for him. A gentle breeze of the mercy of Allah swept over him and suddenly he could see again.

The brothers and the rest of the family watched in astonishment. They wept to see their father's happiness. They saw him look around and could tell that he could see again. Allah had blessed him. Perhaps life would now be better for them again. Their years of hardship and sorrow, all stemming from the wrong they did to their brother, were now finally over.

Nabi Yaqub turned towards them. With a trembling voice he asked them, 'Did I not tell you I know what you do not know?' He had said the same thing before they left home for Egypt (verse 86). What he is referring to is his firm trust in Allah and the knowledge that Allah would change his circumstances to good, that He would give him ease after difficulty. His faith and trust in God is much more than theirs so they would not know the feeling of hope he had in Allah.

The fact that Nabi Yaqub knew it was Yusuf's smell, after all these years, and even that he had predicted it before the brothers came, could be a miracle from God, or part of the knowledge of the Prophets. It could also be a form of telepathy that is strong between people who are extremely close. The souls connect and they may be far in distance but they can sense each other.

Allah discloses what He wishes to the Prophets. Some of the events may have been hidden from Nabi Yaqub to test him and some may have been revealed to him. It all depends on how much Allah wished him to know.

The return of eyesight to Nabi Yaqub is considered as a miracle bestowed on him by God.

Just as in the story of Nabi Yaqub and Nabi Yusuf, this world has sad days and happy days for the human being. Not all days are the same. So when we go through difficulties we must keep hope in Allah and understand that it will pass and happier days will come. Similarly when we are happy we should not get too excited as that too will pass. Both types of days come and go in the world.

Hadith

Know that with difficulty there is ease, and with patience there is victory, and with sadness there is happiness.

Holy Prophet (s)

Important Lessons

- 1) Nothing is too difficult for Allah. He gave Nabi Yaqub back his eyesight, united him with a son who had been missing for so long, changed the attitude of the sons and made the family happy again.
- 2) There is always hope for ease after difficulty. (See 94:5-6)
- 3) Don't be too happy or too sad with life. The world has its days for everyone.
- 4) Expect the best from Allah. You will get it.

Possible Ideas for activities

- what do you expect from God? Ask each child to write the answer (a word, a sentence) on a sheet of paper or a circle of felt etc. Collect these and then ask the children to talk about it. You could do this activity as a web chart on the board, a poster creation, a game
- a ladder of hopes. Let children make a ladder with each step representing a hope in Allah. Show how hopes change and advance as knowledge and maturity increases.
- 'I know from Allah what you do not know'. Let children write this out, make a plaque, a card, a decoration . . . with the Arabic and English. Let them memorise it. Teach them to recite it to show hope and trust in God.

Story

Expect the Best from Allah

The Holy Prophet (s) was explaining to his companions how they should have hope in Allah and expect the best from Him. He said; God will not let down your expectations of Him.

He narrated an event that would happen on the Day of Judgment;

A man would be told he is not worthy of Heaven and has to face punishment for his sins. He will wait and look around.

A voice will inquire; 'What are you waiting for?'

The man will reply; 'My Lord, this is not what I expected from You.'

Allah will ask him, 'what did you expect from Me?'

The man will say, 'I expected that You would forgive me my sins and grant me a place in Your Heaven.'

Almighty Allah will turn to His angels and say, 'This person did not have a positive expectation of Me. If he had, I would have fulfilled it and not let him get punished. But since he has now voiced that he expects the best from Me I will fulfill it. Let him enter Heaven'.

Moral: If you expect positive things from God it shows the trust and faith you have in Him. He will fulfill it.

Sources:

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