

INTRODUCTION TO SŪRAT AL-YUSUF

Occasion of Revelation

According to 'Allama 'Tabataba'i, Sura Yusuf was revealed to the Prophet (s) when a group of Jews encouraged the polytheists of Makkah to ask the Prophet about why Children of Israel immigrated from Levant to Egypt. Thus, the sura was revealed in response to their question

Sura Yusuf was revealed in Makkah and has 111 verses.

Except for some verses at the end, the entire sura talks about the story of Nabi Yusuf. All the stages of his life are discussed with many interesting details of the conversations that took place. Unlike other suras all the passages in this sura are linked to the same story.

The name of Nabi Yusuf has been mentioned 27 times in the Holy Quran, out of which 25 are there in Sura Yusuf.

It is a beautiful story with many lessons on faith, trust in God, personal discipline, family relationships . . . etc. Almighty Allah tells us these stories in detail so that we may enjoy the story and also learn from the lessons in the story.

Just like other stories of Prophet Ibrahim (a), Prophet Musa (a), and others, the story of Nabi Yusuf shows how God can overpower all the plotting of others. What He wants will happen, not what people want, even the most powerful ones. It is the story of miraculous success, which only comes from God who is the Ultimate Planner.

The Qur'anic story of Yusuf (a) has some differences with the biblical narrative; for instance, according to the Qur'an, Yusuf's brothers asked Ya'qub (a) to let Yusuf (a) go out with them, but according to the Bible, Ya'qub (a) himself asked Yusuf (a) to go with his brothers.

Nabi Yusuf (a) reportedly lived 120 years and his burial place is in Palestine.

Useful Links:

https://en.wikishia.net/view/Sura_Yusuf