

Overview**Advice of Nabī Ya‘qūb (a)****Shaytān – an open enemy****The 3 things God would do for Nabī Yūsuf (a)****God’s plan is the best**

Sūrat al-Yūsuf

Verses 5-6

قَالَ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تَقْصُصْ رُؤْيَاكَ عَلَىٰ إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ

He said: O my son! do not tell your dream to your brothers in case they plan against you; surely the Shaytān is an open enemy to the human being.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ يُجْتَبِيكَ رَبُّكَ وَيُعَلِّمُكَ مِن تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ وَيُتِمُّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ كَمَا أَتَمَّهَا عَلَىٰ أَبَوَيْكَ مِن قَبْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ ۚ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

That is how your Lord will choose you and teach you the interpretation of dreams and complete His blessings upon you and upon the children of Ya‘qūb, just as He completed it earlier for your fathers, Ibrāhīm and Is-hāq. surely your Lord is all-Knowing, all-Wise

Questions For Reflection

- 1) Why is Shaytān an enemy of the human being? What is his goal?
- 2) Is it only Shaytān who is responsible for the wrong we think/say/do?
- 3) What three things does Nabī Ya‘qūb say God would do for Yūsuf (a)?

Commentary

The dream of Nabī Yūsuf excited his father and worried him too. He knew it foretold a great future but he was worried about the reaction of his sons. He knew them well

and was aware of how they felt about Yūsuf and his relationship with his father. A parent always knows the child. Even when the child does not say anything or disclose how they feel about something a parent understands it.

Nabī Ya‘qūb knew that the brothers already felt that Yūsuf was special and they didn’t like it. If they heard about the dream, they would be even angrier with Yūsuf. The dream was not a normal dream that children dream about. Often children see dreams that don’t make much sense. But if the brothers heard the details about this dream, it would be easy for them to conclude that Allah had a special plan for Yūsuf.

Nabī Ya‘qūb tells his son that the brothers will plot against him. He attributes this to Shaytān who is always looking for a way to plant negative thoughts in the mind. Shaytān would fan the flames of jealousy which already existed, but he would make it larger and more serious.

Precaution and prevention are always good. Rather than mending things afterwards it is better to have foresight and think of what might happen. That is what Nabī Ya‘qūb did and he asked his son to take the precaution of not telling anyone about the dream.

Nabī Ya‘qūb summarizes the dream for his son in verse 6. He tells him three things;

- a) Allah has chosen him
- b) He will be able to interpret dreams
- c) Through him Allah will complete His favors on the family of Ya‘qūb.

This was how the father verified that it was an important dream that Nabī Yūsuf had seen and he was going to have a great future.

### Lessons

- 1) Some things must be kept secret from others. It is not right to reveal everything to others. Even close friends should not know everything about you and what happens in your life. It can be harmful sometimes and can have an effect in the future. Imam Sadiq (a) says; *Your secret is like your blood and it should not flow except in your own veins.*
- 2) Talking to elders and taking advice is always useful. Nabī Yūsuf may not have known that he should keep his dream a secret if his father had not told him.
- 3) Do not condemn others in your speech. Note that Nabī Ya‘qūb mentions Shaytān, implying that Shaytān would make the brothers plot against Nabī Yūsuf. He does not say anything about the negative qualities of his sons.

4) God is all Knowing, all Wise. He has a plan for everyone. Sometimes we don't understand it but we should trust in His knowledge and wisdom.

### Practical Implementations

1. Involve your parents when making important decisions for yourself
2. Make it a habit to often recite *a'udhu billāh...* (I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Shaytān)
3. When things don't always go as planned do not complain, trust in God instead.

### Cross Reference Verses

Luqman's advice to his son – 31:13,16-19

Conversation between Nabī Ibrāhīm and Nabī Ismā'īl – 37:102

### Connecting Topics

Letter of Imam Ali (a) to Imam Hasan (a) in *Nahjul Balāgha*

How to prevent falling prey to Shaytān

God is the best planner.

### Useful Links:

<https://www.al-islam.org/nahjul-balagha-part-2-letters-and-sayings/letter-31-advice-one-his-sons-after-returning-battle>

<https://www.al-islam.org/istiadha-seeking-allahs-protection-satan-sayyid-abdul-husayn-dastghaib-shirazi/seventh-talk>

<https://shiastudies.com/en/17116/effects-trusting-gods-plans/>