

Overview**The realization of the brothers of Nabī Yūsuf****Confessing their mistake****Humility required to accept a mistake**

Sūrat Yūsuf

Verse 91

قَالُوا تَاللّٰهِ لَقَدْ آتٰرَكَ اللّٰهُ عَلَيْنَا وَاِنْ كُنَّا لَخٰطِئِيْنَ

They said: By Allāh, surely Allāh has preferred you over us, and we were certainly mistaken

Questions for Reflection

1. Are the brothers feeling regret?
2. They mention Allāh. How is what they say different from Nabī Yūsuf's mention of Allāh?
3. What does it take to admit a mistake? Would they have admitted if Nabī Yūsuf had not confronted them with it?

Commentary

When Nabī Yūsuf identified himself, the brothers felt very ashamed. They could see how much progress he had made in life. It was not only the position he had acquired. He had grown into a mature personality with knowledge, forbearance, wisdom, dedication, and he was respected by all. He was fair and just and worked for the betterment of others. This was an admirable person and the brothers were stunned to know that he was the same brother whom they had mistreated.

Earlier in the story the brothers had thought they were stronger and better than their brother and their father was wrong to love Yūsuf more. But now they admit that Yūsuf is better than they are. He must have had potential which Allāh caused to develop and thus Allāh preferred him for growth and service over them. The first thing the brothers admit is that God has preferred Yūsuf over them. This shows humility from the brothers which was not evident earlier.

The second thing the brothers admit is their mistake. Again, it requires humility to say we were wrong. But they give no excuses and do not deny anything. Acceptance of a

mistake or sin is the first step towards forgiveness. When a person admits their mistake, it sets the ground for forgiveness and pardon from the other side.

Sometimes mistakes and their consequences serve as a lesson for the people who commit them. It reduces pride, creates humbleness and deflates the ego. Although bitter, it is a good medicine for the soul. The brothers had refused to see the goodness of Yūsuf before, due to their jealousy, but now they had to accept it.

Hadīth

Imām ‘Alī (a) says: *A sincere confession cancels out the evil effect of sins.* (Bihārul Anwār, Chapter 15, H#40)

Lessons

- 1) Recognize when someone else has better qualities than you.
- 2) Admit your mistake. It is a sign of humility and lays the ground for forgiveness.

Practical Implementation

- When admitting a mistake, do not rush into giving excuses, own up to the mistake instead.
- Try to seek ways on how to improve yourself and avoid a similar mistake in the future.

Cross reference verse

Realizing a mistake and seeking forgiveness Q3:135

Connecting Topic

Admitting mistakes

Useful Link

<https://www.morningcoach.com/blog/admitting-your-mistakes#:~:text=Whenever%20you%20apologize%20and%20admit,saying%20sorry%20for%20your%20mistake.>

Activity Ideas

Play a game on admitting mistakes. Have four scenarios of mistakes – either discuss or make charts around the room. Students come up with possible ways of admitting the mistakes and the results of that.