

## Overview

**The compassion of Nabī Yūsuf for his family**

**Nabī Yūsuf sends his shirt to his father to provide a cure for his blindness**

**Nabī Yūsuf invites all his family to join him**

**Nabī Yūsuf's uses positivity/honor to reduce the shame his brothers are feeling.**

## **Related Story**

Sūrat Yūsuf

Verses 92-93

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِيبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ ۖ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۖ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

He said: There shall be nothing (no blame) on you today; may Allāh forgive you, and He is the most Merciful of the merciful

اذْهَبُوا بِقَمِيصِي هَذَا فَأَلْقُوهُ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِ أَبِي يَأْتِ بَصِيرًا وَأْتُونِي بِأَهْلِكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

Take this my shirt and cast it on my father's face, he will be able to see again. Then come to me with all your families.

## Questions for Reflection

1. Why is Nabī Yūsuf so quick to forgive? (He hopes that Allāh will forgive them. He is more concerned about their sin in the eyes of Allāh than the wrong they did to him)
2. The shirt of Nabī Yūsuf plays a significant role in the story of his life. How would Nabī Ya'qūb react when the shirt was cast on his face?

## Commentary

After the brothers admit their mistake Nabī Yūsuf is quick to reassure them that he does not want to seek revenge for what they did. Despite the position he has he will not use it against them. He promises them safety and security. He also gives them hope that because they have admitted and are sorry what they have done, Allāh too would forgive them. It is a subtle reminder that what matters is the forgiveness of God. The wrong they did was not just to him personally. It was a wrong in the eyes of God. Nabī Yūsuf talks of the mercy of Allāh to put hope in the hearts of the brothers.

This shows the nobility of Nabī Yūsuf. He does not want his brothers to feel upset or disheartened because of their past.

The brothers have admitted their mistake and are forgiven. But there is a lasting result of their deed that they cannot undo. That is the blindness of their father due to the separation from the son. It is hard to bear for the father and the rest of the family and it is also a continuous reminder of the deed of the brothers. Even if they have been forgiven, they still have to live with this result. But Nabī Yūsuf has a solution for that too. He knows of their distress and gives them his shirt to place on the father's face. With the help of God, the happiness at connecting with his son will restore the sight of Nabī Ya'qūb (a).

History tells us that Nabī Yūsuf asked that the brother who had shown the father a blood-stained shirt of Nabī Yūsuf so many years before would be the one to place this shirt on his father's face. That way the same brother who had caused so much unhappiness to the father would now make him happy again. Nabī Yūsuf planned this with much sensitivity and detail in order to try and erase much of the negativity from the lives and minds of the family.

History also narrates that the brothers of Nabī Yūsuf asked that they not sit at the same dining place with Nabī Yūsuf. They felt too ashamed to sit with him and eat together after all they had done to him. Nabī Yūsuf gave a very interesting reply. He told them eating with them was a source of honor for him. He said the people of Egypt till now had thought of him as a freed slave. When they looked at him they wondered how far he had reached when he was only a slave bought for a few dirhams. But now that his brothers had come and they were acknowledged as his family he gained new respect in people's eyes. He was not a slave but a son from a noble family of Prophets, descended from the Prophet Ibrāhīm (a). Thus, the brothers were a source of dignity for him. It is amazing to note how positive Nabī Yūsuf was and how much he wanted that his brothers feel at ease with him. His perspective on this newly established relationship was completely different from what the brothers were expecting.

### Lessons

- 1) When God blesses you with a position over someone who has wronged you don't seek revenge. Don't even remind them of the past.
- 2) Have a positive perspective on things.

4) Family is always important. Even when they wrong you, you have to sort out and get together. Nabī Yūsuf invites all his family to Egypt so they can enjoy the comforts of life he can give them.

### Practical Implementation

- a) When someone wrongs you pray that God may forgive them.
- b) Find a positive element in a situation to ease the guilt of the person feeling remorseful. It makes everyone feel better.

### Cross reference verse

Forbearance/Forgiveness when possessing abundance and grace Q24:22

### Hadīth

- 1) The Zakāt [charity] of success is to overlook and forgive. Holy Prophet (s)
- 2) When you get power over your enemy forgive him out of gratitude for the power over him. Imām ‘Alī (a)

### Related Story

#### Conquest of Makkah

In 8.A.H. the Holy Prophet (s) along with the Muslims conquered Makkah and defeated the idol worshippers. The enemies were afraid of what he would do to them. Would he seek revenge for all they had done to him in the past?

The Prophet asked them: O descendants of Quraysh! How do you think I should act towards you? “With kindness and pity, gracious brother and nephew,” they said. The Prophet kindly declared: “I shall speak to you as Yūsuf spoke unto his brothers: “There is nothing against you today; may God forgive you, He is the most Merciful of the merciful. Then he added: “Go; you are free!”

Makkah lay conquered but not a single house was plundered, nor any woman insulted. Cruelties, insults and oppression during a long period of twenty-one years were forgiven. Many of the Quraysh were amazed at the behavior of the Prophet and they accepted Islām. That is how the Prophet won over people.

### Connecting Topics

Avoiding the blame game

### Useful Links

<https://rhapsodystrategies.com/playing-the-blame-game/>

### Activity Ideas

- The shirt of Nabī Yūsuf plays an important role. Verses 18 and verse 93 talk about it. (Verse 26 also talks about it but the students have not done that passage of the Sura). Students can do an activity on it- draw, cut out, make two shirts. One represents a lie that brings a lot of unhappiness to everyone. One represents love that brings so much happiness.
- How would the brothers break the news to the father? Students can write their own version of how that must have taken place. They could act it, write it, just speak in turns etc. representing what the brothers may have told the father when they returned to him.
- Compare and contrast conflicts where people try to get even and where people overlook and forgive. What are the results for both sides?

### Sources:

Āyatullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzī (ed), Tafsīr-e Namūneh

Āghae Muhsin Qarāati, Tafsīre Nūr