

Overview**The bearer of good news****Nabī Ya‘qūb *‘alayhis salām* regains his eyesight****The knowledge and hope of Nabī Ya‘qūb *‘alayhis salām*****Firm trust in Allāh (SWT) and expecting the best from Him****This world has both sad and happy days****Related Story**

Sūrat Yūsuf

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 Allāh what you do not know?’

Questions for Reflection

1. How did Nabī Ya‘qūb get back his eyesight?
2. This must have been a very emotional time. How must the brothers be feeling at that time?
3. What did Nabī Ya‘qūb know that the others did not know? Was it knowledge or hope? What was he expecting from God?
4. Verses 86-87 say something similar. Why did Nabī Ya‘qūb tell his sons the same thing before they left home?

Commentary

Nabī Ya‘qūb had sent his sons to Egypt to look for Yūsuf and his brother Benyamin. The caravan had set off and Nabī Ya‘qūb 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 Nabī Ya‘qūb 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 'Bashīr' 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 Allāh to the believers. The brother casts the shirt of Nabī Yūsuf on the face of his father. Nabī Ya'qūb 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 Yūsuf. 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 Allāh 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. Allāh 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.

Nabī Ya'qūb 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 Allāh and the knowledge that Allāh would change his circumstances to good, that He would give him ease after difficulty. His faith and trust in God was much more than theirs so they would not know the feeling of hope he had in Allāh.

The fact that Nabī Ya'qūb knew it was Yūsuf'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.

Allāh discloses what He wishes to the Prophets. Some of the events may have been hidden from Nabī Ya'qūb to test him and some may have been revealed to him. It all depends on how much Allāh wished him to know.

The return of eyesight to Nabī Ya'qūb is considered as a miracle bestowed on him by God.

Just as in the story of Nabī Ya'qūb and Nabī Yūsuf, this world has sad days and happy days for the human being. Not all days are the same. When we go through difficulties

we must keep hope in Allāh 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.

Lessons

- 1) Nothing is too difficult for Allāh. He gave Nabī Ya‘qūb 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.
- 3) Don't be too happy or too sad with life. The world has its days for everyone.
- 4) Expect the best from Allāh. You will get it.

Practical Implementation

- Take charge of your emotions in both, happy and sad situations. Either way, do not over indulge or overreact.

Cross reference verses

Ease with every difficulty Q94:5-6

Allāh creates ways for those who are God-conscious – Q65:2-3

Hadīth

Know that with difficulty there is ease, and with patience there is victory, and with sadness there is happiness. Holy Prophet (s)

Remember that this life consists of two days - a day for you and a day against you, and that the world is a house with (changing) authorities.

Imām ‘Alī (a), letter no.72, Nahjul Balāgha

Related Story

Expect the Best from Allāh

The Holy Prophet (s) was explaining to his companions how they should have hope in Allāh 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.' Allāh 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 Allāh 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.

Connecting Topics

Expecting the best from God

Useful Links

<https://www.al-islam.org/ahlul-bayt-ethical-role-models-sayyid-mahdi-sadr/hope-god>

Activity Ideas:

- 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 Allāh. Show how hopes change and advance as knowledge and maturity increases.
- 'I know from Allāh 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.