

## Surah Yusuf (continued)

As mentioned in the previous Quranic Overview, this surah has many lessons:

1. Some times hardship becomes the means to bounty and ease. The story of Yusuf began with the tragic incident of splitting from his family, then being abandoned in the well, being sold at the slave market in Egypt, facing the trials and plotting of the queen, and spending many years in prison. However, he eventually ended up as the ruler of Egypt and was honoured and respected by the people.
2. Jealousy is a horrifying disease which can even lead to brothers harming each other.
3. Good character, high morals and a good upbringing, eventually prevails. Yusuf alaihis salaam was brought up by a great prophet i.e. Yaqoob alaihis salaam, hence he was able to stand up to and face all these trials and come out victorious.
4. Chastity, trust and steadfastness are the fountains of greatness, for both men and women. In this way, those who are steadfast and do not bow in front of falsehood, are eventually the winners.
5. The segregation between the genders is a commandment based on profound wisdom, in order to protect each party. If it were not for this free mixing of genders, the queen could never have been successful in enacting her plans.
6. The strong belief in the Almighty makes it easier for one to face hardship and save one's honour.
7. A true believer should always turn to Allah alone in any type of distress.
8. A true da'ee (inviter) never forgets his/her duty, even in hard times. Yusuf alaihis salaam made it his priority to invite his inmates to 'Tawheed' before answering the interpretations of their dreams.
9. Every believer should always be very concerned about his/her honour. Yusuf alaihis salaam only left prison, once it was proven and accepted that he was innocent.
10. This story reassures and strengthens the belief that patience and steadfastness, win in the end. Patience and steadfastness are the keys to blessings and peace in this life and in the hereafter.
11. This story provides many testimonies of the truth and chastity of Yusuf alaihis salaam:
  - a. Allah mentions this fact in this surah.
  - b. Shaithan's statement that he will mislead all of mankind except those who are sincere. This proves that Yusuf was sincere.
  - c. The king's wife gave testimony to admit her fault and that Yusuf alaihis salaam was innocent.
  - d. The person who suggested that if the shirt is torn from the front, is testimony to the innocence of Yusuf alaihis salaam.
  - e. The women of the palace, whom cut their hands, gave testimony that ' we do not know of any wrong that Yusuf has done'.
12. If Allah decides to put somebody through hardship, then nobody can change that. Similarly, if he wants to honour you, then no body can stop that.

## Surah ar-Ra'ad

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 43 ayaat. Its main subjects are: Tawheed, Risalah, and Akhirah.

The other main topics in this surah are:

1. The surah starts by giving evidence for the oneness of Allah, and that it is only He who created the stars and the moon, the day and the night, the trees and oceans, and all kinds of fruit. He is the sole owner of life and death, benefit and harm.
  2. Then evidence for the resurrection and accountability has been given. This was one matter that the mushrikeen found very hard to believe in. Allah tells them that it is the 'rejection of resurrection' which is in fact questionable.
  3. Allah has placed with every person, angels, which take care of them.
  4. Allah tells us that He does not change the state of a people from good to bad, unless they themselves change it through their actions. Hence this ummah needs to correct it's self before hoping for any change to come about.
  5. The falsehood has been compared to the froth on the sea's surface, which apparently covers everything, but eventually fades away. The truthful believers have been compared to gold and silver, which is firmly placed in the land, and which is refined and shines once it is sent through the furnace of trials and tribulations.
  6. The people of taqwa are mentioned and their qualities are listed:
    - Fulfill Allah's covenant and do not breach their contracts.
    - They join relations with whom Allah has commanded them.
    - They fear their Lord.
    - They fear the accountability.
    - They are patient for the pleasure of Allah.
    - They establish prayer.
    - They spend openly and in secret, out of the wealth that Allah has given them. They repel bad with good.
- In contrast the characteristics of the wrong doers are:
- They break their covenant with Allah.
  - They break ties with the relations that Allah has commanded to be joined.
  - They spread mischief on earth.
7. Prophets are humans and they also have families. As far as their miracles are concerned, then they are only performed due to Allah's given abilities.
  8. At the end of the surah, Allah bears witness to the messengerhood of the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam, and similarly, the people of the book who are free from prejudice, bear witness to this.

## Surah Ibraheem

This is a Makkan surah consisting of 52 ayaat, and starts with the 'huroof muqath'aath' (broken letters) and like all other surahs that start with these, it mentions the Qur'an:

"Alif, Lam, Ra. [This is] a Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad] , that you might bring mankind out of darkneses into the light by permission of their Lord - to the path of the Exalted in Might, the Praiseworthy." (Ayat 1).

The main topics discussed in this surah are as follows:

1. Three basic beliefs: tawheed, risalah and resurrection have been discussed.
2. There are glad tidings of jannah for the believers, and the warning of jahannum for the rejecters.
3. The Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam is being consoled that the previous prophets also had to face their opposition during their time and mission.

There is mention of 4 questions that the rejecters would ask, in response:

- a. The existence of Allah; they are told to look around them and think about how this could have come into existence without Allah creating it.
- b. The prophets cannot be human; they are told that the messenger is a human being who has received revelation from Allah. In addition, if angels inhabited the earth, then Allah would have sent angels as messengers.
- c. Blind following of their forefathers; this has been addressed and objected to in many places in the Qur'an based on the fact that any human can make mistakes.
- d. Why do you not show us a miracle; they are told that this is entirely up to Allah, and no one else has any command in this respect.

4. Allah promises to give more to the thankful, and for the ungrateful, there is a punishment. Thankfulness (shukr) is to admit the bounty and favour, to praise the Provider, and to use the favour for the intended purpose. For example being grateful for being given knowledge is to act upon it and to educate the ignorant. Being grateful in terms of wealth is to spend it on good and worthy causes.

5. This surah mentions the duaas (supplications) that Ibraheem alaihis salaam made at the time of reconstructing the ka'bah.

6. A beautiful and profound simile has been given of the 'shajarah tayyibah' i.e. the pure and wholesome tree to be the 'truth' and 'shajarah khabeethah' i.e. an impure and wretched tree to be 'falsehood'. If the kalima tayyibah i.e. the pure statement of "laa ilaha ill Allah" penetrates deep into the heart, then this takes firm root and gives beautiful and sweet fruits. However, the impure tree has no grounding and thus bears no fruit.

7. There is mention of jahannum and its severity.

8. Just like the first ayat mentioned the Qur'an, its ending also mentions the reason for its revelation:

"This (Qur'an) is a Message for mankind, in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is the only One ilah, and that men of understanding may take heed." (Ayat 52).