

Sura Yusuf, Verse 92-93

قَالَ لَا تَحْزَبْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْيَوْمَ ۚ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۚ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

He said: There shall be nothing against you today; may Allah 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.

Reflections

- why is Nabi Yusuf so quick to forgive?
- he hopes that Allah will forgive them. He is more concerned about their sin in the eyes of Allah than the wrong they did to him.
- the shirt of Nabi Yusuf plays a significant role in the story of his life.
- how would Nabi Yaquq react when the shirt would be cast on his face?

Tafsir

After the brothers admit their mistake Nabi Yusuf 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, Allah 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. Nabi Yusuf talks of the mercy of Allah to put hope in the hearts of the brothers. This shows the nobility of Nabi Yusuf. 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 and which is hard for the family. 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 Nabi Yusuf 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 Nabi Yaquq.

History tells us that Nabi Yusuf asked that the brother who had shown the father a blood stained shirt of Nabi Yusuf 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. Nabi Yusuf 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 Nabi Yusuf asked that they not sit at the same dining place with Nabi Yusuf. They felt too ashamed to sit with him and eat together after all they had done to him. Nabi Yusuf 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 Ibrahim (a). Thus the brothers were a source of dignity for him. It is amazing to note how positive Nabi Yusuf 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.

Hadith

1) The Zakat [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.
Imam Ali (a)

Important 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) When someone wrongs you pray that God may forgive them.
- 3) Have a positive perspective on things.
- 4) Family is always important. Even when they wrong you, you have to sort out and get together. Nabi Yusuf invites his family to Egypt – all of them so they can enjoy the comforts of life he can give them.

Possible Ideas for activities

- The shirt of Nabi Yusuf 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?

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 Yusuf 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!’

Mecca 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 Islam. That is how the Prophet won over people.

Sources:

Āytaullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzī (ed), *Tafsīr-e Namūneh*;

Aghae Muhsin Qaraati, *Tafsire Nur*

<http://www.imamreza.net/eng/imamreza.php?id=8953>