

## Surah 12: Surah Yusuf

### YUSUF يُوسُفُ

#### THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH YUSUF AND SURAH HOOD

**By Name:** The message of Tauheed established in *Surah Hood* (that only Allaah should be worshipped) is so important that Yoosuf يُوسُفُ never forgot it even while in jail. When the two prisoners asked him for the interpretation of their dreams, he first impressed upon their minds that they should worship only Allaah because they have no proof to worship another.

**By Content:** *Surah Hood* establishes as its second message that only Allaah is the Knower of the unseen and that He is the Supreme Master and Controller of the universe. *Surah Yoosuf* now provides a detailed incident that proves this point.

Although the primary theme of *Surah Hood* was to establish the first message (that only Allaah be worshipped), the second message is really a proof for this. Since every assertion is accorded credibility on the strength of its proof, this proof is extensively explained in *Surah Yoosuf*. When it is conclusively established that only Allaah has knowledge of the unseen and that only He is the Master and Controller of everything, it follows that only He should be worshipped.

While *Surah Hood* established that no pious person has knowledge of the unseen, nor could he have control over affairs, *Surah Yoosuf* cites the episode of Ya'qoob يَاقُوبُ. He was a prophet, his father was a prophet, his grandfather was a prophet and his son was also a prophet. Despite being so fortunate, he still had no knowledge of the unseen, nor did he have any control over matters. Neither did he know what had become of his son, nor could he change the course of events that so grieved him.

#### A GIST OF THE SURAH

*Surah Yoosuf* makes the following four assertions:

1. Only Allaah has knowledge of the unseen and He has not conferred this privilege to any other.
2. Only Allaah is the Supreme Master and Controller of everything and He has not granted others the capability to do anything more than what visible means permit.
3. Rasulullaah رَسُولُ اللَّهِ is Allaah's true messenger, on whom revelation descends.
4. Difficulties will also afflict Rasulullaah رَسُولُ اللَّهِ, just as it afflicted the Ambiyaa الْأَنْبِيَاءُ before him, but these will soon give way to success and victory.

## سُورَةُ يُوسُفَ مَكِّيَّةٌ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

الرَّسْمِ تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ ۝

1. Alif Laam Ra (Only Allaah knows the correct meaning of these letters). These are the verses of the clear Book (the Qur'aan).

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ ۝

2. Undoubtedly We have revealed it (the Qur'aan) as an Arabic (versatile, clear, grand) Qur'aan so that you (O people of Makkah to whom the Qur'aan was first recited) may understand.

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ لَمِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ ۝

3. We narrate to you a most beautiful story in this Qur'aan that We reveal to you. Before this you were of the unwary (those who did not know about this story).

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ كَوْكَبًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ رَأَيْتُهُمْ لِي سَاجِدِينَ ۝

4. When (as a child) Yoosuf said to his father (Ya'qoob), "O my (beloved) father! Indeed I have seen (in a dream) eleven stars, the sun and the moon all bowing before me." (The stars symbolised his eleven brothers, the sun, his father and the moon, his mother. This meant that a time would come when Yoosuf would be exalted to a high position and all his family members would have to bow down before him.)

قَالَ يَبْنَؤُ لَا تَقْصُصْ رُءْيَاكَ عَلَى إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ ۝

5. His father said, "O my (beloved) son! Do not relate this dream to your brothers, otherwise they will plot against you. Undoubtedly Shaytaan is an open enemy to man (do not tell them because Shaytaan may make them jealous of you when they learn the interpretation of your dream and he may tempt them to harm you)."

وَكَذَلِكَ يَجْتَبِيكَ رَبُّكَ وَيُعَلِّمُكَ مِنْ تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ وَيُتِمُّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ  
يَعْقُوبَ كَمَا أَتَمَّهَا عَلَىٰ أَبَوَيْكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ ۝

6. "In this manner (as He has shown you this wonderful dream) has your Rabb chosen you, taught you the interpretation of dreams and (graciously) completed His bounty on you (by making you a Nabi) and on the family of Ya'qoob عليه السلام, just as He had completed it upon your two forefathers Ibraheem عليه السلام and Is'haaq عليه السلام. Indeed your Rabb is All Knowing (about the talents and capacities of all), The Wise."

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي يُوسُفَ وَإِخْوَتِهِ آيَاتٍ لِّلسَّائِلِينَ ۝

7. In the story of Yoosuf عليه السلام and his brothers are certainly many Aayaat (lessons) for those who have questions (those who desire to learn).

إِذ قَالُوا لِيُوسُفَ وَأَخُوهُ أَحَبُّ إِلَىٰ آبَانَا مِنَّا وَنَحْنُ عُصْبَةٌ إِنَّ آبَانَا لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ ۝

8. (We now draw your attention to the time) When the (step-) brothers (of Yoosuf عليه السلام) said (to each other) "Verily Yoosuf and his (real) brother (Bin Yaameen) are more beloved to our father than us, even though we are a large (strong) group. Indeed our father is certainly mistaken (because we are more useful to him)."

إِقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ أَوْ اطْرَحُوهُ أَرْضًا يَخْلُ لَكُمْ وَجْهَ أَبِيكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا مِن بَعْدِهِ قَوْمًا صَالِحِينَ ۝

9. (Continuing their discussion, someone said) "Kill Yoosuf or throw him in some (distant) land, after which the attention of your father will be reserved for you only. Thereafter you can be righteous people (you can repent for our action and make amends)."

قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ لَا تَقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ وَالْقُوَّةَ فِي غَيْبَتِ الْجُبِّ يَلْتَقِطُهُ بَعْضُ السَّيَّارَةِ إِن كُنْتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ ۝

10. One of them (the eldest Juda) said, "Do not kill Yoosuf If you really intend doing something (you should rather) throw him in a dark well so that some travellers may (find him there and) take him away." (Accepting his opinion, they then devised a plan to get Yoosuf عليه السلام away from his father.)

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مَا لَكَ لَا تَأْمَنَّا عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَنَصِحُونَ ۝

11. (Knowing that their father did not trust them alone with Yoosuf عليه السلام) They said, "O our Father! What is the matter with you that you do not trust us (at all) with Yoosuf whereas we are his well wishers?"

أَرْسِلْهُ مَعَنَا غَدًا يَزْتَعْ وَيَلْعَبُ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَفُظُونَ ۝

12. "Send him (out) with us tomorrow so that he may eat and play with us. (Do not worry because) We shall take good care of him."

قَالَ إِنِّي لَيَحْزُنُنِي أَنَّ تَذْهَبُوا بِهِ وَأَخَافُ أَن يَأْكُلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَأَنْتُمْ عَنْهُ غٰفِلُونَ ۝