

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

FROM THE DREAM TO THE THRONE



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SESSION 1

Part 1

Introduction

- This course will explore the tale of Prophet Yusuf AS through Surah Yusuf.
- Surah Yusuf is the 12th Surah of the Quran.
- The prior Surah is Surah Hud.
 - In verse 120 of Surah Hud, Allah SWT tells the Prophet SAW: "Oh Prophet, We narrate to you from the stories of the Prophets that preceded you, by virtue of which, We give strength to your heart".
 - Scholars say that this ayah shows that the stories of the Prophets are a source of comfort for the heart. Hence, when we look at our pious predecessors, they went the extra mile to preserve the knowledge of those who taught them, in order to inspire and help the people of the future.
- When we look at Prophet Yusuf AS, he was afflicted with many challenges. For anyone that is going through any difficulties, Surah Yusuf is a gift for them.

- To every young man and woman who find themselves tested with the infatuation of the opposite gender, Surah Yusuf is for them to reflect over the loyalty of Yusuf AS.
- To every person who is a victim of oppression or wrongful incarceration, Surah Yusuf is there to show them that there is hope.
- To every person who finds himself in power over others, this Surah reminds them that with this power there is great accountability.
- Scholars say that anyone who reads this Surah or listens to it, Allah SWT will grant them peace and tranquility.
- Allah SWT has singled out this story as the best because:
 - The outcome of all of those who were featured in this tale, in the absolute end, is a noble ending.
 - This shows that there is always hope.
 - It shows the profound pardon of Yusuf AS to his brothers.

The Dream

- When Yusuf AS was a young child, he saw a dream of 11 stars, the sun, and the moon all prostrating to him.
 - The fact that this story starts with a dream is a hint that it will be concluded with prophethood.
 - This dream did not come true immediately, but it occurred several years later.

- We can extract from this story and from the stories of other Prophets that a dream may be truthful and may come to reality, but not immediately.
- When Yusuf AS told his father, Yacoub AS, this dream, he AS told Prophet Yusuf not to share it with his brothers because he knew that it would cause jealousy between them.

Jealousy Within a Family

- It is more important for us to take the time to clean our hearts than it is for us to learn about jurisprudence (laws/rules).
- There are 3 things that overpower a person's brain:
 - Anger
 - Lust
 - Jealousy
- Jealousy can drive people to the worst limits, causing them to do something they would never do.
- The difference between jealousy (hasad) and envy:
 - Jealousy is the desire that the other person is deprived of what Allah SWT gave them.
 - This is evil and haram.
 - Envy is to want what another person has without them being deprived of it.

- This nature of envy allows us to continue to grow and improve our lives in a positive way, as long as it does not overpower and cause us to wish negative things for others.
- Jealousy is a reality that is found between relatives.
- In Ayah 5 of Surah Yusuf, Prophet Yacoub tells Yusuf AS:

قَالَ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تَقْضُصْ رُؤْيَاكَ عَلَىٰ إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا ۗ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ

'He said, "O my son, do not relate your vision to your brothers or they will contrive against you a plan. Indeed Satan, to man, is a manifest enemy.'

- Scholars say that this ayah shows that if we fear of someone being jealous of us, we should not feed this jealousy by displaying our blessings.
- Jealousy is the root cause of a great amount of the problems in our lives.
- Jealousy can take a person to kufr and disbelief.
 - This is exactly what happened in the case of Shaytan when he refused to prostrate to Adam AS.
 - One of the obstacles for the disbelievers at the time of Prophet Mohammed SAW was that the Quran was revealed to him SAW and not someone from a different tribe.
 - Because of this jealousy, they denied the truth and remained disbelievers.

- Abdullah bin Ubay bin Salool was the leader of the hypocrites. He began this movement because of his jealousy for the Prophet SAW. When the Prophet SAW came to Madinah, Abdullah bin Ubay was on the verge of being crowned as the leader. When the Prophet SAW came, he realized that he would lose his power, so he decided to outwardly praise the Prophet SAW and internally plot against him SAW.
- A jealous person is almost implying that Allah SWT does not plan what is best for people.
 - They want people not to have what Allah SWT gave them.
- Imam Qushairi states that when the brothers of Yusuf AS became jealous that their father had given Yusuf AS more precedence over them, and they did everything to try to divide him from their father, Allah SWT made a situation happen where all of those brothers would have to come and bow down to Yusuf AS and ask for forgiveness.
 - This was so that they can realize (and so we can realize) that a jealous man will never be a leader.
- When the brothers tried to take Yusuf AS away from their father, they had to devise a plan and convince their father to allow them to take him.
 - This all happened because they felt that they wanted to have a good relationship with their father and that Yusuf AS was coming between them.

- Ayah 9 of Surah Yusuf states:

اَقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ أَوْ اطْرَحُوهُ أَرْضًا يَخْلُ لَكُمْ وَجْهَ أَبِيكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا مِنْ بَعْدِهِ
قَوْمًا صَالِحِينَ

‘Kill Joseph or cast him out to [another] land; the countenance of your father will [then] be only for you, and you will be after that a righteous people.’”

- Their outward motive looks positive because they want to get closer to their father.
- They could have won the affection of their father through Yusuf AS by getting closer to him, but the devil came in and said that by getting rid of Yusuf AS you can win the focus of your father.
- This ayah mentions that they said “you will be after that a righteous people”. The word صَالِحِينَ (righteous people) can refer to 2 things:
 - That they should do the wrong act, and then repent and Allah SWT will forgive them (and they will remain righteous).
 - That their relationship with their father will be mended and reformed after this.
- In terms of the first opinion that this ayah refers to the brothers plan to do the wrong act and then repent, we know that this thought is a trick of Shaytan.
 - Shaytan tries to reduce the gravity of the bad deed by convincing a person that they can seek forgiveness after the act.

- Scholars say: The original context of seeking forgiveness is that you ask for forgiveness after you slip into a bad act without meaning or planning it. The claim of repentance after planning a sin is not repentance, but it is a type of deception and devilish delusion.
- Imam Qushairi states that the word of a jealous person will not be given recognition and his promise and testimony will not be accepted.

