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(1914–1999 C.E., 1333–1420 A.H.) May Allah have mercy on him.

Stories of the Prophets is an Islamic book for children by Shaykh Abu al-Hasan Ali al-Nadwi. Part One tells the stories of Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon them). It teaches us to worship Allah alone, tell the truth, obey Allah, be patient during hard times and forgive others. Tawheed means that Allah alone deserves our worship. These lessons are taught upon The Qur'aan & Sunnah as Understood by the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) of this Ummah.

Introduction to the Book

The author wrote these stories for children learning Arabic and Islam. He wanted children to read true stories about the Prophets instead of stories about talking animals and made-up heroes. He used short sentences and repeated words so children could enjoy learning Arabic while learning about Allah and the Prophets.

The Story of Prophet Ibrahim

1. The People Who Worshipped Idols

Long ago, many people worshipped idols made from stone. They believed these idols could help them. Some people made the idols with their own hands and sold them. They bowed to the idols and asked them for help. Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) knew that stones could not hear, speak or help anyone. Only Allah deserves worship. The story begins by showing why worshipping idols is wrong. (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:52–54)

2. Azar and the Idols

Ibrahim lived among these people. His father, Azar, made and sold idols. Ibrahim saw people worshipping objects that could not move or answer them. He understood that a stone could not be a god. He wanted his father and his people to worship Allah alone. He spoke to his father with care even though his father followed the idols. (Surah Al-Anam 6:74; Surah Maryam 19:41–45)

3. Ibrahim Gives Advice

Ibrahim explained to his father that idols could not hear, see or give help. He asked his father to leave idol worship and follow the truth. Ibrahim spoke with respect and wanted good for his father. His father became angry and refused. Ibrahim did not answer with bad manners. He continued to worship Allah and asked Allah to guide him. This story teaches kindness when speaking about the truth. (Surah Maryam 19:41–48)



4. Ibrahim Breaks the Idols

One day, the people went away for a celebration. Ibrahim stayed behind and entered the place where they kept their idols. He saw food placed in front of the idols but the idols could not eat it. He broke the small idols and left the largest one standing. His aim was to make the people think about what they worshipped. An idol that cannot protect itself cannot protect others. (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:57-58; Surah As-Saffat 37:91-93)

5. The People Find the Broken Idols

When the people returned, they saw their idols broken. They became angry and blamed Ibrahim. Ibrahim pointed to the largest idol and made them think about whether it could speak. The people knew the idols could not talk. They had no good answer. Even after seeing this clear sign, many of them refused to leave idol worship. Ibrahim made it clear that they should worship Allah instead of things that cannot benefit or harm them. (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:59-67)

6. Allah Makes the Fire Cool

The people decided to punish Ibrahim by throwing him into a huge fire. Ibrahim trusted Allah. Allah commanded the fire to be cool and safe for him. Ibrahim was not harmed. The people wanted to hurt him but Allah protected him. This teaches that Allah has power over everything and can save His servants in ways people do not expect. (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:68-70)

7. The Star, Moon and Sun

Ibrahim showed his people that the star, moon and sun could not be their Lord. A star appears and disappears. The moon rises and then sets. The sun shines and later goes down. All of these things change. Something that rises and disappears cannot be the Lord of everything. Ibrahim used these signs to explain that the Creator is greater than His creation. (Surah Al-Anam 6:76-78)

8. Allah Alone Is My Lord

Ibrahim declared that he worshipped Allah alone. Allah created the heavens, the earth, the stars, the moon and the sun. Allah does not disappear or die. He knows everything and has power over everything. Ibrahim turned away from Shirk and followed Tawheed. Tawheed means worshipping Allah alone without giving Him any partners. (Surah Al-Anam 6:79-83)



9. Ibrahim Calls His People to Allah

Ibrahim continued telling his people to stop worshipping idols. He explained that idols cannot hear a prayer, help a person or give food and drink. Allah is the One who created him, guides him, gives him food and drink, makes him well when he is ill and gives life after death. Ibrahim asked his people to worship the Lord of all creation. (Surah Ash-Shuara 26:69-82)

10. Ibrahim Speaks Before the King

Ibrahim met a proud king who argued about Allah. Ibrahim explained that Allah gives life and causes death. The king claimed that he could do this too. Ibrahim then explained that Allah brings the sun from the east and challenged the king to bring it from the west. The king had no answer. Allah alone controls creation. No king or powerful person shares Allah's power. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:258)

11. Ibrahim Calls His Father Again

Ibrahim wanted his father to leave idol worship. He gently told him that he should not worship what cannot hear, see or help. He warned him against following Shaytan and called him to worship Allah, the Most Merciful. His father refused and threatened him. Ibrahim answered peacefully and left when it was clear his father would not listen. (Surah Maryam 19:41-48)

12. The Journey to Makkah

Ibrahim travelled to Makkah with Hajar and their young son Ismail (peace be upon him). At that time, the valley had no people, farms or easy water supply. Ibrahim left them there in obedience to Allah. Hajar trusted Allah and knew He would not leave them without care. Ibrahim prayed that his family would worship Allah and that people would love and provide for them. (Surah Ibrahim 14:37; Bukhari 3364)

13. The Well of Zamzam

Hajar needed water for her little son Ismail. She searched between the hills of Safa and Marwah. Allah sent help and water came out from the ground near Ismail. This water became known as Zamzam. Hajar and Ismail were saved from thirst. People later came to live in that valley. This event shows the mercy of Allah and the trust of Hajar. (Bukhari 3364)

14. Ibrahim and the Great Test

Ibrahim saw in a dream that he was to sacrifice his son Ismail. The dreams of Prophets are true. Ibrahim told Ismail and Ismail agreed to obey Allah. Both showed great faith and patience. Allah stopped the sacrifice and provided an animal in place of Ismail. They passed the test because they were ready to obey Allah. (Surah As-Saffat 37:102-107)



15. Ibrahim and Ismail Build the Kabah

Allah commanded Ibrahim and Ismail to build the Kabah in Makkah as a place where Allah alone is worshipped. They raised its foundations together. As they worked, they asked Allah to accept what they were doing. Muslims face the Kabah during Salah and visit it for Hajj and Umrah. The lesson is that acts of worship belong to Allah alone and must be done with sincerity. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:125-129)

16. Ibrahim and the Blessed Land

Ibrahim also lived in the blessed land of Sham. Allah blessed him with his son Ishaq and his grandson Yaqub. This family included many Prophets. The book explains the connection of Ibrahim and his family with Bayt al-Maqdis, the holy place in Jerusalem. Allah blessed the land around Al-Aqsa Mosque. The stories of Ibrahim, Ishaq and Yaqub show how Allah guided this family. (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:71-73; Surah Al-Isra 17:1)

The Story of Prophet Yusuf

1. Yusuf Sees a Special Dream

Yusuf (peace be upon him) was a young boy. He saw a dream of eleven stars, the sun and the moon bowing to him. He told his father Yaqub (peace be upon him). Yaqub understood that the dream was important. He loved Yusuf and told him not to share the dream with his brothers because they might become jealous. Allah had chosen Yusuf for a special future. (Surah Yusuf 12:4-6)

2. His Brothers Feel Jealous

Yusuf had brothers who felt jealous because their father loved Yusuf and his younger brother Binyamin very much. The brothers began planning to take Yusuf away. Some wanted to kill him but one suggested putting him into a deep well instead. They let jealousy lead them towards a very wrong action. Jealousy can make people hurt others and forget what is right. (Surah Yusuf 12:7-10)

3. The Brothers Speak to Yaqub

The brothers asked their father to let Yusuf go out with them. They promised to take care of him and let him play. Yaqub was worried that something might happen to his young son. The brothers kept asking until he allowed Yusuf to go. They had promised safety while hiding their real plan. (Surah Yusuf 12:11-14)

4. Yusuf Is Taken Far Away

The brothers went away with Yusuf to an empty place. Instead of protecting him, they left him in a deep well. Yusuf was young and alone. Allah was watching over him and would make the truth clear later. Even when Yusuf could not see anyone to help him, Allah never forgot him. (Surah Yusuf 12:15)



5. The Brothers Return to Their Father

The brothers came back to Yaqub crying. They said that a wolf had eaten Yusuf while they were away. They brought his shirt with false blood on it to make the story look true. Yaqub did not accept their story. He chose beautiful patience and asked Allah for help. He was very sad but he did not stop trusting Allah. (Surah Yusuf 12:16–18)

6. Yusuf Waits in the Well

Yusuf remained in the well until travellers came past. One of them lowered a bucket for water and found Yusuf. The travellers took him away with them. His brothers had left him thinking he would never return. Allah, however, was preparing a new part of Yusuf's life. (Surah Yusuf 12:19)

7. From the Well to the Palace

The travellers brought Yusuf to Egypt and sold him. A man of high position bought Yusuf and asked his wife to treat him well. Yusuf began living in a new home. He was far from his father but Allah cared for him. As Yusuf grew older, Allah gave him wisdom and knowledge. (Surah Yusuf 12:19–22)

8. Yusuf Chooses Honesty

The wife of the man who cared for Yusuf tried to lead him towards something wrong. Yusuf refused and sought Allah's protection. He did not want to disobey Allah or betray the trust of the man who had given him a home. Yusuf stayed honest even when doing the right thing was difficult. His honesty was later questioned by others but Allah knew the truth. (Surah Yusuf 12:23–29)

9. Yusuf Enters Prison

People in the city talked about Yusuf and the wife of the man who cared for him. Even though Yusuf wanted to stay away from sin, he was sent to prison. He did not stop worshipping Allah or treating others well. Two young men were put in prison with him. They noticed that he was a good and trustworthy person. (Surah Yusuf 12:30–36)

10. Yusuf Gives Wise Advice

Two prisoners had dreams and wanted Yusuf to explain them. Yusuf first taught them about Allah. He told them that he followed the religion of Ibrahim, Ishaq and Yaqub. He explained that worshipping one Allah is better than worshipping many false gods. Yusuf used a chance to help others learn about Tawheed before explaining the dreams. (Surah Yusuf 12:36–40)



11. Yusuf Teaches Tawheed

Yusuf explained that Allah alone is the true Lord and only He deserves worship. People sometimes give names to false gods and follow ideas without proof from Allah. Yusuf made it clear that Allah has commanded people to worship Him alone. He also told the prisoners that they should not treat things from creation as equal to the Creator. (Surah Yusuf 12:39-40)

12. Yusuf Explains the Prisoners' Dreams

Yusuf told one prisoner that he would leave prison and serve the king again. He told the other that his dream showed a very sad ending. Yusuf asked the prisoner who would be released to speak about him to the king. The man later forgot. Yusuf remained in prison for several more years but he stayed patient. (Surah Yusuf 12:41-42)

13. The King Has a Dream

The king of Egypt saw a strange dream. He saw seven healthy cows being eaten by seven thin cows. He also saw seven green ears of grain and seven dry ones. The people around him did not know the meaning. The former prisoner then thought about Yusuf and his ability to explain dreams. (Surah Yusuf 12:43-45)

14. Yusuf Explains the King's Dream

The king's servant went to Yusuf in prison and told him the dream. Yusuf explained that Egypt would have seven good years with plenty of crops followed by seven hard years with little food. He told people to save grain during the good years so they would have food in the difficult years. A better year would come after the hardship. Yusuf's knowledge helped the people plan ahead. (Surah Yusuf 12:46-49)

15. Yusuf Asks for the Truth to Be Shown

The king wanted Yusuf brought out of prison. Yusuf did not rush out. He first asked the king to find out the truth about the accusations against him. The women were questioned and the wife who had blamed Yusuf admitted what had happened. Yusuf's honesty became clear. He wanted to leave prison with his good name protected. (Surah Yusuf 12:50-53)

16. Yusuf Looks After the Food Stores

The king trusted Yusuf and gave him an important position in Egypt. Yusuf asked to look after the storehouses because he was careful and knew how to manage them. He kept food for the years when crops would not grow well. Yusuf did not use his position to boast or waste money. He used the trust placed in him to help people. (Surah Yusuf 12:54-57)



17. Yusuf's Brothers Come to Egypt

The years of hunger arrived and people came to Egypt to buy food. Yusuf's brothers came from their home to collect grain. Yusuf knew who they were but they did not recognize him. He gave them their food and asked them to bring their younger brother Binyamin next time. Yusuf also arranged for the money they had paid to be returned with their supplies. (Surah Yusuf 12:58-62)

18. Yusuf Speaks with His Brothers

The brothers explained that they could not bring Binyamin without their father's permission. They returned home with their food. Yusuf wanted to see his younger brother again. He had not forgotten his family or what happened at the well. Even though he had power in Egypt, he was careful in the way he dealt with them. (Surah Yusuf 12:58-65)

19. Yaqub Speaks with His Sons

The brothers asked Yaqub to let Binyamin travel to Egypt with them. Yaqub feared losing another son after Yusuf. He asked for a strong promise that they would bring Binyamin home unless something beyond their control stopped them. He also told them to enter Egypt through different gates. Yaqub planned carefully while placing his trust in Allah. (Surah Yusuf 12:63-68)

20. Binyamin Comes to Yusuf

The brothers returned to Egypt with Binyamin. Yusuf welcomed his younger brother and quietly told him that he was Yusuf. Later, a drinking cup was found in Binyamin's bag as part of a plan known to Yusuf. Under the rule the brothers had stated, Binyamin had to stay behind. Yusuf kept his brother with him by Allah's permission. (Surah Yusuf 12:69-76)

21. The Brothers Return Without Binyamin

The brothers were upset that Binyamin could not return with them. The eldest brother stayed behind because he had promised their father to protect him. The others went home and explained what happened. Yaqub was deeply sad. Even after losing Yusuf and now being separated from Binyamin, he placed his hope in Allah. (Surah Yusuf 12:77-83)

22. Yaqub Keeps Hoping in Allah

Yaqub's sadness was great and he cried for Yusuf. He told his sons that he shared his sadness with Allah and trusted what Allah knew. He sent them back to search for Yusuf and Binyamin. He taught them not to lose hope in Allah's mercy. The brothers travelled to Egypt again. (Surah Yusuf 12:84-87)



23. Yusuf Tells His Brothers the Truth

The brothers came to Yusuf asking for help because their family had little food. Yusuf spoke about what they had done to him long ago. They finally recognised him and realised that Allah had raised him to an honoured position. Yusuf did not punish them for their old wrong. He forgave them and asked Allah to forgive them. He sent his shirt for his father. (Surah Yusuf 12:88-93)

24. Yaqub Meets Yusuf Again

As the brothers travelled home, Yaqub spoke of smelling Yusuf's scent. They put Yusuf's shirt over their father's face and his sight returned. Then Yaqub and the family went to Egypt. Yusuf welcomed his parents and honoured them. The family was reunited after many years of sadness. Yusuf's first dream was now coming true. (Surah Yusuf 12:94-100)

25. A Good Ending

Yusuf had been taken from home, thrown into a well, sold in Egypt and sent to prison. Allah later gave him honour and reunited him with his family. Yusuf thanked Allah for giving him knowledge and a place of trust. He asked Allah to keep him upon Islam and join him with the righteous. His story teaches patience, honesty, forgiveness and trust in Allah. (Surah Yusuf 12:100-101)