

## Points to Ponder

### Excerpts from Surah Yusuf & Surah Ra'ad

Ayah 52: *“That (is so); so that he may know I did not betray him in (his) absence, and that Allah does not guide the plotting of the treacherous”*

When Yusuf alaihis salaam was asked to leave prison and meet the King in person (due to him giving an amazing interpretation to a seemingly meaningless dream of the king) , he refused to leave the prison until his innocence is openly declared as he did not want any aspersions or accusations levelled against his character. This teaches us a very important lesson: that just as we are careful about protecting our life, body and property from harm we should be just as vigilant in safeguarding our honour and self respect. Umar R.A. is reported to have said:

مَنْ عَرَّضَ نَفْسَهُ لِلتُّهْمَةِ ، فَلَا يُلُومَنَّ مَنْ أَسَاءَ بِهِ الظَّنَّ

*Whoever places himself in a blameworthy place/position should not blame anyone who doubts his integrity*

So after his innocence was established and pronounced, Yusuf A.S. said : *“That (is so); so that he may know I did not betray him in (his) absence, and that Allah does not guide the plotting of the treacherous”* In other words I had my innocence proven so that the minister of Egypt knows that I did not breach his trust even in his absence.

But to eradicate the idea that the above statement could be taken to be self adulation, Yusuf A.S. reminds us immediately that the above *“I did not betray him in (his) absence”* was only possible with the mercy of Allah as the ego and inner self is inclined to do wrong if left unchecked. So he says

*[Ayah 53 ]"And I free not myself (from the blame). Verily, the (human) self is inclined to evil, except when my Master bestows His Mercy (upon whom He wills).*

**the (human) self is inclined to evil** Our inner self, ego, animalistic nature is called Nafs. It is a versatile entity but it leans towards vice and evil if not kept in check.

If kept in check , it could bring to the fore such angelic characteristics that would make the angels even envy one.

However, If it is given a *free run* , it will allow the animalistic instincts to overtake. Then a human begins to behave , think and live like an animal. The 1<sup>st</sup> stage : He lives his life just to satiate his craving and needs. Very much like a sheep, eat, drink and so long as my stomach is full I am O.K.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: If he falls lower into this ebb, He begins to inculcate predatory animal instincts. Which is eat , drink, fill my stomach at the loss of another. ***“I need to make myself happy, make money even if it means I’ve got to steal it, rob it, hurt someone maybe even a family member in the interim”***

Then the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage: Like that of a snake or scorpion. Cause harm to others whether there is self benefit or not. ***“I’m only out there to cause harm, grief, chaos”***

May Allah save us.

**Lost a beloved one?**

**Got problems?**

**Want to talk about it to someone?**

**Feel like complaining to someone?**

**Learn a lesson from Nabi Yaqub A.S. who lost both sons, very dear sons..... what did he say**

*Ayah 86: He said, "I only complain of my suffering and my grief to Allah , and I know from Allah that which you do not know*

*Ayah 87: ..... Certainly no one despairs of Allah's Mercy, except the people who disbelieve."*

# Remember we complain TO Allah, and not ABOUT ALLAH.

*Ayah 92: He said, "No blame will there be upon you today. Allah will forgive you; and He is the most merciful of the merciful."*

When Allah bestowed power and governance to Yusuf A.S. , Allah brought his brothers to him and they were at his mercy. These were the same brothers who plotted and attempted to MURDER him, they were envious of him, caused him all the trouble of being separated from his father, made him live the life of a slave etc etc. and NOW HE is in power to exact justice, to extract revenge to square matters up. Instead He says

***"No blame will there be upon you today"***

This was the very same response of Our Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam at the conquest of Makkah Mukarramah, to those who had mercilessly beat him, drove him out of Makkah Mukarramah, wounded and killed his beloved daughter Zainab who was his eldest daughter etc. He Sallallahu alaihi wasallam said to them : I say unto you what Nabi Yusuf said to his brothers.

***"No blame will there be upon you today"***

انتم الطلقاء

***Go you are free of any charge***

Surah Ra'ad

*Ayah 41: Have they not seen that We set upon the land, **reducing it from its borders**? And Allah decides; there is no adjuster of His decision. And He is swift in account.*

How is the earth reduced from it's borders ?

When Ataa' bin abi Rabaah was asked about the meaning of **reducing it from its borders** he replied : “when scholars and pious people begin to leave the world, it signifies a depletion in the world”