

## 22. The Ethos Of Jonah (Yunus)

Jonah was born 4708 years after the fall of Adam. He was a Prophet of Bani-Israel. According to the holy Quran

***"And Yunus was most surely of the apostles" (37: 139)***

وَأَنَّ يُونُسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

He was the son of EliJah(Ilyas) or Matthew. Hence he is called Jonah son of Matthew. His book consists of advice. There is an interesting story about him the concise version of which goes as follows:

When he fled his people for the city of Tressiss in Tunisia, he went to the seashore. The holy Quran says:

***"When he ran away to a ship completely laden" (37: 140)***

إِذْ أَبَقَ إِلَى الْفُلِّ الْمَشْحُونِ

When they launched the ship, the sea became stormy without any wind to blow. There was a big wave in a way that those in the ship became worried. Jonah said: Throw me into sea so that you will have calm. People said: We do not dare to commit such an act. Jonah said: The storm will not stop unless I am drowned. If you do not believe me, cast lot so as to decide who should be thrown into sea. The holy Quran says:

***"So he shared (with them), but was of those who are cast off (37: 141).***

فَسَاهَمَ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُدْحَضِينَ

This was repeated three times and eventually they threw him into sea. The holy Quran says:

**"So the fish swallowed him while he did that for which he blamed himself." (37: 142)**

فَالْتَقَمَهُ الْحُوتُ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ

When he was in the belly of fish, he started glorifying God:

**"And Yunus, when he went away in wrath, so thought that We would not straiten him, so he called out among afflictions: There is no god but Thou glory be to Thee; surely I am of those who make themselves to suffer loss. So We responded to him and delivered him from the grief, and thus do We deliver the believers." (21:87-88)**

وَذَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَاضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ. فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

The holy Quran further says:

**"then We cast him on to the vacant surface of the earth while he was sick." (37: 145)**

فَنَبَذْنَاهُ بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ سَقِيمٌ

After a few days, Jonah was given the mission to go to the city of Nineva. He did so. In this relation, the holy Quran says:

**"And they believed, so We gave them provision till a time." (37: 148)**

فَأَمَّنُوا فَمَرَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ

After people believed in his mission, he went to Egypt where he spent the rest of his life with the recluse.

## Remembering God In Darkness

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## Admitting His Fault

When Jonah turned away from his people, He went away and mounted the ship, a strong storm started blowing in a way that she stopped moving. Those in the ship said: This stoppage is due to the fault of one of you. Jonah said: Yes, it is because of my fault, so throw me into sea.

فَسَارَ حَتَّى رَكِبَ فِي سَفِينَةٍ فَأَصَابَ أَهْلَهَا عَاصِفٌ مِنَ الرِّيحِ، وَقِيلَ بَلْ وَقَفْتَ فَلَمْ تَسْرِ، فَقَالَ مَنْ فِيهَا: هَذِهِ بِخَطِيئَةٍ أَحَدِكُمْ، فَقَالَ يُونُسُ هَذِهِ بِخَطِيئَتِي فَأَلْقُونِي فِي الْبَحْرِ.

## Going Through Divine Test

Prophet Jonah was tested by being thrown into sea and swallowed by a fish but his faith was firm. His covenant of Allah was never loose but he kept on serving his Master.

فَامْتَحَنَ بِالْإِلْقَاءِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَالتَّقَامِ الْحُوتِ لَهُ، فَلَمْ يَتَزَعَزِعْ إِيمَانُهُ وَلَا اخْتَلَّ حَبْلُ وَصَالِهِ بِرَبِّهِ وَلَا انْفَصَلَ عَنِ خِدْمَةِ سَيِّدِهِ.

## Praising And Sanctifying God in the Stomach of Fish

Prophet Jonah Praised and sanctified God in the stomach of fish. He was also fearful of the magnanimity, dignity and punishment of God. He found himself dissolved in God; he saw no one but God; he relied on no one but God; he knew no beloved but God; he feared God more than that man could imagine. Therefore the greetings of Allah and His mercy and blessing be upon him, upon our Prophet and his pure Household.

فَهُوَ فِي بَطْنِ الْحُوتِ يُسَبِّحُ اللَّهَ وَيُقَدِّسُهُ خَائِفًا سَطَوْتَهُ وَنَكَالِهِ مُتَفَانٍ فِي ذَاتِ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْجَبَّارِ، لَا يَرَى غَيْرَ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَرْجُو غَيْرَهُ وَلَا حَبِيبَ لَهُ غَيْرُهُ فَكَانَ خَوْفُهُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ، بِالْغِ الْحَدِّ لَا يَخْطُرُ بِبَالٍ أَحَدٍ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَعَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى نَبِيِّنَا وَآلِهِ الْأَطْهَارِ صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَرَحْمَتُهُ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ.

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