

THE PROPHETS

PROPHET YUNUS

(Alaihissalam)

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PREFACE

This book is a story of Prophet Yunus (alaihissalam) originally published in Qum by Daru Tablighe Islami in Persian.

We have adapted and translated it into simple English for the benefit of school children of Primary classes.

The aim is to make school children aware of God's existence, His mercy and His wrath, the consequences of evil deeds and oppression.

The assistance of Mr. N. R. Merali of London in correcting the language understandable by school children is acknowledged with thanks.

The book is the first of a series of true stories of the past Prophets we hope to publish in future. It is hoped that teachers as well as parents would make good use of it in imparting the desired knowledge to children.

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PROPHET YUNUS A.S.

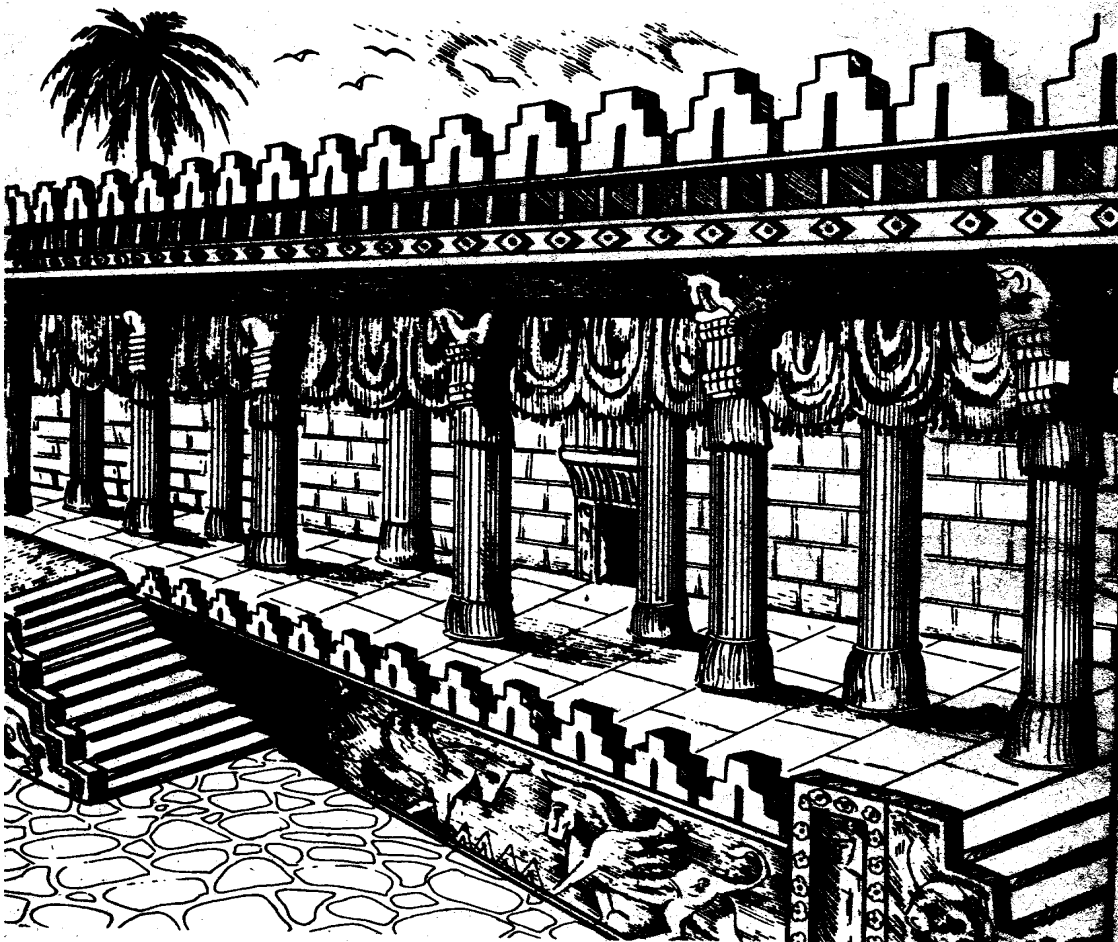
In the name of
Allah the most kind and the most merciful

Thousands of years ago there lived a tribe known as Assyrians.

They settled at the foot of Mount Arafat
on the banks of rivers Euphrates and Tigris.
Their cities were big and had many people,
to their west was the mediteranean sea,
to the south was the Arabian gulf.



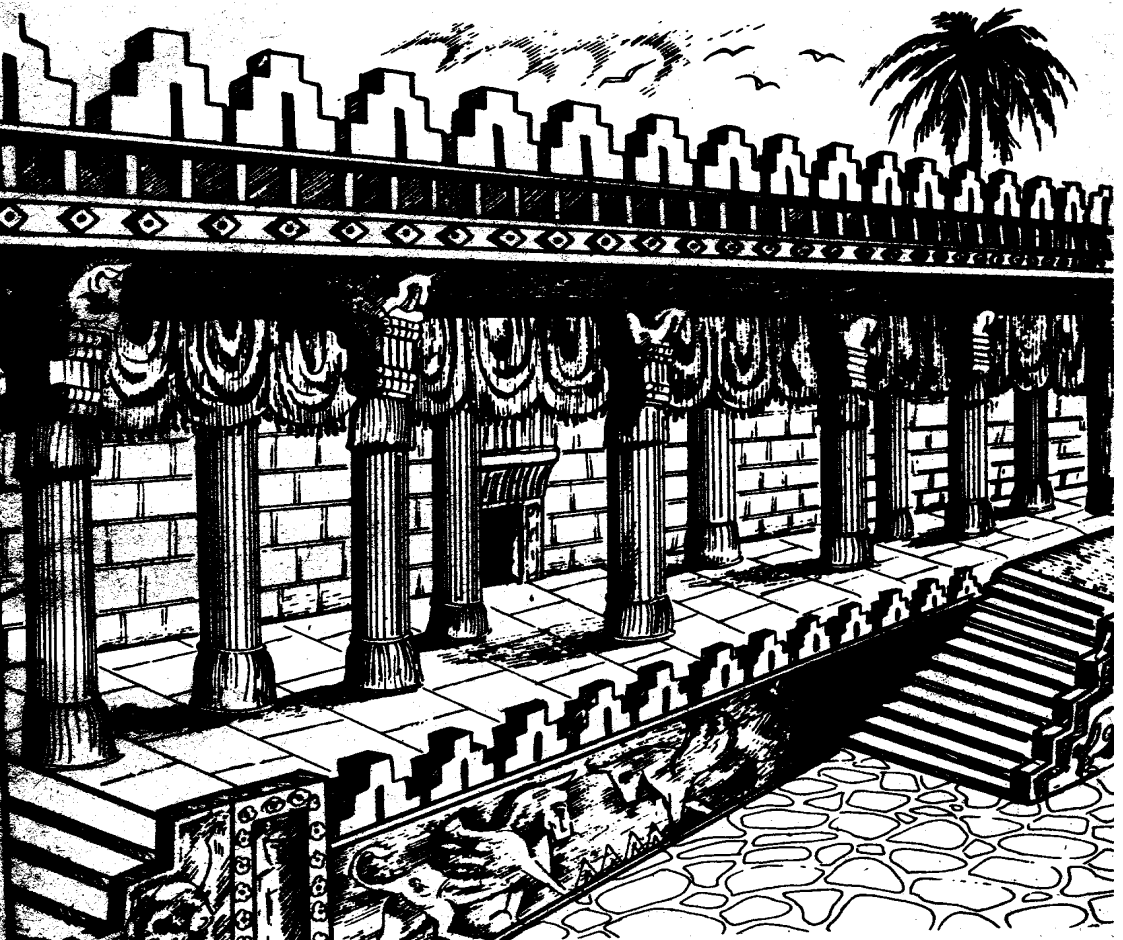
The largest city of Assyria was called 'Nainawa.'
Today it is known as Karbala.
Nainawa in those days had huge buildings
and many kinds of idol temples.



The idols were made in the shapes of different animals.

Strangely, the people of Assyria worshipped these idols,

The largest and most important idol was called “Ashor” (Assyria).

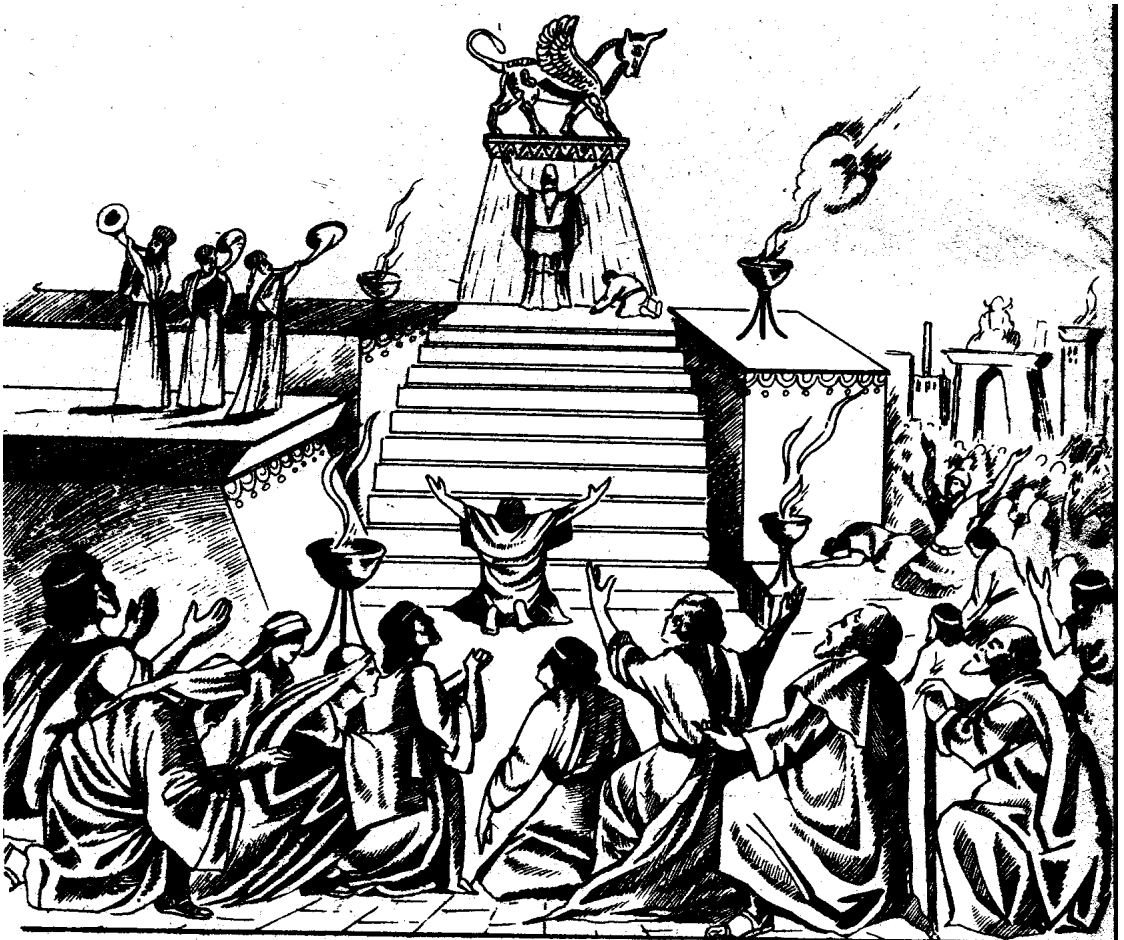


The people were proud of these names because they loved them and would even fight to protect the idols.

The city of 'Nainawa, just like 'Babul' & 'Misr, was famous for its idol temples.



In this world today there are (ignorant) people who believe things happen by themselves. When a storm or an earthquake occurs, they say it is due to the anger of nature. Similarly in olden days people believed that the idols were in control of everything, hence like some people of today they did not believe in Allah or the day of judgement and felt free in comitting sins.



So the people of Assyria were occupied in all sorts of sins and oppresasion.

People around the country were frightened, they protested against their evil deeds and they ran away from their homes for safety from the killing and looting of the people of Assyria.

Such crimes are also done today in some places by non-believers who do not fear Allah.



Allah sent his prophet (messengers) to such people for guidance,
to believe in the true creator.
to refrain from worshipping idols.
and to keep away from sins and evil deeds
in order to save themselves from the wrath of
Allah, for Allah does not favour the oppressors
and evil-doers.



Prophet Yunus (A.S.) was sent to the city of
“Nainawa.”

He asked the people:

“Don’t you fear Allah?

Why do you worship the idols which you made
with your own hands,

don’t you believe in Allah who has created
everything?”



Like the other idol-worshiers, they replied:
“Do you wish to separate us from what we love
and worship like our forefathers?
We shall never stop worshipping these idols, let
the wrath come, for we do not fear your old time
stories.”



Although Prophet Yunu (A.S.) explained to them and described them how the people of the past had been destroyed for not believing, The people of Nainawa rejected his advice and instead harrassed him.



Prophet Yunus was very disappointed with the reaction of the people.

Finally when he saw there was no sign of faith he cursed them and declared:

“Be prepared for a great wrath and punishment from Allah in the near future.”



After that Prophet Yunus (A.S.) left the city and went away from the prople of Nainawa.



Then came the fixed day of calamity and wrath of Allah. The people realized the difficulties facing them, they became worried and frightened and wished they had listened to their prophet. They repented, they cried and they prayed for Allah's forgiveness. The whole city joined in with much humility. Allah finally accepted their repentance and withdrew their difficulties.

No doubt Allah is all merciful and accepts repentance of sinners.



The following day Prophet Yunus returned to the city to see what had happened.

However he was much surprised to find that the people were undisturbed and were continuing working on their farms.



Prophet Yunus sat and wondered what he had warned the people about had not happened. Surely they would accuse him of lying, he had to leave the town.



He walked away feeling very sad and worried,
he walked throughout the desert until he reached
the sea.



The sea was quiet.
At a distance there was
a boat preparing to sail away.
He asked the sailors if he could join them.
Knowing what a noble and respectful man he
was they accepted him.
Thus the prophet sailed with the boat people not
knowing where to it was going.



Within a short distance the sea became rough
and stormy.

A huge fish like a whale was also flapping against
the boat,
it was clear that the boat would sink.



The sailors thought that the only escape was to throw one of them into the sea, and let the fish be satisfied.

After much argument it was decided to throw Prophet Yunus overboard to the whale.



Prophet Yunus was very wise and knew the intentions of God (Allah), he knew that the whale was sent by Allah who controlled everything, he realized his mistake, he should not have gone away from the people of Assyria before Allah had advised him to do so.



The whale swallowed the prophet whole and he lived and stayed inside the stomach of the whale, He was very sad and miserable, and there, he cried “Oh my Allah, you are free from every defect and fault, there is no other God but You. Oh Allah I have done wrong to myself.”



Thus do you think Prophet Yunus remained inside the whale long and forgotten?

Of course not.

With Allah's blessing he was taken and thrown on the land by the whale.



So the lesson is that it is never too late to pray to Allah for forgiveness, even in a prison cell. Allah listens and fulfills your wishes for every problem is easy for him. Therefore, believe and understand, pray to your creator.



With Allah's blessing a tree grew
under the shadow of which he rested
and ate its fruits.



Though sad and weary initially,
Prophet Yunus gradually recovered
till a message from Allah told him to go back to
the people of Assyria.



Meanwhile in Nainawa,
news had spread about how Prophet Yunus had
been eaten by the whale and died.



But then when Prophet Yunus returned to the city the people were astonished.

The sinners started repenting, and now put their faith in Prophet Yunus

and surely if people repent to Allah and ask for forgiveness of their sins then Allah listens to them.



Similarly every man who prays to Allah for forgiveness like the people of Prophet Yunus he will find Allah merciful and kind, and a veritable protector from calamities.



But many people do not remember Allah and do not keep away from evil actions and sins till they are punished by Allah and perish. Like fraun, (Pharaoh) and his people who were drowned in the River Nile.

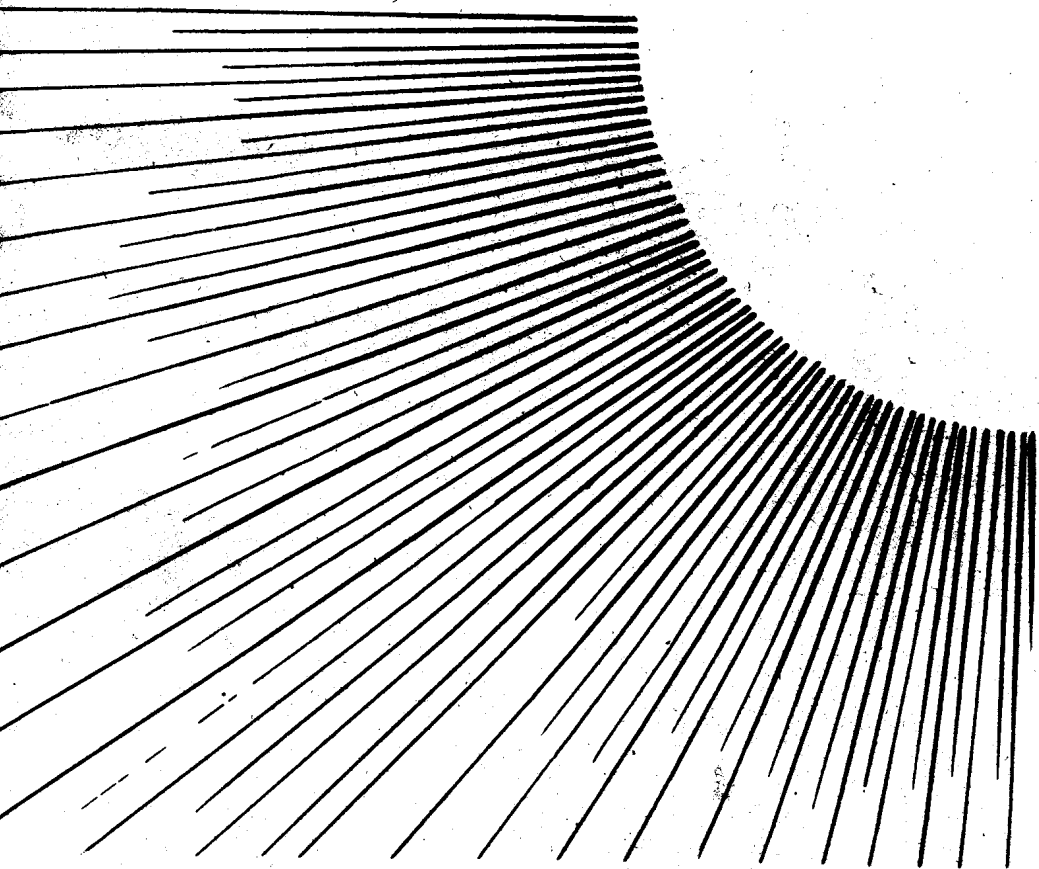


Today also the unbelievers
do such actions that are against the laws of Islam
and that is why they suffer from oppression
by powers of enemies from outside.

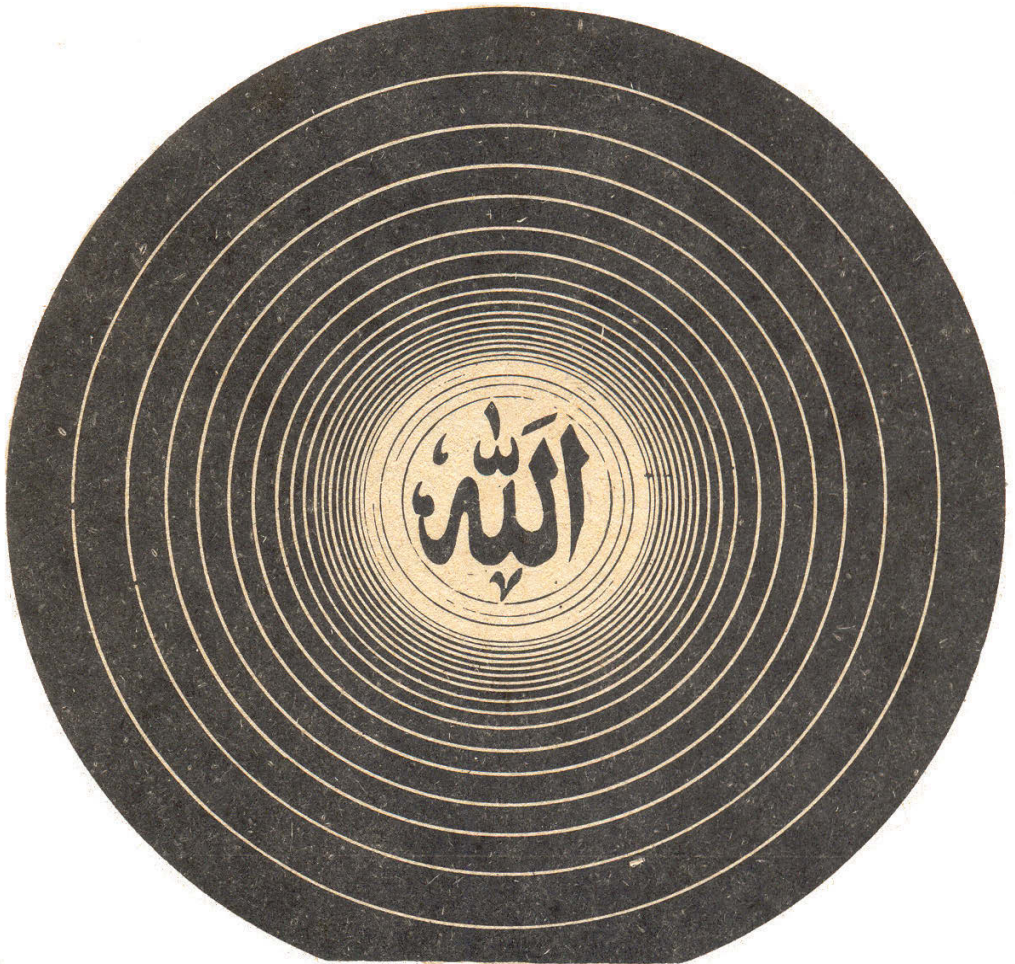


Let us remember Allah and pray
with open and sincere heart:

“O Allah! thy command is over everything,
you are glorious and merciful.
O Allah! we have done wrong,
do therefore forgive us
and give us victory over the
enemies of Islam - Amen.”



Yes, it is necessary for a man to understand God
And with a knowing heart say:
“God! Thou art pure and superior
There is no command except Thine
The ability of all actions in Thy hands
O Lord! It is we who have injured ourselves
Lord! Do forgive us
And help us over the community of unbelievers
And give us victory over the crowds of
unbelievers.





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