

## For Fast 13

### Chapter 11

- 114** And keep up prayer at the two ends of the day and in the first hours of the night. Surely good deeds take away evil deeds. This is a reminder for the mindful.
- 115** And be patient, for surely Allah does not waste the reward of the doers of good.

---

*Note:* This mentions broadly the times of the regular daily prayers in sequence. The two ends of the day are: (1) its beginning, when daylight starts to appear, and (2) its second half, after the sun has started to decline in the afternoon. At the first end is the *fajr* prayer, and during the second end are the *zuhr* and *asr* prayers. The night begins after sunset, and in its first hours are the *maghrib* and *isha* prayers.

Prayer is here stated to be such a good deed that it takes away evil deeds, meaning that it removes the tendencies within a person to do evil. V. 115 indicates that, in order for prayer to show this purifying effect, and in fact for prayer for any purpose to be accepted, one must be patient and persevere with prayer. It will never be wasted, even if you think that it is not being accepted.

---

### Chapter 12 — Joseph

- 33** He (Joseph) said: My Lord, the prison is dearer to me than that to which they invite me. And if You do not turn away their intrigue from me, I shall yearn towards them and be one of the ignorant.
- 34** So his Lord accepted his prayer and turned away their intrigue from him. Surely He is the Hearer, the Knower.

---

*Note:* In v. 33, “they” refers to the wife of the high-ranking Egyptian officer who owned Joseph as slave, and her company of female friends from upper society. These women tried to entice Joseph into immoral activity, or else they would have him sent to prison on some false charge. Joseph prays to God that he would rather be sent to prison on a false charge, and thus be protected from those women, than “yearn towards them and be one of the ignorant”. Such are the prophets and other righteous ones of God, that when forced to choose between receiving unjustified punishment and committing some wrongful act, they prefer the punishment.

Later, when the king wanted to release Joseph from prison because Joseph had interpreted the king’s dream (which no one else had the knowledge to do), Joseph refused to be freed until he was exonerated of the false charge. So the king investigated the matter as follows.

---

- 51** (The king) said: What was your business (O women) when you sought to seduce Joseph? They said: Holy Allah! We knew of no evil on his part. The chief’s wife said: Now has the truth come out. I sought to seduce him and he is surely truthful.
- 52** (Joseph said:) This is that he (my slave-master) might know that I have not been unfaithful to him in secret, and that Allah does not guide the plan of the unfaithful.

**53** And I do not call myself sinless; surely (man's) self is apt to command evil, except those on whom my Lord has mercy. Surely my Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

---

*Note:* When proved to be entirely innocent, Joseph says that it is only the mercy of God that can keep a person away from evil, because his lower self keeps on urging him to do wrong. Prophets, while free of committing sin, do not lay claim to being sinless but still seek the protection of Allah.

---

**86** He (Jacob) said: I complain of my grief and sorrow only to Allah, and I know from Allah what you do not know.

---

*Note:* Joseph's father Jacob had been grieving about Joseph ever since his brothers had abandoned him in the wilderness (which subsequently led to him being sold into slavery in Egypt, and the events mentioned above), and had told their father that Joseph had been eaten by wolves. Jacob says he complains of his grief *only to Allah*. Allah had given him an indication that Joseph was alive.

---

**101** My Lord, You have given me kingdom and taught me something of the interpretation of sayings. Originator of the heavens and the earth, You are my Friend in this world and the Hereafter. Make me die in submission and join me with the righteous.

---

*Note:* This is the prayer of Joseph at the end of his story, when from a boy abandoned in the wilderness, through becoming a slave, and then being sent to prison on a false charge, he rose to the position of being placed in charge of the finances of the country by the King of Egypt. He prays to die in a state of submitting to God's commands while following the path of the righteous.

---