

Pearls
FROM THE
Quran

LESSONS FROM

Sūrah
Yūsuf

سورة يوسف

❖ DR YASIR QADHI ❖



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Transliteration Table



Arabic Consonants

Initial, unexpressed medial and final: ء'

ا	a	د	d	ض	ḍ	ك	k
ب	b	ذ	dh	ط	ṭ	ل	l
ت	t	ر	r	ظ	ẓ	م	m
ث	th	ز	z	ع	ʿ	ن	n
ج	j	س	s	غ	gh	هـ	h
ح	ḥ	ش	sh	ف	f	و	w
خ	kh	ص	ṣ	ق	q	ي	y

With a *shaddah*, both medial and final consonants are doubled.

Vowels, diphthongs, etc.

Short:	ا	ـَ	ـِ	ـُ	i	u
Long:	آ	ـَا	ـِي	ـُو	ī	ū
Diphthongs:			ـَو	aw		
			ـَي	ay		

Foreword



All Praise is due to Allah, Who revealed the Book to His Servant to be the Only Guidance, And may prayers and salutations be upon our Prophet (ﷺ) in great abundance.

The first time the Qur'ān spoke to me, it was through Sūrah Yūsuf.

I was probably 11 years old, in the mid-1980s. Like most kids my age, I had a Qur'ān teacher who helped me with reading and memorization (at this stage, I had only memorized maybe Juz 'Amma). I didn't understand Arabic then, and while, of course, I loved listening to my father's cassettes of Abdul Basit Abdul Samad, I hadn't read any translation of the Qur'ān. One day, in the summer break, completely bored at night, I curiously pulled out an old and tattered copy of the Qur'ān from my father's library – a translation of Abdullah Yūsuf Ali. I remember flicking through it, here and there, reading passages before losing interest and then turning to another passage (I was just a child after all!).

Then, seemingly at random – but of course, it was Allah's *qadr* – I came across the beginning of Sūrah Yūsuf.

I remember it vividly: the opening line just caught me like a hook, and I spent the next hour or so – way past my bedtime – turning page after page, reading every verse, and following up with every footnote in Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s translation, until finally, I finished the sūrah. I was *riveted* with the story. At night as I lay in bed, my mind became filled with images from the sūrah: Yūsuf alone in the well, the torn shirt, him sitting in the palace on the King’s throne. Thus began my journey into the Qur’ān.

Five years later, I would be memorizing the entire Qur’ān, and finishing Sūrah Yūsuf in a breeze. Around a decade after I first read it, I found myself studying at the University of Madinah. I would pick up little booklets in libraries and bookstores that went into more detail regarding this sūrah: some discussed *balāgha* (Arabic eloquence), others concentrated on the morals and benefits of this story. It was here as well that I began building my personal library: every month, when the students got their modest stipend, the first thing I did was to rush to the bookstores and splurge on a book that I might have had my eyes on for a while. Slowly, my *tafsīr* collection began to grow, and whatever I could find about this sūrah, I would buy.

In the summer of 2001, I was invited for my very first trip to England (since then, to date, I have been fortunate to travel more than a hundred times to the UK), and my hosts asked what intensive class I would be interested in teaching at Masjid al-Tawhid in Leyton. Immediately, and without a moment’s hesitation, I said, “I would like to teach a detailed *tafsīr* of Sūrah Yūsuf!” Perhaps the child in me was still subconsciously imagining that story.