

45. But the one who was freed and remembered after a time said, "I will inform you of its interpretation, so send me forth."
46. [He said], "Joseph, O man of truth, explain to us about seven fat cows eaten by seven [that were] lean, and seven green spikes [of grain] and others [that were] dry – that I may return to the people [i.e., the king and his court]; perhaps they will know [about you]."
47. [Joseph] said, "You will plant for seven years consecutively; and what you harvest leave in its spikes, except a little from which you will eat.
48. Then will come after that seven difficult [years] which will consume what you advanced [i.e., saved] for them, except a little from which you will store.
49. Then will come after that a year in which the people will be given rain and in which they will press [olives and grapes]."
50. And the king said, "Bring him to me." But when the messenger came to him, [Joseph] said, "Return to your master and ask him what is the case of the women who cut their hands. Indeed, my Lord is Knowing of their plan."
51. Said [the king to the women], "What was your condition when you sought to seduce Joseph?" They said, "Perfect is Allāh!⁵⁵¹ We know about him no evil." The wife of al-'Azeez said, "Now the truth has become evident. It was I who sought to seduce him, and indeed, he is of the truthful.
52. That is so he [i.e., al-'Azeez] will know that I did not betray him in [his] absence and that Allāh does not guide the plan of betrayers.
53. And I do not acquit myself. Indeed, the soul is a persistent enjoiner of evil, except those upon which my Lord has mercy. Indeed, my Lord is Forgiving and Merciful."⁵⁵²

⁵⁵¹In His ability to create such purity of character.

⁵⁵²Although Ibn Katheer attributes the words of verses 52-53 to the wife of al-'Azeez, others have concluded that they were spoken by Joseph, thereby justifying his request for an inquiry and acknowledging Allāh's mercy to him.

54. And the king said, "Bring him to me; I will appoint him exclusively for myself." And when he spoke to him, he said, "Indeed, you are today established [in position] and trusted."
55. [Joseph] said, "Appoint me over the storehouses of the land. Indeed, I will be a knowing guardian."
56. And thus We established Joseph in the land to settle therein wherever he willed. We touch with Our mercy whom We will, and We do not allow to be lost the reward of those who do good.
57. And the reward of the Hereafter is better for those who believed and were fearing Allāh.
58. And the brothers of Joseph came [seeking food], and they entered upon him; and he recognized them, but he was to them unknown.⁵⁵³
59. And when he had furnished them with their supplies, he said, "Bring me a brother of yours from your father.⁵⁵⁴ Do you not see that I give full measure and that I am the best of accommodators?"
60. But if you do not bring him to me, no measure will there be [hereafter] for you from me, nor will you approach me."
61. They said, "We will attempt to dissuade his father from [keeping] him, and indeed, we will do [it]."
62. And [Joseph] said to his servants, "Put their merchandise⁵⁵⁵ into their saddlebags so they might recognize it when they have gone back to their people that perhaps they will [again] return."
63. So when they returned to their father, they said, "O our father, [further] measure has been denied to us, so send with us our brother [that] we will be given measure. And indeed, we will be his guardians."
64. He said, "Should I entrust you with him except [under coercion] as I entrusted you with his brother before? But Allāh is the best guardian, and He is the most merciful of the merciful."

⁵⁵³Due to the change in his appearance over the years.

⁵⁵⁴i.e., Benjamin, who had been kept at home by his father Jacob.

⁵⁵⁵The goods which they had brought to trade for food supplies.