

65. And when they opened their baggage, they found their merchandise returned to them. They said, "O our father, what [more] could we desire? This is our merchandise returned to us. And we will obtain supplies [i.e., food] for our family and protect our brother and obtain an increase of a camel's load; that is an easy measurement."<sup>556</sup>
66. [Jacob] said, "Never will I send him with you until you give me a promise [i.e., oath] by Allāh that you will bring him [back] to me, unless you should be surrounded [i.e., overcome by enemies]." And when they had given their promise, he said, "Allāh, over what we say, is Witness."
67. And he said, "O my sons, do not enter from one gate but enter from different gates; and I cannot avail you against [the decree of] Allāh at all. The decision is only for Allāh; upon Him I have relied, and upon Him let those who would rely [indeed] rely."
68. And when they entered from where their father had ordered them, it did not avail them against Allāh at all except [it was] a need [i.e., concern] within the soul of Jacob, which he satisfied. And indeed, he was a possessor of knowledge because of what We had taught him, but most of the people do not know.
69. And when they entered upon Joseph, he took his brother to himself; he said, "Indeed, I am your brother, so do not despair over what they used to do [to me]."
70. So when he had furnished them with their supplies, he put the [gold measuring] bowl into the bag of his brother. Then an announcer called out, "O caravan, indeed you are thieves."
71. They said while approaching them, "What is it you are missing?"
72. They said, "We are missing the measure of the king. And for he who produces it is [the reward of] a camel's load, and I am responsible for it."

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<sup>556</sup>For them. Or one obtained by us with ease.

73. They said, "By Allāh, you have certainly known that we did not come to cause corruption in the land, and we have not been thieves."
74. They [the accusers] said, "Then what would be its recompense<sup>557</sup> if you should be liars?"
75. [The brothers] said, "Its recompense is that he in whose bag it is found – he [himself] will be its recompense.<sup>558</sup> Thus do we recompense the wrongdoers."
76. So he began [the search] with their bags before the bag of his brother; then he extracted it from the bag of his brother. Thus did We plan for Joseph. He could not have taken his brother within the religion [i.e., law] of the king except that Allāh willed. We raise in degrees whom We will, but over every possessor of knowledge is one [more] knowing.<sup>559</sup>
77. They said, "If he steals – a brother of his has stolen before." But Joseph kept it within himself and did not reveal it to them.<sup>560</sup> He said, "You are worse in position, and Allāh is most knowing of what you describe."
78. They said, "O 'Azeez,<sup>561</sup> indeed he has a father [who is] an old man, so take one of us in place of him. Indeed, we see you as a doer of good."
79. He said, "[I seek] the refuge of Allāh [to prevent] that we take except him with whom we found our possession. Indeed, we would then be unjust."
80. So when they had despaired of him, they secluded themselves in private consultation. The eldest of them said, "Do you not know that your father has taken upon you an oath by Allāh and [that] before you failed in [your duty to] Joseph? So I

<sup>557</sup>The punishment for theft.

<sup>558</sup>According to their law, a convicted thief was made a slave of the one from whom he had stolen.

<sup>559</sup>Ending with the ultimate knowledge of Allāh (*subhānahu wa ta'ālā*).

<sup>560</sup>He did not answer that he himself had been stolen by them from his father.

<sup>561</sup>Addressing Joseph, who now held the title of "al-'Azeez."