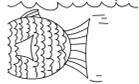| Name of Prophet: | Yunus (Jonah) peace be upon him. |
|---|---|
| **Special characteristics:** | • No one should claim that he is better than Yunus<br>• One of the Messengers of Allah<br>• Survived inside a fish/whale<br>• Allah taught him a special dua. |

## Sent to Nineveh:

Nineveh is a town in the country of Iraq. It is a very old town with an interesting history. It was to Nineveh that Allah sent His Messenger, Yunus, peace be upon him. Allah sent a Messenger because the people of Nineveh were disbelievers, rejecters of the oneness of Allah, Tawheed.

Yunus, peace be upon him, loved His Lord and called his people to the message of Tawheed. He remained patient in his task, advising and warning them, but to no avail.

After a long time had passed and seeing no hope of his people changing, Yunus warned them that Allah's punishment would arrive after three days. Doing so, he left them to their fate.

Now with the Messenger absent, the people of Nineveh became certain the punishment of Allah was surely coming. They realised the error of their ways, turning to Allah, sincerely repenting. The entire town of one hundred thousand people or more, asked Allah to forgive and have mercy upon them. Allah heard their cries of repentance and forgave them.

## The fish/whale:

Meanwhile, Yunus, peace be upon him was furious with his people and had left them to their fate. How could his people be so arrogant? Allah had provided countless blessings to them, yet they still chose to disobey the one he loved so much, the Lord of the entire creation.

Yunus made his way across the land and came to the shore, where he boarded a boat. The people in the boat realised Yunus was no ordinary man, because of his piety and good character. The boat continued upon its journey, a journey which was to have a twist in its tale.

As the boat travelled along its watery path, the waves became larger and larger until the boat was soon to be destroyed. The passengers and crew all discussed the urgent matter and decided to draw lots to throw one of them overboard in order to make the boat lighter. Everyone agreed. Each time they drew lots, the name of Yunus would appear. The other passengers were reluctant to throw the Prophet overboard because of his piety and good manners. Yet Yunus realised his fate and was thrown into the stormy sea.

The passengers watched in shock and amazement as a huge sea creature swallowed the stricken Prophet in one gulp.

The animal had been commanded by Allah not to damage Yunus in any way of form, as he was not from its provision.

Deep inside the whale the unconscious Yunus stirred, pinching himself, he realised he was still alive! Grateful and remorseful, the Prophet of Allah fell in prostration, praying, "O my Lord! I have made a place of worship, where nobody else has ever worshipped you."

For three days and three nights, Yunus stayed in the belly of the animal. Whilst the sea creature swam deep, down in the dark depths of the sea, he heard a familiar sound. The sound of the fish and even the pebbles, glorifying their Lord, the Most High. Inspired, Yunus joined in with a special prayer, "O Allah! There is no god worthy of worship except you. Glory be to you, certainly, I was from the wrongdoers."

Allah heard the repentance of Yunus and forgave him, causing the sea animal to expel him on a barren seashore. Weakened and hungry, Yunus lay on the beach. Allah, out his mercy caused to grow over him the Yaqteen (marrow plant), and brought close to him goats, which would come to eat the insects, whilst he drank from their milk.

## The return:

Replenished and strengthened by his provision, he made his way back to some unfinished business. Returning back to his people, he found a pleasing sight. His people had accepted the truth of Tawheed and repented from their sins. The people too, rejoiced at the return of their Messenger, realising his true worth.