



Yunus had been in the belly of the whale for seven and a half days, when the Navigator heard his prayer and caused the whale to feel a great nausea in the stomach. At once the whale vomited everything left inside its stomach.

Thus, Yunus and his room-mates together with seaweeds were spewed out into the salty sea. Not knowing how to swim, he thought he would drown. But immediately he felt his body flying in warm air and then land on a soft sandy ground. He did not know what was happening, for having been in the darkness for so long, his eyes were blinded by the dazzling daylight. As his eyes recovered from the blindness, lo and behold, what he saw with his thinly opened eyes was this!

Lying on his back with a seaweed round his head and neck, he saw two parallel transparent walls soaring high like cliffs, one on his right and the other left. Through these walls, he could see many fish and other sea animals swimming. Above, he saw a strip of bright cloudless blue sky cut between the upper edges of the walls. A seagull came flying along this narrow sky and dived between the walls. Yunus raised his head and found he was on a wet sandy passage, which stretched between the walls. Many sea animals were flip-flopping on the passage. And he could have a glimpse of something like a white beach with green plants at the far end of the passage. So he was on the seabed. A second seagull flew down and picked a fish. He thought the sea was divided in two. But he was wrong for, looking round, he found the passage was terminated in his vicinity in a semicircular shape – where the walls joined together and were the highest, about two and a half-giraffe high. The walls stood vertically but their surface was wobbling like an udder of a cow full of milk as when she walks hastily to escape a team of bees, flourishing her tail.

Suddenly, in the right-hand wall, Yunus saw a huge shoal of fish quickly separate in two in the middle, as if it were stage curtains drawn apart to open a show; and lo! in the opening the white whale was seen approaching at high speed. Yunus froze, for the last thing he wanted was to be swallowed by it a second time; but behold! no sooner had the wall swelled exceedingly than the whale shot out of it, scaring away the birds, and broke into the opposite wall, stunning the prophet with its godlike dizzy white body, the entirety of which was momentarily exposed in the sun between the walls. From the large breakages made by the whale, the water gushed out rapidly, expanding the breakages, and the walls began to collapse, flooding the passage. Yunus jumped up and ran up the passage racing against the tumbling, roaring water surging after him.

He tried not to step on rocks or sea animals, but soon slipped on a jellyfish and fell. His right foot, with which he stepped on it, cramped, and he could not rise. He looked back and saw a huge wave surging high against him between the closing walls; and he was drunk by it and violently rotated. Something hard twined his

cramped foot and he bent his body and hugged the object like a vice. It was the wooden puppet that had helped him float after he jumped from the ship in the storm. Now it came to his rescue again. Its rigid main body helped him avoid being wrenched and broken by the rough motion of the turbulent waves, and eventually it helped him float, and the waves pushed and carried the puppet and the prophet forward until they were thrown on the dry beach.

Yunus was safe. He looked at the sea and saw no sign of the straight passage nor of the white whale in the sea. The wooden puppet lying by him was distorted and its right eye ball and left leg from below the knee were missing. Yet it kept smiling at Yunus with a happily-ever-after smile. "Poor thing," he said to it, "so you had been swallowed by the whale too. And you helped me twice! How I wish you were a real boy and my companion!" He looked into the puppet's head through the emptied eye socket, and found the head was hollow and had a mechanism in it with which the eyes and the mouth could be pulled by string and moved.

Yunus was terribly thirsty and hungry, and the scorching sunlight was hurting his skin, which had been weakened by the acid of the whale, as if by so many needles. He saw a sparkling rivulet flowing into the sea. He walked with unsteady steps into the mouth of the rivulet. It was only knee deep; he scooped and drank the water, but it was too salty, for the tide was rising. He waded up the stream toward the high overhanging cliff, from the top of which a narrow strand of water was falling. Soon he reached a place where the bed of the rivulet was clayey and full of pebbles. There the water was no longer salty. He washed his stinking body and what was left of his clothing with the water.

To find food he went farther up and saw a white she-goat eating leaves from a big gourd tree by the stream. He would have killed her by a stone and cooked and eaten the meat and, further, made a coat out of the skin, had he not seen her bulging udder. "With that," he thought, "the goat cannot run too fast for me to catch alive, and, if I keep it alive, the milk would do me far better than the meat and the skin." The goat saw him but did not run. Yunus slowly approached and caught her. The she-goat did not move even a step so that it was as if she had been waiting for Yunus to come and capture her. He understood and thanked Allah his Lord for this animal.

He was so hungry that he took her into the shade of the tree, and sat and started sucking at a nipple. When he had filled his stomach with the milk, he immediately vomited it all and more, for the stomach had not had substantial food for a long time and had not been prepared to accept the raw goat's milk in a large quantity at once. He began breathing heavy and then trembling. He lay on his back, and soon felt so ill that he could not rise again. He thought he was dying. He could only catch one of the goat's hind legs in the shade of the gourd tree. He felt as if he were being dragged down into an abyss and that he could only save himself by holding to the goat's leg. The goat stayed and did not reject his hand.

Yunus was asleep for a long time. He was shivering when he got awake. It appeared it had rained sometime while he was asleep, for his body was wet and the water was falling more heavily and wide down the cliff. The goat was still there eating the gourd leaves, and his right hand was still holding the goat's leg. It was comfortable to caress the animal's warm leg and he felt he was being healed by this feel of the goat's furry leg. He talked to the goat, but the animal did not respond. Then he found from the sun that it was the late afternoon of the day after his landing.

He felt confident that, having survived the rain, he would not die yet. Soon he began to feel better and could crawl about. He spent the rest of the daytime trying to make a water container out of one of dry gourd fruits fallen around him. He used a thin twig to empty the gourd fruit.

When he began to regain appetite he imbibed the goat's milk again, this time little by little to get used to it. He gradually recovered from the fatigue and could walk about by that evening. Then, he collected wood and drift timbers for fire in the moonlight. He retrieved the wooden puppet from the beach and started repairing it as carefully as he could. He wound and tied a strong and thick kelp leaf to cover the empty eye socket. He did this so as to make the puppet useful as a float as well as to make it look less miserable. But he could not attach to it a new leg, though he had tried with several drift timbers.

The next day he set out to build a small shelter under the gourd tree using drift timbers, fallen trees, and the clay and pebbles from the rivulet. Its height was about two thirds of his. He used the kelp to tie the things together. Although the shelter was a makeshift full of openings, the gourd tree, which quickly sent vines to it, covered most of the openings with fresh leaves. So Yunus could enjoy a pleasant shadow in it and would not be very much harassed by rain or sun. Moreover, the gourd tree somehow kept the flies and mosquitos away for the benefit of both the prophet and the she-goat with the bulging udder, a favorite target of mosquitos.

In ten days there, he regained his full strength, thanks especially to the daily milk. He made a pool to capture fish on the beach with rocks and pebbles. Then he started going into the sea to catch sea food and thus became able to swim and dive after a fashion. He always kept the puppet floating by his side and would not go deeper than his height for safety.

Despite his efforts he failed to make fire; but the strong sunshine could heat and cook the small fish and fresh sea food such as oysters and shellfish.

Chapter V

The prophet continually thought of his wife and son and longed to meet them. He also thought of the Ethiopian eunuch who assisted him variously in Ninuwa, which then brought him to think of his unfinished

mission in that city and the people he had left there. Then, a boy came to his mind – he was the youngest of the sons of the baker’s that used to deliver the rationed bread in turn to him. This one was so shy that he scarcely spoke to the prophet but, unlike the other boys, would not leave him until Yunus had finished chanting his prophecy, which he did to express his thanks to each boy. Yunus felt sorry about leaving him and the eunuch in Ninuwa after himself declaring the in-three-day destruction of the city. He hoped his declaration did not come to pass. The more he thought of them, the more did he feel ashamed of his misconduct; and an urge to go back and complete his mission for the city grew stronger in him. After all, he had now been convinced that he could not escape Allah the Omnipresent anyhow.”

Then, one night, a few days after he had started going into the sea to catch sea food, wherefore he had been very tired, he was sleeping a dreamless deep sleep, when he was awakened. This was not caused by any loud sound or coldness of the air, but by a strong light, that of the moon - almost full. His eyes were struck by the light, penetrating the eyelids, although he had been in the shelter, which ought to have protected him from the lights day and night with its thick gourd leaves. But now, he found, the shelter was mostly leafless, and was being visited by a handsome wild he-goat, which he had occasionally seen trekking high up the precipitous cliff and had marveled for its beauty, especially for its soaring horns. It had now come down and was standing on its hind legs and resting its front ones on the shelter and eating the remnant of the leaves from the top of the shelter. Owing to the weight of the great goat, the shelter was inclined, and would have collapsed had it not been for the vines of the gourd tree reinforcing it all over. Yunus got furious and shouted, “Go away, you worm! Don’t touch my shelter and my precious leaves!” The he-goat did not hear. So, he went out and pulled its tail with his both hands, but it did not budge. Then he started cursing and swearing not only for this but also for the many droppings of the goat on which he was stepping barefoot. Moreover, Yunus found his she-goat was on the other side of the shelter, herself eating the leaves off the vines, though she had never been seen to do this. This infuriated him more and he thought to kick the she-goat away. He went round the shelter, but stopped short for he was stunned by the whiteness of the she-goat shining in the silvery moonlight, which (the whiteness) looked to him as godly as the whiteness of the whale in the sun did the other day. Now, Yunus realized that this could be another sign, a divine sign commanding that he ought not to stay in the shelter any longer – that it was time for him to return to Ninuwa.

When the goats had eaten the last leaves from the shelter, and as the sun began to rise, they started to leave the place together toward the cliff. He wanted to keep his she-goat, but decided to let her go. Only he managed to fill his two gourds with her milk for the last time, which neither of the goats prevented him from doing, for to climb the high cliff the she-goat had to lessen her weight.

Now, left alone, he felt lonely and decided to manage to leave the beach soon.

However, the seer did not see where he was in the world. From the length of the time he had been in the

whale, he thought the place was not near Persian Gulf. He had thought that he was somewhere no human-being had ever come before, for he had seen no ships sailing. "This can be that Atlantis the Greeks like to talk about," he thought, "or even the underground sea world, which, they say, is reigned by an Oceanus god. If so, how can I hope to return to the world of Allah's creation?" All the same he thought he should leave the place.

He determined to explore the land - the land beyond the cliff. For there was no means by which he could put out to the sea. As for the sideways, the beach was terminated by capes at both ends of it, and these capes were too steep and extended too far into the sea for him to go over or circumvent.

Thus, there was only one passage to leave the beach, and it was the animal trail, by which the he-goat went back with the she-goat. Yunus decided to climb the trail, which went up the vertical cliff substantially in zigzag.

He had to choose what he should take with himself, for to climb this cliff both of his hands had to be free and thus whatever he would carry it had to be fixed on his back. He wondered long whether he should take the puppet. It seemed to have no use on land though; but if it had helped him survive twice, he thought, there might come a third time for it to save him. But on the other hand there was a big natural sponge, which he obtained from the sea and treasured as a pillow and for body washing. It was the beaming smile of the puppet that decided the prophet to retain it. He wound a long vine criss-cross to fix the puppet on his back. Besides this he took a head cover he had made from the vines of the gourd and dried kelp to protect his head from the sunshine and animal droppings. Also he took a pair of hollow gourds, now full of goat milk, and tied them together with a vine, and hitched and hang them from the puppet.

Yunus started climbing the cliff barefoot (he had lost his sandals when he jumped into the stormy sea from the ship); he never looked down lest he be scared of the height. After no less than two hours, for he had to rest frequently and retrace several times after wrong choices of trails, at last he could reach the top of the cliff. The ground that extended from the cliff inland was mostly flat all over the way to the faraway mountains, whose ridges formed the irregular skyline. The flat land was formed of a vast prairie with forests, and winding rivers flowing through them. One of the rivers, however, fell in what seemed to be a narrow canyon. Yunus concluded that the land was a continent and not an island.

Various birds and land animals were seen or heard. But he did not see any man-made architecture or the like, nor any hint to tell him where he was in the world.

He went along the trail and came to a tall tree with good shade. He sat under it and rested. Exhausted and drenched with sweat, he had drunk all the goat milk from the gourds during the cliff climbing. He now

needed water real bad. But the closest river was yet far away to go. He untied the vine and laid the puppet aside and lay on his back to take a nap. He barely fell into a sleep when he realized a sound of water running beneath the earth. He rose and, after fixing the puppet on his back, tried to follow the sound. Thus, he left the animal trail and walked on hot rocks and after a while he was led into another animal trail, a narrow passage consisting of bamboo trees on both sides so thick that they formed a tunnel with arched roof. The sound of the underground running water was closer to the earth at this trail. Having found footprints of animals around, Yunus was afraid of suddenly encountering a dangerous animal or two in the trail, so he shook the bamboo trees as he went to caution them away.

As he went farther, the tunnel opened into a round pool. Water was welling vigorously in the middle of the pool and was overflowing over the top surface of a huge rock at the far end of the pool down to the beach where Yunus had been.

He drank the water, filled his gourds with it, and bathed in the pool to cool his body. He found some carp in it and occasionally they jumped out to catch an insect hovering near the water surface. So, Yunus threw a stone at one, as it shot out, and hit and caught it. He put the carp on a rock to expose it to the strong sunshine and thus cooked it for lunch.

In the afternoon he retraced the animal trail, and whenever it came to a fork, he chose a branch that went downward unless it was too steep, for he was too tired to climb any more. Eventually he came into the canyon cut deep in the flat land into which he had seen a river falling, and he could see a rainbow rising from the depth of the canyon. He continued to follow the animal trail and reached the bottom of the canyon; then he followed the river downstream, hoping to reach a different beach of the sea. The water of the river was muddy and not good for drinking. As he went farther, the landscape turned to be like a funnel, or a drainage basin, and in the bottom was a relatively small round lake, into which the river Yunus was walking along emptied. The trail also terminated at the lake. There seemed to be no trail starting from there and the slopes of the basin were so steep that it appeared impossible to go anywhere from there but to double back the riverside trail.

The water of the lake was opaque with a little greenish tint, except where the river was rapidly issuing its muddy water. Fish and small animals were swimming in the water. There were several birds on the water as well as in the trees by the lake. Insects were flying or running over surface of the lake. Yunus found a shore where the water was shallow and there he stepped into the water and found it cold, despite the fact that the river water had been warm and the lake was in the sun. He scooped the water and drank some but was surprised to find it moderately salty. Then, he realized that some of the creatures swimming nearby were sea animals, such as pigfish and jellyfish. "This is impossible," thought Yunus, "unless the lake is connected to the sea underground. If so, there must be rising and lowering of the water level in this lake." This was soon

proven true as he observed all of the things such as rocks and trees at wateredge were wet entirely or up to an identical height substantially above the water level. “So the tide is now ebbing out,” thought Yunus and, hoping to see if he could find a passage that connected the lake to the sea, he stepped farther into the pond, and slipped and fell into the depth of it and tasted the moderately salty and a little muddy water.

Had he not been carrying the puppet on his back (and had he been carrying the water soaking sponge instead), he would have drowned, for the half salty lake water was not as dense as the sea water so that the buoyancy to help him float was substantially smaller in this lake. Yunus thus floated in the lake with his chin barely above the surface of the lake for a while, and then, finding a tree which extended some of its branches close to the surface of the lake, he moved toward it and managed to catch a branch and, pulling it, climbed back onto the shore. The lake seemed to have a relatively steep slope all around.

Now, he wanted to get something to eat before walking a long way back along the river and out of the canyon. So, he threw stones to catch fish but without luck. He gave up and prepared to leave the lake, when he saw distantly a huge black bear with two small ones coming down along the river. He was terrified, and hastily hid himself behind a tree. He thought that they were the mother bear and her cubs, and he knew that a mother bear with her young was the most dangerous bear to meet. Yet, they seemed not to have noticed him for they were just strolling around leisurely as if on a picnic. The mother occasionally stood up and pawed a tree, seeming to examine it. Sooner or later they would come to the lake, thought Yunus, and he needed to escape – but in which way!? There was no passage he could run from there, the only passage being occupied by the bears. “Oh,” he prayed to Allah, “my god, please help me out of here! I am trapped!”

Then he saw the lake again. The water level was going down farther and, as he had expected, a large void began to be seen in the water beneath the steep shore opposite the shore where he was. He thought it must be the mouth of the tunnel that connected the lake to the sea. He wondered if it would not provide him with an escape. Then, he looked at the bears again. They were now much closer to the lake. But it appeared the mother bear had found a honey comb or something in a tree and she was climbing it. Yunus hoped it would take a long time for her to reach and capture whatever she had found in the tree, and hoped that it was indeed honey comb and the bees would turn out strong enough to scare them to run homeward, but what if they caused them run toward him...

For a while Yunus, filled with fright, observed the mother bear and the void in the water alternately, quickly shifting his eyeballs between the two objects. Then, at last the upper part of the tunnel was exposed from the water. Through the water the entire hole was now visible. He found the size of the tunnel was large enough for him to stand in it. He thought it was going to be the only way out to escape. Now, the question was, how to get to the tunnel. The distance between him and the tunnel was about fifteen meters, too long for him to swim even with the puppet as the float; nor was there a passable trail that went round the lakeside and reached

the vicinity of the tunnel.

Then, he saw that the lake water started to move slowly toward the tunnel together with the fish and all others that were near or on the surface of the water. Birds resting on the water began flying away. And the river kept supplying muddy water to the lake. Now he realized that he did not have to swim only if he could get to the river mouth, for if he jumped in it and could stay afloat, the incoming muddy river water would push him toward the middle of the lake and, then, from there the receding water would transport him into the tunnel, and if he were lucky the water would carry him all the way through to the sea.

Thus, he thought to reach the river mouth, which was opposite from the tunnel; but it was not possible for him to reach it along the water edge, which was too steep to walk by. So he started running toward the riverside, from which he could enter the river and be carried into the river mouth. At the same time, the mother bear in the tree saw him and the one-eyed puppet on his back, seeming to hurry toward her and her two cubs, and, thinking they were aiming to kidnap her children, she was infuriated, especially at the smiling puppet, which was flinging its head, arms and leg and splashing water from its head. She growled, climbed down from the tree as quickly as possible, and started running against Yunus and the puppet. But Yunus did not stop running and thus the mother bear stood up meaning to crush them when they arrived. Near the place where Yunus had thought he could wade into the current, he had to stop for the mother bear was now standing between him and the place. The cubs behind their mother, ignorant of the situation, ran passed her and even the prophet for they wanted to go and see the lake as soon as possible, they being here for the first time. Upon this, the mother bear ran after them to stop them, for she knew there was an alligator in the lake, and as she passed Yunus she gave such a good punch to the puppet that Yunus was knocked into the river.

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