



Now, back to the story of Yunus, having failed to capture the godly ship, the pirates had not gained any booty to sell that day except for the foul-smelling prophet, whom they now revered and would not think of selling. The captain told his fellows on the mother ship to give up some of their jewels, coins or medicine to make up for the shortage of offerings due that day. (These items of plunder had been given to the pirates on the mother ship as bonus after each successful attack, and they would spend most of them on wine, women and gambling overnight at Tarshish, which was across the strait from their home island.)

But, it came to pass that, as the ship approached the port of Tarshish, a mutiny took place in the mother ship and as the result the captain and several others were bound hand and foot. The ringleader of the mutiny was a young pirate who was inspired and encouraged by the preaching of Yunus, when the prophet said, "Allah is the one and only god and with Him all things are possible." The ringleader, who knew certain friends of his would join him for they had discussed recently the possibility of rising in a treason against the captain and his friends, shouted with his sword raised, "I declare a holy treason, and fight in the name of Allah, the one and only god, greater than Poseidon!" And many young pirates, far more than he had expected, who had also been inspired similarly by Allah, joined the young ringleader in the fight forthwith. The fight was brief, for the captain shouted, "I surrender and will be a servant of Allah, the one and only god, who is greater than Poseidon!" and surrendered his sabre; thereupon all his friends joined him in the surrender and surrendered their weapons. No one was hurt.

Thus, the pirates including those on the boats and dinghies were instantly converted to worshippers of Allah, thus promising to stop being pirates of Poseidon. The ringleader of the treason ordered that the ship should stay at anchor by the port of Tarshish to pass the night, and then head for their home island early next morning to overturn the priesthood reign.

When they reached the harbor of their island before dawn the next morning, led by the signal fire of the island, the traitors unbound the captain and his friends, who had convinced them that they too believed in Allah and would follow the commands of the ringleader. The latter allowed the freed elite pirates to go to the shrine of Poseidon on the hill top, which they had customarily done to report the booty to the god and the priests. The plan was that the rest of the pirates would follow them in some distance so that when the gate was opened and the freed elite pirates had passed the gate, all the pirates would rush in the enclosure and start a revolution to overturn the supremacy of the priests.

The sun had risen clearly by the time the pirates reached the gate of walls of the enclosure. Now, as soon as the captain and his friends entered the gate of the hill-top enclosure, one of the captain's friends, who was the husband of a daughter of the chief priest, shouted as he ran away from his friends, "Treason! Everyone, get weapons and keep the traitors off the gate!" Then the captain shouted, "We declare a holy revolution in the

name of Allah, the one and only god, greater than Poseidon!” and fighting began. Some other pirates could enter the walled enclosure but many were shut out, as the gate keepers hurriedly closed and locked the gates and guarded their positions. Yunus barely had gotten inside the enclosure and was protected by the revolutionaries.

Being themselves once pirates and outnumbering the revolting pirates inside the enclosure, the priests and their family members gradually gained the upper hand in the fight and pressed the revolutionaries toward the lakeside. Fortunately for the latter, the lake was swampy on this side, so that the pirates and Yunus jumped into the lake and waded through the reedy shallow water. There were many female slaves harvesting lotus fruit from boats in the swamp. They saw the pirates rushing toward them, shouting “Give us the boats!” So, the women hastily gave up their boats and escaped wading toward the nearest shore. The pirates used the boats to cross the deep part of the lake and reached the opposite shore in the vicinities of the flight of the stone steps, which lead to the shrine of Poseidon. The priests in pursuit of them had also entered the swamp but could not gain any boat. So, they went ashore and ran along the lakeside to reach the other side of the lake. Meanwhile, the revolutionaries ran up the steps, and Yunus, arriving at the shrine first, snatched the trident from the statue of Poseidon, breaking the closed fingers of curved stone. The ringleader and other revolutionaries tipped over the statue and placed it across the flight of the stone steps so as to stop the priest warriors from running up. One after another, the priests arrived at the foot of the flight of the stone steps. The pirates threw stones at them, and prevented them from running up the steep flight. Some priests had bows and shot arrows to the pirates and an arrow hit Yunus’s left arm, from which the trident fell. The pirates brought him inside the shrine and pulled off the arrow. Yunus’s left arm dripped with blood but he did not lose consciousness for the arrow head was not poisoned. A pirate tied a cloth round his arm to stop the blood. Meanwhile the priests bypassed the statue and approached the shrine. Some even reached the catapults and were turning them to target the revolts.

By now all the islanders were informed of the fight taking place inside the walls and they all witnessed what had happened to the statue of Poseidon. Some groaned and others felt relieved. Some said one thing and others another.

Then, the ringleader of the treason came out from the shrine and called out, “Listen! and hear me out for I will speak about the truths!”

The priests and their cohorts stopped, because they were surprised at finding that this young man whom they had considered a lesser one among the pirates came out to speak and not the captain of the pirates. The young one said, “I started the treason in the ship in the name of an almighty god Allah. I did it because I am fed up with piracy. My parents were killed by you when you were pirates and I myself have killed some in the likewise manner. I myself have trained some of the children whom I had orphaned to be pirates to kill other

children's parents. Is this really a holy occupation? Is it really honorable to kill the innocent ones? Is it not savagery? I am fed up with killing and creating killers. So, no more piracy in the name of Poseidon or any other god! Today I and all of you just saw the statue of Poseidon fall down. You all saw, when that man Yunus, who is a prophet of the god he calls Allah, took away the weapon from him, Poseidon could not even keep the weapon, but his fingers were broken. Now, we never heard of the god Allah, but today we heard from this man Yunus that this god Allah condemns piracy as a sin, not a holy occupation, unlike what Poseidon says. And yesterday at midday we witnessed that Allah the god of Yunus also overpowered Poseidon the god of the sea in the sea itself! We prayed for help to Poseidon against Allah's chastisement upon us, but Poseidon could not stop Allah." Then, he went on to detail what had happened at the sea on the previous day. During this, no one said it was a lie, not even the one who ran away from the pirates to warn the priests against the revolution.

The chief priest, who was an old man and was wearing a beautiful white fur cap and coat, demanded the traitors to surrender, and promised that they would not be punished if they threw the heads of Yunus and this young man over to them, or else they would all be driven up to the cliff and flung down to the rocky strand. There was silence for a while. Then, shouts arose from the women that had gathered and were watching by the lakeside, crying "No more killing! No more killing!" They were the wives or sisters or daughters of the revolting pirates. Even some priests and some of their cohorts joined the call.

The fact was that the talk of the young man had touched the hearts of all the audience, and thus most of the inhabitants were being converted to Allah in their heart. So, they started shouting they should not kill the two men or none of the pirates. Thus, a majority of the priests revolted against the unconverted priests. Being suddenly outnumbered, the latter priests lost heart and threw the weapons away, each shouting "I give up! I give up!" They even said they would worship Allah too.

The ringleader ordered the surrenderers, who were relatively more aged than the others, to carry the statue of Poseidon up to the cliff top and drop it in the sea to show that they really had converted. They obeyed. But the statue was so heavy and the slope so steep that they slipped and dropped it, and it rolled down the slope injuring some on its way and fell into the lake. It was seen to lie on a patch of sand in the depth with its threatening face upward. The people were struck in awe at what happened, and the statue was left alone in the water of the lake.

As a result of Yunus's intervention, no one was punished and a peace agreement was made between the pirates and the priests. It was decided to abandon piracy, and take up commerce as their new occupation on the sea. All the priests converted, of their own accord, to be priests of Allah, for in fact they had never cared much about Poseidon – the doctrine of Poseidon being the protector god for pirates being their own invention. However, many of the overmanned priests were ordered to quit priesthood and choose from other

occupations such as sailor, shipwright, farmer or fisherman.

The chief priest, who had been the captain of the pirates when they seized the island, chose to return to the ship and was assigned to be the navigator, for he was the most knowledgeable person at the geography of the Mediterranean Sea and the vicinities.

The shipwrights, in accordance with the peace agreement, refurnished the arched pirate ship into a merchant ship, expanding the space for cargos, and the islanders gave it a new name, *Allah's Ark*. (The boats and dinghies were refurnished too and some were used for fishery and others as ferry boats to cross the strait.) The young ringleader of the treason was chosen to be the new captain of the trade ship and the former captain remained a sailor too and was assigned to be the mate, the officer second in command to the captain.

The new mate, with the help of the new navigator, drew a new world map based on Yunus's talk about his ocean travel starting from Dilmun in the Persian Gulf and reaching the exit of the Mediterranean Sea. In it they described the complete course of Yunus's travelling to show how one could travel between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. However, in it they did not put any additional continent but placed Yunus's landing spot from the white whale at the south-most coast of the African Continent, for even in their imagination they could not risk falling from the grand round table, which they believed to support the world.

Now, the aborigines of this island had been outside the recent treason or the revolution, for they would never fight. But, pursuant to the suggestion of Yunus, they were all freed from the slavery and allowed to live according to their old traditions, which had been banned since the pirates subdued them. So, they all returned to be farmers and resumed taking care of the plants in fields and swamps as before, and also all of them reverted to pure nudity, which was not uncommon among more temperate areas of Mediterranean cultures those days.

Yunus was asked to be the chief priest by the islanders. He informed them that, although he felt honored, he could not accept it, for he was on his way to a city called Ninuwa where he had to complete a mission commanded by Allah. The islanders did not know where Ninuwa was; but when Yunus said that to get there he had to reach a port called Joppa in the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, the new navigator said he knew it, and that he could navigate the ship there in less than a month. Thus, the islanders proposed to offer Yunus a voyage there as soon as they had gathered enough metals, lotus fruit, and other indigenous products of the island for trading.

In a few days, the merchant ship got ready for her first maritime voyage and embarked the port. Yunus was provided with a separate cabin, but he chose to be with others in a big space below.

The first stop of *Allah's Ark* was Tarshish, where they procured cork lumber as the principal cargo. (Cork trees were planted in the nearby lands, and the cork was used to make ship's cushioning and life buoy. The sailors would curve the trees into those products during the voyage.) They picked some passengers, and purchased male slaves who had seafaring experience. The slaves were to be set at liberty after they worked in the ship until she reached Joppa; then they would be employed as paid laborers to do cargo handling and oar rowing, if they chose to stay. They also purchased a couple of ferrets, male and female, to restrict the ever increasing number of the rats in the ship.

Now, on the third day at Tarshish, when all the tasks there had been completed, the wind turned round and prevented the ship from sailing eastward (toward Joppa). Furthermore, the captain fell ill and could not rise. He had high fever and had lost appetite for any food. Physicians of Tarshish came and saw him but none could heal him, nor was there a medicine that worked for him.

Then, on the eighth morning at Tarshish, as the captain waked up early, he called the mate sleeping in the next cabin. The mate came in the captain's cabin and was shocked to find that his hair had turned white over the night and he did not look like the young energetic man he used to be. The captain ordered that the ship should return to the island as soon as possible. He said he had to go to the lake. Accordingly the ship left Tarshish that morning and crossed the strait. By the time the ship reached her home port, the captain was able to go out of the bed and was walking about to prepare the landing.

When the ship reached the port, many islanders had gathered there, wondering what brought the ship back. As he went ashore with the help of his friends, the captain took with him the trident, which had been taken away from the statue of Poseidon by Yunus, and had been placed in the captain's cabin as a wall ornament.

He carried the heavy trident on his shoulders like a yoke. His wife came to meet him with a baby in her arms. But she could not locate him for he had significantly changed in appearance, though he was standing nearby. The captain noticed his wife and his baby, and stretched out his left arm toward the little boy, saying "My son, you have come all the way to see your Dad?" The baby quickly shrank back into the bosom of his mother, crying like a siren, for he was terrified at the sight of the white-haired pale man carrying a dreadful weapon on his shoulders.

The captain was offered to ride on an ass, but he refused and went up toward the hill on foot, along with his friends, resting frequently. The islanders as well as the sailors left in the ship watched the slow procession go up the slopes of the hill. When they reached the lakeside, they disappeared from the view. Then, after half an hour, the statue of Poseidon showed up as if it was rising on its own, and then men carrying it appeared all dripping with water. The white statue was brought up the stone stairway and stood back in the shrine. The captain put the trident to lean against the statute's left arm, and then cemented with japan the broken-off fingers

back to the hand, which thus grabbed the weapon again. Meanwhile, some animals were brought up the stairway, slaughtered, and offered as burnt offerings to the statue. The captain fell on his knees and bowed to the deity. The smoke rose and the soothing smell spread and even reached the ship. The islanders were bewildered by the captain's conduct, and the awesome statue of Poseidon looked down at them again.

Then, the captain's friends returned to the ship with a letter from him, which read: "Dear my friends, I desire to resign as the captain of *Allah's Ark*, and remain in the island to appease the anger of Poseidon. I shall remain a servant of Allah all my life, but in this one matter only may the Almighty Allah pardon me, for I am doomed to pacify this sea deity all my life through my misfortune. As for the trident, we must return it to the deity or his anger shall increase and harm whoever possesses it." Yunus did not disagree with the captain. A return message was promptly sent back to the captain to the effect that all that he wrote was well and accepted.

All members on board the ship agreed that the mate, the former captain, should be reinstated into his previous position.

Now assisted by fair winds, which occurred on that afternoon, the merchant ship again sailed off the island and commenced her voyage bound for Joppa. Yunus prayed to Allah for a safe voyage and good health of the people on board. The ship sailed swiftly.

The ship stopped at various ports, where she picked up passengers and some extra cargos. It took about half a month for the ship to reach Joppa. However, during the voyage all of the passengers got fascinated by Yunus's stories of his adventures so much that none left *Allah's Ark* until the ship reached her destination, although many of them were supposed to have left her at different ports before Joppa. This phenomenon continued even after Yunus left the ship at Joppa, for his talk was viral. The passengers who had stayed beyond their destinations took the same ship again at Joppa to double back the course, and they, as well as the crew, told the new passengers the stories they had heard from Yunus, before eventually leaving the ship at their respective destinations - except some who again lingered on *Allah's Ark* till she reached her home island. But all of the passengers were happy and praised Allah and his prophet Yunus wherever they landed - although some were dragged to leave the ship by their relatives or business partners.

Thus, the stories of Yunus were orally handed down variously among the peoples at sea and on shore, and a few versions of them survived ages until they were eventually fixed on plates. Incidentally, the crew of *Allah's Ark* came to be suspected by people on land that they were serving narcotic lotus fruits to the passengers to cause them to forget about anything that mattered in life, let alone going ashore at the right ports, and were preaching a religion to seduce the passengers to become followers of a certain, unseen god.

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