# THE STORY OF YUNUS (JONAH) – PART ONE (Qur’an 10:98, 21:87, 37:13-148)

*Yunus (Jonah) lived in a town called Nineveh where people did not believe in Allah (God). Their rules did not give all human beings equal rights. They felt it was okay to treat anyone they did not like badly.*

*Allah appointed Yunus (Jonah) a prophet so that he could teach people that: all human beings were equal, they should respect each other and care for each other, they should be fair and just towards each other, they should love each other for Allah and live together in peace.*

*The people of Nineveh did not listen to prophet Jonah because they felt that what Prophet Yunus (Jonah) was saying would destroy their civilised society. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) became impatient and disheartened. He left Nineveh in anger without waiting for instructions from Allah.*

*Hardly had he left the city when the skies began to change colour and looked as if they were on fire. The people of Nineveh were filled with fear at this sight. They decided to follow the teachings of Prophet Yunus (Jonah) and live together in peace. They thought that this might save them from the disaster about to befall them from the skies. As soon as they decided to live together in peace the skies cleared.*

*Meanwhile Prophet Yunus (Jonah) had boarded a small ship in the company of other passengers. It sailed all day in calm waters. When night came the sea suddenly changed. The waves looked wild. They rose as high as mountains, then plunged down like valleys, tossing the ship. Behind the ship a large whale was splitting the water and opening its mouth.*

*The tempest continued and the Captain asked the crew to lighten the ship’s heavy load. All the baggage was thrown overboard, but this was not enough. The crew suggested that to lighten the load further, one person had to be thrown off the ship into the angry sea.*

*The Captain directed, “We will make lots with all the travellers’ names. The one whose name is drawn will be thrown into the sea”. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) knew this was the seamen’s tradition when facing the tempest. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) reluctantly participated in the lot, and his name was added to the other travellers’ names. The lots were drawn and “Yunus*

*(Jonah)” appeared.*

*Prophet Yunus Jonah realised that the hand of Allah (God) was in this, for he had abandoned his mission without the consent of Allah (God). The matter was over, and it was decided that Prophet Yunus (Jonah) should throw himself into the water. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) stood at the edge of the ship, looking at the furious sea. It was night and there was no moon. The stars were hidden behind a black fog. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) kept mentioning the name of Allah as he jumped into the raging seas and disappeared beneath the huge waves.*

*The whale found Prophet Yunus (Jonah) floating on the waves. It swallowed Prophet Yunus (Jonah) into its furious stomach and shut its ivory teeth on him, as if they were white bolts locking the door of the prison. Allah (God) ordered the whale not to harm Prophet Yunus (Jonah).*