

# I am Yusuf

أَنَا يُوسُفُ

In Surah Yusuf, Yusuf's **عليه السلام** brothers ask him if he is in fact Yusuf. In the ayah ALLAH uses a number of emphatic particles to express and relate the manner in which the brothers asked him.

Yusuf **عليه السلام** could have responded and said: **أَنَا هُوَ** meaning: I am he/him. However, ALLAH says that

Yusuf said: **أَنَا يُوسُفُ**

the reason for this is because in the Arabic language there is a rule/principle wherein the **إِسْمٌ ظَاهِرٌ** [apparent name] is stronger than the **ضَمِيرٌ** [pronoun].

So, Yusuf **عليه السلام** answered their question that was full of emphatic particles in an emphatic way. Had he answered using a pronoun, there is no problem with this in the language. However, we are talking about the context and flow of the ayah and this is much more eloquent to use.

*ALLAH says*

قَالُوا أَأَنَّكَ لَأَنْتَ يُوسُفُ ۗ قَالَ أَنَا يُوسُفُ وَهَذَا أَخِي ۗ قَدْ  
مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا ۗ إِنَّهُ مَن يَتَّقِ وَيَصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ  
أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

*Sahih International*

They said, "Are you indeed Joseph?" He said "I am Joseph

**Surah Yusuf Ayah 90**

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