

## Surah Mujadilah

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 22 ayaat. Just like other Madinan surahs, this also mentions the commandments of the Shariah, and, the munaafiqoon. The surah starts by mention of the incident of Khola bint Tha'laba, who came with a complaint regarding her husband. She complained about her husband, Aws bin Thamith who had 'forbidden her' for himself; a practice known as 'dhihaar'. Due to her complaining in an argumentative manner, she is being referred to as 'mujadilah' i.e. the one who argued. In the time of jahiliyyah, this act of dhihaar would have amounted to divorce, however Islam teaches us that this can be absolved by paying a penalty.

The other main topics in this surah are as follows:

The surah gives guidance regarding 'whispering'. The ahadeeth also teach us that it is not permitted to whisper in the presence of another person, as it may lead to wrong assumptions of what is being said. However, here, the reference is towards the habit of the bani Israeel, in order to cause discomfort to the Muslims. They would also reply to the greeting of the Prophet, by saying 'saam alaikum', which means 'death be upon you'. So, this surah condemns such practices, however, with the exception of a secret meeting in order to promote goodness and taqwa.

The surah then teaches us the manners and etiquette of gatherings. We are told to make space for people in gatherings and to stand up when it is required. (Ayat 11).

The surah also mentions the munaafiqoon, who would keep the bani Israeel as friends and would also swear their allegiance to the Muslims. Allah has called them the 'hizb ush shaithan' i.e. the party of shaitan.

However, the people who have true belief, are called 'hizb Ullah' i.e. the party of Allah. These people are then promised four things:

- Allah has embedded deep rooted emaan in their hearts.
- They will be helped through unseen means.
- They will be entered into jannah.
- Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him.

## Surah al-Hashr

This is a Madinan surah which consists of 24 ayaat. The main topics are as follows:

Everything in the heavens and the earth glorifies and praises Allah, and is a witness to His Oneness and Greatness.

The surah then mentions the bani Israeel who had constructed big, strong forts, and had a grip on the social and economic affairs, through interest based loans. As a result they thought that they could never be overcome or expelled. However it so happened that due to their deeds they were punished by Allah and faced two 'hashr', which means to be gathered or expelled.

The first hashr took place when they were expelled from Madina and went to Shaam. The second hashr took place when Umar radhi Allahu anhu expelled them from Khaybar and sent them to Shaam.

No one could ever have imagined that such a well established community of the bani Israeel could have been expelled. However, due to their dishonesty, arrogance, rebellion and breaking of covenants, Allah's decision came to pass.

The Muslims found that they gained much of the belongings left by these tribes, without having fought or engaged in combat. This is known as 'fai'. The distribution of such wealth is up to Allah and His messenger. This will be distributed among the poor, needy, weak and near relatives. In this context we also learn the Islamic socio-economic principle of not allowing wealth to be kept within the rich and wealthy, but for it to be distributed among the less well off in society.

In addition we are also guided to the basic legislative principle: 'take whatever the prophet gives you, and refrain from whatever he tells you to abstain from'(Ayat 7). So, the Quran and the sunnah become the main pillars of legislation which are to be followed by the believers.

The surah praises the muhajiroon and ansaar who preferred themselves over the command of Allah and His Prophet. It also mentions the munaafiqoon who would aid the bani Israeel in their plots against the believers, and that they would enter the hell as a result (Ayat 9-17.)

The end of the surah tells the believers not to be like the bani Israeel who forgot Allah's rights and as a result they forgot their own selves and lived an animalistic life by following their whims and desires. The believers are then directed towards the greatness of this book.

The surah ends with a beautiful section of the names and attributes of Allah, ending in the same way as it started: everything glorifies and praises Allah.

### Surah al-Mumthahina

This is a Madinan surah which consists of 13 ayaat. The surah starts with an incident related to Haatib ibn abi Baltha radhi Allahu anhu who tried to inform the mushrikeen of Makkah of the departure of the Prophet to conquer Makkah. However, he was a Badree companion, who then became regretful and made sincere tauba, which was accepted. In this light we are being told not to befriend the people who are the enemies of Allah, who are hard hearted, and who made life difficult for the Muslims in Makkah. The relations which the believers had with such people would not help on the day of judgment when only emaan and actions would help an individual. Then there is mention of Ibraheem alaihis salaam who broke away from his nation and people for the sake of Allah.

When the true believers heard of this they immediately dissociated themselves from all such relatives. As Allah is aware of the close relations between blood ties or fellow country men, He gave the believers the glad tidings that the relatives and country folk will accept Islam and join you. And so it happened that many of these people accepted Islam (Ayat 7).

The believers were told to continue with their good conduct towards the mushrikeen who had not persecuted them nor expelled them from their houses. Islam does not wish for there to be any animosity and war, and hence it encourages one to treat those non Muslims fairly and in a good manner, whom do not want to fight and whom also desire peace.

The surah also mentions the commandment of verifying the emaan of the women who made hijrah to Madina. If they are known to be genuine, then they are not to be returned to the kuffar. The mufasssireen relate the incident of Uqbah ibn abi Mu'eeth who was the Prophet's enemy. When his daughter Umm Kalthum radhi Allahu anha emigrated to Madina, he came to take her back as per the Hudaybiyyah treaty. However, the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam told him that the treaty was only regarding men and not women, so he returned empty handed.

The end of the surah once again emphasises to the believers: "O you who have believed, do not make allies of a people with whom Allah has become angry. They have despaired of [reward in] the Hereafter just as the disbelievers have despaired of [meeting] the inhabitants of the graves." (Ayat 13).

## Surah as-Saff

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 14 ayaat. It's subject matter is 'jihad fee sabeel illah' and it starts by Glorifying Allah and then gives the believers a stern warning to act upon their promises and what they claim.

It then goes on to instruct the believers to become a united and strong structure, like a wall, in order to face their enemy.

It then mentions bani Israeel who opposed Musa alaihis salaam when he ordered them to fight the 'Umaliqa' people. Then Eesa alaihis salaam gave them the glad tidings of the coming of the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam and to follow him, but the bani Israeel, disobeyed him, too.

The surah gives good news, that this deen will prevail over all others. It has already defeated all other ways of life in it's ideas and guidance. However, it will also dominate in terms of the apparent material and political spheres.

The next ayaat invite the believers to a trade which will result in success:

"O you who have believed, shall I guide you to a transaction that will save you from a painful punishment? [It is that] you believe in Allah and His Messenger and strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives. That is best for you, if you should know." (Ayat 10-11)

As a result the believers are promised:

- Their sins will be forgiven.
- Entry into paradise for eternity.
- Victory on this earth.

At the end of the surah the believers are being told to stand up for the truth, just as the disciples of Eesa alaihis salaam. Just as the surah started by warning us not to just make claims, it also ends by emphasising the fact that we must act, to hope for success in this life and the hereafter.

## Surah al-Jumuah

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 11 ayaat. The central theme of this surah is the grand responsibility which was given to the bani Israeel but they failed in benefiting themselves and others by the guidance in the book; hence they are compared to donkeys carrying books which do not benefit their carrier.

The surah starts by Glorifying Allah and then informing us of the attributes and the objectives of the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam:

- Tilawath (recitation) of the Quran.
- Tazkiyyah (purification of the hearts and minds).
- Teaching the book and the wisdom. (Ayat 1-3)

The surah then invites the bani Israeel to 'mubahala' i.e. to ask Allah for death if they are not on the truth, as they would claim to be the chosen people and the beloved people of Allah. The surah also tells us that they will never do so due to what they have done.

The surah ends by commanding the believers to attend the Friday Jumuah prayer; to stop their business and affairs upon hearing the call to prayer, and to hasten towards the remembrance of Allah. They may then return to their affairs and livelihoods after the prayer.

## Surah al-Munaafiqoon

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 11 ayaat. This surah deals with the munaafiqoon and their character, lies, plots, hatred and enmity for the believers, and their internal and external contradictions. Although the munaafiqoon and their characteristics have been mentioned elsewhere, this surah is devoted to this subject. The surah starts by highlighting their characteristics which in summary amounted to them acting in opposition to what they claimed. It then goes on to tell us that these munaafiqoon apparently look very charming and attractive. They appear physically strong and respectable, their speech is very eloquent and sophisticated. However they are hollow from inside, full of cowardice. They are so scared and feeble that they fear any voice that is raised against anyone, fearing that it is directed towards them, mainly due to their guilty conscious.

When they come in front of the Prophet, they praise him and exalt him beyond belief, but behind his back they speak ill of him and his companions.

The surah ends by informing the believers not to fall into the same trap as the munaafiqoon; by making sure that their children and wealth do not distract them from the remembrance of Allah and their mission. It also instructs them to spend in the cause before a time comes when nothing will be accepted.

## Surah at-Taghabûn

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 18 ayaat. Although a Madinan surah, it has a Makkee style. Some scholars have also said that this can be seen as a summary of the subject matters of the Makkan Quran. After Glorifying Allah the surah divides people into two groups i.e. the grateful and the ungrateful.

Then there is mention of those nations who disobeyed Allah and their Messenger, and had to face the punishment for doing so.

The surah addresses the rejecters of the hereafter. It swears by the fact that the day of judgment will come to pass no matter what they claim.

The name given to the day of judgment in their surah is 'Yawm at Taghabûn' i.e. the day of mutual loss. On that day the rejecters will surely realise the great loss. But the believers will also feel that they have lost out on the opportunity to have done more in this life with regards to good deeds.

The surah also warns the believers of the types of tests which lie in their wealth, children and spouses. This is because, as a human one can be persuaded to turn a blind eye to the shariah when it comes to these things, and as a result one can lose out on his or her akhirah.

The surah ends by instructing us to fear Allah, and to spend in his cause, and to not be miserly.

## Surah at-Talaaq

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 12 ayaat. Just like the Madinan surahs, it deals with some of the commandments of shariah, in this case, family life and marital relations. It mentions the commandments related to divorce (Talaaq), the waiting period of the divorcee (iddah), the maintenance paid for by the man, etc.

After mentioning the correct procedure for divorce, the surah commands the believers that if it becomes difficult for a couple to stay together, despite all attempts of reconciliation etc, then the

husband should give the wife a first talaq and separate from her whilst she is not in her monthly cycle in which they have not had relations (Talaq raj'ee i.e. A divorce which can be reconciled).

Islam encourages a healthy society based on a happy married life, in order for the members of society to live prosperous and positive lives. However, divorce is a last resort when the objectives of marriage are not being fulfilled in this way.

The surah then mentions the types of waiting periods and then discusses the maintenance and lodging which should be given to the divorced women. (Ayat 1-7).

The important point worth noting here is that in this short space taqwaa is mentioned on four occasions:

- Have taqwaa of Allah, Who is your Lord.
- And whoever has taqwaa of Allah, then He will make a way out for him.
- And whoever has taqwaa of Allah, then He will make it easy for him.
- And whoever has taqwaa of Allah, then Allah will forgive his sins and reward him a great reward. (Ayaat 1,2,4,5).

This shows how important taqwaa is in the sight of Allah. It also shows us that this book is not a dry book of legislation with no appreciation of the person as a whole, as it appeals to a person's complete personality.

The surah emphasises the need to follow the guidance, and not to be like the previous nations whom ignored the guidance and as a result met their destruction.

The surah ends by pointing at the creation of the the heavens and the earth by the One and Only Allah.

### Surah at-Tahreem

This is a Madinan surah consisting of 12 ayaat. The surah mainly addresses the commandments related to the Prophet's household; his wives and the mothers of the believers.

The surah starts by mentioning an incident in which the Prophet made his wife or the eating of honey, haraam on himself. Allah addresses the Prophet by saying:

"O Prophet, why do you prohibit [yourself from] what Allah has made lawful for you, seeking the approval of your wives? And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." (Ayat 1).

When the Prophet sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam informed his wife Hafsa radhi Allahu anha, she related it to Aisha radhi Allahu anha. This deeply upset the prophet, and he was near to divorcing some of them.

"Perhaps his Lord, if he divorced you [all], would substitute for him wives better than you - submitting [to Allah ], believing, devoutly obedient, repentant, worshipping, and traveling - [ones] previously married and virgins."

The surah then commands the believers to save themselves and their family from the hell fire.

The sura ends by giving the example of a disbelieving wife of a righteous Prophet Nuh, and a righteous wife of a disbelieving husband, Aaisyah alaihis salaam wife of Firaun. These examples highlight to us the importance of individual deeds, regardless of lineage and spouse.