

سُورَةُ الصَّفِّ

Sūrah aṣ-Ṣaff

(THE RANKS)

Revealed at Madinah, it has two Sections and fourteen Āyāt.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah,

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. Hallows Allah whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth. And He is the Mighty, the Wise.

2. O faithful! Why do you say what you do not act?

3. Most odious it is to Allah that you should say what you do not act.

4. Verily Allah loves those who fight in His cause drawn up in ranks, as though they were a structure well-compacted.

5. And recall when Mūsa said to his people: my people! Why do you hurt me when you know surely that I am Allah's Messenger to you? Then when they swerved, Allah made their hearts swerve; and Allah does not guide a transgressing people.

6. And recall when 'Isā, son of Maryam, said: O Children of Isrā'īl! Verily I am Allah's

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿١﴾

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ هُمْ أَسْأَلُ مَا تَقُولُونَ
مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٢﴾

كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا
مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٣﴾

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ
صَفًّا كَأَنَّهُمْ بُنْيَانٌ مَرْصُومٌ ﴿٤﴾

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَى لِقَوْمِهِ يَا قَوْمِ لِمَ تَضُرُّونَنِي
وَقَدْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ فَلَمَّا
زَاغُوا أَزَاغَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي
الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٥﴾

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ يَا رُسُلَ اللَّهِ
إِنِّي مَصَدِّقٌ لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرٌ بِرُسُولِهِ

Messenger to you, confirming the Torah before me and conveying the glad news of a Messenger coming after me: His name will be Ahmad. Then when he came to them with evidence, they said: This is manifest magic.

يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي أَسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ ﴿٦﴾

7. And who is a greater wrong doer than he who, when he is summoned to Islam, fabricates a lie against Allah? And Allah does not guide an ungodly people.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ يُدْعَى إِلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٧﴾

8. They intend to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, and Allah is going to accomplish His light, though the infidels may be averse.

يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٨﴾

9. He it is Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and true faith that He may make it triumph over every other faith, though the associaters may be averse.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٩﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Everything that exists on earth or in heavens praises Allah, by word and by its state. Allah is Predominant and Wise. So O believers! Do not declare doing something that you actually do not intend to do as it is a grave sin with Allah.

Capital Sins and Preaching

Today's leaders make tall claims about enforcing Islam or fulfilling peoples' basic needs, but they do not mean it. This is a capital sin. As for the preaching, if a person is himself weak in practising Islam but invites others to it, he should be mindful of the difference between claim and preaching. A preacher must try to be

a practising Muslim personally but in case of any weakness, he should not relax in calling others to piety. This is an act that makes practice easy for him.

Allah's Pleasure is for those who fight in His Cause, obliterate tyranny with might and their ranks are impregnable like fortified structure. They are unlike Prophet Mūsa's^{AS} folk who refused Jihād saying: "You and your Rabb go and do the fighting; while we wait right here". Prophet Mūsa^{AS} told them: "I am Allah's Messenger and only conveyed His Word; so why are you so unfair as to vex me."

Hurting a Prophet^{AS} Snaps the States of Qalb

They were adamant, so Allah turned their hearts and diminished their fervour of faith. Allah never guides those who distress their Prophet by disobeying him.

Prophet 'Isā's Prophecy

Prophet 'Isā^{AS} was similarly treated when he told his nation: "I am the true Prophet and I confirm Torah that preceded me. I have nothing new to offer. I only reiterate the same belief conveyed by the Prophets and Books before me. I also give the good news that an exalted Prophet^{SAW} would be appointed after me, whose illustrious name would be Ahmed^{SAW}." In spite of manifest evidences, his people refuted him and attributed all his miracles to magic when he would bring the dead back to life, turn clay birds into living fowls and cure many chronic illnesses.

Though frantic efforts have been made to distort prophecies of the Bible about the Holy Prophet^{SAW} yet these are still traceable. *Izhar-ul-Haqqe* by Maulana Rehmatullah Kiranwi as translated by Maulana Akbar 'Ali and Muḥammad Taqī 'Usmani, published from Karachi, is worth reading in this context. The infidels have always been trying to extinguish the light of Allah that is Islam by nefarious activities and propaganda but blatantly failed. Allah will uncompromisingly spread the light of his Din, regardless of how much the non believers feel bad about it.

Allah is the Supreme Being Who raised Muḥammad^{SAW} as His Messenger, whose ultimate miracle, the Qurān contains the most comprehensive, the most beneficial and the purest code of life for the entire mankind, to ensure its dominance of all evil systems and false religions that exist in the world. It was revealed to spare mankind from degeneration of beliefs and practices, a purpose it will definitely achieve despite the polytheists prejudice.

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} and the Great Miracle

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} was raised at a time when none on the face of earth knew Allah. Disbelief, polytheism and tyranny were rampant. Nations were ruled by a

number of diabolic systems and religions. He gave a complete Code of Life to humanity, comprising politics, economics, morality and justice. Many a nations across the globe, having diverse languages, attires, foods and climates wielded formidable military might. It was only by His Will that the Muslims rose from the deserts of Arabia, not only to convey Islam's Message to the world, but also to practically enforce it in three fourth of the then known world, in less than quarter of a century, following the completion of Qurān. Though Islam is practised in all parts of the world today yet it is a failure on the part of contemporary Muslims that Islamic systems of state are no longer enforced anywhere. It is obligatory for Muslims to establish the same, through Jihād as practicing Islam continues to be as easy as it was from the very outset.

Section 2

10. O you who believe! Shall I direct you to a trade, which will deliver you from an afflictive torment?
11. It is: Believe in Allah and His Messenger and strive in the Cause of Allah with your riches and lives. That is best for you if you only know!
12. He will remit your sins, and make you enter the Gardens with running water, and happy abodes in the Everlasting Gardens. That is a great achievement.
13. And also another bliss, which you love: Succour from Allah and a swift victory. And bear you the glad tidings to the faithful.
14. O you who believe! Be Allah's helpers, even as 'Isā, son of Maryam, said to the disciples: Who shall be my helpers for Allah? The disciples said: We are Allah's helpers. Then a party of
- بَيِّنَاتٍ لِّلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا هَلْ ءَدَلَّكُمْ عَلَىٰ تَحْرِيفٍ شَجِيحٍ
مِّنْ عَذَابِ ٱلْأَلَمِ ﴿١٠﴾
- تُؤْمِنُونَ بِٱللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِۦ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ
وَأَنفُسِكُمْ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١١﴾
- يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَيُدْخِلْكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا
ٱلْأَنْهَارُ وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ
ذَٰلِكَ ٱلْفَوْزُ ٱلْعَظِيمُ ﴿١٢﴾
- وَأُخْرَىٰ يُحِبُّونَهَا نَصْرٌ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ وَفَتْحٌ قَرِيبٌ
وَبَشِيرٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٣﴾
- بَيِّنَاتٍ لِّلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا أَنْصَارًا لِّمَن قَالِ ٱبْنَ
عِيسَىٰ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ لِّلْحَوَارِيِّينَ مَن أَنْصَارِي إِلَىٰ ٱللَّهِ قَالِ لِّلْحَوَارِيِّينَ
نَحْنُ أَنْصَارُ ٱللَّهِ فَمَا نَمُنُّ بِمَا هِيَ مِنْ نُّبُوَةٍ إِسْرَءِيلَ

the Children of Isrāil believed, and another party disbelieved. Then We strengthened those who believed against their foe, so they became triumphant.

وَكَفَرَتْ طَائِفَةٌ فَأَيَّدْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَىٰ عَدُوِّهِمْ
فَأَصْبَحُوا ظَاهِرِينَ ﴿١١﴾

Secrets of Revelation

The Islamic System

Allah informs mankind of the most profitable trade and the best business. It is a transaction that pays well here and shall spare reprisal in the Ākhirah. It is to cultivate faith in Allah, the way His Prophet^{SAW} directs. This implies that one must believe in the Holy Prophet^{SAW}, not only by accepting the Code of Life given by him but also by using his energy and wealth in the struggle to implement this system. This is the behaviour most worthy of the sensible lot who strive in the way of Allah. He would pardon their lapses originating from human weakness and admit them in splendid palaces and exquisite Gardens of Jannah, the greatest and the only real triumph. And those who long for Allah's help in conquering the non-believers the Holy Prophet^{SAW} may give them the glad tidings of His help and that victory is just around the corner.

O believers! Become Allah's soldiers. When Prophet 'Isā^{AS} had asked if anyone would cooperate with him for His sake, only twelve of his followers said that they were there to support the Divine religion. The rest were afflicted with disbelief, some of them believed that Prophet 'Isā^{AS} was God once he was lifted to the heavens, while others declared him to be the son of God. The true believers though few were blessed with triumph, and they succeeded in spreading the true message despite infidels' resistance.

Over a period of time this Dīn was, however, distorted, like the preceding religions. But the infidels dreams that they would succeed in containing Prophet 'Isā's^{AS} Dīn, did not come true. And this indeed was the real combat, as fighting was not prescribed in Christianity, nor was there any concept of Jihād.