

سُورَةُ الْجُمُعَةِ

Sūrah al Jum'ah

(FRIDAY)

Revealed at Madinah it has two Sections and eleven Āyāt.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. Hallows whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth Allah, the Sovereign, the Holy, the Mighty, the Wise.
2. He it is Who has raised amidst the unlettered ones a Messenger from among themselves, rehearsing to them His Revelations and purifying them and teaching them the Book and the Wisdom, though they have been before in gross error.
3. And also others of them who have not yet joined them. And He is the Mighty, the Wise.
4. That is the Grace of Allah; He vouchsafes it to whomsoever He will; and Allah is the Owner of Mighty Grace.
5. The case of those who were laden with Torah but who bore it not is as the case of an ass bearing tomes. Hapless is the case of those who belie the Sign of Allah,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ الْمَلِكِ
الْقُدُّوسِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ ﴿١﴾

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو
عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ مَوْزُونًا لِيُذَكِّرَهُمْ وَعِلْمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ
وَلَئِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿٢﴾

وَمِنْ آخَرِينَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٣﴾

ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ
ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ﴿٤﴾

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِلُوا الثَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ
الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ الْقَوْمَ الَّذِينَ
كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا لِلَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ

and Allah does not guide a wrongdoing people.

6. Say you: O those who are Judaised: If you think you are the friends of Allah above mankind, then wish for death, if you are truthful.
7. And they will never wish for it, because of what their hands have sent forward. And Allah is the Knower of the wrong doers.
8. Say you: The death which you flee from will certainly meet you, and thereafter you will be brought back to the Knower of the Unseen and the seen, and He will declare to you what you have been working.

الظالمين ﴿٥﴾

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ هَادُوا إِن زَعَمْتُمْ أَنَّكُمْ
أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّهِ مِن دُونِ النَّاسِ فَتَمَنَّوْا الْمَوْتَ
إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٦﴾

وَلَا يَتَمَنَّوْنَهُ أَبَدًا بِمَا قَدَّمْت أَيْدِيهِمْ
وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٧﴾

قُلْ إِنَّ الْمَوْتَ الَّذِي تَفِرُّونَ مِنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ
مُلْقٍ بِكُمْ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلِّيِّ الْعَالَمِ
وَالشَّهَادَةُ قَبْلَتْكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٨﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Zikr Allah

Everything contained in heavens and the earth remembers Allah and each particle is a manifestation of His perfection. He is Absolute Ruler. He is Predominant, Prudent and Flawless. He is the Supreme Being Who appointed an unlettered Prophet^{SAW} among the generally unlettered Arabs.

A Miracle

The Arabs did not have the tradition of schooling and very few could read or write. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} himself never received any formal education. Such ignorant nations are hard to reform, as it is difficult to make them understand anything. The fact that the Holy Prophet^{SAW} transformed them into fountainheads of knowledge and wisdom for the world is evident as daylight. They became the keepers, the dominators, the beautifiers of the world. While the unlettered Prophet^{SAW} blessed mankind with a Code of Life that spells out human rights and duties

perfectly and explicitly. This Code was practically enforced in the world by the same unlettered nation.

Responsibilities of the Holy Prophet ^{SAW}

The Holy Prophet ^{SAW} recites Allah's *Āyāt* unto them, purifies them, and teaches them the Book and Wisdom by explaining the Qurān and by self-example. His four responsibilities have been described here. First, he invites people to believe in Allah as dictated by the Qurānic *Āyāt*. Then he purifies the hearts of those who embrace Islam.

Taṣawwuf

The outward purification involves education on cleaning the body and the raiments, earning lawful and clean food while the spiritual purification extends to ethics and morality and character building. The latter was instantly affected when a person physically presented himself before the Holy Prophet ^{SAW} after taking Shahadah. A solitary glance of his purifying sight lifted him to the status of a Companion ^{RAU}, and his soul stood consecrated. In Qurān's language: Each and every cell of his body, right from his skin to the core of his heart, became engaged in *Zikr Allah* (39:23). This very state was termed *Tazkiyah* by the Qurān and was translated to *Taṣawwuf* in Persian, the first foreign language into which Qurān was translated. Those believers associated with the Companions ^{RAU} became Tab'ain, who, in turn, produced Tab'a Tab'ain.

As time progressed, the intensity of this phenomenon of purification depleted. In more recent times, people used to remain engaged in *Zikr-e-Qalbi*. They spent years in the company of those whose hearts radiated with the light that emanated from the Holy Prophet ^{SAW}. As a result, their morals were reformed, their conduct dignified and the flame to act on Shari'ah kindled in their bosoms. Then came a time when incompetent people took over as spiritual mentors through hereditary succession. The prestige of Taṣawwuf was tarnished by these incapable frauds who made it an assortment of absurd rituals. Such mimicry, however, does not reduce the effectiveness of the actual marvel called Taṣawwuf.

Interpreting Qurān is also the Holy Prophet's ^{SAW} Duty

After bodily and spiritual purification, the Holy Prophet ^{SAW} enlightened his Companions ^{RAU} with the knowledge and wisdom of the Qurān. It implies that to explain the meaning and context of Qurānic *Āyāt*, that is, its interpretation, is among his responsibilities; every plebeian is not authorized to interpret Qurān in any way he chooses. The Arabs were a people who were disgusted with their own

condition and knew that they were not on the right path but were ignorant of the Truth.

The Honour for Succeeding Generations

The believers, who follow the Companions^{-RAU} in time till the Day of Judgment, and who follow them in belief and practice would also be similarly blessed with the Barakah of the Holy Prophet^{-SAW}. It is a matter of great honour for the succeeding generations that they followed the footsteps of such illustrious souls as the Companions^{-RAU}. It also signifies the greatness of the Companions^{-RAU}. Allah is Predominant and Prudent. Benevolence and Generosity are His Attributes and He blesses anyone He chooses. The Companions^{-RAU} were blessed because they obeyed the Holy Prophet^{-SAW}, and whosoever obeys the Companions^{-RAU} would be blessed likewise. Allah is really Kind and Rewarding. He rewarded the illiterate and made them the most fortunate people. On the other hand, the Jew scholars who were famous for their knowledge, and considered themselves to be extremely wise, could not live upto the expectations of their own Book, the Torah.

A Hallmark of Knowledge

A hallmark of knowledge is that human conduct is enlightened by it. If knowledge does not influence action, it would not be called knowledge but information. The Jew scholars, despite having read thick volumes, are similar to donkeys loaded with tomes. They could not benefit from the wisdom of Torah and repudiated Qurān despite knowing it to be true from their own Book. They did not believe in the Holy Prophet^{-SAW} and thus committed the gravest of sins. Of course, Allah is Carefree and has no need to guide such flagrant sinners.

Even Jews did not Doubt the Holy Prophet's^{-SAW} Veracity

These unfortunate people claim to be the friends of Allah and a cut above the rest. Allah asks the Holy Prophet^{-SAW} to tell them to wish for death if they are so sure of their righteousness, in certification of their confident claims. But they understand that they would surely die if they make such a wish on his asking. They also recognize the profanity of their conduct. Therefore, they would never ever wish for death. They are terrified of the Ākhirah and Allah surely knows such wicked people.

Infidels and Evildoers are Terrified of Death

Another point that comes to light here is that the infidels and the evildoers, as a rule, are terrified of dying. It is a common observation in our immediate surroundings, particularly in the West where this dread has made the lives of the

non believers miserable. Everyone in those infidel societies is frightened without knowing the reason for it. They helplessly call it "Fear of the Unknown". The Qurān clearly warns such people that death they try to escape, is bound to catch up with them at the destined moment. They would then be produced before Allah, Knower of all things hidden and manifest, and their deeds would be unveiled in His Court.

Section 2

9. O you who believe! When the call is made to the Ṣalāt on Friday hasten to Allah's Zikr and leave off bargaining. That is better for you, if you know.
10. Then when the Ṣalāt is ended, disperse on the land and seek of the Grace of Allah, and remember Allah much; perhaps you may thrive.
11. And when they behold merchandise or sport, they flocked thereto, and left you standing. Say you: What is with Allah is far better than sport and merchandise, and Allah is the Best of Providers.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ
الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ
ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا
لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ
فَمَا مَاقُلْ مَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهْوِ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ
وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ ﴿١١﴾

Secrets of Revelation

The believers are instructed to suspend all mundane business as soon as they hear the Azān for Friday Ṣalāt, and go into the mosques duly prepared for it.

Rules of Friday

Friday is a sacred day for Muslims. This Ṣalāt is offered in place of the usual Ṣalāt-az-Zuhar. It is obligatory for all except women, patients and travellers; who can offer Zuhar as usual. When Azān is called on Friday, all temporal business stands prohibited. Friday Ṣalāt, according to religious scholars, can be offered in

localities with shops or Government offices, school, post office etc. Details may be seen in books on Fiqh. This Ṣalāt, along with its pre requisites and ingredients, has been termed as Ḍikr Allah by Qurān. Ḍikr, as described here, includes oral as well as practical Ḍikr. In both cases, it is essential to have a devoted heart. It is the best course of action for believers. Allah asks them to resume their business and earn their living once they are through with the Friday Ṣalāt.

Ḍikr-e-Qalbi

The believers are being ordered here to do Ḍikr much even while engaged in everyday work. Worldly pursuits normally require talking and it is not practically possible to remain engaged in oral Ḍikr at all times. Much Ḍikr is possible only when the heart is initiated. It is a great blessing if Allah gifts someone with Ḍikr-e-Qalbi, besides hymning His Praises which must also be carried out otherwise.

In the beginning, the Friday sermon used to be delivered after the Ṣalāt. One day, a trading caravan stopped at Madinah. Things of everyday use were in short supply and some people hurried away for purchases while the sermon was still on, assuming that Ṣalāt was over. Allah did not approve it since the Friday sermon is equivalent to two cycles of Ṣalāt. After this incident, the Holy Prophet^{SAW} shifted the sermon to precede the Ṣalāt, a practice that is followed till date. Allah asks the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to tell the believers hurrying for merchandise while he was delivering sermon that Allah's rewards are much more valuable than material provisions. Allah is the Best Provider of livelihood. Therefore, the worships must not be rushed through due to the apprehension of losing out on earnings. All elements of the worships must be performed wholeheartedly.