

سُورَةُ الْمَزْمَلِ

Sūrah al Muzzammil

(WRAPPED IN BLANKET)

Revealed at Makkah, it has two Sections and twenty Āyāt.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. O you enwrapped!
2. Keep vigil all night save a little.
3. Half of it, or a little less of it.
4. Or a little more. And intone the Qurān with a measured intonation.
5. Verily We! Soon We shall be casting on you a weighty word.
6. Verily the rising by night is most curbing and most conducive to right speech.
7. Verily for you is the day a prolonged occupation.
8. And remember you the Name of your Rabb and devote yourself to Him exclusively.
9. Rabb of the East and the West! No god is there but He! So take Him for your trustee.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَزْمُولُ ﴿١﴾

قُرْآنَيْلَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ﴿٢﴾

نِصْفَهُ؛ أَوْ أَنْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا ﴿٣﴾

أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ أَنْ تَتَبَيَّلًا ﴿٤﴾

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِي عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيلًا ﴿٥﴾

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْئًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلًا ﴿٦﴾

إِنَّ لَكَ فِي النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيلًا ﴿٧﴾

وَاذْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَقَبَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَتَبَيَّلًا ﴿٨﴾

رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا ﴿٩﴾

10. And bear you patiently with what they say, and depart you from them with a becoming departure.
11. And let Me alone with the beliers, owners of comfort and respite you them a little.
12. Verily with Us are heavy fetters and Scorch.
13. And a food that chokes and a painful torment.
14. On a Day when the earth and mountains shall quake and the mountains shall become a sand-heap poured forth.
15. Verily We have sent to you a Messenger, a witness over you, as We sent to the Pharaoh Messenger.
16. Then Pharaoh denied the Messenger, therefore We seized him with a painful grip.
17. How then, if you deny, shall you escape, on a Day that will make children grey-headed.
18. And the sky will be split therein. His Promise is certainly to be accomplished.
19. Verily this is an admonition; let him, therefore, who will, choose a way unto his Rabb.

وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَأَهْرُجْهُمْ هَجْرًا مَّيْلًا ﴿١٠﴾

وَذَرْنِي وَالْمُكَذِّبِينَ أُولِيَ النَّعْمَةِ وَمَهِّلْهُمْ قَلِيلًا ﴿١١﴾

إِنَّ لَدَيْنَا أَنْكَالًا وَجَحِيمًا ﴿١٢﴾

وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا ﴿١٣﴾

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَكَانَتِ الْجِبَالُ كَيْبًا مَّهِيلًا ﴿١٤﴾

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُدًى عَلَيْكَ كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ رَسُولًا ﴿١٥﴾

فَعَصَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ الرَّسُولَ فَأَخَذْنَاهُ أَخْدًا وَيْلًا ﴿١٦﴾

فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِن كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمَ مَا يُجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا ﴿١٧﴾

السَّمَاءُ مُنْفَطِرٌ بِهِ ۗ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَفْعُولًا ﴿١٨﴾

إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذَكُّرَةٌ ۖ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ﴿١٩﴾

Secrets of Revelation

O' the one wrapped in blanket! This is an expression of tender affection. Allah asks the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to wake up in the nights and stand in worship before Him. He may rest for a portion of the night, may stand for a little less or more than half of the night, and recite the Qurān in these hours of vigil in the most exquisite manner.

Tahajjud

These Āyāt were revealed in the earlier days of Islam and enjoined Tahajjud upon the Holy Prophet^{SAW} and the believers. And they were commanded to stand in worship for a major portion of the night, wherein to recite the Qurān in a measured, proper and beautiful manner. So the Holy Prophet^{SAW} and the Companions^{RAU} offered Tahajjud regularly and this continued for a year. His feet used to swell as a result because of prolonged standing. Then, five times Ṣalāt was enjoined on the Night of Ascension, and the obligation of Tahajjud annulled. However, the Holy Prophet^{SAW} kept offering Tahajjud for the rest of his life and, therefore, it is counted among his Sunnah.

Tartil-e-Qurān

This word *Tartil* means that the words of the Qurān be pronounced correctly and with ease. It includes a melodious voice. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} deeply appreciated the recitation of the Qurān in a beautiful voice. Allah informs him of the heavy responsibility He was about to lay on his shoulders – the duty to reform mankind, to call them towards truth and to battle against disbelief. Although it is cumbersome to wake up at night, yet it does usher in concentration and aligns ones words with his heart.

Strength of Qalb is Required for Fighting Disbelief

In other words, the Holy Prophet^{SAW} is being put through a strenuous exercise because the real force required to fight disbelief is the strength of Qalb, and the spiritual states of faith, acquired through Tahajjud. The Qurān acknowledges that he has a rough time during the day, preaching and teaching Allah's Word besides the economic problems and above all a fierce resistance from the infidels. To counter all odds, he is commanded to do *Zikr Allah* to an extent that all temporal distractions are set aside and only Allah's Name endures in his heart and mind.

Zikr Allah

This Āyah enjoins a particular form of worship. Though no time of day or night is fixed, yet it must be continued at all times, under all conditions. Tafsir-e-Mazharī terms it perpetual Zikr and Mu'arif-ul-Qurān asserts that it must persist day and night and must never be neglected. This meaning extends to Allah's Zikr in general, be it oral, practical or Qalbi. It further adds that the Holy Prophet^{SAW} never did oral Zikr in the toilets, so it is only Zikr-e-Qalbi that can continue at all times.

Zikr of His Name, that is, Repetition of Allah's Name - a Prescribed Worship

Tafsir-e-Mazharī explains that this Āyah specifies Zikr of His Personal Name. This implies that repetition of Allah's Name is desired as well as enjoined. Mufti Muhammad Shafi' in his Mu'arif-ul-Qurān writes that this Āyah negates the stand of certain scholars, who hold that doing Zikr by repeating 'Allah, Allah' is an innovation. The fact is that the Holy Prophet^{SAW} was commanded to engage in Zikr-e-Qalbi, indeed Allah's reward for each man and woman of the Ummah. Each and every body cell of a Prophet^{AS} is always engaged in Zikr. Even the dress he wears or the part of land he steps on engages in Zikr. A single glance by the Holy Prophet^{SAW} made each tree and stone, each particle of sand and the air it scanned through, engaged into His Zikr. If a believer initiates his heart by acquiring these Barakah from the Holy Prophet^{SAW}, he gets the courage to oppose infidelity else his whole life is obsessed with compromises. Allah is the Sustainer of East and the West, that is, the entire universe. None save Him deserves to be worshipped. So the Holy Prophet^{SAW} is asked to rely only on Him, braving patiently the virulent taunts of the infidels and when so required to separate from them in a dignified manner.

High Morals

A believer must, thereafter, display highest degree of manners in facing absurdities. He should be patient and when it is hard to bear such behaviour, he should separate from the perpetrators gracefully, without even complaining.

Allah asks the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to let Him take care of those choosing to deny and disbelieve. They have but little respite. Finally the infidels were humbled and Islam rose to power. And in the Ākhirah too, the manacles of Hell await them and the food that will choke their throats. This earth will one day jolt and shudder and the mountains will be pulverized. The world will then see its end.

O' people! We have sent to you **Our Prophet**^{SAW}, who will be a witness over you on the Day of Judgement with regard to the extent you obeyed him. A Prophet was similarly sent to the Pharaoh but he refused to listen and Allah's Wrath quickly seized him. If you do not accede then be prepared to meet a like end. What shall be your stance on the Day of Judgement, if you do not believe, a Day which by its length and gravity will cause little kids to age. The sky will explode and His Promise of Reckoning will be fulfilled. These arguments are manifest enough for those who choose the way enjoined by their Rabb.

Section 2

20. Verily your Rabb Knows that you stay up near two-thirds of the night, or a half of it, or a third of it, and also a party of those who are with you. And Allah measures the night and the day. He Knows that you cannot compute it; so He has relented towards you. Recite now of the Qurān so much as is easy. He Knows that there will be among you some sick, and others shall be travelling in the land seeking Grace of Allah, and some others shall be fighting in the Cause of Allah. Recite of it, therefore, so much as is easy, and establish Ṣalāt, and pay Zakāt, and lend unto Allah a goodly loan. Whatsoever good you will send on for your souls, you will find it with Allah, better and greater in reward. And beg forgiveness of Allah; verily Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ ثُلُثِي اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ
 وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ وَاللَّهُ يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ
 وَالنَّهَارَ عَلِيمٌ لِّمَا تَخْتَصِمُونَ فَأَنبَأْ عِبَادَكَ فَاقْرَءُوا
 مَا يَنْتَسِرُونَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ إِنِ عَلِمَ أَنَّ سَيَكُونُ مِنْكُمْ مَّرْضَىٰ
 وَءَاخِرُونَ بَصْرَ بُؤْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَتَّبِعُونَ مِنْ فَضْلِ
 اللَّهِ وَمَا يَخْرُونَ يُقْتَلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَاقْرَءُوا
 مَا يَنْتَسِرُونَ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ
 وَأَقْرِضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ
 مِنْ خَيْرٍ نَّجِدْهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرًا وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا
 وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلَّذِينَ أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٢٠﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Allah Knows for sure that the Holy Prophet^{SAW} and his Companions^{RALI} stand in worship, two thirds of the night or half of it or one third. Allah also definitely Knows the timings of days and nights, being the Creator. He Knows perfectly well that after striving throughout the day in pursuit of human needs and spreading His Word, it is indeed very hard on the believers.

Standing Long Hours was Mandatory in the Earlier Days

Allah mercifully revoked the requirement of extensive night vigil. Now the law of convenience shall apply and the obligation of Tahajjud stood revoked once Ṣalāt was enjoined.

He Knows that some may be sick and others toiling to earn a living, yet others may be actively engaged day and night in Jihād and fighting. So He allowed the believers to recite Qurān as much as is possible, to offer Ṣalāt five times punctually, to pay the poor due and to spend in His Cause voluntarily, as if extending a goodly loan to Him .

The Obligation of Ṣalāt and Zakāt

Ṣalāt was made obligatory during the Night of Ascension. Though Zakāt was enjoined at Makkah, yet its details as to quantity etc were revealed at Madinah. Earlier on, all alms in general were treated as Zakāt. To spend in Allah's Cause is like extending a loan to Him. The more one spends, the better it is for him as he will be rewarded stupendously. And keep begging for forgiveness from Him, as He is indeed Forgiving, Merciful.