

سُورَةُ الْعَلَقِ

Sūrah al 'Alaq

(THE CLOT)

Revealed at Makkah, it has nineteen Āyāt and only one Section.

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. Recite you in the name of your Rabb Who has created everything.
2. Has created man from a clot!
3. Recite you, and your Rabb is the Most Bountiful.
4. Who has taught man by the pen.
5. Has taught man what he knew not.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾

أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

6. No indeed: Verily man exorbitates.
7. As he considers himself self-sufficient.
8. Truly to your Rabb is the return.
9. Have you considered him who forbids.
10. A bondman of Ours when he offers Ṣalāt.
11. Have you considered, if he is himself guided.
12. Or, he commands piety?
13. Have you considered, if he denies and turns away?
14. Does he not know that Allah sees?
15. No indeed: If he desists not, We shall seize and deal him by the forelock.
16. A forelock, lying, sinning.
17. Well, then, let him call his assembly.
18. We also shall call the infernal guards.
19. No indeed! You not obey him. Continue to adore, and continue to draw near.

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَّا

أَن رَّاهُ أَكْفَرًا

إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرَّجِعُونَ

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يَنْهَىٰ

عَبْدًا إِذَا صَلَّىٰ

أَرَأَيْتَ إِن كَانَ عَلَىٰ هُدًىٰ

أَوْ أَمَرَ بِالْعَدْلِ

أَرَأَيْتَ إِن كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ

أَلَمْ يَعْلَم بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرَىٰ

كَلَّا لَئِن لَّمْ يَنْتَهِ لَنَنْصَبَنَّ

لنَّاصِيَةً كَذِبًا خَالِطَةً

فَلْيَدْعُ نَادِيَهُ

سَنَدْعُ الزَّبَانِيَةَ

كَلَّا لَا تُطِيعُهُمْ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ

Secrets of Revelation

The first five Āyāt comprise the very first revelation brought by Angel Jibril^{AS}. Details may be seen in the relevant books. Briefly the Holy Prophet^{SAW} would go

to seclusion in Cave Hira to contemplate in the Divine Being, to earnestly seek manifestation of the sublime Truth, until the Angel came and asked him to read. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} said that he could not read. The Angel embraced him thrice pressing hard insisting every time: "Read" and these five Āyāt were revealed. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} was overawed by Allah's Words, laden with His Refulgence.

Ḥadhrat Khadija^{RAU} a Literate Lady

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} returned home and asked his wife Khadija^{RAU} to cover him with a blanket. When she heard what had happened, she comforted him that persons of his calibre are never harmed.

Visit to Varqa bin Naufal

She took the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to her relative Varqa bin Naufal, a scholar of the earlier Divine Scriptures. This visit was not motivated by any doubts, but by the awe of the revelation which was confirmed by him. He also expressed his desire to be of any use to the Holy Prophet^{SAW} but passed away a few days later.

Read in the Name of your Rabb, the Creator, the Originator, Who created a beautiful human being from a clot. So read O' Prophet^{SAW}, for your Rabb is indeed Munificent. He Who has taught by the pen and blessed man with the capacity to document his experiences for the successive generations. He made these odd lines a discipline, and the strongest means of education. He also endowed many other means of learning, for instance, a suckling needs no instructions how to suck the milk. The majority of these means are associated with the pen while some are through listening, and others through experience. And finally there are feelings of the Qalb, transmitted from one heart to another. By way of all these means, Allah blessed man with knowledge, hitherto not in his reach. In other words, when humanity in general has been blessed with so much of knowledge by the Munificent Rabb, what He blessed His beloved Prophet^{SAW} with, cannot possibly be imagined.

And whoever denies the Holy Prophet^{SAW} is Allah's rebel, surely beguiled by his affluence or authority. Little does he realise that these are destined to end and everyone will ultimately have to return to His Court. And he is also forgetting realities like death and the subsequent quickening to face Him. And he dares impede others from Allah's obedience!

The Antagonists of Islamic System

Though these Āyāt were revealed when Abū Jahl impeded the Holy Prophet's^{SAW} Ṣalāt in K'abah yet these have a general application. Abiding by Shari'ah and the

Islamic System is an act of worship, and those who impede its course or oppose it ought to ponder. Had Abū Jahl been on the right path he would have sincerely advised others to obey Allah and created a congenial environment instead of becoming an antagonist. But he not only refuted but also turned his face away from the Truth.

It did not cross his mind that Allah was watching him and that he would soon be dragged by his forelocks, duly humiliated as a liar and a sinner in this world and utterly doomed in Ākhirah. He was finally killed in the Battle of Badr and his head dragged to the Holy Prophet^{SAW}. And what awaits him in the Ākhirah is unimaginable. Such arrogants will be called upon to call out their helpers or consultants to see if they could be of any service to them and Allah shall impose angels of Hell upon them. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} need not be bothered with what they say and must ignore them completely. Rather he must do Sajdah before his Rabb, a symbol of excellence in worship and obedience, to win yet higher grades.

Nearness Through Obligatory and Supererogatory Worship

Though every act of Shari'ah amounts to Sajdah yet priority goes to the obligatory acts, whether of worship or of mutual dealings. Conducting these affairs diligently and sincerely ensures elevation in grades. Following the obligatory are the supererogatory acts aimed at attaining His Pleasure and nearness in conformity to Shari'ah. If anyone neglects the obligatory aspects, his supererogatory worship is doubtful, for instance, Ṣalāt is neglected and engagement in Allah's Zikr throughout the night is claimed. This is ignorance.