

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ

RECITE IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD

All praises are due to Allah . Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

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4 MAY 2023 | 14 SHAWWAL 1444 | CLASS # 21

INTRODUCTION

- Surah Al 'Alaq was the start of revelation, prophethood and a new life.
- To recite is not only to read. The word (اقْرَأْ) means to follow. When the revelation comes and we start to know Who is Allah, we follow His nurturing with His words.
- Before Prophethood and revelation, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to have dreams and visions that started to become true.

- At that time, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) also made him love to be in solitude. It was a time of clearing the mind, to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and a time to ponder and reflect.
- We have all gone through moments in our lives when we were in some kind of attachment and we took a step back to think - 'what am I doing?'. We don't know how the hearts open and the guidance comes.
- In this time Khadija (رضى الله عنها) used to bring food to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and he was alone for most of the time. This period lasted for around 6 months. This was a time of purification, when he received the revelation and met Jibreel (عليه السلام).

- We want to know and remember these times and feel the honor to have the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), to have this Book and to be from this ummah. We can easily forget and not feel the heaviness of these blessings but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) always reminds us.
- The word (عَلَقَ) means a clot. It also means relation and attachment. The first ayat ever revealed is about attachment.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will never detach from us. Even if we take ourselves out, He will always open attachment for us.
- The theme of the surah is the command to knowledge and writing. We see how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) honored this human being and this connects with Surah At Teen as well.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ



- This surah talks about submission, the Straight Path and about knowledge and action.
- There is completion of attachment in the surah. There is input and output- the relation is not one-way.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) takes care of us and at the same time we want to show devotion to Him.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 1

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Recite in the name of your Lord who created -

- The Name Ar Rabb (الرب) is repeated in the surah. We do not want to miss out of His nurturing.
- With Ar Rabb, there is closeness. As if our Rabb is telling us 'you are under My Eyes and Care'. There is much love, connection and mercy in this connection.
- Our Rabb has always been taking care of us but when we believe in Him and feel His special nurturing, the feelings, love and care is even more special. Even if we are alone, there is warmth and tenderness in the heart.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 2, 3

2.

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

Created man from a clinging substance.

3.

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous -

- The word (عَلَقٍ) takes us back to our origin. He has always been our Rabb.
- In the time of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), no one knew the stages of development of a baby in the womb.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is explaining this phase of our lives when no one knew about it.
- Our Rabb took care of us when we were hidden from everyone else so surely He will take care of us now when we are outside.

ALLAH AL KHAALIQ

(The Creator)

- There is no Creator like Him. He creates without any sample or example before. Anything we create, is based on an example.
- Since He is Al Khaaliq (The Creator), He owns us and He will set our affairs in the best way. He will set what kind of land and environment, we need to be on. He created us to live on this earth and He will take us back to Him. Our second creation will be in the form of bodies that do not die. Only Allah Al Khaaliq can create this.
- Every creation that people make in this world is based on some creation that already exists.

- For example, planes are like birds. Submarines are like whales. Velcros were invented based on inspiration from cotton.
- People study about mosquitoes and how they bite in order to enhance and improve the way needles work.
- Cat eyes have a certain pigment in their eyes that makes their eyes reflect in the dark. From this same concept, they made jackets that reflect and glow in the night.
- People studied about the woodpecker - how it moves it's head on strong trees and does not have a concussion. They studied its skull that has holes that prevents its head from being hurt. The intensity of its pecking is similar to a car crash.

SURAH AL MU'MINOON 14

فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ

So blessed is Allah , the best of creators.

- Only Allah Al Khaaliq can decree how things are created.

SURAH LUQMAN 11

هَذَا خَلْقُ اللَّهِ فَأَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ ۗ بَلِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

This is the creation of Allah . So show Me what those other than Him have created. Rather, the wrongdoers are in clear error.

- It is not for us to be amazed by any human but to go higher to the Creator.
- Every creation has a benefit. He subjected everything to us, yet still there are those who disbelieve and think they are self-sufficient?

- There are many factors to consider in any human creation- from designing, acquiring materials and production. But Allah (سبحانه) creates in a blink of an eye (وتعالى)
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can never ever be compared to His creation. It is unfair.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 4, 5

4.

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

Who taught by the pen -

5.

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

Taught man that which he knew not.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) honored Adam with knowledge. The angels prostrated to him out of honor. Even now, the angels encircle the study circles. They lower their wings to the student of knowledge.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 6 TO 8

6.

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَيْطَغَىٰ

No! [But] indeed, man transgresses

7.

أَن رَّأَهُ اسْتَغْنَىٰ

Because he sees himself self-sufficient.

8.

إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرُّجْعَىٰ

Indeed, to your Lord is the return.

- The objective of knowledge is not turn away from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) or feel self-sufficient. But to feel more in need and humble to Him.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 9, 10

9.

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يَنْهَىٰ

Have you seen the one who forbids

10.

عَبْدًا إِذَا صَلَّىٰ

A servant when he prays?

- This ayah refers to Abu Jahl, the uncle of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) who wanted to harm the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) but he saw angels who were ready to rip him apart.

- When one feels self-sufficient, he will not only transgress against himself but against others.
- He wanted to harm a someone who is a slave connecting to his Rabb.
- May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us from bringing ourselves up. Our position is to be slave of Allah.
- We do not want to stop anyone from connecting to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 11

أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ كَانَ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ

Have you seen if he is upon guidance

- Guidance is knowledge and action and this shows completion.
- There is always completion. There is laa ilaaha illa Allah (There is no one worthy of worship

except Allah) and also Muhammed Rasool Allah (Muhammed is the Messenger of Allah).

- There is ikhlas (sincerity) and ittiba (following the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)).
- Knowledge required action the action is to submit to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by the knowledge He teaches us.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 12

أَوْ أَمَرَ بِالتَّقْوَىٰ

Or enjoins righteousness?

- The one who acts on knowledge calls to taqwa and not desires.
- In the beginning one may talk without thinking but with time he will have taqwa (cautiousness) so he only speaks based on

what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said.

- There is taqwa (cautiousness) in what we say, how we say and the speech we say.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 13, 14

13.

أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ

Have you seen if he denies and turns away -

14.

أَلَمْ يَعْلَم بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرَىٰ

Does he not know that Allah sees?

- But he denies and turns away not realizing that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) sees.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 15, 16

15.

كَأَلَيْسَ لِمَنْ يَنْتَهٰهُ لِنْفَعًا بِالنَّاصِيَةِ

No! If he does not desist, We will surely drag him
by the forelock -

16.

نَاصِيَةٍ كَاذِبَةٍ خَاطِئَةٍ

A lying, sinning forelock.

- The (النَّاصِيَةِ) is is place of lying and this shows us more that Allah is the Creator.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 17, 18

17.

فَلْيَدْعُ نَادِيَهُ

Then let him call his associates;

18.

سَنَدْعُ الزَّبَانِيَةَ

We will call the angels of Hell.

- He thinks he can call his people.

SURAH AL 'ALAQ 19

كَأَلَّا لَا تُطَعُّهُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ ۝

No! Do not obey him. But prostrate and draw near [to Allah].

- Submission is what will bring us closer to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- There is no obedience to a creation while disobeying the Creator. This is a measure for anything we do.. Am I obeying or disobeying Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) but doing this?
- The beginning is about creation and knowledge and the ending is with action by submission.
- True submission is not by hating something or thinking 'oh no the test has come and I have to submit.'
- When we highlight Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in the nurturing, it completes the picture and makes matters easy.

- The nafs cannot give us vastness. Vastness is with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), by saying our Rabb is Allah and by being pleased with His nurturing.
- Sometimes we face tests and internally struggle to submit while fully aware that we are not submitting. There is an internal dialogue going back and forth where we remind ourselves of the knowledge, ayat, hadith and the truth and yet we cannot feel true submission. Only our Rabb can pull us out from these moments. And once we cross the test, He shows us that nothing is lost and everything is in its' right place.
- With submission He shows how He is taking care of us to have full trust in Him and not be scared. This is faith.

- In conclusion, this combination of knowledge and action and also belief in Allah (سبحانه) and the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) shows us that this is the Straight Path. Moreover, this shows us that this is the path of those He has favored.
- This is the start of revelation. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will not leave us without teaching us about Himself.

SUPPLICATION TO BE PLEASED WITH ALLAH AS OUR RABB

رَضِيتُ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ نَبِيًّا

I am pleased with Allah as a Lord, and Islam as a religion and Muhammad as a Prophet

MAY ALLAH MAKE US DIE AS MUSLIMS. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. تفسير الشيخ السعدي - TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LISTEN TO THE CLASS – FOR WOMEN

<https://vimeopro.com/markazalsalam/recite-in-the-name-of-your-lord>

TO REQUEST ACCESS TO THE RECORDING: <https://markazalsalam.com/recordings-notes>

CLASS NOTES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

FOR STUDENTS OF KNOWLEDGE, TEACHERS AND DA'EES IN ENGLISH

<https://t.me/markazalsalampublicationsENG>

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