

اَقْرَأْ 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

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ

## RECITE IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD

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### INTRODUCTION

- Previously in Surah Al Balad we saw that a person not only has to overcome himself but to be useful in society.
- If a person only thinks of himself and disables himself, he cannot go forward. There cannot be progression after this.
- Yet, even if we miss these chances, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) reminds us to purify ourselves.
- Now we will go deeper into this purification with Surah Ash Shams.

# SURAH AL SHAMS



- The theme of Surah Ash Shams is the importance of tazkiya of the nafs.
- We may think tazkiya is only purification but actually tazkiya is both purification and beautification.
- This surah has eleven oaths and this is the most number of oaths in one surah from the whole Qur'an.

- This shows the gravity and magnitude of what Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) swears by in the surah.
- We can only swear by Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and no one else.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Al Mu'min, He is the verifier of the Truth still He swears to show how strong the message is from Him and it shows His mercy.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can swear by anything He wants but we can only swear by Him.
- Now we look at the oaths and what is the subject of the truth for which Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) takes eleven oaths.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 1

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا

By the sun and its brightness

- The sun is a great ayah from the ayat of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). Nothing can be as clear as the sun.
- A town has to install several electricity grids to provide energy to everyone. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has provided us with a source of energy free of charge that is available to everyone.
- The maintenance behind an electricity grid is not easy but here Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) shows us His sign of the sun.
- He is operating it everyday and set its' heat for us.
- The sun is considered a star but the brightness is so great and clear that no one can miss it.
- No one can miss these signs. no one can say I didn't see a sun.



- The word (وَضُحَاهَا) means the brightness of the sun.
- The sun emits rays and this takes time. It constantly emitting rays.
- The truth is always there. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) will always show us the way, He is always our Rabb.
- We also have the dhuha prayer which starts 15 minutes from shuroq till about 15 minutes before dhuhhr time. This is a peak time. This is a highly recommend voluntary prayer.
- How much Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) has honored this human and placed great creation to show how great our lives are.
- The word also comes from (الضحية) - sacrifice. The sun is always giving.

- This is part of the purification, to give from what is good to benefit.
- There is much benefit from the rays of the sun.
- May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) help us to give from whatever good He gave us. These are all means of purification.
- The human being can benefit himself and others so much in a way pleasing to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- We can see huge ayat and forget the greatness of the Creator.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 2

وَالْقَمَرَ إِذَا تَلَاهَا

And [by] the moon when it follows it

- Then this moon will follow the sun.

- When the truth and ayat come, they are not there for us to leave them but to follow and continue on this path.

### SURAH ASH SHAMS 3

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا جَلَّاهَا

And [by] the day when it displays it

- When this day is being displayed and it's light is being shown.
- The ayat are not only for display but to benefit and to follow the guidance from it.
- The word (جَلَّاهَا) shows there is much greatness in it.
- If a person follows this ayat, the light will show on him. When you follow the light from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), and start to apply it, then it will show.



## SURAH ASH SHAMS 4

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا

And [by] the night when it covers it

- There are stages, day and night, sun and moon. When opportunities come we want to take it and not miss it.
- We have multiple opportunities of guidance but we need to submit to the truth and to His ayat.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 5

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا

And [by] the sky and He who constructed it

- The word (بَنَاهَا) is referring to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) Who built the sky.
- We think we build but only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) can build with pillars we cannot see.
- These ayat are so beautiful.

- We want purification to be elevated and come closer to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 6

وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَّاهَا

And [by] the earth and He who spread it

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made the earth stretched, this guidance and way to Him easy.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) made it smooth and easy to walk on.
- The word (طحن) is to grind. Baking flour also has this root and it is something that has been grounded so its smoothened.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 7

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا

And [by] the soul and He who proportioned it

- This nafs which only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) created.
- Sometimes a person can go deep in trying to understand the nafs. It can go high into the sky and low into the earth. It can be beaming the whole day and dimmed the whole night.
- There is so much fascination with it.
- But Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) tells us that He created the nafs in proportion, equal, fair and just and not imbalanced.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) created us on the fitrah and the fitrah loves justice. It loves truth and hates lies, it loves good and hates bad. It loves those who do good and hates those who do bad. It loves to be beneficial, and hates harming, it

loves to be giving and hates withholding. It loves to be humble and hates arrogance.

- All of these are oaths.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 8

فَاللَّهِمَّهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا

And inspired it [with discernment of] its wickedness and its righteousness,

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has made it clear to it what will cause it to become wicked. What can cause it to explode, lose its proportion or to have taqwa.
- Taqwa is like having a shield and to put everything in its right place.
- Now comes the subject of the oath.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 9

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا

He has succeeded who purifies it,

- Whoever does tazkiya - meaning if there is purification and growth then there will be success.
- We do not remain in the state of purification but to have growth
- Like in school we are not going through the same lessons again and again. But we learn, understand and move on.
- How do we purify the nafs? In a way pleasing to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- If we try to purify in a way not ordained on us, there will not be purification.
- Anything Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) brings to us is for our tazkiya.
- We do not know what Allah can bring to us for both our purification and growth.

- When decrees come, it is important to think good of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 10

وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا

And he has failed who instills it [with corruption].

- When a person covers from its goodness, he will disgrace it.
- For example if someone fails a math test, he stretches it too far and blames himself. He puts himself down too much and sees himself as a complete failure.
- Can he be uplifted like this? No.
- The way of purification and growth is not to stop.
- The decrees are not coming to disintegrate us, we do not want to misinterpret matters.



- One failure does not define our whole life.
- We go back to ourselves but do not blame ourselves forever.
- There is purification and also growth and not to remain in one place.
- Sometimes we may be nurtured and see our mistakes and feel so overwhelmed to feel there is no sun after. But it is a rotation so we move on.
- But the one who is corrupted in his thoughts, words and actions, he is humiliated.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 11

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِطَغْوَاهَا

Thamud denied [their prophet] by reason of their transgression,

- Now Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives an example of someone who did not purify themselves.

- They transgressed like many other past nations but what is distinct about Thamud is that they asked for an ayah from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gave them the physical ability to create and build but they asked for an ayah.
- The way they asked also showed arrogance.
- It showed like they were trying to outsmart Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and challenge Him.
- They asked for not only a camel, but a she-camel. Not only a she-camel, but a pregnant she-camel. Not only a pregnant she-camel but a 10 month pregnant she-camel.
- Their attitude was one of underestimating and challenging Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) brought an ayah exactly with their specifications but with conditions that they drink one day and she drinks on the next.
- This shows that we should not cross boundaries with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by asking for ayat from him while being surrounded by them.
- They wanted to kill the ayah after this. This is an ayah that came specifically from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) for them.
- As if you ask for something specific from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and hate it after. This is misbehavior with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 12

إِذْ أَنْبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا

When the most wretched of them was sent forth.

- They chose a man perceived as a failure, someone hopeless to kill this she-camel.
- But all of them were witness to it.

### SURAH ASH SHAMS 13 & 14

13.

فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا

And the messenger of Allah [Salih] said to them, "[Do not harm] the she-camel of Allah or [prevent her from] her drink."

14.

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا

But they denied him and hamstrung her. So their Lord brought down upon them destruction for their sin and made it equal [upon all of them].

- Their destruction came with a loud cry from above that then shook the ground.

- Sometimes when we go to a loud place, we can feel the earth vibrating. May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) protect us from any torment.

## SURAH ASH SHAMS 15

وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبَاهَا

And He does not fear the consequence thereof.

- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) will never fear the consequences of this. He will not fear anyone
- He is the Most Great.
- If a person says to another, 'purify yourself' it is different from if he says, 'I swear to you, purify yourself'. The second one is more intense.
- Imagine Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is swearing for us to purify ourselves.

## SUPPLICATION FOR TAQWA

اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا، وَزَكِّهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا، أَنْتَ وَلِيِّهَا  
وَمَوْلَاهَا

*Allaahumma aati nafsee taq-waaha wa zak-  
kiha anta khairu man zak-kaaha anta wali-yuha  
wa maw-laaha*

O Allah, give my soul piety and purify it, for indeed You are the best of those who can purify it, You are it's Guardian and Master.<sup>1</sup>

- We ask Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to let this taqwa come to my nafs with ease.
- For example, someone tells you, 'you were late today'. Then you think 'oh I learnt, the one who leaves arguments gets a house in jannah'. Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) guides you to remember this hadith, to really it, to act on it.
- There may be many ways to have taqwa, but the best way is from Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). You

<sup>1</sup> Muslim No# 2722 An-Nasa'i No# 5458, 5538



are the One Who created my nafs, and know how to purify it. He knows our nafs more than ourselves.

- We ask Allah Al Wali Who will not leave us and is always there to support us.
- We need allies to share our strengths and be protected from enemies who can harm us.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is our Wali Who will take care of us.
- We can feel like giving up on ourselves but our Wali will handle our nafs and not give up on it.
- Mowla - is the Loving Companion. There are so much feelings after this. He loves us, cares for us and wants our nafs to be purified.
- Tazkiya is first purification from any stain. If we see there is dirt in a water, we want to first

clean the water. We do not want to drink it or give others but we want to first purify.

- For example if we have thinking bad of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in us, we want to be purified from this. Otherwise we will put ourselves and others down. We purify ourselves by reminding ourselves that He knows and that His decree is the best. He is Al Hakeem- there are matters we do not know about. When we start to remove bad thinking of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) then it will be filled with correct thinking.
- Then when we go through a decree, we think good.
- We strive to use everything as an opportunity to be purified and beautified. This is how to be higher and return to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) pure and good, in a way pleasing to Him.

## NURTURING LESSONS

- Allah (سَوَّاهَا) (سبحانه وتعالى) the nafs. He swears by the nafs and the One Who leveled each one of us individually.
- If we do not do tazkiya to have a leveled nafs, then Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) gives an example of a people who were leveled in punishment.

### SURAH ASH SHAMS 14

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا

But they denied him and hamstrung her. So their Lord brought down upon them destruction for their sin and made it equal [upon all of them].

اللَّهُمَّ أَتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا، وَزَكِّهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرُ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا، أَنْتَ وَلِيُّهَا وَمَوْلَاهَا

ALLAAHUMMA AATI NAFSEE TAQ-WAAHA WA ZAK-KIHA ANTA KHAIRU MAN ZAK-KAAHA ANTA WALI-YUHA WA MAW-LAAHA

O ALLAH, GIVE MY SOUL PIETY AND PURIFY IT, FOR INDEED YOU ARE THE BEST OF THOSE WHO CAN PURIFY IT, YOU ARE IT'S GUARDIAN AND MASTER.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Muslim No# 2722 An-Nasa'i No# 5458, 5538

## REFERENCES

1. تفسیر الشیخ 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

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