

# KEY CONCEPTS AND KEY AYAAT OF EACH SURA OF THE QUR'AN



## The Qur'an

“The Qur'an is living, its message never dies. It turns like the turn of day and night; it is in motion like the sun and moon. It will embrace the last of us, the way it embraced the first of us”.

### ***Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)***

The Qur'an is that which was revealed as the final message of Allah to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) during the last 23 years of his life. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was amongst the Arabs of Makka who were highly skilled in poetry and literature and the Qur'an challenged them at their own art.

There are over 6000 *ayaat* (verses) in the Qur'an in 114 *suwer* (chapters). An *aya* (verse) means various things – a sign, miracle, wonder... An *aya* in the Qur'an varies from being a single letter (38:1), to over half a page of text (2:282). For those reading it in a month, the Qur'an is divided into 30 equal parts – *Juz* (pl. *Ajzaa*) without disturbing the original divisions formed by the *ayaat* and *suwer*.

Each *sura* is also divided into sections of *ayaat* called a *ruku*. The *ruku* is indicated by the sign ع. This sign usually appears with three numbers: the top number signifies the number of *ruku* in the *sura*. The middle number – the number of *ayaat* in that *ruku*, and the bottom number the number of the *ruku* in the *juz*.

## **1. Al-Fatihah: The Opening**

### **7 verses in 1 section**

Other names: Ummul Kitab (Mother of the Book), Al Hamd (The Praise), & Saba' Mathani 15:87 (the seven oft repeated verses).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said: "There can be no prayer which does not have Suratul Fatiha as its basis".

The sura can be divided into three sections:

- The first is an exposition of reality and awakening to His attributes.
- The next section is where the heart cries out in recognition of the relationship between the Creator and the created and makes a request for guidance.
- The third part is like the echo of reality in order to confirm the request and answer it.

## **2. Al-Baqarah: The Cow**

### **286 verses in 40 sections**

The title is taken from the cow, which Prophet Musa (pbuh) wanted the Children of Israel to sacrifice as directed by Allah. The sura addresses a wide variety of topics telling the stories of Prophets Adam, Musa and Ibrahim (pbuh). The major theme is guidance. The sura comprises more than one tenth of the Qur'an.

- 2:127 Our Lord! accept from us; surely You are the Hearing, the Knowing
- 2:129 Dua of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) answered in 62:2
- 2:148 Direction (Goal)
- 2:156 Indeed we are from Allah and to Him we shall surely return
- 2:158 Safa and Marwa
- 2:173 Forbidden meat
- 2:144 Qibla
- 2:183 Fasting (Sawm)
- 2:186 Dua

- Our Lord! grant us good in this world and  
2:201 good in the hereafter, and save us from  
the punishment of the fire
- 2:207 Ali (pbuh) in hijra
- 2:219 Intoxicants and gambling
- 2:222 Menstruation
- 2:255 Ayatul Kursi
- 2:264 Charity
- 2:285 Aamanar Rasul

### **3. Al' Imran: The Family of Imran** **200 verses in 20 sections**

Imran was a common ancestor of Prophets Musa (pbuh) and Isa (pbuh). The sura has two major messages each discussed in one of two sections. The first section guides on how to resist temptation and immorality from external sources whilst the second section guides on how to resist immorality from within.

- 3:8            Our Lord! make not our hearts to deviate after You have guided us aright, and grant us from Your mercy; surely You are the most liberal Giver
- 3:18            Ayatush Shahada
- 3:26            Ayatul Mulk
- 3:31            Love Allah
- 3:35            Story of Maryam and Prophet Isa (pbuh)
- 3:54            Allah's plans are the best
- 3:61            Event of Mubahila
- 3:92            Righteousness
- 3:104-110    Amr bil Ma'ruf and Nahyi anil Munkar
- 3:123            Battle of Badr
- 3:133            Forgiveness

3:145	Death
3:160	Allah's help
3:169	Shaheed
3:185	Death



#### **4. Al-Nisa': Women** **176 verses in 24 sections**

The sura deals extensively with matters relating to women, and their rights and responsibilities. It also describes a variety of other legal and ethical topics, such as inheritance, marriage, and orphans.

4:17	Tawba
4:23	Mahram
4:31	Big and small sins
4:43	Tayammum
4:78	Death
4:86	Salaam
4:94	No assumptions without investigation
4:101	Qasr Salaa
4:103	Ta'qibat
4:111	Sin
4:148	Hurtful speech
4:176	Inheritance

## **5. Al-Ma'idah: The Table**

### **120 verses arranged in 16 sections**

The main topics of the sura are the missions of Prophets Isa and Musa (pbuh). The name is derived from when the disciples of Prophet Isa (pbuh) asked for the rules governing food, and asked to have a table of food sent down from Heaven.

- 5:3            Last aya revealed – This day I have perfected your religion...
- 5:6            Wudhoo and Tayammum
- 5:27-31      Story of Habil and Qabil
- 5:32          Saving a life is like saving all humanity
- 5:35          Wasila
- 5:38          Theft
- 5:55          Giving of a ring in ruku
- 5:67          Ayatut Tableegh
- 5:90-91      Gambling
- 5:114        Table

## **6. Al-An'am: Livestock**

### **165 verses in 20 sections**

Livestock here comprises of all camels, cows, sheep and goats which are mentioned as having been dedicated to other deities. The main topics covered are monotheism, resurrection, Heaven and Hell.

- 6:59        Keys of unseen treasure with Allah
- 6:63        Who delivers from danger?
- 6:141       Extravagance
- 6:160       Good deeds
- 6:162       Say: surely my prayer and my sacrifice  
              and my life and my death are (all) for  
              Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

## **7. Al-A'raf: The Heights**

### **206 verses in 24 sections**

The Heights which give the sura its title presents a vivid picture of Heaven and Hell. This refers to a lofty bridge suspended between Heaven and Hell.

- 7:23            1st Dua - recited by Prophet Adam (pbuh)
- 7:26            Clothing
- 7:48            A'raaf
- 7:106-108    Prophet Musa's (pbuh) miracles
- 7:121           Conversion of magicians of Pharaoh
- 7:126           Our Lord!: pour upon us patience and  
                         make us to die in submission to You
- 7:142           Prophet Musa (pbuh) and 40 nights with  
                         God
- 7:155           Acknowledge our good deeds in this  
                         world and hereafter
- 7:163-166    The Sabbath breakers
- 7:204           Etiquette of listening to the Qur'an
- 7:206           Mustahab Sajda

## **8. Al-Anfal: The Spoils of War**

**75 verses in 10 sections**

This sura refers to events surrounding the Battle of Badr. The title refers to the disposal of the windfalls or spoils acquired in such battles.

8:1	Anfal
8:24	Life
8:29	Forgiveness
8:41	Khums
8:53	Qadha and Qadr

## **9. Al-Bara'ah: Declaration of Immunity**

### **129 verses arranged in 16 sections**

Other names: Suratut Tawba (Repentance).  
Some parts of the sura were revealed before the Battle of Tabuk, some parts during the Battle, and other parts were revealed after it. It is the only sura of the Qur'an that does not begin with the Bismillah. The Bismillah is an indication of mercy and security, while this sura starts with the declaration of immunity towards those who oppose monotheism.

9:1	Bara'a (Declaration of immunity)
9:36	4 sacred months
9:38	Life of the world
9:60	Alms
9:71	Amr bil Ma'ruf and Nahyi anil Munkar
9:78	Knower of the Unseen
9:104	Tawba
9:112	Nine qualities of success
9:119	Truth
9:129	Trust in Allah

## **10. Yunus: Jonah**

### **109 verses in 11 sections**

This sura's main topics are monotheism, the authenticity of the Qur'an, answers to those who deny revelation, drawing attention to the glory of the Creator, and a focus on life after death. Prophet Yunus (pbuh) is mentioned in section 10. There is a close connection with the previous sura 9, because this one rounds off its contents and shows how His mercy predominates.

10:12	When in trouble....
10:57	Qur'an
10:61	Atoms
10:90	Pharaoh submits when drowning
10:98	Prophet Yunus (pbuh) Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh)
10:104	testimony

## **11. Hud: Hud**

### **123 verses in 10 sections**

The Prophet (pbuh) once said: “The Suratu Hud caused my hair to turn grey on account of this verse (112)”, which recommended perseverance and persistence. Attention is devoted to the history of the Prophets, in particular, Prophet Nuh (pbuh); the study of which reveals the secrets of the rise and fall of nations. Every society’s destiny depends entirely upon its people’s religion and way of life. Prophet Hud (pbuh) who was a Prophet sent to the people of ‘Aad (Southern Arabia) is mentioned five times in this

- 11:3          Forgiveness
- 11:9,10      Ungrateful and boasting
- 11:50        Prophet Hud (pbuh)
- 11:112      Perseverance
- 11:114      Salaa times



## **12. Yusuf: Joseph**

### **111 verses in 12 sections**

The sura presents different highlights of a single story in ten sections. The Qur'an itself calls it "The best of stories" (Ahsanul Qasas). It focuses on the life of Prophet Yusuf (pbuh) giving instructive lessons for contemplation on emotional issues of jealousy, and of purity and virtue versus passion. Unlike the stories of the other Prophets recounted in the Qur'an, which usually deal with the issue of their outward struggles, the story of Yusuf (pbuh) revolves around his internal struggles through difficult stages of life, from sibling rivalry and eventually culminating with him becoming a statesman and actualising his father Prophet Yaqub's (pbuh) dream.

- 12:4 Prophet Yusuf (pbuh)
- 12:86 Complain only to Allah
- 12:100 Allah is 'Lateef'

### **13. Al-Ra'ad: Thunder**

**43 verses in 6 sections**

Suratur Ra'd begins with faith, certainty and the divine court of justice on the Day of Judgement. It stresses on the law of consequences and thus the accountability of each human being by pointing to their responsibilities and duties. The name comes from the mention of thunder glorifying Him in verse 13.

- 13:13      Thunder
- 13:15      Mustahab Sajda
- 13:28      Peace of heart

## **14. Ibrahim: Ibrahim**

### **52 verses in 7 sections**

The sura relates the missions of the Prophets and their admonitions as well as the prayer of Prophet Ibrahim (pbih) followed by a graphic picture of the Day of Judgement.

- 14:7        Gratefulness
- 14:24      Good words
- 14:26      Evil words
- 14:34      He grants whatever is asked for
- 14:35      Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)  
My Lord! make me keep up prayer and  
my offspring (too), O our Lord, accept  
my prayer
- 14:40

## **15. Al-Hijr: The Rock**

### **99 verses in 6 sections**

'Hijr' is the name of a town where the people of Prophet Salih (pbuh) used to live; a community north of Madina on the route to Syria. The sura discusses the false accusations against the Prophet (pbuh) and the Qur'an. It provides comfort to the Prophet (pbuh) after the death of Khadijah (pbuh) and Abu Talib (pbuh). The story of the creation of the human being and the arrogance of Shaytan and his ultimate destiny is told in this sura. There is also a mention of the people of Prophets Lut (pbuh), and Shu'ayb (pbuh).

- 15:9 Allah is the guardian of the Qur'an
- 15:80 Rock city (Hijr)
- 15:87 7 oft repeated verses (Suratul Fatiha)

## **16. Al-Nahl: The Bee**

### **128 verses in 16 sections**

This sura is also known as the Sura of the Blessings.

It covers Divine blessings, reasons for monotheism and resurrection, and warns against committing injustice, indecency, breaking of one's promises, making up innovations, and giving in to temptations.

- 16:18 Not able to compute His favours
- 16:28 Answer of unjust when faced with death
- 16:32 Angels address to those who are righteous
- 16:50 Mustahab Sajda
- 16:68 Nahl (The bee)
- 16:78 Thankfulness
- 16:115 Rules for halal meat
- 16:125 Tableegh

## **17. Israa: The Night Journey**

### **111 verses in 12 sections**

Other names: Bani Israil (The Children of Israil). It takes its name 'Isra' from the first verse which refers to the ascension of the Prophet (pbuh) also known as Mi'raj to the heavens. It is also known as 'Bani Isra'il' for recounting the story of the children of Israil. The sura is often referred to as 'Subhan' for its first word which glorifies Allah. As in the case of other Makkan suwer, it deals with issues such as monotheism, resurrection, and struggle against injustice and deviation. The sura ends with His Praise.

17:1	Mi'raj
17:9	Guidance of Qur'an
17:11	Hastiness of human beings
17:13	One's actions dictate one's destiny
17:23	Parents
	O my Lord! have compassion on them
17:24	(parents), as they brought me up (when I was) little.
17:79	Tahajjud (Shab)
17:82	Qur'an a healing and mercy

17:109 Mustahab Sajda

17:110 Asmaaul Husna

## **18. Al-Kahf: The Cave**

### **110 verses in 12 sections**

The title is from the main narration of the “Sleepers in the Cave”. Towards the end, the encounter of Prophet Musa (pbuh) with Prophet Khidr (pbuh) and the story of Zhihqarnayn

18:9	People of the cave
18:23	Do not say tomorrow
18:46	Wealth and children adornment of the world
18:60	Prophets Musa (pbuh) and Khidr (pbuh)
18:83	Zhihqarnayn
18:94	Yajuj (Gog) and Majuj (Magog)
18:103	Greatest losers
18:109	Words of Allah inexhaustible



## **19. Maryam: Mary**

### **98 verses in 6 sections**

Allah has mentioned no woman in the Qur'an directly by her proper name except Maryam (pbuh). The birth of Prophet Isa (pbuh) is narrated and it is the ayaat which were read to the Emperor of Ethiopia during the first Hijra. The sura relays matters concerning the Hereafter, and part of the account of the lives of Prophets Zakariyya, Isa, Yahya, Ibrahim, Musa, Ismail and Idrees (pbuh). In verse 97 Allah says that the purpose of revealing this sura is to give 'glad tidings and warnings'.

19:2	Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh)
19:12	Prophet Yahya (pbuh)
19:16	Maryam (pbuh)
19:34	Prophet Isa (pbuh)
19:41	Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)
19:51	Prophet Musa (pbuh)
19:54	Prophet Ismail (pbuh)
19:56	Prophet Idrees (pbuh)
19:58	Mustahab Sajda

## **20. Ta Ha: Ta Ha**

### **135 verses in 8 sections**

The title comes from its opening letters, which is a name given to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It explains the Story of Prophet Musa (pbuh) in detail. Again as in other Makkan suwer the emphasis is on origin and end.

- 20:8        Asmaul Husna
- 20:25      Dua of Prophet Musa
- 20:114    O my Lord! increase my knowledge

## **21. Al-Ambiya': The Prophets**

### **112 verses in 7 sections**

As its name indicates, it mentions the names of sixteen Prophets: Musa, Harun, Ibrahim, Lut, Ishaac, Yaqub, Nuh, Dawud, Sulayman, Ayyub, Idrees, Zul-Kifl, Yunus, Zakariyya and Yahya (pbuh). It deals with the essential oneness of Allah and the trials of the Prophet (pbuh).

- 21:16      Not created for sport
- 21:30      All beings made of water
- 21:35      All will taste death
- 21:69      Ibrahim (pbuh)
- 21:73      Aimma
- 21:87      Ayatul Kareema
- 21:89      Dua of Prophet Zakariyya
- 21:96      Yajuj (Gog) and Majuj ( Magog)

## **22. Hajj: Hajj**

### **78 verses in 10 sections**

The first section contains a description of how each individual is created, then proceeding to Hajj and to the sin of associating deities with Allah.

22:5	Creation of the human being
22:8	Disputing without knowledge
22:11	Living on the fence
22:18	Mustahab Sajda
22:27	Hajj
22:35	Qualities of those who are humble
22:73	Futility of calling other than Allah
22:78	Striving

## **23. Mu'minum: The Believers**

### **118 verses in 6 sections**

It takes its name from the first verse which continues to list the qualities of a believer. The building of the ark by Prophet Nuh (pbuh) is mentioned. The sura ends with the reminder of accountability for one's deeds and a recommendation to pray for forgiveness and mercy.

- 23:1-9      Qualities of Mu'minum
- 23:62      Responsibility according to ability
- 23:96      Repel evil with what is best
- 23:115     Return to Allah

## **24. Al-Nur: The Light**

### **64 verses in 9 sections**

The sura begins with explanations and decrees relating to sexuality, family law, and on the giving of testimony. It then reflects on privacy and modesty explaining the concept of hijab in verses 30 and 31. The highlight of the sura is Ayatun Nur which is a parable addressing the eternal origin of Divine light. The sura continues with a promise of the establishment of Islam which Allah has chosen for humankind.

- 24:19 Gravity of circulating scandal
- 24:21 Following footsteps of Shaytan
- 24:22 Withholding help to family and the poor
- 24:23 False accusations
- 24:27 Etiquette of visiting others
- 24:30 Hijab for men
- 24:31 Hijab for women
- 24:35 Ayatun Nur
- 24:55 Promise of final victory of truth

## 25. Al-Furqan: The Criterion

77 verses in 6 sections

The Criterion (Furqan) mentioned refers to the intellectual faculties of the human being and his/her power of distinguishing right from wrong. It begins with statements directed at those who accused the Prophet (pbuh) of falsifying the message and not being a Prophet in his own right. It ends in a long hymn to Allah's creation, His power, and the parable of The Two Seas.

25:1	Furqan (Criterion)
25:30	Forsaking the Qur'an
25:53	Sweet and salty seas
25:60	Mustahab Sajda
	Qualities of those who submit to the
25:63-77	Merciful

## **26. Al-Shu'ara': Poets**

### **227 verses in 11 sections**

The name comes from verse 224 where the difference between the poetic language used by messengers and poets has been pointed out; Poets were those who said things which they did not do whilst a messenger always practiced what he preached. The sura also mentions that all the messengers came with the same message to show the human being how his ultimate destiny should be understood.

26:47	Magicians of Pharaoh submit
26:78-82	Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh)description of Allah
26:89	Qalb Saleem
26:195	Arabic
26:214	Warning the nearest relations
26:224	Poets



## **27. Al-Naml: The Ant**

### **93 verses in 7 sections**

It begins with the story of Prophet Musa (pbuh) and then describes the knowledge of Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) and his meeting with the Queen of Sheba (Bilqis). The title comes from the ants he meets and converses with on one of his campaigns. The Bismillah is repeated in verse 30 which tells of the letter that Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) writes to the Queen of Sheba.

- 27:16 Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) was Prophet Dawud's (pbuh) heir
- 27:18 Naml
- 27:20 Prophet Hud (Hud)
- 27:26 Mustahab Sajda
- 27:40 Asif ibn al-Birkhia
- 27:44 Submission of Bilqis – Queen of Sheba  
Who answers the distressed one when
- 27:62 he calls upon Him and removes the  
evil?
- 27:88 Mountains that appear solid will pass  
away
- 27:92 Responsibility for oneself

## **28. Al-Qasas: The Story**

### **88 verses in 9 sections**

The sura features Prophet Musa (pbuh), his life and mission. There is a mention of his cousin Qarun who believed in Prophet Musa (pbuh) but when tested with abundant wealth covered up the truth. The sura ends with a promise in verse 85 that the Prophet (pbuh) would return to his home town of Makka triumphant.

- 28:5        The weak to be heirs of the land
- 28:25      Qasas (The story)
- 28:55      Idle talk
- 28:76      Qarun
- 28:85      Promise to return to Makka

## **29. Al-Ankabut: The Spider**

### **69 verses in 7 sections**

The title comes from the Spider's web referred to in verse 41 which demonstrates how flimsy it is to associate anything else in His worship. It speaks about – faith, the responsibility of the human being, the divine trial, the histories of some Prophets, unfair disputes, and relying on other than Allah.

- 29:6        Striving for oneself
- 29:8        Parents
- 29:41      The Spider's web
- 29:45      Salaa keeps one away from indecency  
              and evil
- 29:57      Death
- 29:69      Striving and guidance

### **30. Al-Rum: The Romans**

#### **60 verses in 6 sections**

The sura begins with the prophecy about the victory of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman empire against the Persians. The Prophet (pbuh) wrote letters to the Kings of Persia and Rome inviting them to Islam. The King of Iran, Khusrow Parvez, tore up the letter, but the King of Rome respected the Prophet's letter. When the Romans were defeated, the Muslims were disheartened but the revelation foretold victory in the near future. The sura elaborates divine bounties in Heaven and on earth, the system supporting plants and animals and the creation of the human being from dust. It also speaks of the relationship between man and woman and of work in the day and sleep at night. Allah also refers to the fall of rain, the winds, and the earth being revived after its death.

- 30:17      Glorification times (Salaa)
- 30:21      Concept of marriage
- 30:22      Diversity of colour and language
- 30:30      Nature of human beings based on  
              divine nature

- 30:41 Corruption on earth caused by human beings
- 30:44 Ownership of one's own actions
- 30:54 Life cycle of human being
- 30:58 Every example in the Qur'an

## **31. Luqman: Luqman**

### **34 verses in 4 sections**

The sura sheds light upon the wisdom and righteousness of Luqman citing his advice to his son. It ends with a statement of Allah's particular knowledge, such as: the time of everyone's death and the time of the occurrence of Resurrection.

31:12	Luqman
31:14	Parents
31:27	Inexhaustable words of Allah
31:29	Night and Day
31:34	Allah's knowledge

## **32. Al-Sajdah: Prostration**

### **30 verses in 3 sections**

Creation and guidance of human beings are the central themes. Verse 15 cites worship as the peculiarity of a believer, the recitation of which calls for an obligatory prostration (Sajda Tilawat).

32:11      Angel of death

32:15       Wajib Sajda

### **33. Al-Ahzab: The Coalition, The Parties/Clans** **73 verses in 9 sections**

The Jewish and Arabic clans around Madina had plotted a conspiracy against the Islamic state and this point is referred to in the title. The battle that ensued was known as the Battle of Ahzab – also the Battle of Khandaque (Ditch) since one was dug around Madina for defence. The sura bears witness to the difficulties existing in this developing society. The order for blessings to be sent on the Prophet (pbuh) is found in this sura.

- 33:20 Ahzab
- 33:21 Rasulullah (pbuh) as a role model
- 33:33 Ayatut Tatheer
- 33:35 Qualities of those rewarded
- 33:36 Freedom of no choice
- 33:41 Zhikr (remembrance)
- 33:56 Salawaat
- 33:59 Hijab



## **34. Al-Saba: Saba**

### **54 verses in 6 sections**

The sura recounts the story of Prophet Dawud (pbuh) and his son Prophet Sulayman (pbuh). The name comes from verse 15 which cites Saba; a region in ancient Yemen. The Ma'rib dam was as an indication of the technological advancement of the people. In 542 AD it was devastated by the flood of Arum as mentioned here. The sura ends with a vivid picture of how knowledge must be carefully pursued.

- 34:15      Gardens of Saba
- 34:37      Closeness to Allah through faith and good deeds
- 34:49      Truth prevails and falsehood vanishes and doesn't return

## **35. Fatir: The Originator**

### **45 verses in 5 sections**

Other name: Al Malaika – The Angels

The title appears in the first verse and the sura highlights the role of the Prophet (pbuh) as a warner. The process of the creation of the human being is mentioned. The parable of the Two Seas (fresh and salty) is given here followed by the concept that none shall bear the burden of another's sins. Finally, the statement that never will one find alterations in Allah's course.

- 35:1      Fatir (Originator)
- 35:10     Honour only from Allah
- 35:18     Carry own burdens
- 35:29     Recitation of Qur'an
- 35:43     No alterations in the course of Allah

## **36. Ya Sin: Ya Sin**

### **83 verses in 5 sections**

This sura is often called the Heart of the Qur'an (Qalbul Qur'an). It gives a comprehensive picture of monotheism portraying the nature of Reality, the laws that govern existence and the extent of man's freedom in that he is the product of his actions which are only as good as his intentions. It shows us how we dictate our own destinies and it also depicts how we tie ourselves in the chains of arrogance, expectations and desires which make us forget reality and our purpose of existence. The sudden calls of death, resurrection and coming before the divine presence are also vividly portrayed. The meaning of Heaven is made clear. This sura is traditionally recited at funerals.

36:1	Yasin
36:12	Record of actions and effect
36:20	Habib Najjar
36:40	Solar system
36:51	Call of resurrection
36:65	Limbs to bear witness
36:82	Be! And it is

## **37. Al-Saffat: The Troops**

### **182 verses in 5 sections**

The sura provides a vivid description of the result of the Day of Judgement; eternal bliss or the dreaded infernal tree of Zaqqum. Several Prophets are mentioned; each summed up by a unifying verse of “Thus do we reward the doers of good”. The troops of angels from which the sura takes its name are mentioned in verse 165.

- 37:62      The tree of Zaqqum
- 37:84      Qalb Saleem (Tranquil heart)
- 37:102     Dream of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)
- 37:165     The troops of angels

## **38. Al-Saad: Saad**

### **88 verses in 5 sections**

The title refers to the letter ‘Saad’ which here may stand for As-Sadiq or the Truthful One (Allah). It could also be the friend (who tells you everything, whether you want to hear it or not; referring to our voice of conscience or power of discretion). The judgement of Prophet Dawud (pbuh) and the trial of Prophet Sulayman (pbuh) are given followed by the patience of Prophet Ayyub (pbuh) as the reminder of Shaytan’s oath of deviating humankind.

- 38:1        Saad
- 38:18      Mountains sing with Prophet Dawud (pbuh)
- 38:24      Mustahab Sajda
- 38:76      Arrogance of Shaytan

## **39. Al-Zumar: The Companions**

### **75 verses in 8 sections**

The sura begins with an admonition to ensure that worship is solely for Allah. The main theme of the sura is that the Qur'an is revealed from He whose Supremacy drives the Universe according to His plan. If the Qur'an is followed then one will be rightly guided. The similarity between death and sleep is mentioned as is the response of the human being when he is afflicted with harm. The forgiveness of Allah is manifested in verse 53. The ending describes Heaven and Hell as the Companions (Zumar) enter Heaven.

- 39:7            Ungratefulness
- 39:9            Are those who know equal to those who don't?
- 39:10           Allah's earth is spacious
- 39:23           Responding to the Qur'an
- 39:42           Death and sleep
- 39:53           Do not despair of the mercy of Allah
- 39:73           Zumar

## **40. Al-Mu'min: The Believer**

**85 verses in 9 sections**

Other name: Al Ghafir (The Forgiver).

The sura begins with an introduction to He who revealed the Qur'an... "The Forgiver of sins, Acceptor of repentance, Strict in punishment, Lord of bounty ..." These all manifest His authority on the Day of Judgement. It takes its title from verse 28 (derived from the believing man in Pharaoh's court) or alternatively, from Forgiving, the first word in verse 3. This is the first of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'.

- 40:7            Our Lord! You embrace all things in  
                  mercy and knowledge, therefore grant  
                  protection to those who turn to You  
                  and follow Your way and save them  
                  from the punishment of Hell
- 40:17          No injustice on the day of judgement
- 40:28          Mu'min Ali Firawn (The believer from  
                  the people of Pharaoh)
- 40:35          Allah seals the arrogant heart

- 40:39 The life of the world  
40:40 Recompense for deeds  
40:44 I entrust my affairs to Allah, Surely  
Allah sees those who serves Him  
40:60 Call upon Me, I will answer you  
40:67 Creation of the human being




## 41. Al-Fussilat: Explained in Detail

### 54 verses in 6 sections

Other names: Hameem Sajda.

The sura deals with creation and the recompense for every action of the human being, all of which are witnessed by one's eyes, ears and skin. At the end, the Qur'an itself is described. The alternate title for the sura is Hameem Sajda. This is the second of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'.

- 41:3      Fussilat (Explained in detail)
- 41:20     Eyes, ears and skin to bear witness
- 41:26     Those who cover up the truth advise  
not to listen to the Qur'an
- 41:30     Recompense for those who say 'Our  
Lord is Allah'
- 41:38      Wajib Sajda
- 41:53     Signs of Allah in the Universe and in  
one's soul

## **42. Al-Shura: The Counsel Meeting**

### **53 verses in 5 sections**

The first section focuses on Allah as the Protector and the same message enjoined upon all the Prophets. It follows on to His sending down the book and the balance to ensure justice. The consultation referred to in verse 38 gives us a basis for parliamentary procedure. Patience and forgiveness are recommended and the final paragraph describes the process of Divine guidance. This is the third of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'

- 42:13 Same message brought by all Prophets
- 42:17 The book and the balance (mizan)
- 42:23 Recompense asked by Prophet is love of near ones
- 42:25 Acceptance of tawba
- 42:27 Sustenance sent according to measure
- 42:36-40 Qualities of those who trust in Allah
- 42:38 Shura (Counsel)
- 42:43 Patience and forgiveness are acts of courage

### **43. Al-Zukhruf: The Ornaments**

**89 verses in 7 sections**

The sura begins with a description of Allah as the Creator and the Merciful. There are glimpses of Prophets Ibrahim (pbuh), Musa (pbuh) and Isa (pbuh). The title is found in verse 35 as being the ornaments of gold which are provisions of the life of the world. This is the fourth of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 43:3     | Arabic Qur'an so that one may understand |
| 43:13-14 | Dua for travelling                       |
| 43:35    | Zukhruf (Ornaments)                      |

## **44. Al-Dukhan: The Smoke**

### **59 verses in 3 sections**

The sura begins with an introduction to the Qur'an being revealed by Allah on a blessed night (Laylatul Qadr). The title refers to the smoke which will announce the drought preceding the Day of Judgement. It ends with a description of Hell and Heaven. This is the fifth of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'

- 44:3 Qur'an revealed on a blessed night
- 44:10 Dukhan (Evident smoke)
- 44:38 The heavens and the earth not created for sport
- 44:58 Qur'an made easy on the tongue

## **45. Al-Jathiya: The Kneeling**

### **37 verses in 4 sections**

The sura begins by drawing attention to the signs of Allah in the heavens and the earth. It announces that life and death follow Divine Laws and that the hereafter is an absolute reality which most people do not comprehend. Its title comes from verse 28 which says every nation shall be kneeling (humbled) when they will be invited to be accountable for their deeds on the Day of Judgement. This is the sixth of the group of suwer known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'.

- 45:3        Signs of Allah in creation
- 45:15      Responsibility for good and evil on oneself
- 45:28      Jathiya (Kneeling)

## **46. Al-Ahqaf: The Sand Dunes**

### **35 verses in 4 sections**

The sura takes its title from verse 21 which mentions the sand dunes in the country of 'Aad to whom Prophet Hud (pbuh) was sent. He warned them of the destructive consequences of their flawed thinking. The sura also discusses parents, focusing on the difficulties a mother bears. The jinn who listened to the Qur'an are also mentioned. This is the seventh and final sura known as Hawameem (Suwer 40-46) which all start with 'HaMeem'

- 46:15      A mother's difficulty and weaning of a child is 30 months
- 46:17      No disrespect to parents; not even 'Uf'
- 46:21      Ahqaf (Sand dunes)
- 46:29      Jinn listening to Qur'an

## **47. Muhammad: Muhammad**

### **38 verses in 4 sections**

The sura takes its title from verse 2, which describes those who believe in the Qur'an which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). As a result of their faith they will find that their efforts will set right the disorder prevalent in their societies. Reflecting on the Qur'an is exhorted with a question "Do they not reflect on the Qur'an? Nay! On their hearts are locks!" Characteristics of hypocrisy are identified and the sura ends with a directive to give charity.

- 47:2 Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
- 47:7 Helping in the way of Allah
- 47:24 Reflecting on the Qur'an
- 47:38 Charity

## **48. Al-Fath: The Victory**

### **29 verses in 4 sections**

The title refers to verse 1 which points to the victory gained by the Treaty of Hdaybiyya. Political difficulties are mentioned in the second section and ultimate victory is promised to the Prophet (pbuh) in verse 27. A clear description of the qualities of those with the Prophet (pbuh) is given in the last verse.

- 48:1 Fath (Victory)
- 48:18 Pledge under the tree at Hdaybiyya
- 48:23 No change in the course of Allah
- 48:28 Ultimate victory of truth
- 48:29 Qualities of those with the Prophet (pbuh)



## **49. Al-Hujurat: The Chambers**

### **18 verses in 2 sections**

The sura was revealed during the Year of Delegations in 9AH, when all of Arabia was finally united in a political federation, and some sort of protocol had to be set-up. The Prophet's (pbuh) house in Madina which was adjoined to the mosque was becoming the centre for this activity, and his household had to be protected from unexpected incidents and intruders. It also deals with social relationships and how to handle mockery, gossip and rumour. Finally, there is a recommendation on building foreign policy.

- 49:2       Etiquette on addressing the Prophet (pbuh)
- 49:6       Believers are brethren in peace
- 49:11      Mocking others
- 49:12      Avoiding suspicion and backbiting  
            The most honourable in the eyes of
- 49:13      Allah

## 50. Qaaf:Qaaf

### 45 verses in 3 sections

The sura deals with the lack of responsibility of the human being and stresses Allah's nearness to him as being closer than his jugular vein. The events of the Day of Judgement are described. There is a recommendation for the times of prayer.

50:1	Qaf
50:16	Allah nearer to the human being than his jugular vein
50:21	Every soul will come with its driver and witness
50:39-40	Times for prayer

## **51. Al-Dharyat: The Scatterers**

### **60 verses in 3 sections**

The word Dhariyat refers to elements like the wind which distribute and regulate energies drawing the attention of the human being to the Divine Order in creation. The sura cites the angels' visit to Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) giving the news of a son Ishaq and it registers the surprise of his wife Sarah who was old. It also mentions other Prophets and a reminder that the human being and jinn have been created for His worship.

- 51:1 Dhariyat (Scatterers)
- 51:18 Asking for forgiveness at dawn
- 51:29 Sarah's surprise at the news of being a mother
- 51:56 Jinn and human beings created for His worship

## **52. Al-Tur: The Mountain**

### **49 verses in 2 sections**

The mountain mentioned in the first aya from where the sura takes its name is Mount Sinai. The main focus of this sura lies in its description of both the Day of Judgement and peace. It also offers a direct challenge to those who cover up the truth. The sura ends with an edict to glorify Him in the night and at the setting of the stars.


52:1      Tur (Mountain)

52:9      Glorify Him at night and when the stars  
            set

### 53. Al-Najm: The Star

#### 62 verses in 3 sections

The sura begins with Divinity swearing by the star that “Your companion,” referring to the Prophet (pbuh), has not gone mad, nor does he speak out of his desire. The star referred to is frequently stated to be either the morning or the evening star. The sura continues the process of vision by tracing the movement along the highest horizon and then coming down and drawing near to the distance of “two bows” length which is an aspect of the Mi’raj (journey to the heavens) mentioned in 17:1. When the sura was first recited by the Prophet (pbuh) all who heard it went into prostration upon its completion due to the effect that the words had upon them.

- 53:1 Najm (Star)
- 53:9 Measure of two bows or closer still
- 53:32 Allah a Liberal Forgiver
- 53:39 Human being to get what he/she strives for
- 53:42 “And that to your Lord is your goal...”
- 53:62  Wajib Sajda

## 54. Al-Qamar: The Moon

### 55 verses in 3 sections

The sura has taken its title from the first verse where Allah mentions the miracle of the splitting of the moon by the Prophet (pbuh). Four times in the sura Allah mentions that He has made the Qur'an easy to remember but is there anyone who will take heed? The sura underlines how Prophets like Nuh, Hud, Salih and Lut (pbuh) were rejected by their own people. The fate of Pharaoh is also mentioned in the final section and after each story it bears the haunting statement "How (great) was then my punishment and warning". The sura ends with a description of the final Hour.

54:1	Qamar (Moon)
54:10	Dua of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) – My Lord! I am overcome; help!
54:17,22, 32, 40	The Qur'an is easy to remember

## **55. Al-Rahman: The Merciful**

### **78 verses in 3 sections**

This sura is known as the bride of the Qur'an and the name is taken from the first verse. It is the only sura that begins with an attribute of Allah and here His role as Al Rahman is expounded. The verse "Which of your Lord's blessings will both of you deny?" is repeated thirty one times to enforce that Allah's mercy endures forever. The sura is in prose dealing with proofs of the grace of Allah. Its message also portrays vividly an image of Heaven and Hell.

- 55:1      Al Rahman (The Merciful)
- 55:9      Equity in the balance
- 55:14     The human being created from baked  
            clay
- 55:33     Traversing the regions of the heavens  
            and earth
- 55:41     Guilty recognised by their marks  
            "Is the reward of good anything but  
55:60     good?"

## 56. Al-Waqiah: The Great Event

### 96 verses in 3 sections

The sura takes its title from the first verse which describes the inevitable occurrence of the great event referring to the Day of Judgement. Three groups are introduced and the vision here suggests that life is a race. A vivid picture of the outcome is given describing Heaven and Hell. The sura then referring to sperm, cultivation, water, fire and trees asks: "Is it you who created or are We the Creator?" In the last section the Qur'an itself is discussed. When the last verse of this sura was revealed (a repeat of verse 74), the Prophet (pbuh) directed to use it in the ruku of salaa.

56:1	Al Waqia (The great event)
56:15-40	Description of Heaven
56:42-44	Description of Hell
56:78	The Qur'an is protected



## **57. Al-Hadeed: The Iron**

### **29 verses in 4 sections**

Iron, which gives the sura its title, is mentioned as the source of physical power. The first six verses introduce the Awesomeness of Allah. They are followed by a picture of those ill with hypocrisy asking for light from those who believe. A directive to hasten to forgiveness is given in verse 21. Conduct with equity is given as the reason for the sending of Prophets with clear proof. Finally, the recompense for God consciousness is two portions of mercy – light and forgiveness.

57:8	A question on belief
57:10	A question on charity
57:20	The life of the world
57:21	Hasten to forgiveness
57:25	Hadeed (Iron)
57:25	The book and the balance
57:28	Two portions of mercy, light and forgiveness for the God conscious

## **58. Al-Mujadilah: The Pleading One**

### **22 verses in 3 sections**

The woman referred to as the pleading one was Khawla bint-Tha'laba who came to the Prophet (pbuh) asking for help regarding a pre-Islamic practise called 'zihar' where a husband would abandon his wife without freeing her and confining her to her household chores, likening her to his mother. The practise is condemned in this sura. Allah's awareness of everything is stressed. Manners at meetings and parliamentary procedure are discussed.

- 58:1        Allah hears the pleading one  
58:7        He is at every secret counsel  
58:11      Manners of assemblies (majlis)

## 59. Al-Hashr: The Banishment

### 24 verses in 3 sections

The sura begins with the expulsion of the Jewish clan called the Banu-Nadir who lived three miles outside of Madina. It follows with instructions of how to distribute the booty resulting from the campaign in which they had been defeated. In the final section, there is a graphic description of how, if the Qur'an should descend on to a mountain it would crumble.

- 59:2 Hashr (Banishment)  
59:18 To consider investment in Aakhira  
59:21 Mountain would crumble if Qur'an sent down on it

## **60. Al-Mumtahanah: The Examined One**

### **13 verses in 2 sections**

The sura begins with the prayer of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh). Its title comes from verse 10 which deals with women converts who were migrating to Makka. They had professed faith but their spouses were not believers so after investigation they were not to be sent to their husbands who demanded their return. The directive is also to recompense the husbands for what they had spent so they could release their wives.

60:4 Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) an excellent role model

60:4 "...Our Lord! On You do we rely and to You do we turn and to You is the eventual return

60:10 "...When believing women come after emigrating; examine them..."

## **61. Al-Saff: The Ranks**

### **14 verses in 2 sections**

The sura begins with the Glorification of Allah and is thus one of the Musabbihaat. These are the suwer that begin with the word 'sabbaha' or 'yusabbihu' (glorification) – the suwer being 17, 57, 59, 61, 62, 64, and 87. Taking its title from verse 4 it talks of how Allah loves those who (when the necessity arises) come out to fight to establish the Divine order, and remain firm in ranks, like an unbreakable wall. It also contains the famous prediction by Prophet Isa (pbuh) of the coming of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The formula for deliverance is given as belief in Allah and His messenger and to strive hard in His way. The sura ends with a mention of the disciples of Prophet

- 61:2 Do not say what you do not do
- 61:4 Saff (Ranks)
- 61:6 The name Ahmed given by Prophet Isa (pbuh) as the Prophet who will follow
- 61:11 Formula for deliverance

## **62. Al-Jumua': The Congregation (Friday)**

### **11 verses in 2 sections**

This is a sura which is read in the Friday congregational prayers and is one of the Musabbihat (group of 7 surahs which begins with His glorification). The answer of the dua of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) 2:129 for a messenger to be raised amongst the people of Makka is given in verse 2. The sura describes those who do not practise what they preach in the famous parable of 'The donkey carrying books'. Its title comes from verse 9 with an order that when the call is made for congregational prayers on Friday one should hasten to participate leaving behind all business.

- 62:2      Answer to dua of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)  
            (2:129)
- 62:5      Parable of the donkey carrying books
- 62:8      Death is inevitable
- 62:9      Jumua' (Congregation)

### **63. Al-Munafiqun: The Hypocrites**

**11 verses in 2 sections**

This sura warns of the hidden resentment of hypocrisy which is more harmful than open hostility. Its description of hypocrisy is vivid and detailed. The sura ends with a directive not to allow wealth or children to divert one from the remembrance of Allah and to spend in His way before death.

- 63:1      Munafiqun (Hypocrites)
- 63:9      Wealth and children
- 63:10     Asking for respite at death to be able to do good

## **64. Al-Taghabun: Loss and Gain**

### **18 verses in 2 sections**

A sura which is part of the group of 7 suwer known as Musabbihat (17, 57, 59, 61, 62, 64, and 87). The loss and gain which the title refers to will occur on the day when Allah gathers everyone and we shall have to account for our actions. Wealth and children are a trial and there is an admonition to save oneself from the greed of the self.

- 64:9        Taghabun (Loss and Gain)  
64:15      Wealth and children a trial  
64:17      Qarze Hasana (A beautiful loan to Allah)



## **65. Al-Talaq: The Divorce**

**12 verses in 2 sections**

As shown by the title, this sura contains legislation on matters of divorce. It has an assurance of ease in affairs, provision of sustenance and a way out of trouble for the God conscious who trust and rely on Allah.

- 65:1      Talaq (Divorce)
- 65:2,3    Trust and reliance on Allah
- 65:11    Belief and good deeds takes one out of darkness into the light

## **66. Al-Tahreem: The Prohibition**

### **12 verses in 2 sections**

The subject matter concerns the Prophet's own family life and disputes with his wives Hafsa and Aisha over Maria Copt, the mother of his son Ibrahim who died in infancy. The sura takes its title from the first verse where Allah tells the Prophet not to impose prohibitions on himself just to pacify his wives. There is a parable on both bad and good wives, which includes a final statement on Maryam (pbuh). Aasiya's dua asking for a house in Heaven when persecuted by her husband Pharaoh is mentioned in verse 11.

- 66:1        Prohibition (Tahreem)
- 66:6        Save yourself and families from the fire
- 66:8        Tawba (Repentance)
- 66:11      Lord! Build for me a house with you in Heaven

## **67. Al-Mulk: The Kingdom**

### **30 verses in 2 sections**

The title al-Mulk referred to in the first verse is an indication of the ultimate control and authority of Allah who created life and death to test who would do the best of deeds. The sura draws attention to the marvels of creation ending with Him as the Giver of Mercy.

- 67:1      Al Mulk (The Kingdom)  
67:2      Ahsanu 'amal (Best of deeds)  
67:29     He is the Mercy-giving on Whom we believe  
            in and trust

## **68. Al Qalam: The Pen**

### **52 verses in 2 sections**

The letter ‘nun’ with which this sura begins may mean the inkpot from which the pen gets the matter (the ink) with which its writing is effected to spread knowledge. The pen therefore represents the written form of the will of Allah for creation to reach its full potential. It indicates the Prophet’s (pbuh) concern for literacy amongst the people. The sura describes the Prophet (pbuh) as the one with impeccable morals and directs him not to be disheartened by those who lied and slandered him calling him a madman. The parable of the owners of the garden who ended up losing their crop because of their arrogance is given here.

- 68:1      Qalam (Pen)  
68:4      “Indeed you (O Muhammad) have the most sublime morality”  
68:17     The parable of the ‘Owners of the garden’

## **69. Al-Haqqah: The Truth**

### **52 verses in 2 sections**

The sura takes its name from the first three verses which draw attention to the absolute reality of the annihilation of the temporal. It gives examples of the people of Thamud and Aad as well as Pharaoh and the people of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) who belied the warning and were subject to destruction. It offers us a vivid idea of how the last trumpet will sound on the Day of Judgement ending with the glorification of Allah as mentioned in Suratul Waqia (56) (recommended by the Prophet (pbuh) to be recited in the ruku of salaa).

- 69:1-3      Al Haqqah (The Truth)
- 69:18      No secrets will remain on the Day of  
Judgement
- 69:19      Those to whom the book of records given in  
the right hand
- 69:25      Those to whom the book of records given in  
the left hand

## **70. Al-Ma'arij: The Stairways**

### **44 verses in 2 sections**

The Arabic word ...ma'arij, meaning staircases or ladders is the plural of rni'raj which refers to the journey to the heavens. (The Israa – title of sura 17). Allah completes all His plans in ascending steps of evolution. The sura begins describing the one who challenged the Prophet (pbuh) demanding a punishment. It also deals with a description of the hereafter.

- 70:1        The one who demanded punishment  
70:3        Ma'arij (ascension, stairways...)  
70:19      The human being created to want

## **71. Nuh: Noah**

### **28 verses in 2 sections**

The focus of the sura is the life of Prophet Nuh (pbuh). It mentions forgiveness stating that it is followed by abundance of rain, wealth, sons and gardens. The sura ends with the prayer of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) for forgiveness for himself and his parents and those who enter his house in faith.

71:1 Prophet Nuh (Noah) (pbuh)

71:10 Forgiveness

71:28 My Lord! Forgive me and my parents and he who enters my house in faith, and the men and women of faith, and do not increase the unjust in anything but destruction.

## **72. Al-Jinn: The Jinn**

### **28 verses in 2 sections**

The central theme of this sura is the authentication of the Qur'an by the testimony of the jinn who are intelligent immaterial beings created from fire. The Day of Judgement is referred to when Allah will take into account all the deeds of a human being before judgement.

- 72:1        The jinn listen to the Qur'an  
72:18      The mosques belong to Allah



### **73. Al-Muzzammil: The Wrapped One** **20 verses in 2 sections**

The title 'The wrapped one' refers to the Prophet (pbuh) who used to wrap himself in a mantle when he prayed. It refers to the heavy responsibility of his mission, his preparation for it and his patience when people reacted trusting Allah to deal with them. The last aya reflects the message of the first few ayaat commending his worship at night enjoining regularity in prayers, charity, recitation of the Qur'an and forgiveness.

- 73:1      Al Muzzammil (The wrapped one)  
73:4      Recite the Qur'an as it ought to be recited  
73:6      Rising at night the firmest way

## **74. Al-Muddathir: The Cloaked One**

### **56 verses in 2 sections**

The sura derives its name from the word al-Muddathir which means one who has covered himself with a cloak over his clothing. There is a marked similarity with the previous sura al-Muzzammil (The wrapped one). However, where sura al-Muzzammil concludes on the theme of prayer, the reciting of the Qur'an and other forms of good deeds, this sura opens by mentioning the conveyance of the message, magnifying Allah, and purification. Like the other Makkan suwer it deals with the principles of belief. The sura contains a striking picture of the blowing of the last trumpet, the arrogant human being and Hell. The last section lays down conditions for individual responsibility.

- 74:1        Muddathir (The cloaked one)
- 74:8        The sounding of the trumpet
- 74:23      The arrogant one
- 74:30      19 faculties if misused take one to Hell
- 74:43      Those who do not pray

## **75. Al-Qiyamah: The Day of Judgement**

### **40 verses in 2 sections**

The sura begins with the prominence and graphic description of the word al-Qiyamah meaning 'the Day of Resurrection'. Accountability for actions is followed by how we should read the Qur'an. It describes the stages of creation of the human being just as his spiritual stages are suggested at the very beginning.

- 75:1 Al Qiyamah (The Day of Resurrection)
- 75:10 No place to run to on the Day of Judgement
- 75:13 Accountability
- 75:20 Love of life
- 75:36 Question on direction in life

## **76. Al-Dahr: Time**

### **31 verses in 2 sections**

Other names: al-Insaan (The Human Being), Hal Ataa (Has there come?).

The sura begins with the creation of the human being, his guidance and freewill. It continues with the reward of the righteous in relation to the fulfilling of vows, feeding the orphans, the poor and the captives for the love of Allah. The specific incident it refers to is the household of Imam Ali (pbuh) and Fatima (pbuh) who gave away their food for three consecutive days. The sura speaks of the revelation of the Qur'an and the path to attain perfection.

- 76:1 Dahr (Time)
- 76:2 Creation of the human being
- 76:8 Giving food to the orphans, poor and captives for His sake
- 76:23 Qur'an revealed in portions

## **77. Al-Mursalat: The Emissaries**

### **50 verses in 2 sections**

The sura begins with a series of oaths describing the divine winds that Allah sends followed by an oath on the angels who bring revelations. The consequences for those who reject the truth are portrayed vividly and the statement “Woe on that day to the rejecters of truth” is repeated ten times. At every repetition of the statement there is an enlightening point. Sometimes, the blessings of just human beings are mentioned. The message running through it is the loss to those who reject the truth.

77:1      Mursalat (The emissary winds)

## **78. Al-Naba: The News**

### **40 verses in 2 sections**

Suratun Naba begins with an awakening question about the Day of Judgement. Describing the creation of the world there is then a sudden shift back to the Day of Decision (Judgement) and the news of the last trumpet announcing it. The sura ends with a sentence of warning which conveys that we bring affliction upon ourselves but we may not notice it because we justify ourselves with all manner of excuses. The condition on the last day will be such that we shall be reconstructed according to our intentions and actions in this world.

78:2        Naba (News)

78:13      Day of Decision appointed

## **79. Al-Naziat: Those Who Pull Out 46 verses in 2 sections**

Al Naziat may refer to the angelic powers which perform various functions through creation like the drawing out of souls at the moment of death. The theme of the sura is a vivid description of the resurrection. The sura mentions the story of Prophet Musa (pbuh) and the arrogance of Pharaoh. The end of the sura emphasises the fact that the knowledge of the time of the Day of Judgement lies only with Allah.

- 79:1 Al Naziat (Those who pull out)
- 79:15 The story of Prophet Musa (PBUH)
- 79:35 The day when the human being will recollect what he/she strived for

## **80. Al-'Abasa: He Frowned**

### **42 verses in 1 section**

The sura refers to an incident when the Prophet (pbuh) was conferring with some of the leading citizens of Makka, and a blind man, Abdullah ibn-Umm-Maktum, interrupted their conversation to ask some questions of his own. Those sitting with the Prophet (pbuh) were not accommodating to the blind man and frowned, thus the title. The importance of the Qur'an is emphasised and the human being's ungratefulness toward the blessings of Allah is cited. The Day of Judgment is described as is the fate of those who have faith and those who cover up

- 80:1        'Abasa (He frowned)  
80:17      Ungratefulness of the human being  
80:37      The day when the human being will be  
              occupied with himself



## **81. Al-Takwir: The Covering Up**

### **29 verses in 1 section**

The sura begins on a cosmic scale with the folding up of the sun as a sign of the last Day; following on to the darkening of the stars, the moving of the mountains and the seas being set on fire. One of the most moving portrayals is the questioning of the newborn infant who was buried alive as to the sin for which she was killed! The second theme is of the revelation of the Qur'an through the angel Jibrail and its spiritual guidance.

- 81:1      Takweer (The covering up) of the sun  
81:8-9    The question of the infant child buried alive

## **82. Al-Infitar: The Splitting**

### **19 verses in 1 section**

The sura begins with the splitting of the heavens and then comes to an earthly level – the graves, which are the final end of the life of this world. There is an appeal to the real nature of the human being, asking him: “O human being! What has diverted you from your Generous Lord?” A reference to the recording angels is made as is the end of the righteous and the wicked on the Day of Judgement.

- 82:1      Al Infitar (The splitting)  
82:5      Every soul will know what it has done  
82:6      Appeal to the human being

### **83. Al-Mutaffifin: The Defrauders** **36 verses in 1 section**

Other names: At Tatfif (Defrauder).

The sura is a description of the human tendency in trade to tip the balance to one's own advantage, often unfairly. The traders of Makka and Madina were no different from any other businessmen at any time in history. It warns those who engage in fraudulent practices of the consequences of their actions. The sura also points to the lack of belief in the Resurrection as being the origin of corruption and sin. It ends with the recompense for the righteous.

83:1        The defrauders (Mutaffifin)

83:14      Rust on the hearts

## **84. Al-Inshiqaq: The Exploding 25 verses in 1 section**

Al Inshiqaq is when all energies and forces in space will explode, marking the beginning of the end. This sura, like many other suwer of the last part of the Qur'an, is a picture of the Day of Judgement in graphic language. The ultimate recompense for striving of the righteous and the evil doers is mentioned. The sura ends on a positive note for those who believe and do good announcing an unending reward.

- 84:1      Inshiqaq (The exploding )  
84:6      Striving to meet Allah  
84:7      Those given their book of deeds in their  
            right hand  
84:10     Those given their book of deeds behind  
            their backs  
84:21     Mustahab Sajda

## **85. Al-Buruj: The Milky Way**

### **22 verses in 1 section**

The sura begins with an oath on the Milky Way (the constellation) called the signs of the zodiac. The main objective appears to be the spiritual strengthening of believers, encouraging them to persevere. It tells the story of Dhu Nawas a king of Yemen (570 AD) who ordered the digging of ditches of fire in which the Christians of Najran were burnt alive for their faith. Those who persecute believing men and women are warned and the Sura ends with an explanation about the greatness of the Qur'an.

- 85:1            Buruj (The Milky Way or Mansion of Stars)  
85:22          Lawhe Mahfuzh (The protected tablet)

## **86. Al-Tariq: The Night Star**

### **17 verses in 1 section**

Here the name al-Tariq refers to the bright star which shines with piercing brightness in the darkness of night. The sura begins with swearing by the evidence of the outer heavens and proceeds to focus specifically on the human being and how he came about. It then moves on to the next life followed by a reminder of the connection of the outer and the inner, Heaven and earth. Finally, Allah's control over all plans is stated.

86:1      Al-Tariq (The night star)

## **87. Al-A'la: The Most High**

### **19 verses in 1 section**

This is the shortest of the Musabbihat; the seven suwer that begin with the glorification of Allah. It forms a hymn in praise of Allah. It is the first verse of this sura that the Prophet (pbuh) recommended to be used in the sajda of Salaa. Success is stated as purification of the soul and the sura ends with a mention of the same message in the earlier Scriptures; as well as the Scriptures of Prophets Ibrahim (pbuh) and Musa (pbuh).

- 87:1      A'laa (The Most High)
- 87:6      Knowledge of the real is eternal. Once we know, we shall not forget
- 87:15     Remembering the name of the Lord and praying

## **88. Al-Ghashiya: The Calamity**

### **26 verses in 1 section**

This sura has two messages. The first is about the day of resurrection, the next world, the fire and Heaven, whilst the next is a message of tawheed to make us reflect upon creation so we can see His Perfection. The sura gives a clear picture of the final Judgment and its ultimate reward. The title Al Ghashiya is in the opening verse draws attention to the day when everything in creation will be jolted and shaken into a new consciousness.

88:1      Al Ghashiya (The calamity)



## **89. Al-Fajr: The Dawn**

### **30 verses in 1 section**

The sura describes the destruction of the people of Aad, Iram, Thamood and Pharaoh. It condemns those who love wealth and look down upon the poor and orphans speaking of their regret when they are brought in front of Hell. The sura ends with a short but moving passage describing "The Tranquil soul" which finally has found rest.

- 89:1        Al Fajr (The dawn)  
89:2        The ten nights  
89:27      Nafsul Mutma'inna (The tranquil soul)

## **90. Al-Balad: The City**

### **20 verses in 1 section**

The meaning of Balad ranges from the idea of city to country including that of district, home town, community, or land. Here it means the sacred surroundings of the city of Makka. The life of the world is shown as a struggle and choices given between two groups, the people of the Right Hand and the people of the Left Hand. Some characteristics of the good deeds of the first group and their final fate are stated and are compared to the destiny of the opposite group.

- 90:1      Al Balad (The city)  
90:18     People of the right hand  
90:19     People of the left hand

## **91. Al-Shams: The Sun**

### **15 verses in 1 section**

The sura opens with seven oaths sworn on various phenomena, the first of which is by the sun which is the primal source of energy, then on the human soul itself. It then describes the fate of the people of Thamud to whom Prophet Salih (pbuh) was sent. He urged them to worship Allah, and commanded them to preserve a certain she-camel; they disobeyed and continued to reject his message, and thus were all destroyed except for those who had followed Prophet Salih (pbuh). It brings out the fact that human beings must strive hard in order to remain pure.

91:1      Al Shams (The sun)

91:7      The one who perfected the soul

## **92. Al-Layl: The Night**

### **21 verses in 1 section**

The sura begins with three oaths; the night, the day and genders, each having its opposite qualities. It contrasts two types of people – the charitable and the miserly, and describes each of their characteristics and fate. The sura was revealed when there was one who refused to share even from his date palm branch which fell into his neighbours land.

92:1      Al Layl (The night)

### **93. Al-Dhuha: Early Morning**

11 verses in 1 section

This sura was revealed after a brief pause in the revelations of the Qur'an and the people of Makka were mocking the Prophet (pbuh) saying that his Lord had forsaken him. When sura al-Dhuha was revealed, it gave him a new strength and silenced the enemies. It begins with two oaths and then informs the Prophet (pbuh) of the good news that Allah has never forsaken him nor left him alone and will provide for him. It shows the intimate manner in which Allah comforted him during his anxiety. In the last verses He reminds the Prophet (pbuh) of his past life to illustrate how Allah has always bestowed His loving care on him and in the most difficult moments has supported him. This sura is coupled with Suratul Inshirah (94).

## **94. Al-Inshirah: The Expanding 8 verses in 1 section**

This sura is very closely connected to Sura al-Dhuha (93) and some consider it as a direct continuation. Al Inshirah is the expansion which made the difficult burden of Prophethood easier. The remembrance of the Prophet (pbuh) is mentioned and a promise of two eases with every difficulty is promised. The sura ends with a directive to make Allah an exclusive object of longing. The sura gave divine confirmation of the Prophet's mission which brought him further comfort.

## **95. Al-Tin: The Fig**


### **8 verses in 1 section**

The theme in this sura pivots on the subject of the creation of the human being in the best of moulds and the processes of his development and lowliness. The sura begins with four oaths; the first of which is the fig from which it derives its name. Its message of moral guidance is borne along on the similes of the fig and the olive. The sura concludes with an emphasis on Resurrection and the absolute Sovereignty of Allah.

## 96. Al-Alaq: The Clot

### 19 verses in 1 section

The first five ayaat of this sura are known as the first ones to be revealed to the Prophet (pbuh). The sura is concerned with the awakening of the intelligence and self-knowledge that is already within the reader. It begins with the injunction of 'Iqra' – Read. Then it refers to the creation of the human being out of a clot. It draws attention to the ungratefulness of the human being because he sees himself independent of Divinity. The sura ends with a command to prostration, and of drawing closer to Allah. It emphasises the fact that the art of reading or literacy forms the basis for civilized life and culture.

- 96:1      Read!  
96:2      Human being created from a clot  
96:19      Wajib Sajda



## **97. Al-Qadr: The Power**

### **5 verses in 1 section**

The name of the sura refers to the revelation of the Qur'an on The Night of Decree (Laylatul Qadr). The sura emphasises the importance of the night and the blessings therein. It is said that the Qur'an was revealed as a whole on Laylatul Qadr to the Prophet (pbuh) and then piecemeal as the occasion demanded and as ordered by Allah to be transmitted to the people. The Prophet (pbuh) has said "During Laylatul-Qadr, the angels, the spirit, and the trusted scribes all descend to the lower heavens and write down whatever Allah decrees that year, and if Allah wishes to advance something or postpone it or add thereto, He orders the angel to erase it and replace it with whatever He decrees."

## **98. Al-Bayyinah: Clear Evidence**

### **8 verses in 1 section**

The sura indicates clearly that the message of the Prophets such as faith, monotheism, prayers and fasting are eternal and unchangeable principles in all Divine religions. It talks about those amongst the people who considered themselves of 'the Book' but who denied the truth saying that they would continue to doubt unless blinding evidence came to them. The different reactions regarding the invitation to Islam are referred to, saying that those who believe and do righteous deeds are the best of all creation, and those who cover up the truth the worst.

## **99. Al-Zilzal: The Earthquake**

### **8 verses in 1 section**

This sura begins by mentioning the earthquake announcing the Day of Judgment which will make the earth lay open her secrets. It pivots on three points: First, it speaks about the preliminary signs of the Hereafter, and then, it tells us about the earth as a witness to all of the human being's deeds. In the third part, people are divided into two groups: good and evil, each of which will receive the fruit of their own actions.

## **100. Al-Adiyat: The Chargers**

### **11 verses in 1 section**

The culture in which the Qur'an was revealed was a desert culture in which the camel and the horse were prominent features. The first five verses are about horses in the literal sense referring to the Battle of Dhatul Salasil (Those bound in chains) in 8AH. The reference to panting horses paints a vivid picture. The sura then suddenly speaks of the ungrateful nature of the human being.

## **101. Al-Qariah: The Catastrophe**

### **11 verses in 1 section**

'Qara'a' means 'to knock, scold'. Al-Qariah refers to the final call which will announce the start of the Day of Judgement. The repetition of the statement wants us to understand the finality of the Day of Judgement when all false appearances and values will be destroyed and be replaced by reality. This sura, on the whole, describes the Day of Resurrection and its preliminary events. On that day nothing will matter but one's deeds. He whose actions, intentions and awareness are "heavy" will be in a perfect state of contentment, whilst he whose measure is "light" – whose actions were at a loss in the hereafter – will be destined to a bottomless pit.

## **102. Al-Takathur: Plentiful**

### **8 verses in 1 section**

The specific reference of this sura is to a time when the number of Muslims was being counted by the Makkans who would continually congratulate themselves on outnumbering the Muslims; in forging their strength, they would also count their dead. Each family wanted to appear more powerful than the other, and they would resort to going to the graveyard to be able to increase their claim. The sura was revealed when once over a dispute of numbers, a grave was opened and the dead therein were counted. The sura ends with a description of the stages of certainty of knowledge.

- a) Ilmul yaqeen - when one hears or learns information about certainty
- b) Aynul yaqeen - visual information
- c) the experience of certainty establishing its truth

## **103. Al-'Asr: Afternoon (Time)**

### **3 verses in 1 section**

'Asr' literally means squeezing. It has been used to describe the concept of time – in the sense of its meaning 'the squeezing of the past unfolding as future'. 'Asr depicting the time of the day when the day is being squeezed into the night. The sura begins with Time and ends with sabr (patience). Sabr is the shrinking of time. The sura points out that the human being's basic nature is to be at a loss except those who believe, and do good deeds, and advise each other to truth, and advise each other to patience. The highest degree of patience is that which is exercised when one keeps away from 'haram' (forbidden).

## **104. Al-Humaza: The Backbiters**

### **9 verses in 1 section**

This sura was revealed specifically concerning the people who gossiped about and slandered the Prophet (pbuh). Most of those who mocked the Muslims were the ones who boasted about their power and wealth continually counting it, thinking it would make them immortal. The sura warns that one who takes refuge in health, wealth or anything that is destructible will lose it and find himself at a loss.



## **105. Al-Fil: The Elephant**

### **5 verses in 1 section**

This sura refers to the event that took place in the year of the birth of the Prophet (pbuh) 570AD. The people around Makka were very jealous of the Quraysh and their position as guardians of the Ka'ba. One of these was the Emperor of Abyssinia who also ruled over Yemen. Through his representative called Abraha, he built a large church in San'a (in Yemen) to compete with the Ka'ba. The church did not attract as many people as the Ka'ba in Makka, as he had hoped. He therefore decided to destroy the Ka'ba under the leadership of Abraha. An army with an elephant marched to Makka to attack and destroy the Ka'ba. Allah set upon them a huge flock of birds which pelted the army with small stones in their beaks. The mighty army was suddenly devastated. The result of the attack was that Abraha's army became like straw eaten up. The year became legendary, known as the Year of the Elephant.

## **106. Al-Quraysh: The Quraysh**

### **4 verses in 1 section**

This sura is a supplement to the preceding one; Sura al-Fil. It describes the blessings on the tribe of Quraysh so that they might be thankful to Him and worship the Lord of the Sacred House (Ka'ba) from which they obtained all their honour and social status. The Quraysh were the Prophet's own clan, who opposed his mission and felt they were the only aristocrats fit to live in Makka.

## **107. Al-Ma'un: Daily Necessity**

### **7 verses in 1 section**

Ma'un literally means 'the plate upon which food is served' and by implication it means any useful article. This sura describes those who do not share, the message being that we must use every tool that is available to us to reduce the outer afflictions of others until they recognise the truth of the 'true' religion. Historically, many people were identified with this sura, including Abu Sufyan. These were those who were asked to help orphans and the needy. Despite their immense wealth, they refused and rejected them. The aya says how these people neither help nor encourage others to do so. Allah then curses those who pray neglectfully, only praying to be seen for they miss the essence of salaa, performing it as 'outer movements' for others to see.

## **108. Al-Kawthar: The Abundance**

### **3 verses in 1 section**

The Prophet (pbuh) had a son called Tahir who died in infancy. When he died some people taunted the Prophet (pbuh) calling him 'Abtar' which means an animal without a tail – one who had no succession. This sura was revealed in reply to those who taunted him. 'Kawthar' comes from the word 'kathara' which means plenty. The traditional description of Kawthar is that of a spring in Heaven. 'Kawthar' also means abundance of descendants. It is a fact that none can correctly count the descendants of the Prophet (pbuh) whereas those who taunted the Prophet (pbuh) are unknown. This sura gives consolation to the Prophet during his early persecution.

## **109. Al-Kafirun: Those Who Cover-up the Truth 6 verses in 1 section**

A party of Quraysh came to the Prophet (pbuh) once with a proposal of compromise. They proposed that they and the Muslims should both agree to worship each other's God(s). They proposed that for one year the Muslims should worship what the unbelievers worshipped and for the next year the unbelievers would worship He whom the Muslims worshipped and then the pattern to be repeated again. They believed that this way both parties would be able to live in harmony. The sura was revealed in answer to the proposal repeating the verses just as the proposal was repeated in order to totally reject it. The sura forms the Islamic answer to any suggestion of compromise in belief.

## **110. Al-Nasr: The Help**

### **3 verses in 1 section**

The sura gives the glad tidings of Divine help and victory to the Prophet (pbuh) when groups of people would enter Islam. Then, to thank Allah, the Prophet (pbuh) is invited to 'glorify' and 'praise' Allah, and to ask for forgiveness. These verses form the very last sura to be revealed as a whole to the Prophet. The message is that Islam will ultimately be successful.

## **111. Al-Lahab: The Flame**

### **5 verses in 1 section**

The sura takes its name from the uncle of the Prophet (pbuh) titled Abu Lahab meaning father of flames. He upheld the old traditions and defended them in a fanatical way. When the Prophet (pbuh) announced that he had come as a messenger from Allah, Abu Lahab said "May you perish..." He once raised a large stone to throw at the Prophet (pbuh) but his hands froze. The first verse of this sura refers to his raising of hands to throw the stone and to his actions which were at a loss. When Abu Lahab was warned against the fire of Hell he said he would buy Hell with his wealth and escape it. This sura says that nothing will be of use to him. His wife used to collect thorny sticks and bundle them up with a rope. In the night she used to spread them along the path that the Prophet (pbuh) used to take to go to the mosque for prayers early in the morning. She also used to incite people by carrying tales from one place to the other (gossip) and this also gave her the title as the 'carrier of firewood'.

The twisted rope around her neck implies that she was strangling her soul with the rope of her own making.



## **112. Al-Ikhlās: Unity of Belief**

### **4 verses in 1 section**

This sura was revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) in Makka when the Jews were continuously asking him to describe the identity of Allah. As an answer to their queries this sura was revealed. It contains only four verses yet it encompasses the basis of Tawheed (Monotheism). It is said that one third of the Qur'an is an explanation of this very principle. Perhaps that is why the Prophet (pbuh) has said that the recitation of this sura once carries the reward of reciting one third of the Qur'an. The title al-Ikhlās is the direct opposite of 'to shirk' or the sin of 'association'.

### **113. Al-Falaq: The Daybreak** **5 verses in 1 section**

This and the next sura are called Maudhatayn which are recited in times of anxiety. Falaq literally means to split, to remove the shadows of the night. We seek refuge in the One who brings forth the dawn after the darkness of the night. We take refuge from the powers whose functioning we cannot understand like those of witchcraft represented by the blowing on knots. We also take refuge from the jealous ones. In some traditions they are referred to like lice who are harmless to their victim but irritating – feeding on dead skin and dying of over-eating it. The jealous one never wins and we ask for refuge from this attitude which has its seed in every heart. The essence of this sura is that we must seek refuge in Allah in any difficulty – physical or spiritual, and keep guard of superstitions.

## **114. Al-Naas: Human Beings**

### **6 verses in 1 section**

This sura is the final sura of the Qur'an. The beginning of the Qur'an is a sura on the realisation that the only path of success is through glorification, dua and praise of Allah. The final is concerned with taking refuge. This sura complements Suratul Falaq. We are seeking refuge in the Lord, the King, God of mankind from 'waswas' which is the subtle whispering within our innermost being that incites us to evil. It is said that there are sources or rivers which feed the 'waswas'. Some of them being: greed, unrealistic expectations, pride, stinginess, love of the world... The Jinn are unseen and hidden from man but have their limitations and states just as man does. Therefore, we are asking for refuge for protection from the energies whose nature we do not understand, and whose creation is not visible to us.

## Terminology

Rabb	Nourisher, Cherisher, Sustainer (Lord)
Sajda	Prostration
Wajib	Obligatory
Mustahab	Recommended
Tawba	Repentance
Dua	Supplication
(pbuh)	Peace be upon him
Tabarra	Keeping away from the enemies of Allah
Salaa	Prayer
Janna	Heaven
Jahannam	Hell



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