

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



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Introduction

- This surah was revealed in Madinah, after signing the Treaty of Hudaibiyah.
- Narrated Aslam:

أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ يَسِيرُ فِي بَعْضِ أَصْفَارِهِ وَعُمَرُ بْنُ الْخَطَّابِ يَسِيرُ مَعَهُ لَيْلًا فَسَأَلَهُ عُمَرُ عَنْ شَيْءٍ فَلَمْ يُجِبْهُ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثُمَّ سَأَلَهُ فَلَمْ يُجِبْهُ ثُمَّ سَأَلَهُ فَلَمْ يُجِبْهُ، فَقَالَ عُمَرُ تَكَلَّمْتُكَ أُمَّكَ نَزَرْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ كُلَّ ذَلِكَ لَا يُجِيبُكَ، قَالَ عُمَرُ فَحَرَكْتُ بَعِيرِي حَتَّى كُنْتُ أَمَامَ النَّاسِ وَخَشِيتُ أَنْ يَنْزَلَ فِيَّ قُرْآنٌ فَمَا نَشِيتُ أَنْ سَمِعْتُ صَارِحًا يَصْرُخُ - قَالَ - فَقُلْتُ لَقَدْ خَشِيتُ أَنْ يَكُونَ نَزَلَ فِيَّ قُرْآنٌ - قَالَ - فَجِئْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَسَلَّمْتُ عَلَيْهِ فَقَالَ " لَقَدْ أَنْزَلْتُ عَلَى اللَّيْلَةِ سُورَةً لَهَا أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا طَلَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ الشَّمْسُ ". ثُمَّ قَرَأَ {إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُبِينًا}

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) was traveling on one of his journeys, and `Umar bin Al-Khattab was traveling along with him at night. `Umar asked him about something, but Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) did not answer him. He asked again, but he did not answer. He asked for the third time, but he did not answer. On that, `Umar said to himself, "May your mother lose you! You have asked Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) three times, but he did not answer at all!" `Umar said, "So I made my camel go fast till I was ahead of the people, and I was afraid that something might be revealed about me. After a little while I heard a call maker calling me, I said, 'I was afraid that some Qur'anic Verse might be revealed about me.' So I went to Allah's Apostle and greeted him. He said, 'Tonight there has been revealed to me a Surah which is dearer to me than that on which the sun shines (i.e. the world).' Then he recited: 'Verily! We have given you (O Muhammad), a manifest victory.' "(48.1) (Sahih al-Bukhari)

- Themes:
 - Victory of the believers
 - Allah promises the believer's victory.
 - Sometimes, it feels like we are losing. But when we fulfill the conditions, Allah will grant victory in due time.

- Allegiance to the Prophet (ﷺ)
 - The more we are aligned with the Prophet (ﷺ) and live by his example, the higher our chances are of receiving victory.
- Those excused from battle
 - We should not expect every person to do everything.
 - The Companions remained faithful despite being excused.
- Allah promises for the believers
 - We know the promise of Allah is true; we have to ensure we are those amongst those who receive the promises of Allah.
 - To appreciate the hikmah (wisdom), we have to appreciate the Hakim (The Wise). We have to understand who Allah is and what His promise is.
 - When we understand the qualities of those Allah promises victory for, we must aspire to develop these qualities.

Ayah 1

- These verses were revealed on the return journey from Hudaibiyah to Madinah after the Prophet (ﷺ) and his Companions set out for Makkah with the intention of performing umrah but were barred entry by the Quraysh.
- Bara' Ibn Azib said: "You think 'Victory' refers to the conquest of Makkah. No doubt, it does, but we think the Pledge of Ridwan on the occasion of Hudaibiyah is the real 'Victory' where the Companions were asked by the Prophet ﷺ under an acacia tree to declare on solemn oath that they would stand by him at all costs and would fight under his banner to the bitter end."
- The real conquest was the moment the Prophet (ﷺ) put off his ihram. He got up, slaughtered his sacrifice, and started shaving his head – and upon seeing this, the Companions followed suit.
- This momentous victory was bestowed upon them because of their faith and obedience to the Prophet (ﷺ). They obeyed Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ).
 - The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

"لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونَ هَوَاهُ تَبَعًا لِمَا جِئْتُ بِهِ"

"None of you [truly] believes until his desires are subservient to that which I have brought." (40 Hadith an-Nawawi)

- We should carry out whatever command from Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ) without any apprehension and doubt.

Ayah 2

- Al-maghfira means forgiveness. This bounty was given through the Prophet (ﷺ); which means that Allah will forgive everyone's sins. It references the entire ummah.
- Ghafara is to forgive. However, another meaning of ghafara is protection. Allah is also offering the Prophet (ﷺ) protection. It is asking Allah to protect us from sins and from the embarrassments of sins.
- Perfecting ni'mah (blessing) in this phrase refers to the completion of the Deen of Allah. The greatest ni'mah is Islam.
- Today, we look at the commands of Allah as a burden. Whereas, the Companions perceived it as a great ni'mah.
- They were given each ni'mah in piecemeal – the commandments of Allah came one after the other over a period of time.
- This is the great ni'mah that Allah speaks about in Surah Al-Ma'idah:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion. (5:3)

- The Companions grew sad upon this revelation because they wanted more blessings.
- The Companions made an effort and struggled in Allah's path. Allah promises that He will open the pathways for those who do so.
- ك is a pronoun which means you. It is mentioned five times in these verses (1-3), in reference to the Prophet (ﷺ).
- The way Allah addresses the Prophet (ﷺ), shows us the love and respect Allah has for him. Hence, we similarly have to show love and respect to the Prophet (ﷺ).
- A believer should adopt this mindset after every deed:

- #1. Say 'Alhamdulillah' – be happy as it is out of the mercy and fadl of Allah
- The Prophet (ﷺ) said,

إِذَا سَرَّتْكَ حَسَنَاتُكَ وَسَاءَتْكَ سَيِّئَاتُكَ فَأَنْتَ مُؤْمِنٌ

"If you are happy with your good deeds and saddened by your bad deeds, you are a believer." (Musnad Ahmad)

- #2. Say 'Astaghfirullah' – after glorifying Allah, seek forgiveness for our shortcomings

Ayah 3

- Allah talks about giving a mighty victory.
- Every time Allah uses the word nasr/nusr – He uses it in conjunction with His name.
- We see a similar description in various surahs in the Qu'ran.
 - In Surah al-Anfal, Allah said:

وَمَا النَّصْرُ إِلَّا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ

Victory comes only from Allah (8:10)

- In Surah an-Nasr, Allah said:

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ

When Allah's 'ultimate' help comes and the victory 'over Mecca is achieved' (110:1)

- In Surah Muhammad, Allah said:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ

O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm. (47:7)

- Allah is reemphasizing the obvious, that help is from Him and not from anywhere else.
- There are two pathways to attain the help of Allah:
- #1. Through patience and tolerance
 - Allah said:

بِهَذَا وَإِن تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا لَا يَضُرُّكُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا

'Yet,' if you are patient and mindful 'of Allah', their schemes will not harm you in the least. (3:120)

- Understand that this is the dunya and Allah will give us better in the akhirah. Thus, we will remain patient and tolerant.
- Ibn 'Abbas narrated:

" يَا غُلَامُ إِنِّي أَعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ أَحْفَظَ اللَّهُ يَحْفَظَكَ أَحْفَظَ اللَّهُ تَجِدَهُ تُجَاهَكَ إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الْأُمَّةَ لَوِ اجْتَمَعَتْ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَنْفَعُوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَنْفَعُوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ لَكَ وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَضُرُّوكَ بِشَيْءٍ لَمْ يَضُرُّوكَ إِلَّا بِشَيْءٍ قَدْ كَتَبَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ رُفِعَتِ الْأَقْلَامُ وَجَفَّتِ الصُّحُفُ "

I was behind the Prophet one day when he said: 'O boy! I will teach you a statement: "Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. When you ask, ask Allah, and when you seek aid, seek Allah's aid. Know that if the entire creation were to gather together to do something to benefit you- you would never get any benefit except that Allah had written for you. And if they were to gather to do something to harm you- you would never be harmed except that Allah had written for you. The pens are lifted and the pages are dried."' (Jami` at-Tirmidhi)

- There is abundance of khayr in having patience; we will receive the contentment we need in the dunya.
- #2. By remembering Allah the most
 - Allah said:

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكَرْكُمْ وَأَشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونِ

Remember Me; I will remember you. And thank Me, and never be ungrateful. (2:152)

- The more difficulty we have, the more we should remember Allah. The more we glorify Allah, the more our heart will be at peace.
- Allah is greater than everything. When Allah's help comes, it is going to be 'aziz', meaning it is powerful, strong, unexpected, unknown, from unimaginable places and ways.
- For example, the ababil birds were sent to protect the Ka'aba from Abraha's army, by dropping small clay stones on them as they approached.

Ayah 4

- The first conquest is submitting to Allah's hukm; this is a complete submission from the Muslim ummah.
- After we receive Allah's help, He will give us sakinah (tranquility). to increase our iman.
- The different interpretations of sakinah:
- #1. When the heart becomes at ease about a decision
- For the people of iman, Shaytan does not trick them into evil deeds, but he tricks them into doing something less virtuous to something more virtuous.
- Iman fluctuates, but in following the Prophet's instructions and Allah's commands, our hearts will be at peace. The opposite is true for the disbelievers.

- Allah said:

سَنُلْقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ بِمَا أَشْرَكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزَّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا

We will cast horror into the hearts of the disbelievers for associating 'false gods' with Allah—a practice He has never authorized. (3:151)

- On the day of Uhud, slumber overcame the believers. Allah sent down on them this favor as security from the fear they suffered from.
- Allah said:

ثُمَّ أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّن بَعْدِ الْغَمِّ أَمْنَةً نُّعَاسًا يَغْشَى طَائِفَةً مِّنكُمْ وَطَائِفَةٌ قَدْ أَهَمَّتْهُمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ

Then after the distress, He sent down security for you. Slumber overtook a party of you, while another party was thinking about themselves. (3:154)

- Abu Talhah said, "I was among those who were overcome by slumber during (the battle of) Uhud. The sword fell from my hand several times, and I kept picking it up again, several times. I also saw the Companions' heads nodding while in the rear guard."
- The believers did not need to see a miracle for their iman to increase. They felt a taste of enjoyment just by following the Prophet (ﷺ).
- Two things believers learn from Uhud:
 - All matters in Allah's hands
 - Success is in following the Prophet (ﷺ)

- For those who accept the call and obey the decisions of Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ), their hearts will feel content. Allah will increase their iman and give them tawfiq to do more.
- All believers whose faith and obedience are complete and perfect will receive similar favors from Allah.

Ayah 5

- This is the promise Allah made after the Companions asked the Prophet (ﷺ) about their reward. The greatest success attaining Paradise.