

RAMADAN

IMMERSION



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Introduction

- Surah Taha can be broken down into four themes.
 - The first of these themes is: *The Power of the Words of Allah SWT*

Verse 1

طه

Taa Haa

- Scholars mention that this is a name of the Prophet SAW.
 - Allah never calls upon the Prophet SAW by his name directly in the Quran, unlike He did for other prophets.
 - It is out of the respect and love of Allah for the Prophet SAW that He calls him by other names.
- This grabs the attention of the Prophet SAW because something important will be mentioned soon after.

Verse 2

مَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لِتَشْقَىٰ

We did not reveal the Quran to you to make you suffer.

- The Prophet SAW would engage with the Quran to such an extent that his body would become weak.
- Allah mentioned in Surah Al-Qiyamah:

لَا تُحَرِّكْ بِهِ لِسَانَكَ لِتَعْجَلَ بِهِ (٧٥:١٦) إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا جَمْعَهُ وَقُرْآنَهُ (٧٥:١٧)

Do not rush your tongue trying to memorize a revelation of the Quran. (75:16)

It is certainly upon Us to make you memorize and recite it. (75:17)

- The wife of Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al-Aas RA complained to his father, Amr RA, about Abdullah RA. She complained that he prays all night and fasts all day. The Prophet SAW told Abdullah RA not to fast every day and to fast on Mondays and Thursdays only. Abdullah RA said that he can do more than that. So, the Prophet SAW told him to fast Mondays, Thursdays, and the 3 white days of the month. Abdullah RA said that he can do more than that. The Prophet SAW told him the most he can do is the fast of Dawud, which is fasting every other day. Later, when Abdullah RA was older, he said that he wished he had listened to the advice of the Prophet SAW because his body became weak quickly from doing intense acts of worship while he was younger.
 - The religion is not supposed to be difficult for us. So, do not overburden yourself.
 - Any difficulty which a person feels from the deen of Allah SWT is either due to their lack of ability to understand it or their inability to control their desires.
- Through this verse, Allah SWT reminds the Prophet SAW that the Quran was not revealed to make things harder on him, but rather to make things easier.
- There are many benefits of studying and reciting the Quran.
 - The Prophet SAW said: Anytime a group of people sits down to enjoy and learn the Quran, they will be given 4 blessings:
 - Allah will bring peace and tranquility (سَكِينَةٌ) into their home
 - سَكِينَةٌ can only be brought by Allah and it is earned by reciting the words of Allah.
 - مَسْكَنٌ means a place of living.
 - There can only be a place of living if there is tranquility inside it.
 - A persons home becomes beautiful with the decoration of the words of Allah (calligraphy paintings). So, imagine how beautiful our hearts will be if we decorate them with the words of Allah (the Quran)
 - Mercy descends upon them and enshrouds them

- In a Hadith Qudsi, Allah says that when an individual sits in a gathering, remembering Allah and they are about to leave from the gathering, the angels descend and say to the person, "Stand up and you are forgiven."
- Angels surround them
 - Usayd ibn Huthayr RA was reciting Surah Kahf and his child and horse were in the courtyard. When he started reciting, his horse began to jump up and down trying to free itself. Usayd RA took his child and went inside his home out of fear. The Prophet SAW told him that whenever anyone recites Quran, angels descend from the sky and that his horse was excited because it saw angels and wanted to reach them.
 - There are angels whose only job is to search for groups of people who are remembering Allah.
- Allah will mention their name in the gathering of angels.
- It is important for us to know our ability and pace ourselves in order for our ibadah to be easier for us.

Verse 3

إِلَّا تَذِكْرَةً لِّمَنْ يَخْشَى

But only as a reminder for him who fears.

- The Quran will only be a source of guidance and reminder for those who have some fear of Allah and are in awe of Allah's greatness.
- There are 3 main factors that motivate a person to do something good, as expressed in Surah Fatiha:
 - Love - الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ: Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds.
 - Hope - الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ: The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
 - Allah SWT also mentioned in Surah Al-Zumar:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves: do not despair of God's mercy, for God forgives all sins. He is indeed the Forgiver, the Clement." (Surah Zumar, Ayah 53)

- Fear - **مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ**: Master of the Day of Judgment.
- In order for the Quran to have an effect on our hearts, we need to make sure that the 5 streams that lead towards the heart (eyes, tongue, ears, hands, and mind) are pure.
- Work on your heart by putting good inside of it.
 - Enter the Quran into your heart
 - Speak well
 - Umar ibn Al-Khattab RA said: A person who speaks too much, their mistakes become exposed. When their mistakes become exposed, they lose the quality of modesty. When they lose the quality of modesty, piety will lessen in their life. When piety lessens, their heart dies.
- One should test their heart in 3 places:
 - While listening to the Quran
 - Our heart is supposed to enjoy the Quran
 - In the gatherings of knowledge and thikr
 - We should feel more motivated, like our Iman is stronger
 - While we are alone
 - Can we control ourselves, regardless of people not being around us?

Verse 4

تَنْزِيلًا مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ الْعُلَى

A revelation from He who created the earth and the high heavens.

- Know that the Quran is from the words of Allah and reflect over that fact.
- **أَنْزَلَ** means to reveal. This word is only used for 2 things:
 - Water
 - The Quran
- What connects these two?
 - Water is used to bring life back to the earth and allows things to grow which benefit other people.
 - The Quran brings the dead heart back to life and cultivates qualities within it that allow others to benefit.

Verse 5

الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَىٰ

The Most Merciful; on the Throne He settled.

- All of the other names of Allah come with another name attached to it in the Quran.
 - The only name that comes by itself is الرَّحْمَنُ (Al-Rahman)
- Other nations had knowledge of this name.
 - Allah used this name to introduce himself to other nations.
- الرَّحْمَنُ (Al-Rahman) is Allah being merciful to every creature in this life.
- الرَّحِيمُ (Al-Raheem) is Allah being merciful in the next life which is specific to the believers.

Verse 6

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَمَا تَحْتَ الثَّرَىٰ

To Him belongs everything in the heavens and the earth, and everything between them, and everything beneath the soil.

Verse 7

وَإِنْ تَجْهَرُ بِالْقَوْلِ فَإِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَ

If you speak aloud—He knows the secret, and the most hidden.

- Even if you recite Quran quietly, Allah hears it.
 - We do not have to exert ourselves by reciting it loudly.
- A Bedouin once came to the Prophet SAW and asked if Allah is far away from us, so we have to yell to be heard or if He is close to us, so we can be quiet. Allah revealed the ayah:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ

And when My servants ask you about Me, I Am near
(Surah Baqarah, Ayah 186)

- Allah hears our whispers and our thoughts.
 - Even if we don't express it, Allah knows it.
- One of the types of people whose dua is always accepted is the dua of a person with a broken heart.

- In Islam, a person is not held accountable for their thoughts.
 - However, even if a person has a dua in their heart, Allah hears it and accepts it.

Verse 8

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى

God, there is no god but He, His are the Most Beautiful Names.

- When making dua, a person can call Allah by any of His names
- Imam Ghazali stated that one of the wisdoms of Allah's names is that we can call to Allah by the names which are specific to our situations and needs.
 - When a person is need of help with an exam they can call upon Allah as the All-Knowledgable and when they are feeling weak they can call upon Allah as the All-Powerful.
- Allah's greatest name is Allah
 - Allah introduces His name to the world in the first ayah of Surah Fatihah.
- Through the first eight verses of Surah Taha, the Quran helps to revive a person's heart.
 - When these verses were recited, Musa was blessed with prophethood.
 - These verses revived the heart of Musa through prophethood
 - Similarly, these verses instilled faith into the heart of the companion who resembled Musa the most, Umar ibn Al-Khattab RA.
 - When Umar RA entered his sister's home and found her and her husband reciting Quran he became angry and hit his sister. Then after seeing the harm which he had done he felt remorse and asked them what they were reading.
 - After reading the first 14 verses of Surah Taha, Umar RA accepted Islam.
 - It is not a coincidence that the same verses which brought prophethood to Prophet Musa are those verses who brought Umar RA to Islam.