

Para 18.5 to 19.75

Finish Surah al-Nur. Finish Surah al-Furqan (verse of *sajdah*) & Surah al-Shu'ara. Begin Surah al-Naml.

Seek permission before entering other people's houses

O you who believe! Do not enter houses other than your own houses until you seek permission and greet the household with peace. This is better for you, so you may ponder.

[Qur'an 24:27]

Knock or ring the doorbell to seek permission to enter. Once you enter, say *salam* to the people. Then talk. If you are asked: "Who is it?" Reply with your name and not only by saying: "Me." Sayyiduna 'Umar would reply: "O Allah's Messenger! Peace be upon you, can 'Umar enter?" [Tafsir al-Qurtubi]

Surah al-Furqan (Chapter 25: The Criterion). Makkan. 77 Verses.

The Criterion: The Quran distinguishes between truth and falsehood

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا ﴿١﴾

Glory to the One who revealed the Criterion to His (beloved) servant so he can be a warner (of divine torment) for all the worlds. [Qur'an 25:1]

Since the people of Makkah denied *tawhid* and *risalah*, this Surah explains the beliefs of Islam in different ways to differentiate between truth and falsehood.

Praiseworthy characteristics of the believers

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا ﴿٦٣﴾

The servants of the utmost Kind are those who walk on the earth humbly, and when the ignorant people speak to them, they simply say: "Peace (be upon you)." [Qur'an 25:63]

At the end of the Surah, the praiseworthy characteristics of the believers are mentioned due to which Allah will grant them an immense reward in the hereafter, in Paradise. They walk on the earth softly, not arrogantly, they do not consider others to be inferior and worthless like the polytheists, they do not spend time with immoral people who annoy and tease others. Rather they walk with humility and dignity and do not upset anybody. If ignorant people address them and talk to them in an uncivilised manner, they say *salam* and move on i.e.: they say some nice words and move on.

وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا ﴿٦٤﴾

They spend their nights in prostration and standing for their Lord. [Qur'an 25:64]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Performing 'Isha and Fajr with congregation is equivalent to standing for the entire night in worship." [Sunan Abi Dawud]

Surah al-Shu'ara (Chapter 26: The Poets). Makkan. 227 Verses.

The last four verses of this Chapter were revealed in Madinah.

The Poets

وَالشُّعْرَاءُ يَتَّبِعُهُمُ الْغَاوُونَ ﴿٢٢٤﴾

And the poets are only followed by the misguided people. [Qur'an 26:224]

Objection of the polytheists: The Prophet ﷺ was a poet and that the Quran was not the word of God but made up with the thoughts of the Prophet ﷺ. Poets were common in the time of the Prophet ﷺ and generally consisted of the following traits.

Response in this Chapter: Usually, poets do not act upon what they say but whatever the Prophet ﷺ says he acts upon. The followers of poets are usually immoral and misguided people whereas the followers of the Prophet ﷺ have repented from all types of oppression and misguidance and have become embodiments of good character and action. Poets overstep the mark in praising or denouncing someone in return for rewards and gifts but the Prophet ﷺ is an embodiment of truthfulness and trustworthiness. (Not all poets are like this, those that are honest are worthy of being praised)

Surah al-Naml (Chapter 27: The Ants). Makkan. 93 Verses.

The story of some ants

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَوْا عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ قَالَتْ نَمَلَةٌ يَأْتِيهَا النَّمْلُ أَخْلُوا مَسْكِنَكُمْ لَا يَحْطِمَنَّكُمْ
سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

And when they came across a valley of ants. An ant said: "O ants! Enter your dwellings, that you may not be crushed by Sulayman and his army whilst they are unaware." [Qur'an 27:18]

Prophet Sulayman was travelling with his army. He was given control of the wind, human beings, the jinn and even the birds. His follower could bring a massive throne in front of him from many a mile away in the blinking of an eye and he still remained grateful. The army was about two miles away from a valley of ants. One ant announced the above to the rest. Prophet Sulayman heard this, smiled and supplicated to Allah:

Sulayman smiled in amusement at her words, and supplicated: "O my Lord! Enable me to be grateful for this favour You have blessed me and my parents with, and (enable) me to do good deeds that please you. Admit me, by Your mercy, with Your righteous servants." [Qur'an 27:19]

Lesson: An ant knew the forthcoming dangers and made the necessary changes and adopted the correct measures to protect itself. If only we can perceive the future challenges and make the necessary preparations today.

[Tafsir Imdad al-Karam, Vol 3, by Shaykh M. I. H. Pirzada]

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