

Continuation from Quranic Pearls #28:

Surah al-Fil (Chapter 105: The Elephant) Makkan. 5 Verses.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ ①

Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the People of the Elephant? [Qur'an 105:1]

Abrahah had prepared an army of sixty thousand including a unit of elephants (*fil*) to destroy the Ka'bah. He was the governor of Yemen and wanted people to visit his newly built place of worship instead of the Ka'bah. Since nobody listened to his call, he decided to take matters into his own hands and destroy the Ka'bah. In response to his hidden prejudice towards the Ka'bah, Allah turned his scheme (*kayd*) into ruin, sent flocks of birds (*tayr*) over him and his army which struck them with stones (*hijarah*) of baked clay (*sijjil*) and left them like eaten straw (*'asf ma'kul*). There is a lesson for the people of Makkah that just as He destroyed that army He can just as easily destroy you if you do not change your ways. There is also the consoling of the Prophet ﷺ that just as I protected the Ka'bah from the elephants I shall most certainly protect you. This incident occurred fifty days before the birth of the Prophet ﷺ.

Surah Quraysh (Chapter 106: Quraysh) Makkan. 4 Verses.

لَا يَلْفُ قُرَيْشٍ ①

In order to familiarise the Quraysh. [Qur'an 106:1]

The people of Makkah did not have a lot of agriculture and fertile land. Most of their wealth was from trade and trade in Arabia was not safe because there were bandits who would loot the trade caravans. However, Allah had honoured the Quraysh due to being custodians of the Ka'bah, so people did not loot or raid them. Very safely they could travel to Yemen in winter (*al-shita*) and Syria in summer (*al-sayf*) for trade and return with grains and foodstuffs. If Allah had not favoured them and Abrahah had destroyed the Ka'bah then the Quraysh would have no respect, any trade journeys they went on they would have been looted and struggled with hunger and a lack of wealth. Therefore, they ought to worship the Lord of this House and worship Allah who gave them food against hunger (*ju'*) and security against fear (*khawf*).

Surah al-Ma'un (Chapter 107: The Basic Needs) Makkan. 7 Verses.

وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ ⑦

And they refuse to give the basic needs of use. [Qur'an 107:1]

This Chapter mentions two traits of the unbelievers of Makkah and three traits of the hypocrites. The people of Makkah who denied the Day of Judgement did not have good relations with orphans (Abu Jahl pushed one of out his home) and did not feed the poor themselves nor encourage others to feed the poor. The hypocrites were neglectful (*sahun*) of their prayer (*salah*), performed the prayer to show off (*yura'un*) and refused to let people use their common household items e.g.: salt, sugar and water etc. There is a lesson here for the Muslims to stay away from these traits.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The biggest thief is the one who steals in the prayer...(since) he does not complete his bowing (*ruku'*) and prostrating (*sajdah*).” [Sunan al-Darimi]

Surah al-Kawthar (Chapter 108: The Abundance) Makkan. 3 Verses.

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ۝ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ ۝ إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ۝

Indeed, We have granted you al-kawthar. Thus, perform the prayer for your Lord and sacrifice. Indeed, your enemy is cut off. [Qur'an 108:1-3]

Once 'As ibn Wail was asked by the leaders of Quraysh: “Who were you with?” He replied as an insult: “That *abtar*.” *Abtar* meant the one who had sons and daughters, but the sons had passed away, and since the lineage continues with the sons, he intended to mean the lineage of the Prophet ﷺ had been cut off. At that time, Sayyiduna Qasim and Sayyiduna 'Abdullah had both passed away and Sayyidah Khadijah had reached old age. In response, Allah revealed this Chapter. 'As believed the Prophet ﷺ would have no deputy after he passed away for there were no sons so his name would perish. However, Allah raised the name of the Prophet ﷺ and continued his lineage through Sayyidah Fatimah such that today her children are present in every corner of the world. Whereas 'As has been cut off from the mercy of Allah such that he is only remembered with disgrace. To show gratitude for this blessing, Allah encourages the Prophet ﷺ to further perform the prayer and sacrifice.

Kawthar refers to abundance in terms of blessings and excellence and also refers to the Fountain of Kawthar.

Surah al-Kafirun (Chapter 109: The Unbelievers) Makkan. 6 Verses.

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ ۝ لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ۝ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ۝

Say: “O unbelievers! I do not worship what you worship. And you are not going to worship who I worship.” [Qur'an 109:1-3]

A group of the Quraysh once came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: “Worship our gods for one year and we will worship your God for one year.” The Prophet ﷺ replied: “I have never committed polytheism (*shirk*) before my prophetic announcement, you think I am to start now?” This Chapter was then revealed and in very clear wording the Prophet ﷺ told them: “I was steadfast upon my religion before and even now I will forever remain steadfast upon my religion. If you do not accept Islam and remain on your religion then that is your decision, the consequences of which you will have to face. For you is your manmade religion and for me is my divine religion.” This Chapter was specific to those unbelievers who tried to come to an agreement with the Prophet ﷺ. This is because they never believed in their lifetime due to their arrogance and pride. Whereas those unbelievers who ponder over the Qur'an without pride and arrogance, they accepted Islam and even today continue to accept Islam in large numbers. This further shows the truthfulness of the Prophet ﷺ who said to them they would not believe. The words in this Chapter are repeated for emphasis.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “*Surah al-Kafirun* is equivalent to a quarter of the Quran.” [Sunan al-Tirmidhi] “Recite it before sleeping for it frees one from polytheism.” [Sunan Abi Dawud]

Surah al-Nasr (Chapter 110: The Help) Madinan. 3 Verses.

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ۗ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ۗ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ
وَأَسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا ۝

When the help and victory of Allah comes. And you see the people entering the religion of Allah in multitudes. Then glorify your Lord whilst praising Him and seek forgiveness from Him. Indeed, He is the most Relenting. [Qur'an 110:1-3]

This was the last complete Chapter to be revealed of the Qur'an during the Farewell Pilgrimage in the tenth year after the migration (*hijrah*). The help refers to Islam becoming dominant, and the victory refers to the Conquest of Makkah. After the Conquest people began to enter Islam group after group, whereas before people entered Islam individually. The Muslims are being reminded of this victory now that the flag of Islam is fluttering over most of Arabia. The Prophet ﷺ is encouraged to continue remembering Allah and for it to be a lesson to others that when a great achievement is acquired in life, not to forget Allah and consider others to be small.

The Prophet ﷺ despite being sinless would seek forgiveness seventy times a day. This means his rank would be raised through seeking forgiveness. The Prophet ﷺ would recite *subhanAllahi wa bihamdihi* when standing and sitting in his latter stages. When asked why, he said: "This is what my Lord has commanded." Then he recited *Surah al-Nasr*. [Tafsir al-Tabari]

Surah al-Lahab/al-Masad (Chapter 111: The Flame/The Palm-Fibre) Makkan. 4 Verses.

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ ۝ مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ ۝ سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ ۝ وَامْرَأَتُهُ
حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ ۝ فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ ۝

Ruined be the two hands of Abu Lahab and ruined is he! Neither his wealth benefitted him nor what he had earned. Soon he will go to the flaming fire. And his wife, who carried the firewood. Around her neck will be a rope of palm-fibre. [Qur'an 111:1-5]

The Prophet ﷺ stood at the age of forty on Mount Safa. He addressed the Quraysh and invited them towards Islam. Abu Lahab said: "Damn you! Is this why you have called us." In response, Allah revealed this Chapter in condemnation of Abu Lahab and his wife.

Surah al-Ikhlās (Chapter 112: The Sincerity) Makkan. 4 Verses.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

Say: "He is Allah, the One. Allah is Independent of everything. He has no offspring, nor is He the offspring of anyone. And there is no one equal to Him." [Qur'an 112:1-4]

This Chapter mentions the pure *tawhid* of Allah which is the foundational belief of Islam. The polytheists asked the Prophet ﷺ to name the lineage of Allah. In response, this Chapter was revealed.

The Prophet ﷺ said this Chapter is equivalent to a third of the Quran. [Sahih Muslim] Send salutations upon the Prophet ﷺ when entering the home and then recite this Surah, it shall protect you from poverty.

Surah al-Falaq (Chapter 113: The Daybreak) Madinan. 5 Verses.

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ① مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ② وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ③ وَمِنْ شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ ④ وَمِنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ⑤

Say: "I seek refuge with the Lord of the Daybreak. From the evil of His entire creation. And from the evil of the dark night when it spreads. And from the evil of the witches who blow into knots. And from the evil of the envier when he envies." [Qur'an 113:1-5]

A Jew and his daughters performed magic upon the Prophet ﷺ. He felt the effects of that upon his blessed body so at that time, angel Jibril descended with these two Chapters (Surah al-Falaq & Surah al-Nas) and the effects of the magic were lifted. This Chapter teaches us to seek protection from the general creation; the darkness of the night, magicians and the envious one. The last two Chapters are known as *mu'awwidhatayn* (seeking protection with Allah from evil).

Surah al-Nas (Chapter 114: The People) Madinan. 6 Verses.

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ ① مَلِكِ النَّاسِ ② إِلَهِ النَّاسِ ③ مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ ④ الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ ⑤ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ ⑥

Say: "I seek refuge with the Lord of people. The King of people. The God of people. From the evil of the whisperer al-Khannas who withdraws (when Allah's name is mentioned). Who whispers evil thoughts in the hearts of people. From the jinn and the people." [Qur'an 114:1-6]

This Chapter teaches us to seek protection from the greatest envier of human beings, Shaytan. Sayyidah 'Aishah narrates that when Allah's Messenger ﷺ would lie down to go to sleep, he would recite *Surah al-Ikhlās* and the last two Chapters, then blow on his palms. He would wipe his hands over his face and everywhere his hands could reach on his body. Sayyidah 'Aishah relates: "When the Prophet ﷺ became ill (from which he passed away), he instructed me to blow on her palms and wipe her hands over his body." [Sahih al-Bukhari]

O Allah! Have mercy upon us through the Qur'an, make it an Imam, a light, guide and mercy for us. Remind us from it that which we have forgotten and teach us from it what we do not know. Grant us the ability to recite it during the day and night. And make it a proof for us. O Lord of all the Worlds! Shower Your mercy upon myself, Shaykh Pirzada, Jamia al-Karam, Masjid E Ghosia, all who have benefitted from his Tafsir, these Quranic Pearls and all the Muslims. Amin.

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