

Islamic Studies - SS2 Second Term E-Notes

Week 1: Articles of Faith - Belief in Prophets

Introduction to Prophethood

Definition:

- **Prophet (Nabi):** A person chosen by Allah to receive divine guidance and teach it to people
- **Messenger (Rasul):** A prophet who receives a new scripture or major law
- All messengers are prophets, but not all prophets are messengers

Arabic Terms:

- **Nabi (نبي):** Prophet (plural: Anbiya)
- **Rasul (رسول):** Messenger (plural: Rusul)

Why Allah Sent Prophets

Reasons for Prophethood:

1. Guidance for Humanity:

- Humans need divine guidance
- Cannot discover everything through reason alone
- Need to know purpose of life
- Require clear moral framework

2. Mercy from Allah:

- Shows Allah's care for His creation
- Provides clear path to Paradise
- Removes excuses on Day of Judgment
- Gives hope and direction

3. To Convey Allah's Message:

- Teach people about Allah
- Explain His commands
- Demonstrate how to worship
- Show practical application of faith

4. To Be Examples:

- Living models of righteousness

- Practical demonstration of teachings
- Relatable human beings
- Achievable standards

5. Justice:

- So people cannot say: "We were not warned"
- Clear evidence presented
- No excuses on Judgment Day
- Fair opportunity for all nations

Qur'anic Evidence: *"Messengers as bearers of good tidings and warners, so that mankind will have no argument against Allah after the messengers. And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise."* (Surah An-Nisa 4:165)

Characteristics of Prophets

Essential Qualities:

1. Truthfulness (As-Sidq)

- Never lied before or after prophethood
- Completely honest in speech
- Trustworthy in conveying message
- Cannot deceive people

Evidence: All prophets were known for truthfulness even before prophethood. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was called "Al-Amin" (The Trustworthy) by his enemies.

2. Trustworthiness (Al-Amanah)

- Completely reliable
- Preserved the divine message
- Fulfilled their mission perfectly
- Never betrayed their trust

Application: If prophets could be dishonest, how could we trust their message?

3. Conveying the Message (At-Tabligh)

- Delivered Allah's message completely
- Didn't hide any part
- Taught clearly and thoroughly
- Continued despite opposition

Evidence: *"O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:67)

4. Intelligence (Al-Fatanah)

- Highly intelligent and wise
- Understood their people
- Answered difficult questions
- Made sound decisions

Reason: Needed wisdom to guide people and respond to challenges.

5. Freedom from Major Sins (Al-Ismaah)

- Protected from major sins
- Could not commit shirk
- Made minor mistakes (immediately corrected)
- Models of righteousness

Note on Minor Errors:

- Prophets could make minor human errors
- These were in worldly matters, not religious
- Allah corrected them immediately
- Made them more relatable

Example: Prophet Muhammad (SAW) once frowned at a blind man (Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum) when occupied with important leaders. Allah immediately corrected him in Surah Abasa, teaching that all people deserve respect regardless of status.

Human Nature of Prophets

They Were Human:

1. Ate and Drank:

- Needed food and water
- Experienced hunger and thirst
- Lived normal lives

2. Married and Had Children:

- Had families
- Raised children
- Showed proper family life

3. Felt Emotions:

- Joy and sadness
- Fear and hope
- Love and concern
- Anger at injustice

4. Could Be Harmed:

- Felt physical pain
- Could be injured
- Some were killed
- Experienced hardship

5. Died:

- All prophets died
- Returned to Allah
- Mortality like all humans
- Buried in earth

Why Human?

Qur'anic Wisdom: *"Say: 'If there were upon the earth angels walking securely, We would have sent down to them from the heaven an angel [as] messenger.'"* (Surah Al-Isra 17:95)

Reasons:

- People can relate to humans
- Can follow their example
- Understand their struggles
- See teachings are achievable
- Cannot claim "This is only possible for angels"

What They Could NOT Do:

- Perform miracles by their own power (only by Allah's permission)
- Know the unseen (except what Allah revealed)
- Grant forgiveness (only Allah forgives)
- Control their death
- Benefit or harm except by Allah's will

Number of Prophets

Total Number:

- Exact number: Only Allah knows
- **Hadith mentions:** 124,000 prophets
- **Messengers among them:** 313 or 315

Evidence: Abu Dharr (RA) asked: "O Messenger of Allah, how many prophets were there?" He replied: "One hundred and twenty-four thousand." "How many of them were messengers?" "Three hundred and thirteen, a large group." (Ahmad)

Note: Some scholars question authenticity of exact numbers, but agree there were very many prophets.

Why So Many?

- Sent to every nation
- Different time periods
- Each for their specific people
- Prophet Muhammad (SAW) for all humanity

Qur'anic Evidence: *"And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship Allah and avoid Taghut (false deities).'"* (Surah An-Nahl 16:36)

Prophets Mentioned in the Qur'an

Total Named: 25 prophets

List of 25 Prophets:

In Surah Al-An'am (6:83-86):

1. **Ibrahim (Abraham)** - Father of prophets
2. **Ishaq (Isaac)** - Son of Ibrahim
3. **Ya'qub (Jacob/Israel)** - Son of Ishaq
4. **Dawud (David)** - King and prophet
5. **Sulayman (Solomon)** - Son of Dawud, king
6. **Ayyub (Job)** - Patient prophet
7. **Yusuf (Joseph)** - Son of Ya'qub
8. **Musa (Moses)** - Given the Torah
9. **Harun (Aaron)** - Brother of Musa
10. **Zakariya (Zachariah)** - Father of Yahya
11. **Yahya (John the Baptist)** - Son of Zakariya
12. **Isa (Jesus)** - Given the Injil
13. **Ilyas (Elijah)** - Prophet to Bani Israel
14. **Isma'il (Ishmael)** - Son of Ibrahim
15. **Al-Yasa' (Elisha)** - Succeeded Ilyas
16. **Yunus (Jonah)** - Swallowed by whale
17. **Lut (Lot)** - Nephew of Ibrahim

Mentioned Elsewhere:

18. **Adam** - First human and prophet
19. **Nuh (Noah)** - Prophet of the flood

20. **Hud** - Sent to people of 'Ad
21. **Salih** - Sent to people of Thamud
22. **Shu'ayb** - Sent to people of Madyan
23. **Idris (Enoch)** - Early prophet, raised to high station
24. **Dhul-Kifl (Ezekiel)** - Patient prophet
25. **Muhammad** - Final prophet, seal of prophets

Categories of Prophets

1. Ulul-'Azm (Prophets of Strong Determination): The five greatest prophets who faced severe trials:

1. **Nuh (Noah)** - 950 years of preaching, the flood
2. **Ibrahim (Abraham)** - Thrown in fire, sacrifice of son
3. **Musa (Moses)** - Faced Pharaoh, led Bani Israel
4. **Isa (Jesus)** - Performed miracles, faced rejection
5. **Muhammad** - Final prophet, faced persecution, spread Islam worldwide

Evidence: *"So be patient, [O Muhammad], as were those of determination among the messengers."* (Surah Al-Ahqaf 46:35)

2. Arab Prophets:

- Hud (السلام عليه)
- Salih (السلام عليه)
- Shu'ayb (السلام عليه)
- Isma'il (السلام عليه)
- Muhammad (وَسَلِّمُ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ صَلَّى)

3. Prophets from Bani Israel:

- Most prophets came from descendants of Ya'qub
- Including: Musa, Harun, Dawud, Sulayman, Isa, and many others

Special Titles and Distinctions

Prophet Adam (مآل سلا ده ل ع):

- **Safiyullah** (Chosen One of Allah)
- First human
- First prophet
- Father of humanity

Prophet Nuh (مآل سلا ده ل ع):

- Second father of humanity (all humans descend from his children)
- Lived 950+ years

- Survived the great flood

Prophet Ibrahim (إبراهيم عليه السلام):

- **Khalilullah** (Friend of Allah)
- Father of prophets
- Built the Ka'bah with Isma'il
- Tested with sacrifice of son

Prophet Musa (موسى عليه السلام):

- **Kalimullah** (One who spoke with Allah)
- Given the Torah
- Performed many miracles
- Led Bani Israel from slavery

Prophet Isa (يسا عليه السلام):

- **Ruhullah** (Spirit from Allah)
- **Kalimatullah** (Word of Allah)
- Born without father (miracle)
- Performed many miracles
- Not crucified (Allah raised him)
- Will return before Day of Judgment

Prophet Muhammad (محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم):

- **Habibullah** (Beloved of Allah)
- **Khatam an-Nabiyyin** (Seal of the Prophets)
- Final messenger
- Sent to all humanity and jinn
- Given the Qur'an
- Most perfect character

What Muslims Must Believe About Prophets

Obligatory Beliefs:

1. They Were All Sent by Allah:

- Chosen by Allah, not self-appointed
- Given divine mission
- Supported with miracles

2. They Were All Truthful:

- Never lied about their message

- Conveyed exactly what Allah revealed
- Completely reliable

3. They All Preached Tawhid:

- Core message: worship Allah alone
- Reject all false gods
- Same fundamental belief

4. They Were All Human:

- Not divine or semi-divine
- Born, lived, and died like humans
- Had human needs and feelings

5. We Must Respect All of Them:

- Cannot prefer some and reject others
- Cannot insult any prophet
- Must honor all equally
- Rejecting one = rejecting all

Evidence: *"The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], 'We make no distinction between any of His messengers.'"* (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:285)

6. Specific Belief in Those Named:

- Must believe in all 25 named in Qur'an
- Know their stories
- Learn their lessons

7. General Belief in Others:

- Believe Allah sent many others
- Even if we don't know their names
- Accept there were 124,000 (if hadith is authentic)

8. Prophet Muhammad is the Last:

- **Seal of the Prophets**
- No prophet after him
- Anyone claiming prophethood after him is a liar
- His message is final

Evidence: *"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and seal of the prophets."* (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:40)

Common Message of All Prophets

Universal Teachings:

1. Tawhid (Oneness of Allah):

- Worship Allah alone
- No partners or associates
- Reject all false gods
- Central message of every prophet

2. Moral Values:

- Honesty and truthfulness
- Justice and fairness
- Kindness and compassion
- Respect for parents
- Good treatment of others

3. Accountability:

- Life after death
- Day of Judgment
- Reward and punishment
- Eternal consequences

4. Submission to Allah:

- Obey Allah's commands
- Follow His guidance
- Live according to His will
- Seek His pleasure

Evidence: *"And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that, 'There is no deity except Me, so worship Me.'"* (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:25)

Differences in Their Messages

While Core Was Same:

1. Different Laws (Shari'ah):

- Each prophet had specific laws for their people
- Suited to time and place

- Prophet Muhammad's law is final and universal

2. Different Miracles:

- Each given miracles appropriate to their time
- Musa: Staff turning to snake (age of magic)
- Isa: Healing sick, raising dead (age of medicine)
- Muhammad: Qur'an (timeless linguistic miracle)

3. Different Scope:

- Most prophets sent to specific nations
- Prophet Muhammad sent to all humanity
- His message transcends time and place

4. Different Circumstances:

- Each faced unique challenges
- Different opposition
- Varying degrees of acceptance

Miracles of Prophets (Mu'jizat)

Definition: Extraordinary acts performed by prophets with Allah's permission to prove their prophethood.

Purpose:

- Prove they are from Allah
- Challenge those who deny
- Strengthen believers' faith
- Show Allah's power

Examples:

Prophet Nuh:

- The great flood
- The Ark that saved believers

Prophet Ibrahim:

- Thrown in fire, but fire became cool and safe
- Not burned despite huge fire

Prophet Musa:

- Staff turning into snake
- Hand glowing white
- Parting of the Red Sea
- Water from rock
- Plagues on Egypt

Prophet Salih:

- She-camel from rock
- Sign to people of Thamud

Prophet Dawud:

- Iron became soft in his hands
- Mountains and birds glorified Allah with him
- Beautiful voice in worship

Prophet Sulayman:

- Control over jinn and animals
- Understood language of animals
- Wind at his command
- Brought Queen of Sheba's throne instantly

Prophet Yunus:

- Survived in whale's belly
- Emerged alive after days

Prophet Isa:

- Born without father
- Spoke as infant in cradle
- Created bird from clay (by Allah's permission)
- Healed blind and lepers
- Raised the dead (by Allah's permission)
- Table spread from heaven

Prophet Muhammad:

- **The Qur'an** (greatest, eternal miracle)
- Splitting of the moon
- Night Journey and Ascension (Isra and Mi'raj)
- Water flowing from his fingers
- Small amount of food feeding many
- Animals and trees testifying to his prophethood
- Many others

Difference: Mu'jizah vs. Karamah:

- **Mu'jizah:** Miracle of prophet (to prove prophethood)
- **Karamah:** Miracle of righteous person (blessing from Allah)
- Karamah doesn't indicate prophethood

Stories of Selected Prophets

(Brief summaries - students should study detailed stories separately)

Prophet Adam (ﷺ ﷻ)

Key Points:

- Created by Allah from clay
- Given knowledge of names
- Angels prostrated except Iblis
- Lived in Paradise
- Tested with forbidden tree
- Made mistake, repented
- Sent to earth
- First prophet and human

Lessons:

- Importance of knowledge
- Danger of pride (Iblis's downfall)
- Repentance is accepted
- Humans are Allah's vicegerents on earth

Prophet Nuh (ﷺ ﷻ)

Key Points:

- Preached for 950 years
- Only about 80 people believed
- Built the Ark as commanded
- Great flood destroyed disbelievers
- His son disbelieved and drowned
- New beginning for humanity

Lessons:

- Patience in da'wah
- Success not measured by numbers
- Trust Allah's plan
- Family ties don't guarantee faith

- Obedience to Allah above all

Prophet Ibrahim (ﷺ ﷻ)

Key Points:

- Challenged his people's idol worship
- Broke idols to prove their powerlessness
- Thrown in fire by Namrud
- Fire became cool by Allah's command
- Migrated for Allah's sake
- Built Ka'bah with son Isma'il
- Tested with sacrifice of Isma'il
- Passed all tests

Lessons:

- Stand for truth despite opposition
- Trust in Allah completely
- Obedience even in hardest tests
- Legacy through righteousness
- Importance of Hajj and sacrifice

Prophet Yusuf (ﷺ ﷻ)

Key Points:

- Beloved son of Ya'qub
- Brothers jealous, threw him in well
- Sold as slave in Egypt
- Tempted by master's wife, refused
- Imprisoned for years
- Interpreted dreams
- Became minister of Egypt
- Forgave his brothers
- Reunited with family

Lessons:

- Patience in trials
- Guarding chastity
- Forgiveness is noble
- Allah's plan is perfect
- From hardship to honor

Prophet Musa (ﷺ)

Key Points:

- Born during Pharaoh's oppression
- Placed in river as baby, returned to mother
- Grew up in Pharaoh's palace
- Fled to Madyan after killing Egyptian accidentally
- Called to prophethood at Mount Sinai
- Performed miracles before Pharaoh
- Led Bani Israel from Egypt
- Parted Red Sea
- Received Torah
- Dealt with difficult nation

Lessons:

- Allah protects His chosen ones
- Stand against tyranny
- Miracles don't always convince hard hearts
- Leadership requires patience
- Importance of following divine law

Prophet Dawud (ﷺ)

Key Points:

- Young shepherd
- Defeated giant Jalut (Goliath)
- Became king and prophet
- Given Zabur (Psalms)
- Beautiful voice in worship
- Made armor
- Just ruler

Lessons:

- Youth can achieve great things
- Trust in Allah, not size or weapons
- Combine prophethood with leadership
- Justice in rulership
- Worship with devotion

Prophet Sulayman (ﷺ)

Key Points:

- Son of Dawud
- Given great kingdom
- Controlled jinn, wind, and animals
- Understood animals' speech
- Built great temple
- Queen of Sheba accepted Islam through him
- Remained humble despite power

Lessons:

- Power is a test
- Use blessings in Allah's obedience
- Wisdom in da'wah
- Gratitude for gifts
- Humility despite greatness

Prophet Isa (عليه السلام)

Key Points:

- Born to Maryam without father
- Miracle from Allah
- Spoke as infant to defend mother
- Performed many miracles
- Given Injil (Gospel)
- Opposed by many
- Not crucified (common misconception)
- Allah raised him to heaven
- Will return before Day of Judgment

Islamic Belief vs. Christian Belief:

- **Islam:** Prophet and servant of Allah, human
- **Christianity:** Son of God, divine (rejected in Islam)

Lessons:

- Allah's power over natural laws
- Miracles don't guarantee belief
- Protect mother's honor
- Will return to fight Dajjal (Antichrist)

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) - The Final Prophet

Special Status:

1. Universal Message:

- Sent to all humanity
- For all time until Day of Judgment
- Not limited to one nation

Evidence: *"And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds."* (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:107)

2. Seal of Prophethood:

- Last and final prophet
- No prophet after him
- His message completes all previous

3. Most Complete Example:

- Perfect in character
- Model in all aspects of life
- Guidance for every situation

4. The Qur'an:

- Eternal miracle
- Never changed
- Relevant forever
- Challenge to all humanity

Why Final Prophet Needed:

1. Previous Scriptures Altered:

- Torah and Injil changed over time
- Needed preserved revelation
- Qur'an is protected by Allah

2. Universal Guidance:

- Earlier prophets for specific nations
- Humanity needed global message
- Prophet Muhammad for all

3. Completion of Religion: *"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion."* (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:3)

False Prophets

Warning:

- Many claimed prophethood falsely
- After Prophet Muhammad
- All are liars

Examples:

- Musaylimah al-Kadh

dhah (The Liar) - during Prophet's time

- Tulayha ibn Khuwaylid - during Abu Bakr's time
- Sajah bint al-Harith - false prophetess
- Modern false claimants (Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadianis/Ahmadis, etc.)

How to Identify:

- Claim prophethood after Muhammad (SAW)
- Contradict Qur'an and Sunnah
- Their message doesn't align with Islam
- No real miracles (only tricks)
- Often seek worldly gain

Islamic Position:

- Anyone claiming prophethood after Muhammad is a disbeliever
- Belief in such person removes one from Islam
- Must be rejected completely

Evidence: *"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets."* (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:40)

Rights of Prophets Upon Us

What We Owe Them:

1. Belief:

- Believe they were truly sent by Allah
- Accept their message
- Don't doubt their truthfulness

2. Respect:

- Honor all prophets
- Don't insult or mock any
- Speak of them with reverence
- Send blessings on Prophet Muhammad

3. Love:

- Love them for Allah's sake
- Especially love Prophet Muhammad
- More than we love ourselves

Hadith: *"None of you believes until I am more beloved to him than his father, his son, and all mankind."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

4. Following:

- Follow Prophet Muhammad's teachings
- His Sunnah is our guide
- Implement his example
- Study his life

5. Defense:

- Defend their honor
- Correct misconceptions
- Protect their reputation
- Stand against insults

6. Sending Salawat:

- Send blessings on Prophet Muhammad
- "Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammad"
- Especially when name is mentioned
- On Fridays particularly

Formula: *"O Allah, send prayers upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad, as You sent prayers upon Ibrahim and upon the family of Ibrahim. Indeed, You are Praiseworthy and Glorious."*

Lessons from Belief in Prophets

1. Hope:

- Allah didn't leave humans without guidance
- Sent helpers and role models
- Shows Allah's care

2. Responsibility:

- We have clear message
- No excuse for ignorance
- Must follow guidance

3. Unity:

- All prophets taught same core message
- Muslims connected to all prophets
- Part of long chain of believers

4. Practical Faith:

- Religion is livable
- Prophets showed how
- Example to follow

5. Gratitude:

- Thank Allah for sending prophets
- Especially for Prophet Muhammad
- Appreciate the Qur'an

Consequences of Rejecting Prophets

In This World:

- Misguidance and confusion
- Loss of purpose
- Following false paths
- No clear moral compass

In the Hereafter:

- No excuse before Allah
- Cannot claim ignorance
- Punishment for rejecting
- Loss of Paradise

Evidence: *"And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger - then indeed for him is the fire of Hell, wherein he will abide eternally."* (Surah Al-Jinn 72:23)

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Allah choose to send human prophets rather than angels?
2. What is the difference between a Nabi and a Rasul?
3. Why is Prophet Muhammad (SAW) called the Seal of the Prophets?
4. How does belief in all prophets unite Muslims with People of the Book?
5. What lessons can we learn from the patience of Prophet Nuh?
6. Why is it important to send Salawat on Prophet Muhammad?
7. How can we follow the example of Prophet Muhammad in our daily lives?

Summary of Key Points

- **Prophets:** Human messengers chosen by Allah to guide humanity
 - **Number:** 124,000 prophets (according to hadith), 25 named in Qur'an
 - **Characteristics:** Truthful, trustworthy, intelligent, sinless in major matters
 - **Message:** All taught Tawhid and righteousness
 - **Muhammad (SAW):** Final prophet, sent to all humanity, most perfect example
 - **Our Duty:** Believe in all, respect all, follow Prophet Muhammad
 - **Consequence:** Rejecting prophets = rejecting Allah's guidance
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Week 2: Qur'an Studies - Surah Al-Hujurat (Selected Verses)

Introduction to Surah Al-Hujurat

Name and Meaning:

- **Al-Hujurat** (الحجرات) means "The Chambers" or "The Private Rooms"
- Refers to the private rooms of Prophet Muhammad's wives around the mosque
- Named after verse 4 which mentions these chambers

Classification:

- Madani Surah (revealed in Madinah)
- Surah number: 49
- Total verses: 18
- Juz: 26
- Revealed in 9 AH (after the conquest of Makkah)

Main Themes:

- Islamic manners and etiquette (Adab)
- Social relationships
- Proper behavior with the Prophet
- Avoiding suspicion and backbiting
- Equality of all humans
- True faith and brotherhood

Why Important: This surah teaches essential Islamic ethics and social behavior. It's called "Surah of Manners" (Adab) and establishes rules for a civilized Islamic society.

Context of Revelation

Historical Background:

- Muslim community was growing
- People from various tribes and backgrounds
- Need for proper social conduct
- Some behaved disrespectfully toward the Prophet
- Conflicts arose among believers
- Allah revealed guidelines for proper behavior

Selected Verses for Study

We will focus on the most important verses that teach practical lessons:

Verses 1-2: Respect for Allah and His Messenger

Arabic Text:

عَلَيْمٌ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْدِمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ
الْكُفْرَ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا يَهْدِي بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ أَنْ تَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ ۚ إِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation:

1. "O you who have believed, do not put [yourselves] before Allah and His Messenger but fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Hearing and Knowing."
2. "O you who have believed, do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet or be loud to him in speech like the loudness of some of you to others, lest your deeds become worthless while you perceive not."

Explanation:

Verses 1-2: Don't Precede Allah and His Messenger

Meaning:

- Don't make decisions before consulting Qur'an and Sunnah
- Don't put your opinion above divine guidance
- Don't act independently in religious matters
- Wait for Allah's command through His Book and Prophet

Practical Applications:

1. Check Qur'an and Hadith before making religious decisions
2. Don't invent new forms of worship
3. Follow Islamic guidance in all matters
4. Seek knowledge before action
5. Don't rely solely on personal opinion in religion

Example: If you want to know if something is halal or haram, check Qur'an and authentic Hadith first, don't just follow your desire or opinion.

"Fear Allah":

- Have taqwa (consciousness of Allah)
- Remember He hears and knows everything
- Be accountable for your actions

Verse 2: Lower Your Voices

Reason for Revelation:

- Some companions spoke loudly in the Prophet's presence
- Particularly Abu Bakr and Umar once raised their voices during discussion
- A delegation from Banu Tamim called out loudly to the Prophet
- Allah corrected this behavior

Abu Bakr and Umar's Response: After this verse was revealed:

- They began speaking in whispers around the Prophet
- Even after his death, they lowered voices near his grave
- Showed true implementation of Qur'an

Commands:

1. Don't Raise Voices Above Prophet's:

- Speak respectfully
- Listen when he speaks
- Show honor and reverence
- Maintain proper adab (manners)

2. Don't Be Loud in Speech:

- Don't address him casually like friends do
- Maintain formal respect
- Recognize his status
- Show proper etiquette

Warning: *"Lest your deeds become worthless while you perceive not"*

Meaning:

- Disrespect can nullify good deeds
- You might not even realize
- Serious consequence
- Must be careful

Modern Application:

During Prophet's Life:

- Applied literally

After Prophet's Death:

1. Near His Grave:

- Lower voice when visiting
- Show respect at his resting place
- Don't be loud in his mosque

2. When His Name is Mentioned:

- Send Salawat (blessings)
- Speak respectfully of him
- Don't mock or insult him

3. Regarding His Sunnah:

- Don't dismiss his teachings
- Don't consider them outdated
- Respect his guidance
- Implement with honor

4. In General:

- Give priority to his teachings
- Don't prefer other opinions over his
- Study his Sunnah seriously
- Defend his honor

Scholars' Extension: This principle extends to:

- Respect for scholars (to lesser degree)
- Respect in mosques
- Respect for parents
- Proper adab in all situations

Verses 6: Verify News Before Acting

Arabic Text:

لَى مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْحَبُوا ۗ

Translation:

"O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful."

Reason for Revelation:

The Story of Al-Walid ibn Uqbah:

- Prophet sent him to collect zakat from Banu Mustaliq tribe
- They came out to greet him (armed as was custom)
- He misunderstood, thought they wanted to kill him
- Returned and reported they had apostated and refused zakat
- Prophet prepared to fight them
- Allah revealed this verse
- Investigation proved tribe was still Muslim and ready to pay zakat
- Crisis averted through verification

Key Terms:

1. Fasiq (فَاسِقٌ):

- Disobedient person
- Unreliable
- Known for sinfulness
- Untrustworthy character

2. Naba' (نَبَأٌ):

- Important news
- Information that matters
- Reports that affect decisions

3. Tabayunu (تَبَيَّنُوا):

- Investigate
- Verify
- Check thoroughly
- Don't rush to judgment

Command: Verify Information

Steps to Take:

1. Check the Source:

- Is the person trustworthy?
- What is their track record?
- Do they have agenda or bias?
- Are they known for truthfulness?

2. Investigate the News:

- Don't accept at face value
- Look for evidence
- Check multiple sources
- Be thorough

3. Don't Act on Unverified Information:

- Pause before reacting
- Don't spread rumors
- Don't make decisions based on hearsay
- Wait for confirmation

4. Consider Consequences:

- Actions based on lies cause harm
- Innocent people might be hurt
- You'll regret hasty actions
- Damage may be irreversible

Modern Applications:

1. Social Media:

- Don't share every post
- Verify before forwarding
- Check sources
- Avoid spreading fake news
- Particularly about Muslims

2. Gossip and Rumors:

- Don't believe everything heard
- Check before judging others
- Don't spread unverified stories
- Give benefit of doubt

3. Business Dealings:

- Verify information about partners
- Check credentials
- Don't trust blindly
- Do due diligence

4. Marriage Proposals:

- Investigate character
- Check background
- Don't rely on hearsay alone
- Make informed decisions

5. Religious Matters:

- Verify Islamic rulings
- Check sources of fatwas
- Don't follow every speaker
- Consult authentic scholars

6. News and Media:

- Cross-check news stories
- Be aware of bias
- Don't believe sensationalism
- Verify before sharing

Consequences of Not Verifying:

In This World:

- Harm innocent people
- Spread falsehood
- Create conflicts
- Damage relationships
- Lose trust
- Live with regret

In the Hereafter:

- Accountable for spreading lies
- Punished for harming innocents
- Sins of those misled
- Loss of rewards

Hadith Connection: Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: *"It is enough lying for a man to speak of everything that he hears."* (Muslim)

Meaning: Don't repeat everything you hear without verification.

Benefits of Verification:

1. **Prevents Injustice:**
 - Protects innocent people
 - Avoids false accusations
 - Maintains fairness
2. **Preserves Unity:**
 - Stops conflicts before they start
 - Prevents misunderstandings
 - Maintains good relations
3. **Builds Trust:**
 - People know you're reliable
 - Your words carry weight
 - Respect earned
4. **Pleases Allah:**
 - Following Qur'anic command
 - Acting with justice
 - Avoiding sin

Verses 11-12: Prohibitions of Mockery, Suspicion, and Backbiting

Arabic Text:

تَلْمِزُوا أَمْ عَسَى أَنْ يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِنْهُمْ وَلَا يَأْتِ الْفِتْنَى إِلَّا بِنُفْسٍ فَاسِدَةٍ وَالَّذِينَ ظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ لَا يَسْخَرُونَ مِنْهُمْ سَخِرَ مِنْهُمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

أَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ بَعْضِكُمْ بَعْضًا أَيْحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ تَبَيَّنَ أَيْهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَبِ بَئِذَا فَعَرَّضْتُمْ أَنْ يَكُونَ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُم خَيْرًا مِّنْ نِّسَاءٍ مِّنْ نَّبِيٍّ

Translation:

11. "O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers."

12. "O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful."

Verse 11: Prohibitions

1. Don't Mock Others (La Yaskhar)

Meaning of Mockery:

- Making fun of people
- Ridiculing appearance, speech, actions
- Belittling others
- Sarcasm meant to hurt
- Laughing at others' expense

Why Forbidden: *"Perhaps they may be better than them"*

Reasons:

- They might be better with Allah
- Outward appearance doesn't show inner worth
- Allah values taqwa, not looks or wealth
- You don't know their status with Allah

Examples of Forbidden Mockery:

- Appearance: short, tall, skin color, features
- Poverty or low status
- Disabilities or illnesses
- Mistakes or shortcomings
- Accent or way of speaking
- Clothing or possessions
- Family background

Hadith: *"A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He neither oppresses him nor humiliates him nor looks down upon him."* (Muslim)

2. Specific Mention of Women: *"Nor let women ridicule [other] women"*

Why Specified:

- Common problem among women
- Competitive nature sometimes
- Jealousy over appearance, marriage, children
- Gossip circles

Note: Applies to men too, but women specifically mentioned due to prevalence.

3. Don't Insult One Another (La Talmizu Anfusakum)

Meaning:

- Don't find fault with each other
- Don't criticize unnecessarily
- Don't point out defects
- Don't humiliate

"Yourselves":

- Muslims are one body
- Insulting a Muslim is like insulting yourself
- We are one brotherhood
- Harm to one affects all

4. Don't Call by Offensive Nicknames (La Tanabazu bil-Alqab)**Meaning:**

- Don't use insulting nicknames
- Don't label people negatively
- Don't call by names they dislike
- Respect people's dignity

Examples:

- Calling someone "fatty," "shorty," "dummy"
- Referring to past sins: "the alcoholic," "the thief"
- Ethnic or racial slurs
- Names mocking disabilities

Exception:

- Nicknames they accept and like
- Respectful titles
- Names of honor

Example from Sunnah:

- Abu Bakr (Father of the Young Camel) - he liked it
- As-Siddiq (The Truthful) - title of honor

Warning: *"Wretched is the name of disobedience after faith"*

Meaning:

- These actions contradict faith
- Shameful for a believer

- Like calling yourself "believer" but acting like disbeliever
- Bad reputation with Allah

Command to Repent: *"And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers"*

- Must stop these behaviors
- Seek forgiveness
- Change your ways
- Otherwise counted among wrongdoers

Verse 12: Three Major Sins

1. Avoid Suspicion (Ijtanibu Kathiran min adh-Dhann)

"Avoid much negative assumption":

Dhann (Suspicion):

- Thinking badly of others without proof
- Assuming worst intentions
- Judging based on appearance
- Negative thoughts about people

"Much" (Kathiran):

- Lots of suspicion
- Habitual negative thinking
- Always assuming worst

"Some assumption is sin":

- Not all suspicion is wrong
- Caution based on evidence is okay
- But baseless negative thoughts are sin

Types of Suspicion:

A. Forbidden:

- About righteous people
- Without any evidence
- Based on rumors
- To justify bad treatment

B. Allowed:

- When there's evidence

- To protect yourself from harm
- In business dealings (due diligence)
- When safety requires caution

How to Avoid:

- Think well of Muslims
- Give 70 excuses for their behavior
- Don't jump to conclusions
- Seek clarification if needed
- Remember Allah knows, you don't

Hadith: *"Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the worst of false tales."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

2. Don't Spy (La Tajassasu)

Meaning:

- Don't seek out people's faults
- Don't investigate private matters
- Don't eavesdrop
- Don't search for secrets
- Don't hack accounts or read private messages

Why Forbidden:

- Violates privacy
- Often based on suspicion
- Leads to more sin
- Creates mistrust
- Allah conceals sins, why expose them?

What NOT to Do:

- Listen to private conversations
- Read personal messages/emails
- Follow people to catch them
- Ask about their private life
- Investigate to find faults

Exception:

- Legal authorities investigating crimes
- Parents protecting young children
- Preventing serious harm

Hadith: *"If you search for people's faults, you will corrupt them or nearly corrupt them."* (Abu Dawud)

3. Don't Backbite (La Yaghtab)

Definition of Backbiting (Ghibah):

Hadith Definition: Prophet (SAW) asked: "Do you know what backbiting is?" They said: "Allah and His Messenger know best." He said: *"Mentioning your brother in a way he dislikes."* Someone asked: "What if what I say is true?" He said: *"If what you say is true, you have backbitten him. If it is not true, you have slandered him."* (Muslim)

Key Points:

- Talking about someone in their absence
- Saying something they would dislike
- Even if it's TRUE
- About their character, appearance, actions, family, etc.

Examples of Backbiting:

Physical:

- "She's so fat"
- "He's really short"
- "Her teeth are crooked"

Character:

- "He's so stingy"
- "She's lazy"
- "He's arrogant"

Religious:

- "He doesn't pray regularly"
- "She doesn't wear hijab properly"
- "They're not practicing"

Family/Background:

- "His father was a criminal"
- "They're from a low-class family"
- "Her mother has bad manners"

Actions:

- "He cheated on the test"
- "She lied to her parents"
- "They committed such-and-such sin"

Difference: Backbiting vs. Slander:

Aspect Backbiting (Ghibah) **Slander (Buht)an)**

Truth TRUE statement FALSE statement

Ruling Major sin Even worse sin

Example "He's stingy" (true) "He's a thief" (false)

Both are major sins!

Powerful Metaphor: *"Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead?"*

Meaning:

- Backbiting is like eating dead brother's flesh
- Disgusting imagery
- Shows how horrible it is
- Dead = can't defend themselves
- Absent person can't respond

Natural Response: *"You would detest it"*

- Everyone finds this repulsive
- So why do backbiting?
- Same spiritual ugliness
- Equally detestable to Allah

Exceptions - When Mentioning Someone's Faults is Allowed:

Scholars list specific cases:

1. Seeking Religious Ruling:

- "My husband does X, is it allowed?"
- Describing situation to mufti
- To get Islamic guidance

2. Stopping Evil:

- Warning about dangerous person

- Informing authorities of crime
- Protecting community from harm

3. Seeking Help:

- Against oppression
- "So-and-so wronged me"
- To get justice

4. Identifying Someone:

- "The man with the limp"
- If no other way to identify
- Not meant to mock

5. Public Sinner:

- Someone openly committing sin
- Not hiding their actions
- Still should be done carefully

6. Marriage/Business Advice:

- If asked about someone for marriage
- Or business partnership
- Must be honest
- Only relevant information
- No exaggeration

Conditions for Exceptions:

- Must be necessary
- No other way to achieve goal
- Only mention what's needed
- Proper intention
- Not to harm, but to help or protect

Expiation for Backbiting:

If You Backbite:

1. Repent to Allah:

- Stop immediately
- Regret what you did
- Resolve never to do it again

2. Seek Forgiveness from the Person: Scholars Differ:

Opinion 1: Must tell them and ask forgiveness

- Risk: Might cause more harm
- They might not have known
- Could create bigger problem

Opinion 2: Don't tell them, but:

- Make dua for them
- Praise them in gatherings
- Do good deeds for them
- Mention their good qualities

Safer Approach:

- If they don't know: make dua, praise them
- If they know: apologize directly

3. Praise Them:

- Mention their good qualities
- In same gathering if possible
- Balance the harm done

Punishment for Backbiting:

In This Life:

- Loss of hasanat (good deeds)
- Hatred of people
- Broken relationships
- Guilt and regret

In the Hereafter:

- Severe punishment
- Your hasanat given to the person you backbit
- Their sins given to you
- Possible entry to Hellfire

Hadith: *"Whoever has wronged his brother with regard to his honor or anything else, let him seek his forgiveness today, before there will be no dinar and no dirham, and if he has any good deeds to his credit they will be taken from him in proportion to the wrong he did, and if he has no good deeds, some of the bad deeds of his companion will be taken and added to his burden."* (Bukhari)

Protection from Backbiting:

If Others Backbite in Your Presence:

Your Duty:

1. Defend the Absent:

- "Don't say that"
- "That's not nice"
- Mention their good qualities

Hadith: *"Whoever defends the honor of his brother in his absence, Allah will protect his face from the Fire on the Day of Resurrection."* (Tirmidhi)

2. Stop It:

- Change the subject
- Remind of Allah
- Quote this verse

3. Leave if They Continue:

- If they don't stop
- Remove yourself
- Don't participate

Listening to Backbiting:

- Also sinful
- Must stop it or leave
- Can't just sit silently

Benefits of Avoiding These Sins:

1. Pure Heart:

- Free from malice
- Clean conscience
- Inner peace

2. Better Relationships:

- Trust builds
- Friendships strengthen
- Community harmony

3. Allah's Pleasure:

- Following His commands
- Pleasing to Him

- Rewards in Paradise

4. Protection:

- Others won't backbite you
- What goes around comes around
- Allah protects those who obey

Closing of Verses: *"And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful"*

Message of Hope:

- If you've done these sins, repent
- Allah accepts repentance
- His mercy is vast
- Never too late to change

Verse 13: Equality and Superiority in Taqwa

Arabic Text:

يَا خَيْرُكُمْ مَعَهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْتَ أَتَقَاتُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ۚ إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا خَلَقْنَاكَ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا خَلَقْنَاكَ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا خَلَقْنَاكَ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ

Translation:

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted."

Context of Revelation:

The Story:

- During conquest of Makkah
- Bilal (RA), the African ex-slave, called the Adhan from top of Ka'bah
- Some Arabs with tribal pride were offended
- One said: "Couldn't Muhammad find someone better than this black crow?"
- Another said his father would be upset to see a slave on Ka'bah
- Allah revealed this verse
- Demolished all racial and tribal pride

"O Mankind" (Ya Ayyuhan-Nas):

- Addresses ALL humanity
- Not just Muslims

- Universal message
- Applies to everyone

Key Points:

1. Common Origin: *"We have created you from male and female"*

Meaning:

- All from Adam and Eve
- Same origin
- Common parentage
- Equal in creation

Implication:

- No one inherently superior
- All equally human
- Shared humanity
- No room for arrogance

2. Diversity is by Design: *"Made you peoples and tribes"*

Shu'ub (Peoples/Nations):

- Large groups
- Different ethnicities
- Various nations

Qaba'il (Tribes/Clans):

- Smaller divisions
- Family groups
- Sub-groups

Purpose of Diversity: *"That you may know one another"* (Li-Ta'arafu)

Meanings:

- To recognize each other
- To cooperate
- To learn from each other
- To appreciate differences
- NOT to boast or despise

Wisdom:

- Diversity enriches humanity
- Different strengths and skills
- Mutual benefit
- Beautiful variety in creation

NOT for:

- Superiority
- Discrimination
- Hatred
- Division

3. True Standard of Nobility: *"Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you"*

****Akram (Most Noble):****

- Most honored
- Most valuable
- Highest status

With Allah:

- What matters to Allah
- Divine standard
- Not human standards

Atqa (Most Righteous):

- One with most taqwa
- Allah-consciousness
- Piety and righteousness
- Following Allah's commands

Revolutionary Message:

What DOESN'T Matter:

- Race or ethnicity
- Skin color
- Tribe or family
- Wealth or poverty
- Social status
- Nationality
- Language

What DOES Matter:

- Taqwa (God-consciousness)
- Good deeds
- Faith and practice
- Character and morals
- Obedience to Allah

Hadith Connection:

Prophet's Farewell Sermon: *"O people! Your Lord is One and your father is one. All of you are from Adam, and Adam was from dust. The most noble of you in Allah's sight is the most righteous. No Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have superiority over an Arab. Neither does a white person have superiority over a black person, nor does a black person have superiority over a white person - except by taqwa (piety and righteousness)."*

Practical Examples from Islamic History:

1. Bilal ibn Rabah (RA):

- African slave
- Became first Muadhdhin
- Honored by Prophet
- Among greatest companions

2. Salman al-Farisi (RA):

- Persian
- Not Arab
- Highly respected
- Prophet said: "Salman is from us, Ahlul-Bayt (Prophet's household)"

3. Suhayb ar-Rumi (RA):

- Byzantine (Roman)
- Freed slave
- Among early Muslims
- Highly honored

4. Abu Bakr (RA) Freeing Slaves:

- Freed Bilal and others
- Didn't care about their race
- Valued their faith
- His father criticized him for not freeing "useful" slaves
- Abu Bakr: "I seek only Allah's Face"

Modern Applications:

1. Racism is Haram:

- Islam prohibits all racism
- No race superior to another
- Discrimination based on race is sin
- Muslims must oppose racism

2. Tribalism/Nationalism:

- Excessive pride in tribe/nation is wrong
- Can love your country
- But not feel superior because of it
- Unity in Islam transcends nationality

3. Classism:

- Rich not better than poor
- Poor not better than rich
- Value is in character
- Don't judge by wealth or status

4. Family Pride:

- Good lineage is blessing
- But not reason for arrogance
- Bad person from good family still bad
- Good person from any family is honored

5. Marriage:

- Choose based on character and deen
- Not based on race, tribe, or status
- Prophet's advice: "Marry for deen (religion)"

Hadith: *"If there comes to you one whose religion and character you are pleased with, then marry (your daughter to) him. If you do not do so, there will be tribulation in the land and widespread corruption."* (Tirmidhi)

6. Islamic Brotherhood:

- All Muslims are brothers/sisters
- Regardless of background
- Support each other
- Love for sake of Allah

7. Appreciation of Diversity:

- Different cultures enrich ummah
- Learn from each other
- Respect differences
- Unity in diversity

Allah's Knowledge: *"Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted"*

Meaning:

- Allah knows who is truly righteous
- He knows what's in hearts
- We can't judge by appearances
- Leave judgment to Allah

Message:

- Don't judge others
 - Don't assume you're better
 - Focus on your own taqwa
 - Let Allah judge who is most noble
-

Practical Lessons from Surah Al-Hujurat

1. Adab (Manners) in Islam:

- How to behave with Prophet
- How to treat fellow Muslims
- Social ethics
- Proper conduct

2. Verify Information:

- Don't spread rumors
- Check sources
- Avoid fake news
- Be responsible

3. Respect and Honor:

- Respect all Muslims
- Don't mock or insult
- Treat with dignity
- Value people

4. Guard Your Tongue:

- Avoid backbiting
- Don't gossip
- Think before speaking
- Speech is accountable

5. Think Well of Others:

- Avoid suspicion
- Give benefit of doubt
- Don't spy
- Respect privacy

6. Equality:

- All humans equal in origin
- Value is in taqwa
- No racism or tribalism
- Islamic brotherhood

7. Unity:

- Muslims are one body
- Help each other
- Reconcile conflicts
- Maintain harmony

Discussion Questions

1. How can we apply the principle of verifying information in the age of social media?
2. What is the difference between constructive criticism and backbiting?
3. How does Islam's teaching on equality compare to modern ideas about equality?
4. What practical steps can we take to avoid suspicion of others?
5. How can we defend someone who is being backbitten?
6. Why is taqwa the only true measure of superiority?

Summary of Key Teachings

- **Respect Allah and His Messenger:** Don't put your opinions above divine guidance
- **Verify information:** Don't act on unconfirmed reports
- **Don't mock others:** They might be better than you with Allah
- **Avoid offensive nicknames:** Respect people's dignity
- **Avoid suspicion:** Think well of your Muslim brothers and sisters
- **Don't spy:** Respect people's privacy
- **No backbiting:** Don't mention others in ways they would dislike
- **Equality:** All humans equal, superiority only in taqwa
- **Repent:** Allah accepts repentance, His mercy is vast

This surah provides a complete code of Islamic social ethics and manners that, if followed, would create a perfect society built on respect, dignity, truth, and brotherhood.

Week 3: Qur'an Studies - Surah As-Saff (Selected Verses)

Introduction to Surah As-Saff

Name and Meaning:

- **As-Saff** (ال صف) means "The Ranks" or "The Row"
- Refers to believers standing in ranks like a solid structure
- Also called "Surah of Battle"

Classification:

- Madani Surah (revealed in Madinah)
- Surah number: 61
- Total verses: 14
- Juz: 28

Main Themes:

- Unity and solidarity among believers
- Matching words with actions
- Jihad and struggle in Allah's cause
- Victory of Islam
- Prophecy of Prophet Isa about Prophet Muhammad

Context:

- Revealed during period of military challenges
- Muslims facing enemies
- Need for discipline and unity
- Preparation for battles

Selected Verses for Study

We will focus on key verses with practical lessons:

Verses 2-3: Matching Actions with Words

Arabic Text:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ

كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ

Translation:

2. "O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do?"

3. "Great is hatred in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do."

Reason for Revelation:

Two Main Narrations:

1. About Jihad:

- Some companions said: "If we knew which deed Allah loves most, we would do it"
- Allah revealed that jihad is most beloved
- When jihad was prescribed, some hesitated
- This verse was revealed as a rebuke

2. About General Hypocrisy:

- Some Muslims would say they did good deeds they didn't do
- Or promise actions they didn't fulfill
- Allah exposed this behavior

Explanation:

The Question: *"Why do you say what you do not do?"*

Not a Real Question:

- Rhetorical question
- Means: "Don't say what you don't do!"
- Expression of disapproval
- Strong rebuke

What It Means:

1. Claiming to Do Good Deeds You Haven't Done:

- Saying you prayed when you didn't
- Claiming you gave charity when you didn't
- Pretending to have qualities you lack

2. Making Promises You Don't Keep:

- "I'll help you" - then don't
- "I'll be there" - then absent
- "I'll change" - then continue same behavior

3. Advising Others While Not Following:

- Telling others to pray while you don't
- Advising patience while you're impatient
- Preaching honesty while you lie

4. Having Knowledge Without Practice:

- Learning Islam but not implementing
- Knowing what's right but not doing it
- Theoretical knowledge without action

Allah's Response: *"Great is hatred in the sight of Allah"*

"Maqt" (مَقْت):

- Intense hatred
- Strong displeasure
- Severe disapproval
- Deep dislike

Why So Serious?

1. Hypocrisy:

- Main characteristic of munafiqun (hypocrites)
- Double standards
- Dishonesty
- Deception

2. Betrayal of Trust:

- People trusted your words
- You let them down
- Broke their confidence

3. Bad Example:

- Others might follow your words
- Then see your actions
- Causes confusion
- Weakens Islam's image

4. Self-Deception:

- Fooling yourself
- Living a lie
- Spiritual sickness

5. Wasting Time:

- Talk without action is useless
- Just hot air
- No benefit

Modern Applications:

1. Social Media Culture:

- Posting religious quotes but not practicing
- Showing off "good deeds" for likes
- Portraying fake piety
- Virtual righteousness, real hypocrisy

Example:

- Posting "Jumu'ah Mubarak" but not praying Jumu'ah
- Sharing Qur'an verses but not reading Qur'an
- Lecturing about hijab but not wearing it properly

2. Parenting:

- Telling children to pray while you don't
- Demanding honesty while you lie
- Requiring respect while you're disrespectful
- Children learn from actions, not words

3. Da'wah (Calling to Islam):

- Inviting others to Islam
- But your behavior contradicts teachings
- Actions speak louder than words
- Be the message you preach

4. Workplace:

- Promising to complete work, not delivering
- Claiming skills you don't have
- Fake productivity
- Breaking commitments

5. Relationships:

- Promising loyalty but betraying
- Saying you care but not showing it
- Empty words, no action

How to Avoid This Sin:

1. Be Honest:

- Only say what you can do
- Admit your shortcomings
- Don't exaggerate
- Be realistic

2. Fulfill Promises:

- Keep your word
- If you promise, deliver
- Better to underpromise and overdeliver

Hadith: *"The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted, he betrays."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

3. Practice What You Preach:

- Advise yourself first
- Implement before teaching
- Lead by example

4. Be Humble:

- Don't claim what you haven't achieved
- Acknowledge your weaknesses
- Seek Allah's help to improve

5. Small Steps:

- Better to do small deeds consistently
- Than talk big and do nothing
- Start with what you can manage

Virtuous Example:

Scholars Who Practiced:

- Imam Ahmad: imprisoned for his beliefs

- Imam Abu Hanifah: refused judgeship to maintain principles
- They lived what they taught

The Prophet's Example:

- First to implement every command
- Never asked what he didn't do himself
- Perfect match between words and deeds
- Model for all humanity

Verse 4: Unity Like a Solid Structure

Arabic Text:

بِيلِهِ صَفًّا كَأَنَّهُمْ بُنْيَانٌ مَّرْصُومٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ

Translation:

"Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in a row as though they are a [single] structure joined firmly."

Explanation:

What Allah Loves: Those who fight in His cause (Jihad - legitimate struggle)

How They Should Be:

1. In Ranks (Saffan):

- Organized rows
- Disciplined formation
- Not scattered
- Structured approach

2. Like a Solid Structure (Bunyanun Marsus):

Bunyan: Building, structure **Marsus:** Joined firmly, cemented together

Meaning:

- Like bricks in a wall
- Each supporting the other
- No gaps between them
- Solid and unbreakable

- United front

Military Context:

In Battle:

- Stand in organized rows
- Don't break ranks
- Support each other
- Maintain formation
- Disciplined army

Historical Example:

- Battle of Badr: disciplined ranks
- Battle of Uhud: lesson when ranks broken
- Later Islamic conquests: military discipline

Broader Meaning Beyond Battle:

Unity of Muslims:

1. Standing Together:

- United in faith
- Supporting each other
- No divisions
- One ummah

2. Like a Building:

- Each person a brick
- All necessary
- Each supports others
- Remove one, weakens whole

Hadith Connection: *"The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion, and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

3. No Gaps:

- No space for enemies to enter
- No room for division
- Tightly knit community
- Strong bonds

4. Firmly Joined:

- Not just standing together
- Actually connected
- Bonded by faith
- Love for Allah's sake

Modern Applications:

1. In Prayer:

- Stand shoulder to shoulder
- Straighten rows
- Fill the gaps
- Unity in worship

Hadith: *"Straighten your rows, for straightening the rows is part of perfecting the prayer."*
(Bukhari and Muslim)

2. In Community:

- Muslims should be united
- Support each other
- Help in times of need
- Strong community bonds

3. Against Enemies:

- Don't let enemies divide us
- Stand together against oppression
- United front
- Strength in unity

4. In Projects/Work:

- Teamwork
- Cooperation
- Each playing their role
- Collective success

5. In Family:

- Family members supporting each other
- Strong family unit
- Unity in values
- Together through challenges

Qualities for Unity:

1. Common Goal:

- Pleasing Allah
- Success in both worlds
- Islamic revival

2. Love for Allah's Sake:

- Not worldly interests
- Pure brotherhood/sisterhood
- Spiritual bond

3. Sacrifice:

- Put community before self
- Help others
- Share burdens

4. Discipline:

- Follow leadership
- Organized approach
- Maintain structure

5. Trust:

- Rely on each other
- Support without hesitation
- Brotherhood/sisterhood

Obstacles to Unity:

What Breaks the Structure:

- Sectarianism
- Nationalism over Islam
- Personal grudges
- Envy and jealousy
- Ego and pride
- Lack of knowledge
- Following desires

How to Build Unity:

1. Focus on Common Ground:

- All Muslims worship Allah
- All follow Prophet Muhammad
- All believe in Qur'an
- Unite on fundamentals

2. Overlook Minor Differences:

- Don't let small issues divide
- Respect different opinions in secondary matters
- Unity doesn't mean uniformity

3. Mutual Respect:

- Respect other Muslims
- Acknowledge different strengths
- Value diversity in unity

4. Common Projects:

- Work together on beneficial projects
- Build mosques together
- Community service
- Islamic education

5. Leadership:

- Follow righteous leadership
- Don't create unnecessary divisions
- Obey in good

Benefits of Unity:

1. Strength:

- United community is strong
- Can face challenges
- Overcome obstacles

Hadith: *"The hand of Allah is with the Jama'ah (community)."* (Tirmidhi)

2. Allah's Love:

- As stated in verse
- Allah loves those united in His cause
- His support and help

3. Victory:

- Over enemies
- In worldly affairs
- In hereafter

4. Barakah (Blessing):

- Allah's blessing on united efforts
- Success beyond expectations
- Divine help

5. Good Example:

- Shows beauty of Islam
- Attracts others
- Effective da'wah

Verse 6: Prophet Isa's Prophecy About Prophet Muhammad

Arabic Text:

أَتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا

Translation:

"And [mention] when 'Isa (Jesus), the son of Maryam, said, 'O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.' But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, 'This is obvious magic.'"

Explanation:

Prophet Isa's Message:

1. His Prophethood: *"Indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you"*

- Confirmed he was Allah's messenger
- Sent to Bani Israel (Children of Israel)
- Human prophet, not divine

2. Confirming Previous Scripture: *"Confirming what came before me of the Torah"*

- Didn't come with entirely new message
- Confirmed truth in Torah

- Continuity of divine message
- Same core: Tawhid

3. Bringing Good News: *"And bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me"*

Key Point:

- Prophet Isa prophesied about another prophet
- Coming after him
- This was part of his mission
- Prepared people for final messenger

4. The Name - Ahmad: *"Whose name is Ahmad"*

Ahmad:

- One of Prophet Muhammad's names
- Means "the most praised one"
- Related to "Muhammad" (the praised one)
- Both from same root: H-M-D (praise)

Prophet Muhammad's Names:

- Muhammad (most common)
- Ahmad (mentioned in this verse)
- Al-Mahi (the eraser - of disbelief)
- Al-Hashir (the gatherer)
- Al-'Aqib (the last)

Evidence in Previous Scriptures:

In Current Bible: Though altered, traces remain:

Gospel of John (14:16): "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever."

"Advocate" in Greek: Paraclete (Parakletos) **Similar to:** Periklytos (praised one - Ahmad)
Scholars believe: Original was Periklytos, changed to Paraclete

Other Biblical References:

- Deuteronomy 18:18 - Prophet like Moses
- Isaiah 42 - Description matching Prophet Muhammad
- Song of Solomon - Mentions "Mahamaddim" (Hebrew - related to Muhammad)

Note: Current versions altered, but traces remain showing prophecy

Their Response: *"But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, 'This is obvious magic'"*

Who:

- People of the Book (Jews and Christians)
- Received scriptures mentioning final prophet
- Should have recognized and accepted him

What They Did:

- Rejected Prophet Muhammad
- Despite clear evidences
- Called his miracles magic
- Denied the truth

Why:

- Arrogance and pride
- Didn't want Arab prophet
- Jealousy
- Worldly interests
- Following desires over truth

Clear Evidences (Bayyinat): What Prophet Muhammad brought:

- The Qur'an (linguistic miracle)
- Other miracles
- Perfect character
- Fulfilled prophecies
- Clear message

Their Excuse:

- "This is obvious magic"
- Knew it wasn't magic
- Refused to accept truth
- Stubborn rejection

Lessons:

1. Continuity of Prophethood:

- All prophets connected
- Same message
- Each preparing for next
- Prophet Muhammad is culmination

2. Prophecies Fulfilled:

- Prophet Isa predicted final prophet
- Prophet Muhammad fulfilled this
- Proof of his prophethood
- Divine plan

3. People of the Book's Responsibility:

- They have previous scriptures
- Know about final prophet
- Should accept Prophet Muhammad
- Accountable for rejection

4. Recognition:

- Some Jews and Christians recognized truth
- Accepted Islam
- Examples: Abdullah ibn Salam, Salman al-Farisi, Najashi

5. Arrogance Blinds:

- Even with proof, some reject
- Pride prevents acceptance
- Worldly interests override truth

6. Our Duty:

- Share this knowledge
- Dialogue with People of the Book
- Point to prophecies in their books
- Invite to truth

Da'wah Application:

When Speaking to Christians:

- Mention this verse
- Show Prophet Isa honored in Islam
- Explain he prophesied Muhammad
- Point to Biblical references
- Respectful dialogue

When Speaking to Jews:

- Torah prophecies about final prophet
- Description matches Muhammad

- From descendants of Ishmael
- Prophet like Moses (Deut. 18:18)

Verse 10-13: Profitable Trade with Allah

Arabic Text:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ تِجَارَةٍ تُنْجِيكُمْ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ
 إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ تُوْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ
 ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ۚ لَكُمْ دُونُكُمْ وَيُدْخِلُكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا يُنْصَرِّفُونَ فِيهَا وَمِنْ ثَمَرَاتِهَا شَرِبُوا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مَزِيدٌ ۚ وَبَشِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

Translation:

10. "O you who have believed, shall I guide you to a transaction that will save you from a painful punishment?"

11. "[It is that] you believe in Allah and His Messenger and strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives. That is best for you, if you should know."

12. "He will forgive for you your sins and admit you to gardens beneath which rivers flow and pleasant dwellings in gardens of perpetual residence. That is the great attainment."

13. "And [you will obtain] another [favor] that you love - victory from Allah and an imminent conquest; and give good tidings to the believers."

Explanation:

Verse 10: The Offer

Divine Merchant: Allah presents Himself as offering a trade

The Question: "Shall I guide you to a transaction?"

- Rhetorical question
- Drawing attention
- Excitement
- Best deal possible

What Kind of Transaction: "That will save you from a painful punishment"

- Saves from Hellfire
- Protection from torment
- Ultimate benefit
- Priceless deal

Trade Concept:

- Invest something
- Get return
- But this trade: guaranteed profit
- No loss possible
- Best investment ever

Verse 11: The Investment Required

What to Invest:

1. Belief: *"You believe in Allah and His Messenger"*

- Foundation
- Faith in heart
- Verbal declaration
- Living by it

2. Jihad with Wealth: *"Strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth"*

Means:

- Spend in Allah's cause
- Support Islamic work
- Help the needy
- Fund da'wah
- Build mosques
- Any charitable spending

3. Jihad with Lives: *"And your lives"*

Means:

- Physical effort
- Time and energy
- Sacrificing comfort
- In extreme cases: fighting for just cause
- Broader: any struggle for Islam

General Meaning of Jihad:

- Any struggle in Allah's cause
- Spreading Islam
- Enjoining good
- Forbidding evil
- Self-improvement
- Fighting against oppression

Assurance: *"That is best for you, if you should know"*

- Absolute best choice
- Better than any worldly investment
- Wisest decision
- If only you truly understood

Verse 12: The Returns - Eternal

Guaranteed Returns:

1. Forgiveness of Sins: *"He will forgive for you your sins"*

- Complete forgiveness
- Clean slate
- Mercy from Allah
- Past mistakes erased

2. Paradise: *"And admit you to gardens beneath which rivers flow"*

Description:

- Jannah (Paradise)
- Rivers flowing below
- Eternal bliss
- Ultimate reward

3. Beautiful Dwellings: *"And pleasant dwellings in gardens of perpetual residence"*

- Comfortable homes
- Pleasing abodes
- Forever (perpetual)
- No end

4. Great Achievement: *"That is the great attainment"*

- Fawz al-'Adheem (Supreme success)
- Greatest victory
- Ultimate win
- Nothing better

Verse 13: The Returns - Worldly

Additional Bonus: *"And [you will obtain] another [favor] that you love"*

- Not just hereafter
- Also in this world
- Something you'll love
- Bonus reward

What is it:

1. Victory from Allah: *"Victory from Allah"*

- Divine help
- Success in endeavors
- Triumph over enemies
- Allah's support

2. Imminent Conquest: *"And an imminent conquest"*

Historical:

- Conquest of Makkah
- Other victories
- Spread of Islam

General:

- Success in life
- Opening of doors
- Achievement of goals
- Allah's assistance

3. Good News: *"And give good tidings to the believers"*

- Share this good news
- Encourage believers
- Promise is true
- Hope and motivation

Best Trade Ever:

Comparison with Worldly Trade:

Aspect	Worldly Trade	Trade with Allah
Risk	Might lose money	Guaranteed profit
Return	Limited, uncertain	Unlimited, certain
Duration	Temporary	Eternal
Guarantee	None	Allah's promise
Investment	Money, effort	Faith, deeds, wealth
Benefit	Worldly only	Both worlds

Why Best Investment:

1. Guaranteed Success:

- Allah never breaks promise
- 100% sure return
- No possibility of loss

2. Multiplied Rewards:

- One good deed = 10 to 700+ rewards
- Infinite multiplication possible
- Incomparable profit margin

Hadith: *"Whoever brings a good deed will have ten times the like thereof [to his credit]."* (Surah Al-An'am 6:160)

3. Eternal Duration:

- Rewards last forever
- Never ending
- Perpetual returns

4. Both Worlds:

- Benefits in this life (victory, success)
- Rewards in hereafter (Paradise)
- Complete package

5. Forgiveness Included:

- Past mistakes forgiven
- Clean start

- Mercy and grace

Practical Application:

How to Make This Trade:

1. Strengthen Faith:

- Increase knowledge
- Regular worship
- Reflect on Allah's signs
- Study Qur'an and Hadith

2. Spend Wealth:

- Regular charity (Sadaqah)
- Zakat (obligatory)
- Support Islamic causes
- Help needy
- Build/maintain mosques
- Islamic education

3. Give Time and Effort:

- Volunteer for Islamic work
- Da'wah activities
- Community service
- Teaching others
- Any good deed

4. Strive for Truth:

- Stand against injustice
- Speak truth
- Support oppressed
- Fight (legitimately) when necessary
- Moral courage

5. Consistency:

- Make it lifestyle
- Not one-time deal
- Continuous investment
- Regular deposits

Levels of Jihad:

1. Jihad an-Nafs (Against Self):

- Highest jihad
- Control desires
- Fight laziness
- Overcome bad habits
- Purify heart

Hadith: *"The strong person is not the one who can wrestle, but the strong person is the one who controls himself when he is angry."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

2. Jihad with Knowledge:

- Learn and teach Islam
- Spread correct knowledge
- Refute falsehood
- Write and publish truth

3. Jihad with Wealth:

- As mentioned in verse
- Financial support
- Charity
- Economic struggle

4. Jihad with Speech:

- Speaking truth
- Calling to good
- Forbidding evil
- Da'wah

5. Jihad with Hand:

- Physical action
- Helping practically
- Building, working
- Serving

6. Jihad with Sword (Physical Fighting):

- Only when necessary
- Legitimate defense
- Under proper authority
- With strict rules
- Last resort

Note: All are valid forms of striving in Allah's cause

Modern Examples:

1. Student:

- Study hard (jihad an-nafs)
- Learn Islam
- Share knowledge
- Give small charity
- Volunteer time

2. Professional:

- Work with integrity (jihad an-nafs)
- Give from earnings
- Use skills for good
- Mentor others
- Support causes

3. Homemaker:

- Raise righteous children
- Manage household well
- Help neighbors
- Give charity
- Create Islamic environment

4. Elderly:

- Make du'a (powerful weapon)
- Share wisdom
- Give from pension
- Teach grandchildren
- Set good example

Everyone Can Participate:

- No one excluded
- Each according to ability
- Small or large - all counts
- Sincere intention matters most

Summary of Key Lessons from Surah As-Saff

1. Match Actions with Words:

- Don't be hypocrites
- Practice what you preach
- Actions speak louder
- Allah hates empty talk

2. Unity is Strength:

- Stand together like solid structure
- Support each other
- No gaps for enemies
- Discipline and organization

3. Prophecy Fulfilled:

- Prophet Isa predicted Prophet Muhammad
- All prophets connected
- Divine plan completed
- Islam is truth

4. Best Investment:

- Trade with Allah
- Invest faith, wealth, effort
- Returns: forgiveness, Paradise, victory
- Guaranteed success

5. Jihad in Allah's Cause:

- Various forms
- With self, wealth, knowledge, action
- Physical fighting when legitimate
- All valuable

6. Hope and Good News:

- For believers who strive
- Both worldly and eternal success
- Allah's promise is true
- Victory is coming

Discussion Questions

1. How can we ensure our actions match our words in daily life?
2. What does unity "like a solid structure" look like in our community?
3. How can we engage in beneficial dialogue with People of the Book about prophecies?

4. What are practical ways we can "invest" in the trade with Allah?
5. What is the difference between valid jihad and terrorism/extremism?
6. How can each of us contribute to Islamic causes according to our abilities?

Week 4: Hadith - On Hard Work and Self-Reliance

Introduction

Islam emphasizes earning through honest work rather than depending on others or begging. Hard work is worship when done with right intention.

Selected Ahadith

Hadith 1: Working with Your Hands

Arabic Text: مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ يَدِهِ

Translation: "No one eats better food than that which he earns with his own hands. The Prophet of Allah, Dawud, used to eat from the work of his own hands." (Bukhari)

Explanation:

- Prophet Dawud worked as blacksmith despite being king
- Most blessed sustenance is from one's own effort
- Manual labor is honorable, not shameful
- Self-earned food has spiritual and physical benefit

Lessons:

- Work with dignity
- Don't be lazy
- Even prophets and kings worked
- Self-reliance builds character

Hadith 2: Better to Give than Receive

Translation: "The upper hand is better than the lower hand. The upper hand is the one that gives, and the lower hand is the one that receives." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Explanation:

- Upper hand: giver, provider, self-sufficient
- Lower hand: receiver, dependent, beggar
- Better to be in position to help others

- Strive to be productive member of society

Application:

- Work hard to become giver
- Avoid unnecessary dependence
- Charity starts with earning
- Self-sufficiency is dignity

Hadith 3: Seeking Halal Provision

Translation: *"Seeking halal (lawful) earnings is an obligation after the obligations."* (Tabarani)

Meaning:

- After religious obligations (prayer, fasting, etc.)
- Earning halal income is obligatory
- Must work to support oneself and family
- No excuse for laziness

Conditions:

- Earning must be halal (lawful)
- Avoid haram (forbidden) sources
- Work honestly
- Don't neglect worship for work

Hadith 4: Against Begging

Translation: *"Whoever begs from people to accumulate wealth, he is asking for a live coal from Hell. Let him ask for a little or much."* (Muslim)

Explanation:

- Begging without need is major sin
- Accumulating through begging is forbidden
- Like taking fire from Hell
- Destroys self-respect

When Begging is Allowed:

1. Extreme poverty with no alternative
2. To help others in debt
3. Genuine disability preventing work

Otherwise: Work, even if humble job

Islamic Work Ethics

1. Honesty:

- Don't cheat customers
- Fair weights and measures
- Truth in advertising
- Keep promises

2. Excellence: *"Indeed, Allah loves that when anyone of you does a job, he does it with perfection."* (Bayhaqi)

3. Fulfilling Contracts:

- Complete work as agreed
- Don't take payment for incomplete work
- Honor agreements

4. Time Management:

- Don't waste employer's time
- Work during work hours
- Balance work and worship

5. Avoiding Haram:

- No interest (Riba)
- No selling haram items
- No deception
- No exploitation

Types of Lawful Work

All Honest Work is Noble:

- Trade and business
- Agriculture and farming
- Crafts and manufacturing
- Professional services (doctor, engineer, teacher)
- Manual labor
- Technology and innovation

Prophet's Companions' Occupations:

- Abu Bakr: Merchant
- Umar: Trader

- Uthman: Wealthy businessman
- Ali: Laborer, irrigator
- Many were farmers, shepherds, craftsmen

Benefits of Hard Work

Worldly:

- Financial independence
- Respect in society
- Family provision
- Community contribution

Spiritual:

- Pleases Allah
- Develops character
- Prevents idle mischief
- Earns rewards

Psychological:

- Self-esteem
- Sense of purpose
- Reduces stress
- Personal growth

Modern Application

For Students:

- Study is your work
- Prepare for future career
- Learn skills
- Don't be lazy in education

For Workers:

- Excel in your job
- Be honest employee
- Don't steal time or resources
- Represent Islam well

For Entrepreneurs:

- Ethical business practices

- Fair to employees
- Quality products/services
- Halal income

For Unemployed:

- Keep seeking work
- Accept any halal job
- Don't be too proud
- Trust Allah while making effort

Balance Work and Worship

Don't Neglect:

- Five daily prayers
- Family time
- Health and rest
- Seeking knowledge

Remember: *"And seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; but do not forget your share of the world."* (Surah Al-Qasas 28:77)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is self-earned provision better than charity or begging?
2. How can we maintain Islamic ethics in modern workplace?
3. What should someone do if their current job involves haram?
4. How do we balance work with worship and family?

Week 5: Sirah - Treaty of Hdaybiyyah

Background (6 AH / 628 CE)

Context:

- Prophet had dream of performing Umrah
- Prepared 1,400 companions (unarmed for pilgrimage)
- Quraysh heard and prepared to stop them
- Prophet camped at Hdaybiyyah (boundary of Makkah)

Key Events

1. Negotiation:

- Quraysh refused Muslim entry to Makkah
- Several envoys exchanged
- Uthman ibn Affan sent (rumor of his death)
- Bay'at ar-Ridwan (Pledge of Allegiance) under tree

Bay'at ar-Ridwan:

- Muslims pledged to fight if necessary
- Allah praised this pledge in Qur'an (48:18)
- Showed unity and courage
- Uthman returned safely

2. The Treaty Terms:

Agreed Upon:

a) No Umrah This Year:

- Muslims return without performing Umrah
- Can come next year for three days

b) Ten-Year Peace Treaty:

- No fighting between parties
- Trade allowed

c) Seeming Unfair Terms:

- Muslim who escapes to Makkah: not returned
- Makkan who escapes to Madinah: must be returned
- Appeared one-sided

d) Tribal Alliances:

- Tribes can ally with either party

Why Prophet Accepted:

- Divine wisdom
- Long-term benefit
- Avoided bloodshed
- Secured peace

Companions' Initial Reaction

Umar ibn al-Khattab:

- Questioned terms (respectfully)
- Seemed unfavorable
- Later understood wisdom
- Regretted his questions

Other Companions:

- Some disappointed
- Expected to perform Umrah
- Seemed like defeat
- But obeyed Prophet

The Hidden Victory

Qur'anic Revelation: Allah revealed Surah Al-Fath (The Victory) calling it "manifest victory"

Why a Victory:

1. Peace Period:

- Allowed Islam to spread freely
- People could learn about Islam
- No war distraction
- Da'wah opportunity

2. Muslims Returned Stronger:

- Next year performed Umrah (7 AH)
- Year after: conquered Makkah (8 AH)
- Treaty gave time to strengthen

3. Diplomatic Recognition:

- Quraysh recognized Muslim state
- Treaty as equals
- Legitimacy established

4. Rapid Growth:

- More people accepted Islam during truce than in all previous years
- Peace allowed investigation of truth
- Conversions multiplied

Examples:

- Khalid ibn al-Walid (great general)
- Amr ibn al-As (conqueror of Egypt)
- Both accepted Islam during truce period

5. Tribal Alliances:

- Tribes like Khuza'ah allied with Muslims
- Expanded influence
- Network of support

The Returning Clause - Apparent Problem

The Issue:

- Muslims escaping to Madinah must be returned
- Seemed unfair

What Happened:

- Abu Basir escaped to Madinah
- Prophet returned him per treaty
- He escaped again, gathered other escapees
- Formed group intercepting Quraysh caravans
- Not violating treaty (not in Madinah)
- Quraysh begged Prophet to cancel this clause
- Problem solved itself

Lesson:

- Trust Allah's wisdom
- What seems bad may be good
- Patience reveals benefits

Breaking of Treaty

Three Years Later:

- Banu Bakr (allied with Quraysh) attacked Khuza'ah (allied with Muslims)
- Quraysh helped them
- Violated treaty terms
- Gave Prophet excuse for Conquest of Makkah

Lessons from Treaty of Hdaybiyyah

1. Trust in Allah's Wisdom:

- What seems like loss may be victory
- Long-term thinking over short-term emotion
- Allah's plan is perfect

2. Patience in Adversity:

- Accept difficult situations
- Wait for Allah's timing
- Patience brings rewards

3. Obedience to Leadership:

- Follow righteous leaders
- Even when don't understand
- Umar learned this lesson

4. Diplomacy in Islam:

- Treaties and agreements allowed
- Peace preferable to war
- Strategic thinking
- Wisdom in negotiations

5. Sometimes Retreat is Victory:

- Not every battle needs fighting
- Strategic withdrawal acceptable
- Winning war vs. winning battle

6. Peace Spreads Islam:

- People need calm to learn
- War prevents da'wah
- Peace allows truth to shine

7. Divine Support:

- Allah helps believers
- Bay'at ar-Ridwan showed this
- Divine approval in Qur'an

Modern Application

Personal Level:

- Accept difficult situations with patience

- Trust Allah's plan
- What seems bad may be blessing

Community Level:

- Sometimes compromise is wise
- Long-term strategic thinking
- Peace when beneficial

International:

- Treaties and agreements valid in Islam
- Fulfill commitments
- Diplomacy over aggression when possible

Week 6: Sirah - Conquest of Makkah

Background (8 AH / 630 CE)

Reason:

- Quraysh broke Treaty of Hudaibiyyah
- Attacked Khuza'ah (Muslim allies)
- Prophet decided to conquer Makkah

Preparation:

- Kept plan secret
- Gathered 10,000 companions
- Largest Muslim army yet
- Ramadan, 8 AH

The March to Makkah

Strategy:

- Element of surprise
- Overwhelming force
- Avoid bloodshed if possible

Abu Sufyan's Conversion:

- Leader of Quraysh met Muslim army

- Abbas (Prophet's uncle) brought him to Prophet
- Accepted Islam before battle
- Offered: "Whoever enters Abu Sufyan's house is safe"

Entry into Makkah

Four Divisions:

- Entered from different directions
- Minimal resistance
- Only minor skirmish (Khalid's division)
- Mostly peaceful conquest

Prophet's Humility:

- Entered with head bowed in gratitude
- Riding camel, not horse
- Thanking Allah
- Despite being conqueror

At the Ka'bah

Destroying Idols:

- 360 idols around Ka'bah
- Prophet destroyed them with staff
- Reciting: *"Truth has come and falsehood has vanished"* (Qur'an 17:81)
- Purified Ka'bah

Addressing the People:

- Gathered Quraysh leaders
- Those who persecuted Muslims for years
- Everyone feared punishment

The General Amnesty

Prophet's Speech: *"O Quraysh! What do you think I will do with you?"*

They replied: *"Good. You are a noble brother, son of a noble brother."*

Prophet's Response: *"I say to you what Yusuf said to his brothers: 'No blame on you today. Go, you are free!'"*

Amnesty Declared:

- Forgave all enemies
- No revenge taken
- No executions (except few war criminals)
- Model of mercy

Compare:

- Persecuted Muslims for 13 years in Makkah
- Killed and tortured believers
- Forced migration
- Multiple wars

Yet Prophet forgave all!

Mass Conversions

Result of Mercy:

- Makkans amazed by forgiveness
- Many accepted Islam that day
- Including former enemies
- Heart conquered by mercy

Notable Conversions:

- Abu Sufyan (already accepted)
- Hind bint Utbah (ate Hamza's liver at Uhud)
- Ikrimah ibn Abi Jahl
- Safwan ibn Umayyah
- Many others

Establishing Islam in Makkah

Bilal's Adhan:

- Called to prayer from Ka'bah
- Former slave now honored
- Symbol of Islamic equality
- Revolution complete

Prophet's Stay:

- 19 days in Makkah
- Taught people Islam
- Organized administration
- Appointed governor

Significance of the Conquest

1. Fulfilled Prophecy:

- Qur'an predicted this (Surah Al-Fath 48:27)
- Prophet's dream came true
- Victory of truth

2. End of Idolatry in Arabia:

- Ka'bah purified
- Center of Islam restored
- Original purpose (House of Allah) renewed

3. Beginning of End for Arabian Paganism:

- Major blow to polytheism
- Tribes saw the truth
- Mass conversions began

4. Bloodless Victory:

- Minimal casualties
- Mercy over vengeance
- Example for humanity

5. Model of Forgiveness:

- Greatest example of mercy in victory
- Changed hearts permanently
- Former enemies became devoted Muslims

Lessons

1. Mercy in Victory:

- Be merciful to defeated enemies
- Forgiveness conquers hearts
- Revenge breeds hatred
- Mercy brings lasting peace

2. Humility in Success:

- Prophet was humble despite victory
- Thanked Allah constantly
- No arrogance

- Success is from Allah

3. Purification:

- Removed falsehood
- Established truth
- Cleansed sacred space
- Restored original purpose

4. Strategic Patience:

- 21 years from first persecution to conquest
- Patience paid off
- Right timing
- Complete victory

5. Power of Good Character:

- Prophet's mercy won more converts than war
- Character is best da'wah
- Actions speak loudest

6. Fulfillment of Promise:

- Allah's promise came true
- Those who persecuted now submitted
- Divine plan perfect
- Trust in Allah

Comparison: Entry and Exit

Left Makkah (Hijrah):

- Persecuted
- Few followers
- In secret, at night
- Weak and threatened

Returned to Makkah (Conquest):

- Victorious
- 10,000 followers
- Openly, in daylight
- Strong and respected

But: Still humble, still grateful

After the Conquest

Battle of Hunayn:

- Shortly after conquest
- Against Hawazin tribe
- Muslims tested
- Eventually victorious
- Distributed spoils generously

Year of Delegations (9 AH):

- Tribes from all Arabia came
- Accepted Islam
- Arabia largely Muslim
- Mission nearing completion

Modern Application

1. Mercy in Dealing with Others:

- Forgive those who wrong you
- Don't seek revenge
- Win hearts through kindness

2. Humility in Success:

- Success is from Allah
- Stay humble
- Thank Allah
- Don't become arrogant

3. Patience with Oppression:

- Don't rush for revenge
- Trust Allah's timing
- Victory will come
- Maintain integrity

4. Remove Barriers to Faith:

- Cleanse life of haram (like idols cleansed from Ka'bah)
 - Purify heart
 - Establish truth in life
-

Week 7: Fiqh - Hajj (Rites and Lessons)

Introduction to Hajj

Definition: Pilgrimage to Makkah, fifth pillar of Islam

Obligation:

- Once in lifetime for those able
- Physical and financial capability required

Evidence: *"And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find thereto a way."* (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:97)

Types of Hajj

1. Ifrad: Hajj only **2. Qiran:** Hajj and Umrah together **3. Tamattu':** Umrah first, then Hajj (most common)

Essential Rituals (Arkan)

1. Ihram:

- State of consecration
- Special clothing (men: two white cloths; women: modest dress)
- Intention (niyyah)
- From designated points (Miqat)

Prohibitions in Ihram:

- No perfume
- No cutting hair/nails
- No hunting
- No intimate relations
- No covering head (men)
- No face veil (women, though head covered)

2. Standing at Arafat (Wuquf):

- 9th Dhul-Hijjah
- From noon to sunset
- Most important ritual
- **"Hajj is Arafat"** (Hadith)
- Make du'a, seek forgiveness

3. Tawaf al-Ifadah:

- Circling Ka'bah seven times
- After leaving Arafat
- Essential pillar

4. Sa'i:

- Walking between Safa and Marwah hills
- Seven times
- Commemorates Hajar's search for water

5. Shaving/Cutting Hair:

- Men: shave or trim
- Women: cut small amount
- Symbol of renewal

Sequence of Hajj (Brief)

8th Dhul-Hijjah (Day of Tarwiyah):

- Enter Ihram
- Go to Mina
- Spend night

9th Dhul-Hijjah (Day of Arafat):

- Move to Arafat after Fajr
- Stand from noon to sunset
- Intense worship and du'a
- Move to Muzdalifah after sunset
- Spend night, collect pebbles

10th Dhul-Hijjah (Eid Day):

- Return to Mina at dawn
- Stone Jamrat al-Aqabah (large pillar)
- Sacrifice animal
- Shave/cut hair
- Return to Makkah for Tawaf al-Ifadah
- Return to Mina

11th-13th Dhul-Hijjah (Days of Tashriq):

- Stay in Mina

- Stone three pillars daily
- Can leave on 12th or stay till 13th

Farewell Tawaf:

- Final circling of Ka'bah
- Before leaving Makkah

Historical Significance

Origins:

- Prophet Ibrahim built Ka'bah with Isma'il
- Allah commanded pilgrimage
- Pre-Islamic Arabs corrupted it with idols
- Prophet Muhammad purified and restored

Commemorations:

- Safa and Marwah: Hajar searching for water
- Zamzam: Miraculous spring for Isma'il
- Stoning pillars: Ibrahim rejecting Satan
- Sacrifice: Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice Isma'il

Spiritual Lessons

1. Equality:

- All wear same simple clothes
- No distinction of race, wealth, status
- All equal before Allah

2. Unity:

- Muslims from worldwide gather
- One ummah
- Shared rituals
- Brotherhood/sisterhood

3. Submission:

- Follow commands exactly
- Don't question why
- Trust Allah's wisdom
- Complete obedience

4. Sacrifice:

- Leave comfort of home
- Spend money
- Physical hardship
- Time and effort

5. Renewal:

- Return sinless (if done properly)
- *"Like the day mother bore him"* (Hadith)
- Fresh start
- Spiritual rebirth

6. Remembrance of Death:

- Ihram like burial shroud
- Reminds of afterlife
- Life is temporary
- Prepare for hereafter

7. Following Prophet Ibrahim:

- Following footsteps
- Same actions
- Connected to prophetic legacy
- Unity of faith across time

Benefits of Hajj

Spiritual:

- Forgiveness of sins
- Closeness to Allah
- Answered prayers
- Spiritual elevation

Personal:

- Life-changing experience
- Increased taqwa
- Better person
- Grateful for blessings

Social:

- Meet Muslims worldwide
- Learn from others
- Build connections
- Understand global ummah

Educational:

- Learn history
- Understand Islam deeply
- Experience sacred sites
- Knowledge of rituals

Rules and Etiquette

Before Hajj:

- Seek knowledge
- Prepare financially
- Settle debts
- Seek forgiveness from others
- Write will
- Leave family provided for

During Hajj:

- Patience with crowds
- Help fellow pilgrims
- Avoid arguments
- Focus on worship
- Follow group leader
- Don't harm others

After Hajj:

- Maintain spiritual high
- Apply lessons learned
- Change for better
- Share experience
- Help others prepare

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Not learning rituals properly
- Pushing and shoving
- Arguing and fighting
- Taking photos/selfies instead of worshipping

- Wasting time shopping
- Neglecting prayers
- Not making du'a properly
- Showing off

Modern Challenges

- Huge crowds (2-3 million pilgrims)
- Heat and physical difficulty
- Cost
- Safety concerns
- Need for proper organization

Saudi Efforts:

- Expanded Haram
- Better facilities
- Transportation systems
- Healthcare
- Safety measures

Hajj Mabruur (Accepted Hajj)

Signs:

- Returns better person
- Maintains good deeds
- Avoids sins
- More patient and kind
- Increased worship
- Changed life

Hadith: *"An accepted Hajj has no reward except Paradise."* (Bukhari and Muslim)

Application for Non-Pilgrims

Day of Arafat (for those not at Hajj):

- Fast (highly recommended)
- Make du'a
- Seek forgiveness
- Worship intensely

Eid al-Adha:

- Sacrifice animal (if able)

- Follow Sunnah
- Celebrate appropriately
- Help the needy

Week 8: Akhlaq - Avoiding Corruption, Bribery & Cheating

Definitions

1. Corruption (Fasad):

- Any dishonest or fraudulent conduct
- Abuse of position for personal gain
- Destroying what should be maintained

2. Bribery (Rishwah):

- Giving/taking money or gifts to influence decision
- Buying favors or influence
- Perverting justice

3. Cheating (Ghish):

- Deception in dealings
- Fraud and trickery
- Not delivering what promised

Islamic Prohibition

Qur'anic Evidence:

"And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you [to] consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful]." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:188)

Hadith Evidence:

"Allah's curse is on the one who bribes and the one who takes a bribe." (Tirmidhi)

"Whoever cheats us is not one of us." (Muslim)

Types and Examples

1. Bribery in:

- Government positions (contracts, permits)
- Courts (influencing judgment)
- Admissions (school, university)
- Jobs (hiring, promotions)
- Examinations (buying grades)

2. Corruption in:

- Public funds (embezzlement)
- Projects (inflated costs, substandard work)
- Contracts (favoritism, kickbacks)
- Resources (misuse of public property)

3. Cheating in:

- Business (false advertising, fake products)
- Measurements (short weights, measures)
- Examinations (academic dishonesty)
- Contracts (not fulfilling terms)

Harms of Corruption

Individual:

- Destroys conscience
- Spiritual death
- Loss of barakah (blessing)
- Punishment in hereafter

Society:

- Injustice prevails
- Merit system destroyed
- Trust breakdown
- Wealth inequality
- Qualified people denied opportunities

Nation:

- Economic damage
- Development hindered
- Investor fear
- Brain drain
- Poverty increase

Religion:

- Islam's image damaged
- People turn away from religion
- Hypocrisy visible
- Divine punishment on community

Islamic Solution

1. Taqwa (Fear of Allah):

- Conscious of Allah watching
- Remember accountability
- Day of Judgment awareness

2. Halal Earnings:

- Seek lawful income only
- Avoid doubtful sources
- Be content with what's halal

3. Trust in Allah:

- Rizq (provision) is from Allah
- Haram doesn't increase sustenance
- Allah provides for righteous

4. Strong Faith:

- This life is temporary
- Hereafter is permanent
- Corruption not worth hellfire

5. Role Models:

- Prophets' examples
- Righteous companions
- Honest leaders in history

Famous Examples of Honesty

1. Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz:

- Caliph who extinguished lamp when talking personal matters (not state business)
- Used state resources only for state work
- Lived simply despite being leader

2. Umar ibn al-Khattab:

- Checked on people's conditions personally
- Held governors accountable
- Simple lifestyle
- Justice without favoritism

3. Abu Bakr:

- Took minimal salary as Caliph
- Only what was absolutely necessary
- His family returned extra to treasury after his death

Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens' Duties:

- Don't offer bribes
- Report corruption
- Vote/support honest leaders
- Be honest in own dealings
- Pay taxes honestly

Leaders' Duties:

- Serve people, not exploit them
- Use resources for public good
- Be accountable
- Live modestly
- Appoint qualified, honest people

Business People:

- Honest advertising
- Quality products
- Fair prices
- Keep promises
- Pay workers fairly

Excuses and Refutations

Excuse: "Everyone does it" **Response:** Islam judges by truth, not majority. Haram remains haram even if millions do it.

Excuse: "I need to feed my family" **Response:** Haram earnings bring no barakah. Halal sustenance, even if less, is blessed.

Excuse: "System is corrupt, can't succeed without it" **Response:** Trust in Allah. He provides for those who fear Him. Many succeed with honesty.

Excuse: "Small bribe to get my right" **Response:** Still haram. Find legal channels. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Practical Steps

Personal:

- Refuse to participate in corruption
- Speak against it
- Make du'a for strength
- Support reform efforts
- Be example

Professional:

- Maintain integrity
- Report violations
- Don't compromise principles
- Document transactions
- Be transparent

Social:

- Educate others
- Support honest people
- Boycott corrupt businesses
- Demand accountability
- Create awareness

Consequences

This World:

- Loss of barakah
- Wealth doesn't benefit
- Troubles and problems
- Bad reputation
- Possible legal consequences

Hereafter:

- Severe punishment
- Hellfire for major corruption

- Account for every penny
- No intercession for oppressors

Hadith: *"The flesh that grows from haram earnings, the Fire is more appropriate for it."*
(Tirmidhi)

Week 9: Islamic History - Spread of Islam to Africa

Introduction

Islam reached Africa early in its history. Africa has been integral to Islamic civilization from the beginning.

Early Presence

Abyssinia (Ethiopia) - 615 CE:

- First Hijrah (migration)
- Muslims sought refuge
- Negus (Christian king) protected them
- Negus later accepted Islam
- Established Islam in East Africa

North Africa

Egypt:

- Conquered by Amr ibn al-As (640 CE)
- Peaceful transition for many
- Coptic Christians initially
- Gradual Islamization
- Became major Islamic center
- Al-Azhar University (970 CE) - oldest continuous university

Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco:

- Uqbah ibn Nafi led conquest (670s)
- Built Kairouan (Tunisia) - first North African Islamic city
- Berbers initially resisted
- Eventually embraced Islam strongly
- Became champions of Islam
- Spread to West Africa and Spain

West Africa

Trans-Saharan Trade Routes:

- Muslim traders from North Africa
- Gold, salt, ivory trade
- Shared Islam along with goods
- Peaceful spread through commerce

Major West African Muslim Empires:

1. Ghana Empire (existed before Islam):

- Muslim advisors by 1000 CE
- Rulers eventually accepted Islam
- Islamic influence grew

2. Mali Empire (1235-1600):

- Sundiata Keita founded it
- **Mansa Musa** (ruled 1312-1337):
 - Most famous ruler
 - Performed legendary Hajj (1324)
 - Brought 60,000 people
 - So much gold distributed, affected economies
 - Built mosques and schools
 - Invited scholars from Middle East
 - Timbuktu became learning center

3. Songhai Empire (1464-1591):

- Largest West African empire
- Strong Islamic character
- Timbuktu and Gao major centers
- University of Sankore
- Scholars and books
- Askia Muhammad reformed empire on Islamic principles

4. Hausa States (present-day Nigeria):

- Kano, Katsina, Zaria, etc.
- Islam arrived 14th century
- Gradual Islamization
- Trade and scholarship centers

Jihad Movements (18th-19th Century)

Reform Movements:

1. Usman dan Fodio (1754-1817):

- Fulani scholar in Hausaland
- Preached pure Islam
- Opposed mixing with traditional practices
- Led jihad against corrupt rulers (1804)
- Established **Sokoto Caliphate**
- Largest state in 19th century Africa
- Promoted education, justice
- Sharia law implemented

2. Al-Kanemi (1776-1837):

- Scholar in Kanem-Bornu
- Defended against Fulani jihad
- Reformed Bornu Empire
- Balanced tradition and reform

3. Samori Ture:

- West African leader
- Resisted French colonization
- Islamic state
- Eventually defeated

4. Al-Hajj Umar Tall:

- Toucouleur Empire
- Islamic reformer
- Opposed French expansion
- Military and spiritual leader

East Africa

Swahili Coast:

- Zanzibar, Mombasa, Kilwa
- Arab traders arrived 8th century
- Intermarried with local Bantu
- **Swahili culture** emerged - blend of African and Arab
- Islamic sultanates
- Trade in gold, ivory, spices
- Swahili language (Bantu with Arabic vocabulary)

Somalia:

- Islam arrived 7th century
- Almost entirely Muslim
- Somali identity closely tied to Islam
- Sultanates and city-states

Ethiopia:

- Muslim communities since Hijrah
- Coexisted with Christian kingdom
- Adal Sultanate
- Modern Ethiopia ~35% Muslim

Horn and Southern Africa**Sudan:**

- Gradual Islamization from 13th century
- Funj Sultanate
- Majority Muslim today

Southern Africa:

- Islam arrived with Cape Malays (South Africa)
- Indian Ocean trade
- Later immigration
- Growing Muslim minorities

Methods of Spread**1. Trade:**

- Most important method
- Peaceful interaction
- Example of Muslim character
- Trust in business dealings

2. Sufism:

- Sufi orders (Qadiriyya, Tijaniyya, etc.)
- Spiritual appeal
- Local languages and cultures

- Accessible teaching

3. Inter-marriage:

- Muslims married locals
- Children raised Muslim
- Natural integration

4. Education:

- Qur'anic schools
- Islamic universities
- Scholarship centers
- Literacy spread

5. Political Rule:

- Islamic empires and sultanates
- Justice and good governance
- Attracted people to Islam

Rarely Military:

- Jihad movements mostly against corrupt Muslim rulers or colonizers
- Not primarily for forced conversion
- Invitation (da'wah) was main method

African Contributions to Islam

Scholars:

- Many great African Islamic scholars
- Preserved and spread knowledge
- Commentaries on Qur'an and Hadith

Architecture:

- Unique African-Islamic style
- Mosques of Timbuktu (mud-brick)
- Swahili architecture (stone and coral)

Literature:

- Ajami script (African languages in Arabic script)
- Chronicles and histories
- Poetry

Trade Networks:

- Connected Islamic world
- Economic prosperity
- Cultural exchange

Challenges

Colonialism:

- European powers colonized Africa (19th-20th centuries)
- Disrupted Islamic institutions
- Imposed Western education
- Tried to weaken Islam
- Muslims resisted

Syncretism:

- Mixing Islam with traditional practices
- Challenge to orthodox practice
- Reform movements addressed this

Modern Challenges:

- Extremism
- Poverty
- Education gaps
- Political instability

Islam in Africa Today

Statistics:

- ~40-45% of African population Muslim
- Over 500 million Muslims
- Majority in North and parts of West/East
- Growing in other regions

Major Muslim Countries:

- Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, Senegal, Mali, Niger, etc.

Contribution:

- Active in global Islamic affairs
- Islamic universities (Al-Azhar, etc.)
- Growing economies

- Cultural diversity

Lessons

1. Islam is Universal:

- Not Arab religion
- Adapted to all cultures
- African Muslims are integral to Islam

2. Peaceful Spread:

- Mostly through character and trade
- Force not primary method
- Invitation and example

3. Education Important:

- Knowledge centers attracted people
- Literacy valued
- Learning preserves Islam

4. Reform Necessary:

- Periodic renewal needed
- Resist corruption of teachings
- Balance tradition and purity

5. Resilience:

- Survived colonialism
- Maintained identity
- Continued growing

Week 10: Islamic Civilization - Contributions to Knowledge and Science

Introduction

Islamic Golden Age (8th-13th centuries CE): Muslims led world in science, medicine, mathematics, philosophy, and arts.

Why Study This:

- Pride in Islamic heritage
- Understand Islam values knowledge
- Current contributions of Muslims
- Refute ignorance about Islamic history

Emphasis on Knowledge in Islam

Qur'anic Verses: *"Read in the name of your Lord who created."* (96:1) - First revelation

"Say: Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" (39:9)

Hadith: *"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."*

"The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like the superiority of the moon over the stars."

Major Fields of Contribution

1. Mathematics

Al-Khwarizmi (780-850 CE):

- "Father of Algebra"
- Wrote "Al-Jabr" (The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing)
- Word "algebra" comes from "al-jabr"
- "Algorithm" comes from his name
- Developed systematic approach to equations

Contributions:

- Algebra as separate field
- Decimal system
- Arabic numerals (0-9) - easier than Roman numerals
- Trigonometry development
- Algorithms

Other Mathematicians:

- Omar Khayyam: solving cubic equations, calendar reform
- Al-Battani: advanced trigonometry
- Ibn al-Haytham: geometry, optics

2. Medicine

Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (980-1037):

- "Prince of Physicians"
- Wrote "The Canon of Medicine" (Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb)
- Used as textbook in Europe for 600 years
- Covered diseases, treatments, surgery
- Described meningitis, contagious diseases
- Pioneered clinical trials

Al-Razi (Rhazes) (865-925):

- Distinguished smallpox from measles (first time)
- Hospital director
- Ethical medical practice
- Wrote 200+ books

Ibn al-Nafis:

- Discovered pulmonary circulation (blood flow through lungs)
- 300 years before European discovery

Achievements:

- Established first hospitals (separate wards, treatment for all regardless of wealth)
- Pharmacology (study of drugs)
- Surgery advancements
- Medical ethics
- Clinical observation

3. Astronomy

Contributions:

- Observatories in Baghdad, Damascus, Samarkand
- Precise star catalogs
- Improved astrolabe (navigation instrument)
- Mapped heavens
- Calculated Earth's circumference accurately

Key Figures:

- Al-Battani: accurate astronomical tables
- Al-Biruni: calculated Earth's radius
- Ulugh Beg: star catalog, observatory

Practical Use:

- Determining Qibla direction
- Prayer times

- Islamic calendar
- Navigation

4. Optics and Physics

Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen) (965-1040):

- "Father of Modern Optics"
- Wrote "Book of Optics" (Kitab al-Manazir)
- Explained how eye sees (light enters eye, not emitted from it)
- Camera obscura (precursor to camera)
- Scientific method of experimentation

Principles:

- Refraction and reflection of light
- Lenses
- Magnification
- Vision science

5. Chemistry

Jabir ibn Hayyan (Geber) (721-815):

- "Father of Chemistry"
- Systematic experimentation
- Distillation, crystallization
- Discovered acids (sulfuric, nitric)

Al-Razi:

- Classified substances (animal, vegetable, mineral)
- Laboratory equipment

Contributions:

- Scientific approach to chemistry
- Alchemy → Chemistry transition
- Experimental methods
- Equipment (alembic, retort)

6. Geography and Navigation

Al-Idrisi (1100-1165):

- Created detailed world map for Roger II of Sicily
- "Tabula Rogeriana"

- Most accurate map for 300 years
- Described countries, peoples, trade routes

Ibn Battuta (1304-1369):

- Greatest medieval traveler
- Traveled 75,000 miles over 30 years
- Visited almost all Muslim world + China, India, Africa
- Wrote "Rihla" (The Journey)
- Documented cultures, geography

Tools:

- Astrolabe perfected
- Compass improved
- Maps and charts
- Navigation techniques

7. Philosophy and Social Sciences

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406):

- "Father of Sociology" and historiography
- Wrote "Muqaddimah" (Introduction to History)
- Analyzed rise and fall of civilizations
- Social dynamics, economics
- Scientific approach to history

Al-Farabi, Ibn Rushd (Averroes):

- Philosophy, logic
- Preserved Greek philosophy
- Islamic philosophy
- Influenced European thought

8. Engineering and Technology

Al-Jazari (1136-1206):

- Mechanical engineer
- "Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices"
- Designed robots, automata
- Water clocks
- Pumps and fountains
- Crankshaft (used in modern engines)

Other Innovations:

- Windmills
- Water wheels
- Irrigation systems
- Urban planning
- Architecture (domes, arches)

9. Agriculture

Innovations:

- Crop rotation
- Irrigation techniques
- Introduced new crops (rice, cotton, citrus to Europe)
- Agricultural manuals
- Botanical gardens

10. Education and Libraries

Institutions:

- **House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikmah)** - Baghdad
 - Translation movement
 - Preserved Greek, Persian, Indian knowledge
 - Original research
- **Al-Azhar University** - Cairo (970 CE)
 - Oldest continuously operating university
 - Still functioning today
- **University of Al-Qarawiyyin** - Morocco (859 CE)
 - Founded by Fatima al-Fihri (woman!)
 - Oldest degree-granting university (Guinness Record)

Libraries:

- Baghdad: 400,000 books (pre-Mongol destruction)
- Cordoba: 400,000-600,000 books
- Public libraries accessible to scholars

Methods:

- Paper production (learned from China, improved, spread to Europe)
- Book binding
- Scriptoria (copying centers)

Transfer to Europe

How Knowledge Reached Europe:

1. Spain (Al-Andalus):

- Muslim ruled Iberia (711-1492)
- Centers of learning: Cordoba, Toledo
- Christians and Jews studied in Muslim universities
- Translation schools (Arabic → Latin)

2. Sicily:

- Muslim ruled (827-1061)
- Cultural exchange
- Translations

3. Crusades:

- Despite conflict, knowledge transfer
- Europeans saw advanced civilization
- Brought ideas back

4. Trade:

- Venice, Genoa traded with Muslim world
- Ideas along with goods

Impact on Renaissance:

- Muslim preservation of Greek knowledge
- Original Muslim contributions
- Scientific method
- Sparked European Renaissance

Why the Golden Age?

Reasons for Success:

1. Islamic Values:

- Emphasis on knowledge ('Ilm)
- First word revealed: "Read"
- Prophet's hadith on seeking knowledge

2. Political Stability:

- Strong caliphates (Abbasid, Umayyad, Fatimid)
- Resources for scholarship
- Patronage of scholars

3. Economic Prosperity:

- Trade networks
- Wealth to fund research
- Leisure time for study

4. Cultural Tolerance:

- Muslim, Christian, Jewish scholars worked together
- Translated from all sources
- Meritocracy

5. Language Unity:

- Arabic as scholarly language
- Facilitated communication across empire
- Shared vocabulary

6. Preservation:

- Valued knowledge of all civilizations
- Translation movement
- Libraries and books

Decline

Reasons:

1. Mongol Invasions (1258):

- Destroyed Baghdad
- Burned libraries
- Killed scholars
- Devastated Islamic heartland

2. Crusades:

- Constant warfare
- Resources diverted
- Instability

3. Political Fragmentation:

- Caliphate weakened
- Division into smaller states
- Less patronage

4. Closing of Ijtihad:

- Some scholars discouraged innovation
- "Taqlid" (blind following) increased
- Creativity stifled

5. Economic Decline:

- Trade routes changed
- European exploration
- Less wealth

Modern Muslim Scientists

Islam Still Produces:

- Abdus Salam: Nobel Prize in Physics (1979)
- Ahmed Zewail: Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1999)
- Many engineers, doctors, researchers worldwide

Challenge: Need to revive spirit of inquiry while maintaining Islamic values

Lessons

1. Islam and Science Compatible:

- Islam encourages learning
- Science is worship when seeking truth
- No conflict between faith and reason (properly understood)

2. Knowledge is Universal:

- Muslims learned from Greeks, Persians, Indians
- No monopoly on truth
- Seek knowledge wherever it is

3. Preservation Important:

- Muslims saved knowledge from loss
- Libraries and books crucial
- Education institutions

4. Practical Application:

- Knowledge for benefit of humanity
- Not just theory
- Solve problems

5. Tolerance Breeds Progress:

- Cooperation across religions/cultures
- Diversity of thought
- Merit-based advancement

6. Need for Revival:

- Muslim world must re-embrace innovation
- Invest in education and research
- Solve contemporary problems
- Contribute to humanity

Current Muslim Countries in Science

Challenges:

- Underinvestment in research
- Brain drain
- Political instability
- Education quality

Progress:

- UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia investing in science
- Malaysia, Turkey advancing
- Growing universities
- Space programs (UAE Mars mission)

Need:

- More investment
- Encourage critical thinking
- Support researchers
- Islamic ethics in science

Conclusion

The SS2 Second Term covers crucial aspects of Islamic faith, history, and practice. From belief in prophets to the great Islamic civilization, these topics build a comprehensive understanding of Islam's intellectual and spiritual heritage.

Key Takeaways:

- Prophets are central to Islamic belief
- Islamic social ethics (from Surah Al-Hujurat) guide our behavior
- Unity and sincerity (from Surah As-Saff) strengthen the community
- Historical events like Treaty of Hudaibiyyah and Conquest of Makkah teach wisdom and mercy
- Hajj connects us to Ibrahim and purifies the soul
- Avoiding corruption maintains personal and social integrity
- Islam spread to Africa through peaceful means
- Islamic civilization contributed immensely to human knowledge

Application: Students should:

- Strengthen their faith through knowledge
- Apply Islamic ethics in daily life
- Take pride in Islamic heritage
- Contribute positively to society
- Maintain high moral standards
- Seek knowledge continuously

May Allah grant us understanding and help us implement these teachings. Ameen.