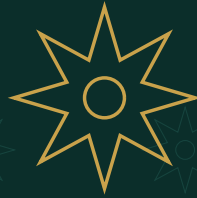


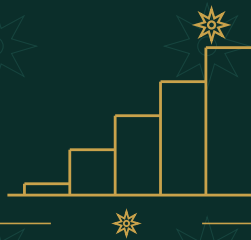
SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Mu'minun

The Believers

The complete journey — the ones who have succeeded —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 23 • 118 Ayahs • Meccan

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The Surah at a Glance

*Qad aflahal-mu'minoon. Allazeena hum fee
salaatihim khaashi'oon*

1-2. Successful indeed are the believers — those who are
humbly submissive in their prayer,

Wallazeena hum 'anil-laghwi mu'ridoon

3. And those who turn away from idle talk,

*Wallazeena hum li-amaanaatihim wa 'ahdihim
raa'oon*

8. And those who are faithful to their trusts and their
promises,

Fatabaarakal-laahu ahsanul-khaaliqeen

14. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators.

*Rabbi anzilnee munzalam-mubaarakanw-wa Anta
khayrul-munzileen*

29. My Lord, let me land at a blessed landing place, and
You are the best to accommodate.

*Afahasibtum annamaa khalaqnaakum
'abasanw-wa annakum ilaynaa laa turja'oon*

115. Did you think We created you aimlessly, and that
you would not be returned to Us?



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— free on nooraniilm.com (Read & Recite section).

Successful Indeed Are the Believers

Beta, this surah opens with a declaration, not a question:
'QAD AFLAHAL-MU'MINOON — SUCCESSFUL INDEED
ARE THE BELIEVERS.'

Beta, 'aflaha' comes from 'falah' — and the root originally means to split open the earth, as a farmer does. So 'falah' is the success of one who cultivates: he breaks the soil, plants, waters, waits — and then harvests. It is not a lottery win; it is earned success that grows.

And 'QAD' before it is a particle of certainty: it HAS happened, it is settled, guaranteed.

And it is reported that when this surah was revealed, the Prophet ﷺ said that ten ayahs had been revealed such that whoever fulfils them will enter Paradise.



Beta, so listen carefully. What follows is a short list, and Allah is telling you: fulfil these, and you have succeeded. Let us walk through them one by one.

'ALLAZINA HUM FEE SALATIHIM KHASHI'OON — THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLY SUBMISSIVE IN THEIR PRAYER.'

Beta, the FIRST item is not that they pray — it is HOW they pray. 'Khushoo' is stillness of the body and presence of the heart: a person who knows Whom he is standing before.

And notice the wording: 'FEE salatihim' — IN their prayer. The surah will end this list by mentioning prayer again, from the outside; here it is about what happens INSIDE it.

Beta, khushoo' is the first thing that will be lifted from this ummah, as the scholars warned. So work on it deliberately: know what you are reciting, slow down, remember that He is looking at you while you stand.



'WAL-LAZINA HUM 'ANIL-LAGHWI MU'RIDOON —
AND THOSE WHO TURN AWAY FROM LAGHW.'

Beta, 'laghw' is anything vain and pointless — talk that has no benefit, entertainment that leads nowhere, arguments that produce nothing, the hours that evaporate. It is not necessarily sinful; it is EMPTY.

And notice: they do not merely avoid it — they 'mu'ridoon', they TURN AWAY from it, deliberately, the way you turn your face from something you do not want.

Beta, in our age this is the hardest one on the list. Laghw is now delivered to the pocket, endlessly, professionally engineered to hold you. A believer's success is measured partly by what he scrolls past.

'WAL-LAZINA HUM LIZ-ZAKATI FA'ILOON — AND THOSE WHO ARE DOERS OF ZAKAH.' Their wealth is not sealed; it flows outward.



'WAL-LAZINA HUM LI-FUROOJIHIM HAFIZOON — AND THOSE WHO GUARD THEIR CHASTITY' — except with their spouses. Beta, purity in a world designed to erode it.

'WAL-LAZINA HUM LI-AMANATIHIM WA 'AHDIHIM RA'OON — AND THOSE WHO ARE SHEPHERDS OVER THEIR TRUSTS AND THEIR PROMISES.'

Beta, the word 'ra'oon' is from 'ra'i' — a SHEPHERD. They do not merely keep their trusts; they tend them, guard them, watch over them the way a shepherd watches a flock through the night.

And 'amanah' is everything placed in your care: a borrowed item, a secret told to you, a job you were hired for, a position of authority, your children, your body, your knowledge. Beta, the Prophet ﷺ said: there is no faith for one who has no trustworthiness, and no religion for one who does not keep his covenant.

'WAL-LAZINA HUM 'ALA SALAWATIHIM YUHAFIZOON — AND THOSE WHO GUARD THEIR



PRAYERS.'

Beta, notice: the list OPENED with prayer and now CLOSES with prayer. It began with the inside — khushoo' — and ends with the outside: guarding them, at their times, consistently, never abandoned.

Beta, prayer is the fence around the whole list.

'ULA'IKA HUMUL-WARITHOON — THOSE ARE THE INHERITORS — ALLAZINA YARITHOONAL-FIRDAWSA HUM FEEHA KHALIDOOIN — WHO WILL INHERIT AL-FIRDAWS; therein they will abide eternally.'

Beta, Al-Firdaws is the highest part of Paradise. The Prophet ﷺ said: when you ask Allah, ask Him for Al-Firdaws, for it is the middle and highest part of Paradise, and above it is the Throne of the Most Merciful, and from it spring the rivers of Paradise.

So this is the deal, beta: those ten lines, in exchange for the highest place there is.

Blessed Is Allah, the Best of Creators



The surah then turns to how you were made — and beta, the description is astonishing for a book revealed fourteen centuries ago:

'WA LAQAD KHALAQNAL-INSANA MIN SULALATIN
 MIN TEEN — and We certainly created man from an
 EXTRACT of clay — THUMMA JA'ALNAHU NUTFATAN
 FEE QARARIN MAKEEN — then We placed him as a
 DROP in a FIRM LODGING — THUMMA
 KHALAQNAN-NUTFATA 'ALAAHA — then We made the
 drop into a CLINGING THING —
 FA-KHALAQNAL-'ALAAQATA MUDGHAH — and made
 the clinging thing into a LUMP resembling something
 chewed — FA-KHALAQNAL-MUDGHATA 'IZAMAN —
 and made the lump into BONES —
 FA-KASAWNAL-'IZAMA LAHMA — and We CLOTHED
 THE BONES WITH FLESH — THUMMA ANSHA'NAHU
 KHALQAN AKHAR — THEN WE DEVELOPED HIM
 INTO ANOTHER CREATION.'

Beta, note the sequence: bones first, then flesh clothing them. And note the final phrase — 'khalqan akhar',



ANOTHER CREATION entirely. At some point this developing body becomes a SOMEONE: a soul, a person, a self.

'FA-TABARAKALLAHU AHSANUL-KHALIQEEN — SO BLESSED IS ALLAH, THE BEST OF CREATORS.'

Beta, there is a famous report that a companion, hearing this passage being revealed, spoke these very words in amazement before they were completed — and then the ayah came down exactly as he had said them.

'THUMMA INNAKUM BA'DA ZALIK LA-MAYYITOON — then indeed, after that, YOU WILL DIE — THUMMA INNAKUM YAWMAL-QIYAMATI TUB'ATHOON — then indeed you, on the Day of Resurrection, will be RESURRECTED.'

Beta, in five ayahs: clay, drop, stages, life, death, and resurrection. Your whole existence mapped.

A Blessed Landing Place



The surah then recounts Nuh (alaihis salam) and the flood, and it preserves two duas that you should carry with you, beta.

When he boarded the ark with the believers, he was taught to say: 'AL-HAMDU LILLAHIL-LAZI NAJJANA MINAL-QAWMIZ-ZALIMEEN — PRAISE TO ALLAH WHO SAVED US FROM THE WRONGDOING PEOPLE.'

And then: 'WA QUL RABBI ANZILNEE MUNZALAN MUBARAKAN WA ANTA KHAYRUL-MUNZILEEN — AND SAY: MY LORD, LET ME LAND AT A BLESSED LANDING PLACE, AND YOU ARE THE BEST TO ACCOMMODATE.'

Beta, this is a beautiful dua for travel, for moving house, for arriving anywhere new — for a new job, a new city, a new stage of life. He is on a boat in a drowning world and he asks not merely to survive, but for the PLACE he arrives at to be BLESSED.

Beta, learn it. Not just 'let me get there safely' — 'let where I arrive be blessed'.



The surah then moves through generations — 'THUMMA ANSHA'NA MIN BA'DIHIM QARNAN AKHAREEN — then We produced after them another generation' — and shows the same pattern repeating: a messenger comes, the affluent chiefs deny, they are seized.

And a line about them, beta, that describes every civilisation: 'MA TASBIQU MIN UMMATIN AJALAH WA MA YASTA'KHIROON — no nation can PRECEDE its appointed time, nor delay it.'

And a devastating summary: 'THUMMA ARSALNA RUSULANA TATRA — then We sent Our messengers in SUCCESSION — KULLAMA JA'A UMMATAN RASOOLUHA KAZZABOOH — every time a messenger came to a nation, THEY DENIED HIM — FA-ATBA'NA BA'DAHUM BA'DAN WA JA'ALNAHUM AHADEETH — so We made them follow one another (in destruction) and made them STORIES — FA-BU'DAN LI-QAWMIN LA YU'MINOON — so away with a people who do not believe.'



Beta, 'ja'alnahum ahadeeth' — We made them into STORIES. Whole civilisations reduced to something people read about.

Repel Evil With What Is Better

The surah then describes the truly conscious believers — and beta, this passage is a portrait of a healthy relationship with Allah:

'INNAL-LAZINA HUM MIN KHASHYATI RABBIHIM MUSHFIQOON — indeed, those who are APPREHENSIVE from fear of their Lord — WAL-LAZINA HUM BI-AYATI RABBIHIM YU'MINOON — and who believe in the signs of their Lord — WAL-LAZINA HUM BI-RABBIHIM LA YUSHRIKOON — and who do not associate anything with their Lord — WAL-LAZINA YU'TOONA MA ATAW WA QULOBUHUM WAJILATUN ANNAHUM ILA RABBIHIM RAJI'OON — AND THOSE WHO GIVE WHAT THEY GIVE WHILE THEIR HEARTS ARE TREMBLING, because they will return to their Lord.'



Beta, that fourth one is extraordinary. Aisha (radiyallahu anha) asked the Prophet ﷺ whether these are people who steal and drink and fear Allah. He said no — they are the ones who FAST and PRAY and GIVE CHARITY, and they fear that it will NOT BE ACCEPTED from them.

Beta, absorb that. They do the good deed, and then they worry whether it was good enough. They give charity and then fear their intention was impure. That trembling is not weak faith — it is the sign of a serious heart. It is the opposite of the man who prays twice and considers Allah in his debt.

'ULA'IKA YUSARI'OONA FIL-KHAYRATI WA HUM LAHA SABIQOON — THOSE HASTEN TO GOOD DEEDS, AND THEY ARE FOREMOST IN THEM.'

And then a mercy: 'WA LA NUKALLIFU NAFSAN ILLA WUS'AHA — AND WE CHARGE NO SOUL EXCEPT WITH ITS CAPACITY — WA LADAYNA KITABUN YANTIQU BIL-HAQQI WA HUM LA YUZLAMUON — and with Us



is a record which speaks the truth, and they will not be wronged.'

The surah then gives an instruction for dealing with hostility, beta: 'IDFA' BILLATI HIYA
AHSANUS-SAYYI'AH — REPEL EVIL WITH THAT
WHICH IS BETTER — NAHNU A'LAMU BIMA
YASIFOON — We are most knowing of what they
describe.'

And immediately after it, this dua: 'WA QUL RABBI
A'OOZU BIKA MIN HAMAZATISH-SHAYATEEN — and
say: MY LORD, I SEEK REFUGE IN YOU FROM THE
INCITEMENTS OF THE DEVILS — WA A'OOZU BIKA
RABBI AN YAHDUROON — AND I SEEK REFUGE IN
YOU, MY LORD, LEST THEY BE PRESENT WITH ME.'

Beta, notice the two levels of refuge: from their
whispers, and from their mere PRESENCE. Ask for both.

Send Me Back



And now, beta, comes one of the most sobering passages in the Quran — the last words of a person at death.

'HATTA IZA JA'A AHADAHUMUL-MAWTU QALA RABBIR-JI'OON — UNTIL, WHEN DEATH COMES TO ONE OF THEM, HE SAYS: MY LORD, SEND ME BACK — LA'ALLI A'MALU SALIHAN FEEMA TARAKT — THAT I MIGHT DO RIGHTEOUSNESS IN WHAT I LEFT BEHIND.'

Beta, notice: 'irji'oon' — send me BACK, in the plural of urgency and pleading. And notice what he asks to go back for: not for more wealth, not to finish his projects, not to see his family once more. To DO GOOD DEEDS.

Beta, that is what will seem valuable at the end. And every one of us has been given exactly what he is begging for: TIME. He wants one more day. You have one, right now.

'KALLA — NO! — INNAHA KALIMATUN HUWA QA'ILUHA — it is merely a word he is saying — WA MIN WARAIHIM BARZAKHUN ILA YAWMI



YUB'ATHOON — AND BEHIND THEM IS A BARZAKH UNTIL THE DAY THEY ARE RESURRECTED.'

Beta, 'barzakh' is a barrier or partition — the state between death and resurrection. And the word means there is no coming back through it. It is a one-way door.

And then the Day itself: 'FA-IZA NUFIKHA FIS-SOORI FA-LA ANSABA BAYNAHUM YAWMA'IZIN WA LA YATASA'ALOON — and when the Horn is blown, THERE WILL BE NO RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THEM THAT DAY, NOR WILL THEY ASK ABOUT ONE ANOTHER.'

Beta, 'la ansaba baynahum' — no family ties. The surnames, the castes, the tribes, the 'whose son are you' — all of it dissolves. And 'wa la yatasa'aloon' — they will not even ask after each other, because every person will be entirely occupied with himself.

'FA-MAN THAQULAT MAWAZEENUHU FA-ULA'IKA HUMUL-MUFLIHOON — so those whose scales are heavy — THEY are the SUCCESSFUL.'



Beta, note the word: 'al-muflihoon' — from 'falah', the same word the surah opened with. The surah began 'qad aflahal-mu'minoon' and here tells you how that success is measured on the day it counts.

Did You Think You Were Created Aimlessly?

And now, beta, the surah moves to its close with a question that every human being must answer:

'A FA-HASIBTUM ANNAMA KHALAQNAKUM
'ABATHAN WA ANNAKUM ILAYNA LA TURJA'OON —
DID YOU THINK THAT WE CREATED YOU ALL FOR
NOTHING — AIMLESSLY — AND THAT YOU WOULD
NOT BE RETURNED TO US?'

Beta, 'abathan' means in vain, as play, without purpose — the way a child scribbles for no reason.

And the question is aimed at the way people LIVE, not at what they say. Nobody declares 'I believe my existence is pointless'. But a life spent entirely on eating, earning,



entertaining and sleeping is a life lived as though the answer were yes.

'FA-TA'ALALLAHUL-MALIKUL-HAQQ — SO EXALTED IS ALLAH, THE SOVEREIGN, THE TRUTH — LA ILAHA ILLA HUWA RABBUL-'ARSHIL-KAREEM — there is no deity except Him, Lord of the Noble Throne.'

And the surah's final instruction, beta, is a dua that Allah Himself teaches His Messenger ﷺ to say:

'WA QUL RABBIGHFIR WARHAM WA ANTA KHAYRUR-RAHIMEEN — AND SAY: MY LORD, FORGIVE AND HAVE MERCY, AND YOU ARE THE BEST OF THOSE WHO SHOW MERCY.'

Beta, look at how simple it is. No long list. Just: forgive, and have mercy.

And look at where the surah has brought you. It opened by naming the ten things that make a believer successful — khushoo', avoiding laghw, zakah, chastity, trusts, prayers guarded. And it ends by admitting that



even after all of that, what a servant finally asks for is forgiveness and mercy.

Beta, that is the balance of this deen: work as though it depends on your effort, and ask as though it depends entirely on His mercy — because it does.

What This Surah Teaches Us

- 1.** 'Falah' is a farmer's success — broken soil, planting, patience, harvest. It is earned and it grows.
- 2.** The list begins with HOW you pray, not that you pray — khushoo' is the first item.
- 3.** Turning away from 'laghw' — the empty, not merely the sinful — is the hardest item in our age.
- 4.** Be a shepherd over your trusts and promises: there is no faith without trustworthiness.
- 5.** Give, and let your heart tremble about whether it was accepted — that trembling is the mark of a serious believer.



6. The dying man begs for exactly what you have right now: time to do good.

7. Work as though it depends on you, then ask as the Messenger ﷺ was taught: 'Rabbighfir warham wa Anta khayrur-rahimeen.'

Rabbi anzilnee munzalan mubarakan wa Anta khayrul-munzileen — Ya Allah, grant us Al-Firdaws, and forgive and have mercy on us. Ameen.

— This is a simplified, faithful retelling for understanding, based on the Quran's translation and established tafseer (Ibn Kathir and others). For deeper study, always read with a qualified teacher. —

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