

SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Qamar

The Moon

The complete journey — the split moon and the easy Quran —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 54 • 55 Ayahs • Meccan

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The Surah at a Glance

Iqtarabatis-saa'atu wanshaqqal-qamar

1. The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has split.

*Wa iny-yaraw aayatany-yu'ridoo wa yaqooloo
sihrum-mustamirr*

2. And if they see a sign, they turn away and say: passing magic.

*Wa laqad yassarnal-Qur'aana liz-zikri fahal
mim-muddakir*

17. And We have certainly made the Quran easy to remember — so is there any who will remember?

Kullu shay'in khalaqnaahu biqadar

49. Indeed, all things We created with a measure.

Wa kullu shay'in fa'aloohu fiz-Zubur

52. And everything they did is in the written records.

Fee maq'adi sidqin 'inda Maleekim-Muqtadir

55. In a seat of honour, near a Sovereign, Perfect in Ability.

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The Night the Moon Split

Beta, this surah opens with the report of a miracle that the people of Makkah watched with their own eyes: 'IQTARABATIS-SA'ATU WANSHAQQAL-QAMAR — the HOUR has DRAWN NEAR, and the MOON has SPLIT.'

The incident is recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim through several companions — Anas, Ibn Mas'ud, Ibn Abbas and others (radiyallahu anhum). The Quraysh demanded a sign from the Prophet ﷺ. And he showed them the moon split into two parts, so that the mountain of Hira could be seen between the two halves. Ibn Mas'ud said: I saw the mountain between the two pieces of the moon.

Beta, notice the order of the ayah: the Hour is mentioned FIRST, then the splitting. Because the miracle was itself a warning — a demonstration that this fixed, unchanging sky can be interrupted, that the order we depend upon is not permanent, that the Hour is closer than these people think.



And what was the response of those who saw it? 'WA IN YARAW AYATAN YU'RIDOO WA YAQOOLOO SIHRUN MUSTAMIRR — and if they SEE a sign, they TURN AWAY and say: PASSING MAGIC.'

Beta, sit with that. They asked for a miracle. They received one that no human being could stage. And they said: magic — and walked away.

'Sihrun mustamirr' — the scholars explain it as magic that is continuous, or something that will pass away. Either way, it is the reflex of a heart that has already decided: whatever you show me, I have a word ready for it.

And this teaches us something important, beta, about why people reject truth. It is not usually a shortage of evidence. Someone who will call a split moon 'magic' was never going to be convinced by argument. 'WA KAZZABOO WATTABA'OO AHWA'AHUM — and they denied, and FOLLOWED THEIR DESIRES.' There it is: the denial came first from the desires, and the explanation



was manufactured afterwards.

'WA KULLU AMRIN MUSTAQIRR — and every matter will SETTLE, will reach its resting place.' Beta, what a phrase. Everything unresolved in this world — every lie that succeeded, every truth that was mocked, every injustice that went unpunished — will eventually come to rest where it truly belongs.

The Refrain That Runs Through the Surah

Beta, this surah has a structure you must notice, because it is one of the most beautifully organised chapters in the Quran.

Allah presents four destroyed nations, one after another — and after each one, He repeats a question like a bell being struck: 'WA LAQAD YASSARNAL-QUR'ANA LIZ-ZIKRI FA-HAL MIN MUDDAKIR — and WE HAVE CERTAINLY MADE THE QURAN EASY FOR REMEMBRANCE — SO IS THERE ANY WHO WILL REMEMBER?'



Four times, beta, this ayah appears — after the story of Nuh, after 'Aad, after Thamud, and after the people of Lut. And it is one of the great gifts of Allah to this ummah.

'YASSARNA' — WE MADE IT EASY. Beta, think about what that means. Allah did not merely send a Book; He made it EASY — easy to recite, easy to memorise, easy to understand at the level a person needs, easy to carry in the heart.

And is it not proven? There is no other book in human history — not one — that millions of people have memorised word for word, cover to cover. Children of seven, in lands where Arabic is not even spoken, carry the entire Quran in their chests. Beta, no one memorises a dictionary or an encyclopaedia; but the Quran attaches itself to the human memory in a way nothing else does. That is the ayah being fulfilled in front of us.

And notice the second half of the refrain: 'fa-hal min muddakir' — SO IS THERE ANY who will remember,



take heed, be reminded? It is an open invitation, repeated again and again. Allah has done the hard part — He made it easy. He is asking: is there anyone who will take it up?

Beta, that question is addressed to you as you read this. The Book was made easy for you. Have you taken a portion of it?

Four Nations, Four Warnings

Now let us walk through the four nations, beta, because each one carries its own lesson.

FIRST — NUH (alaihis salam). 'KAZZABAT QABLAHUM QAWMU NOOHIN FA-KAZZABOO 'ABDANA WA QALOO MAJNOONUN WAZDUJIR — the people of Nuh denied before them; they denied Our SERVANT and said: a madman! — and he was repelled.' After 950 years of calling, they called him insane. And he made his dua: 'ANNI MAGHLOOBUN FANTASIR — I am OVERPOWERED, so HELP!' And Allah opened the gates of the sky with pouring water and caused the earth to



burst with springs — 'so the waters met for a matter already decreed.' Beta, notice: water from above and water from below, meeting exactly as ordered.

And then the tender detail: 'WA HAMALNAHU 'ALA ZATI ALWAHIN WA DUSUR — and We carried him on a construction of PLANKS and NAILS — TAJREE BI-A'YUNINA — sailing UNDER OUR EYES.' Beta, feel that phrase: 'bi-a'yunina' — under Our eyes, in Our sight, under Our watch. In the greatest flood in history, a wooden vessel of planks and nails was safe, because of WHO was watching it. Your protection is never in the strength of your ship, beta; it is in the eyes that are upon it.

SECOND — 'AAD. 'INNA ARSALNA 'ALAYHIM REEHAN SARSARAN FEE YAWMI NAHSIN MUSTAMIRR — We sent upon them a SCREAMING WIND on a day of CONTINUOUS misfortune — TANZI'UN-NASA KA-ANNAHUM A'JAZU NAKHLIN MUNQA'IR — plucking out people as if they were TRUNKS OF UPROOTED PALM TREES.' Beta, the strongest people of



their age, lifted and thrown like dead wood.

THIRD — THAMUD. And here Allah records their exact insult: 'A BASHARAN MINNA WAHIDAN NATTABI'UHU — a SINGLE HUMAN BEING from among US — shall we FOLLOW HIM?' Beta, that is arrogance in one sentence: he is one of us, so who is he to lead us? And Allah sent the she-camel as a test — 'INNA MURSILUN-NAQATI FITNATAN LAHUM FARTAQIBHUM WASTABIR — a trial for them, so watch them and be patient.' They hamstrung her, and one shout finished them: 'FA-KANOO KA-HASHEEMIL-MUHTAZIR — they became like the DRY, TRAMPLED STUBBLE of an animal pen.'

FOURTH — the people of LUT. 'INNA ARSALNA 'ALAYHIM HASIBA — We sent upon them a STORM OF STONES — ILLA ALA LUTIN NAJJAYNAHUM BI-SAHAR — except the family of Lut, whom We saved BEFORE DAWN — NI'MATAN MIN 'INDINA — as a FAVOUR from Us.' Beta, note the beautiful detail: 'bi-sahar', in the last part of the night, the hour of tahajjud and



istighfar. Rescue came at the hour of prayer.

And Allah says of them: 'WA LAQAD RAWADOOHU 'AN DAYFIHI FA-TAMASNA A'YUNAHUM — they demanded his guests from him, so We BLINDED their eyes.' And then: 'WA LAQAD SABBAHAHUM BUKRATAN 'AZABUN MUSTAQIRR — and there came upon them in the EARLY MORNING an ENDURING punishment.'

Beta, four nations, four different instruments — a flood, a wind, a shout, a rain of stones. And after each: 'fa-hal min muddakir' — is there anyone who will take a lesson?

Everything With a Measure

And then, beta, the surah turns to the people of Makkah with a direct question: 'A KUFFARUKUM KHAYRUN MIN ULA'IKUM — are YOUR disbelievers better than those? AM LAKUM BARA'ATUN FIZ-ZUBUR — or do you have an EXEMPTION in the scriptures?'



Beta, that is a devastating question. Do you have a written immunity that those nations lacked? Are you stronger than 'Aad, more skilled than Thamud, more numerous than the people of Nuh? Then on what basis do you expect a different outcome?

'AM YAQOOLONA NAHNU JAMEE'UN MUNTASIR —
or do they say: we are a group, victorious?
SA-YUHZAMUL-JAM'U WA YUWALLOONAD-DUBUR
— the group WILL BE DEFEATED and will TURN THEIR
BACKS.'

Beta, this was revealed in Makkah when the Muslims were a persecuted handful with no army at all — and it announced, in advance, the defeat of Quraysh. Umar (radiyallahu anhu) is reported to have wondered which group this meant. Then came Badr, and he saw the Prophet ﷺ in his armour reciting this very ayah as the enemy fled.

'BALIS-SA'ATU MAW'IDUHUM WAS-SA'ATU ADHA WA AMARR — rather, the Hour is their appointment, and



the Hour is more DISASTROUS and more BITTER.'

And then, beta, one of the most important ayahs in the entire Quran about the nature of reality: 'INNA KULLA SHAY'IN KHALAQNAHU BI-QADAR — indeed, ALL THINGS WE CREATED WITH A MEASURE.'

Beta, 'bi-qadar' — with a precise decree, a determined measure, an exact proportion. Nothing in existence is random. Not the orbit of a planet, not the amount of salt in your blood, not the timing of a rainfall, not the day you were born or the day you will die. Not the difficulty you are in right now, and not the relief that is coming.

This ayah is the foundation of a Muslim's belief in qadar. And the scholars used it against those who denied divine decree; Ibn Abbas (radiyallahu anhuma) is reported to have recited exactly this ayah about them.

Beta, live with this ayah and half your anxiety disappears. Everything you are handed has been measured out — not randomly dumped on you. And measured by whom? By the One who is Hakeem, Wise,



and Raheem, Merciful.

'WA MA AMRUNA ILLA WAHIDATUN KA-LAMHIN BIL-BASAR — and Our command is but ONE WORD, like the BLINK OF AN EYE.' Beta, whatever you are waiting for Him to change — He does not need time, He does not need process. One word. A blink.

A Seat of Truth

And now the surah closes, beta, and its final two ayahs are among the most beautiful endings in the Quran.

First, the warning is completed: 'WA LAQAD AHLAKNA ASHYA'AKUM FA-HAL MIN MUDDAKIR — and We have destroyed your kinds, so is there any who will remember? WA KULLU SHAY'IN FA'ALOOHU FIZ-ZUBUR — and EVERYTHING THEY DID is in the WRITTEN RECORDS — WA KULLU SAGHEERIN WA KABEERIN MUSTATAR — and every SMALL and GREAT thing is INSCRIBED.'



Beta, 'kullu sagheerin wa kabeerin mustatar' — everything small and large, written down in lines. Notice that 'small' comes first. The little things we forget the same evening are recorded with the same permanence as the great ones.

And then, after all the floods and winds and stones, the surah ends in a garden: 'INNAL-MUTTAQEENA FEE JANNATIN WA NAHAR — indeed, the God-conscious will be among GARDENS and RIVERS — FEE MAQ'ADI SIDQIN 'INDA MALEEKIN MUQTADIR — in a SEAT OF TRUTH, NEAR a SOVEREIGN, PERFECT IN ABILITY.'

Beta, take these last words apart, because they are the summit of the whole surah.

'MAQ'AD SIDQ' — a seat of truth, a place of truthfulness. A gathering where there is no lie, no pretence, no falsehood — nothing said that is not true, nothing promised that is not fulfilled. Beta, think how much of our exhaustion in this world comes from falseness: false smiles, false claims, false friends, false



promises. There, every seat is a seat of truth.

'INDA MALEEKIN MUQTADIR' — NEAR a Sovereign, Perfect in Ability. And the greatest word in the whole surah is that small one: 'INDA' — NEAR. Not merely in His kingdom — NEAR Him.

Beta, the surah began with a moon splitting to warn a people who would not look, and it ends with the believers seated near their King. That is the journey it is inviting you to: from noticing the signs, to remembering, to sitting in a place of truth near the One who owns everything.

And between those two points, four times, the same offer stands: 'We have made the Quran easy for remembrance — so is there any who will remember?'

What This Surah Teaches Us

1. Denial is rarely about evidence: people who call a split moon 'magic' were never waiting for proof.



2. Desires come first, and explanations are manufactured afterwards — check your own reasoning for this.
 3. Allah made the Quran EASY on purpose — the ummah's millions of huffaz are the ayah's living proof.
 4. Your safety is never in the strength of your ship, but in the eyes watching it: 'tajree bi-a'yunina'.
 5. No one holds a written exemption — power and numbers saved none of the four nations.
 6. 'Everything We created with a measure' — nothing you are handed is random, and His command needs only a blink.
 7. Every small and great deed is inscribed — and the destination for the God-conscious is a seat of truth, NEAR Him.
- Ya Allah, make us of those who remember, measure our affairs with Your mercy, and seat us in a place of truth near You. 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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