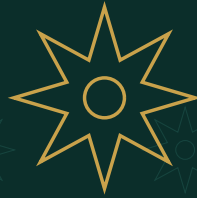


SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Mujadila

The Pleading Woman

The complete journey — from one woman's plea to the party of Allah —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 58 • 22 Ayahs • Medinan

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The Surah at a Glance

*Qad sami'al-laahu qawlal-latee tujaadiluka fee
zawjihaa wa tashtakeee ilal-laah*

1. Allah has certainly heard the speech of the woman who pleads with you concerning her husband and complains to Allah,

*Wal-laahu yasma'u tahaawurakumaa;
innal-laaha Samee'um-Baseer*

1. and Allah hears the dialogue of you both. Indeed, Allah is Hearing, Seeing.

*Maa yakoonu min najwaa salaasatin illaa Huwa
raabi'uhum*

7. There is no private conversation of three except that He is their fourth,

*Yarfa'il-laahul-lazeena aamanoo minkum
wal-lazeena ootul-'ilma darajaat*

11. Allah raises those who believe among you, and those given knowledge, by degrees.

*Ulaaa'ika hizbul-laah; alaaa inna hizbal-laahi
humul-muflihoon*

22. Those are the party of Allah — unquestionably, the party of Allah are the successful.



Listen to the Arabic recitation of this Surah, ayah by ayah, with the Qari
— free on nooraniilm.com (Read & Recite section).

A Sentence Spoken in Anger

Beta, today's story begins in a small house in Madinah, with one sentence spoken in anger — and ends above the seven heavens. Learn from its journey how high a wronged voice can travel.

Khawlah bint Tha'labah (radiyallahu anha) had grown old beside her husband, Aws ibn as-Samit — years of marriage, children raised, youth spent in his service. One day, in a flare of anger, Aws spoke the pagan formula of the days of ignorance — ZIHAR: 'You are to me like my mother's back.'

Understand what those words did in that society, beta. Zihar was crueller than divorce. Divorce at least freed a woman to rebuild her life. Zihar left her SUSPENDED — declared 'like a mother', so no longer a wife; yet not divorced, so never free. A door locked from both sides, and the key thrown away — and the woman alone paid



the price of the man's temper.

She Argued — Then She Complained Upward

Khawlah came to the Prophet ﷺ and pleaded her case — and the surah's very name honours her persistence: AL-MUJADILAH, the woman who ARGUES her case. She said words like these: O Messenger of Allah, he consumed my youth, and I spread my belly for him (bearing his children) — until, when I grew old and my childbearing ended, he pronounced zihar upon me! Where do I go? What of my children?

The Prophet ﷺ could only answer from what had been revealed until that moment — and nothing had yet come down about zihar. He said what he knew. But Khawlah, beta, did not accept the locked door. She kept pleading — and then she did the thing this surah was sent to immortalise: 'WA TASHTAKI ILAL-LAH' — she turned her complaint UPWARD, to Allah. She stood there raising her grief to the sky: O Allah, I complain to



YOU.

And before she left that room, Jibreel descended. Our mother Aisha (radiyallahu anha) — who was present in the house — said in lifelong wonder: 'Blessed is the One whose HEARING encompasses all things! I was in a corner of the room, and some of Khawlah's words escaped even ME — and Allah heard her from above seven heavens.' The first ayah came down warm: 'QAD SAMI'ALLAH — Allah has CERTAINLY HEARD the speech of the woman who pleads with you concerning her husband and complains to Allah — and Allah hears the dialogue of you both. Indeed, Allah is Samee', Baseer — Hearing, Seeing.'

Beta, hold this scene when your own duas feel unheard. The gathering missed her words; the corner of the room missed her words; the Throne did not.

The Law That One Woman's Plea Rewrote



The ayahs then dismantled zihar for all time. Allah declared: those who pronounce zihar — 'their wives are NOT their mothers; their mothers are only those who gave them birth. And indeed, they speak MUNKARAN MINAL-QAWLI WA ZURA — an evil saying, and a falsehood.' A man's anger cannot rewrite biology, beta, and a tongue's outburst cannot re-label a human being.

But look at the mercy woven into the firmness: a door of return was opened — with a PRICE, and the price itself is a masterclass. Before the couple may touch again, the husband must pay the kaffarah: FREE A SLAVE; if unable, FAST TWO CONSECUTIVE MONTHS; if unable, FEED SIXTY POOR PEOPLE. Study the design, beta: the tongue sinned, so its OWNER pays — not the innocent wife. And every option of the payment HEALS someone: a slave walks free, or the angry man's own nafs is disciplined by sixty days of hunger, or sixty poor stomachs are filled. Allah taxes anger — and spends the tax on mercy.



And Khawlah's honour outlived the ruling. Years later, when Umar ibn al-Khattab (radiyallahu anhu) was Caliph — the man before whom Caesars' envoys trembled — this now-old woman would stop him on the road and counsel him at length, and he would stand listening, head lowered. When someone asked why the Caliph halts for an old woman, Umar said: 'By Allah, this is Khawlah — the woman whom ALLAH listened to from above the seven heavens. Shall Umar not listen to her?'

He Is the Fourth of Every Three

The surah then takes the truth Khawlah lived — that Allah hears everything — and installs it in every room you will ever sit in: 'Do you not see that Allah knows whatever is in the heavens and the earth? There is no NAJWA — private conversation — of THREE except that He is their FOURTH; nor of five except that He is their SIXTH; nor fewer than that, nor more, except that He is WITH them wherever they are. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, He will inform them of what they did.'



Every meeting has an unlisted Attendee, beta. The office huddle, the family WhatsApp group, the whispered plan at the back of the class — He is the extra member of every headcount. Now watch how the surah turns this into manners. The hypocrites and some others used *najwa* as a weapon — whispering among themselves 'in sin and aggression and disobedience to the Messenger', deliberately in sight of believers to sting them; and some would even twist their greeting to the Prophet ﷺ, mumbling words of harm dressed as *salam*. Allah exposed it all — the Hearer had been in every huddle.

So the believers received the etiquette of secrets: 'When you converse privately, do NOT converse in sin and aggression and disobedience — but converse in *BIRR* and *TAQWA* — righteousness and God-consciousness.' And the Prophet ﷺ added the golden rule of company: when you are three, let not two whisper apart excluding the third, for it grieves him. Even our secrets, beta, must have *akhlaq*.

Make Room — and Be Raised



Then, beautifully, a surah that began with one woman being HEARD teaches the ummah how to make ROOM for one another. 'O you who believe! When you are told: make room in the gatherings — then MAKE ROOM; Allah will make room for YOU. And when you are told to rise, then rise.'

Squeeze a little, shift the cushion, open the circle for the newcomer — and the One who owns all space widens YOUR space: in the grave, in rizq, in the chest. And upon this humble act, Allah mounts one of the Quran's most quoted promises: 'YARFA'ILLAHUL-LAZINA AMANU MINKUM — Allah RAISES those who believe among you — WAL-LAZINA UTUL-'ILMA DARAJAT — and those given KNOWLEDGE, by DEGREES.'

Iman and ilm, beta — the only two ladders whose height Allah Himself guarantees. Seats, titles and followers raise a person a few feet in people's eyes; iman and knowledge raise him degrees in Allah's ledger — and that elevation walks with him out of every room.



The Party of Allah

The surah's final movement asks the question every heart must answer: whose side are you on — really? It warns of those who take Allah's enemies as intimate allies, who 'swear to a lie knowingly', whose oaths are shields. And then it states a law of the believing heart: 'You will NOT find a people who believe in Allah and the Last Day LOVING those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger — even if they were their fathers, or their sons, or their brothers, or their clan.'

This is about the heart's INNER throne, beta — kindness and justice to all peaceful people stands commanded elsewhere (you read it in Surah Al-Mumtahanah); but the heart's deepest loyalty, its wala, cannot be split between Allah and those at war with Him. And for those who keep that throne clean, listen to the reward — three gifts in one ayah: 'He has WRITTEN iman upon their hearts' — engraved, not painted; 'and SUPPORTED them with a Ruh from Himself'; and Gardens beneath which rivers flow, 'Allah



pleased with them, and they pleased with Him.'

And then the title, beta — the membership every soul was created to hold: 'ULA'IKA HIZBULLAH — those are the PARTY OF ALLAH. Unquestionably, the party of Allah — THEY are the successful.' One surah: it opened with a lone woman whom no one heard but Allah — and it closes enrolling her kind, the sincere and the loyal, into the only party whose victory is pre-written.

What This Surah Teaches Us

1. No voice is too small for the Throne — when doors of people close, do what Khawlah did: 'tashtaki ilal-lah', complain upward.
2. Words of anger sign contracts the tongue's owner must pay — guard your speech in rage, and know Allah taxes anger to fund mercy.
3. Honour the honoured of Allah as Umar honoured Khawlah — and husbands: your wife's complaint has a Listener above seven heavens.



4. Every huddle has Allah as its extra member — keep your secrets within birr and taqwa, and never whisper to wound a third.

5. Make room for people in gatherings, in opportunities, in hearts — and Allah makes room for you.

6. Climb the only two guaranteed ladders — iman and ilm — they raise you in the ledger that matters.

7. Keep the heart's throne for Allah alone — and claim your membership: hizbullah, the only party whose success is sealed.

Ya Samee', Ya Baseer — hear our complaints as You heard Khawlah's, engrave iman upon our hearts, and write us in Your party, the successful. 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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