

SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Ikhlas

Sincerity of Faith

The complete journey — one third of the Quran —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 112 • 4 Ayahs • Meccan

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The Surah at a Glance

Qul Huwal-laahu Ahad

1. Say: He is Allah, the One,

Allaahus-Samad

2. Allah, the Eternal Refuge upon whom all depend.

Lam yalid wa lam yoolad

3. He neither begets nor is begotten,

Wa lam yakul-lahoo kufuwan ahad

4. and there is none comparable to Him.

Listen to the Arabic recitation of this Surah, ayah by ayah, with the Qari
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A Question About Allah's Lineage

Beta, this surah was revealed in answer to a question — and understanding the question makes every word of the answer sharper.

The people came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: describe your Lord to us. Tell us His lineage — who is His father, who is His mother, what is He made of?



Beta, that is how their minds worked. Every god they knew had a family: the idols were called 'the daughters of Allah'; other nations attributed sons to God; every deity had ancestry, appetites and a form you could carve. So they demanded the same information about the God being preached to them.

And the answer came down — four ayahs that redefined the concept of God for anyone who reads them honestly.

And beta, before we go through them, know the rank of this surah. The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Qul Huwallahu Ahad' equals A THIRD OF THE QURAN. He asked his companions once: is any of you unable to recite a third of the Quran in one night? They found it difficult — and he told them this surah equals a third.

Why a third, beta? The scholars explain that the Quran's teachings can be divided into three broad areas: tawheed (who Allah is), law and commands, and stories and news. This surah is pure, concentrated tawheed — the entire first category in four lines.



And there is a hadith of a man who used to lead his companions in prayer and would always end his recitation with this surah. When asked why, he said: because it is the description of Ar-Rahman, and I love to recite it. The Prophet ﷺ was informed and said: 'Tell him that Allah LOVES him.'

Beta, imagine — a man's love for this surah earned him the announcement of Allah's love.

Say: He Is Allah, the One

'QUL HUWALLAHU AHAD — SAY: HE IS ALLAH, THE ONE.'

Beta, take it word by word, because there is not a wasted syllable here.

'QUL' — SAY. Announce it, do not merely hold it privately. Tawheed is meant to be declared.

'HUWA' — HE. Before anything else is said, the pronoun points to a Being who exists independently of every description we might attach.



'ALLAH' — the personal Name, the Name no idol was ever given, the Name that belongs to Him alone and has no plural and no feminine form in Arabic. Beta, think about that: 'god' can be pluralised into 'gods'; 'Allah' cannot.

'AHAD' — THE ONE. And beta, here is a beautiful precision. Arabic has another word for one: 'wahid'. But 'ahad' is stronger. 'Wahid' is one in a series — one, two, three. 'Ahad' means one in a way that admits no second, no division, no parts, nothing of the same category. He is not the first of a set; He is outside the concept of sets.

So the answer to 'describe your Lord's lineage' begins by removing the entire framework of the question.

Allah, As-Samad

'ALLAHUS-SAMAD — ALLAH, AS-SAMAD.'

Beta, 'As-Samad' is one of the richest words in the Quran, and it appears only here. The scholars gave many complementary meanings:



The One to whom ALL CREATION TURNS in need — the destination of every plea, the One everyone depends upon while He depends on none.

The One who is SOLID and complete, with no hollowness, no deficiency, no hunger, no need, no sleep.

The MASTER, perfect in every attribute, to whom all matters are referred and who is above all in authority.

Beta, put these together and feel the picture: everything that exists is leaning. The child leans on the parent, the parent on his health, the health on the body, the body on food, the food on rain, the rain on the sky — the whole universe is a structure of things leaning on other things. And at the centre, holding all of it, is the One who leans on nothing.

That is As-Samad. And that is why He alone deserves worship — because worship is essentially an act of leaning, and He is the only thing in existence that does not itself lean.



Beta, this single Name is also a cure for a great deal of anxiety. When you fear people — a boss, a system, a lender, an enemy — remember that every one of them is leaning on Him too. You are not dealing with independent powers; you are dealing with dependents, in front of the Independent.

Neither Begets Nor Begotten

'LAM YALID WA LAM YOOLAD — He neither BEGETS nor IS BEGOTTEN.'

Beta, this ayah closes the door on the very question that was asked, and on the errors of many nations at once.

'Lam yalid' — He has no son, no daughter, no offspring. This corrects the Arabs who called the angels 'daughters of Allah', and every nation that attributed a son to God.

'Wa lam yoolad' — and He was not born. He has no origin, no beginning, no parent, nothing before Him. Beta, everything born is preceded by something; everything preceded is contingent; everything



contingent needs a cause. Allah is outside that entire chain — He is the One on whom the chain hangs.

And beta, notice the logic embedded here. To have a child is to need continuation — and only what is mortal and incomplete needs continuation. A being who lives forever and lacks nothing has no need of offspring. So the very idea of a son contradicts the meaning of As-Samad in the ayah before it.

'WA LAM YAKUN LAHU KUFUWAN AHAD — and there is NONE COMPARABLE to Him.'

'Kufu'', beta, means an equal, an equivalent, a counterpart — the same word used for compatibility in marriage. And Allah says: not one. Nothing in the heavens or the earth, nothing you have seen or imagined, is in His category.

This is why the Quran says elsewhere: 'LAYSA KA-MITHLIHI SHAY' — there is nothing like unto Him.' Beta, whenever your mind tries to picture Allah, remember that whatever you can picture is created —



and He is not like any of it. We know Him by His Names and Attributes as He described Himself, without asking 'how', and without comparing Him to anything.

Four Lines, and a Habit for Life

Beta, now see the architecture of this small surah. Four ayahs answer four questions:

WHO is He? — Ahad, absolutely One. WHAT is His relationship to creation? — As-Samad, everything needs Him and He needs nothing. Does He have a FAMILY? — No child, no parent. Is there anyone LIKE Him? — Not one.

That is a complete theology, beta, in fifteen Arabic words. No philosophy department in history has said it more precisely.

And now the practice, because the Prophet ﷺ built this surah into the daily life of a Muslim:

He ﷺ recited it with Surah Al-Kafirun in the two rak'ahs before Fajr and in witr — pairing the rejection of false



worship with the affirmation of the true One.

He taught that whoever recites Al-Ikhlās, Al-Falaq and An-Nas three times each in the morning and evening, it will suffice him against everything.

He would blow into his hands each night with these three surahs and wipe over his body as far as he could reach.

And he ﷺ said that whoever reads it ten times, Allah builds for him a house in Paradise. Beta — ten recitations of fifteen words. Think how many houses a person could have built in the time he spends scrolling.

Beta, finish with this thought. The Quraysh asked for Allah's lineage, expecting a story. What they received was a wall of pure clarity that no one has ever been able to argue with. And every time you recite these four lines, you are declaring the single truth that the entire creation exists to demonstrate — that He is One, that everything leans on Him, and that nothing is like Him.



What This Surah Teaches Us

1. This surah equals a third of the Quran — pure, concentrated tawheed in four lines.
 2. 'Ahad' is not one in a series — He is One in a way that admits no second and no parts.
 3. As-Samad: everything in existence is leaning; He alone leans on nothing.
 4. Fear of people shrinks when you remember they are dependents standing before the Independent.
 5. He was not born and does not beget — He is outside the chain of causes, not a link in it.
 6. Whatever your mind can picture is created; know Him by His Names, without asking 'how'.
 7. Build it into your day: morning and evening three times, before sleep, and ten recitations for a house in Paradise.
- Qul Huwallahu Ahad — Ya Allah, make our hearts firm upon Your oneness, and make us of those You



love. 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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