

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
 قُلْ هُوَ اللّٰهُ اَحَدٌ ۝ اللّٰهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝
 لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝
 وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهٗ كُفُوًا اَحَدٌ ۝

1. **Say, "He Allaah is One."**
2. **"Allaah is Independent."**
3. **"He has no children and is not anyone's child."**
4. **"There is none equal to Him."**

Although Surah Ikhlaas is brief, it makes the fact clear that Allaah Ta'Aala is The One and Only worthy of worship and that none shares His attributes.

Shaane-Nuzul:

Hadhrat Ubay bin Ka'b (R.A) narrates that Surah Ikhlaas was revealed when the Mushrikeen asked Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to tell them Allaah's lineage.

He narrates that Aamir bin Tufayl and Arbid bin Rabee'ah once came to Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam).

Aamir said, "O Muhammad (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)! To what do you call us?" Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) replied, "I am calling you towards Allaah." Aamir then said, "Describe Allaah to us. Is He made of gold, silver, iron or wood?"

According to another narration, the Jews asked Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to tell them what Allaah was made of and whether Allaah eats and drinks. It was then that Surah Ikhlaas was revealed. Because of their insolence, Arbid was killed by a thunderbolt while Aamir was killed by a plague. ["Ma'aalimut Tanzeel"]

This Surah is called Surah Ikhlaas ("the Surah of Sincere Devotion") because it is sincerely devoted to the subject of Tauheed. Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) also referred to this Surah as Surah Ikhlaas. ["Durrul Manthoor" Vol. 6 Pg. 414]

Hadhrat Aadam (A.S) was the first man and the first Nabi. It was from him and his wife Hadhrat Hawwa (A.S) that mankind multiplied.

He taught his children Tauheed and they all worshipped only Allaah. Many generations after him also worshipped only Allaah. *Since it was impossible for Shaytaan to make people deny the existence of Allaah, he started by indoctrinating them with false beliefs.* One of the fundamental beliefs he used to veer them away from Tauheed was to make them believe that Allaah Ta'Aala was similar to man in that He had children and required the things man requires.

Another poisonous arrow he shot at them was to make them believe that among Allaah's creation were beings who also had to be worshipped

to attain proximity to Allaah. He convinced them that these beings would intercede for them in Allaah's court if they worshipped them.

Using such methods, *Shaytaan made many people believe that the angels were Allaah's daughters and that people like Hadhrat Isa (A.S) and Hadhrat Uzair (A.S) were Allaah's sons.* He also made them prostrate to idols and sacrifice animals in the names of idols. Idol worship began even before the coming of Hadhrat Nooh (A.S). As people fell for Shaytaan's guile, Allaah Ta'Aala continued sending the Ambiya (A.S) as well as divine scriptures to this world to guide them. However, the majority of people in every period refused to believe in Tauheed and continued practising shirk.

When Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) started calling people to Tauheed, shirk had become so widespread and accepted that the Mushrikeen gaped and said, **"Has he made all the many gods into one god? This is indeed something strange!"**¹

When anything becomes popular, anyone speaking against it is treated with suspicion even though the thing is evil. When shirk and idolatry became popular in the Arabian peninsula, even *the progeny of the stalwart of Tauheed [Hadhrat Ibraheem (A.S)] stooped to the level of placing 360 idols in the Ka'bah, which he built as a shrine of Tauheed.* Arabia was filled with temples and idols that were revered by all.

When these people asked Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to explain Allaah's lineage, Allaah revealed Surah Iklaas commanding Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) to tell the people that **"He Allaah is One."** This verse makes it clear that Allaah is Only one of His kind and that none of the creation can be compared to Him in any way.

Furthermore, Allaah states, **"Allaah is Independent."** Hadhrat Abu Huraira (R.A) has mentioned that this means that Allaah needs no one, but that everything needs Allaah. Translating the word "Samad" as "Independent" does not do justice to the word because the word includes the fact that all are in need of Allaah. "Ruhul Ma'aani" reports from Ibnul Ambaari (A.R) that lexicologists are unanimous that the word "Samad" refers to a sovereign who is second to none and to whom everyone turns for their needs and all their affairs.

According to Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas (R.A), the word "Samad" refers to a sovereign whose sovereignty is absolute, whose honour is absolute, whose majesty is absolute, whose forbearance is absolute, whose knowledge is absolute, whose wisdom is absolute and whose every fragment of honour and sovereignty is absolute.

"He has no children and is not anyone's child." This verse answers those people who want to know Allaah's lineage. They should know that Allaah Ta'Aala has no family at all. There is always a similarity between parent and child. Since none is similar to Allaah at all, He can have neither parents nor children. Allaah Ta'Aala says in Surah Maryam, **"They say, 'Rahman has taken a child.' You have certainly said a grave thing.** (The gravity of what you say is so intense that) **The heavens may split asunder because of it, the earth may be cleaved open and the mountains may crash to pieces. All this**

¹ Surah Saad (Surah 38), verse 5.

because they ascribed children to Rahman. It is not befitting of Rahman to take children. Everything within the heavens and the earth shall come to Rahman as slaves. [Surah 19, verses 88-93]

Allaah has been forever and shall remain forever. He had no birth and none was born from Him. The Mushrikeen who believed that the angels are Allaah's daughters are wrong just as the Christians are wrong to believe that Hadhrat Isa (A.S) is Allaah's son and just as the Jews are wrong to believe that Hadhrat Uzair (A.S) was Allaah's son. They merely copy what others say without thinking. Allaah Ta'Aala says in Surah Taubah, ***"The Jews say, 'Uzair is the son of Allaah!' and the Christians say, 'Maseeh is the son of Allaah!' These are mere words that emerge from their mouths. They imitate the statements of those who passed before them. May Allaah destroy them! Where are they wandering astray?"*** [Surah 9, verse 30]

"There is none equal to Him." This verse negates every type of similarity that people may draw between Allaah and his creation. Only He is worthy of worship, only He has knowledge of everything and only He can fulfil needs. This verse is similar to the verse of Surah Shura where Allaah Ta'Aala says, ***"There is nothing like Him, and He is the All Hearing, the All Seeing."*** [Surah 42, verse 11]

In an exceptionally concise manner, the Surah confirms that every good attribute is found in Allaah and it denies that Allaah has any defect.

Hadhrat Abu Huraira (R.A) narrates from Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that people constantly say that Allaah has created everything and then they ask who created Allaah. When this question is posed, one should say, ***"Allaah is Independent. He has no children and is not anyone's child. There is none equal to Him."***

According to another narration, Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) advised that when this question plagues one's mind, one should say:

{TRANSLATION: I believe in Allaah and His apostles (A.S)}
[Bukhari and Muslim]

Hadhrat Abu Huraira (R.A) has also narrated from Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that Allaah Ta'Aala says, ***"The son of Adam has falsified Me when he should not do so. He has also sworn Me when he should not do so. He has falsified Me by saying that I cannot resurrect him whereas I created him the first time and creating the second time is even easier. Man swears me by saying that I have children whereas I am The One, The Independent. I have no children neither am I anyone's child. There is none equal to Me."*** ["Mishkaat" Pg. 13]

THE VIRTUES OF SURAH IKHLAAS

Hadhrat Abu Sa'eed Khudri (R.A) narrates that a Sahabi (R.A) once heard another Sahabi (R.A) repeatedly reciting Surah Ikhlaas. When he reported this to Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), the Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) sensed that he regarded the act as insignificant. Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) told him that ***Surah Ikhlaas equalled a third of the Qur'aan.*** [Bukhari Vol. 2 Pg. 750]

Hadhrat **Abu Huraira** (R.A) reported that Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) once told them, *"Should I not recite a third of the Qur'aan to you?"* Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) then recited Surah Ikhlâas. [Muslim Vol. 1 Pg. 271]

Hadhrat **A'isha** (R.A) narrated that Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) *once appointed a person to lead a military expedition. Whenever this person led the others in salaah, he always ended every Rakaah by reciting Surah Ikhlâas.* When the Sahabah (R.A) mentioned this to Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), he told them to ask the person his reason for doing this. When they asked him, he replied, *"The Surah is a description of Allaah and I love reciting it."* Upon hearing this reply, Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) told the Sahabah (R.A) *to tell the person that Allaah loves him as well.* [Muslim Vol. 1 Pg. 271]

According to a narration of **Hadhrat Anas** (R.A), when *the person told Rasulullaah* (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that *he loved the Surah*, Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said to him, *"Your love for this Surah shall enter you into Jannah."* [Tirmidhi]

Hadhrat **Sa'eed bin Musayyab** (A.R) narrates that Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, *"A palace in Jannah is built for the person who recites Surah Ikhlâas ten times and two palaces in Jannah are built for the person who recites Surah Ikhlâas twenty times."*

Hearing this, **Hadhrat Umar** (R.A) said, "O Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)! In this manner we shall have many palaces built." Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, "Allaah is a Great Giver. He has with him tremendous rewards for as many deeds as you can manage." [Daarmi Vol. 3 Pg. 320]

Hadhrat Anas (R.A) narrates that Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, *"The person who recites Surah Ikhlâas two hundred times shall have fifty years of his sins erased from his record of deeds. Of course, the debts he owes to others will not be waived."* ["Mishkaat" Pg. 188 from Tirmidhi]

Hadhrat Anas (R.A) has also narrated from Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) that *when a person recites Surah Ikhlâas a hundred times while lying on his right side before sleeping, Allaah will tell him on the Day of Qiyaamah, "O My slave! Enter Jannah from the right hand side."* [Tirmidhi]

Hadhrat **Abu Huraira** (R.A) reports that when Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) *once heard a person reciting Surah Ikhlâas, he said, "It is compulsory for him."* *"What is?"* asked Hadhrat Abu Huraira (R.A). *"Jannah,"* replied Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam). [Tirmidhi]