

Lesson 3 - Surat al Muzzammil (The Wrapped Up)

SURAT AL MUZZAMMIL – VERSES 4-6

(4) أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلاً

or add to it, and recite the Qur'an in the measured tone

(5) إِنَّا سَنُلْقِي عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيلًا

Indeed soon We shall cast on You a weighty word

(6) إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْئًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلاً

Indeed the watch of the night is firmer in tread and more upright in respect to speech,

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



To reflect on

1. How are we supposed to recite the Qur'an?
2. What is the weighty word?
3. When is the best time for the soul to get mindful of its Lord and creator?

TAFSIR

Verse 4

This verse has two parts, one about prayer and one about recitation of the Quran. In the first part Allah (swt) has given us a choice to increase the duration of the prayer. In the second part Allah is commanding us to not to recite the Qur'an in a hurry. The word تَرْتِيلاً means articulate, eloquent and meditative recitation of the Qur'anic verses and reflecting upon the meanings and impacts on one's life. The Qur'an has to be recited slowly in a studious way. The beauty of the word of God has to be manifested in a beautiful tone observing the proper punctuation. It is reported that the Holy

Prophet (p.b.u.h) recited the verses articulately with a sweet voice. Other Qur'anic verses and ahadith also mention that one should not recite the Qur'an as if it is devoid of meaning. We should recite the verses giving attention to all the issues stated in the verses and to reflect. This verse also indicates that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) already knew the Qur'an and he was only ordered to recite in a well measured way. .

Verse 5

In this verse Allah is telling the Prophet that he will reveal to him a 'weighty word'. The 'weighty word' in this verse has different interpretations. These are the following interpretation of the '**weighty word**'

- The weighty word means that Qur'anic verses are weighty in terms of contents, meanings and their impact on the believer's heart.
- It indicates the warnings, promises, obligations, hardships resulting from the spread of Prophets (p.b.u.h) call to Islam.
- Refers to weight in the scales of deeds and their accounts on the Day of Resurrection.
- It indicates the proclamation of Imam Ali (as) caliphate and imamate
- The weighty word is the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h) has addressed the Holy Qur'an and his Ahlulbayt as '*Thaqalain*' – *The two weighty things*. The Ahlulbayt and the Qur'an are of equal weight or equal importance to mankind.

Verse 6

Islam wants man to benefit from the best time in the nature of day and night for concentration, meditation, supplication and for disciplining the soul to form a good relationship with Allah (swt). The night is special because it is the time when the world that seeks material profit in the earth gets still and silent. In the night prayer the attitude of one's mind is better to receive the divine feeling and to address God directly. Praying at night and particularly at dawn immensely impacts the purity of the soul which leads to spiritual growth, purity, awakening of the heart and soul. According to our 5th Imam – Imam Muhammad Baqir (as) and 6th Imam – Imam Muhammad Jaffer Sadiq (as) have said – نَاشِئَةً in this verse refers to the 'standing late at night to perform nightly prayers'.

RELEVANT VERSES:

- **Surat Al Hashr (59), Verse 21:** *“Had we sent down this Qur’an upon a mountain you would have surely seen it humbled [and] go to pieces with the fear of Allah. We draw such comparisons for mankind, so that they may reflect”.* This verse talks about the **weight** of the Qur’an. The word weight in this verse illustrates the warning, promises, obligations and hardships resulting from the propagation of the prophetic call.
- **Surat Al – A’raf (7), Verse 204:** *“When the Qur’an is recited, listen to it and be silent, maybe you will receive [Allah’s] mercy”.* This verse emphasises that one should politely listen to the Qur’an when it is recited.

RELEVANT AHADITH:

- **Imam Zayn al Abideen (as)** has said: *“The verses of the Qur’an are treasures, and every time a treasure is opened up, it is desirable that you look at what is inside it.”*

Usul ul Kafi, Volume 2, Page 609

- **Imam Ja’far al Sadiq (as)** has said: *“Surely the Qur’an is not to be read in a rush or very quickly. Rather, it should be recited in slow, measured portions. Whenever you reach a verse which talks about Heaven, then stop (at that verse) and ask from Allah (the bounties of) Heaven. And whenever you reach a verse which speaks about the Hell, then stop (at that verse) and seek protection from Allah from the Hell Fire (and the punishment).”*

Usul ul Kafi, Volume 3, Page 301

IMPORTANT LESSONS

- Allah (swt) is commanding us to recite the Qur’an in an eloquent manner and to understand and reflect on the meaning of these verses. We should not recite the Qur’an just for the sake of reciting and not understanding the verses of the Qur’an.
- Understand the value of the Qur’an. It is not something that is only supposed to be kept in the highest shelf! We have to recite it every day and implement it in our lives. The Qur’an should be our companion.

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATIONS:

- When you are in mosque with your friends and family and the holy Qur'an is being recited, how should you behave?
- Let's say you came across a verse in the holy Qur'an which talks about heaven, what should you do?
- I want to have a secret conversation with my Lord! When would be the best time?

ACTIVITY:

This activity can be done as a team or individually

When someone who has a very high status gives a gift to you and that gift is a book. This book is very special because it contains important lessons and cures to **guide** your life. You have come to know that this book is a **miracle**. This book is written in a language that you know how to read but **you do not understand it. What will you do?**

- How would I keep the book?
- Where would I keep the book?
- When will I read it?
- Will I try to learn and understand the language?
- Will I ask someone to translate it for me?
- Will I follow those important lessons in the book?
- Will I fall in love with the author?
- Will I recommend my friends to read it?
- Will I keep it with me?
- Will I protect it?
- Will I spread the message of the book
- Will I reflect on the messages containing in the book?
- If I don't understand something from the book, will I look for someone who understands it and follows it so that they can try and explain it to me?
- Will I try and please the author by following his instructions

