

Suratul Ikhlas

Introduction

This Surah was revealed in Makka. It has four verses. It is Surah number 112 in the Holy Qur'an. It is one of the most important Surahs of the Holy Qur'an.

When the Jews asked our Holy Prophet (S) to describe Allah, this Surah was revealed in reply.

Al-Ikhlās means "The Unity". The name of the Surah refers to the fact that this Surah describes the qualities of Allah very well. That is why the Sūrah is sometimes called Tawhid.

Text and Translation

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent the Merciful.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ

Say, "He, Allah is ONE"

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ

He needs nothing, but everything else needs Him.

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ

He does not have children, nor has He a parent

وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

And there is none other equal to Him.

Tafsir

Ayah 1. The word "Ahad" used for "one" in the verse is quite different from the usual word for "one" which is "Wahid".

Ahad means "one" which has no plural, no divisions and no second or third after it. It is a unique "one" and is used for Allah only.

Ayah 2. "Samad" means independent - it means Allah does not need anyone or anything, He is needed by everything.

Ayah 3. He does not have children or parents. He is not like us, who have a beginning and an end.

Ayah 4. He is different from anything or anyone you can imagine. There is none who can equal Him.

Merits of Recitation of Suratul Ikhlas

1. In Salaat, if you make an intention to recite it and start with its Bismillah, then you have to finish it. It is Mustahab to recite this Surah at least once in every daily prayer. In fact, to recite the same Surah in both Raka'ats of the prayer is Makruh, except for Suratul Ikhlas.
2. The Thawab of reciting this Surah three times is the same as that for finishing the recital of the whole Qur'an.
3. When Suratul Ikhlas is recited once, Allah's blessings are showered on the reciter; twice, on his family; and thrice, on his neighbours also.
4. While performing the funeral ceremonies of Sa'd bin Ma'ad, the Prophet (S) remarked that Jibrael and other angels were with him because Sa'd was in the habit of reciting Suratul Ikhlas all the time. Therefore Allah had rewarded him with this dignity.

References

Holy Qur'an, Tafsir by S V Mir Ahmed Ali
Ramadhan, Ahkam and Philosophy, Yasin T. al Jibouri