Surah 13 Surah Ra'ad

RA'AD

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH RA'AD AND SURAH YUSUF

By Name: The concept of 'Touheed' is so important that Nabi Yusuf even preached it to his two fellow inmates in prison before interpreting their dreams. At the same time, the angel Ra'd and all the other angels tremble in awe of Allaah and glorify His praises at all times. They always attest to His Purity from partners, thereby adhering to 'Touheed' and abstaining from 'Shirk'.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

This Surah proves that only Allaah has knowledge of the unseen and that only He can be called upon when in need. It also proves that no other being besides Allaah is all-seeing, all-Knowing and that no other wields supremacy over the creation besides Allaah. The Surah proves these facts using eleven proofs.
1. Alif Laam Meem Raa (Only Allaah knows the correct meaning of these letters). These are the verses of the Book (the Qur’aan). Whatever has been revealed to you (O Muhammad &$&) from your Rabb is the truth, but most people do not have Imaan (they do not believe that it is the truth from Allaah).

2. It is Allaah who raised the skies without any pillar that you see (no pillars are visible because there are none), then turned His attention to the Throne and subjugated (controlled) the sun and the moon. Each (the sun and the moon) runs to its appointed term (they follow their courses in space and will do so as long as Allaah wills). He plans affairs and explains the Aayaat in detail so that you may be convinced of meeting your Rabb.

3. It is He Who spread the earth and placed mountains and rivers in it. He creates pairs from every type of fruit (and from everything else) and covers the day with the night. Indeed there are Aayaat (signs) in this for those people who ponder (reflect to understand Tauheed).

4. On the earth there are neighbouring tracts of land (that have opposing characteristics despite being next to each other), orchards of grapes, plantations and date palms, some of which grow in clusters while others do not (they stand alone). All (the grapes, plantations and date palms) are
irrigated by one (the same) water (yet the results are so diverse). (In addition to the various types and appearances of these plants) We accord distinction (excellence) to one over the other in eating (in texture, taste and nutritional value). Verily in this are Aayaat (signs) for those who understand (by which they can recognise Allaah).

5. If you (O Muhammad ﷺ) are astonished (by the manner in which the Kuffaar reject you and what you tell them), then (even more) astonishing is their statement: “When we become sand, will we be created again?” (This statement is astonishing because they fail to understand that if Allaah has created the amazing things mentioned above, it will not be difficult at all for Him to resurrect people on the Day of Qiyaamah.) These are the ones who disbelieve in their Rabb. They are the ones who shall have yokes on their necks (in the Akhira) and they shall be the inmates (prisoners) of Jahannam, where they shall live forever.

6. (Referring to the Kuffaar mockingly asking for Allaah’s punishment, Allaah says) They want to hurry evil (punishment) before the good, whereas the incidents of punishment (that come to precious nations) have passed before them (and they do realise its devastating effects) (Their demands are therefore absurd). (However) Your Rabb is certainly forgiving towards His bondmen despite their oppression (and does not punish them Immediately). And (at the same time) your Rabb is severe in punishment (and when His punishment arrives, it cannot be turned away).

7. The Kuffaar say, “Why is some Aayah (a miracle of our choice) not sent to him (Rasulullaah ﷺ) from his Rabb?” You (O Muhammad ﷺ) are but a warner (and therefore do not have the ability to perform miracles as and when you please). (Your coming as a Rasool is nothing new because) Every nation has a guide (and it has always been the case that the Ambiyaa ﷺ displayed the miracles that Allaah chose. These miracles that the people requested effectively proved the hood of the Ambiyaa ﷺ. It was therefore futile to demand specific miracles. This makes it clear that the demands of the Kuffaar were merely made to discredit the Ambiyaa ﷺ and not because they really wanted to believe in them after seeing the miracles).

8. Allaah knows what every female bears (He knows the gender, the appearance, the temperament and the future of the unborn child) and (He knows) the shortages and excesses in the womb (He knows whether the mother will carry her child for the full term and what the child lacks or has an excuse in the womb). Everything is perfectly stipulated (proportioned) with Him (nothing can exceed or be less than the period and specifications He sets).
9. He is the (Only) Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the Great, The Lofty (High above all creation. None can therefore be equal to Him).

10. Whoever whispers, speaks loudly, is hidden in the night, or is walking about during the day, they are all alike (to Allaah because He knows their precise words and actions and activities at all times).

11. For everyone there are followers (guardian angels) in front of him and following behind him, protecting him (from harm) by Allaah's order. Undoubtedly Allaah does not change the condition of a nation (the difficulties they face) until they change the condition within themselves (by behaving like proper Mu'mineen. This is the rule). In a like manner, Allaah will take away His favours from people and place hardships on them only when they start behaving wrongly. When Allaah intends evil (misfortune) to befall a nation, there is none to turn it away. They (on whom the evil befalls) will have no helper besides Allaah (If the majority are good, the nation as a whole will be good).

12. He (Allaah) is the One Who shows you the lightning that you fear (when on a journey) and have hopes in (when you need rain), and He creates the heavy clouds. (Just as man hopes for Divine mercy, he should also be cautious about Allaah's wrath.)

13. Ra'ad (the angel who gathers the clouds) praises Him together with glorifying Him, and the angels also do so out of their fear for Him. (Referring to the chief of a tribe who mocked Allaah when one of the Sahabah came to him with the message of Islaam, Allaah says) Allaah sends the bolts of lightning to strike whoever He wills while they are disputing about Allaah. Allaah is fiercely Powerful. (The bolt of lightning killed the chief where he stood.)

431
14. The true call (the Kalimah “Laa Ilaaha Illaah”) is only for Him. Those to whom they call (pray) besides Him (their idols and other gods) do not respond to their pleas at all; except (that it may be said that their response is) like the person who stretches out his hands towards water so that it may reach his mouth whereas it will never reach. The call (prayers) of the Kaafiroon (to their gods) is wasted (because they see no result). 

15. To Allaah do all within the heavens and the earth prostrate willingly or unwillingly (such as the Munaafiqeen) in the mornings and evening (shadows are more prominent during these times). (One who recites or hears this verse being recited should perform Sajdah.)

16. Say, “Who is the Rabb of the heavens and the earth?” Say, “Allaah!” Say, “(After admitting this,) Do you still take helpers (gods) besides Allaah who have no ability to help, nor to harm themselves.” Say, “Is he who sees equal to the blind? (The Kaafir and Muslim cannot be the same) Or is a multitude of darkness (kufr) equal to light (Imaan)? Or do they (the Mushrifeen) ascribe such partners to Allaah who create like He creates, thereby causing the creation to be alike to them?” Say, “Allaah is the Creator of everything and He is the One, The Omnipotent.” (None can create like Allaah creates. There can therefore be no confusion about who Allaah is because the other gods cannot equal him at all.)

17. Allaah sends down rain from the sky causing the valleys to flow according to their capacity and (causing) the flowing waters to carry debris (foam and dirt) that floats on its surface. And from that (precious metals) which you cast into fire (for purification) seeking (to make) adornments (jewellery) and other items of worth, comes similar debris (impurities). Thus does Allaah cite examples of the truth (the water and purified metals) and falsehood (the debris). As for the debris (falsehood), it disappears in vain. As for the things that benefit man (the truth, as symbolised by the water and precious metal), they remain on the earth. In this manner Allaah cites examples. (Although falsehood seems to prevail over the truth at times like the debris stays above the water and precious metal, it soon disappears. However, truth lasts forever.)
18. The most beautiful place (Jannah) is for those who respond to their Rabb (who fulfil His commands). As for those who do not respond to Him, if they possessed whatever is on earth and as much more in addition, they will certainly (try to) use it to ransom their souls (from the punishment of Jahannam). For them shall be a terrible reckoning (they will have to account for every little thing without anything being forgotten) and their abode shall be Jahannam. What an evil abode indeed.

19. Can the person (a Mu'min) who knows that whatever is revealed to you (O Muhammad) from your Rabb is the truth, be like him who is blind (a Kaafir)? Only the people of intelligence (understanding) take heed.

20. (The people of intelligence are) Those who fulfil the pledge taken with Allaah (the Pledge of 'Aalistu") and who do not break the pledge.

21. (They are) Those who join that (family ties) which Allaah has commanded that it be joined, who fear their Rabb and dread a terrible reckoning.

22. (They are) Those who exercise sabr (patience) seeking the pleasure of their Rabb, who establish Salaah, spend secretly and openly from that (wealth) which We have provided and who repel evil with good (they repel the harassment of others with tolerance and repent for their sin with good acts). These are the ones who shall enjoy the favourable outcome of the Aakhirah (Jannah).

23. (This favourable outcome shall be) Eternal Jannaat in which they will enter together with all those of their forefathers, spouses and progeny who are worthy (of entering Jannah.
24. (The angels will say) “Salaam (Peace) be on you for the sabr that you exercised (in this world). How blissful is the outcome of the Aakhirah!”

25. (On the other hand,) Those who break Allaah’s pledge (the Pledge of Alist) after confirming it, who sever (break) that (family ties) which Allaah commanded to be joined and spread corruption on earth, for them shall be a curse (they will be distanced from Allaah’s mercy) and for them shall be a terrible outcome (Jahannam).

26. Allaah increases sustenance for whoever He pleases and reduces (sustenance for whoever He pleases). They (the Kuffaar) rejoice (boast) about their wealth and positions in the life of this world whereas the life of this world is a worthless article in comparison with the Aakhirah (therefore, despite their boasting, they have nothing if they do not earn the pleasures of the Aakhirah).

27. The Kuffaar say, “Why is a sign (a miracle of our choice) not sent to him (Rasulullaah ﷺ) from his Rabb?” Say, “Allaah sends astray whom He wills (regardless of whether they see miracles or not. Your request for miracles will therefore not benefit you at all) and guides towards Him whoever turns to Him (whoever desires to be guided).”

28. (The guided ones are) Those who have Imaan and whose hearts are (totally) contented with the Dhikr (remembrance) of Allaah (These people therefore do not demand miracles from Rasulullaah ﷺ because they are content with their Imaan). Behold! Hearts are contented with the Dhikr of Allaah. (Contentment of the heart is one of the greatest benefits of Dhikr, which removes distress and restlessness from the heart.)

29. Good fortune (being blessed) and a grand abode (Jannah) shall be for those who have Imaan and who do good actions.
30. In a like manner (just as We have sent other Ambiyaa to this world) have We sent you (O Muhammad) among a nation before whom many nations have passed, so that you may recite to them that (Qur’aan) which We have revealed to you, while they do not (they refuse to) believe in Ar Rahmaan (“The Most Merciful”). Say (to them), “He is my Rabb. There is no Ilaah but Him. Only on Him do I rely and to Him do I turn.”

31. If the Qur’aan was such that mountains are displaced by it, or the earth is split asunder (totally) by it, or the dead are made to speak (perfectly) by it (then too the Kuffaar will not believe. Regardless of the miracles they see, the Kuffaar will not accept Imaan because they have no desire for Imaan. Their requests for such miracles were only to frustrate Rasulullaah (Saww). However, all matters rest with Allaah (only He can make miracles happen and only He can guide people). (So that the Mu’mineen should not lose hope when Allaah does not show the Kuffaar the miracles they request, Allaah says,) Do those who have Imaan not know that if Allaah willed, He would have guided all of mankind (tolslaam)? (However, Allaah did not will this to happen for reasons best known to Him) (Since they will not accept Imaan, one may wonder then why are they not punished. Answering this question, Allaah says,) Because of their evil actions, some calamity will always afflict the Kuffaar (from time to time), or descend close to their homes (to instil fear in their hearts, this process will continue) until Allaah’s promise comes (until they are finally punished in the Aakhirah). Undoubtedly Allaah does not break His promise.

32. (Assuring Rasulullaah (Saww) that he was not the only Rosool to meet with opposition and mockery, Allaah says,) Numerous Rusul before you were mocked at, but I granted respite to Kuffaar and then (when they failed to mend their ways,) I seized (punished) them. How (severe) was My punishment (when it came after some time)?

33. Can He (Allaah) Who is aware of the actions of every soul (be like him who is not aware)? (Although the Kuffaar have been shown that Only Allaah is worthy of being worshipped) Yet they ascribe
partners to Allaah. Say, “Name them (those whom you regard as Allaah’s partners). Are you (do you really believe that these gods are Allaah’s partners) informing Allaah of something that He has no knowledge of on earth? (Since it is not possible that Allaah does not know about anything on earth, this means that the partners you name do not exist), or (if you really do not believe that they are Allaah’s partners, is what you say) merely apparent words (meaning that they do not even exist in your minds)?” However, the plot (evil) of the Kuffaar has been made appealing to them (because of which they continue committing kufr despite what you tell them) and (in addition to rejecting Imaan) they (even) prevent (others) from the path (of Islaam). (After conveying the message to them, you can do nothing further for them because) There is no guide for him whom Allaah has sent astray (allowed to stray because he had handicapped his spiritual senses by incessant sinning and kufr).

34. (Because of their stubbornness,) They shall suffer punishment in this world, and the punishment of the Aakhirah is worse. There shall be no saviour for (to defend) them from (the punishment of) Allaah.

35. The description of the Jannah that is promised for the (very) pious (is that it has) rivers flowing beneath it while its fruits and shade will be permanent. This is the outcome (the position in the Aakhirah) of those who adopt Taqwa, while the outcome of the Kuffaar shall be the Fire.

36. Those whom We have given the Book (the Jews and the Christians) rejoice at what has been revealed to you (O Muhammad ﷺ and they become Muslims), while there are some from the (enemy) groups (of Kuffaar) who reject a part of it. Say, “I have been commanded to worship only Allaah and not to ascribe partners to Him. To Him do I call (worship) and to Him will I return (after death).”

37. Thus We have revealed it (the Qur’aan) as a special Arabic command (which suits the people and times it was revealed for, just as the previous scriptures suited the people and times they were revealed for). Surely if you follow their wishes (if you follow their religions) after knowledge (of Tawheed) has come to you, you shall have no helper nor saviour (defender) against (the punishment of) Allaah.
38. Verily, We have sent many Rusul before you and We granted them wives and progenies (they were not angels but human beings with families). A Rasool is not capable of producing a sign (miracle) without Allaah's order. Every period (of time) had written commands (which suited the people of the time. Therefore, people should not object to the Shar‘iah of Rasulullah merely because it is different from those of the previous Ambiyaa).

39. Allaah erases (from a Shar‘iah) whatever (laws of a previous Shar‘iah) He wills and keeps in place (whatever laws He wills, so that it may apply to them as well). With Him is the Mother (Original) of Books (the Louhul Mahfooth, in which nothing is ever changed).

40. If We were to show you (O Rasulullaah &Si) a part of what (punishment) We have promised them (if We punish them during your lifetime), or (if) We were to claim your soul (before punishing them or without punishing them), then (in either event, you should not worry because) propagation (of the Deen) is your responsibility and reckoning is Ours (you should fulfil your duty and We will fulfil Ours).

41. Do they (the Kuffaar, the disbelievers) not see that We have been reducing the land (that they control) from its borders (by handing it over to the Muslims as they conquers continue). Allaah commands (His creation) and there is none to avert (prevent) His command (for this judgement is final). He is swift in reckoning (calling people to account for their actions).

42. Those before them also planned (against the Ambiyaa), but to Allaah does all planning belong (His plans will always dominate). He knows what every soul earns (and give them what they deserve), and the Kaafiroon will soon come to know to whom belongs the (favourable) outcome of the Aakhirah. (They will then realise that the Mu’mineen are the successful ones despite everything they did to harm them.)

43. The Kuffaar say (to Rasulullaah), “You are not a Rasool.” Say, “Allaah is sufficient as witness between us (He testifies that I am indeed a Rasool), and so are those who possess the knowledge of the Book (therefore what you say is of no consequence).”