Surah 23 Surah Mu'minoon

THE MUMINOON

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH MUMINOON AND SURAH HAJJ

By Name: Surah Hajj contains the verse addressed to Ibraheem (الى) saying, “And announce the Hajj among the people, (and in response to your announcement) they will come to you (walking) on foot and on every lean camel (in every condition), travelling from every distant road…” [verse 27]. Surah Mu'minoon proceeds to describe the qualities of those Mu'minoon who will arrive for the Hajj.

By Content: 1. Surah Hajj warned about the Day of Qiyaamah when it opens with the verse “O people! Fear (the punishment of) your Rabb. The earthquake of (the Day of) Qiyaamah is a tremendous thing indeed.” Surah Mu'minoon now describes the people who will be saved on that fateful day as those (1) who perform salaah, (2) who do not perpetrate Shirk, and (3) who do not oppress. These attributes are described from verses 1 to 9.

2. Surah Hajj forbids making offerings to others besides Allaah. Surah Mu'minoon proceeds to tell people that instead of totally abstaining from such acts, they have disobediently done worse by introducing more wrong customs and practices. Referring to this, Allaah says in verse 63, “And they have other (evil) acts that they carry out besides this.”

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

This Surah may be divided into two parts. The first part commences at the beginning and ends with verse 77, where Allaah says, “Until the time comes when We shall open unto them a door of severe punishment and they will be left totally bewildered.” The beginning of the first part (verses 1-8) mentions three factors that ensure to salvation in the Aakhirah. The first is to perform Salaah, to fear Allaah and to humble oneself in Salaah. The second factor is to abstain from Shirk in one’s beliefs and deeds. The third factor is to abstain from all forms of injustice. This is discussed from verse 5 to verse 8. Thereafter Allaah mentions three logical proofs to substantiate Touheed. These are:

1. “We have certainly created man (Adam ﷺ) from a product of clay… (until the words) …So Blessed be Allaah, the Best of all creators.” [verses 12 to 14]
2. “We have certainly created seven paths (heavens) above you… (until the words) … and gravy for those who wish to eat.” [verses 17 to 20]
3. “There is certainly a lesson for you in the animals live stock. We give you a drink (milk) from their bellies, there are many benefits for you in them (such as using them for transport, for carrying goods, for ploughing fields, etc), and you even eat of them. You
are even carried on them (when you are on land) and on ships (when you are at sea).”
[verses 21 and 22]

To further emphasise Towheed, this part of the Surah also mentions the incidents of several Ambiyaa.

The second part of the Surah states four logical proofs to substantiate Towheed and to refute Shirk. Other verses contain admonitions, warnings and glad tidings. Among these verses, Allaah mentions the method of propagation when He says, “Resist evil with that which is best” [verse 96] i.e. speak to the Kuffaar clearly and with a soft tone.

The concluding verses of the Surah summerize the gist of the Surah, when Allaah says, “Exalted be Allaah, the Sovereign, the Truth. There is no Ilaaah but Him. He is the Rabb of the Glorious Throne” [verse 116]. Therefore none but Allaah must be regarded as a deity, neither should offerings be made to any other.
In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

1. The Mu’mineen have truly succeeded.

2. (The Mu’mineen are) Those who are humble (sincere, tranquil) in their salaah...

3. ...who turn away from futility (talk and acts that have no benefit)...

4. ...who fulfil the act of paying zakaah (punctually and happily to purify the heart, body and wealth)...

5. ...and who safeguard their private organs (from adultery, fornication and other illicit sexual acts)...

6. ...except when it comes to their spouses and the slave women whom they own. They will surely not be blamed about (cohabiting with) them.

7. Whoever seeks more than this (by fulfilling their sexual desires in a manner that the Shari’ah forbids), then such persons are transgressors (sinners) indeed.
8. (The Mu'mineen are also) Those who give due regard to (fulfil) trusts and their pledges (taking every precaution to fulfil the pledges and promises they make to Allaah and to people)...

9. ...and are particular about their salaah (ensuring that their salaah is performed on time and with all the necessary requisites and etiquette).

10. These are the heirs...

11. ...who shall inherit Firdous (the highest level of Jannah) where they shall live forever.

12. We have certainly created man (Aadam) from a product of (specially selected) clay.

13. Thereafter (when mankind arrived on earth, the system of reproduction started and the development of a child began when) We placed him in a safe lodging (the womb) as a drop of fluid (sperm)...

14. Thereafter, We made the drop of fluid into a clot of blood, then the clot of blood into a lump of flesh, then the lump of flesh into bones, after which We dressed the bones in flesh. Thereafter (when We instilled the soul into the foetus) We made him into another type of creation (which is living and vibrant). So Blessed is Allaah, the Best of all creators (no other being can make something from nothing or give life to anything they make).
15. Thereafter (after coming into the world and spending your lives in this world) you will all definitely die (and be buried).

16. Thereafter (after spending time in the grave) you will surely be resurrected on the Day of Qiyaamah.

17. We have certainly created seven paths (heavens, zones, orbits) above you and we are never unaware of the creation (We know the condition of everything We created and provide for and protect everything).

18. (According to Our wisdom,) We send stipulated quantities of water from the skies, embedding it into the earth (irrigating the roots of plants and storing underground water), and We are also capable of withdrawing it (whenever We wish, after which no other being can retrieve it).

19. With it (the rainwater) We create for you orchards of date palms and grapes (and many other types of vegetation). In them (the orchards of date palms and grapes) is an abundance of fruit for you, from which you eat (together with eating from it, you also feed your families and animals, and you can also gain from selling the fruit).

20. (We have also created) A certain tree (the olive tree) that grows from Mount Sinai, bearing oil (for burning in lamps and for medicinal uses) and (it is also used for cooking, producing an excellent) gravy for those who wish to eat it.

21. There is certainly a lesson for you in the animals (livestock). We give you a drink (milk) from their bellies, there are many benefits for you in them (such as using them for transport, for carrying goods, for ploughing fields, etc), and you even eat of them.
22. You are even carried on them (when you are on land) and on ships (when you are at sea).

23. We sent Nooh to his nation and he told them, “O my people! Worship only Allaah. There is no Ilaah for you besides Him. Do you not fear (His punishment for not taking heed)?”

24. The Kuffaar leaders (who love fame) from his nation said (to the others), “He (Nooh) is only a human like yourselves who intends to gain superiority over you (when you follow him). If Allaah desired (to send a Nabî), he would have rather sent angels (instead of a human). We have never heard of such a thing (happening) among our forefathers.”

25. “He is but a man afflicted by insanity. So bear with him a while longer (until he dies, when we will be rid of him).”

26. (After preaching to his people for 950 years without a favourable response from them) Nooh said, “O my Rab! Assist me (against them by destroying them), for they have rejected me.”

27. So We sent revelation to him saying, “Construct an ark under Our supervision and revelation. When Our command (punishment) comes and water gushes forth from the earth (as a sign of the punishment coming), then enter into the ark a pair of every species (of creation) and your family (all those who have Imaan), except those against whom the decree (of punishment) has been passed (condemning them to the punishment). And do not speak to me about those who oppress (do not ask me to save those who commit kufr). They will certainly be drowned.”
28. “When you and those with you have boarded the ark, then say (as an expression of gratitude), ‘All praise be to Allaah, Who has rescued us from the oppressive (sinful) nation.’”

29. “And say, ‘O my Rabb! Settle me in a blessed place. You are surely the Best of hosts.’ (Bless us at all times with Your mercy.)

30. There are undoubtedly Aayaat (signs) in this (incident), and We certainly put people to the test (to separate the good from the evil).

31. Then (after the people of Nooh) We created another nation after them (the nation of the Aad /the Thamud).

32. We sent a Rasool (Hood & Saalih) among them (who told them), “Worship only Allaah. There is no Ilhaah for you besides Him. Do you not fear (His punishment if you do not accept Imaan)?”

33. The Kuffaar leaders from his nation, who denied the meeting of the Aakhirah and to whom We had granted affluence (comfort) in the worldly life, said, “He (the Rasool) is merely a human like yourselves who eats what you eat and drinks what you drink (there is nothing special about him that makes him worthy of being followed).”

34. “Surely, if you follow a human (mortal) like yourselves, you will certainly be at a loss (ruined).”
35. “Does he promise you that you will be resurrected (raised) after you have died and become dust and bones?”

36. “Far-fetched! Far-fetched (How can this be!) is that which you are promised! (How can this ever be?)”

37. “This is but our worldly existence. We die and live, and will never be raised up again (after death).”

38. “He is only a man who invents lies against Allaah (by saying that Allaah sends revelation to him), and we shall never believe him.”

39. (After tireless attempts to convince them,) He (the Rasool finally) said, “O my Rabb! Assist me (against them by destroying them), for they have rejected me.”

40. Allaah said, “Shortly these people will regret (their behaviour when My punishment afflicts them).”

41. So, according to the true promise, a dreadful scream (of Jibra’eel) seized them and We reduced them to nothing. May the oppressive (sinful) nation be far removed (from Allaah’s mercy)!”
42. We then created numerous (other) nations after them (such as the people of Madyan, the people of Loot, etc).

43. No nation can outstrip their term (they cannot survive beyond the time when they are destined to perish), nor can they delay it (to give them more time).

44. Thereafter We sent Our Rusul in succession. Whenever a Rasool came to his nation (preaching Tawheed and Risalaah), they rejected him. So We brought one nation after the other (that was destroyed) and made them mere fables (only to be spoken about). May the nations without Imaan be distanced (from Allaah's mercy)!

45. (After many Abmiya We then sent Moosa and his brother Haaroon with Our Aayaat and a manifest proof (to prove that they were indeed Allaah's messengers).

46. (We sent them to) Fir’oun and his (arrogant) ministers, but they (rejected their message because they) were proud and tyrannical (oppressive) people.

47. They said, “Should we believe in two humans like ourselves whereas their people (the Bani Israa’eeel) are our slaves (servants)?”

48. So they rejected the two of them and (by so doing) became of the destroyed ones.

49. We had certainly granted Moosa the Book (the Torah) so that they (the Bani Israa’eeel) may be guided (to salvation).
50. And We made the son of Maryam (Isa) and his mother (Maryam) an Ayah (to demonstrate Our power and to prove that We can do things without means) and settled them on such a hill that was habitable and had water (either Damasus, Baytul Maqdas or Ramala).

51. (Allah addressed the Ambiyaa saying,) “O you Rusul! Eat from the pure (good) things and (in gratitude to Me for My provision) do good acts (that please Me). Verily I am Aware of what you do (and will reward you for every good act).” (Although addressed directly to the Ambiyaa this command applies to the followers of the Ambiyaa as well.)

52. “Without doubt, this way of yours (the lives you lead in obedience to Me) is the one (and only) way (to salvation) and I am your Rabb, so fear Me (only).” (Do not fear others who wish to deviate you from this way of life.)

53. However, (instead of following the single clear way of their Ambiyaa) they (the followers of the Ambiyaa) split their affairs between themselves into segments (divided into parties and factions), each party being content (rejoicing) with what (bit of concocted beliefs and customs) they had. (In this manner, they refused to unite and split into many religious denominations, each one thinking that they are on the right path.)

54. So (do not be distressed about their condition, but) leave them in their ignorance (senselessness) for a while (because they will realise the error of their ways when they leave this world).

55. (When they see their prosperity in this world,) Do they (the Kuffaar) think that by Us granting them an increase in wealth and sons...

56. ...We wish to hasten in granting them good? No (it is rather worse for them) ! They fail to
perceive (that an increase in material possessions does not mean that We are pleased with them. We are merely granting them time to involve themselves in more sin so that they become deserving of more punishment).

57. Verily those who are fearful of their Rabb… (believe in Taqdeer)

58. …those who believe in the Aayaat of their Rabb…

59. …those who do not ascribe partners to their Rabb (are steadfast in Towheed)…

60. …those who spend of what (resources, abilities and talents) they have been granted (by Allaah) and whose hearts tremble (with fear) because they have to return to their Rabb (when it will be known whether their deeds are accepted or not)…

61. …these people hasten to perform good acts and are the foremost in it (in the race to do good).

62. (Doing good deeds is not difficult for people because) Allaah does not place on a soul a responsibility (duty) except what is within its capability. We have by Us a Book (record of deeds) that speaks the truth, and they will not be oppressed (they will be punished only for the sins they committed and will not be deprived of the reward for any good deeds).

63. However (on the contrary), their hearts (the hearts of the Kuffaar) are in ignorance about this (religion). And they have other (evil) acts that they carry out besides this (besides their ignorance and doubts). (They therefore have a great deal to answer for.)
64. (These people will remain engrossed in their kufr and Shirk) Until the time comes when We will seize the affluent ones among them with punishment, they will suddenly plead (for forgiveness).

65. (Allaah will then instruct the angels to tell them) “Do not plead today! You will receive no help (or release) from Us.”

66. “My Aayaat used to be recited to you, but (refusing to accept) you turned on your heels...

67. …in arrogance, mocking it (the Qur’aan) and dissociating yourselves (not wanting to have anything to do with it).”

68. Have they not pondered over this speech (the Qur’aan because of which they do not want to accept it), or is it that (they refuse to accept it because they say that) such a thing has come to them that never came to their forefathers?

69. Or have (they refused to accept because) they (have) not recognised their Rasool, causing them to reject him?

70. Or do they (refuse to accept because they) say that he (Rasulullah ﷺ) is insane? No (none of the above are reasons for their rejection), but (the fact is that) he (Rasulullah ﷺ) has brought the truth to them and most of them dislike (accepting) the truth (the true Deen).

71. If the truth (the true Deen) had to conform with (be made suitable for) their whims (wishes), (it would make Allaah so angry that) the heavens, earth and all within the two would be corrupted...
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(destroyed by His punishment). However, We have brought their advice (the Qur'aan) to them but they ignore the advice given to them.

72. Or is it that (they refuse to accept because) you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) ask repayment from them (and they find it difficult to pay you)? (This reason if assumed to be true is foolish because) The payment of your Rabb is best and He is the Best of Providers (why then would anyone prefer their own payment to that of Allaah’s)?

73. Verily, you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) call them to the straight path.

74. (However) Those who do not believe in the Aakhirah are certainly deviated (misled) from the straight path (because they do not seek salvation in the Aakhirah).

75. (Let alone rejecting the Aayaat of Allaah, these people are so lost that they even fail to mend their ways when adversities strike. Furthermore,) If We have mercy on them and remove their adversities (difficulties), (instead of being grateful to Allaah and believing in Him,) they will blindly plunge back into their rebellion (kufr).

76. We have surely afflicted them with punishment, but they do not submit to their Rabb, nor have they humbled themselves. (There does not seem to be nothing that will bring them to the straight path.)

77. (They will therefore not accept Imaan) Until the time comes when (either in this world or in the Aakhirah) We shall open for them a door of severe punishment and they will be left totally bewildered (and without hope, but it will then be too late to repent).

78. Allaah is the One Who created your ears, eyes and hearts. Seldom is it that you show gratitude (for these and millions of other favours that He has given you).
79. It is He Who has (created and) dispersed (spread) you on earth (each one having his own area to live), and to Him shall you be resurrected (on the Day of Qiyaamah when He will question you about how you used the favours He gave you).

80. It is He Who gives life and death and it is only because of Him that the night and day alternate. Do you not understand (that Allaah possesses all these powers and is most certainly capable of bringing man back to life)?

81. However, (instead of realising that it is so easy for Allaah to bring the dead back to life) they (the Kuffaar) say what their predecessors (of old) said.

82. They say, “Will we be raised after we have died and become dust and bones?”

83. “Our forefathers and ourselves were certainly promised the same from before. It (resurrection) is but a fable (myth) of the old men (and cannot be true).”

84. Say, “To whom belongs the earth and whoever is on it, if you know (who is the Creator of all of this)?”

85. They (the Mushriken) will soon reply, It all belongs to Allaah (He is the Creator)! Say, “Will you then not take heed (can you then not understand that since Allaah has the power to create all of this, He most certainly has the power to create them a second time)?”
86. Say, “Who is the Rabb of the seven heavens and the tremendous Throne (Rabb of the entire universe)?”

87. (Acknowledging this as well,) They will shortly reply, “It all belongs to Allaah.” Say, “Will you then not (definitely) abstain (from worshipping others)?”

88. Say, “In whose grasp is the control of all things? Who is it that can offer protection (from every harm), while none can provide protection against Him (against His punishment), if you only know?”

89. Shortly (immediately without having to think much) they will say, “It all belongs to Allaah (Only He has these powers).” Say, “How then have you been bewitched?” (Despite realising all of this, the only reason for your Shirk must be that you have been afflicted by magic.)

90. We have sent the truth (of Towheed) to them (via the Ambiyaa and the divine scriptures), but they are certainly liars (for denying that they were told these things).

91. Allaah has not taken any son, nor are there any Aaliha (gods of worship) with Him. If there were (others sharing power with Him), then every Ilaah would have separated his creation (so that only he should have control over them) and some would overpower the others (in the fight for supremacy. This would have resulted in the system of the universe being reduced to chaos. However, since the universe is functioning smoothly, it follows that such a scenario did not occur), Allaah is Pure of the partners that they ascribe to Him (Only He is in control and is therefore the only One worthy of worship).

92. Allaah is the Knower of the unseen and the seen, so He is Exalted above the partners that they ascribe (because all of these “partners” have no such knowledge whatsoever).
93. Say, “O my Rabb! If you happen to show me what (punishment) they (the Kuffaar) have been promised…”

94. “…then, O my Rabb, do not include me among the oppressive folk (the Kuffaar. Do not make me suffer the same punishment).”

95. We are certainly capable of showing you what (punishment) We have promised them (they can well suffer punishment during your lifetime).

96. (However, until punishment comes, you should) Resist (their) evil (and oppression) with that which is best (by forgiving them and being good to them). We know best what they ascribe (what they say and do and We shall therefore punish them appropriately).

97. And say, “O my Rabb! I seek Your protection (shelter) from the evil whispering of the Shayaateen…”

98. “…and, O my Rabb, I seek protection from You that (pleasure) they approach me (always try to tempt me with evil).”

99. (The Kuffaar continue practising kufr and behaving stubbornly) Until the time arrives when death comes to any one of them, then (when he sees the punishment in store for him) he says, “O my Rabb! Allow me to return (to the world)…”

100. “…so that I may perform good deeds in that (worldly life) which I have left behind.”

Never (they will never do as they say)! It (their promise to lead better lives) is merely a statement that they speak (an empty). (They will be unable to return to the world because) Behind them is “Barzakh” (a
101. When the trumpet is blown (to signal the beginning of Qiyaamah), neither shall there be any family ties between them (each person will disassociate from his/her relatives fearing that their relatives may ask them for rewards, which they so desperately need for themselves), nor will they ask about (the welfare of each other (because each person will worry only about himself).

102. Whoever's scales are weighty (with good deeds on the Day of Qiyaamah) shall surely be successful (because they will enter Jannah).

103. (On the other hand) Whoever's scales are light (lacking in good deeds and heavy with sins), these are the ones who have put themselves (their souls) at a loss and shall remain forever in Jahannam.

104. The Fire (of Jahannam) will scorch their faces and they shall be disfigured there. (A terrible sight!)

105. (Allaah will then instruct the angels to say to them,) “Were My Aayaat (advice and guidance) not recited to you, but (instead of accepting them) you used to reject them?”

106. (In an attempt to save themselves,) They will cry, “O our Rabb! (We admit that we were at fault because) Our wretchedness (misfortune) overpowered us and we were a deviated nation.”

107. “O our Rabb! Remove us from here (and return us to the world)! If we ever repeat ourselves (by doing what we did previously in the world), then we must surely be oppressors (sinful deserving of this punishment).”
108. Allaah will say, “Remain disgraced (cursed) in it (in Jahannam) and do not speak to Me (about being delivered from it)!"

109. “(Do you not remember that) There was a party of My bondsmen (the Mu’minen) who used to say, ‘O our Rabb! We have Imaan, so forgive us and have mercy on us. Indeed You are the Best of those who show mercy.’”

110. “But (instead of following their example) you ridiculed (laughted at) them until they (your preoccupation with mocking them) made you forget to remember (worship) Me. And (acting even more hurtfully towards them) you used to (even) laugh (mock) at them.”

111. “(However, they had patiently borne your taunts and) I have rewarded them today for their patience; (as a result) they are certainly successful (and will therefore enter Jannah where they will live forever).”

112. He (Allaah) will ask (the people), “How long did you stay on earth by the count of (in terms of the number of) years?”

113. They will say, “(Years are far too long to use as a measure. More appropriately, we will say that) We stayed only a day or a part of a day, but (to be certain) ask those who count (the angels who were recording our lives).”

114. He (Allaah) will say, “(Although not a day or a part of a day, the fact is certain that) You stayed only for a little while. If only you had known (this while living in the world, then you would not have wasted your precious time).”

115. “(While living in the world) Did you think that We had created you in vain (without a specific...
116. Exalted is Allaah, the Sovereign, the Truth (the True Ilah). There is no Ilah but He. He is the Rabb of the Glorious Throne.

117. He who calls on (worships) another Ilah with Allaah has no proof for it (nothing can justify such a practice). His reckoning is with Allaah (Allaah will judge his behaviour). The fact of the matter is that (after Allaah’s judgement) the Kaafiroon will not succeed (they will suffer eternally in Jahannam).

118. Say, “O my Rabb! Forgive (our sins) and show mercy (towards us). Undoubtedly, You are the Best of those who show mercy.”