**Surah 31 Surah Luqmaan**

**LUQMAAN**

**THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH LUQMAAN AND SURAH ROOM**

*By Name:* Surah Room warns the Romans that the Mushrikeen will defeat them once again if they do not adhere to Towheed. Surah Luqmaan says that the belief in Towheed with which the Romans were subsequently able to defeat the Persians is so important that Luqmaan gave it precedence above all the advice that he gave to his son.

*By Content:* Surah Room announces that victory will be attained only when Muslims adhere strictly to Towheed and refrain from all forms of Shirk. Surah Luqmaan serves as a conclusion to the discussion of Towheed and the refutation of Shirk that Surah Room started.

**A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH**

“These are the verses of the Book which is filled with wisdom... until the words... And He is the Mighty, the Wise” [verses 2 to 9]. These verses serve as an introduction to the Surah and outlines the two categories of people, viz. (1) those who do good, for whom the Qur'aan is a source of guidance and mercy and, (2) those who are evil in nature, who would rather engage in story telling and various trivial pastimes instead of listening to the Qur'aan. They are deprived of the Qur'aan’s illumination and, because of their rejection and, their blindness, their deviation is ever on the increase.

After an introduction, the Surah proceeds to mention nine arguments to refute Shirk.

1. “Allaah (is so Mighty that He) created the skies without any pillar that you see... until the words... However, the oppressors (the Kuffaar still do not accept Allaah as the Only Ilaah because they) are in distant deviation (too far astray to return to the straight path).” [verses 10 and 11]

2. “(The time deserves mention) When Luqmaan advised his son saying, ‘O my beloved son! Do not ascribe partners to Allaah. Without doubt, Shirk is the worst injustice (because it equates unworthy beings with Allaah’s”) [verse 13]. Thereafter, Allaah continues to quote Luqmaan from verse 16 onwards, where he tells his son that Allaah has knowledge and power over all things.

3. “(O mankind!) Do you not see that Allaah has placed at your service whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth, and that He has showered His visible and hidden favours on you...” [verse 20]

4. “(Despite their rejection, even the Mushrikeen acknowledge that only Allaah is Powerful enough to create the universe. Therefore,) If you ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they will definitely reply, ‘Allaah.” [verse 25]
5. "To Allaah belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth (and is therefore the Only Being worthy of being worshiped). Undoubtedly Allaah is Independent (while everything else is dependent on Him), Worthy of all praise. [verse 26]

6. "If all the trees on earth were (made into) pens and (if) the ocean was supplemented by another seven oceans, (and they were all turned into ink for these pens and all were used to write down) Allaah's words (His attributes, favours, praises, knowledge, etc.) will never be exhausted (even though all the ink and pens will be used up). Verily Allaah is Mighty, the Wise" [verse 27]. Only a Being as Great as this can be worshipped.

7. "Do you not see that Allaah enters the night into the day..." [verse 29]. This verse proves that Allaah controls the affairs of the universe and therefore Only He should be regarded as man's deity.

8. "Do you not see that the ship travels on the sea (propelled by the wind and without sinking despite its tremendous weight) by Allaah's grace so that He may show you some of His Aayaat (so that you may realise His greatness)?" [verse 31]

9. Verse 34 mentions five factors (called the "keys of the unseen"), about which Only Allaah has knowledge. These are:

* When Qiyamah will take place;
* When rain will fall, and how much will fall;
* What lies in the womb i.e. Only He knows the features of the child such as its complexion; character, destiny, etc;
* What will happen tomorrow; and
* Where every person will die;

Since Allaah is The Only One Who has knowledge of these aspects, Only He should be summoned when in distress because Only He can fulfil one's needs.

The gist of these arguments is mentioned twice; once briefly and once in detail. The first appears in verse 25 where Allaah says, "Say, "All praise belongs to Allaah (because Only He is so Great that even those who refuse to worship Him have to concede his greatness)". However, most of them (the Kuffaar and Mushrikeen) do not know (the consequences of their Shirk and therefore persist in it)."

The more detailed account is contained in verse 30 where Allaah says, "(All of) This (all that has been mentioned above about Allaah's great powers) is because Allaah is the Truth and whatever (gods) you (Kuffaar and Mushrikeen) worship besides Him are false (and have no powers like Him) and Allaah is the Exalted, the Great." Since it has been established that Allaah is the Only True Deity and True Benefactor, it follows that Only He can come to man's assistance. Therefore, He is the Truth and all the other gods are false.
In the name of Allaah, The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful.

1. Alif Laam Meem. (Only Allaah knows the correct meaning of these letters.)

2. These are Aayaat of the Wise Book (the Qur’aan)...

3. …(which is) a (source of) guidance and mercy for those who do good...

4. …those who establish salaah, who pay zakaah and who are convinced about the (coming of the) Aakhirah.

5. These people are upon (appreciate the) guidance from their Rabb and they are the truly successful ones (who will attain eternal salvation in the Aakhirah).

6. There are some people who purchase futile discourse (engage in useless pastimes that distract people from thinking of Allaah) to deviate (others) from Allaah’s path (Islaam) without knowledge and they mock it (Islaam, so that every regard for Islaam may disappear from people’s hearts). There shall be a humiliating punishment for these people.
7. When Our Aayaat are recited to them, they arrogantly turn away as if they have not heard them, as if there is a prop in their ears. Pass on (convey) to them the good news of an excruciating (painful) punishment (that lies in store for them).

8. For those who have Imaan and who do good deeds, there is the blissful Jannaat (in store for them)...

9. ...where they will live forever. Allaah has made a true promise, and He is the Mighty (none can stop Him from fulfilling His promise), the Wise (He knows the best time and place for everything).

10. Allaah (is so Mighty that He) created the skies without any pillar that you see, has placed mountains on earth (to stabilise it) so that it does not shake with you and has spread every type of animal on earth. We have (also) sent rain from the sky, thereby growing every type of wonderful plant.

11. This is Allaah's creation, so show me what those (gods that you Kuffaar worship) besides Him have created! (Even the Kuffaar will concede that their gods have created nothing.) However, the oppressors (the Kuffaar still do not accept Allaah as the Only Allaah because they) are clearly deviated (too far astray to return to the straight path).

12. We certainly granted (great) wisdom to Luqmaan (inspiring him) to express gratitude to Allaah (for the knowledge and wisdom Allaah gave him). Whoever is grateful to Allaah, expresses gratitude for his own benefit (because his gratitude benefits only himself) when Allaah rewards him and increases His favours to him. As for him who is ungrateful, Allaah is certainly Independent (not in need of his gratitude), Most Worthy of praise (Allaah deserves praise regardless of whether man praises Him or not).

13. (He used to be reminded about the time...) When Luqmaan advised his son saying, “O my
beloved son! Do not ascribe partners to Allaah. Without doubt, Shirk is the worst injustice (because it equates unworthy beings with Allaah)."

14. We have given man (emphatic) instructions concerning his parents (to treat them kindly and to make every effort to please them). His mother (most deserves his respect and service because she) carried him (in her womb) in (a condition that she suffered) weakness upon weakness and (after his birth she still had to suckle him because) his weaning is in two years. (The emphatic instruction to man concerning his parents was) "Express gratitude to Me (first) and to your parents (next). (Do not neglect this instruction because) Your return will be to Me (in the Aakhirah when you will be taken to task for your disobedience)."

15. (While you should always obey your parents, you may not obey them when they command you to do anything that violates the Shari'ah. Therefore,) If they (your parents) force you to ascribe such partners to Me, about which you have no knowledge, then do not obey them but (this is no excuse to ill-treat them or to sever relations with them because you should still) cordially associate with them in this world. Follow the path of him who turns to Me. Thereafter, (after you have lived your life in this world,) your return will be to Me (after death) and I will inform you of what you used to do (when I shall reward the good and punish the evil).

16. (Luqmaan also advised his son saying,) “O my beloved son! If there has to be an action equivalent to the weight of a mustard seed (hidden) within a rock or (scattered somewhere) in the heavens or (somewhere) in the earth, Allaah would (locate it and) bring it (for reward or punishment in the Aakhirah). Without doubt, Allaah is (the Knower of) the subtle (has knowledge of the most intricate and subtle details), Informed (nothing is hidden from Him)."

17. “O my beloved son! Establish salaah, instruct (others to do) good, forbid (them from) evil and patiently endure whatever (difficulty) afflicts you. Verily, this (ability to bear difficulties with patience) is from among the most resolute of matters (demanding the most courage and determination).”
18. “Do not (out of pride) turn your face away from people (refusing to listen to them) and do not walk arrogantly on earth. Verily Allaah detests every arrogant boaster.”

19. “Moderate your walk (be calm, composed and modest) and lower your voice (speak gently to people). Indeed, the most hateful sound is the braying of a donkey (which ends in a high pitch that grates one’s ears. People should therefore avoid speaking in this manner).”

20. (O mankind!) Do you not see that Allaah has placed at your service whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth, and that He has showered His visible and hidden favours on you (favours that are perceived either by one’s senses or by one’s intellect)? (However, despite knowing all of this,) There are (still) those people who dispute about (the Oneness of) Allaah without (possessing any relevant) knowledge, guidance and without an illuminating Book (without the guidance of a divine scripture. It is because they lack all of these that they dispute about Tawheed).

21. (These people are so stubborn and set in their wrong ways that) When it is said to them, “Follow what Allaah has revealed (to the Ambiyaa ﷺ),” they say, “We will (rather) follow what we found our forefathers doing.” Will they (be so foolish to) follow their forefathers even though Shayaan called their forefathers to the punishment of the Blaze (even though their forefathers committed kufr and Shirk at Shayaan’s bidding)?

22. Whoever surrenders (submits) himself to Allaah (by accepting Islaam) and is sincere, (upon good) has certainly clung on to a strong handhold (which will save him from falling into Jahannam). To Allaah will return the outcome of all affairs (Allaah will ultimately decide whether people should be rewarded or punished for the acts they do).

23. (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) Let not the kufr of the Kuffaar grieve you (for it is not your fault that they do
24. We will allow them (the Kuffar) to enjoy themselves for a while (in this world), after which We will force (afflict) them into a harsh punishment (in the Aakhirah). (The enjoyment they have in this world therefore should not be envied because their end is one of misery.)

25. (Despite their rejection, even the Mushrikeen acknowledge that only Allaah is Powerful enough to create the universe. Therefore,) If you ask them (the Mushrikeen) who created the heavens and the earth, they will definitely reply, “Allaah.” Say, “All praise belongs to Allaah (because Only He is so Great that even those who refuse to worship Him have to concede His Greatness)”. However, most of them (the Kuffar and Mushrikeen) do not know (the consequences of their Shirk and therefore persist in it).

26. To Allaah belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth (and is therefore the Only Being worthy of being worshipped). Undoubtedly Allaah is Independent (while everything else is dependent on Him), Worthy of all praise.

27. If all the trees on earth were (made into) pens and (if) the ocean (all the oceans on earth) was supplemented (after being used) by another seven oceans, (and they were all turned into ink for these pens and all were used to write down) Allaah’s words (His attributes, favours, praises, knowledge, etc.) will never be exhausted (even though all the ink and pens are used up). Verily Allaah is Mighty, the Wise.

28. (O mankind! To Allaah) Your creation and resurrection is like (is as simple as creating and resurrecting) a single soul (because neither task requires absolutely no effort from Allaah). Without doubt Allaah is All Hearing, All Seeing (just as Allaah Sees and Hears everything at the same time, He can resurrect all of creation at the same time).
29. Do you not see that Allaah enters the night into the day, enters the day into the night and has made the sun and the moon (completely) subservient (made them for the benefit of man) ? Each one runs (properly) until an appointed term (when it will also come to an end). And (do know that) Allaah is informed of whatever you do (and will reward or punish you for your actions).

30. (All of This (all that has been mentioned above about Allaah's great powers) is because Allaah is the Truth and whatever (gods) you (Kuffaar and Mushrikeen) worship besides Him are false (and have no powers like l ilm) and Allaah is the Exalted, the Great.

31. Do you not see that the ship travels on the sea (propelled by the wind and without sinking despite its tremendous weight) by Allaah's grace so that He may show you some of His Aayaat (so that you may realise l ilm's greatness) ? In this are definite Aayaat for every extremely patient and grateful person (because such people take the time to reflect and appreciate what they see).

32. When a (storm strikes the Mushrikeen as they travel by sea and a) wave covers them like a canopy (cloud), they pray to Allaah (to rescue them), having sincere belief in Him (knowing that only He can rescue them). (I however,) When He rescues them (and safely delivers them) to land, then only a few of them tread the moderate path (and steer away from kufr. However, most of them still adamantly adhere to kufr). It is only every extremely treacherous and grossly ungrateful person who rejects Our Aayaat (because those who appreciate what Allaah does for them will readily accept Allaah's guidance).

33. O people! Fear Allaah and beware of the day (of Qiyaamah) when a father will be of no benefit to his son, nor will a child be of any benefit to his father (because each one will be concerned only about himself)). Verily Allaah's promise (of Qiyaamah) is true. So let not the life of this world deceive you (into believing that Qiyaamah will never come), and do not allow the great deceiver (Shaytaan) deceive you about Allaah (by making you think that it is all right to continue sinning because Allaah is Merciful and will always forgive you. Do not also allow him to deceive you into thinking that Allaah is pleased with you because He grants you many favours and you therefore have no reason to change your evil ways).

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34. Verily the knowledge of (when) Qiyaamah (will come) is only with Allaah. He sends the rains and knows (the details of) what is in the wombs (such as the character and future of the child). A soul does not know what it will earn tomorrow and neither does it know in which land it will die. Undoubtedly Allaah is All Knowing (Only He knows all the past, the present and the future), Informed.