Surah 47 Surah Muhammad

MUHAMMAD

Surah Ahqaaf proves that the gods whom the Mushrikeen regarded as intercessors have no ability to do anything. Neither do they hear a person’s supplication, nor can they respond to it. Now Surah Muhammad encourages Muslims to fight for the cause of their belief in Towheed.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The concept of Towheed is discussed at great length up to Surah Ahqaaf. The Surahs following this Surah concentrate mainly on Qiyaamah, while also speaking about Towheed because it is pivotal to man’s existence. Mention of Jihaad is also made. It would therefore be correct to say that the fifth and final part of the Qur’aan begins with Surah Muhammad.

Surahs Muhammad, Fatah and Hujuraat all discuss the same basic principles. There are also many Surahs after these that share themes between themselves. While Surah Muhammad encourages Muslims to fight in Jihaad and Surah Fatah contains promises of victory, Surah Hujuraat mention certain laws of conduct and etiquette. The link between the three Surahs can be understood by the following phrase: “When you Muslims will fight in Jihaad, Allaah will grant you His promised victory. Thereafter, when you have become victors, you should behave and conduct yourselves according to certain principles of etiquette.”

Surah Muhammad may be divided into two parts in terms of its subject matter. The first part commences from the beginning of the Surah and concludes at the end of verse 19. The second part begins from verse 20 and terminates at the end of the Surah.

The first part contrasts the qualities of the Mu’mineen to those of the Mushrikeen, detailing the outcome of both parties. It also encourages Muslims to wage Jihaad, adding the reasons for Jihaad as well. This part of the Surah also makes mention of Towheed, for the propagation of which, Jihaad is waged.

The second part reproaches the Munaafiqueen (hypocrites) for their reluctance in physically participating in Jihaad and in contributing to it. The condition of the Munaafiqueen is then detailed at the end of the Surah.
In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

1. Allaah will destroy (not reward in the Aakhirah) the (good) actions of those who commit kufr and who prevent (other) from His path (Islaam).

2. As for those who have Imaan, who do righteous deeds and who believe in what has been revealed to Muhammad ﷺ, which is the truth from their Rabb, Allaah will cancel (blot out) their sins and rectify their affairs (by giving them the ability to do more good in this world and by granting them Jannah in the Aakhirah).

3. This (difference in treatment) is because the Kuffaar follow falsehood (the ways of kufr, Shirk and sin) while the Mu’mineen follow the truth from their Rabb. In this manner does Allaah give examples for people (so that they may understand).

4. When you confront (face) the Kuffaar (in battle) then strike at their necks. When you have eventually slain them (defeated them in battle), then fasten a tight bond (take the survivors as prisoners of war). Thereafter, (when they are captured) it is either unconditional freedom (for them) or (freedom with) ransom until the war lays down her burdens (until the Kuffaar accept Islaam or accept to live under Muslim rule). This is it. If Allaah willed, He could have taken revenge from
them (from the Kuffaar by inflicting them with some disaster), but (instead of punishing them in this manner) He has commanded the Muslims to wage Jihad against the Kuffaar because this (Jihad) is to test some of you with others (to test who of the Muslims will fulfil the command for Allah's pleasure and who of the Kuffaar will realise the truth of Islaam in this manner). Allah shall never destroy the deeds of those who are martyred (slain) in His way (He will reward them in full).

5. Allah shall shortly convey them to their destination, rectify their affairs (in this world, in the grave and in the Aakhirah)...

6. ...and admit them into the Jannah which He has introduced (made known) to them (through His Ambiyaa and scriptures).

7. O you who have Imaan! If you will assist (in the propagation of the Deen of) Allah, Allah shall assist you (in all your affairs) and keep your feet firm (against all opposition).

8. May destruction befall those who commit kufr and Allah shall destroy their actions (by not rewarding them in the Aakhirah for any of the good deeds they do).

9. This is because they dislike what Allah revealed, because of which He lays their deeds to waste.

10. Have they not travelled on earth and seen what was the end of those before them? Allah annihilated (completely destroyed) them and the Kaafiroon shall have the same (fate).

11. This is because Allah is the Protecting Friend of the Mu'mineen and because the Kaafiroon have no protecting friend.
12. Allaah shall certainly admit those who have Imaan and who carry out good deeds into Jannaat beneath which rivers (streams) flow. As for the Kaafiroon, they enjoy themselves (only in the world) and eat like the animals eat (without any concern for the Aakhirah). The Fire shall be their abode (final destination).

13. (Cautioning the Mushrikeen of Makkah against opposing Rasulullaah ﷺ, Allaah addresses him saying,) Many were the (people of) towns that were more powerful than (the people of) your town (Makkah) which drove you out. (However, despite their immense strength and resources) We destroyed them and they had none to assist them.

14. Can the one who is steadfast on a proof (clear way) from his Rabb (because of which he has firm faith in Tawheed) be like those whose evil actions have been beautified for them and who follow their whims? (The two cannot be the same because the first is destined for Jannah while the latter is heading for Jahannam.)

15. The description of the Jannah that the people of Taqwa have been promised is that it has rivers of water that never putrefy (and will never be contaminated nor deteriorate in quality), rivers of milk (perfect, delicate food) the taste of which never spoils (never goes off), rivers of (pure) wine (for joy and delight) that is extremely palatable to those who drink it (without intoxicating them) and rivers of the purest honey. (For all aliments) The people there shall also have every type of fruit and forgiveness from their Rabb. Can these people ever be like those who will live forever in the Fire and who are given boiling water to drink which tears (pulls down) their internal organs to shreds?
16. (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) There are those people (the Munafiqeen) who (appear to) listen to you intently (but with inattentive hearts) until they depart from your presence and then say (with ridicule) to those (Muslims) who have been granted knowledge, “What did he (Rasulullaah ﷺ) say just now?” (Placing no Importance in it) These are the ones on whose hearts Allaah has set a seal (because of their scepticism and ridiculing) and who follow their whims (futile wishes).

17. As for those who are rightly guided (to Islaam), Allaah shall increase their guidance (understanding) and grant them their Taqwa (piety).

18. They (the Kuffaar) now seem only to await Qiyaamah to come to them suddenly (before they accept Imaan). Undoubtedly, its signs (such as the coming of Rasulullaah ﷺ) have already arrived (so Qiyaamah is imminent). How will they be reminded (to believe in it) when Qiyaamah does dawn on them? (When Qiyaamah arrives, it will be sudden, offering people no chance to repent.)

19. Know well that none is worthy of worship but Allaah and seek forgiveness for your shortcomings and for the Mu'mineen men and women. Allaah has knowledge of your (physical and spiritual) movements and your places of rest (Allaah is Aware of everything you do).

20. (Because of their eagerness to hear more Qur'aan and practise more of the Deen.) Those who have Imaan (constantly) say, “Why is a Surah not revealed (to permit Jihaad)?” When a strait forward Surah is revealed in which mention is made of fighting (in Jihaad), you will see those with a disease (hypocrisy) in their hearts looking (gazing) at you with the look of a person who is overcome by the swoon of death (because of their cowardice and their fear of death). Their misfortune is still to come (when they suffer punishment either in this world or only in the Aakhirah).

21. Obedience (to Allaah’s commands) and (speaking only) good words (are best for them). Then when the command is confirmed (when the preparations for Jihaad are complete) It will be best for them if they are true to Allaah (If they forsake their hypocrisy and remain staunch and sincere Muslimeen).
22. (Addressing the Munaafiqeen, Allaah says,) *It is possible* (expected) *that if you are given authority* (to rule over others), *you would spread corruption on earth* and *(let alone harming others, you would even)* *sever family ties.*

23. These (Munaafiqeen) *are the people whom Allaah has cursed* (cast far from His mercy because of their pride and stubborness), *has deafened* (to the truth) *and made blind* (so that they do not see what is right).

24. Do they not ponder (reflect) over the Qur’aan or are there locks on their hearts (which prevent the guidance of the Qur’aan from entering their hearts because of their pride and insolence)?

25. Indeed those who have turned their backs after guidance (the proof of Tawheed and truth of Islaam) has been made clear to them, Shaytaan has beautified (their sins) for them and prolonged their hopes (because of which they never repent).

26. This (turning away from the truth after it was made clear to them) is because they (the Munaafiqeen) *say* to those who detest Allaah’s revelation (because of jealousy, referring to the Jews), “We shall follow you in some matters (in opposing Rasulullaah ﷺ),” Allaah has knowledge of their secret talks (between the Jews and hypocrites and will punish them for it).

27. What will be their condition when the angels shall draw out their souls while smiting (beating) their faces and backs?

28. This (punishment) is because they pursue (do) the things that anger Allaah and they dislike (doing things that earn) His pleasure. So Allaah lays (even) their (good) actions to waste (because of their kufr and they will therefore not receive any rewards for this in the Aakhirah).

29. Do those with a disease (hypocrisy) in their hearts think that Allaah will never
expose ( divulge) their malice (thereby allowing all the Muslims to recognise them as Munaafiqeen) ?

30. If We will, We would show them ( the Munaafiqeen) to you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) and you would recognise them by their features. (Even if We do not reveal their identities to you,) You will surely recognise them by their manner of speech (because they will be ones always objecting and mocking). Allaah has knowledge of their actions (and will punish them accordingly).

31. We shall certainly test you (Muslims) until We ascertain (know) those of you who (sincerely) strive (to uplift Allaah’s Deen) and those who are steadfast and until We examine your condition (whether you are sincere in all the acts of Islam you are required to fulfil).

32. Indeed those who commit kufr, who forbid (others) from Allaah’s path (Islam) and who oppose the Rasool ﷺ after guidance (Tawheed and the truth of Islam) has been made clear to them cannot harm Allaah at all (because the harm will affect only them). Allaah will soon cancel their (good) actions (by not rewarding them in the Aakhirah).

33. O you who have Imaan! Obey Allaah, obey the Rasool ﷺ and do not invalidate (spoil) your (good) deeds (by failing to complete them, by doing them incorrectly or by doing them to please someone other than Allaah).

34. Verily those who commit kufr, who forbid (others) from Allaah's path (Islam) and then die as Kuffaar, Allaah shall never forgive them (and they shall suffer forever in Jahannam).

35. So (O Muslims) do not lose courage (to fight the Kuffaar), do not call for a truce (peace merely to avoid Jihad because of cowardice) and you will be dominant (over the Kuffaar). Allaah is with you (and will always assist you) and will never devalue your deeds (but will grant you the full reward for every good you do. Just be patient and persevere and obey orders of Islam).
36. The life of this world is mere play and amusement (it has no real value and will soon come to an end, it is an entertaining diversion). If you have Imaan and Taqwa, (piety) He (Allaah) will grant you your rewards (in the Aakhirah) and will not ask you for your wealth (because He has no need for it. When you are asked to spend for the cause of Deen, it is you who will reap the benefits because Allaah is Independent and needs nothing).

37. If Allaah had to ask you for your wealth and demand it (all) from you, (most of) you would have become miserly (stingy) and (in this manner) He would have exposed your (hidden) dissatisfaction.

38. Behold! You (Muslims) are the very ones who are summoned (called) to spend in Allaah's way but there are those among you who are miserly (who do not give). Those who are miserly practise miserliness to their own detriment. Allaah is Independent and you are all needy (totally dependent on Him). If you turn away (from obeying Him), He (will not at all be affected because He) will substitute you with another nation who will not be like yourselves (but who will do exactly as He orders).