Surah 48 Surah Fatah

THE VICTORY

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH FATAH AND SURAH MUHAMMAD

While Surah Muhammad spurs Muslims to fight in Jihad, Surah Fatah conveys to them the glad tidings of Allaah's assistance and sure victory (Fatah) if they wage Jihad with sincerity.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

This Surah may also be divided into two parts. The first part commences from the beginning of the Surah and concludes with the words, "He will inflict them with a painful punishment" (verse 17). This part contains the following:

* Two glad tidings and reasons for them.
* Encouragement to engage in Jihad.
* Reproach to the Munaafiqueen.
* Negation of Shirk by encouraging Muslims to declare Allaah's purity from all partners.

The second part begins with verse 18 and proceeds to the end of the Surah. This part repeats the subjects discussed in the first part. Then from verse 27 up to the end, the Surah refers to a significant dream of Rasulullaah (saw). In this dream, Rasulullaah (saw) saw himself and the Sahabah entering the Masjidul Haraam to perform Umrah. However, when they left for Makkah to perform Umrah, they were prevented from entering Makkah at a place called Hudaybiyyah. The truth of the dream therefore came under question. In verse 27, Allaah replies to this question by saying that the dream was perfectly true, and that the Muslims will soon enter the Masjidul Haraam for Umrah the following year. The truth of the dream cannot be questioned because the dream did not stipulate the year.
1. Indeed, We have granted you (O Rasulullah ﷺ) a clear victory (through the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah, after which large numbers accepted Islam which led to the conquest of Makkah).

2. (Allah granted this victory to Rasulullah ﷺ so that he may be rewarded greatly for the many people entering the fold of Islam and in addition) So that Allah may forgive you (O Rasulullah ﷺ) for your past shortcomings and those that may occur in the future; and so that He may complete His favour on you, guide you on the straight path...

3. ...and (so that) Allah may grant you assistance that is most powerful (so that you can never be defeated).

4. It is He Who sends tranquillity (patience to bear the temporary humiliation of the conditions of the treaty) into the hearts of the Mu'mineen so that their Imaan increases together with the Imaan they (already) have. The armies of the heavens and the earth belong to Allah (and He uses them to assist whoever He wills) and Allah is Ever All Knowing, the Wise (He knows the hidden reasons for everything).

5. (Allah had also granted Rasulullah ﷺ this victory) So that He may admit the Mu'mineen men and women into Jannaat beneath which rivers flow. They will live there forever and
He shall (also) pardon them for their sins. This is the great success in Allaah's sight.

6. (Allaah had also granted Rasulullaah this victory) So that Allaah may punish the Munaafiqueen men and women as well as the Mushrikeen men and women, all of whom hold an evil opinion of Allaah (by committing Shirk and thinking that Allaah will never assist the Muslims). An evil calamity shall befall them (in this world and certainly in the Aakhirah when they are punished in Jannah), Allaah is angry with them, curses them and has prepared Jannah for them. What an evil place to which to return!

7. The armies of the heavens and the earth belong to Allaah and Allaah is always the Mighty and Wise. (If He decides to punish anyone, no one can save one).

8. Verily We have sent you (O Rasulullaah) as a witness (to testify to the actions of people on the Day of Qiyaamah and to relate events), as a carrier of good news (to the Mu'mineen) and as a Warner (to the Kuffaar).

9. (We have sent Rasulullaah) So that you (O people) believe in Allaah, believe in His Rasool, assist Him (His Deen), revere Him and glorify Him morning and evening (In salaat and Tasbeeh).

10. (Referring to the Sahaabah who vowed to fight to death beside Rasulullaah at Hudaybiyyah, Allaah says,) Indeed those who pledge their allegiance (on various matters) to you (O Rasulullaah) they really pledge their allegiance to Allaah (because they do this to please Allaah). Allaah's hand is above theirs (because Allaah approves of it). So whoever breaches (the pledge) does so to his own detriment (because only he will suffer the consequences). Allaah will soon grant a tremendous (mighty) reward to the one who fulfils the pledge that he makes with Allaah.
11. Soon the villagers who remained behind (Munafiqeen who were) (who did not allow any of the Muslims when they proceeded to Hudaybiyyah) will tell you (O Rasulullah when you return to Madinah), “Our wealth and families preoccupied us (preserved us from joining you), so we seek forgiveness on our behalf.” They utter (say) with their tongues that which is not within their hearts (they pretend to be Muslims when they are not). Say, “Who has any power against Allaah if He intends any harm to afflict you or if He intends any good to come to you? No (none has the power). Allaah is Ever Aware of what you do (and will punish you for your sins).”

12. “However, the fact (the actual reason why you did not proceed with the Muslims) is that you people thought that the Rasool and the Mu’mineen will never return to their families (but will be killed by the Mushrikeen). This (thought) has been pleasing in your hearts and you entertained evil thoughts (about Allaah and the Muslims). (Because of this) You were ever a destroyed (ruined) nation (since only destruction awaits you in the Aakhirah).

13. Whoever does not believe in Allaah and His Rasool (should know) We have certainly prepared a blazing fire for the Kuffaar.

14. To Allaah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He forgives whoever He wills and punishes whoever He wills. Allaah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful (so hasten to seek His forgiveness).

15. Soon, when you (Muslims) proceed to take possession of the booty (when you march to conquer Khaybar), those (Munafiqeen) left behind (during the journey to Hudaybiyyah) will say, “Allow us to follow you.” They wish to alter (change) Allaah’s speech (command that only those who
proceeded to Hudaybiyyah should march with Rasulullah \(\text{ﷺ}\). Tell them, “You may never follow us! Thus has Allaah stated from before.” They will then say (to the others behind your back), “You people are merely jealous of us (and therefore wish to have everything for yourselves).” In fact, they understand but a little. (They fail to understand that the Muslims who marched to Hudaybiyyah deserved to receive the booty of Khaybar because they had risked their lives for Allaah’s pleasure.)

16. Tell those villagers who were left behind, “(Do not despair if you cannot fight in Khaybar because) You will soon be called to (fight against) a nation of immense strength whom you will fight or who will accept Islaam (without a fight). If you obey (the call and march in Jihaad), Allaah will accord (give) you a grand reward, but if you turn away like you did in the past, Allaah will inflict a painful punishment on you.”

17. (This punishment will be for those who refuse to march in Jihaad when they are physically able to do so. However,) There shall be no sin for the blind, no sin for the paralysed (lame) and no sin for the ill (for not fighting in Jihaad because they are excused). Allaah will enter those who obey Him and His Rasool \(\text{ﷺ}\) into Jannaat beneath which rivers flow. As for those who turn away, He will inflict them with a painful punishment.

18. Allaah was well pleased with the Mu’mineen (the Sahabah) when they pledged their allegiance (Bait-e-Ridwaan) to you (O Rasulullaah \(\text{ﷺ}\) beneath the tree (at Hudaybiyyah). Allaah knew what was in their hearts, sent tranquillity to them (causing them to accept Allaah’s commands without hesitation) and rewarded them with a victory close at hand (when they conquered Khaybar soon after signing the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah)…

19. …and (Allaah will also reward them with) abundant spoils of war that they will take (after conquering Khaybar). Allaah is always Mighty, Wise.
20. Allaah promises you abundant spoils of war that you can have (without much difficulty). He will grant it to you very soon and restrain people's hands from you (by placing fear of you in their hearts so that they do not put up a great fight and no harm comes to you). This is to be a sign (of Divine Power) for the Mu'mineen (to strengthen their faith in Allaah's promise of assistance) and so that Allaah may guide you to (a further position on) the straight path (to trust in Allaah and to be obedient to Him).

21. There are still others (other victories) that you have not yet been able to attain (but will do so in future), which are well within Allaah's power. Allaah has always had power over everything.

22. If the Kuffaar were to fight you (in battle instead of signing the treaty), they would turn their backs (and flee from the battlefield) and then not find any ally or helper.

23. This (practice of granting eventual victory to the Mu'mineen) has been Allaah's practice that has passed from before and you will not find any change in Allaah's practice.

24. It is Allaah Who restrained their hands from (fighting) you and your hands from (fighting) them right in (the valley of) Makkah (at Hudaybiyyah) after granting you dominance over them (when the Muslims captured fifty Mushrikeen who intended to attack them). Allaah is always Watchful over what you do. (Allaah makes events happen for the best. Therefore, although the Muslims would have defeated the Mushrikeen had a battle been fought, Allaah knew of more benefit in the treaty and did not allow a battle to take place.)

25. They (the Mushrikeen of Makkah) are the ones who committed kufr, prevented you (Muslims) from (performing Umrah at) the Masjidul Haraam and (prevented) the sacrificial animals (which the Muslims brought to be sacrificed after Umrah), (and) restrained (prevented them) from reaching their destination (where they were to be sacrificed). If it were not for your trampling
26. When the Kuffaar (of Makkah) became prejudiced of within their hearts, (which was) the prejudice of the period of ignorance (they did not permit the treaty to state “Rasulullah i®”, but “Muhammad the son of Abdullaah” instead); Allaah sent His tranquillity (patience) to the heart of His Rasool i® and to the hearts of the Mu’mineen (and hence they did not fight about it) and stuck the word of Taqwa (the Kalimah) onto them (which made them obey Allaah’s command to be calm) as they are most deserving of it and worthy of it. Allaah always has knowledge of everything.

27. (Referring to the dream in which Rasulullah i® saw himself performing Umrah, Allaah says,) Verily, Allaah shall make the dream of His Rasool i® come precisely true (even though the Mushrikeen of Makkah prevented Rasulullah i® from entering Makkah). When Allaah wills, you (Sahabah®® with Rasulullah i®) shall definitely enter in peace the Masjidul Haraam with your hair shaved or trimmed (after completing the Umrah) without any fear. Allaah had knowledge of that about which you were unaware and (among the things He knew was that He) has decreed a near victory (at Khaybar) even before this (entry into the Masjidul Haraam).

28. It is Allaah Who has sent His Rasool i® with guidance and with the true Deen to make it dominate over all religions. Allaah suffices as a Witness (to the truthfulness of Rasulullah i® and Islam even though the Kuffaar refuse to accept them).
29. Muhammad سَلْهُمُ اللهُ وَسَلَّمُ ﷺ is Allaah's Rasool and those with him (the Sahabah ﷺ) are stern (strong) against the Kuffaar and (yet) compassionate (sympathetic) among themselves. You will see them sometimes bowing (in Ruku), sometimes prostrating (in Sajdah, always) seeking Allaah's bounty and His pleasure. Their hallmark (by which they are recognised) is on their faces because of the effect of prostration (referring to the illumination and humility apparent on their faces). This is their description in the Torah. Their description in the Injeel (Bible) is like that of a plant that sprouts its shoots and strengthens it, after which it becomes thick and stands on its own stem, pleasing the farmer. (Allaah has nurtured the Sahabah in this manner) So that the Kuffaar may be enraged by them (because of their animosity for Islaam and for the Sahabah). Allaah has promised forgiveness and a grand reward for those of them who have Imaan and who do good deeds.