

ام الكتاب
THE MOTHER OF THE
QURAAAN

مفتاح
MIFTAH
INSTITUTE

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Session Breakdown

- Introduction
- Effect of the Quran
- Virtues of Surah Fatiha
- Names of the Surah
- Istiaadha
- The Basmala
- Start Ayaat

Introduction

- Why is it important to understand what Allah SWT is saying to us?
- The importance of conversations and open discussions in our relationships
- The best place to begin this is Surah Fatiha

Virtues of Surah Fatiha

- There is no other chapter like this in any other holy book.
- Hadith #1:
 - *Prophet (SAW) said: “Do you want me to teach you a Surah the like of which has not been revealed in the Torah, the Injeel, the Zabur, nor the Quran?”, and also asked what He recited in His prayers. He replied Umm-ul-Quran (Surah Fatiha) the Prophet (PBUH) proclaimed, ‘By Him in Whose dominion my soul is, nothing like it has been revealed in the Torah, the Gospel, the Psalms, or the Quran and it is seven of the oft-repeated verses in the Mighty Quran which I have been given.’ (Tirmidhi)*

Virtues of Surah Fatiha

- Half the surah is for Allah SWT and the other half for us
- **Hadith #2:**
 - *Abu Hurairah (R.A) reported that the Holy Prophet (S) once said: “Allah, the Glorious and Exalted said, “I have divided the prayer between Myself and my servant equally and My servant shall be granted what he asked for.” Therefore, when the servant says, ‘All praises and thanks are due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds’, Allah says, ‘My servant has praised Me.’ When he says, ‘The All-Merciful, the Most Merciful, ‘Allah says, ‘My servant has extolled Me.’ When he says, ‘Master of the Day of Judgment,’ Allah says, ‘My servant has glorified Me.’ When he says, ‘You Alone we worship and Your aid Alone do we seek,’ Allah says, ‘this is between Me and My servant and My servant shall have what he requested.’ When he says, ‘Guide us to the Straight Path, the Path of those whom You have favored, not [the path] of those who have earned [Your] anger, nor of those who have gone astray,’ Allah says, ‘this is for My servant and My servant shall have what he asked for.”*
([Muslim](#))

Virtues of Surah Fatiha

■ Hadith #3:

- *Ibn 'Abbas narrated: "While Jibril was with the Messenger of Allah, he heard a noise from above. Jibril lifted his sight to the sky and said: "This is a door in the Heavens being opened, and it has never been opened before now." An Angel descended from that door and came to the Prophet and said: "Receive the glad tidings of two lights that you have been given, which no other Prophet before you was given: the Opening of the Book (Al Fatiha) and the last verses of 'al-Baqarah.' You will not read a letter of them except that you will gain its benefit." (Sahih Muslim)*

Names of The Surah

- Imam Suyuti lists more than 25 names

- However there are **4 main names** for this Surah:
 1. Al Fatiha
 2. Ummul Kitab/Quran
 3. Sab'ul Mathani
 4. Al-Shifaa

Al Fatiha

Why is it called Al-Fatiha?

1. Prayer is not complete without this surah. The prophet SAW said “*There is no prayer without the Fatiha of the book.*”
2. One cannot be a complete believer unless he has memorized this Surah.
3. First Surah in the order of the Quran
4. First entire surah that was revealed
5. Fatiha is the way out from a struggle. This is why *fath* in Arabic is called victory. So Fatiha is the opening out from all the problems in our life. It is a victory from every struggle.

Ummul Kitaab

Why is it called Ummul Kitaab?

1. Umm literally means the basis of or the origin
2. Ummul Quran means the foundation or the extract of the entire Quran.
3. It was also said that it is called Umm Al-Kitab, because it contains the meanings of the entire Qur'an. Which are Tawheed, Risala, and Aakhira.
4. It is called this because it speaks about the 3 pillars of worship of Allah (Love, Hope, fear)
5. It contains all 3 categories of mankind
6. The Arabs call every comprehensive matter that contains several specific areas an Umm. For instance, they call the skin that surrounds the brain, Umm Ar-Ra's.

Sab'ul Mathaani

Why is it called Sab'ul Mathani?

- Allah SWT himself calls this surah Sab'ul Mathani in Surah Hijr verse 87
- The hadith of Abu Sa'eed al Mula. (*Ahmad*)
- It refers to one of two things:
 1. The 7 repeated verses
 - *6.205 trillion times a year*
 2. The 7 praised verses

Al-Shifaa

Why is it called Al-Shifaa?

- The prophet SAW said, “The opening of the book is a cure to every poison”(Tabrani)
- Story of the Abu Sa’eed RA
- Reciting Surah Fatiha 7 times is a source of cure.

Istiaadha

أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

- Reciting Istiaadha is necessary before reading Quraan
- It refers to turning to Allah SWT for spiritual protection.
- Istiaadha can only be done with Allah SWT
- The prophet SAW would seek istiaadha using 3 different words.

Meanings of Shaytan and Rajm

Istiaadha is comprised of three words:

1. **Aadha:** Which means to turn towards someone for protection. In Arabic they say *Aadhi ilaa ummihi*. “He turned to his mother for protection”.
2. **Shaytan:** Imam Sibawayh says it comes from the word ‘*Shatana*’. Which means something which is far. And it has been pushed far away. Hence, Shaytan is anyone that has been moved away from the mercy of Allah SWT.
3. **Al Rajim:** Being expelled. It also means ‘the pelted one.’ This is the pelting of Shaytan is called *Rajm*.

The Meanings of the Basmalah

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. With the name of Allah SWT
 2. With the Barakah of Allah SWT
 3. With the help of Allah SWT
- The third meaning is the one most accepted.
 - Imam Raazi says that the entire summary of the Quraan is in the this verse.

The Basmala

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Benefits of Saying the Basmalah

- Istiaadha rejects evil and then the basmalah affirms goodness. Just like our Kalima does it. Iman is negating falsehood and then affirming the truth.
- The purpose of Bismillah: In the time of Jaahilyah, the mushrikeen would commence any of their worship with the names of their idols. Hence Allah SWT brought the Basmala in the start of the Quran.
- The prophet SAW said, “ Any act which begins without the Bismillah is incomplete and flawed.

Ayah Number One

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- Why Allah started the Surah with ‘Al-Hamd’
- Virtues of saying Al-hamdu lillah
- Meaning of Al-hamdu lillah
- The specialty of the name Allah SWT
- What is the true meaning of Rabb.
- Who is being referred to by the word Al-'Aalameen

Ayah #1: The discussion of الحمد

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- Al-Hamd is a combination of praise and thanks. Why is that so special?
- The difference between praise and gratitude.
- Why did Allah SWT not use Al-Madhu or Al Shukru instead?
- Al-Hamd as a noun and not as a verb in this Ayah
- Al Hamd vs Hamdun without the ال. All praise is for Allah SWT.

Ayah #1: The discussion of الحمد

- Sometimes humans praise other things also, so how is all praise for Allah SWT?
- Why did Allah SWT bring the word Al-hamd before the name Allah? *For example, lunch I ate, or I ate lunch.*
- The reason why Allah SWT did not command us to praise him.
- The dua in eid prayer is in the reverse sequence. This also takes place in the Quran. (Surah Jaathiyah)

Ayah #1: The beauty of the name Allah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- Why did Allah SWT use the name Allah instead of his other 99 names?
- One generally introduces himself with his name not an attribute. Allah SWT is the greatest name.
- To clarify which lord is being referred to. Story of Musa AS and the pharaoh.

Ayah #1: The beauty of the name Allah

- The name Allah includes and comprises all other names of his.
- Imagine Allah SWT only used Al-Hakeem or Al-Khaliq. What would meaning would that give?
- Allah SWT himself uses this name to introduce himself.
- It is the first and last name of Allah SWT in the Quran.
- It is used in the Quran more than 3,500 times.

Ayah #1: Where does this word come from?

1. From **وَلَوْ** which means to be astounded. (*Qurtabi*) or it means to lose ones mind in grief. This is why a mother who lost her child is called “Muwalah”
2. From the root word **وَال** which means to turn. Meaning every slave is to turn to Allah SWT for their needs.
3. From the root word **لَهَا** which means to raise up.
4. Lastly the name Allah comes from **وَال** which means to be worshipped. And this is the strongest opinion. *Ibn Abbas RA, Ibn Faaris RA*

Ayah #1: The meaning of Rabb

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Imam Suyuti RA says there are more than 25 meanings of this word.

However in summary there are 5 names that are dominant.

1. المالك: The owner
2. المربي: The one that takes care of his property
3. القيم: Maintaining his property. I.e we are completely dependent on Allah SWT.
4. السيد: Full authority
5. المنعم: The one that gifts. Meaning that Allah SWT loves us

Ayah #1: Continuation of the word Rabb

- The first relationship between us and Allah SWT For example and employer and employee is of a worker for his boss.
- So the relationship of Allah SWT with us is of Rabb. Hence we are the slaves.
- The difference between the slavery of the world and the slavery with Allah SWT.

The meaning of **العالمين**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- Al-alameen vs Al-awaalem
- Worlds of people. It comprises all the generations, backgrounds, cultures
- This is why when we visit another country you might say “This is another world”
- So Allah SWT is saying it is Me that has created every culture, every race. So each and everyone is honored by Allah. This indicates that we together are all equal slaves of Allah.
- Al-'alameen refers to every 'Alam (specie)
- Allah SWT does not require helpers but rather takes care of all 120,000 creations of his alone unlike the CEOs and presidents of this world.
- Story of Suliman AS

Ayah #2

Items discussed in this ayah

- Why this order
- Translation of this ayah
- True meaning of Al-rahm
- Difference between Al-Rahman and Al-Raheem

Ayah #2

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- What is the translation of this Ayah?

Al rahm comprises the meanings of:

1. Love
2. Care
3. Concern
4. Mercy

- Allah SWT is a different master. He is a loving master.
- When we call Allah SWT these words we believe that Allah SWT loves us and cares for us.
- The first idea we have in our mind for these qualities in this world is the mother. Hence, the womb of the mother is called Al-rahm.

The differences between Al-Rahman and Al-Raheem

Al Rahman has three specialties

1. It is extreme and beyond expectations
2. It is happening right now (*Example of being nice or he is nice*)
3. It is temporary. All words on this pattern are temporary

Al Raheem has two qualities

1. Permanent . *Ism Mubaaligha*
2. Not necessarily happening right now

Special facts of Al Rahman Al Raheem.

- Why did Allah SWT choose to use this order?
- Al-Rahman is the only name that comes alone other than the name Allah SWT.
- Al Rahman is mentioned 57 times in the Quran.
- The only name an entire surah has come to explain
- Al-Raheem is mentioned 114 times

Some opinions of scholars on this Ayah

- Statement of Ibn Abbas RA
- Statement of Abdullah ibn Mubarak
- The specialty of Allah SWTs mercy.

Ayah #3

- Why this order?
- Discussion on Maalik
- Discussion about the Day of Judgement
- What is Al-Deen?

Ayah #3

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

- Why did Allah SWT bring you this ayah in this specific order?
- These two combination of ayahs show us the balance we need to have with Allah SWT.
- Maalik refers to king/master
- Yawm really refers to period of time.

The meaning of Al Din

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

- Al din has two meanings
 1. Religion
 2. Justice
- So on the day of Judgment there will only be two final decisions for us slaves.
 1. Love, mercy
 2. Justice (Accurate dealing)
- Justice is Hisaab.
- These 3 Ayah are a complete introduction of Allah SWT

Ayah #4

- Recap of the first 3 ayaat
- Insights of Iyaka Na'budu
- Insights of Iyyaka Nasta'een
- Why this order?
- Affirmation and Negation

Ayah #4

■ From these 3 verses we derive the foundation of the Quran;

1. Tawheed

2. Risaalah

3. Aakhira

■ These 3 verses also have the 3 motivational factors:

1. Love

2. Hope

3. Fear

■ Ibn Qaayim wrote a 3 volume commentary on this ayah

Insights on اِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ

اِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ اِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- After understanding these 3 verses we *willingly* turn to worship Allah as his slaves. But are we truly understanding what we are saying here?
- Why did Allah SWT not use a commanding verb for worship?
- What is the difference between a slave and a worshipper?
- Pronoun coming first is a sign of Hasr. I.e only you do we worship.
- Why is ibaadah in plural. Because Allah SWT is demonstrating the fact that we are not a selfish ummah. We are a selfless ummah.

Insights on اِيَاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

اِيَاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَ اِيَاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- After saying we worship Allah SWT, we come to the immediate conclusion we need help for this.
- What is the specialty of the word Awn? Even though there are so many words for help in Arabic.
- Istianaah is when you are already making an effort and now you ask for help.
- Like the stories of Taif, Badr, Hudaibiyah.
- There are two types of people in this world
 1. That do not ask for help and believe they can do it themselves
 2. That ask for help but do not make any effort.

Continuation of Ayah #4

- Help is always specific. What are we asking for help in?
- We need help for everything. Like that person that is so desperate and just simply yells ‘Help’”
- Allah SWT already knows what we need help with.
- Why this order? Imam Sha’rani RA says
 1. Purpose of our creation is mentioned first
 2. When we worship Allah SWT it is for him, but help is for ourselves. So what we want for Allah SWT should be mentioned first.

Continuation of Ayah #4

- One other reason for this order is that Ibaadah leads to help
- This Ayah also refers to the two elements of our Kalimah which are affirmation and negation
- This is the middle Ayah that is broken into two parts: One part for Allah SWT and the other half for his slaves.

Ayah #5 Breakdown

- Meaning of Hidaayah
- Breakdown of the word siraat
- Discussion pertaining to the word Al Mustaqeem

Ayah #5 – Meaning of Hidaayah

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- There is no slave without instructions. Hence we turn to Allah SWT to ask for instructions.
- Allah SWT has a set standard for his slaves
- The most significant item that we seek help is for guidance.
- Story of Bilal RA
- Why did Allah SWT specifically use the word Hidayah? There are 3 significant meanings of this word

Ayah #5 – Meaning of Hidaayah

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

1. Guidance to the the straight path
 2. Guidance through the straight path, meaning do not leave me on this path
Oh Allah
 3. Guidance until the end of the journey
- So in summary *lhdina* really means 3 things, knowledge, guidance, and companionship

As-Siraat

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- What is the siraat? There are 5 valid opinions
 1. Book of Allah SWT
 2. Islam (Ibn Abbas)
 3. The religion of Allah SWT
 4. The Prophet SAW and the Khulifa
 5. The truth
- All of which give the same understanding.

As-Siraat

- Why did Allah SWT use siraat when there are so many different words for “path” in Arabic? This is because siraat has some specific meanings attached to it such:
 - That road which is
 1. wide
 2. long
 3. straight
 4. dangerous

Al Mustaqeem

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- Al Mustaqeem comes from the word Qaama, which means standing.
- Hence the mustaqeem refers to that path which is going from north to south not east to west.
- Two points that we can derive from Al Mustaqeem
 1. The higher you go the more dangerous it becomes
 2. Higher you go the better the view is, i.e the better you understand Deen
- Similarly what we need for our body comes from above.
- The answer to this dua is already given to us and that is the rest of the Quran

Ayah 6 and 7

- The three categories of mankind
- Who are the people of blessing
- Who are the people of wrath
- Who are the people of misguidance

Ayah #6

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

- Who do we make our role models in this world?
- Anamta comes from the word Nouma which means easy and soft.
- Who are these blessed people?
- Reaching this level is specifically in the hands of Allah SWT

Verse #7

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

- Al-Maghdoob , referring to the Jews and their actions
 - Al Dhaaleen, referring to the Christians and their actions
 - Allah SWT breaks up the categories of the people of the world in this surah
1. Those people that have the knowledge but no action, Like an open book exam
 2. Those who have no knowledge, completely lost
 3. Who used their knowledge to lead them to action

Ayah #7

- Two important points about Anamta and Maghdoob
 1. Allah SWT made himself the doer when referring to guidance, but did not refer to himself when mentioning anger
 2. In Anamta it's a verb which is referring to the past only. But in Maghdoob it's a noun which means that these people will always be in this state of absolute anger.

Recap

- This Surah is broken into two parts: first the need for learning and secondly the need for application.
- The first part of the surah is for Allah SWT and the last part is for us humans.
- Surah Fatiha is a balance of personal Islam and a collective Islam
- Surah Fatiha gives us hope and fear