

Familiarization with Quranic Sūras

Month of Ramadan 1440 – Day 30

Sūrat al-Mā'ida, No. 5, Part 3



Sūra Information

Sūra al-Mā'ida, No.5, Revealed in Madinah, 120 verses.

According to some narrations the entire sūra was revealed at one time, after the farewell pilgrimage of the Prophet ﷺ

The sūra takes its name from the miraculous table spread with food mentioned in verses 112-115.

According to 'Allāmah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Tabātaba'ī that the general theme of this sūra is to call the people to fulfill the covenants and to uphold the valid agreements whatever they might be. It shows that Allah ﷻ has made it His practice to deal with mercy and lighten the burden of those who guard themselves against evil and believe, and then again guard themselves against evil and do good work. On the contrary, He deals harshly with those who commit outrage, exceed the limit and overstep the bounds (*Al-Mizān*, v. 9, p. 215).

Sūra Significance

Sūra Ma'ida was revealed all at one time and was escorted by seventy thousand angels.

Imam Ja 'far a;- Sādiq عليه السلام (Tafsīr Majma'ul-Bayān)

Synopsis of contents

- 1) Laws regarding pilgrimage, food, hunting, ritual purity, etc.
- 2) Leadership after the Prophet ﷺ
- 3) Day of Judgement
- 4) Justice and fulfilling of pledges.
- 5) Relations between the Muslims and the people of the Book.

Some Lessons from the Sūra

- 1) Receptive hearts shed tears upon hearing the truth from God (verse 83)
- 2) Enjoy the lawful and good things God has blessed the world with (verse 88)
- 3) The abundance of wrong in society should not deceive us (verse 100)
- 4) The miracles of Prophet 'Īsā عليه السلام were all by the permission of Allah (verse 110)
- 5) Prophet 'Īsā عليه السلام did not tell his people to take himself and his mother as gods (verses 116-117)

Important Messages

- 1) Shaytān misleads human beings through weapons like addictive substances and habits.
- 2) Encouragement and warnings must go together for training behaviour.
- 3) One of the most important subjects addressed in the Quran is the Day of Judgment. Conviction in that is crucial for spiritual perfection.
- 4) One of the blessings for Divine leaders was the loyalty of close companions.
- 5) Conviction of the heart is a higher stage than belief of the heart.
- 6) Those who reach conviction have a heavier responsibility and are more accountable.

Select verses from the Sūra to know (learn, reflect, memorize)

- 1) 5:92 - *And obey Allah and obey the Apostle, and beware; but if you turn your backs, then know that Our Apostle's duty is only to communicate in clear terms*
- 2) 5:98 - *Know that Allah is severe in retribution, and that Allah is all-forgiving, all-merciful.*
- 3) 5:105 - *O you who have faith! Take care of your own souls. He who strays cannot hurt you if you are guided. To Allah will be the return of you all, whereat He will inform you concerning what you used to do.*

Activities for self-study

- 1) What are the tactics of shaytān as outlines in verses 90-91?
- 2) Write out the story of the disciples of the Prophet ʿĪsā ﷺ and the request for a table from Heaven (verses 112-115). Why did the disciples ask for this miracle?

Sources Āyatullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirazi (Ed.), *Tafsir Namūne*; Organization of Quran and Itrah Nūr al-Thaqalayn, *Zikre Mubarak*; S.H. Nasr (Ed.), *The Study Quran*

Past lessons of Sūra Familiarization for the month of Ramadan available at:
www.academyofislam.com/resources/quran/sura-familiarization/

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