

Sūratu l-Mā'ūn – Small Act of Kindness – سُورَةُ الْمَاعُونِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالْإِيمَانِ ﴿١﴾ فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ ﴿٢﴾ وَلَا يَحْضُ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمَسْكِينِ ﴿٣﴾ فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ ﴿٤﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ ﴿٥﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَاءُونَ ﴿٦﴾ وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ ﴿٧﴾

In the name of Allāh, the Unimaginably Merciful, the All-Merciful:

¹ [Prophet], have you considered the person who denies the Judgment? ² It is he who pushes aside the orphan ³ and does not urge others to feed the needy. ⁴ So woe to those who pray ⁵ but are heedless of their prayer; ⁶ those who are all show ⁷ and forbid common kindness. [M. A. S. Abdel Haleem]

Vocabulary Words

the poor person [1 M]	الْمَسْكِينِ	he denies	يُكَذِّبُ
forgetful [3+ M]	سَاهُونَ	he turns away and refuses to help (harshly)	يَدْعُ
they show off [3+ M]	يُرَاءُونَ	the orphan [1 M]	الْيَتِيمَ
they prevent [3+ M]	يَمْنَعُونَ	he encourages	يَحْضُ
small act of kindness	الْمَاعُونَ	food	طَعَامِ

Short-Answer Questions

1. Is this a مَكِّيَّة or a مَدَنِيَّة sūrah? What does that mean?

- a. This sūrah is مَكِّيَّة , meaning it was revealed **1)** while the Prophet Muḥammad, صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ , was residing in Makkah, **2)** in the first 13 years of receiving waḥy (revelation), **3)** before the hijrah (migration).

2. How does this sūrah connect to the one before it, Quraysh?

Connection	Quraysh	al-Mā'ūn
a.	In this sūrah, Allāh demands Quraysh to enslave themselves fully to Allāh and worship him. This is what they should be doing .	In this sūrah, Allāh tells us what these people without 'īmān are currently doing .

3. Why might someone who denies the Day of Recompense do all of these evil acts?
 - a. If someone denies that they will get what they deserve and be judged, they are not worried about treating someone poorly or doing something evil. This is because they think that they will not be asked about anything they do, i.e., they say that there is no Day of Recompense.

 4. Why might ṣalāh be mentioned along with these other evil acts?
 - a. How we treat The Creator and how we treat creation go hand-in-hand. If someone does not treat creation well, then the natural result is that they are not going to treat the Creator well, either, and so become careless about prayers.
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Think and Write [This will not be on the test.]

1. Does being seen praying mean a person is a good Muslim?
2. The Blessed Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam, once remarked that ṣadaqah, or charity, is due on every limb of our body, everyday. He also mentioned that even a smile can be charity. How does this saying relate to the message of this sūrah?
3. The Blessed Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam, once held his two fingers together and said, “I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him or her will be like this in Paradise” (al-Bukhāriyy). What does this say about the importance of helping the less fortunate in ‘Islām?