

Sūratu l- 'Ikh̄lāṣ – Purity [of Faith] – سُورَةُ الْإِخْلَاصِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

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

¹ Say, 'He is God the One, ²God the eternal.* ³ He begot no one nor was He begotten. ⁴ No one is comparable to Him.'
[M. A. S. Abdel Haleem]

* *Samad*: other commonly held interpretations include 'self-sufficient' and 'sought by all'.

Vocabulary Words

He is begotten, i.e., He is born	يُولَدُ	He	هُوَ
and	وَ	one	أَحَدٌ
He is	يَكُنْ	The One upon whom all depend, yet who does not depend on any	الصَّمَدُ
comparable [1 m]	كُفُوًا	not (past)	لَمْ
		He begets, i.e., He gives birth	يَلِدُ

Short-Answer Questions

- Is this a مَكِّيَّة or a مَدَنِيَّة sūrah? What does that mean?
 - This sūrah is مَكِّيَّة , meaning it was revealed **1)** while the Prophet Muḥammad, صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ , was residing in Makkah, **2)** in the first 13 years of receiving waḥy (revelation), **3)** before the hijrah (migration).
- How does this sūrah connect to the one before it, al-Masad?
 - In both of them, each 'āyah ends with a similar sound, which is called saj' in Arabic.

Connection	al-Masad	al-‘Iḫlāṣ
a.	’Abū Lahab thought that he was totally independent of anyone even though he was not.	Allāh describes himself as aṣ-Ṣamad in al-’Iḫlāṣ, meaning one upon whom all depend but who depends on no one.

3. What is the reason for this sūrah’s revelation?
 - a. ’Imām ’Aḥmad recorded from ’Ubayyu bnu Ka’b that the idolaters said to the Prophet Muḥammad, ṣalla l-lāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam, “O Muḥammad, tell us about the lineage [family] of your Master,” so Allāh revealed this sūrah.

4. What is the significance of this sūrah?
 - a. The Prophet Muḥammad, ṣalla l-lāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam, in more than one narration described this sūrah as being **equal to one-third of the Qur’ān.**
 - b. The companions loved reciting this sūrah and had many names for it.

5. What does this sūrah teach us?
 - a. It teaches us to always make Allāh our goal without any partner in our actions’ intentions. He has showered upon us so many blessings, and we should be sincere in all that we, making it solely for His sake.

6. When are some of the times when it is recommended to recite this sūrah?
 - a. **After Ṣalāh:** It is a sunnah to recite it once after every prayer but three times after aṣ-Ṣubḥ and al-Maghrib.
 - b. **Before Sleep:** It is a sunnah to recite it before going to sleep along with Sūratu l-Falaq and Sūratu n-Nās. The Prophet Muḥammad, ṣalla l-lāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam, used recite these three then dry spit onto his hands before rubbing them over his body, beginning with his face and the front of his body then covering as much of his body as possible.
 - c. The Prophet Muḥammad used to recite al-Kāfirūn in the first rak‘ah and this sūrah in the second rak‘ah of the sunnah prayer at fajr.