

(1)

Sūrat Al-Fātiḥah (The Opening)

سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ

1. In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
2. All praise and thanks are Allāh's, the Lord⁽¹⁾ of the 'Ālamīn (mankind, jinn and all that exists)⁽²⁾.
3. The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
4. The Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection).
5. You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ②

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ③

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ④

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ⑤

- (1) (V.1:2) Lord: The actual word used in the Qur'ān is *Rabb*. There is no proper equivalent for *Rabb* in the English language. It means the One and the Only Lord for all the universe, its Creator, Owner, Organizer, Provider, Master, Planner, Sustainer, Cherisher, and Giver of security. *Rabb* is also one of the Names of Allāh. We have used the word "Lord" as the nearest to *Rabb*. All occurrences of "Lord" in the interpretation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'ān actually mean *Rabb* and should be understood as such.
- (2) (V.1:2) Narrated Abu Sa'īd ibn Al-Mu'alla: While I was praying in the mosque, Allāh's Messenger ﷺ called me, but I did not respond to him. Later I said, "O Allāh's Messenger, I was praying." He said, "Didn't Allāh say — Answer Allāh (by obeying Him) and His Messenger when he ﷺ calls you." (V. 8:24). He then said to me, "I will teach you a *Sūrah* which is the greatest *Sūrah* in the Qur'ān, before you leave the mosque." Then he got hold of my hand, and when he intended to leave (the mosque), I said to him, "Didn't you say to me, 'I will teach you a *Sūrah* which is the greatest *Sūrah* in the Qur'ān?' He said, "*Al-Ḥamdu lillāhi Rabbil-ʿālamīn* [i.e. all praise and thanks are Allāh's, the Lord of the 'Ālamīn (mankind, jinn and all that exists)], *Sūrat Al-Fātiḥah* which is *As-Sabʿ Al-Mathānī* (i.e. the seven repeatedly recited Verses) and the Grand Qur'ān which has been given to me." (*Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī*, Vol.6, *Ḥadīth* No.1).

6. Guide us to the Straight Way⁽¹⁾.
7. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace⁽²⁾, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger (i.e. those whose intentions are perverted: they know the Truth, yet do not follow it), nor of those who went astray (i.e. those who have lost the (true) knowledge, so they wander in error, and are not guided to the Truth)⁽³⁾.

أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿٦﴾
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴿٧﴾

- (1) (V.1:6) Guidance is of two kinds:

- a) Guidance of *Tauḥīq* which is totally from Allāh, i.e. Allāh opens one's heart to receive the truth (from disbelief to belief in Islāmic Monotheism).
- b) Guidance of *Irshād* i.e. through preaching by Allāh's Messengers and the pious preachers who preach the truth i.e. Islāmic Monotheism.

- (2) (V.1:7) i.e. the way of the Prophets, the *Ṣiddīqūn* (i.e. those followers of the Prophet, who were first and foremost to believe in him, like Abū Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq), the martyrs and the righteous, [as Allāh ﷺ said: "And whoso obeys Allāh and the Messenger (Muḥammad ﷺ), then they will be in the company of those on whom Allāh has bestowed His Grace, of the Prophets, the *Ṣiddīqūn*, the martyrs, and the righteous. And how excellent these companions are!" (V.4:69)].

- (3) (V.1:7) Narration about Zaid ibn 'Amr ibn Nufail.

Narrated 'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنه: The Prophet ﷺ met Zaid ibn 'Amr ibn Nufail in the bottom of (the valley of) Baldah before the descent of any Divine revelation to the Prophet ﷺ. A meal was presented to the Prophet ﷺ, but he refused to eat from it. (Then it was presented to Zaid) who said, "I do not eat anything which you slaughter on your *Nuṣub** in the name of your idols etc. I eat only those (animals' meat) on which Allāh's Name has been mentioned at the time of (their) slaughtering." Zaid ibn 'Amr used to criticise the way Quraish used to slaughter their animals and used to say, "Allāh has created the sheep and He has sent the water for it from the sky, and He has grown the grass for it from the earth; yet you slaughter it in names other than the Name of Allāh." He used to say so, for he rejected that practice and considered it as something abominable.

* *Nuṣub*: See the glossary.

Narrated Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنه: Zaid ibn 'Amr ibn Nufail went to Shām (the region comprising Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan), enquiring about a true religion to follow.

He met a Jewish religious scholar and asked him about their religion. He said, "I intend to embrace your religion, so tell me something about it." The Jew said, "You will not embrace our religion unless you receive your share of Allāh's Anger."

Zaid said, "I do not run away except from Allāh's Anger, and I will never bear a bit of it if I have the power to avoid it. Can you tell me of some other religion?" He said, "I do not know any other religion except *Hanīf* (Islāmic Monotheism). Zaid enquired, "What is *Hanīf*?" He said, "*Hanīf* is the religion of (the Prophet) Abraham عليه السلام, he was neither a Jew nor a Christian, and he used to worship none but Allāh (Alone) — Islāmic Monotheism." Then Zaid went out and met a Christian religious scholar and told him the same (as before). The Christian said, "You will not embrace our religion unless you get a share of Allāh's Curse." Zaid replied, "I do not run away except from Allāh's Curse, and I will never bear any of Allāh's Curse and His Anger if I have the power to avoid them. Will you tell me of some other religion?" He replied, "I do not know any other religion except *Hanīf* (Islāmic Monotheism)." Zaid enquired, "What is *Hanīf*?" He replied "*Hanīf* is the religion of (the Prophet) Abraham عليه السلام, he was neither a Jew nor a Christian, and he used to worship none but Allāh (Alone) — Islāmic Monotheism." When Zaid heard their statement about (the religion of) Abraham, he left that place, and when he came out, he raised both his hands and said, "O Allāh! I make You my Witness that I am on the religion of Abraham".

Narrated Asmā' bint Abī Bakr رضي الله عنها: I saw Zaid ibn 'Amr ibn Nufail standing with his back against the *Ka'bah* and saying, "O people of Quraish! By Allāh, none amongst you is on the religion of Abraham except me." She added: He (Zaid) used to preserve the lives of little girls; if somebody wanted to kill his daughter he would say to him, "Do not kill her for I will feed her on your behalf." So he would take her, and when she grew up nicely, he would say to her father, 'Now if you will (wish), I will give her to you, and if you will (wish), I will feed her on your behalf.' (Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī, Vol.5, Ḥadīth No.169).