



Second Edition

Islamic Studies

for Lower Secondary

Grade

8

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Importance of this Theme in the Lives of Muslims Today

- We should always proclaim the Oneness of Allah, and should not associate His attributes to any thing or any creature.
- We should realise that since all powers belong to Allah the Almighty so we should turn to Him only regarding all our needs.
- Complete knowledge belongs only to Allah, hence we should not be arrogant or proud of our knowledge, or consider ourselves to be superior.
- Regarding the benefits of recitation of Ayat Al-Kursi, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

"The one who recites it after each Farz Prayer, then death will be the only thing preventing him from entering Paradise." (Sahih Ibn-Hibban)

- Ayat Al-Kursi is also recited for protection before going to bed, before starting a journey and for protection against mishaps.
- This verse makes us aware that whatever we do, Allah knows it so we should be careful of our actions.





Surah Al-Alaq



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝
اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ۝ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۝ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ۝

Translation

In the name of Allah, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful.



"Recite in the name of your Lord who created - created man out of a clot of congealed blood. Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous - Who taught by the pen - taught man that which he knew not."



Main Theme

This is the first revelation of the Holy Qur'an by Allah the Almighty on Prophet ﷺ, brought by Angel Jibraeel عليه السلام. The theme of this passage is Allah's relationship with the created world. While commanding to acquire beneficial knowledge, it also discusses Allah's power to create and ensure the survival and growth of mankind. These verses also reflect upon the importance of pen as human beings have been able to record and spread knowledge due to the effective use of pen. And it is this knowledge that distinguishes us from other creations.

Importance of this Theme in the Lives of Muslims Today

- We learn to begin all our work with the name of Allah the Almighty.
- Acquisition of beneficial knowledge is obligatory upon all men and women.
- We should be grateful to Allah the Almighty for blessing us with the abilities to read and spread knowledge through pen.
- We must always remember that human being was specially created as part of a Divine scheme; he did not evolve as an ape or any other creature.
- Instead of feeling arrogant and proud of our high status and abilities, we should humbly spend our lives in acquiring and spreading beneficial knowledge, and always remember that the true source of all knowledge is Allah the Almighty.

Surah Al-Kausar



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ



Translation

In the name of Allah, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful.



"Surely, We have given you Kausar. Therefore offer prayer to your Lord and make a sacrifice. Surely, your enemy will suffer the worse."



Main Theme

The theme of this Surah is Allah's Messenger, Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ. It was revealed in Makkah Mukarrama when after the death of his two sons, the Holy Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ was mocked by the pagans. They taunted him by calling him *Abtar* (a man without progeny). Through these verses, Allah the Almighty consoled the Holy Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ by promising him 'abundance'. And He fulfilled His promise by blessing Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ with abundance of followers, unaccountable rewards in this life and the Hereafter, and his progeny through his daughter, Fatima ﷺ. The Holy Prophet ﷺ is instructed to be persistent with Prayers even in times of hardships and to develop the spirit of sacrifice so that he gets constant support of Allah the Almighty. As for the people who insulted him and gave him a hard time, Allah the Almighty is making it hard on them by assuring the Holy Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ that He will make his enemies suffer badly.

Do you know?

Abu Lahab was one of the uncles of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who mocked him ﷺ by calling 'Abtar' when his two sons died in infancy. Abu Lahab had ten sons and he was very proud of them. But when he died of a skin disease, none of his sons helped in his burial. They ordered their slaves to shove his body in a ditch, and bury it.

Importance of this Theme in the Lives of Muslims Today

- We are taught to have faith in Allah the Almighty even in the worst of times. His support surely comes if we are persistent with our Prayers, practise patience and develop the spirit of sacrifice.
- We should fear Allah the Almighty and refrain from taunting other as it could bounce back on us.
- People who are ill-wishers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and try to blaspheme him; Allah will deal with them very strictly, and they will eventually face His wrath and fury.
- We should remember that a noble mission always survives, even though it is resisted and rejected by the misguided people.



Exercises

- Q.1 Describe the main theme in Ayat Al-Kursi.
- Q.2 Highlight the importance of Ayat Al-Kursi theme in the lives of Muslims today.
- Q.3 Quote a Hadith regarding the significance of Ayat Al-Kursi.
- Q.4 What do the terms, 'Omniscient' and 'Omnipotent' mean? Define by giving examples.
- Q.5 What is the main theme of the verses selected from Surah Al-Alaq?
- Q.6 What is the significance of these five verses?
- Q.7 What lessons do we learn from these verses?
- Q.8 What was the reason of revelation of Surah Al-Kausar?
- Q.9 What does the word, *Kausar* mean? How did Allah the Almighty blessed the Holy Prophet ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ with *Kausar*?
- Q.10 Describe the theme of the Surah Al-Kausar.
- Q.11 What lessons do we learn from Surah Al-Kausar?
- Q.12 What does the word, *Abtar* mean? How did Allah the Almighty made the Holy Prophet's ﷺ Muhammad ﷺ enemy, Abu Lahab suffer?

For Teachers: Have the students learn the Surahs and Verses with their meanings; study the Tafseer of the Holy Qur'an to explain the historical background of the revelation of the Surah.

Beautiful Supplications (Dua)

Objective: Memorisation of supplications so that the learners make Dua before beginning each task.

1. When you hear a good news, recite the following supplication:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

"Thanks to Allah who is the Greatest."

2. If anything goes against your will, recite the following supplication:

يَقْدِرُ اللهُ وَمَا شَاءَ فَعَلَ

"Allah has fated this to happen and He has done as He willed."

3. Upon seeing something you dislike, recite the following supplication:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى كُلِّ حَالٍ

"Whatever the situation, we owe all Praise to Allah."

4. To gain beneficial knowledge and avoid useless knowledge, recite this supplication:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ لَا يَنْفَعُ

"O Allah! I beseech you for useful knowledge and seek protection from useless knowledge."



For Teachers: The teacher should encourage the students to memorise the above supplications with their meanings and recite these at appropriate occasions.

Prayer (Salah) and its Significance in Islam

Objective: To highlight the importance of *Salah* and create awareness regarding its performance.

Prayer (*Salah*) is one of the five Pillars of Islam and the most stressed upon act after Faith (*Iman*). Offering of the five daily Prayers at their prescribed time is an obligatory religious duty on every Muslim whether male or female, free or bonded, healthy or sick. Prayer is a religious observance that the believers are commanded to perform throughout the course of their lives.

The importance of Prayers is obvious from the opening verses of Surah Al-Baqarah where, while defining the three conditions of the true believers, belief in *Al-Ghaib* is immediately followed by the keeping up of Prayer (*Salah*), and giving charity. Allah defines the God-fearing people as:

"Who believe in the Ghaib (Allah, the Angels, the Divine scriptures, the Prophets, the Day of Resurrection and Al-Qadr) and perform As Salat and spend out of what We have provided for them." (Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse: 3)

Human beings are prone to forgetfulness and heedlessness. They forget that Allah enfolds them in every way and that they will be accountable before Him for all their acts and intentions. Prayer (*Salah*) performed five times a day is a direct way of believers' communication with Allah. It helps them to stay guided, overcome their forgetfulness and from going astray.



About the Series

This Islamiyat series is a research-based set of textbooks starting from Grade 1 up till Grade 8. It is a complete Islamic Studies programme with carefully graded concepts and aims to acquaint the students with the teachings of Islam in every aspect of life, beliefs, practices and moral conduct.

The text provides authentic information with meaningful illustrations and colourful layouts. Each lesson is followed by exercises concerning questions of lower as well as higher order of thinking.

It is specially designed for the schools that are following the **Cambridge System of Education** and is a great way to teach children Islam for a sound knowledge.

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