

SURATULHUJURAAT (49)

The *Suratulhujuraat* continues and expands the twenty-ninth verse of the preceding surah where Muḥammed (s.a.w.s) has been called Allah's messenger and his companions have been eulogized. The Surah lays down two injunctions in the first and second verses to make the believers realize the unrivalled position that he occupies among them. The third verse states the ideal behaviour that they must adopt in his presence and they have been promised forgiveness and a supreme reward for it.

The Surah, then, proceeds to criticize the conduct of the new converts to Islam, mentioned from the fourteenth verse to the eighteenth verse, in the fourth and fifth verses. They must act on the injunctions laid down in the first three verses. As Medina was exposed to dangers from all quarters, in the sixth verse, believers have been instructed to inquire into any piece of news brought to them by any scaremonger and submit it to the Messenger for final decision. The seventh and eighth verses eulogize the conduct of the believers as done in the twenty-ninth verse of the preceding surah, along with stressing their hatred of what is contrary to belief, being from Allah's mercy and bounty. But even such believers, merciful as they are, may split into two groups and end up fighting. The rest of the believers, not party to any of the two, must, then, rise to the occasion and make peace between the two in keeping with justice as believers form a universal fraternity.

The Surah, then, proceeds further to lay down certain norms of conduct in pursuance of the seventh verse in which disbelief, transgression, and disobedience have been specified contrary to belief. Such norms are essential for the health of the body politic and ensuring the rule of mercy in it. Hence, the Surah in its eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth verses prohibits ridiculing, nicknaming, nursing notions, prying into private affairs, and backbiting for all of them militate against The Islamic fraternity, equality, and liberty and jeopardize the moral health and wholeness of the Islamic Community. The Surah lays down the standard norm __ fearing Allah and guarding against evils which is the true measure of honour, while all other divisions of human beings into groups are for the sake of mere recognition.

The Surah, finally, proceeds, from the fourteenth verse to the eighteenth verse, to address itself to the new converts to Islam, the desert dwellers, who were away from Medina and the companions of the Messenger. So, they could not be thoroughly instructed in the Islamic way of life. Hence, the fifteenth verse presents the ideal conduct before them to be followed in letter and spirit. The Surah ends with the declaration that Allah has full knowledge of what they do and hence, they must be true to the way of life they have accepted and learn it for the good of their own souls instead of laying any obligation on Allah and the Messenger.

SURATULHUJURAAT

In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. O (the people) who believe! You must not give priority (to your views) before Allah and His Messenger and you must fear disobeying Allah; Allah, certainly, hears (what you say), knows (what you do).
2. O (the people) who believe! You must neither raise your voices above the Prophet's voice nor speak to him loudly as you do loudly to one another lest your actions should be nullified and you do not, even, realize.
3. (The people) who lower their voices before Allah's Messenger are (the people) whose hearts Allah has purified and singled out for guarding against hellfire — they shall have forgiveness and a supreme reward.
4. Most of (those people) who call you out of the apartments do not exercise their reason.
5. If they had been patient till you came out to them, it would have been the best for them; and Allah is forgiving, merciful.
6. O (the people) who believe! If a scaremonger comes to you with a piece of news, you must inquire into (it critically) lest you should afflict any group of people in ignorance and then, you are left repenting at what you do.
7. And you must know that, among you, there is Allah's Messenger; if

سُورَةُ الْحُجُرَاتِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْدُمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ
وَرَسُولِهِ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿١﴾

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَرْفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَكُمْ فَوْقَ صَوْتِ
النَّبِيِّ ۖ وَلَا تَجْهَرُوا لَهُ ۚ بِالْقَوْلِ ۚ كَجَهْرِ بَعْضِكُمْ
لِبَعْضٍ أَن تَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ ﴿٢﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُغْضُونَ أَصْوَاتَهُمْ عِندَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ
أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ امْتَحَنَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ لِلتَّقْوَى ۚ لَهُمْ
مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٣﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُنَادُونَكَ مِنَ الْحُجُرَاتِ
أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٤﴾

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ صَبَرُوا حَتَّى تَخْرُجَ إِلَيْهِمْ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ
وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٥﴾

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا
أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْحَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ
نَدِمِينَ ﴿٦﴾

وَاعْلَمُوا أَن فِيكُمْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ۚ لَوْ يُطِيعُكُمْ فِي كَثِيرٍ

he followed you in most of the matters, you would, certainly, fall into distress: but Allah has made you love the belief (*eimaan*) and adorned it into your hearts and made you hate disbelief and transgression and disobedience ____ (the people) such as these are the followers of the right path ____

8. As the bounty and the grace on the part of Allah; and Allah has knowledge, wisdom.
9. And if two parties of believers end up fighting with each other, you must, then, make peace between the two: but, if one of the two acts wrongfully against the other, you must, then, fight against (the party) which acts wrongfully till it returns to Allah's authority; hence, if it returns (accepts Allah's authority), you must, then, make peace between the two in keeping with justice and you must go by equity: Allah, certainly, loves those who act in keeping with equity (justice, according to natural law or right ____ *Webster*).
10. (All the) believers are brothers exclusively and hence, you must make peace between both (the parties of) your brothers; and you must fear disobeying Allah so that you are shown mercy.

SECTION 2

11. O (the people) who believe! No group of men must laugh at another group of men (because) it may be that they are better than those (men who laugh at) and, (similarly), women must not laugh at (other)

مِنَ الْأَمْرِ لَعْنَتُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ
وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَكَرَّهَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكُفْرَ وَالْفُسُوقَ
وَالْعِصْيَانَ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الرَّاشِدُونَ ﴿٧﴾

فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَنِعْمَةً ۚ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٨﴾

وَإِنْ طَائِفَتَانِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ اقْتَتَلُوا فَأَصْلَحُوا
بَيْنَهُمَا فَإِنْ بَغَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا عَلَى الْأُخْرَىٰ فَفَنِّلُوا
الَّتِي تَبْغِي حَتَّىٰ تَفِيءَ إِلَىٰ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ فَاءَتْ
فَأَصْلَحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا بِالْعَدْلِ وَأَقْسِطُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ
يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ ﴿٩﴾

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلَحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرُ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ
أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ
أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَرُوا

women (because) it may be that they are better than those (women who laugh at) and you must neither speak ill of anyone in the face nor give one another insulting nicknames: after the belief (*eimaan*, giving anyone) a wicked name is transgressing (the divine law), and (those people) who do not repent (of their misconduct are the people who) are the wrongdoers.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْرَبُوا مَا يَتَّبِعُ النَّاسَ مِنْ حَتَّىٰ تَكُونَ مِنْهُمْ بَعِيدًا ۚ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَمًا ۚ وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَتُوبْ فَإِنَّ أَثَمَهُ كَانَ عِندَ اللَّهِ كَبِيرًا ۚ

12. O (the people) who believe! You must keep away from most of the notions (for) many of the notions are, certainly, sins and you must neither pry (into others' affairs) nor backbite against one another; does anyone of you like that he should eat his dead brother's flesh? But you will yourselves hate it; and you must fear disobeying Allah; Allah, certainly, turns forgivingly, is merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ ۖ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَبَ بََعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۚ أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ ۝١٣

13. O human beings! We have created you from a male and a female and turned you into large tribes / communities and (small) tribes so that you should recognize one another; in fact, the most honourable among you, in Allah's view, is the most fearing and guarding himself from evils among you; Allah, certainly, knows (everything, is) cognizant (aware of everything).

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ۝١٤

14. The desert dwellers say, "We believe." Say, "You do not believe." But (you should) say, "We submit ourselves," and belief (*eimaan*) has not, yet, entered into your hearts and if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He shall not reduce (the reward of) your actions at all; Allah is, certainly, forgiving, merciful.

قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ ءَا مَنَّا قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَا يَلِتْكُمْ مِنْ أَعْمَالِكُمْ شَيْئًا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ۝١٥

15. In fact, believers are, only, (those people) who believe in Allah and His Messenger and then, do not doubt and struggle, with their possessions and persons, for Allah's cause __ such are (the people) who are the truthful.
16. Say, "Do you inform Allah about your obedience, while Allah knows what is throughout the heavens and what is throughout the Earth?" And Allah has the knowledge of everything.
17. They lay an obligation on you that they have embraced Islam: say, "Do not lay the obligation of your (embracing) Islam on me: on the contrary, Allah lays the obligation on you that He has guided you to the belief (*eimaan*), if you are truthful."
18. Allah, certainly, knows the unseen of the heavens and the Earth; and Allah is watchful of what you do.

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ
ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَنَّهُدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ
فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

قُلْ أَتَعْلَمُونَ اللَّهَ بِدِينِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ
يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿١٦﴾

يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ إِسْلَمَكُمُ
بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ هَدَيْتُكُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ إِن كُنْتُمْ
صَادِقِينَ ﴿١٧﴾

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ
بَصِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٨﴾