

SURATULMAA`OON (107)

The *Suratulmaa`oon* succeeds the Surah *Quraysh* quite logically. Both the preceding surahs warn and then, appeal to the *Quraysh* and their leadership to give up polytheism, submit themselves to the *Rabb* of the Holy House, and revert to Abraham's way of life being fully shown to them by the Messenger and His *Quraan*. But the headstrong, intractable, and close-fisted leadership of the *Quraysh*, being unimaginative, greedy, and thoroughly materialistic, repudiated the Messenger and His message. Hence, the *Suratulmaa`oon* gives an image of such a leadership as was the guardian of the Holy House which had been turned into a temple of idol worship, a centre of polytheism, and the exclusive property of this leadership. *Aboo Lahab*, being the most prominent, exercised exclusive control over the Holy House. This leadership disbelieved in the Resurrection and the Judgement which are fundamental to Islam. Hence, the first verse of the Surah draws its listener's attention to such a trait in *Aboo Lahab*, or for the matter, the entire leadership. Such a man turns greedy, cruel, and callous. The second and third verses expose these aspects of his character. Abraham had raised up the Holy House for the prayer to Allah and the service of the poor. After his descendants deviated from his way of life, these objectives had been abandoned. Hence, their prayer has been imaged in the thirty fifth verse of the *Suratulanfaal*, "And their prayer by the House is nothing but whistling and clapping." It was a false semblance of prayer, not prayer in itself, as enjoined by Abraham and Ishmael to their descendants. The seventh verse of the Surah is an image of meanness, greed, and selfishness of the society whose leaders they were. Hence, in this Surah, the Makkan polytheistic leaders stand condemned as criminals deserving punishment.

SURATULMAA`OON

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

1. Do you see one who belies and denies the Judgement?
2. Such is he who rebuffs an orphan,
3. And does not urge (anyone) on feeding a poor person.
4. Hence, woe to the prayers
5. Who are unmindful of their prayer (Abraham's prayer taught to them)
6. Who make a show (a false semblance of their prayers) *
7. And refuse (even) small things of daily use (to those who need them)!

* prayers - refer to 8:35

سُورَةُ الْمَاعُونِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالذِّينِ

فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَدْعُ الْيَتِيمَ

وَلَا يَحْضُ عَلَى طَعَامِ الْيَسْكِينِ

فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ

الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَاءُونَ

وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ