Surah 46 Surah Ahqaaaf

THE DUNES

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH AHQAAF AND SURAH JAATHIYA

The Mushrikeen claimed that their gods could hear their pleas if Allaah allowed them to. Therefore, if they could hear then they would intercede for them (the Mushrikeen) in Allaah's court. They maintained that even if Allaah did not accept their intercession, the Mushrikeen had nothing to lose by supplicating to their gods because the remote possibility of acceptance did exist. Allaah dispels this notion in Surah Jaathiya, where He mentions that the Deen and Shari'ah have been explicitly defined, leaving no room for following one's whims and desires.

However, even after accepting that their gods cannot hear at all, the Mushrikeen still maintain that worshipping them does have its benefits. They say that whenever they pray to their gods and chant their names, they are protected from all adversities and their work does get accomplished. At the end of Surah Ahqaaaf, Allaah asks them whether their gods will be able to save them from His punishment, if they can indeed be of any assistance at all!

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The Surah contains the following:

* An introduction.
* The core theme is discussed in verses 27 and 28 where Allaah cautions the Makkans by telling them that He had destroyed many nations like the Aad, the Thamud and others. The gods that they worshipped could not assist any of them when Allaah's punishment overcame them.
* Four detailed proofs to substantiate the central assertion of the Surah.
* A logical proof.
* A challenge to the Mushrikeen to present proofs to substantiate their beliefs.
* The central assertion of the Surah towards the end.
* Reproaches.
* Warnings and glad tidings.
* Objections.
* A logical proof for the coming of Qiyaamah.
In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

1. **HaaMeem.** (Only Allaah knows the correct meaning of these letters.)

2. This (Qur’aan) is a revealed Book from Allaah, the Mighty, the Wise.

3. We have created the heavens, the earth and whatever is between the two with wisdom (for specific purposes) and for a specified term (until the time of their death or until the Day of Qiyaamah when everything will come to an end). The Kuffaar turn away from the warnings they are given (and are not fearful of the end).

4. Say, “Tell me about those (gods) whom you worship besides Allaah. Show me what (part) of the earth they have created, or do they share a partnership (with Allaah) in the heavens (and therefore they have some control over affairs) ? Bring me a (divine) book (that has come) before this (Qur'aan) or a shred of reported evidence (from previous scriptures to prove that the Shirk you commit is true) if you are truthful.”

5. Who can be more misled (in error) than the one who calls to (worships) beings (idols) besides Allaah who cannot respond (answer) to him until the Day of Qiyaamah and who are totally unaware of their call (their prayers and worship)?
6. (In fact, their worship is so futile that) When people are resurrected (on the Day of Qiyaamah, far from helping their worshippers) they (the gods) will be enemies to them (the worshippers) and will (even) reject their worship (their prayers).

7. When Our clear Aayaat are recited to them, the Kuffaar say about the truth as it comes to them, “This is manifest magic (sorcery)!”

8. Or (even further than this) do they say that he (Rasulullaah ﷺ) has forged it (the Qur’aan)? Say (to them O Rasulullaah ﷺ), “If I have forged it then (Allaah will certainly punish me for this and even if I secure your support,) you people will be unable to assist (protect) me against (the punishment of) Allaah at all. (However, the Qur’aan is certainly from Allaah and) He knows best what you discuss about it (and will punish you for it). He suffices as Witness between us (and will decide who is right and who is not) and He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful (for He is prepared to forgive you if you repent and accept Ilaaam).”

9. (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) Say (to the people), “I have not brought a new message (for the first time) among the Rusul and I have no idea about what will happen to me and you people (in the future because I do not have knowledge of the unseen). I follow only what has been revealed to me (without adding or omitting any details) and I am a clear warner (regardless of the future results).”

10. Say, “Tell me. What if this Qur’aan is really from Allaah and you people deny (reject) it (without good reason) and are too proud (to accept it) although a witness from the Bani Israa’eel (those learned in the original teachings of the Torah and Injeel, such as Abdullaah bin Salaam ُ) testifies to a similar (divine) book and believes in it (believes that the Qur’aan is from Allaah)? (This would mean that you are behaving irrationally and unjustly, so bear in mind that) Verily Allaah does not guide an unjust (sinful) nation.”

11. The (proud) Kuffaar say to the Mu’mineen, “If this (Islaam) was (something) good, you people would never have beaten us to it (because we are more intelligent than you and would have seen the truth first).” When they (the Kuffaar) are not guided by means of the Qur’aan (because they are
too proud to accept) they say, “This is an old lie (merely stories about ancient people)!”

12. Before it (the Qur’an) was the book of Moosa (the Torah) which was a guide (to lead people to Allaah) and a (means of attaining Allaah’s) mercy. This book (the Qur’an) is a confirmation in Arabic to warn the oppressors (the Kuffaar about the consequences of kufr) and it is good news for those who do good (for the Mu’mineen because it tells them about their final home in Jannah).

13. Verily those who say, “Our Rabb is Allaah” and are then steadfast (diligently practise the Deen), they shall have no fear (of the future) neither shall they grieve (about the past).

14. These are the people (inhabitants) of Jannah where they will live forever as a reward (from the mercy of Allaah) for the deeds they carried out.

15. We enjoined (commanded) man to treat his parents kindly. His mother bore him with hardship (pain and discomfort) and delivered him with hardship and his bearing and weaning are (completed) in (a maximum period of) thirty months. (In this manner was man carried and delivered to the world) Until the time arrives when he comes of strength (matures) and (thereafter when he) reaches the age of forty (when he reaches complete mental and spiritual maturity) he says, “O my Rabb! Grant me the ability to be grateful for the bounties that You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and (grant me the ability so) that I (am able to) carry out good deeds with which You are pleased. And (in addition to this) create sound capabilities in my progeny (so that they may also have the ability to be steadfast Muslims). Verily I repent to You (for my sins) and am from among those who surrender (are obedient) to You.”
16. These are the people from whom We accept their good deeds, forgive their sins and who will be among the people of Jannah because of the true promise that has been given to them.

17. (Unlike these people there is also) The one (the Kaafir) who says to his (Mu’min) parents, “Fie to you two! Do you warn me that I shall be raised (after death) when many generations have passed before me (without being raised yet)?” The two of them (his Mu’min parents) seek Allaah’s assistance saying, “Woe to you! Believe! Allaah’s promise (of resurrection) is true.” He then says, “These are only tales of the old folk (which I shall not believe).”

18. Such (misguided people) are the people against whom the decree (of punishment) has been issued (and who are) from (among the many) nations of (destroyed) men and Jinn who have passed on (away) before them. They were all certain losers.

19. For everyone there are (varying) ranks (in Jannah or Jahannam) because of their actions so that they may earn the full recompense for their actions and they will not be shown the least injustice. (They will be rewarded for every good deed, regardless of how small and they will not be punished even a fraction more than they deserve.)

20. (Do not forget) The day when those who commit kufr will be presented before the Fire. (They will be told,) “You have used up your good things (your health, wealth and other resources) in your worldly life and enjoyed yourself (instead of using them to prepare for the Aakhirah). Today you will be recompensed (paid back) with a humiliating punishment because you behaved proudly on earth without cause and because you were disobedient (to Allaah and His Rasul).”
21. Call to mind the brother of the Aad (a member of the Aad community) (Hood رجُل) when he warned his people (about the consequences of kufr) at the (sand) dunes although (they had already heard such warnings before because) warners had already passed (come) before him and (many were still to come) after him. (However, despite repeated warnings, they still refused to submit.) (He said to them,) “Do not worship anyone but Allaah. Verily I fear the punishment of a terrible (dreadful) day for you.”

22. They said, “Have you come to us to turn us away from (worshipping) our gods? Bring upon us what (punishment) you warn us about, if you are truthful (about being a Nabi).”

23. He said, “Knowledge (about when the punishment will arrive) is only with Allaah and I merely convey to you what I have been sent with. However, I notice that you are a nation that behaves ignorantly (because you are actually asking for punishment).”

24. (However, despite his tireless efforts, the people refused to accept Imaan. Eventually, Allaah’s punishment came to them. Referring to the approach of the punishment, Allaah says,) When they observed it (the punishment) as a cloud approaching their valleys they exclaimed, “This is a cloud that will bring us rain.” Rather, it was the thing they sought to hasten, a fierce wind bearing a painful punishment.

25. (When the wind blew,) It demolished everything (in its path) by the command of its Rabb and it transpired that (after it had passed) only (the ruins of) their homes could be seen. Thus did We punish the sinful nation (for seven nights and eight days).

26. We granted them (the Aad) powers (immense physical strength) that We never gave you people (or any other before or after them) and We gave them ears, eyes and hearts (with which they
were able to hear, see and accept the truth of Tawheed). However, their ears, eyes and hearts were of no benefit to them at all because they rejected Allaah’s Aayaat and (eventually) the mockery they made (of Allaah’s Deen and Nabi) encompassed them (allowing them no escape).

27. (Just as We destroyed the Aadh,) We have (also) destroyed several towns around you (like the people of Thamood). (However, before Our punishment struck them,) We had clearly explained the Aayaat (to them) so that they (might) return (to Islaam). (It was only after they had received ample warning that they were destroyed.)

28. So why were they not helped by those (gods) whom they took (worshipped) as a means of gaining proximity (to Allaah and whom they took) as their gods? They (these gods) will be lost to them (will not be there when they need help). This (belief that their gods are worthy of worship and will intercede on their behalf) is merely their lie that they concoct.

29. (O Rasulullaah ﷺ! Mention to people the time) When We turned a group of the Jinn towards you (as you led the Fajr salaah) to attentively listen to the Qur’aan. When they presented themselves to listen, they said (to each other), “Be silent (so that we may listen properly).” When the recitation was complete, they returned to their people as warners (inviting them to Islaam).

30. They said, “O our people! We have heard a book that was revealed after Moosa S.A.W. which confirms what (scriptures) was before it and guides towards the truth (in belief) and towards the straight path (in action).”

31. “O our people! Respond to (accept) Allaah’s caller (Rasulullaah ﷺ) and believe in him; (if you do so) Allaah will forgive your sins and save you from a painful punishment.”
32. “Whoever does not respond to (rejects) Allaah’s caller cannot escape (Allaah’s punishment) on earth and has no protecting friend besides Allaah. Such people are in clear error.”

33. Do they (the people) not see that Allaah Who created the heavens and the earth and did not tire from creating them has the power to give life to the dead? Why not? (When He can create such magnificent creation, how can He not resurrect bodies?) Allaah has power over all things. (Nothing is impossible for Him. The fact that Allaah did not tire after creating the heavens and the earth negates the belief of those who say that He rested after six days.)

34. (Do not forget) The day when the Kuffaar will be presented before the Fire. (They will then be asked,) “Is this (resurrection and Jahannam) not the truth (which you used to deny) ?” They will reply, “Certainly, by the oath of our Rabbi!” Allaah will say, “So (now) taste the punishment because you used to commit kufr (taste the punishment because you used to deny the truth).”

35. (O Rasulullaah) Regardless of the difficulties the Kuffaar give you, you should Exercise patience like the resolute ones among the Rusul exercised patience (before you) and do not be hasty about them (asking for them to be punished). The day when they will be shown what (punishment) they had been promised, it will seem to them that they had not even lived (longer than just) a moment of a single day. This (Qur’aan) is a message (so accept it and obey its commands). It will be only the disobedient nation who will be destroyed.