

The Tafsīr of Sūrah Qul yā Ayyuhal-Kāfirūn (Chapter - 109)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Recitation of these Sūrahs in the Optional Prayers

It has been confirmed in *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* from Jābir that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited this Sūrah (Al-Kāfirūn) and

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾

﴿Say: "He is Allāh One."﴾ (112:1) in the two *Rak'ahs* of *Tawāf*.^[1] It is also recorded in *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* in a *Ḥadīth* of Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited these two Sūrahs in the two *Rak'ahs* (optional prayer) of the Morning prayer.^[2]

Imām Aḥmad recorded from Ibn 'Umar that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited in the two *Rak'ahs* before the Morning prayer and the two *Rak'ahs* after the Sunset prayer on approximately ten or twenty different occasions,

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "O Al-Kāfirūn!"﴾ and

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾

﴿Say: " He is Allāh One."﴾ (112:1)^[3]

Aḥmad also recorded that Ibn 'Umar said, "I watched the Prophet ﷺ twenty-four or twenty-five times reciting in the two *Rak'ahs* before the Morning prayer and the two *Rak'ahs* after the Sunset prayer,

[1] Muslim 2:888 in a lengthy *Ḥadīth*.

[2] Muslim 1:502.

[3] Aḥmad 2:24 and 58.

سُورَةُ الْكَافِرُونَ ٦٠٣

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ ❶ لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ❷
وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ❸ وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَّا عَبَدْتُمْ ❹
وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ❺ لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ❻

سُورَةُ النَّصْرِ ١١٠

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ ❶ وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ
يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا ❷ فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ
وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا ❸

سُورَةُ الْمَيْدَةِ ٢٤

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَ ❶ مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا
كَسَبَ ❷ سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ ❸ وَامْرَأَتُهُ
حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ ❹ فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسِينٍ ❺

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "O Al-Kāfirūn!"﴾
and

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾

﴿Say: "He is Allāh One."﴾ (112:1)^[1]

Aḥmad recorded that Ibn 'Umar said, "I watched the Prophet ﷺ for a month and he would recite in the two Rak'ahs before the Morning prayer,

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "O Al-Kāfirūn."﴾ and

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ﴾

﴿Say: "He is Allāh One."﴾ (112:1)^[2]

This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Mājah and An-

Nasā'ī. At-Tirmidhi said, "Ḥasan."^[3] It has already been mentioned previously in a Ḥadīth that it (Sūrat Al-Kāfirūn) is equivalent to a fourth of the Qur'ān and Az-Zalzalah is equivalent to a fourth of the Qur'ān.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾ ❶ لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ❷ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ❸ وَلَا أَنَا
عَابِدٌ مَّا عَبَدْتُمْ ❹ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ❺ لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ ❻

[1] Aḥmad 2:99.

[2] Aḥmad 2:94.

[3] Tuhfat Al-Aḥwadhī 2:470, Ibn Mājah 1:363, and An-Nasā'ī 2:170.

- ﴿1. Say: "O disbelievers!"﴾
 ﴿2. "I worship not that which you worship."﴾
 ﴿3. "Nor will you worship whom I worship."﴾
 ﴿4. "And I shall not worship that which you are worshipping."﴾
 ﴿5. "Nor will you worship that which I worship."﴾
 ﴿6. "To you be your religion, and to me my religion."﴾

The Declaration of Innocence from Shirk

This Sūrah is the Sūrah of disavowal from the deeds of the idolators. It commands a complete disavowal of that. Allāh's statement,

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

﴿Say: "O disbelievers!"﴾ includes every disbeliever on the face of the earth, however, this statement is particularly directed towards the disbelievers of the Quraysh. It has been said that in their ignorance they invited the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ to worship their idols for a year and they would (in turn) worship his God for a year. Therefore, Allāh revealed this Sūrah and in it He commanded His Messenger ﷺ to disavow himself from their religion completely. Allāh said,

﴿لَا أُعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ﴾

﴿I worship not that which you worship.﴾ meaning, statues and rival gods.

﴿وَلَا أَنُشْرِعُ عِبَادَكُمْ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ﴾

﴿Nor will you worship whom I worship.﴾ and He is Allāh Alone, Who has no partner. So the word *Ma* (what) here means *Man* (who). Then Allāh says,

﴿وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ لِّمَا تَعْبُدُونَ﴾ وَلَا أَنُشْرِعُ عِبَادَكُمْ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ﴾

﴿And I shall not worship that which you are worshipping. Nor will you worship whom I worship.﴾

meaning, 'I do not worship according to your worship, which means that I do not go along with it or follow it. I only worship Allāh in the manner in which He loves and is pleased with.' Thus, Allāh says,

﴿وَلَا أَنتَ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ﴾

﴿Nor will you worship whom I worship.﴾ meaning, 'you do not follow the commands of Allāh and His Legislation in His worship. Rather, you have invented something out of the promptings of your own souls.' This is as Allāh says,

﴿إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأَنْفُسُ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ مِنْ رَبِّهِمُ الْهُدَى﴾

﴿They follow but a guess and that which they themselves desire, whereas there has surely come to them the guidance from their Lord!﴾ (53:23)

Therefore, the disavowal is from all of what they are involved. For certainly the worshipper must have a god whom he worships and set acts of worship that he follows to get to him. So the Messenger ﷺ and his followers worship Allāh according to what He has legislated. This is why the statement of Islām is "There is no God worthy of being worshipped except Allāh, and Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh." This means that there is no (true) object of worship except Allāh and there is no path to Him (i.e., way of worshipping Him) other than that which the Messenger came with. The idolators worship other than Allāh, with acts of worship that Allāh has not allowed. This is why the Messenger ﷺ said to them,

﴿لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ﴾

﴿To you be your religion, and to me my religion.﴾

This is similar to Allāh's statement,

﴿وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ كَفَرْنَا بِهِ عَدُوٌّ عَلَيْنَا كَتَبْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ أَنِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ مِمَّا كَفَرْتُمْ بِهٖ فَتُكْفَرُوا بِهِ ۚ وَمَنْ أَعْبَدْ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَنَسِئَ الْفُسُوقَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَا يَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ بِمُسْرِئِينَ﴾

﴿And if they belie you, say: "For me are my deeds and for you are your deeds! You are innocent of what I do, and I am innocent of what you do!"﴾ (10:41)

and He said,

﴿لَنَا أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ﴾

﴿To us our deeds, and to you your deeds.﴾ (28:55)

Al-Bukhāri said, "It has been said,

﴿لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ﴾

﴿To you be your religion.﴾ means disbelief.

﴿وَلَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا أَنَا﴾

﴿and to me my religion.﴾ means, Islām.^[1]

This is the end of the Tafsīr of Sūrat Qul yā Ayyuhal-Kāfirūn.

[1] *Fath Al-Bārī* 8:604.