

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: SŪRAT *Quraish*, 106.

This Makkan Sūra may well be considered as a pendant to the last. If the Quraish were fond of Makkah and proud of it, if they profited, by its central position and it guaranteed security, from their caravans of trade and commerce, let them be grateful, adore the One True God, and accept His Message.

*Quraish or The Quraish, (Custodians
of the Ka'ba)*

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful.*

1. For the familiarity of
The Quraish, ⁶²⁷⁶
2. Their familiarity with the journeys
By winter and summer, ⁶²⁷⁷
3. Let them worship the Lord
Of this House, ⁶²⁷⁸
4. Who provides them
With food against hunger, ⁶²⁷⁹
And with security
Against fear (of danger). ⁶²⁸⁰

سُورَةُ قُرَيْشٍ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا قُرَيْشٌ ۝١

إِلَهُهُمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ ۝٢

فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ ۝٣

الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِنْ جُوعٍ وَآمَنَهُمْ

مِنْ خَوْفٍ ۝٤

6276. The Quraish were the noblest tribe of Arabia, the tribe to which belonged the holy Prophet himself. They had the custody of the Ka'ba, the central shrine of Arabia, and their possession of Makkah gave them a triple advantage: (1) they had a commanding influence over other tribes; (2) their central position facilitated trade and intercourse, which gave them both honour and profit; and (3) the Makkah territory being by Arabian custom inviolable from the ravages of war and private feuds, they had a secure position, free from fear of danger. This honour and advantage they owed to their position as servants of the sacred shrine of the Ka'ba. They owed it to Allah. Was it not therefore right and fitting that they should adore the One True God, and listen to His Message of Unity and Purity, brought by His Prophet?

In those days of general insecurity, their prestige as custodians of Makkah enabled them to obtain Covenants of security and safeguard from the rulers of neighbouring countries on all sides—Syria, Persia, Yaman, and Abyssinia—protecting their trade journey in all seasons.

6277. See last note, especially section (2). On account of their trade journeys to the warmth of Yaman in the winter and the cooler regions of Syria and the north in the summer, the Quraish became practised travellers and merchants, acquired much knowledge of the world and perfected their language as a polished medium of literary expression.

6278. The Ka'ba.

6279. Their trade caravans enriched them, and drew people from distant parts to visit Makkah and bring their merchandise and gifts thither.

6280. Their territory being inviolable, they did not suffer from the dangers of constant warfare nor from private feuds of vengeance or breaches of the peace in their secure homes.