



ISLAMIC STUDIES

Assignment # 02

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DESCRIBE WITH REFERENCE TO SURAH AL-ASR, THE MINIMUM AND UNIFIED CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR THE DIVINE SUCCESS IN THE LIFE OF A MUSLIM, IN DETAIL.

Introduction

Surah Al-Asr is the one hundred and third (103rd) Surah of the Holy Quran. It was revealed in Makkah. It has been referred to as a matchless example of inclusiveness because it explains in its **three brief verses** the way to **Success** and the way to **Destruction**. *Imam Shafi* said that if people only consider this surah of the Holy Quran, it would be sufficient in the way of guidance. Many ahadith speak about the high esteem in which the Sahaba (Companions of the Holy Prophet) held this surah. Similarly, whenever any two or more Sahabi (Companions of the Holy Prophet) met they would not part ways without reciting surah Al-Asr.

The Translation of the Surah is as follows:

“By Al-Asr (time). Verily, man is in loss, except for those who trust and do good deeds, urge one another to the truth and urge one another to tolerance.”
(Quran 103)

This **Surah** opens with a warning to humanity. In this Surah Allah Almighty takes an oath by “time” and declares that humanity is in a state of loss. Every single human being, man or woman, is in a state of loss except those who strive and do four things; believe (Faith), do righteous deeds, and recommend one another to truth, and to *patience*

The Meaning of the Word 'Asr'

The simple translation for the word **Asr** would be time, time that is limited; time that will come to an end. At a philological level one of the meanings of **Asr** is something that is constrained or embraced. Allah Almighty is swearing an oath by time, a time that is limited, a time that will end and a time that must be squeezed or pressed so that we, humanity gets as much from our limited time as possible.

Allah Almighty is also asking us to replicate on the passage of time. Another meaning that is given to the word **Asr** is the deteriorating day, the time of the **Asr** prayer, when the day coming to an end. Allah is telling us that our time is short and restricted and if we do not make the most of it we are surely the failures, verily, Allah says, we are in loss.

The Meaning of the Word 'Khusr'

The Arabic word for loss is **Kausar** and it is the reverse of profit. In this context it could mean that humanity will lose their main assets for the Hereafter if instead of using this life to do good deeds they waste it with disbelief and sin.

Principles For Success listed in Surah Al-Asr

We are in danger of losing something very distinct, and that is a heavenly life in the Hereafter. However, before that great loss we will lose our nearness to Allah and thus our peace and calmness in this life. The absence of happiness can sometimes lead humanity to act deceitfully, and to run straight into trouble and conflict. But Allah is continuously cautioning us and here in this Surah He is once again repeating: wait, think and save yourself.

Allah has listed four-character traits for a person to save him/her self. These Traits are as follows:

1. **TO BELIEVE.**

The first step of redemption is through keeping the correct belief and obeying to it with conviction and certainty.

2. **TO DO RIGHTEOUS DEEDS.**

The way in which we gain this certainty is by doing the actions that are pleasing to Allah Almighty, we reveal our belief through our actions or virtuous deeds. Our deeds must be performed in harmony to what is in the Holy Quran and the true **Sunnah**.

They should not be according to our urges and wishes. The true sign of success is to obey Allah's directives and to fight the desire to sin.

3. **TO ENCOURAGE.**

It is the third trait and in this trait Allah Almighty is telling us to remind each other and inspire each other to be faithful to the truth, and to let it stand out clearly by hopeful motivated for justice.

4. **TO RECOMMEND ONE ANOTHER TO SABR.**

It is the fourth trait, following the commandments of Allah requires tolerance, staying away from sins requires patience, and not being hopeless in times of misfortunes requires patience. A wise man once said that being Patient meant having the ability to stop ourselves from being hopeless, to refrain from complaining, and to control ourselves in times of grief.

This **Surah** advises those who believe to act together to fortify their position in the Hereafter. It implies asking and inviting people to do righteous deeds and stopping them from committing sin.

The revelation of this **SURAH** occurred during tough times. The early Muslims had to struggle with the oppression and this Surah gave them strength and poise in the face of their trials and troubles. It is perhaps for this reason that it was very dear to the **Sahabah**(Companions of the Holy Prophet) and still is to those who try to lead righteous lives. Today when a person finds himself in loss, his position can be turned around by following the brief advice Allah gave to us in **SURAH AL-ASR.**

THE END