

Sajdas in Qur'an

Learning Objectives:

- To understand what Wajib and Mustahab Sajdas are.
- To know in which Surah the Wajib Sajdas can be found.
- To understand the connection between all of the Wajib Sajdas.

There are some verses in the Qur'an that have been designated as ayaat (sign) that require a sajda after you have heard or recited them. There are four of these that are wajib and ten that are mustahab.

NOTE: Performing sajda after reciting these verses for oneself or hearing someone recite these verses is waajib on everyone who has reached the age of bulugh. More details can be found below.

The four verses that require a wajib sajda are as follows:

1) SURA SAJDA

إِنَّمَا يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهَا خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَسَبَّحُوا بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ ﴿١﴾

Only those believe in Our signs who, when they are reminded of them, do Sajda and celebrate the praise of their Lord, and they are not arrogant. [32:15]

2) SURA HA-MIM

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ ۚ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا
لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ
فَإِنْ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فَالَّذِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ يُسَبِّحُونَ لَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُمْ لَا
يَسْأَمُونَ ﴿١﴾

And among His signs are the night and the day and the sun and the moon; do not do Sajda to the sun nor to the moon; and do Sajda to Allah Who created them, if Him it is that you serve. But if they (the unbelievers) are arrogant (no matter): for in the presence of your Lord are those who celebrate His praises by night and day. And they never tire. [41:37-38]

3) SURA NAJM (LAST VERSE)

فَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ وَاعْبُدُوا ﴿١﴾

So do Sajda to Allah and worship Him. [53:62]

4) SURA ALAQ (LAST VERSE)

كَلَّا لَا تُطِيعُهُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ ۝

No! Do not obey him. Do Sajdah and come closer (to Allah) [96:19]

Out of a Qur'an of over 6000 verses, God has made it obligatory on us only to do Sajda after four.

What is the link between these four and why are they so significant?

The act of doing Sajda is one of complete submission. When you bow down to someone, you are showing how low your status is in comparison to theirs, and that is why, it is forbidden to bow down to anyone except God. We are placing our forehead against the dust to remind ourselves that no matter how rich or successful we are, ultimately we are all made of dust and we shall return to it. We are also acknowledging that compared to God we are nothing at all.

The verses above all talk about people who were arrogant.

Arrogance is when someone behaves very proudly and thinks they are better or know more than others.

For example, if you got 100% in your Quran exam and then walked around with your head held high and thought you were better than all the other students because you got top of the class, you would be behaving very arrogantly.

Arrogance is one of the worst acts in the eyes of God and it was for this reason that Shaytan was banished from the garden and punished for the rest of time. God commanded him to do Sajda to Prophet Adam (A) and he refused because he thought he was better than Prophet Adam (A). All of Shaytan's good deeds and worship up to that point were nullified because of his pride and arrogance. No one is better than God, if he were to command anyone of his creation to do something we should never say no. By not listening to his instructions it's as if we are telling God that we know better than Him.

The first two Wajib Sajda verses compare those who are arrogant (the disbelievers) and those who are not (the believers).

In **Sura Sajda (32)**, the verses before the wajib Sajda talks about the disbelievers paying for their actions and being punished, and then the next verse describes the believers who are free from arrogance and do Sajda in praise of their Lord.

In **Sura Ha-Mim (41)**, Allah says the arrogance of the disbelievers does not matter because there are those who never get tired of praising Allah, and then commands the believers, to do a sajda to prove His point.

In **Sura Najm (53)**, God talks about the Day of Judgement, and how serious it is but then comments that some people mock the idea and waste their times in useless activities, most probably because of their arrogance. He then ends with telling them to ask for forgiveness, and do Sajda to Allah and worship him.

In **Sura Alaq (96)**, God challenges the arrogant disbeliever (some sources say this is addressed to one of the leaders of the Quraysh, Abu Jahl) to bring his henchmen and says that in response God will bring the guards of hell to punish him for his misdeeds. He then commands the Holy Prophet (S), and by extension, all the believers, not to obey him and to do Sajda to God instead.

Abu Jahl was a rich and powerful leader, and the Prophet (S) was at the time poor and without many followers. In life we often see that those who are disbelievers seem to have lots of power, money and influence, but remember this is all temporary. When God tells him to bring his henchmen to face the guards of Hell, it shows us that no matter how powerful someone appears to be, and how arrogant they feel, ultimately we all have to face God alone, without our parents, family, supporters and money.

Fiqh rules pertaining to the Wajib Sajda (Ayatullah Sistani)

This is the sign that indicates that the verse contains a Wajib Sajda



- You must do the Sajda immediately after hearing the verse, and if you forget to, it must be done as soon as you remember.
- If you hear it and recite it yourself you must do Sajda twice.
- If you hear it on a recording (eg. online/CD) then you don't have to do Sajda, as it is not being recited at that moment.
- You do not need to be in wudhu, or in a state of taharat.
- You do not have to face Qibla.
- You do not have to cover your body.
- The Obligatory Precaution is that you should place your head on Mohr, or any other thing that Sajda is allowed.
- You can recite any Dhikr in the Sajda

Activity:

1. Think of some examples of useless activities that Allah SWT may be referring to in Surah Najm (53).
2. Work with a partner and look for any three Mustahab Sajdas in the Quran and read the English translation. Can you find a connection between the three of them? What are they talking about?
3. Imagine you are about to meet someone who has never of Wajib Sajdas before. Create a poster explaining them.

Mustahab Sajda verses:

Sura 7 - Al A'raf (The Elevated Places) - Ayat 206
 Sura 13 - Ar Ra'ad (The Thunder) - Ayat 15
 Sura 16 - An Nahl (The Bee) - Ayat 50
 Sura 17 - Bani Israil (The Children of Israil) - Ayat 109
 Sura 19 - Marium (Mary) - Ayat 58
 Sura 22 - Al Haj (The Pilgrimage) - Ayat 18
 Sura 25 - Al Furqan (The Criterion) - Ayat 60
 Sura 27 - An Naml (The Ant) - Ayat 26
 Sura 38 - Saad (Saad) - Ayat 24
 Sura 84 - Al Inshiqaq (The Bursting Asunder) - Ayat 21

Key Points:

1. There are 4 Wajib Sajda and 10 Mustahab Sajda out of over 6000 verses in the Quran.
2. The 4 Wajib Sajda are:
 - i. Sura Sajda (32:15)
 - ii. Sura Haa Mim (41:37-38)
 - iii. Sura Najm (53:62)
 - iv. Sura Alaq (96:19)
3. After hearing or reciting the Wajib Sajda verse one should do Sajda immediately on Mohr (or anything natural)