

SPECIAL VERSES IN THE HOLY QUR'AN (1)

Ayatul Kursi (2 : 255-257)

Introduction

The verses 255, 256 and 257 of Suratul Baqarah are collectively known as Ayatul Kursi. The three verses have great merit and blessing and it is highly recommended to memorise them and recite them often. They protect the reciter from all harm.

Text and Translation

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ

Allah! There is no god save He, the ever-living, the self-subsisting (by whom all subsist).

لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ

Slumber does not seize Him, nor does sleep;

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

to Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth.

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ

Who is he that can intercede with Him, except by His permission?

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

He knows what is before them and what is behind them,

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ

while they cannot comprehend anything out of His knowledge save that which He wills.

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ

His throne (knowledge) extends over the heavens and the earth

وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا ۚ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

and the preservation of them does not tire Him; and He is the most high, the great.

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

There is no compulsion in religion.

قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ

Indeed truth has been made distinct from error,

فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ

therefore he who disbelieves in false gods and believes in Allah,

فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ

indeed, has taken hold of the strongest handhold

لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا ۗ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

which will not break off; and Allah is hearing, knowing.

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا

Allah is the guardian of those who believe.

يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ

He brings them out of darkness into light.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ

And those who disbelieve, the false gods are their guardians,

يُخْرِجُوهُمْ مِّنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ

who take them out of light into darkness;

أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ ۖ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

they are the inmates of the fire, they shall abide therein.

Simple Tafsir

Ayah 255: In this one verse is contained all we can ever know about Allah. There is no god but He. He is never inattentive to the needs of His creation. On the Day of Judgement, there will be no intercession for anyone except with Allah's permission. "Kursi" means "chair", but here it refers to the knowledge and authority of Allah.

Ayah 256: There is no compulsion in religion means that you cannot force anyone to accept Islam. A Muslim was forcing his slave to become Muslim when this verse was revealed. It does not mean that we do not have to follow the rules of Shar'ia once we become Muslims (as some people think.)

According to Imam Muhammad al Baqir (A), the strong rope "al 'Urwatul Wuthqa" refers to following the guidance of the Holy Aimmah (AS).

Ayah 257: In this verse, “Wali” means that Allah is close to the believers while the disbelievers are under the influence of the “Taghut” or Shaitan. While Allah brings people out of the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge, Shaitan takes his followers into the darkness of disbelief.

Merits of Reciting Ayatul Kursi

1. The verses should be recited after every Wajib prayer. There is great blessing in this including an increase in sustenance and livelihood. The Prophet (S) has said, “O `Ali! Whoever recites Ayatul Kursi after the obligatory prayers will be protected by Allah against all troubles, and remain under His protection and peace till the next prayer time.”
2. Imam `Ali (AS) has said that he who recites it before going to sleep ensures his protection as well as that of his neighbours. The Prophet (S) has said, “I am alone in having been favoured with Ayatul Kursi by Allah. This favour has not been granted to any other Prophet.”
3. Imam Ja`far as Sadiq (AS) has said that before you go on a journey, recite Ayatul Kursi and give something in charity. This will secure your life and property during the journey.

References

1. The Holy Qur'an, S V Mir Ahmad `Ali
2. IRE, Nairobi Syllabus.