



# Hadith

## THE SPECIAL MERIT OF SURAH 112, THE PURITY OF FAITH

Abu Sa'īd al-Khudrī narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to his companions:



1 Will any of you be unable to recite one-third of the Qur'an during a night?



2 They felt the task very hard and said: Who of us can manage that, Messenger of God?



3 He said: God, the One, the Eternal, the Absolute is one-third of the Qur'an.<sup>(1)</sup>

1 Related by al-Bukhari, 5015.

### From the Qur'an

- ﴿Any revelation We annul or consign to oblivion We replace with a better or similar one.﴾ (2: 106)
- ﴿Say: He is God, the One and only God (1) the Eternal, the Absolute. (2) He begets none, nor is He begotten, (3) and there is nothing that could be compared to Him.﴾ (112: 1-4)

### The Narrator

Abu Sa'īd Sa'd ibn Mālik ibn Sinān al-Anṣārī belonged to the Khazraj tribe and to Madinah, and is known as al-Khudrī. He took part in the Encounter of the Moat and the following military expeditions. He tried to join the army for the Battle of Uḥud, but the Prophet did not allow him as he was then too young. He took part in a total of twelve military expeditions and also in the pledge under the tree. He narrated a large number of hadiths, and issued fatwas for a period of time. He died in Year 74 AH, 694 CE.

### Summary

The Prophet states that Surah 112, which starts with 'Say: He is God, the One and only God' is equal to one-third of the Qur'an. This because it focuses on making God's oneness absolutely clear. Therefore, when a person recites it, it is as if he recited one-third of the Qur'an.



# Message and Meaning



The Prophet (peace be upon him) asked his companions whether any of them was ready to recite one-third of the Qur'an every night.



His companions felt the question strange, as it required something hard of them. The Prophet never used to require them to do what they were unable to accomplish.



He told them that the surah that mentions God by His oneness and eternity is equal to one-third of the Qur'an with regard to its merit and reward. This surah is entitled *al-Iklāṣ*, or Purity of Faith. The Prophet referred to it using a couple of God's attributes it mentions, particularly *al-Ṣamad*. This attribute, which is translated as 'the Eternal, the Absolute' has many connotations that refer to several of God's attributes. One of these is that God does not need food or anything, and none is similar to Him in any way. Further, He is the One sought for help, as He is in no need of anyone of His creation, while all of them are in need of Him and His help. Also, He is the One who remains after all creation have died.

A hadith narrated by Abu Hurayrah says: 'God's Messenger (peace be upon him) came out to us and said: "I shall recite to you one third of the Qur'an", and he recited [the surah]: "Say: He is God, the One and only God, the Eternal, the Absolute" to its end'.<sup>(1)</sup>

Composed of a small number of words,<sup>(2)</sup> this surah is equal to one-third of the Qur'an because it focuses on God's oneness and mentions some of God's names and attributes. It makes absolutely clear that He has neither partner, nor equal, nor a son. God's Book, the Qur'an, has three main themes: 1) the explanation of God's oneness and His attributes; 2) stating the Islamic code of law, explaining what is lawful and what is unlawful; and 3) giving accounts of past communities. This surah tackles the first of these three themes, i.e. God's oneness. Therefore, a person who recites this surah earns a reward equal to that of one who recites one-third of the Qur'an.

1 Related by Muslim, 262.

2 The surah includes only 15 words, which makes it the second shortest in the Qur'an.

# Implementation



It is good to choose the proper and more effective methods of address. Some discourse may be good and useful, but the right way of presenting it may make it easier to accept and act upon. This applies in most situations, including one's discourse with one's children, family, students and others to whom one may give advice or have some business with.



The Prophet used the method of asking a strange question to prepare his companions to receive the information he wanted to give them. He asked them whether they were ready to do something which appeared to be beyond their ability. As a result, they were fully attentive to him as he explained how a person could recite that much of the Qur'an during one night. Such a method of putting some strange questions, or relating some marvellous events is highly effective in keeping one's audience alert, ready to receive and understand the information to be given. Advocates of Islam, scholars, teachers and educators will do well to use this method.



The hadith shows the Prophet's wisdom in educating his companions, preferring to put forward a proposal rather than give an order. It is important to learn from the Prophet his way of educating his companions. He used every way that encourages his audience to do what he suggests to them.



The Shariah assigns easy tasks that ensure fine and plentiful reward. Every Muslim should be keen to make the best use of such divine gifts.



The hadith shows how well-mannered the Prophet's companions were. They did not reject his proposition, but tried to politely excuse themselves. It is important to behave towards our teachers in the same manner.



We need to give Surah 112, *al-Ikhlāṣ* or Purity of Faith, its due importance. The Prophet highlighted its great merit because it is great indeed. Every Muslim should ensure to memorize, study, understand and teach it, at home, school and study circles. This applies to everything God states as important.



'Ā'ishah narrated that 'God's Messenger (peace be upon him) sent a man as a commander of an expedition, and this man was reciting the Qur'an as he led the prayer with his companions and he always finished with "Say: He is God, the One and only God". When they came back, this was mentioned to God's Messenger (peace be upon him). He said: "Ask him why he does this". They asked him and he said: "Because it describes God, the Lord of Grace. I love to recite it". God's Messenger (peace be upon him) said to them: "Tell him that God loves him"<sup>(1)</sup>.

1 Related by al-Bukhari, 7375; Muslim, 813.

