

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Juzz 2 Summary: Suratul Baqarah (142-252)

Order to change the Qiblah but the focus must be the priority of this Deen

The Changing of the Qiblah is just a test of faith but the greater responsibility on the Ummah is not to be embattled with the outer aspects but to be “Shuhadda’ ‘alan Naas”-Witnesses unto mankind inviting to Allah SWT:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا ۗ

And thus, we have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you. ... (143)

- Understand and fulfil the responsibilities and duties that fall upon us by virtue of being Muslims...we are witnesses to mankind
- Witnesses unto mankind require two aspects:
 - Witness by words
 - Witness by deeds

Showing gratitude to Allah SWT is an integral part of faith

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونِ ﴿١٥٢﴾

So, remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me. (152)

Prescription to seek Allah's help

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ (156) الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ (157) أُولَئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ (158)

And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient, (155) Who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return." (156) Those are the ones upon whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are the [rightly] guided. (157)

- Believers must know that with the responsibility of faith come trials and tribulations
- The way forward is to seek help from Allah SWT through Salaah and Sabr.

Safa and Marwah are the symbols of Allah

إِنَّ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِن شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ - Surely, al-Safa and al-Marwah are the symbols of Allah.

- In the days of Jahiliyyah altars were built at these hillocks and they were venerated:
 - Isaf at Safa and
 - Nai'lah at Marwah
- Islam cleansed all aspects of worship and veneration for Allah SWT alone and rooted out all forms of shirk, heresies and superstitions.

Curse on those who conceal the truth

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَهُدًى مِّن بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّاهُ لِلنَّاسِ فِي الْكِتَابِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَلْعَنُهُمُ
اللَّاٰعِنُونَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

Indeed, those who conceal what We sent down of clear proofs and guidance after We made it clear for the people in the Scripture - those are cursed by Allah and cursed by those who curse, (159)

- Previous nations concealed the truth and did not teach the masses. They kept them in ignorance while they made a profit from it. In The Hereafter this becomes fire in their bellies: **أُولَٰئِكَ مَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ إِلَّا النَّارَ** – they are merely filling their bellies with Fire
- In the end the people deviated from Tawheed of Allah SWT. Thus Allah SWT emphasized:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ - Your God is One God, there is no god but He; the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

Reflect on the signs in nature to recognize Allah

- If a man were to observe the system of this universe, reflect on it without stubbornness or bias, he would find sufficient signs to convince him that this vast system is created by a Wise Being, Who alone has all power, control and authority.
- Unfortunately people make idols with their own hands or take the creation and show reverence to them the way they should have shown reverence to the Creator Allah SWT.

Some dietary laws given and warning against Satan in mixing things up

Shaitaan tries to mix things up and so we should beware of his luring us into eating and drinking Haram in the name of Halaal.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ ﴿١٦٨﴾

O mankind, eat from whatever is on earth [that is] lawful and good and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. (168)

- Allah SWT, The Law-Giver has given clear guidance of things that are prohibited and it is basic knowledge that we must know. We must stay away from them out of obedience and love of Allah SWT. They may be tempting but faith requires us to shun what Allah SWT has made forbidden or Haraam.

The evil of holding on to customs and culture and rejecting The Right Way

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا

And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing."

True piety is not outward show but deep belief and pure practice

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ ...

Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the Prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous. (177)

- Often we get too much focused on the outward looks believing that they alone bring about piety. But piety is a combination of beliefs, social responsibility, Ibaadaat, Mu'aamalaat (financial interactions), truthfulness to our promises.

Capital Punishment should be avoided as much as possible

Every kind of excuse is provided to spare lives, including the life of the murderer. The victim's kin may find it better, under certain circumstances, to spare the life of the murderer in exchange for an equitable compensation (blood money).

وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقِصَاصِ حَيَاةٌ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

And there is for you in legal retribution [saving of] life, O you [people] of understanding, that you may become righteous. (179)

Fasting Regulations- The purpose is to gain the deep inner quality of Taqwa

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous - (183)

Ramadhan is the month of The Qur'an which is the standard of what is good and what is evil.

We must not allow our culture, customs, opinions, heresies and superstition to decide what is right and what is evil but The Qur'an is the criterion for what is right and what is wrong.

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۗ

The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion...

Making Du'a to Allah SWT we don't need intermediary

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۗ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۗ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided. (186)

- People exhaust themselves by approaching false and powerless beings who neither has the power to hear nor to grant their prayers.
- On the other hand, The Creator Allah SWT is so close to human beings that they can always approach Him without the intercession of any intermediaries, and can put to Him their prayers and requests.

The prohibition of usurping people's wealth with false claim

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالِكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٨﴾

And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you [to] consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful]. (188)

- Rasoolullah SAS warned: 'I am merely a human being and you bring to me your disputes. It is possible that some of you will be more impressive in argument than others, so that I may give judgement in favors of one on the basis of what I hear. Beware that if I award to someone what belongs to his brother, I will have assigned to him a piece of Fire.'

Rules of armed engagement and its restrictions

Fighting for removal of Fitnah is allowed strictly in self-defense, while aggression and oppression are strongly condemned throughout the Qur'an.

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ ﴿١٩٠﴾

Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors. (190)

Avoid superstitious beliefs

وَلَيْسَ الْبِرُّ بِأَنْ تَأْتُوا الْبُيُوتَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهَا وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنِ اتَّقَى - True righteousness is not that you enter your houses from the back; righteousness lies in fearing Allah

- Allah SWT warns the Believers that their customs of entering their homes from the back door when the moon is sighted for Zil-Hijjah. So this is not piety, this is heresy. Piety is be conscious of Allah SWT and His commands.

Financial responsibility for this Deen

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ ۗ وَأَحْسِنُوا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٩٥﴾

And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good. (195)

- The command to spend in the way of Allah SWT is given here and in many places in The Qur'an. When all others are spending to invite to their ways and Muslims do not spend to invite to Allah SWT it is causing destruction with our own hands.

Rules governing Hajj and Umrah... Above all Hajj is about discipline, Taqwa and lots of Zhikr

وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ

And complete the Hajj and 'Umrah for Allah...

Hajj is [during] well-known months, so whoever has made Hajj obligatory upon himself therein [by entering the state of ihram], there is [to be for him] no intimate spousal relations and no disobedience and no disputing during Hajj. And whatever good you do - Allah knows it. And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding. (197)

Allah SWT warns about becoming victims of fanciful speech

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يُعْجِبُكَ قَوْلُهُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيُشْهَدُ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا فِي قَلْبِهِ وَهُوَ أَلَدُّ الْخِصَامِ

And of the people is he whose speech pleases you in worldly life, and he calls Allah to witness as to what is in his heart, yet he is the fiercest of opponents. (204)

- Such a person tends to claim again and again that he was merely a well-wisher and was simply striving to uphold what is true and right, and to promote the welfare of the people. But instead, he is the most fierce in enmity.

Islam is not compartmentalized but holistic and must be practiced likewise

The true way to understand Islam and call to Islam is through the holistic approach. Too often people take one aspect of Deen and call it the whole or present it as if it is the whole. This is a great error!

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السَّلْمِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿٢٠٨﴾

O you who have believed, enter into Islam completely [and perfectly] and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. (208)

Way to Paradise passes through trials, patience and supplication

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَنْ تُدْخَلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُمْ مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ ۚ مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالصَّرَاءُ وَرُزِلُوا حَتَّىٰ يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَىٰ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ ﴿٢١٤﴾

Or do you think that you shall enter the Garden (of Bliss) without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They encountered suffering and adversity and were so shaken in spirit that even the Apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: "When (will come) the help of Allah?" Ah! Verily the help of Allah is (always) near!

You may love something but it is bad for you and such is the opposite

...عَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ ۖ وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢١٦﴾

But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And Allah Knows, while you know not. (216)

- Only The Creator of man can truly determine for him good and bad for man puts his feelings over facts to determine “khair” good and “Sharr” evil.

Allah SWT explains why this constant battle. It is to surrender to Kufr

وَلَا يَزَالُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَرُدُّوكُمْ عَن دِينِكُمْ إِنِ اسْتَطَاعُوا ۗ وَمَن يَرْتَدِدْ مِنكُمْ عَن دِينِهِ فَمَا يُمِثُّ وَهُوَ كَافِرٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ ۗ وَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ ۗ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢١٧﴾

Nor will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. And if any of you turn back from their faith and die in unbelief their works will bear no fruit in this life and in the Hereafter; they will be Companions of the Fire and will abide therein.

Laws pertaining to social life such as: Marriage, Dowry, Divorce, Alimony child-rearing etc.

- Marriage is not physical, social or emotional but highly spiritual. So marry those who have faith in Allah SWT
- Our social life is directed by Allah SWT just as our spiritual life.

Nations before asked for a King but they rejected him because they thought they were better

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا ۗ قَالُوا أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ عَلَيْنَا وَنَحْنُ أَحَقُّ بِالْمُلْكِ مِنْهُ وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ سَعَةً مِّنَ الْمَالِ ۗ... ﴿٢٤٧﴾

And their prophet said to them, "Indeed, Allah has sent to you Saul as a king." They said, "How can he have kingship over us while we are more worthy of kingship than him and he has not been given any measure of wealth?" ... (247)

Many people who say they believe in Allah SWT but fail simple tests

فَلَمَّا فَصَلَ طَالُوتُ بِالْجُنُودِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مُبْتَلِيكُمْ بِنَهَرٍ فَمَن شَرِبَ مِنْهُ فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَمَن لَّمْ يَطْعَمْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي إِلَّا مَنِ اغْتَرَفَ غُرْفَةً بِيَدِهِ ۗ فَشَرِبُوا مِنْهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ ۗ

And when Saul went forth with the soldiers, he said, "Indeed, Allah will be testing you with a river. So whoever drinks from it is not of me, and whoever does not taste it is indeed of me, excepting one who takes [from it] in the hollow of his hand." But they drank from it, except a [very] few of them.

- Those who could not endure thirst even for a short while, would not be expected to remain steadfast in their confrontation with an enemy at whose hands they had already taken a beating.

Victory is by numbers: Prophet David (AS) slew the giant Goliath by Allah SWT's permission.

Victory is not physical strength but trust and patience in Allah SWT

كَمْ مِّن فِئَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئَةً كَثِيرَةً بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿٢٤٩﴾

"How many a small company has overcome a large company by permission of Allah. And Allah is with the patient." (249)

The rise and fall of nations

وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَّفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ

And if it were not for Allah checking [some] people by means of others, the earth would have been corrupted, but Allah is full of bounty to the worlds. (251)

- When any nation begins to commit wrongs and exceed reasonable limits, Allah SWT brings forth another nation to put them in check.
- Were the power of one nation to endure forever, and were its capacity to perpetrate wrongs granted permanently, God's earth would become full of corruption and wickedness.