

CHAPTER AL-IKHLAS

Majma al-Bayan

Bismillah ar-Rahman ar-Raheem

Say: He is God, the One and Only God. The God above all need He begets not nor is He begotten. There is none equal or comparable to Him.

Dictionary

The origin of Ahad is Wahad. It is a name as well as an attribute and is connected with God. It means none is comparable to Him for He cannot be divided. If the word Ahad is used for a person then it means that he has at least one unique personality not found in other. When it is used for God it means that no one else shares any attribute of God. Samad means one who is above needs.

Abu Ali has said that in “He is God, the one and the only God” is the news about the origin and then the whole story that is discerned from the Hadith is the back drop. Allah is the origin and Ahad is the news and in Allah as-Samad, Allah is the origin and Samad is the news. But to some Allah is the praise and Huwallah is the news. Samad is one attribute of Allah and Allah may be news.

The words, “And none is like Him” is about having no fixed station and is in the present tense. Kufu means comparison.

The Revelation

It is said that this Surah was revealed when the idolaters asked the Messenger about the God he preached. According to Abi Ka’ab and Jabir when Aamir bin Tufail and Arbad bin Rabih came to the Holy Messenger Aamir asked, “To what do you invite us O Muhammad?” He answered, “To Allah” Aamir asked, “What are the attributes of Allah?” What is he made of - Gold, Silver, Iron or Wood?” It was then that this Surah was revealed. This tradition is from Ibn Abbas.

It is said that some Jews came to the Messenger and said, “Will you explain the attributes of your God? We will believe if they are according to the Torah.” It was then that this Surah was revealed.

Muhammad bin Muslim has quoted Abu Abdullah (AS), “This Surah was revealed when the Jews said, “Relate the attributes of your God to us.”

The Hadith quoted by Qazi in his Tafsir seems to be closer to the truth. Abdullah bin Salam came to the messenger when he was in Makkah and the messenger asked him to narrate the attributes of God he had read in the Torah.” He in turn asked “You enumerate the attributes of your God.” It was then that this Surah was revealed. The Messenger recited this Surah and this became the cause of his conversion to Islam though he hid it and revealed only after the Hijrat to Madina.

Meaning

“Say: He Allah is one” is a command to the messenger to preach to all those who oppose him that there is only one God and there is none other worthy to be worshipped.

According to Zajaj this is a hint towards God and Ahad means that unique entity that has no partners and there is none even comparable to Him. He is unique because of His eternal and singular existence. He is the embodiment of knowledge, the Omnipotent and there is no other eternal cause for the life and its existence. He is singular in His deeds because all his deeds are an obligation on His creations. None is worthy of worship but Him. He has no partners in His deeds. He is omnipotent and there is no one else equal to His stature. There is no other Lord but Him.