

SUMMER IMMERSION

TAFSIR OF SURAH AL-TUR



Mufti Abdul Wahab Waheed

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Structural Recap of Sūrah up to 52:28

- Seven opening oaths establish the truthfulness of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Graphic warning about Jahannam.
- Contrast with scenes of Jannah, climaxing in the family reunion:

فَمَنِ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَانَا عَذَابَ السَّمْوُمِ

Allah favored us and protected us from the scorching torment. (52:27)

Switch of Address

فَذَكِّرْ فَمَا أَنْتَ بِنْعَمَتِ رَبِّكَ بِكَاهِنْ وَلَا مَجْنُونِ

So keep reminding; by the grace of your Lord you are neither a soothsayer nor insane. (52:29)

- Sudden 3rd-person → 2nd-person shift offers emotional support.
- Imperative فَذَكِّرْ (keep reminding) implies continual effort.
- Allah's favor safeguards the Prophet's mental strength.
- Psychology: Even the best servants need reassurance; īmān does not cancel normal emotional needs.

Cascade of Accusations & Divine Rebuttals

- Accusation:

شَاعِرٌ نَّتَرَبَّصُ بِهِ رَيْبُ الْمَنْوِنِ...

A poet for whom we await a misfortune of time (52:30)

- Divine Response:

قُلْ تَرَبَّصُوا فَإِنِّي مَعَكُم مِّنَ الْمُتَرَبِّصِينَ
Say: Wait then; I too am waiting. (52:31)

- Takeaway: Calm confidence; reliance on Allah.

- Accusation and Divine Response:

أَمْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَحْلَامُهُمْ بِهَذَا أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ

*Or do their minds command them to [say] this, or are they a transgressing people?
 (52:32)*

- Takeaway: Exposes the irrationality of denial.

- Accusation and Divine Response:

أَمْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَحْلَامُهُمْ بِهَذَا أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ

Or do they say, "He has made it up"? Rather, they do not believe. (52:33)

- Takeaway: Root issue is willful disbelief, not lack of evidence.

- Challenge:

فَلِيأْتُوا بِحَدِيثٍ مُّثْلِهِ إِنْ كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ

Then let them produce a statement like it, if they should be truthful. (52:34)

- Takeaway: Ongoing inimitability (*i'jāz*) challenge of the Qur'an.

Philosophical Questions on Creation

أَمْ خَلَقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ

Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]? (52:35)

أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ

Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain. (52:36)

- Self-creation is impossible.
- Creation from absolute nothing points to an external cause.
- Therefore, a transcendent Khāliq (Creator) must exist.

Side Discussions & Concept Notes

Ḥilm (حَلْم)

- Root combines intellect + emotional restraint.
- Qur'anic model: Ibrāhīm (9:114) عليه السلام.
- Goal: balance 'aql (reason) with ṣabr (patience).

Psychology of Sin & Rejection

- Mocking the believer ("you're crazy") masks personal guilt.
- Denial tactics: ridicule, procrastination, endless demand for proofs.
- Qur'an answers with penetrating rhetorical questions, appealing to **fitrah**.

Research With Sincerity

- **52:32** hints that unbiased study leads to truth; many modern converts confirm.
- Ghazālī: engaging in good acts, even with mixed intentions, refines sincerity over time.

Human Making vs. Divine Creating

- Only Allah is **الْخَالِق** (Al-Khāliq) – creator ex-nihilo.
- Humans are **صَانِع / مُخْتَرِع** (makers/inventors).
- Fiqh sidebar: lifelike statues forbidden; 2-D images generally allowed for study, though stricter views avoid full facial details.

Spiritual & Practical Takeaways

- Speech is fragile; thank Allah daily.
- Worship during "vacation seasons" shields against heedlessness.
- When belittled, remember 52:29 – dignity comes from Allah's favor.
- Empty ridicule never substitutes sincere research.
- Qur'an's challenge in 52:34 remains unmet.

- Respond to hostility with calm firmness (52:31).
- Moral codes need accountability to the Khāliq to stay sane.
- Often start with emotional support when helping someone in sin.
- Engage in good deeds now; sincerity will grow.
- Never claim absolute creation for oneself; humility breeds gratitude.

