

BAQARAH (2)

(The Heifer)

Introduction

The name of Sura is derived from the mention of word **Baqarah**, the **Cow**. However the topics discussed in the Sura are many and not confined only to Baqarah. God Almighty guided the Holy Apostle (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) to give only symbolic names to most of the Suras and the topic by which Sura is named often is only a mention or forms just a small part of the Sura. Most part of this Sura was revealed during the early part of post migration period in Madinah but some such parts are also included in the Sura as could be more suitably included in this Sura though were revealed in the later part of Apostle's life. The historical back ground for the revelation of the Sura and its contents are as under:-

(a) Before migration the invitation to the Message of Islam was mostly directed to Makkan pagans but after migration Muslims had to deal with Jews who had their habitations around Madinah. Jews being people of the Book were acquainted with Unity of God, Prophethood, revelation, hereafter and the Angels. Their faith was based on the Shariah of Moses and the original faith of Moses as sent down in original Torah was in fact Islam. But the followers of the faith of Moses had deviated from teachings of Torah as practised by Moses. There had been changes in the Book of God without Authority of God by vested interests. So what was left of their faith at the time of Holy Apostle (Peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) was Islam thoroughly corrupted. It was deprived of the soul which was there at the time of Moses and his earlier followers. So Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) was instructed by God Almighty to bring to the notice of the Jews things that were more important in the sight of God and those that existed in the Book of Torah sent down by God and other instructions received by Moses by revelations.

(b) Migration of people from various tribes from far and near who had embraced Islam had for various reasons but **mostly oppression by the unbelievers** reached Madinah which now had become a small city-state. Therefore, God in His Grace and Mercy sent down guidance in matters social, economical, moral, legal, civic and

political which stand by and large included in the last chapter of this Sura. Besides these God Almighty also revealed on the Holy Apostle (Peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) guidelines on various other issues as need arose.

(c) After migration to Madinah the struggle between Islam and unbelievers entered a new stage and various steps had become inevitable according to the new situation. An ever increasing influence of Islam was mostly due to increase in the numbers of Muslims and its divinely guided administration.

(d) Addressing certain matters became the need of the moment :-

(i) To convert more and more to the faith by a more vigorous propagation of the Message of truth.

(ii) To convince those resisting conversion that the fact of the matter was that their faith was not based on God sent Messages either in the past by earlier Prophets of the Book or by Holy Qur'an revealed on Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) and to assure them that clinging to what was untrue was futile.

(iii) Muslim though were ill provided and hard pressed were advised by God to be steadfast and patient so as to strive with constancy and peace of mind that was bestowed on them by God a reward for their trust in God.

(iv) Muslims should be now prepared also to withstand armed aggression and reply back to the same adequately.

(v) Muslim should develop in their ranks courage and strength enough to force a change in the ways of ignorance and bring all to a just life based on equity, free from superstition and sin.

(e) A new group of **hypocrites** emerged among the unbelievers and there were many types of them:

(i) Such as those who verbally agreed with the truth of the Message but were not willing to sacrifice their wealth or comforts for Islam nor were prepared to sever their links with the unbelievers.

(ii) Those who joined the fold of Islam as fifth columnist to introduce rift among ranks of Muslim to damage the faith.

(iii) Those who only half-heartily and reluctantly joined Islam fearful of its strength and influenced by its success.

- (iv) Those who believed in Islam but did not give up some of the customs and traditions of the days of Ignorance knowing them to be evil as they could not dare enforce certain liabilities on themselves or shoulder certain necessary responsibilities themselves that were essential part of the faith.
- (f) These various categories were just emerging at a time when Sura Baqarah was revealed but their conduct became more apparent and intentions more clear with the passage of time. So God Almighty sent instructions at various times dealing with each category according to the situation.



BAQARAH (2)
(The Heifer)

Revealed at: Madinah.

Ayats: 286, Section: 40

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful

آلِفٌ لَامٌ مِيمٌ

Alif. Lam. Mim.

These are abbreviated letters the **Muqattiat**. Much written about their meaning is pure conjectures. These prefixes were used frequently by preachers and poets during the period of revelation and as people then

were familiar with their application none asked the Holy Apostle (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) about the meaning. Besides the knowledge of their meanings is not essential. These alphabets however form the first letter of various names of God Almighty just as :-

- | | | |
|-----|-------|--|
| (a) | Alph | (...ا...) is the first letter of In the name of Allah, Aahad |
| (b) | Hay | (...ح..) is the first letter of Hyyo |
| (c) | Sawad | (...ص..) is the first letter of Samad, Sameeh |
| (d) | Kaf | (...ك...) is the first letter of Kareem |
| (e) | Ain | (...ع...) is the first letter of Azeem, Aleem, Aziz |
| (f) | Toay | (...ط..) is the first letter of Tayyab |
| (g) | Ray | (...ر...) is the first letter of Rahman, Rahim |
| (h) | Meem | (...م...) is the first letter of Malikul Mulk, and Malik Yoomuddin |
| (j) | Lam | (...ل..) is the first letter of Latif |
| (k) | Noon | (...ن..) for Noor and Light and so on. |

These names of Almighty are efficient against the enemy in war and for safely in journey.

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٥١﴾

This is the Book. In it is sure guidance for those, who fear God.

Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. It includes restraint or guarding of ones tongue, hands and heart from evil which leads to righteousness, piety and good conduct.

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾

Who believe in the unseen are steadfast in prayers and spend out of what We have provided for them.

All bounties come from God those may be physical gifts as food, clothing, housing, gardens, wealth etc. Or gifts in the form of influence, power, birth, health, talents or spiritual gifts of insight or capacity of love etc. We are to use these gifts with humility and moderation and give out, of every one of them as contribution to the well being of others. We are to be neither totally self denying nor luxurious, neither selfish misers nor thoughtless extravagant. This is in addition to believing the unseen and practical

demonstration of faith by steadfast regular **possibly** group prayers and some other conditions which proceed it.

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ
وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ ٥

And who believe in revelation (Holy Qur'an) sent to you and also those sent before your times and (in their hearts) have assurance of the hereafter.

One more condition is faith in Holy Qur'an which descended on Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) through inspiration (Vahi) and in similar heavenly Books which reached mankind on all times and all lands. Fundamental is the necessity and dependence of mankind on Messages transmitted through these Books, and faith in meaningful creation of man in this world for a prescribed period to be resurrected at the end of the present order for a new order in the Kingdom of God when full account and just compensation will be to each one ever created.

أُولَئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ٥

They are on true guidance from God and that it is they who will prosper.

Prosperity refers to all kinds of God's Bounty. The right use of them leads to God's pleasure and that is true prosperity or real success.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَسَاءَ عَلَيْهِمْ أَنْذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ٥

As those who reject faith it is the same to them whether you warn them or you do not warn them they will not believe.

Kafir means *deliberate rejecter* of faith as opposed to mistaken idea of God or faith while desire to see the truth is not absent. Where there is much desire God's Grace and Mercy may come to their guidance but when deliberate rejection is made God's Grace and Guidance does not come forth to their help.

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ ٥

God has set a seal on their hearts and hearing and on their eyes a veil. For them is a great penalty.

When these people deliberately choose a path other than that of faith **Qura'nic** then as a penalty for their deliberate sins, their heart hearing sight become impervious to the perception of good.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَيَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ٥٤

Of the people there are some who say, "We believe in God and the last day." But they are not believers at all.

We now come to another class of people, the hypocrites. They are not true even to themselves and their hearts are diseased, they are curable but if their hearts harden further they will join the category of deliberate rejecters of light.

يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ٥٥

They erroneously feel they are deceiving God and believers But they only deceive themselves and realise (it) not.

It is nothing but an allusion that hypocrisy would ever benefit them. It will not, as such is an inference against the law of God. So their hypocrisy must betray them in this world when exposed and in the here after. There is no room for false claims unsupported by earnest deeds.

فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا ۗ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ۗ لِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ ٥٦

There is a disease in their hearts and God has increased their disease. For them is grievous penalty because they are false (even to themselves.)

Insincerity and clever compromise with both good and evil is in an effort to get the best of both the worlds. It only increases the disease of his heart because he is not true to himself. His apparent temporary successes through double game harden his diseased heart and transform him to an incorrigible hypocrite.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ ٥٧

When it is said to them, "Make no mischief on the earth." They say, "Why we only want to make peace?"

And what a glaring self deceit it is when those hypocrites regard their mischief mongering, acts as human reform to spread peace.

إِنَّمَا أَنْتُمْ مُنْذَرُونَ ۗ وَلَكِنَّ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ٥٨

Surely! These are the ones who make mischief but they do not realise (it).

Much mischief is some times caused by those who do not have even the perception of right and wrong but think themselves to be on the mission of peace thus their blind arrogance encourages evil and antagonises good.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا
آمَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

When it is said to them, "Believe as the others believe." They say, "Shall we believe as the fools believe?" Surely they are the fools! But they do not know.

This is another aspect of hypocrites and cynics who regard other well meaning people's motives bad and selfish and have faith only to the measure that is only good enough for fools. They see only immediate gains. They do not want to distinguish between right and wrong and are themselves fools.

وَإِذَا قَالُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا إِلَى
شَيْطَانِهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُسْتَهْزِءُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

They say, "We believe." But when they are alone with their evil (companions). They say, "We are really with you, we were only mocking (jesting)".

Duplicity and insincerity is actually deep in hypocrites but it never pays ultimately and such people are losers in the bargain.

اللَّهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِهِمْ وَيَمُدُّهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

God will throw back their mockery on them and has given them rope in their excesses. So they will wander (to and fro) like the blind.

Hazrat Ibn Abbas describes that this relates to day of judgement when such people who use to mock at true believers will be mocked at on that day and gates of gardens of heaven will be closed to them when they would be about to enter and will be instead pushed to hell. Another meaning can be that these hypocrites have been given a longer rope to wander about in the wilderness like the blind which in itself is a mockery boom ranged on them.

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرُوا الضَّلَالَةَ بِالْهُدَى فَمَا رَبِحَت تِّجَارَتُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٦﴾

These are those who exchanged guidance for error. But their bargain is profitless and they have lost their true direction.

How can such a bargain be called wise and profitable? To lose the path which is straight is indeed a grievous loss.

مَثَلُهُمْ كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي اسْتَوْقَدَ نَارًا فَلَمَّا أَضَاءَتْ مَا حَوْلَهُ
ذَهَبَ اللَّهُ بِنُورِهِمْ وَتَرَكَهُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

Their simile is that of a man ! who kindled a fire, when it lighted all around him, God took away the light and left him, in utter darkness, so he could not see.

The man wanted light he kindled a fire it produced a blaze and won the applause of all around. But it did not last long. When the flame went out the darkness again prevailed with greater intensity as happens when light suddenly goes off. He was left to grope in the darkness and the light of Islam which he got on conversion at the arrival of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him and Blessing of Allah) in Madinah. According to Ibn Masud light was lost by him when he turned hypocrite and simultaneously he lost the faculty of distinguishing between good and evil as the light in him granted by Islam which enabled him to do so got extinguished.

صُمُّوكُمْ عَنْهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ ﴿١٩﴾

Deaf dumb and blind they will not return (to the right path).

They will keep on wildly groping about like deaf, dumb, and blind as they deliberately rejected faith for hypocrisy, deception, cynicism, arrogance and duplicity.

أَوْ كَصَيِّبٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فِيهِ ظُلُمَاتٌ وَرَعْدٌ وَبَرْقٌ يَجْعَلُونَ أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي
أُذُنِهِمْ مِنَ الصَّوَاعِقِ حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ وَاللَّهُ مُحِيطٌ بِالْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

(Or another similitude fits). The state of these hypocrites is that of rainladen clouds from the sky ; In it are zones of darkness, thunder and lightening. They press their ears to keep out the stunning thunder sounds gripped by terror of death. But God is ever around these rejecters of faith.

While they continue in their deception and duplicity they remain in the grip of fear of detection, terror of death for lack of firm faith, surely they cannot escape death for God has indeed a complete sway over their lives.

Pressing fingers in their ears to keep off the stunning thunder sounds won't save them when actual death becomes due for them

يَكَادُ الْبَرْقُ يَخْطَفُ أَبْصَارَهُمْ كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ لَهُمْ مَشَوْا فِيهِ وَإِذَا أَظْلَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ قَامُوا
وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَذَهَبَ بِسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَارِهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٢٤﴾

The lightening seems to snatch away their sight. Every time the light (helps) them, they walk a little way therein. And when darkness grows on them they stop, and if God willed He could take away their hearing and sight for His power sways over every thing (in Universe).

Islam is ultimately nothing else but blessing of God and rain is His graphic smile. The advent of Islamic movement brought grim resistance from rejecters of faith. There were some hypocrites who in their heart totally rejected Islam and they could no longer hear or see the truth of Islam and could be simulated to being deaf and dumb. There was still another category of hypocrites who would believe if no difficulties came their way, **like thunder and lightening accompanying rain but the net effect of rain is good** and they were not prepared to undergo the hardships which followers of Islamic movement had to face from Idolaters. This could have bereft them of their hearing and sights completely like the total rejecters as He commands all power to do so but He with His infinite Mercy let them retain as much of these faculties with them as much they were prepared to hear and see the truth.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

O' People! worship as divine your Lord God Who created you and those before you so that they may have a chance to learn righteousness.

Adoration of God is the Highest and Humblest reverence and worship. When you get in to such divine worship with your Creator and Guardian your faith leads you to righteousness. If you seize the chance by exercise of your free will granted to you, your whole nature will be transformed.

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ

مِنَ الشَّرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ، فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلّٰهِ اٰنْدَادًا وَاَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Who has made the earth your floor (couch) and Heaven your canopy. And sent down rain from Heavens and brought forth fruits for your sustenance. Then have not rivals for Him when you know (the truth).

Whole human life physical and spiritual depends upon God and so the verse relates proof of God's goodness. The truth has been plainly brought before you further resistance and creation of false gods is only your fancy. False gods may be idols, superstitions, oneself or even false poetic expressions which set up rivals to God.

وَاِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلٰى عَبْدِنَا فَاْتُوا بِسُوْرَةٍ مِّنْ مِّثْلِهٖ مَا وَاْدَعُوْا
شَهَادَآءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُوْنِ اللّٰهِ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ صٰدِقِيْنَ ﴿٣٣﴾

If you are in doubt as to what we have revealed from time to time to our chosen man is not divine (i.e. is man made) then produce a single Sura like it and call all your helpers besides God if your doubts are true.

A concrete test that revelation is divine was placed before those who doubted the teachings of God's truth challenging them to bring a single Sura like it. This challenge was thrown in Makkah and then again had to be repeated in Madinah. Only God can inspire spiritual truth in such noble language. Doubts were merely argumentative reflector and against their own conscience. All true revelations are Miracles and each stand on it own merit till eternity.

فَاِنْ لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوْا وَلَنْ تَفْعَلُوْا فَاْتَقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وُقُوْدُهَا
النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ اُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِيْنَ ﴿٣٤﴾

And if you cannot and surely you cannot (the like of this Miracle Message) then fear the fire whose fuel is men and stones which is prepared for them (unbelievers).

Holy Qur'an is a miracle the like of which had not been matched in the past nor shall be done in future. Indeed it is the news revealed by Miracle to stay intact till eternity.

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا وَعَمِلُوا الصّٰلِحٰتِ اَنَّ لَهُمْ جَدٰتٍ تَجْرِيْ مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْاَنْهٰرُ كُلَّمَا
رَزَقُوْا مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَرَةٍ رّزقا قَالُوْا هٰذَا الَّذِي رَزَقْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَاْتُوْا بِهٖ مُّتَشٰبِهًا وَلَهُمْ

فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

But give glad tiding O' Prophet! to the believers who work righteousness, their abode is gardens beneath which rivers flow. Every time they are fed with fruits from these gardens. They say, "Why this is the same fruit with which we were fed before?" For every time they are given resembling (fruits) but (in fact) different. They will have pure and holy companions and they will live there (for ever).

If the fire is the symbol of punishment garden is the symbol of felicity. These gardens will be observed from a picturesque height and will show beautiful landscape. The fruit of goodness is goodness and these fruits will be special and available even out of season and will be similar in appearances but different in taste. A number of **Janats** are named i.e. **Firdous, Naim, Aden, Darus Salaam, Darul Khila, Mahwa** and **Alyan**. These may be according to grades. The companions will be pure and holy and not involved in pollution's like menstrual cycles, nor inner pollution of bad temper or tongue but will be the imparters of clean heavenly sublime completely satisfying company.

وقت لائم

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي أَنْ يَضْرِبَ مَثَلًا مَّا بَعُوضَةً فَمَا فَوْقَهَا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَيَعْلَمُونَ
أَنَّ الْحَقَّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَيَقُولُونَ مَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِهَذَا مَثَلًا يُضِلُّ
بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَيَهْدِي بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَمَا يُضِلُّ بِهِ إِلَّا الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾

Surely God does not scorn or treat as unworthy of notice the similitude of things lowest (as mosquito) as well as highest. However believers know that it is truth from their Lord and similes apt but those who reject faith say what does God mean by similitude. By it He causes many to stray and lead many to right path. But He does not stray except those who disobey.

The infidels use to taunt the believers that Holy Qur'an gives similitude's of such low creations as mosquitoes, flies and spiders etc. So this verse was revealed. To God all His creation has special meanings appropriate to itself some of what we consider lowest creatures have wonderful aptitudes i.e. spider and fly. Parable like these may be an occasion of stumbling to these who forsake the path and who deliberately shut their eyes to God's Signs but stumbling only occurs as a result of sinners own choice of wrong course.

الَّذِينَ يَنْقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ
وَيُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخٰسِرُونَ ﴿٢٥﴾

After confirming assent to God's laws, (to hold fast to His divine degree of righteous conduct) those who break God's Covenant and sever what that are ordered to join and do mischief on earth infact cause loss to themselves.

God's law based on man's obedience and his worship of his Creator were in fact agreed and confirmed by man on the day of his creation. These laws, guide human acts of righteousness and those who break this covenant with God and indulge in dissuading people from the correct path are in fact themselves losers and their opposition to believers and of Islam will be unsuccessful.

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمَيِّتُكُمْ
ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾

How can you reject the faith in God when you see you were without life, and He gave you life, then He will cause you to die and again bring you to life and again will you return to Him.

In preceding verses God has recalled His goodness, resolved doubts, set out penalty for wrong doing, gave glad tidings to the virtuous and showed how misunderstanding arises from deliberate rejection of light and breach of covenant. Here man's subjective feeling are appealed. He brought you into being and mysteries of life and death are in His Hands. When you die on this earth this is not the end, you belonged to him and you will return to him.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ
فَسَوَّاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٦﴾

It is He Who created for you all things that are found on earth. He then turned attention to creation of heavens and gave order and perfection to seven firmaments. He Alone is the One Who has perfect knowledge of all things.

Man has been drawing various inferences about the heavens by observation of the universe but he has still only scanty knowledge of the vast universe which contains our earth only but one of its tiny portion.

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰئِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا
وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَآءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٧﴾

Behold when your Lord said to the Angels, "I will create a vicegerent on earth." They said, "O' Lord ! "will you create such people (creation) as would make mischief and shed blood while we do nothing else but we celebrate your praises and glorify your Holy name?" He said, "I know what you know not".

Arabic word **Malik** means *messenger*, but is implied as Angel. Angels are executors of orders from Kingdom of God and remain engaged in worship of God. Vicegerent here means appointed assistant who derives limited power given by the Lord Master and exercises the same exactly according to Master's orders. Any deviation from orders and misuse of power amounts to rebellion. Such is exactly the status of Angels and man in their respective placements. Abdullah Bin Abbas and Abdullah Bin Masud relate the tradition that God Himself told Angels that some out of human creation will engage in mischief and shed blood. Therefore, Angels raised this point, otherwise God's Knowledge is with Him alone. Angels and human only know what God reveals to them .Angels are holy and pure but are endowed with limited knowledge from God. Humans on the other hand have initiative, love and distinction and are an apt vicegerent on Earth capability of humility and devotion to God.