

Extracts from Speech (TAZKEER BIL QURAN)

The Sixty-First Surah (61th); As-Saff (The Battle Array / The Rank)

An recap to the Introduction of the Surah and verses 1 through 3

and

A detailed explanation of verse 4

Delivered by: Ameer-e-Tanzeem-e-Islami, Hafiz Aakif Saeed, on Friday, 18th April 2014.

Ameer-e-Tanzeem, Hafiz Aakif Saeed, continued the sermon entitled, "TAZKEER BIL QURAN" regarding the sixty-first (61st) Surah of the Qur'an, As-Saff ('The Battle Array', which is also referred to as '*The Ranks*' in certain translations).

After recapping the discourse of the previous Jumma, in which he had expounded on the Title of this Surah, which according to almost all exegetes of the Qur'an, has been derived from the expression 'saffan' ("in [solid] ranks") occurring in verse 4, which cements the relationship of the Surah with battle (Qitaal) in Islam, the Ameer gave an exhaustive explanation of the circumstances in which this particular verse was revealed unto the Messenger of Allah (SAW), connected its relationship with participating in Qitaal for the sake of Allah (SWT) and outlined the manner in which it is relevant to a Muslim living in Today's world.

The entire discourse of the Speech in Today's Khitaab-e-Jumma was on verse 4 of Surah As-Saff, the 61st Surah of the Qur'an, along with a brief introduction to the Surah itself and verses 1 through 3.

The Ameer reiterated that the Surah commences with Allah's authority over all things (material and otherwise) and He (SWT) exhorts the believers to adopt sincerity in Faith and urges them to exert their utmost for the success and victory of the Truth, that is for the sake of their own good; otherwise the Will of Allah (SWT) is accomplished by His (SWT) own Authority and by His (SWT) own Design, whether somebody makes no effort at all towards its implementation, and whether the whole world joins together to frustrate and resist it stubbornly.

In addition, this Surah is one of three Surahs in the Qur'an [the other two being (Surah 09 At-Tawbah) and (Surah 48 Al-Fath) which is sufficient testimony to the universal Prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) and to describe his mission of establishing Islam as a Deen superseding all rival politico-socio-economic systems.

This Surah, the Ameer reiterated, provides Muslims with strategies related to politics, military, war and peace. It is striking to note that these vital aspects of the Surah and the subject matter that follows has been forsaken by Today's Muslim, consequently facing the predicament that he finds himself muddled in, solely due to the lack Faith in Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SWT), coupled by a lack of understanding regarding the Islamic ideology of politics, military strategy, war and peace; the penalty of which he is facing is not hidden from anyone.

The date of revelation cannot be established with absolute certainty, but it is probable that the Surah was revealed shortly after the near-defeat of the Muslims in the battle of Uhud – that is, towards the end of 3 AH. or the beginning of 4 AH, thus a Madinite Surah.

We reiterate that the entire focus of the Speech in Today's Khitaab-e-Jumma was on verse 4 of Surah As-Saff, the 61st Surah of the Qur'an.

With this recap of the introduction to the Surah and verses 1 through 3, the Ameer commenced the detailed elucidation of verse 4.

I seek refuge of Allah (SWT) from the accursed Satan

In The Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

Verse 61:4

“Verily, Allah loves [only] those who fight in His cause in ranks [as though they were built firm and compact] like a solid wall cemented with molten lead.”

Firstly, the verse describes several characteristics of those believers who are blessed with Allah's (SWT) good pleasure and approval, who are prepared to fight in His way, irrespective of the consequent dangers.

Secondly, it describes that Allah (SWT) likes that army of believers which has three characteristics:

- 1-** It fights in Allah's way with full understanding, and does not fight for a cause disapproved by Allah;
- 2-** It is not undisciplined, but is well-organized and well-arrayed for battle; and
- 3-** It offers stiff resistance to the enemy as though it were "a solid structure cemented with molten lead". This quality in itself is highly meaningful. No army can stand in the battle array like a "solid structure" unless it has the following traits:
 - a)** Complete agreement in the faith and the objective, which should smite soldiers and officers in a well-knit body.
 - b)** Confidence in one another sincerity, which cannot be created unless everybody is genuinely sincere in his aim and free from impure motives; otherwise the severe test of

war will not allow anyone's insincerity to remain hidden, and when confidence is lost, the members of the army start suspecting instead of trusting one another.

- c) A high standard of morality without which neither the officers and soldiers of the army have love and respect for each other, nor they remain immune from mutual clashes and conflicts.
- d) Love of the common objective and a firm resolve to achieve it, which should inspire, the whole army with an invincible spirit of gallantry, devotion and self-sacrifice, so that it may actually face the enemy like a solid cemented structure in the battlefield. Such were the foundations on which a powerful military organization was raised under the leadership of the Holy Prophet (SAW). Mighty powers of the day clashed with it and were annihilated; no power of the world then could dare face it for centuries to come.
- e) **The same approach of a 'never say die' attitude instilled by Islam, backed with uncompromised discipline among rank and file, a mind-set that craves to be bestowed with the esteemed status of 'Shaddah fi Sabeel Illah' and that invincible spirit of gallantry as demonstrated by the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (SWT) irrespective of consequences, which Muslims idealize, is required to its peak in order to stand any chance to withstand the Dajjali onslaught of the modern western civilization, which has become militarily engaged with Muslim states of late (Probably the last 10 – 15 years or so). The aforementioned all would then serve as a synchronized and seamless package that would serve as the Hallmark of Qitaal for the sake of Allah (SWT), synonymous to a 'solid wall cemented with molten lead.'**

On this note, the Ameer concluded the recap of verses 1 through 3 and the elucidation of verse 4 of the 61st Surah of the Qur'an, As-Saff, and Supplicated to Allah (SWT) to bestow on us the understanding of the Qur'an and make it easy for us to follow His (SWT) commandments and lead a righteous life. The Ameer also supplicated to Allah (SWT) to make us of those who wage Jihad and Qitaal for the sake of Allah (SWT), synonymous to a 'solid wall cemented with molten lead.' He coupled the supplication with Aameen!