

IN THE LIGHT OF SURAH AL-Nur

Introduction of Surah Nur

(This is) a *Sûrah* (chapter of the Qur'ân) which We have sent down and which We have enjoined, (ordained its legal laws) and in it We have revealed manifest *Ayât* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations lawful and unlawful things, and set boundries of Islâmic Religion), that you may remember{1}.

Order for Adulterers

The woman and the man guilty of illegal sexual intercourse, flog each of them with a hundred stripes. Let not pity withhold you in their case, in a punishment prescribed by Allâh, if you believe in Allâh and the Last Day. And let a party of the believers witness their punishment. (This punishment is for unmarried persons guilty of the above crime but if married persons commit it, the punishment is to stone them to death, according to Allâh's Law)[□]{2}. The adulterer marries not but an adulteress or a *Mushrikah* and the adulteress none marries her except an adulterer or a *Muskrik* [and that means that the man who agrees to marry (have a sexual relation with) a *Mushrikah* (female polytheist, pagan or idolatress) or a prostitute, then surely he is either an adulterer, or a *Mushrik* (polytheist, pagan or idolater, etc.) And the woman who agrees to marry (have a sexual relation with) a *Mushrik* (polytheist, pagan or idolater) or an adulterer, then she is either a prostitute or a *Mushrikah* (female polytheist, pagan, or idolatress, etc.)]. Such a thing is forbidden to the believers (of Islâmic Monotheism){3}.

Punishment for False Charge

And those who accuse chaste women, and produce not four witnesses, flog them with eighty stripes, and reject their testimony forever, they indeed are the *Fâsiqûn* (liars, rebellious, disobedient to Allâh){4}. Except those who repent thereafter and do righteous deeds, (for such) verily, Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful{5}.

Lack of Evidence in Adultery

And for those who accuse their wives, but have no witnesses except themselves, let the testimony of one of them be four testimonies (i.e. testifies four times) by Allâh that he is one of those who speak the truth{6}. And the fifth (testimony) (should be) the invoking of the Curse of Allâh on him if he be of those who tell a lie (against her){7}. But it shall avert the punishment (of stoning to death) from her, if she bears witness four times by Allâh, that he (her husband) is telling a lie{8}. And the fifth (testimony) should be that the Wrath of Allâh be upon her if he (her husband) speaks the truth{9}. And had it not been for the Grace of Allâh and His Mercy on you (He would have hastened the punishment upon you)! And that Allâh is the One Who accepts repentance, the All-Wise{10}.

Don't Follow the Satan

O you who believe! Follow not the footsteps of *Shaitân* (Satan). And whosoever follows the footsteps of *Shaitân* (Satan), then, verily he commands *Al-Fahshâ'* [i.e. to commit indecency (illegal sexual intercourse, etc.)], and *Al-Munkar* [disbelief and polytheism (i.e. to do evil and wicked deeds; to speak or to do what is forbidden in Islâm, etc.)]. And had it not been for the Grace of Allâh and His Mercy on you, not one of you would ever have been pure

from sins. But Allâh purifies (guides to Islâm) whom He wills, and Allâh is All-Hearer, All-Knower{21}.

Don't Stop Helping the Poor and the Migrants

And let not those among you who are blessed with graces and wealth swear not to give (any sort of help) to their kinsmen, *Al-Masâkîn* (the poor), and those who left their homes for Allâh's Cause. Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love that Allâh should forgive you? And Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful{22}.

Punishment for a Slander

Verily, those who accuse chaste women, who never even think of anything touching their chastity and are good believers, are cursed in this life and in the Hereafter, and for them will be a great torment,{23}. On the Day when their tongues, their hands, and their legs or feet will bear witness against them as to what they used to do{24}. On that Day Allâh will pay them the recompense of their deeds in full, and they will know that Allâh, He is the Manifest Truth{25}.

Each According to Their Chastity

Bad statements are for bad people (or bad women for bad men) and bad people for bad statements (or bad men for bad women). Good statements are for good people (or good women for good men) and good people for good statements (or good men for good women), such (good people) are innocent of (each and every) bad statement which they say, for them is Forgiveness, and *Rizqun Karîm* (generous provision i.e.Paradise){26}.

Don't Enter Residences Without Permission

O you who believe! Enter not houses other than your own, until you have asked permission and greeted those in them, that is better for you, in order that you may remember{27}. And if you find no one therein, still, enter not until permission has been given. And if you are asked to go back, go back, for it is purer for you, and Allâh is All-Knower of what you do{28}.

Other Than the Residence

There is no sin on you that you enter (without taking permission) houses uninhabited (i.e. not possessed by anybody), (when) you have any interest in them. And Allâh has knowledge of what you reveal and what you conceal{29}.

Staring at Strange Women and Guarding Their Chastity

Tell the believing men to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts, etc.). That is purer for them. Verily, Allâh is All-Aware of what they do{30}.

The Concept of Modesty and Veil

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts, etc.) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent (like palms of hands or one eye or both eyes for necessity to see the way, or outer dress like veil, gloves, head-cover, apron, etc.), and to draw their veils all over *Juyubihinna* (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms, etc.) and not to reveal

their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husband's fathers, their sons, their husband's sons, their brothers or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or their (Muslim) women (i.e. their sisters in Islâm), or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigour, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex. And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And all of you beg Allâh to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful[□]{31}.

The Exemption of Veil (E.G. Elderly Women)

And as for women past child-bearing who do not expect wed-lock, it is no sin on them if they discard their (outer) clothing in such a way as not to show their adornment. But to refrain (i.e. not to discard their outer clothing) is better for them. And Allâh is All-Hearer, All-Knower{60}.

Marriage of Singles and Virtuous

And marry those among you who are single (i.e. a man who has no wife and the woman who has no husband) and (also marry) the *Sâlihûn* (pious, fit and capable ones) of your (male) slaves and maid-servants (female slaves). If they be poor, Allâh will enrich them out of His Bounty. And Allâh is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knowing (about the state of the people){32}.

Command of Abstinence for Those who Can't Afford the Marriage

And let those who find not the financial means for marriage keep themselves chaste, until Allâh enriches them of His Bounty.

Assist Those who Want to be free from Slavery

And such of your slaves as seek a writing (of emancipation), give them such writing, if you know that they are good and trustworthy. And give them something yourselves out of the wealth of Allâh which He has bestowed upon you.

Don't free your Maids to Loose Their Chastity

And force not your maids to prostitution, if they desire chastity, in order that you may make a gain in the (perishable) goods of this worldly life. But if anyone compels them (to prostitution), then after such compulsion, Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful (to those women, i.e. He will forgive them because they have been forced to do this evil action unwillingly){33}.

Commands and Advices

And indeed We have sent down for you *Ayât* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) that make things plain, and the example of those who passed away before you, and an admonition for those who are *Al-Muttaqûn* (the pious - see V.2:2){34}.

Allah's "Sacred Light"

Allâh is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as (if there were) a niche and within it a lamp, the lamp is in glass, the glass as it were a brilliant star, lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east (i.e. neither it gets sun-rays only in the morning) nor of the west (i.e. nor it gets sun-rays only in the afternoon, but it is exposed to the sun all day long), whose oil would almost glow forth (of itself), though no fire touched it. Light upon

Light! Allâh guides to His Light whom He wills. And Allâh sets forth parables for mankind, and Allâh is All-Knower of everything{35}.

The Guided Ones

In houses (mosques), which Allâh has ordered to be raised (to be cleaned, and to be honoured), in them His Name is glorified in the mornings and in the afternoons or the evenings,□{36}. Men whom neither trade nor sale diverts them from the Remembrance of Allâh (with heart and tongue), nor from performing *AsSalât (Iqâmat-as-Salât)*, nor from giving the *Zakât*. They fear a Day when hearts and eyes will be overturned (from the horror of the torment of the Day of Resurrection){37}.

Reward for the Pious

That Allâh may reward them according to the best of their deeds, and add even more for them out of His Grace. And Allâh provides without measure to whom He wills□{38}.

The Deeds of the Unbelievers

As for those who disbelieve, their deeds are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty one thinks it to be water, until he comes up to it, he finds it to be nothing, but he finds Allâh with him, Who will pay him his due (Hell). And Allâh is Swift in taking account.□{39}. Or [the state of a disbeliever] is like the darkness in a vast deep sea, overwhelmed with a great wave topped by a great wave, topped by dark clouds, darkness, one above another, if a man stretches out his hand, he can hardly see it! And he for whom Allâh has not appointed light, for him there is no light{40}.

Every Living and Non-Living Being Recites

See you not (O Muhammad SAW) that Allâh, He it is Whom glorify whosoever is in the heavens and the earth, and the birds with wings out-spread (in their flight). Of each one He (Allâh) knows indeed his *Salât* (prayer) and his glorification, [or everyone knows his *Salât* (prayer) and his glorification], and Allâh is All-Aware of what they do{41}. And to Allâh belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, and to Allâh is the return (of all){42}.

Rain and Lightning

See you not that Allâh drives the clouds gently, then joins them together, then makes them into a heap of layers, and you see the rain comes forth from between them. And He sends down from the sky hail (like) mountains, (or there are in the heaven mountains of hail from where He sends down hail), and strike therewith whom He will, and averts it from whom He wills. The vivid flash of its (clouds) lightning nearly blinds the sight. [*Tafsir At-Tabarî*]{43}. Allâh causes the night and the day to succeed each other (i.e. if the day is gone, the night comes, and if the night is gone, the day comes, and so on). Truly, in these things is indeed a lesson for those who have insight{44}.

Creation of Animals

Allâh has created every moving (living) creature from water. Of them there are some that creep on their bellies, some that walk on two legs, and some that walk on four. Allâh creates what He wills. Verily! Allâh is Able to do all things{45}.

Visible Signs for Manifest

We have indeed sent down (in this Qur'ân) manifest *Ayât* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, lawful and unlawful things, and the set boundries of Islâmîc religion, etc. that make things clear showing the Right Path of Allâh). And Allâh guides whom He wills to a Straight Path (i.e. to Allâh's religion of Islâmîc Monotheism){46}.

The Infidels

They (hypocrites) say: "We have believed in Allâh and in the Messenger (Muhammad SAW), and we obey," then a party of them turn away thereafter, such are not believers{47}. And when they are called to Allâh (i.e. His Words, the Qur'ân) and His Messenger (SAW), to judge between them, lo! a party of them refuse (to come) and turn away{48}. But if the right is with them, they come to him willingly with submission{49}. Is there a disease in their hearts? Or do they doubt or fear lest Allâh and His Messenger (SAW) should wrong them in judgement. Nay, it is they themselves who are the *Zâlimûn* (polytheists, hypocrites and wrong-doers, etc.){50}. They swear by Allâh their strongest oaths, that if only you would order them, they would leave (their homes for fighting in Allâh's Cause). Say: "Swear you not; (this) obedience (of yours) is known (to be false). Verily, Allâh knows well what you do."{53}. Say: "Obey Allâh and obey the Messenger, but if you turn away, he (Messenger Muhammad SAW) is only responsible for the duty placed on him (i.e. to convey Allâh's Message) and you for that placed on you. If you obey him, you shall be on the right guidance. The Messenger's duty is only to convey (the message) in a clear way (i.e. to preach in a plain way)."{54}.

The Believers

The only saying of the faithful believers, when they are called to Allâh (His Words, the Qur'ân) and His Messenger (SAW), to judge between them, is that they say: "We hear and we obey." And such are the prosperous ones (who will live forever in Paradise){51}. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (SAW), fears Allâh, and keeps his duty (to Him), such are the successful ones{52}. Allâh has promised those among you who believe, and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the earth, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion, that which He has chosen for them (i.e. Islâm). And He will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear (provided) they (believers) worship Me and do not associate anything (in worship) with Me. But whoever disbelieved after this, they are the *Fâsiqûn* (rebellious, disobedient to Allâh){55}. And perform *AsSalât* (*IqâmatasSalât*), and give *Zakât* and obey the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) that you may receive mercy (from Allâh){56}. Consider not that the disbelievers can escape in the land. Their abode shall be the Fire, and worst indeed is that destination{57}. The true believers are only those, who believe in (the Oneness of) Allâh and His Messenger (Muhammad SAW), and when they are with him on some common matter, they go not away until they have asked his permission. Verily! Those who ask your permission, those are they who (really) believe in Allâh and His Messenger. So if they ask your permission for some affairs of theirs, give permission to whom you will of them, and ask Allâh for their forgiveness. Truly, Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful{62}.

Permission to Enter the Bed Room

O you who believe! Let your legal slaves and slave-girls, and those among you who have not come to the age of puberty ask your permission (before they come to your presence) on three occasions; before *Fajr* (morning) prayer, and while you put off your clothes for the noonday (rest), and after the '*Ishâ*' (late-night) prayer. (These) three times are of privacy for you, other than these times there is no sin on you or on them to move about, attending (helping) you each other. Thus Allâh makes clear the *Ayât* (the Verses of this Qur'ân, showing proofs for the legal aspects of permission for visits, etc.) to you. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise{58}.

Adult

And when the children among you come to puberty, then let them (also) ask for permission, as those senior to them (in age). Thus Allâh makes clear His *Ayât* (Commandments and legal obligations) for you. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise{59}.

Rules for Eating in Other People Homes

There is no restriction on the blind, nor any restriction on the lame, nor any restriction on the sick, nor on yourselves, if you eat from your houses, or the houses of your fathers, or the houses of your mothers, or the houses of your brothers, or the houses of your sisters, or the houses of your father's brothers, or the houses of your father's sisters, or the houses of your mother's brothers, or the houses of your mother's sisters, or (from that) whereof you hold keys, or (from the house) of a friend. No sin on you whether you eat together or apart. But when you enter the houses, greet one another with a greeting from Allâh (i.e.

say: *As-Salâmu 'Alaikum* - peace be on you) blessed and good. Thus Allâh makes clear the *Ayât* (these Verses or your religious symbols and signs, etc.) to you that you may understand{61}.

Summon of Our Prophet (P.B.U.H.)

Make not the calling of the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) among you as your calling of one another. Allâh knows those of you who slip away under shelter (of some excuse without taking the permission to leave, from the Messenger SAW). And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad SAW) commandment (i.e. his *Sunnah legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements, etc.*) (among the sects) beware, lest some *Fitnah* (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant, etc.) befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them{63}. Certainly, to Allâh belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. Surely, He knows your condition and (He knows) the Day when they will be brought back to Him, then He will inform them of what they did. And Allâh is All-Knower of everything{64}.