

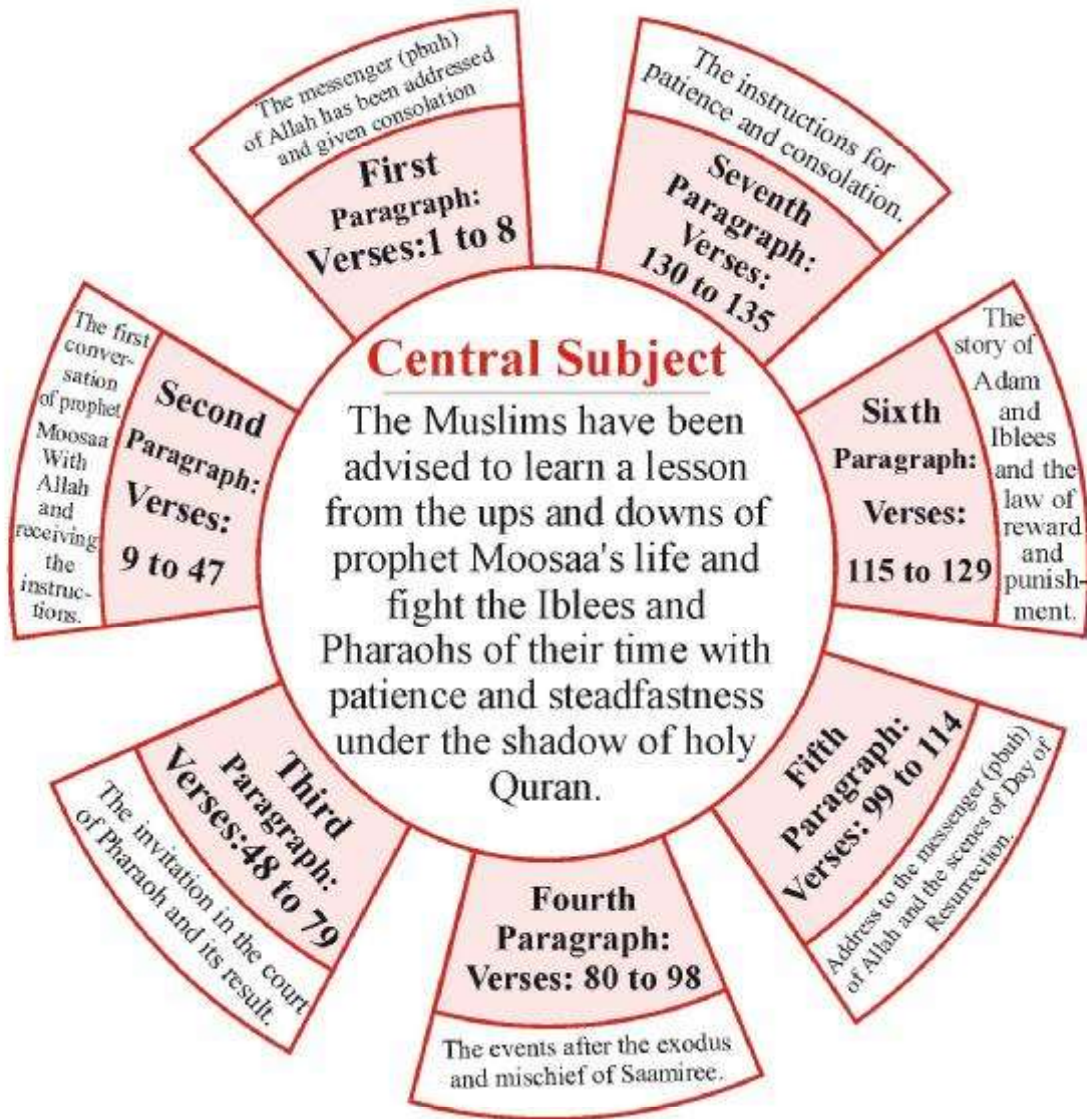
Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah TaaHaa

20-Soorah TaaHaa

Makkan

Verses: 135

Paragraphs: 7



• The period of revelation and the background

Soorah TaaHaa has been revealed after Soorah Maryam, before the migration to Ethiopia (Rajab, 5 prophet-hood) and in the middle of Zul-Hijjah, 6 prophet-hood. The sister of Omar (R.A.) had this soorah (TaaHaa) with her in the written form. Omar (R.A.) was influenced by it and accepted Islam in Zul-Hijjah, 6 prophet-hood.

The purpose of revelation of soorah TaaHaa at this stage was to make the Quraish understand the purpose of prophet-hood and its method and to educate the young companions by the life of prophet Moosaa. Another purpose was to convince the wise people among the Quraish about the veracity of the Quranic invitation of Tawheed and life hereafter. (Verses: 128, 54)

- 2- The verse 114 was probably revealed soon after the beginning of prophet-hood when the prophet (pbuh) tried to memorise the holy Quran in a hurried manner.
- 3- The leadership of Makkan pagans were told that their rebellious attitude is like that of Pharaoh. Like the messenger (pbuh) of Allah, prophet Moosaa also gave the invitation of Tawheed, life after death and prayer. The invitation of Quran is for the recognition of Allah and the life hereafter. The result of declining it will be disgrace in this world and the hereafter, like Pharaoh and his armies. (Verses: 100, 124)

The relationship of soorah TaaHaa with the Book

- 1- In the previous soorah (Maryam), arguments were given from the life of prophet Eesaa to convince the Christians about Tawheed. In this soorah (TaaHaa), arguments are given from the life of prophet Moosaa to convince the Jews about the invitation of Quran. Both the Soorahs have got the teaching material for propagation of Islam among the people of the Book which was required before the migration to Ethiopia.
- 2- In the next soorah (Al-Anbiyaa), the history, character and memorable deeds of sixteen (16) prophets have been highlighted. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has been established as the heir of the legacy of prophet Ibraaheem and the mercy for the worlds, and the whole world has been invited to believe in him as the last of the messengers of Allah.

Important key words and subjects

- 1- The introduction of holy Quran has been given in the beginning and the end of soorah TaaHaa.
 - (a) The holy Quran is not a burden. ﴿مِمَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لِتَشْقَى﴾ “We have not sent down this Quran to put you to trouble.” (Verse: 2)
 - (b) The holy Quran is a reminder and advice for those who fear Allah. ﴿إِلَّا تَذَكُّرًا لِمَنْ يَخْشَى﴾ “But as a reminder to those who fear (Allah). (Verse: 3)

(c) The purpose of revealing the holy Quran in Arabic language and the alteration of the warning is to save from the Wrath of Allah and create the ability for meditation. ﴿وَكَذَلِكَ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا وَصَرَّفْنَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْوَعِيدِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ أَوْ يُحَدِّثُ لَهُمْ ذِكْرًا﴾

“Thus have We sent down the Quran in Arabic and clearly proclaimed in it some of the warnings so that they may take heed or that it may serve as a reminder to them.” (Verse: 113)

(d) The punishment of rejecting the holy Quran is disgrace on the Day of Judgement. They will have to bear a heavy burden.

﴿مَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَحْمِلُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وِزْرًا﴾ “Those who reject it shall bear a heavy burden on the Day of Resurrection.” (Verse: 100)

(e) The punishment of rejecting the holy Quran will appear in the form of meagre income in this world and they will be raised blind on the Day of Resurrection.

﴿وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَنْ ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا وَنَحْشُرُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَعْمَى﴾ “But the one who will turn away from My reminder shall live a meagre life and We shall raise him back to life as a blind person on the Day of Resurrection” (Verse: 124)

2- Two verses are important regarding the establishment of Tawheed that there is no god but Allah.

(a) The purpose of invitation of holy Quran is the establishment of Tawheed and propagation of beautiful attributes of Allah. ﴿لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى﴾

“There is no god worthy of worship except Him! To Him belong the most beautiful Names.” (Verse: 8)

(b) Allah is the God. He Alone should be worshipped. ﴿إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي﴾

“It is Me, Allah; there is none worthy of worship except Me, so worship Me.”

3- Prayer should be established to remember Allah.

﴿وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي﴾ “And establish Salah for my remembrance.” (Verse: 14)

4- “Olin-Nuhaa” (wise people) are the ones who believe in Tawheed and learn a lesson from the history.

(a) ﴿أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾ The wise people believe in comprehensive Tawheed (which includes the Tawheed of Providence and Tawheed of Names and Attributes) (Verse:54) Prophet Moosaa said that the knowledge of the previous people is with my Lord in a Book. My Lord neither makes mistake nor forgets. He has made the earth floor for you and created ways in it for you to walk. He causes the rain to pour down from the sky. Then we get different kinds of harvests because of

this rain. We should benefit from this harvest and should feed our animals as well. Indeed, there are many signs in it and arguments for those who have wisdom.

- (b) The wise people learn a lesson from the history of annihilation of nations and their relics. ﴿أَفَلَمْ يَتَدَبَّرُوا كَيْفَ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ يَمْشُونَ فِي مَسْجِدِهِمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي النُّعْمِ﴾
 “Have the people not learned a lesson that We have destroyed before them many generations in whose ruins they walk through? Certainly in these ruins there are signs for people of understanding.” (Verse: 128)

Macro-structure of soorah TaaHaa

Soorah TaaHaa consists of seven paragraphs.

- 1- Verses: 1 to 8: In the first paragraph, the messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been addressed and consoled.**

The purposes of revelation of holy Quran have been mentioned and an introduction of holy Quran and Allah Almighty has been given. The holy Quran is a reminder and not a burden. It has been revealed by Allah. Allah is the Owner of the heavens and the earth and everything that exists between them. He knows whatever is said in a loud or low voice. There is no god besides Him. He has got the beautiful Names consisting of His beautiful Attributes.

- 2- Verses: 9 to 47: In the second paragraph, the first conversation of Allah Almighty with prophet Moosaa and the detail of initial guidance have been mentioned.**

First of all, Allah has mentioned His Tawheed and then He has ordered for His worship, remembrance and prayer. ﴿إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي﴾
 “It is Me, Allah; there is none worthy of worship except Me, so worship Me and establish Salah (prayers) for My remembrance.” (Verse: 14) Then He has established the veracity of the life after death and has stated its purpose.

﴿إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ أَكَادُ أَخْفِيهَا. يُتَجَرَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا تَسْعَى﴾
 “The final hour is sure to come. I choose to keep it hidden, so that every soul may be rewarded according to its efforts.” (Verse: 15)

Then prophet Moosaa and his brother have been ordered to convey the invitation in the light of arguments and they have been advised not to be lazy in Allah's remembrance.

- 3- Verses: 48 to 79: In the third paragraph, the invitation of prophet Moosa in the court of the military dictator Pharaoh and the story of continuous struggle with him has been described and the true events of the annihilation of Pharaoh and his army have been reported.**

Pharaoh said: ﴿قَالَ أَجِئْتَنَا بِسِحْرِ مُوسَى﴾ “Have you come to drive us out of our land with your magic? O Moosaa!”

﴿فَتَوَلَّى وَرُءُونَا كَيْدَهُ ثُمَّ آتَى﴾ “Then Pharaoh withdrew, concerted his plan and came back.” (Verse: 60)

Finally, they said: ﴿قَالُوا إِنَّ هَٰذَانِ لَسَٰحِرَانِ يُرِيدَانِ أَنْ يُخْرِجَاكَ مِنْ أَرْضِكَ بِسِحْرِهِمَا وَيَذَهَبَا بِظُرْبِ قَبَائِكُمُ الْبَٰئِلِ﴾ “These two (Moosaa and Haaron) are expert magicians who intend to drive you out from your land with their magic and to do away with your best traditions.” (Verse: 63)

Pharaoh gathered the magicians to defeat prophet Moosaa. They threw their strings and sticks. Then prophet Moosaa threw his staff. The magic of the magicians could not succeed in front of Allah's miracle. Then all the magicians fell in prostration and declared in the court that they had believed in the Lord of Moosaa and Haaron. ﴿فَأَلْفَى السَّحْرَ سُجَّدًا قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّ هَارُونَ وَمُوسَى﴾ “So the magicians humbled themselves by prostrating and said: 'We believe in the Lord of Haaron and Moosaa'.” (Verse: 70)

Pharaoh considered the magicians to be his personal property. He became angry and said: “How could you become Muslims without my permission?” He threatened them with torturous murder. The new Muslim magicians displayed exemplary courage and steadfastness at that occasion. (Verse: 71) They said to Pharaoh very boldly: ﴿فَأَقِمْ مَا آتَاكَ قَٰضٍ﴾ “Do whatever you will.” (Verse: 72) Those who purify their creed and deeds have been given the good news of Paradise. ﴿وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَن تَزَكَّى﴾ “Such is the reward of those who purify themselves from evil.” (Verse: 76) Then the drowning of Pharaoh and his armies is mentioned.

- 4- Verses: 80 to 98: In the fourth paragraph, the events that took place after the Exodus of Israelites from Egypt and the mischief of Saamiree have been mentioned.**

Saamiree collected the jewellery from the people and made a calf out of it.

﴿الْهٰكِمُ وَالْمُؤْمِنِ﴾ “He deceived the people and told them that it was their god and the god of Moosaa (pbuh)” (Verse: 89) Prophet Haaron tried his best to avert them from Shirk but they got involved in the mischief of Saamiree.

- 5- Verses: 99 to 114: In the fifth paragraph, the messenger of Allah has been addressed and the events of the Day of Resurrection have been stated.**

The mountains will be crushed to dust. ﴿فَيَذَرُهَا قَاعًا صَفْصَفًا ۖ لَا تَرَىٰ فِيهَا عِوَجًا وَلَا أَمْتًا﴾
“He will turn the (earth) into a plain level ground, wherein you will see neither any curve nor crease. (Verses: 106, 107) The One Who has revealed the holy Quran is the most High and Exalted. He is the true king.

- 6- Verses: 115 to 129: The story of Adam and Iblees has been reported in the sixth paragraph and Allah's Law of reward and punishment has been explained.**

Iblees is the enemy of the children of Adam. He is the friend of Pharaohs. He is a hindrance in the teachings of every prophet. He tries to keep people away from the holy Quran. However, those who reject the invitation of Quran will have a tight economy in this world and will face the punishment in the next world. They will be raised blind on the Day of Resurrection.

﴿وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ آخُونَ﴾
“But the one who will turn away from My reminder shall live a meagre life and We shall raise him back to life as a blind person on the Day of Resurrection.” (Verse: 124)

- 6- Verses: 130 to 135: In the seventh and last paragraph, the messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been advised to establish the prayer and be patient against the arrogant and rebellious attitude of the Makkan pagans and he was given the consolation and the good news of bright future.**

The prophet (pbuh) has been advised not to look at the adornment of the world that has been given to others. ﴿لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْتَاهُ أَرْوَاهُ فَمِنْهُم ظَهْرَةٌ الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا

لِيَتَفَتِحُنَّ فِيهِ وَرِزْقِ رَبِّكَ حَمِيمٌ ۚ وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلٰوةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا﴾

“Do not strain your eyes with envy regarding the worldly benefits We have bestowed on some among them, for these We seek to test them. The (lawful) provision of your Lord is better and more lasting. Enjoin Salah (prayers) on your family and be diligent in its observance,” (Verse: 131, 132)

There is the consolation as well as a threat at the end that everyone is waiting and you too should wait. Soon it will be known as to who is right and who is wrong. Those who follow the straightway will be conspicuous in the near future.

Central subject

The Muslims should learn a lesson from the invitational life of prophet Moosaa. They should fight the Satan in the light of Quranic teachings and fight the Pharaohs of their time with patience and steadfastness.