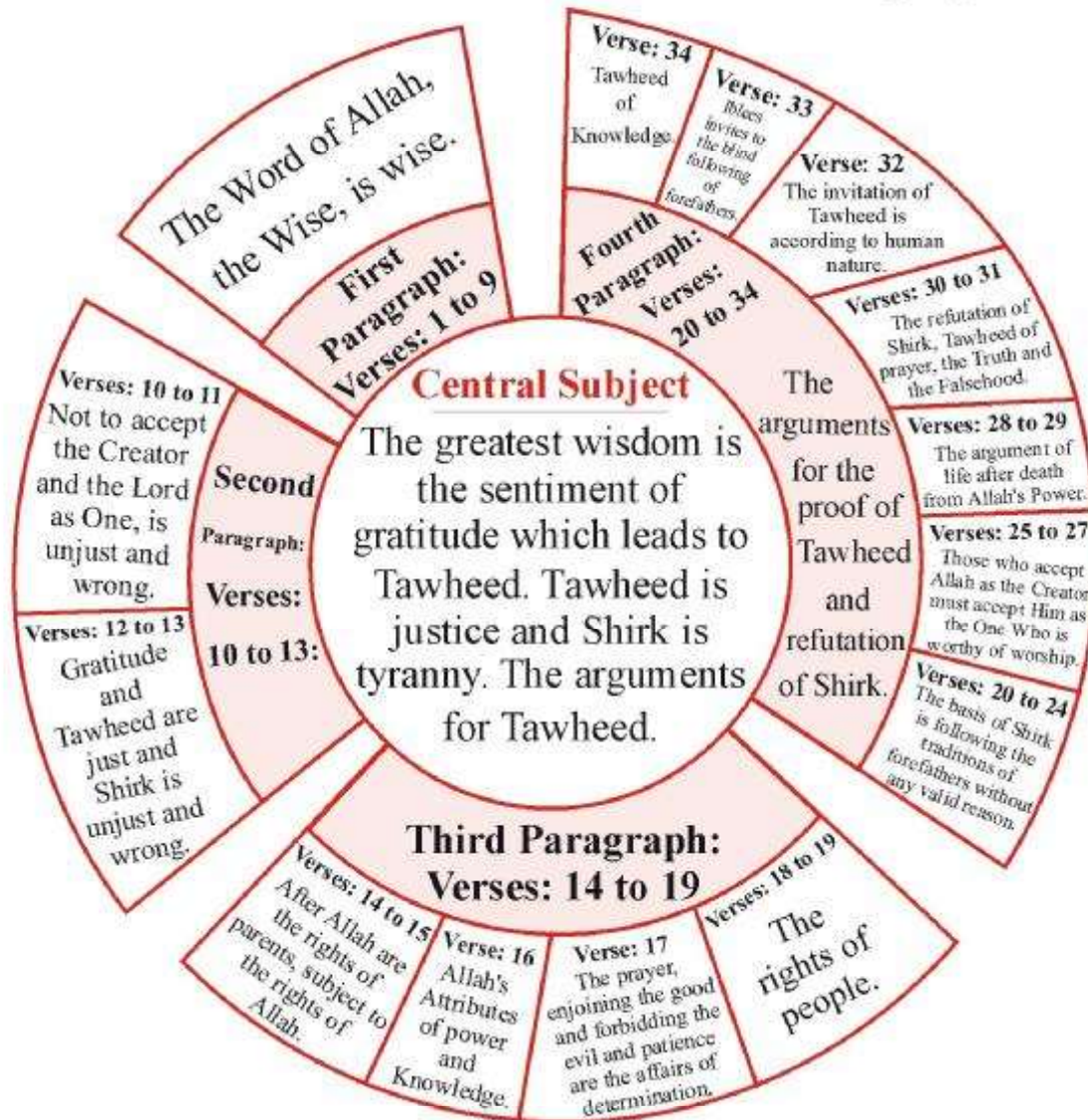


Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Luqmaan

31 - Soorah Luqmaan Makkan

Verses: 34

Paragraphs: 4



• **Period of revelation:**

Soorah Luqmaan was revealed before soorah Al-'Ankaboot and migration to Ethiopia (Rajab, 5 prophet-hood), in the beginning of 5 Prophet-hood. The new Muslim youth were advised to treat their polytheist parents with kindness but they were not allowed to obey them if they asked them to commit Shirk.

The relationship of soorah Luqmaan with the Book

In the previous soorah (Ar-Room), there were arguments for Tawheed and life hereafter and the prophecy for the victory of Badr. Here, in soorah Luqmaan, Shirk has been called the greatest injustice. The Muslims have been asked to be grateful and avoid the blind following of their forefathers. The comprehensive advice of Luqmaan, the sage, has been described in soorah Luqmaan. These are, in fact, the characteristics of believers. In the next soorah (As-Sajdah), the difference between a true believer and a sinful person has been explained, and the characteristics of the believers have been described. They praise and glorify Allah and are vigilant for "Tahajjud" (night prayer). They are humble in front of Allah and have the attitude of fear and hope before Him.

The important key words and subjects

1- Meaningfulness of the use of word "Hakeem" (wise) in soorah Luqmaan:

Allah Almighty is Wise and His Book also has wisdom. The system of trials in this world and the system of reward and punishment in the life hereafter is also based on wisdom.

- (a) Allah Almighty is Wise. ﴿وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾ "And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." (verse: 9)
- (b) The Book of Allah also has wisdom. ﴿تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْحَكِيمِ﴾ "These are verses of the Book of wisdom." (Verse: 2)
- (c) Luqmaan was given wisdom and was told to be grateful. ﴿وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنْ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ﴾ "We gave wisdom to Luqmaan so that he may be grateful to Allah." (Verse: 12)
- (d) The reward of Paradise and the punishment of Hell also are based on wisdom. (Verses: 7 to 9)

2- Meaningfulness of the use of word "Shukr" (gratitude) in soorah Luqmaan:

Gratitude has been ordered. Tawheed is generated out of the feelings of gratitude. Gratitude is the distinctive feature of the faithful servants.

- (a) ﴿إِن اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ﴾ (Be grateful to Allah) Allah gave wisdom to Luqmaan that it was necessary to be grateful to Allah. (Verse: 12)
- (b) Gratitude is useful for man himself. ﴿وَمَنْ يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ﴾ “The one who pays thanks, does so for his own good.” (Verse: 12)
- (c) The unfaithful and ungrateful people remember Allah only when they are in trouble; but the faithful and grateful people remember Him all the time.

(Verse: 32)

3- It has been suggested in soorah Luqmaan that the blind following of the forefathers should be avoided and the way of Tawheed should be followed.

- (a) If the parents force their children to commit Shirk, their obedience is not permissible. However, they should be treated with respect and kindness in the matters of the world.
﴿وَإِنْ جَاهَدَكَ عَلَى أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا﴾ “If they argue with you to commit Shirk, of which you have no knowledge, then do not obey them; however you should still treat them kindly in this world.” (Verse: 15)
- (b) When the Makkan pagans were asked to follow the holy Quran, they answered that they will follow the way on which they found their forefathers. ﴿وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا﴾ “When they are asked to follow what Allah has revealed, they reply: 'Nay, we shall follow the ways upon which we found our forefathers.’” (Verse: 21)
- (c) On the Day of Judgement, neither the father will be able to indemnify for his son, nor the son will be able to indemnify for his father; therefore, everyone should avoid the blind following of his forefathers and should think about his own future. ﴿وَاحْشُوا يَوْمَ لَا يَجْرِي وَالِدٌ عَنِ وَلَدِهِ وَلَا مَوْلُوهُمْ دُونَهُمْ جَارٍ عَنِ وَالِدِهِمْ أَسِنَّةً﴾ “And fear that Day when no father shall avail his son nor a son his father.” (Verse: 33)

4- Many arguments for Allah being the Creator have been given in soorah Luqmaan and the demand for the Tawheed of Divinity has been made.

- (a) Allah is the Creator of heavens. ﴿خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرَوْنَهَا﴾ “He created the heavens without visible pillars.” (Verse: 10)
- (b) The polytheists have challenged and asked if there is anything that has been created by gods other than Allah.
﴿هَذَا خَلْقُ اللَّهِ فَأَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِ﴾ “This is Allah's creation; now, show Me what is there that others besides Him have created?” (Verse: 11)

(c) The Makkan pagans believed Allah to be the Creator; but they committed Shirk in worship and obedience.

﴿وَلَمَّا سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ﴾ “If you ask them: 'Who has created the heavens and the earth?' They will certainly say: 'Allah!'.” (Verse: 25)

(d) The initial creation of the whole mankind and its resurrection is like the creation of just one man to Allah.

﴿مَا خَلَقَكُمْ وَلَا يَعْفُكُمْ إِلَّا كَتَفِيسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ﴾ “Neither your creation nor your resurrection is anything but as simple as the creation and resurrection of a single soul.” (Verse: 28)

5- There are the arguments of Tawheed of knowledge in soorah Luqmaan.

Tawheed of knowledge means that Allah's knowledge is so complete that it is not possessed by any one among the creation.

(a) Luqmaan taught his son the Tawheed of knowledge and the Tawheed of Authority through a beautiful example. Allah's knowledge is so penetrating that He knows even the hidden things of the heavens and the earth as small as a mustard seed and He has the Power to bring them out. This is the argument for life after death as well.

﴿يٰٓبُنَيَّ اِنَّهَا اِنْ تَكَ وَثِقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ حَرْدَلٍ فَمَنْ حَبْرَدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِيْ صَخْرَةٍ اَوْ فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ اَوْ فِي الْاَرْضِ يٰٓاَبِ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَطٰوِیْفٌ حَبِیْرٌ﴾
“O my son! Allah will bring all things (to light), be they as small as a grain of a mustard seed, be they hidden inside a rock or (high above) in the heavens or (deep down) in the earth. Allah is well aware of all things to their finest details.” (Verse: 16)

(b) Allah Almighty is so knowledgeable that He knows the secrets of the hearts.

﴿اِنَّ اللّٰهَ عَلٰیۤمٌ بِذٰتِ الصُّدُوْرِ﴾ “Surely, Allah knows the secrets of the hearts.” (Verse: 23)

Macro-structure of soorah Luqmaan

Soorah Luqmaan consists of four paragraphs.

1- Verses: 1 to 9: In the first paragraph, it has been told that Allah is Wise and His Book is full of wisdom and there is wisdom in His reward and punishment.

The revelations of holy Quran are guidance and mercy for the righteous. They establish the prayer, pay the Zakah (obligatory charity) and believe in the life hereafter. They are rightly guided and they will be successful. (Verses: 4, 5)

There is severe punishment for those who refrain from the Way of Allah and hinder others from His Way by their frivolous tales.

Music is prohibited. **(Verse: 6)** The leaders who love this world want to lead people away from the Way of Allah and make fun of the invitation towards Allah. They show arrogance and turn their faces away when they hear it as if they are deaf and have not heard it. They will be punished. On the contrary, those who believed and did good deeds will be in the gardens of blessings.

2- Verses: 10 to 13: It has been told in the second paragraph that Shirk is the greatest injustice and Tawheed is justice incarnate.

- (a) The arguments of Tawheed have been provided that Allah has created the heavens without pillars and set the mountains on earth so that it may not roll down with the people. He created the earth and spread different animals in it. He sends down rain from the sky and grows different kinds of vegetation from it. This is the Creation of Allah. The polytheists have been challenged and asked: "What has the other gods besides Allah created?"
- (b) Allah gave wisdom to Luqmaan and ordered him to be grateful because it is good for the individual himself; otherwise Allah is free of all wants and worthy of all praise. He was also ordered not to commit Shirk because it is the greatest injustice. "O my son! Do not ever commit Shirk; surely, committing Shirk is the worst iniquity." **(Verse: 13)**

3- Verses: 14 to 19: The comprehensive advice of Luqmaan has been described in the third paragraph, which in fact, consists of the characteristics of believers.

The Shirk in beliefs has been prohibited. Tawheed of Knowledge and Tawheed of Authority have been explained by describing the Attributes of Allah. The prayer has been ordered in the worship. In the social relations, it has been ordered that parents should be treated with kindness and limits of their obedience have been fixed. The etiquettes of invitation have been taught that virtue should be enjoined and vice should be prohibited. Patience has been advised and moderation has been ordered in the ethics. The etiquettes of conversation have been taught. Shouting has been compared with the braying of a donkey. The etiquettes of politics and social life have been taught that only those leaders should be followed who fear Allah.

- (1) Be grateful to Allah.
- (2) Do not commit Shirk, for this is the greatest injustice.
- (3) Treat the parents with kindness especially the mother who keeps you in her womb bearing suffering upon suffering, and then suckles you for two years. The advice to be grateful to Allah and to your parents has been given and it has been told that they should not be obeyed if they force you for Shirk. However, they should be cooperated and obeyed in all the good things.

﴿وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ وَفِضْلُهُ فِي عَامَتَيْنِ أَنْ اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَىٰ الْمَصِيرِ﴾

“We enjoined man concerning his parents - his mother carries him in her womb while suffering weakness upon weakness and then weans him in two years- 'Give thanks to Me and to your parents, to Me is your final goal'.” (Verse: 14)

- (4) The command to follow the God-fearing righteous leaders has been given.
- ﴿وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ﴾ “And follow the way of that individual who has turned to Me.” (Verse: 15)

- (5) Luqmaan made his son understand the Tawheed of Knowledge and the Tawheed of Authority through a beautiful example and provided him an argument for the life hereafter. (Verse: 16)

- (6) ﴿يُنِيتِي أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ﴾ O my son! Establish the prayer! (Verse: 17)

- (7) ﴿وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ﴾ Enjoin the good! (17)

- (8) ﴿وَأَنْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ﴾ Forbid the evil! (17)

- (9) ﴿وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ﴾ Endure with patience whatever befalls you! (17)

These are the things which have been emphasised and which need great determination.

- (10) ﴿وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ﴾ Do not talk to the people with your face turned away!
(Verse: 18)

- (11) ﴿وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا﴾ Do not walk proudly on earth! (Verse: 18)

﴿إِنَّ لِلَّهِ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ﴾ Allah does not like any self-conceited boaster. (Verse: 18)

- (12) ﴿وَاقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ﴾ Be moderate in your gait! (Verse: 18)

- (13) ﴿وَاعْظُضْ مِنْ صَوْتِكَ إِنَّ أَنْكَرَ الْأَصْوَابِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ﴾ Lower your voice, for the harshest of voices is the braying of a donkey. (Verse: 19)

4- Verses: 20 to 34: In the fourth and last paragraph, the arguments have been given to prove the Tawheed and refute the Shirk.

The pagan youth of Makkah have been told to think about these arguments and accept the invitation of Islam avoiding the blind following of the traditions of their forefathers.

(a) The universal arguments have been presented that Allah has subjugated everything in the heavens and the earth for man. He has completed His visible and invisible blessings for man; but people involve themselves in futile discussions and dispute about Allah without any knowledge, guidance, light and Book about Him. (Verse: 20)

(b) The stubbornness of the Makkan pagans has been portrayed that they do not want to think about the invitation of Tawheed. They reiterate only one thing that they will follow the traditions of their forefathers. They were asked, "Will you follow them even if you are called towards Hell by the Satan."
(Verse: 21)

(c) It was told clearly that the one who accepts Islam and does good deeds grasps a strong hand-hold.

The messenger (pbuh) of Allah was consoled that he should not grieve for these ungrateful people. All of them have to return to Allah and then they will be shown their deeds.

(d) Tawheed of Allah's Names and Attributes was described that only Allah deserves the Praise!

If all the trees become pens and the seas become ink and then seven more seas of ink are added, even then the words of Allah (His Attributes described through His Names) will not end. Allah is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

(Verse: 27)

(e) It has been told through a rational argument that creating the whole mankind and then giving them death is like creating one man and giving him death. Allah is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing. (Verse: 28) This is the argument for Tawheed of Power as well as the life hereafter.

The arguments of Tawheed have been given that Allah strings the night into the day and the day into the night. He has subjugated the sun and the moon. Allah is the true God and all the creation to whom prayers are addressed besides Allah, are false gods. Allah is the Sublime, the Exalted.

﴿ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ الْبَاطِلُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ﴾ “This is because Allah is the only Reality and because all those whom the people invoke besides Him, are false, and because Allah is the One Who is the Most High, the Great.” (Verse: 30)

- (f) **The arguments of Tawheed from man's own self:** Man should look at the boats and ships and think about them to observe the signs of Allah. The patient and grateful people learn a lesson from these signs and arguments. Tawheed is the voice of nature. At the time of affliction, man remembers Allah Alone and seeks His help without any adulteration and association; but when he reaches the shore safely, he curbs the voice of his nature. Only the unfaithful and ungrateful people deny the arguments and signs of Allah. People have been threatened with the Day of Judgement that following the traditions of their forefathers will not avail them anything on that Day. No father will be able to compensate for his son and no son will be able to compensate for his father on that Day.

Allah's promise is true. Do not let the worldly life or the Satan deceive you.

(Verse: 33)

- (g) **Tawheed of knowledge:** Man has been invited to think about five things that Allah, the Creator has the knowledge of all these things. “Surely, Allah has the knowledge of the Hour, He is the One Who sends down the rain and He knows what is in the wombs. No one knows what he will earn the next day; and no one knows in what land he will die. Surely, Allah knows all this and is aware of everything.” (Verse: 34)

Central subject

The greatest justice is Tawheed and the greatest injustice is Shirk. The sentiments of gratitude lead to Tawheed. One must believe in Allah Alone and follow the comprehensive teachings of the religion. This is the Luqmaan wisdom given by Allah.

