

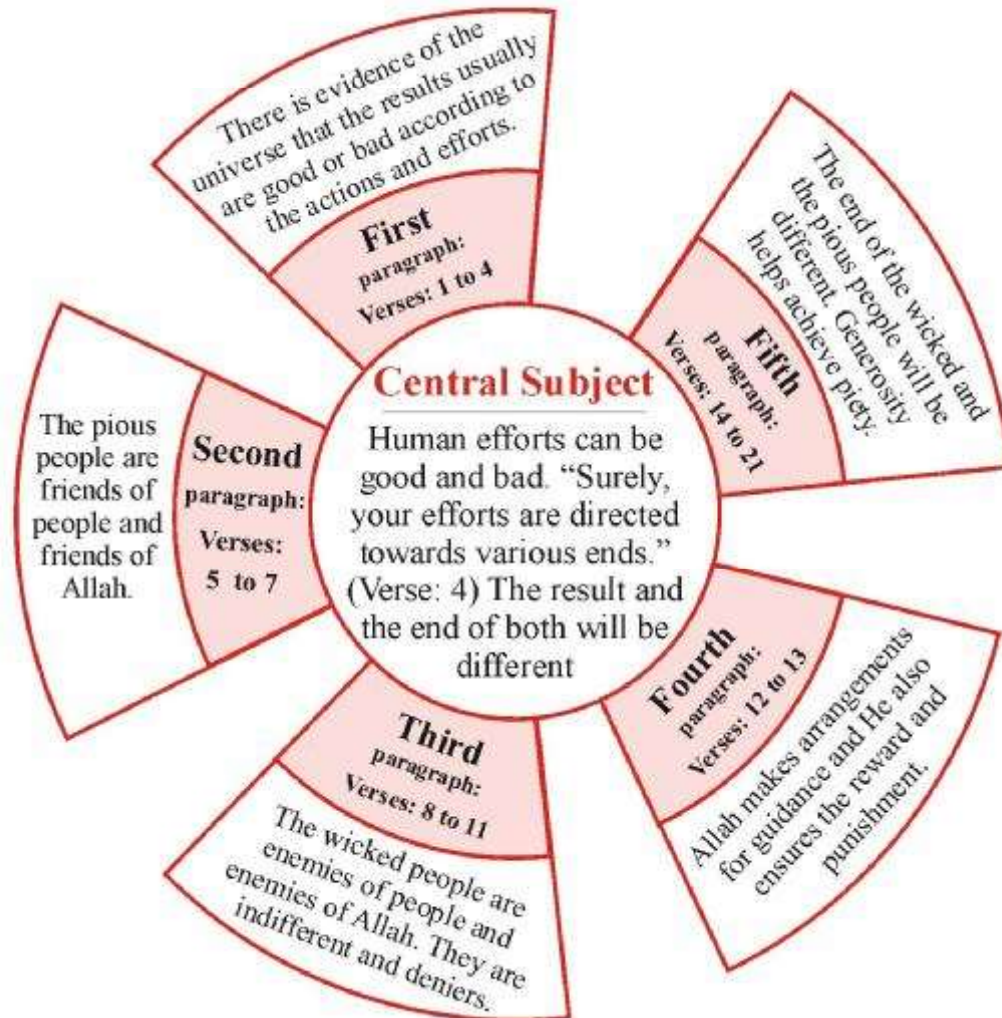
## Flow Chart of Macro-Structure of Soorah Al-Lail

# 92 - Soorah Al-Lail

Makkan

Verses: 21

Paragraphs: 5



### • **Period of revelation:**

Soorah Al-Lail was revealed along with soorah Ash-Shams, after the general proclamation of Islam, during the second phase of prophet's stay in Makkah (4 to 5 prophet-hood). It was the period of enmity and the Makkan pagans were given the threat of punishment.



### Relationship of soorah Al-Lail with the Book

- 1- Man's freedom of choice was expressed with the word "An-Najdain" (the two ways) in soorah Al-Balad. In the previous soorah (Ash-Shams), it was expressed in these words: ﴿فَالهَمَّاهُمُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا﴾ "And inspired it with knowledge of what is wrong for it and what is right for it." (Verse: 8)  
Here, in soorah Al-Lail it has been highlighted with the following statement: ﴿اِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتٰى﴾ "Surely, your efforts are directed towards various ends." (verse: 4)
- 2- This soorah has ended with the words: (Such persons) shall soon be well pleased (with Allah). In the next soorah (Ad-Dhuhaa), the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah has been given the good news that soon Allah will give you that which will please you. ﴿وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضٰى﴾ "Soon your Lord shall grant you something with which you will be well pleased." (93: 5)

### Important Key words and Subjects

- 1- In soorah Al-Balad, the generous and pious people have been compared with the stingy, indifferent and wicked people.
- 2- The Characteristics of those who accepted the invitation of the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah and the holy Quran and those who rejected this invitation are different and their end will be different as well.
- 3- In order to achieve self-purification man should spend his wealth for the pleasure of Allah. ﴿الْبَيْعَاءَ وَجُوْرَ رَبِّهِ الْاَعْلٰى﴾ "Seeking the good pleasure of his Lord, the Most High. (Verse: 20)  
﴿الَّذِى يُؤْتِى مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى﴾ "The one who spends in charity for self-purification." (Verse: 18)

### The Macro-structure of soorah Al-Lail

Soorah Al-Lail consists of five paragraphs.

- 1- **Verses: 1 to 4: The argument about virtue and vice has been established from the evidence of three things in the first paragraph.**

The evidence of three things - the day, the night and the birth and growth of male and female - has been presented in the first paragraph.



As the day is different from the night, the male is different from the female, the light is different from the darkness; similarly the human efforts, endeavours and activities are also different. ﴿إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّى﴾ “Surely, your efforts are directed towards various ends.” (Verse: 4) The earnings of human beings are different. Some are generous and others are stingy. Some testify and others reject. Some are earning good deeds and others are accumulating sins.

﴿وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَى﴾ “By the night, when it covers (with darkness). (Verse: 1)

﴿وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّى﴾ “And by the day, when it spreads its brightness.” (Verse: 2)

﴿وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَى﴾ “By Him Who created the male and the female.” (Verse: 3)

﴿إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّى﴾ “Surely, your efforts are directed towards various ends.” (verse:4)

## 2- Verses: 5 to 7: Three characteristics of good people are described in the second paragraph.

﴿فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى﴾ “So for him who gives in charity, and fears Allah.” (Verse: 5)

﴿وَوَصَّاهُ بِالْحَسَنَى﴾ “And testifies to goodness.” (Verse: 6)

﴿فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى﴾ “We shall facilitate for him the easy way.” (Verse: 7)

Good people are friends of people and friends of Allah. They accept the truth and believe. They testify the truth and do not reject it. They fulfil the rights of people along with fulfilling the rights of Allah. They are generous and not stingy. They participate generously in the charity works. Allah makes the way easy for such people. ﴿فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى﴾ “We shall facilitate for him the easy way.” (Verse: 7)

### Three good qualities which facilitate the way for virtue:

(1) Spending in the way of Allah. (2) Fear of Allah and piety. (3) Accepting the virtue as virtue.

Whoever adopts these three qualities, Allah will make the straight way of life easy for him. Following the way of virtue will be easy and following the way of evil will be difficult for him.

## 3- Verses: 8 to 11: Three characteristics of bad people have been described in the third paragraph.

﴿وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى﴾ “As for him who is stingy and considers himself independent (of Allah).” (Verse: 8)



﴿وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحَسَنَىٰ﴾ “And rejects the goodness.” (Verse: 9)

﴿فَسَنَيِّرُ الْإِنْسَانَ إِلَىٰٓ أَهْلِيهِ﴾ “We shall facilitate for him the hard way.” (Verse: 10)

﴿وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰ﴾ “What benefit will he get from his wealth, if he himself is doomed.” (Verse: 11)

The bad people are enemies of mankind and enemies of Allah. They love the world and live a stingy life. They are heedless and indifferent to their Lord.

The hard way is facilitated for them. ﴿فَسَنَيِّرُ الْإِنْسَانَ إِلَىٰٓ أَهْلِيهِ﴾ “We shall facilitate for him the hard way.” (Verse: 10)

In the end, a stinging question has been asked of the human conscience: What is the use of the wealth which takes man to the Hell?

﴿وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰ﴾ “What benefit will he get from his wealth, if he himself is doomed.” (Verse: 11) This kind of wealth is not a blessing. It is a bane.

### Three bad qualities which facilitate the evil way:

(1) To be stingy. (2) To be indifferent to the pleasure and displeasure of Allah. (3) To reject the good saying. Whoever will adopt this attitude, Allah will facilitate the hard way for him with the result that following the evil will become easy for him and following the way of virtue will become difficult.

### 4- Verses: 12 to 13: In the fourth paragraph, a few basic principles have been described.

﴿إِنَّا عَلَيْنَا الْهُدَىٰ﴾ “Surely, it is for Us to give guidance.” (Verse: 12)

﴿وَإِنَّا لَنَالُ الْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَىٰ﴾ “And surely, to Us belong the end and the beginning.” (Verse: 13)

- (1) Allah arranged the Guidance through His Messenger and the holy Quran.
- (2) The Authority lies with Allah Alone in this world and in the Hereafter. He will punish those who reject the Guidance and will give great reward to those who accept it. ﴿وَإِنَّا لَنَالُ الْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَىٰ﴾ “And surely, to Us belong the end and the beginning.” (Verse: 13)

If man asks for this world, only Allah can give and if he asks for the Hereafter, only Allah can give. It is up to man himself to decide what does he want from Allah?

- (3) The third principle described is that the unfortunate person who rejects the invitation presented through the Messenger (pbuh) of Allah and the holy Quran and turns away from it, will have to face the blazing fire.



**5- Verses: 14 to 21: In the fifth and last paragraph, the characteristics and the end of those who accept this Guidance and those who reject it have been described.**

﴿فَأَذَرْتُكُمْ قَارًا نَّاطِقًا﴾ “Therefore, I warn you of the blazing fire.” (Verse: 14)

﴿لَا يَضِلُّهَا إِلَّا الْأَشْقَى﴾ “In which none shall burn except the wretched.” (Verse: 15)

﴿الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّى﴾ “Who denies the truth and gives no heed.” (Verse: 16)

﴿وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى﴾ “But the pious shall be kept away from it.” (Verse: 17)

﴿الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى﴾ “The one who spends in charity for self-purification.” (Verse: 18)

﴿وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى﴾ “Not seeking any favour from anyone for which a reward is expected in return.” (Verse: 19)

﴿إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى﴾ “Except seeking the good pleasure of his Lord, the Most High.” (Verse: 20)

﴿وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى﴾ “(Such persons) shall soon be well-pleased (with Allah). (Verse: 21)

Those who reject the Guidance are wretched. They deny it and turn away from it. They will be burnt in Hellfire. On the contrary, the generous, sincere and pious people will be kept away from the Hellfire.

The God-fearing person who spends his wealth without selfishness only to achieve Allah's pleasure, Allah will be pleased with him and will give him that which will please him.

### Central Subject

Human efforts and activities can be good and bad. The results of both kinds of activities are different and their ends will be different as well. Self-purification can be achieved by spending sincerely in the way of Allah.

