

Sura 112: Al-Ikhlās (Purity of Faith)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 4:

1. *Say, "He is God, the One and Only;*
2. *God, the Eternal, Absolute;*
3. *He begets not, nor is He begotten;*
4. *And there is none like Him."*

Authentic traditions reported that this short Sura is equivalent to one third of the Quran. This is not surprising because the Sura proclaims the Oneness of God which is the fundamental concept of the faith, it explains the existence of everything, and it outlines a lifestyle. The Sura includes the most fundamental fact that underlies the faith of Islam. The first verse goes beyond stating, *"God is one."* It says, *"He is God, the One and Only."* This indicates the oneness of existence. God is the only existing truth and there is no true existence except His. The existence of everything is dependent on the existence of God. The statement also means that He is the only One who has true power. He controls all actions in this universe. The understanding and belief in this concept purify the heart and opens it to the true understanding of the meaning of the Oneness of God.

True freedom is attained when this belief rests deep in the heart and replaces all other false beliefs. The heart will be able to see that God's hand controls everything. There is no true will nor real power in this universe except the will and power of God. It becomes clear that the apparent causes have no power in themselves. The causes produce effects only by the will and power of God. This fact has been emphasized in several verses in the Quran, *"And you did not throw, (Muhammad) when you threw, but it was God who threw."* (8:17), *"And victory comes only from God."* (3:126) and *"And you do not will except that God wills."* (81: 29). For this reason, the first years of the call to Islam was focused on establishing the true meaning of the belief in the oneness of God, because the belief in the oneness of God is an article of faith that also explains the rules that control the universe and establishes the foundation of the Islamic project. This will consequently mean that there is no material causality. Every cause refers to the original cause.

According to the Islamic project, one only seeks help from God alone; whether at time of ease or time of adversity. The project is based on God made laws not manmade laws. The project binds the human heart with everything that exists in the universe with a bond of love, compassion, and friendliness. It is a project that opens up the horizon for the progress, the development, and the betterment of life for the whole of humanity.

This explains why the Prophet (PBUH) dedicated all his efforts during the early years to establish the fundamental concept of the belief in the oneness of God and to inculcate it in the psyche of the believers. The belief of the oneness of God is the corner stone of the Islamic

project as a whole. All aspects of the Islamic project, doctrine, rituals, laws, values, and morals are based on this fundamental concept.

The attributes of God mentioned in the subsequent verses, “*God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begets not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like Him;*” are simply products of the fundamental concept of God’s Oneness and Uniqueness.