

Sura 94: Al-Sharh (The Relief)

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

Verses 1 to 8:

1. *Did We not expand your breast for you?*
2. *And remove your burden,*
3. *Which weighed down your back?*
4. *And raised your reputation high?*
5. *Indeed, with hardship comes ease;*
6. *Indeed, with hardship comes ease.*
7. *So, when you have finished (your work), then stand up for worship,*
8. *And turn to your Lord for everything.*

This Sura was revealed after Surat Al-Duha (Chapter 93), as if it came to complement it. The Sura echoes the same tender, gentle dialogue between God and His Messenger (PBUH). It reviews the signs of care that God bestowed on him, and it gives him glad tidings of the expected ease and the way to get it.

“Did We not expand your breast for you? And remove your burden, which weighed down your back? And raised your reputation high?” The verses suggest that the Messenger (PBUH) was facing a difficult time as a result of the conspiracies the idolaters were plotting against him and the obstacles that they were placing in his way to prevent him from continuing to call people to Islam. God addressed the Prophet (PBUH) directly. God expanded your breast so that your heart became happy with this undertaking. Look into your heart, do you not see it full of light? Taste the sweetness of the task that was entrusted to you. Do you not find comfort from this trust that overcomes the difficulty of the struggle. We removed the burden that has been placed on your back. We raised your reputation in the sky to the High Host, on earth among people, and in the whole universe. Your name will always be associated with the name of God, *“There is no deity except God, and Muhammad is His Messenger.”* There is no rank higher than this. This is the unique status that was bestowed only on Muhammad (PBUH). Your reputation was also raised in the Guarded Tablet. How can you feel tired after these bounties have been bestowed on you? These bounties should be enough to remove all tiredness and all difficulties.

God further dealt gently with the chosen beloved one; He comforted him and gave him glad tidings, *“Indeed, with hardship comes ease, indeed with hardship comes ease.”* There will always be some ease in each difficulty. You can see it in your case (Muhammad). When the burden was too much, We expanded your breast so you were able to cope with your burden. It is certain that with difficulty comes ease.

Then the verses explain the way to achieve ease, *“So when you have finished (your work), then stand up for worship, and turn to your Lord for everything.”* So, when you finish your daily

duties whether earning your living or dealing with people, then devote yourself in worship to God. This is the provision that one needs to bring ease with each difficulty.