

A surah is a chapter of the Qur'an. There are 114 surahs in the Holy Qur'an. Surah Ikhlas is the 112th surah.  
The surah are different sizes, the longest being Surah Bakarah, which has 286 verses.

The Qur'an is the word of Allah. It was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, over 1400 years ago. He ﷺ would teach the verses to his followers, who memorised them and used them in their prayers. The faithful scribes would write them down in the presence of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Both written and oral traditions are preserved.

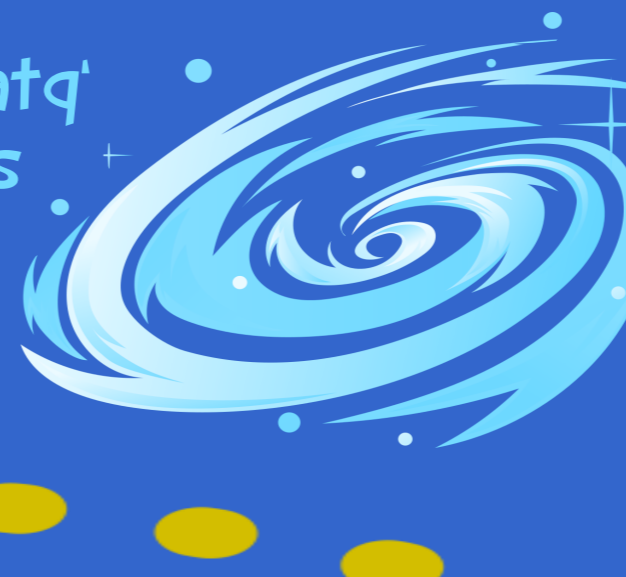
The name of the surah is Ikhlas, which means sincerity. This surah is simple. Just four verses give us a wealth and depth of understanding about Allah. This surah is sometimes called Surah Tawheed because it tells us about Allah and his Oneness.

# SURAH IKHLAS

The Qur'an tells us that Allah is our All-Powerful, Eternal Creator upon whom all creation is dependent. Everything depends on Allah and yet Allah alone is independent. With reflection, this is a powerful argument on the existence of Allah.



Allah created the universe (HQ 6:10) from a 'ratq' and then split it apart (HQ 12:30). Science calls this the singularity and the 'Big Bang'. Allah is expanding the universe (HQ 51:47).



"Do the disbelievers not realize that the heavens and earth were once one mass (ratq) then We split them apart? And We created from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?" (Qur'an 21:30)



The universe can not come into existence on its own but needs an uncaused, independent, All-Powerful Creator. Just as the Qur'an has told us.

This is partially encapsulated in the name of Allah - 'As-Samad'.

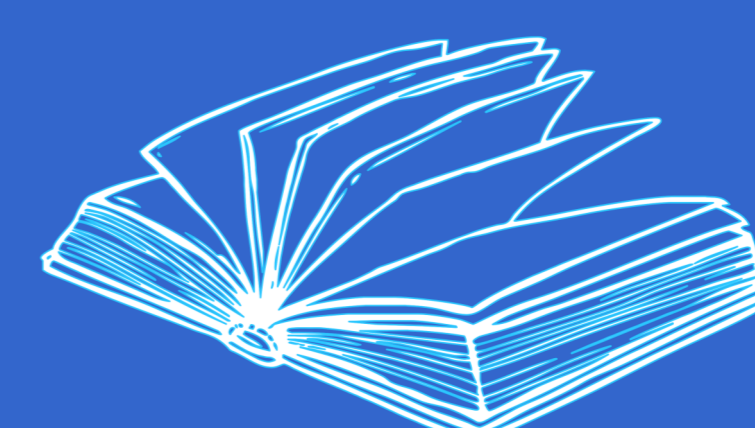
الصَّمَدُ

This is the Book! There is no doubt about it - a guide for those mindful of Allah (Qur'an 2:2)

The Qur'an was revealed over 1400 years ago - preserved and protected forever. It is a guidance for all human beings until the Last Day. A book to learn and reflect upon.



Many religious and mythological traditions teach that there are many gods. Allah tells us that Allah is All-Powerful. It's impossible to have more than one All-Powerful being if we think about it.



"Allah is the Originator of the heavens and earth..." (Qur'an 6:10)

"We built the universe with great might, and We are certainly expanding 'it'..." (Qur'an 51:47)



Allah has never had any offspring, nor is there any god besides Him... (Qur'an 23:91)

It is not for Allah to take a son! Glory be to Him. When He decrees a matter, He simply tells it, "Be!" And it is! (Qur'an 19:35)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ ۝  
وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝  
سُورَةُ الْاِخْلَاصِ

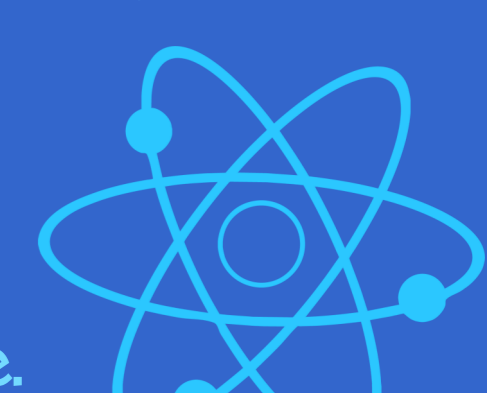
1. Say, (O Prophet) "He is Allah - One (and Indivisible)"
2. Allah - the Sustainer (needed by all).
3. He has never had offspring, nor was He born.
4. And there is none comparable to Him."

The Qur'an has some powerful arguments about the creation of the universe. It invites a person to use their intellect and reasoning.

The Qur'an asks many times for the people to reflect, understand, investigate and learn.



Some traditions, including the pagan Arabs at the time of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, maintain that Allah has offspring. This verse clearly tells them that Allah is One, without lineage and family.



Allah is unlike anything in his creation. From atoms to the powerful Supernova, Allah is not like anything that exists or anything we can imagine.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

قُلْ

Tawheed is the single most important concept. This is central to the lives of all Muslims.

أَحَدٌ

Sometimes referred to as the necessary being upon which all creation is dependent.

الصَّمَدُ

'Qul' means 'say'. Allah is commanding Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to recite this surah to the people of Makkah (polytheists) who were asking about Allah. The word 'Qul' also adds emphasis to the surah. It reminds us that the following message is very important.

There are five surahs that start with Qul.

This is a word which emphasises the oneness of Allah. This tells us that Allah is One in every respect. Allah is indivisible in every way. This oneness is known as Tawheed.

Tawheed emphasises this oneness of the Divine Reality, the oneness in Allah's Lordship and in Allah's names (attributes/qualities).

This 'oneness' of God is the teachings of all the prophets of Allah.

As-Samad is one of the names (or attributes) of Allah. This translates as the Self-Sufficient, the Independent.

This means that everything relies on Allah, and Allah doesn't rely on anything. The whole of creation is dependent on Allah for everything, yet Allah is entirely independent of everything.

Allah doesn't need anything for his existence. Allah is completely self-sufficient.

لَمْ يَلِدْ

To attribute a son or partner to Allah is called Shirk. This is a grave sin that Allah will not forgive.

لَمْ يُولَدْ

People make idols or pictures to help them conceptualise the creator. This is completely forbidden in Islam.

كُفُوًا

Allah was not born. This emphasises the fact that Allah is eternal and is unlike a human being. Allah is eternal without a beginning (Al-Awwal) and without an end (Al-Aakhir).

Anything with a beginning or with an age is not a god. This is a basic logical understanding.

Many mythological and ancient traditions insist on a 'God' being born. This verse reminds us that Allah is not born.

Allah does not have children. Allah is not like a human or animal that has needs or requires offspring. Allah is not like anything in creation. Allah is not like a human being.

Some ancient religions attribute sons, daughters or family to God. This is shirk (polytheism) which is a huge sin in Islam.

In Islam, the Trinity and Prophet Jesus ﷺ being the son of God, both fall into the category of shirk.

Allah is unlike anything in creation. Whether we look on the earth, in the sea or into the universe, Allah is not like anything.

Allah is not like anything we can imagine. Allah is not like a human being.

We learn about Allah through the teachings of the prophets. We learn about Allah from the Qur'an - guidance from Allah. By reflecting on Allah's names we get closer to Allah..

## Attributes

In this surah, we have been introduced to some of Allah's names (or attributes). Allah is beyond our human understanding and comprehension.

Through His mercy and His beautiful names, Allah has helped us come closer to Him. When we reflect on these names (or attributes), we get closer to Allah.

## Background

This is a Makki surah, which means it was revealed in Makkah. This surah was a response to questions the pagan Arabs asked about Allah.

When others asked about Allah in Madina, this surah was again used to explain to the people about Allah. Perhaps for this reason, this could be referred to as a Madani surah as well.

## Message

Reading Surah Ikhlas is like reading a third of the Qur'an. Scholars explain this by referring to its message, which is equivalent to a third of the Qur'an.

In this surah, the message is so powerful and expressed with such elegance, power and depth. Tawheed was the core teaching of every prophet.