

## *Surah Al-Ikhlās*

This short *surah* is one of the most important *surah* of the Qur'an. This *surah* teaches us about *Tauhid*, or Oneness of Allah. The central theme of the Qur'an is *Tauhid*, the Oneness of Allah. The Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ described this *surah* as being equal to one third of the Qur'an: about one-third of the Qur'an deals with the meaning and message of *Tauhid*. *Al-Ikhlās* means sincerity. Allah wants us to have complete, sincere faith in *Tauhid*. Below is *Surah Al-Ikhlās*, its meaning and explanation.

1. *Qulhuwallahu ahad. Say: He is Allah, the One!* Allah is *Al-Ahad*, the One. None compares with Him. He has created us, cares for us, and unto Him shall we return. We should worship no one but Allah. His nature is so sublime, so far beyond our limited conceptions. He is near us. We owe our existence to Him. He is the One and Only God, the only One to whom worship is due. All other things or beings that we can think of are His creature. This verse opposes polytheism, a system in which people believe in numerous gods and lords. Such a system is opposed to our truest and profoundest conceptions of life.
2. *Allahussamad. Allah, the eternally Besought of all.* Allah is *As-Samad*, which means "One who is Eternal". *As-Samad* is the One on whom everyone depends. *As-Samad*, Himself, is independent of anyone. He is One who creates everything and watches over everything, and everything returns to Him. He does not need anyone to care for Him.

All other existence is temporal and conditional. He is dependent on no person or things, but all persons or things are dependent on Him, thus opposing the idea of gods and goddesses who eat and drink, depending on the gifts of worshippers, etc. Allah is Eternal, without beginning or end, Absolute, not limited by time or place or circumstance, the Reality before which all other things or places are mere shadows or reflections.

3. *Lam yalid walam yulad. He begets not, nor was He begotten.* Allah is the Creator of all things. No one has created Allah or has given birth to Him. He does not give birth to anyone or anything. Allah is our Lord and Creator and He has the power to create all things by a single command, "Be!", and it is. This verse is to negate the Christian idea of the godhead, "the Father", "the only-begotten Son", etc. We must not think of Him as having a son or a father, for that would be to import animal qualities into our conception of Him.
4. *Walam yakullahu kufuan ahad. And there is none comparable unto Him.* Everything, living or non-living, is a creation of Allah. No one shares His power. No one can be compared with Him, and to do so is a sin. To make idols and images of Allah and to worship them is also sinful. All other things or beings that we can think of are His creatures and in no way comparable to Him. Allah is unlike anything that we can ever imagine. His qualities and nature are unique. *Wallahu A'lam.*