

*The Human Being:
Roots of Nobility – Roots of Depravity*



Prepared for

**Quran Study Group
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullah.

Tasbeeh

Surely all praise is due to Allah Lord of all created worlds, the Creator, the Developer, the One Who Gives Final Form. He is the One Who created the human being and taught him what he did not know. We seek forgiveness of Him, we seek Him for help and assistance and we turn to Him in repentance for all our wrongs. Then we do witness that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad (saw) is His servant and messenger. May prayers and peace be on Muhammad (saw), the unlettered Prophet and on his family, his companions, his wives, his children and on all his descendants.

About the Quran

“Alif, Lam, Ra; A Book whose signs are basic then further explained in detail from One Who is Wise, Fully Aware.” (translation of Quran 11:1)

Section 1

الرَّكَتِ كِتَابٌ أَحْكَمَتْ آيَاتُهُ وَتَمَّ فَصَّلَتْ مِنْ لَدُنْ حَكِيمٍ خَبِيرٍ ﴿١﴾

1. A. L. R.

(This is) a Book,

With verses basic or fundamental

(Of established meaning),

Further explained in detail,—

From One Who is Wise

And Well-Acquainted (with all things):

Commentary: Every basic principle is included in Allah’s revelation and is further illustrated and explained in detail

“A Book We sent down to you as a blessing, so that you will carefully consider his signs and that those endowed with understanding may receive the reminder.” (translation of Quran 38:29)

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ



29. (Here is) a Book which
We have sent down
Unto thee, full of blessings,
That they may meditate
On its Signs, and that
Men of understanding may
Receive admonition.

Yusuf Ali's commentary: Quran is among the greatest blessings that Allah has bestowed on the human being. By meditation (careful dedicated study) the human being may learn of himself and his relation to nature around him and his relation to Allah.... Those of understanding may learn the true lessons of spiritual life. Originated as a book, Became Quran when Angel Jabril began reciting it. Book is Baraka and every word and every letter.

Consider both of these ayaat as we move towards our topic and consider that Khurram Murad says in his book "*Way to Quran*", "Broadly speaking we may divide the study of Quran into two categories: *tadhakkur* (meditate) and *tadabbur* (*incorporate?, harder to do; Allah puts it first*), after the Quranic verse ... (38: 29)

You may read what he says about these two categories on pages 77 – 79 of the book. Insha Allah, we will go over this on Friday.

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“Oh you human ones, if you are in doubt about the resurrection, then surely We created you from dry earth, then from an ejected fluid, then from a clot, then from a lump of flesh partly formed and partly unformed so that We may make thing clear to you. ...” (translation of Quran 22: 5)

يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّنَ الْبَعْثِ فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّن تُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ
مِن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ
وَنُقَرِّرُ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا
ثُمَّ لِنَبْلُغُوهُنَّ أَشَدَّكُمْ وَمِنْكُمْ مَّن يُتَوَفَّىٰ وَمِنْكُمْ مَّن يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْذَلِ
الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْلَا يَعْلَمَ مِنْ بَعْدِ عِلْمٍ شَيْئًا وَتَرَى الْأَرْضَ هَامِدَةً فَإِذَا
أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ وَأَنْبَتَتْ مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ ﴿٥﴾

5. O mankind! if ye have
A doubt about the Resurrection,
(Consider) that We created you
Out of dust, then out of
Sperm, then out of a leech-like
Clot, then out of a morsel
Of flesh, partly formed
And partly unformed, in order
That We may manifest
(Our power) to you;
And We cause whom We will
To rest in the wombs
For an appointed term,
Then do We bring you out
As babes, then (foster you)
That ye may reach your age
Of full strength; and some
Of you are called to die,
And some are sent back
To the feeblest old age,

So that they know nothing
 After having known (much),
 And (further), thou seest
 The earth barren and lifeless,
 But when We pour down
 Rain on it, it is stirred
 (To life), it swells,
 And it puts forth every kind
 Of beautiful growth (in pairs).

Allah began the creation of the physical human being from “turaab” to which water was added. This became “teen” or sticky clay (earth is female; water is mal) . There were 6 stages to our original creation and we were given final form on the 6th day – yaum ul jumuati.

1. Stage 1 – turaab (dry earth) 22: 5 See above.
2. Stage 2 – teen (wet clay) 6: 2

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ طِينٍ ثُمَّ
 قَضَىٰ آجَالًا وَأَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى عِنْدَهُ ثُمَّ أَنْتُمْ تَمْتَرُونَ ﴿٢﴾

2. He it is Who created
 You from clay, and then
 Decreed a stated term
 (For you). And there is
 In His Presence another
 Determined term; yet
 Ye doubt within yourselves!

3. Stage 3 – hamaa’i (mud) 15: 26

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ مِنْ حَمَإٍ مَسْنُونٍ ﴿٢٦﴾

26. We created man from sounding clay, From mud moulded into shape;

Yusuf Ali’s commentary to Surah 15: 26: ...man’s body was formed from wet clay moulded into shape and then dried until it could emit sound (perhaps referring to speech);

it was ten further fashioned and completed; then into the animal form thus fashioned was breathed the Spirit of Allah, which gave it a superiority over other creation...”

4. Stage 4 – masnoon (molded mud) 15: 28

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي خَالِقٌ بَشَرًا مِّنْ صَلْصَلٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ



28. Behold! thy Lord said
To the angels: "I am about
To create man, from sounding clay
From mud moulded into shape;

5. Stage 5 – salsaalin (sounding clay, like dried pottery yhat emits sound) 55: 14

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِّنْ صَلْصَلٍ كَالْفَخَّارِ

14. He created man
From sounding clay
Like unto pottery,

6. Stage 6 – insertion of the ruh (38: 72)

فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِنْ رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ

72. "When I have fashioned him
(In due proportion) and breathed
Into him of My spirit,
Fall ye down in obeisance
Unto him."

Read Surah 15: 28 – 29 and consider the following:

Note here the emphasis is on 3 points:

1. The breathing of Allah's spirit into the human one – the faculty of God-like knowledge and will, which if rightly used would give the human being superiority over other creatures. If follow this pure ruh, it creates our superiority. It relates to the kalb, which can be corrupted; can even be sealed off from messages from spirit.
2. The origin of evil in arrogance and jealousy on the part of Shaitan, who saw only the lower side of the human and failed to see the higher side. (Sura Al Kaf)
3. This evil only touches those who yield to it and has no power over Allah's sincere servants.

At this juncture some attention needs to be given to the “*ruh*” and there are many references in Quran to this with relation to the Angel Jibreel, the ruh given to strengthen Prophet ‘Eesaa (as), etc. (*Read Surah 17: 85 – about the ruh*)

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الرُّوحِ قُلِ الرُّوحُ مِنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّي وَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا
قَلِيلًا ﴿٨٥﴾

85. They ask thee concerning
The Spirit (of inspiration).
Say: "The Spirit (cometh)
By command of my Lord:
Of knowledge it is only
A little that is communicated
To you, (O men!)"

Obviously Allah has various expressions of His ruh and each being is given a certain nobility as a result of that presence. Before the insertion of the ruh into the human being, Angels were concerned about our creation.

Surah 2: 30

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً
قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ
بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

30. Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: "I will create
A vicegerent on earth." They said:
"Wilt Thou place therein one who will make
Mischievous therein and shed blood?—
Whilst we do celebrate Thy praises
And glorify Thy holy (name)?"
He said: "I know what ye know not."

What knowledge did the Angels have that caused them to question Allah?

How could they know what would happen? Saw what happened to Jinn? Knew what happens when combine earth and water?

What did Allah know that the Angels didn't?

Allah knew His nature that He had breathed in.

Were the Angels correct in their estimation of the outcome of human creation?

What happened after this dialogue? (2: 31 – 34)

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ
هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٣١﴾

31. And He taught Adam the nature
Of all things; then He placed them
Before the angels, and said: "Tell Me
The nature of these if ye are right."

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ
الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٣٢﴾

32. They said: "Glory to Thee: of knowledge
We have none, save what Thou
Hast taught us: in truth it is Thou
Who art perfect in knowledge and wisdom."

قَالَ يَا آدَمُ أَنْبِئْهُمْ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ فَلَمَّا أَنْبَأَهُمْ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ
إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا كُنْتُمْ
تَكْتُمُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

33. He said: "O Adam! tell them
Their natures." When he had told them,
God said: "Did I not tell you
That I know the secrets of heaven
And earth, and I know what ye reveal
And what ye conceal?"

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ

مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٣٤﴾

34. And behold, We said to the angels:
"Bow down to Adam: "and they bowed down:
Not so Iblīs: he refused and was haughty:
He was of those who reject Faith.

Shaitan had knowledge, sitting in front of Allah, but rejected it. First step to kufr is to abandon salah.

Now let's take a short detour away from Surah tul Baqarah to **Surah Rahman (55)**.
Read ayat 1 – 4. Note the reference to “bayaan” – clear communication.

الرَّحْمَنُ ﴿١﴾

1. (God) Most Gracious!

عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ ﴿٢﴾

2. It is He Who has
Taught the Qur-ān.

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ ﴿٣﴾

3. He has created man:

عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ ﴿٤﴾

4. He has taught him speech
(And Intelligence).

Allah puts himself first; and the aspect is His mercy, then gave Quran, then created Quran, then human given intelligent speech. Take a few moments to note what gives human being their distinction. Try to get 5.

Then read:

Surah 95: 4 -6

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

4. We have [indeed](#) created man
In the best of moulds,

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ ﴿٥﴾

5. Then do We abase him
(To be) the lowest
Of the low,—

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ ﴿٦﴾

6. Except such as believe
And do righteous deeds:
For they shall have
A reward unfailing.
We are abased when we make the wrong choice.

Surah 17: 70

﴿٧٠﴾ وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ
مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ كَثِيرٍ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا ﴿٧٠﴾

70. We have honoured the sons (wrong translation; it's children)
Of Adam; provided them

With transport on land and sea;
Given them for sustenance things
Good and pure; and conferred
On them special favours,
Above a great part
Of Our Creation.

Surah 91: 7 – 10

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا ﴿٧﴾

7. By the Soul,
And her proportion and order
Given to her;

فَالْهَمَّهَا فَجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا ﴿٨﴾

8. And her enlightenment
As to its wrong
And its right;—

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا ﴿٩﴾

9. Truly she succeeds
That purifies it,

وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسَّاهَا ﴿١٠﴾

10. And he fails
That corrupts it!

Then return to Surah 2: 34 – 38

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ

مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٣٤﴾

34. And behold, We said to the angels:
"Bow down to Adam: "and they bowed down:
Not so Iblīs: he refused and was haughty:
He was of those who reject Faith.

وَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَكُلَا مِنْهَا رَغَدًا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا

وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

35. We said: "O Adam! dwell thou
And thy wife in the Garden;
And eat of the bountiful things therein
As (where and when) ye will; but approach not this tree,
Or ye run into harm and transgression."

فَازْلَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ عَنْهَا فَأَخْرَجَهُمَا مِمَّا كَانَا فِيهِ وَقُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا
بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ

﴿٣٦﴾

36. Then did Satan make them slip
From the (Garden), and get them out
Of the state (of felicity) in which
They had been. We said:
"Get ye down, all (ye people),
With enmity between yourselves.
On earth will be your dwelling-place
And your means of livelihood—
For a time."

فَتَلَقَّى آدَمُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ

الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٣٧﴾

37. Then learnt Adam from his Lord
Words of inspiration, and his Lord
Turned towards him; for He
Is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.

قُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنْ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا

خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

38. We said: "Get ye down all from here;
And if, as is sure, there comes to you
Guidance from Me, whosoever
Follows My guidance, on them
Shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

and then Surah 7: 27

يَدْبِنِي آدَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنزِعُ
عَنَّهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْآتِهِمَا إِنَّهُ يَرَنكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِن حَيْثُ لَا
تَرَوْنَهُمْ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا الشَّيَاطِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾

27. O ye Children of Adam!
Let not Satan seduce you,
In the same manner as
He got your parents out
Of the Garden, stripping them
Of their raiment, to expose
Their shame: for he
And his tribe watch you
From a position where ye
Cannot see them: We made

The Evil Ones friends
(Only) to those without Faith.

Now you can, insha Allah, answer the following questions:

What gives us honor and nobility? The ruh Allah put in us; then knowledge and the ability to know what is right; and our ability to choose.

What is our greatest fault or weakness? The Shaitan causes us to slip just by talking; we can be corrupted. The arrogance preceded the disobedience. Was there from the time Adam was created. The Angels immediately asked forgiveness; Adam and Hawa did after sinned and were punished.

Shall we continue next session to further explore the “nafs”?