

THEMES, LESSONS AND RELEVANCE OF SURAH LUQMAN TO CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM SOCIETY

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Abstract:

Throughout human history, there has always been a deep yearning for guidance and wisdom. In every era, individuals seek a source of light to navigate the challenges and uncertainties of life. The Quran, being the divine word of God, serves as that ultimate source of guidance, providing comprehensive direction for intellectual, spiritual, and practical aspects of life. Its teachings remain timeless and universally applicable, offering pathways to true success. Surah Luqman, a chapter of the Quran, begins with a focus on wisdom and guidance, emphasizing the importance of divine revelation for human betterment. In every era, including the present, mankind seeks moral and spiritual direction, and Surah Luqman also stands as the ultimate source of such guidance. Its teachings help address the complexities of life, guiding individuals towards ethical and meaningful living. Surah Luqman, in particular, highlights timeless principles such as the importance of faith in the Oneness of Allah, respect for parents, gratitude, and humility. In today's world, where materialism and moral decline are common, Surah Luqman offers relevant and practical wisdom. It encourages individuals to balance worldly pursuits with spiritual obligations, fostering a sense of self-awareness and responsibility. By applying the teachings of this surah, one can find clarity in decision-making, moral integrity, and an enhanced relationship with both family and society at large.

Key Words: Themes of Surah Luqman, Qur'an and Morality, Universal Etiquette of Islam, Family Etiquettes, Social Values, Parents' Rights in Islam, Knowledge, Wisdom of Luqman.

The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom has always been an innate part of human nature throughout history. In every era, humankind has sought light in the face of life's complexities and has yearned for a source that could guide them on the right path. The Holy Qur'an, the Divine Revelation, is that perfect Book which provides comprehensive guidance for both worldly and eternal life. It enlightens the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and practical aspects of human existence.

The Qur'an is the magnificent Word of Allah سبحانه وتعالى that distinguishes between truth and falsehood, righteousness and evil, success and failure. Its excellence is unparalleled, for it contains guidance that remains beneficial for all people across all times. The Noble Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم described it as the rope that connects the servant to his Lord. Every human, by the disposition of their natural instinct, seeks the straight path, and the Qur'an is the only clear and authentic source that identifies this path. It instructs us on how to live in this transient world and attain everlasting success in the Hereafter.

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Surah Luqman is one of the significant chapters of the Qur'an, rich in wisdom and understanding. It presents the wise counsel of Luqman the Sage to his son, addressing various dimensions of life. These pieces of advice cover relationships between parents and children, acts of worship, success in this world and the Hereafter, and the realities of life. In our contemporary era, marked by moral decline and spiritual emptiness, the teachings of Surah Luqman serve as a crucial guide to righteousness and balance.

In this age, one of the most pressing challenges faced by humanity is the deterioration of ethics and the decline of spiritual values. Surah Luqman provides the roadmap of wisdom, reflection, and comprehension. It emphasizes the importance of Tawheed (Oneness of Allah), invites contemplation on the power and signs of Allah, and strongly advocates for righteous conduct towards parents, the significance of prayer, and prioritizing the Hereafter over worldly pleasures.

The Surah especially addresses the youth of today, urging them to live with balance and wisdom, cultivate their inner selves, and guard themselves from intellectual chaos. Through its guidance, parents can effectively nurture their children, individuals can reform their personal lives, and society as a whole can progress towards collective welfare.

Period of Revelation:

Reflection on the content of Surah Luqman suggests that it was revealed during the early period of opposition to the Islamic message, when efforts had begun to suppress and stifle it through coercion, though the opposition had not yet reached its peak. This is evidenced by verses 14 and 15, which guide newly converted youth on honoring their parents, while also instructing them not to obey them if they demand disbelief—a sentiment echoed in Surah Al-Ankabut. However, the tone and style of Surah Luqman indicate that it predates Surah Al-Ankabut, as the latter conveys a backdrop of intense persecution, while Surah Luqman does not.

Themes and Message:

This Surah clarifies the irrationality of polytheism and asserts the rationality and truth of monotheism. It invites the disbelievers to abandon blind imitation of their ancestors and open their hearts to the message of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Surah emphasizes the abundance of signs in the universe and within the human self that bear witness to the truth of the Divine message.

Furthermore, it is highlighted that this message is not novel or unfamiliar. It has echoed throughout history, even within the Arab world. The Surah draws attention to the example of Luqman, a sage whose wisdom and maxims are deeply embedded

in Arab oral tradition. His guidance reflects the same core values being conveyed by Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ.

The name "Luqman" refers to a wise elder. In verse 12, it is stated that Luqman was endowed with wisdom. This Surah elaborates on the counsel he offered to his son, which is why the chapter is named Surah Luqman. These pearls of wisdom remain a timeless source of guidance for individuals, families, and societies seeking ethical living, spiritual elevation, and success in both worlds.

The beginning is made with the **disjointed letters** (*ḥurūf muqattaʿāt*). A remarkable and research-worthy style of the Qurʾān is that wherever disjointed letters appear, the next verse speaks of the grandeur of the Qurʾān. In verse 3, it is stated that from this Qurʾān, only the **doers of good (muḥsinīn)** can derive guidance and mercy. Throughout the sūrah, the qualities, beliefs, and actions of these **muḥsinīn** are described:

1. They establish prayer.
2. They are mindful of the Hereafter.
3. They spend in the way of Allah.

After this, the **evils and vices** that stand in contrast to these qualities are described. A comparison is drawn between **two types of people**. One group benefits from the Book, and the other becomes absorbed in **idle talk (lahw al-ḥadīth)** instead of the Word of Allah. *Lahw al-ḥadīth* refers to **anything that distracts a person from Allah**.

1. The outcome of those who present idle talk in opposition to the Word of Allah is described, and in contrast, **glad tidings** are given for those who accept the Word of Allah.^{1,2}
2. There is a **reminder of Allah**, and alongside that, a **challenge regarding the creation of the universe** is posed.^{3,4}

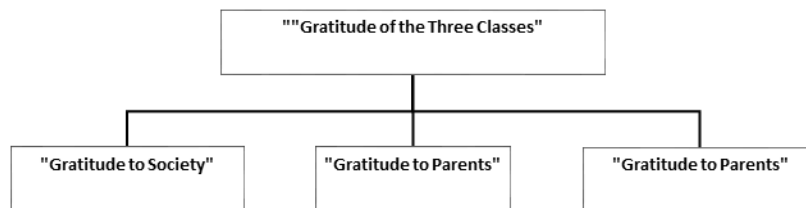
The divine wisdom behind introducing the sayings of Luqman in this passage lies in contrast: while the previous section described one who spreads corruption through evil speech, here the Qurʾān presents a man who shares words of wisdom and righteousness. The advice of the wise Luqman to his son was so profound and beautiful that the Qurʾān honoured it by making it part of divine revelation:

1. *"O my beloved son, never associate partners with Allah. Indeed, shirk (polytheism) is the gravest of injustices."*
2. Gratitude and obedience to one's parents is a religious obligation—except when they urge something against the command of Allah. In such cases, obedience is not permissible.
3. *"O my beloved son, even if something is as small as a mustard seed and lies hidden in a rock, or anywhere in the heavens or the earth, Allah will surely bring it forth."*

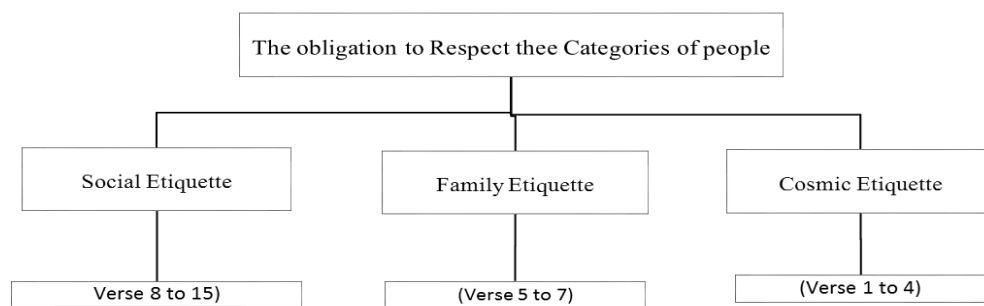
4. *"O my beloved son, establish prayer with steadfastness."*
5. *"Command what is right, forbid what is wrong, and bear patiently whatever befalls you—for surely these are matters that demand strong resolve."*
6. *"Do not walk arrogantly upon the earth; indeed, Allah does not love the arrogant and boastful."*
7. *"Be moderate in your walk."*
8. *"And lower your voice, for the harshest of voices is that of the donkey."*

When Falsehood Misleads, Revelation Guides.

Whereas *Lahw al-Hadith* incites man toward evil, the Qur'an counterbalances it by inviting him toward the force of goodness through the mention of three virtuous deeds. When we commit evil, we are in fact showing ingratitude and denying Allah's commands, whereas the Qur'an calls us instead toward gratitude.



When gratitude arises within a person, it brings about positive changes that enhance the presence of respect in their character. Thus, when gratitude dwells in one's being, aspects of respect become evident within their personality. This condition emphasizes the power of gratitude to strengthen and shape a person's character.



Fifteen Timeless Advices of Luqman the Wise Universal Etiquette

1. Be Grateful to Allah

Give thanks to Allah because He is the Creator of the universe and your true Owner.⁵

2. Avoid Polytheism

"إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ"⁶

Shirk (polytheism) is a tremendous injustice; therefore, avoid it entirely.

3. Mode of Gratitude

Offer your gratitude to the Lord of the Universe through the establishment of prayer (Salah).⁷

4. Divine Subtlety

This refers to the infinite scope of Allah's knowledge — a subtle yet profound attribute of His divine majesty.⁸

Family Etiquette**5. Gratitude to Parents**

Here, both the reason for gratitude and the manner of expressing it are highlighted. Since parents are the physical means of one's creation, fulfilling their rights is essential.⁹

6. Exception in Obedience

Disobedience to parents is only permitted if they compel you to commit shirk (associate partners with Allah).¹⁰

7. Kindness Despite Disagreement

Even if parents insist on shirk, one is still commanded to treat them with kindness and respectful conduct.¹¹

Social Etiquette**8. Follow the Path of Those Who Turn to Allah**

Adopt the company and path of those who sincerely return to Allah.¹²

9. Enjoin Good (Amr bil Ma'ruf)

Encourage and promote what is virtuous and morally upright.¹³

10. Forbid Evil (Nahi 'anil Munkar)

Actively discourage wrongdoings and immoral behavior.¹⁴

11. Practice Patience (Sabr)

Demonstrate patience in all affairs, particularly in calling others toward truth.¹⁵

12. Avoid Immorality

Refrain from all forms of indecent and unethical behavior.¹⁶

13. Do Not Be Arrogant

Pride and arrogance are condemned; humility is the path of the righteous.¹⁷

14. Maintain balance in life

Adopt moderation in speech, behavior, and lifestyle — avoid extremism.¹⁸

15. Lower Your Voice

Speak in a low and respectful tone — for indeed, the harshest of voices is that of a donkey.¹⁹

Reminder of Allah/ Tazkeer bil-lah

Once again, arguments in Favor of monotheism are presented, referencing the subjugation of the heavens and the earth and the countless blessings bestowed by

the Lord of all worlds. The flawed reasoning of idol worshippers is condemned—those who wander in the valley of misguidance merely by following their ancestors blindly. These very people are presented with clear evidences of Allah's exclusive role as the sole Creator and Sovereign of the universe, which forms the foundation of servitude and worship.

Reminder of Death and What Follows

In this passage, Allah Almighty lifts the veil over His vast and infinite knowledge of the universe through a striking example. Alongside the cosmic signs in the universe, this section also mentions natural monotheism, which manifests especially when man is gripped by the waves of calamity. The discourse here is both profound and eloquent. A brief but deeply moving reference to life after death serves as a warning—not to be deceived by worldly life, but to remain concerned about the eternal abode of the Hereafter. This portion also discusses that part of divine unseen knowledge which pertains to all human affairs. The knowledge of five unseen matters rests solely with Allah:

1. When the Day of Judgment will come
2. Where and how much rain will fall
3. What characteristics a child in the womb will possess
4. What a person will do tomorrow
5. When and where one will die

Central Theme: Gratitude

The central theme of this Surah is gratitude.

The teachings of Surah Luqman offer profound solutions to contemporary issues and challenges.

Strength of Belief and Truthfulness in Action: The Relevance of Surah Luqman in the Modern Era

In an age where materialism, scepticism, and moral crises have deeply affected human life, the teachings of the Qur'an—and especially the lessons from Surah Luqman—are of immense importance. The wisdom and admonitions in this Surah form the basis for both firm belief and sincerity in action, which are fundamental components of a believer's life. Without a clear understanding of the Oneness of the Creator, it is impossible to resolve the crises of our times.

Shirk (polytheism) is explicitly described as a form of oppression:

Once a companion of the Prophet (PBUH) asked, "O Messenger of Allah, who among us has never committed an act of injustice?" The Prophet replied that the injustice referred to in this context is not general sin, but rather the type mentioned by Luqman the Wise in his advice to his son:

يَبْنِي لَا تَشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ".^{21, 20}

Injustice means depriving someone of their rightful due. When a person equates weak and dependent beings with their Creator and Sustainer—those who neither created him nor provide for him—he commits the worst form of injustice.²²

The foremost and most important advice in Surah Luqman is the strengthening of belief. Luqman the Wise urged his son to have unwavering faith in the Oneness of Allah. ^{23, 24}This message is especially crucial for today's Muslims—particularly the youth—to build a firm foundation of faith and to live their lives seeking the pleasure of Allah.

Following this, the Surah emphasizes the truthfulness of action. Luqman said to his son: **"Establish prayer and enjoin what is good."**²⁵

This verse teaches us that belief alone is not enough; our actions must also reflect our faith. In today's world, where humanity faces numerous challenges, the importance of righteous action becomes even more significant.

The teachings of Surah Luqman convey that a true believer must blend firm belief with sincere action. It is imperative for today's youth to strengthen their faith and seek Allah's pleasure through righteous deeds. In doing so, the guidance of Surah Luqman leads us not only toward spiritual growth but also toward success in practical life.

The Wisdom of Luqman: Guidance and Parenting in the Modern Age

The wisdom-filled teachings of Surah Luqman serve as a timeless source of guidance for all, but they are particularly invaluable in the context of parenting and the relationship between parents and children. In our modern era, where moral values are weakening and emotional distances between parents and children are widening, the parental advice in Surah Luqman holds special relevance.^{26, 27}

Luqman the Wise advises his son with profound wisdom and insight. Rather than forcing compliance or instilling fear of himself, he nurtures in his son the fear of Allah, aiming to foster moral excellence. His advice does not merely advocate obedience to parents but emphasizes strengthening faith and building a relationship with Allah. He urges his son to avoid evil, stand for truth, and show patience and perseverance. His manner is gentle and wise, instilling humility, moderation, and moral superiority, so that the child may respect his parents and stay protected from societal evils by living a life illuminated by faith.

Had Luqman instilled only the fear or love of the father in his son, the child might have been vulnerable to deception and misguidance. But instead, Luqman taught him comprehensive moral values, shaping his character to behave rightly within society—an approach that inevitably improves the parent-child relationship as well.²⁸

The first and foremost advice Luqman gives is belief in the Oneness of Allah, which remains a fundamental principle for today's parents: to nurture the recognition of God in their children's hearts and strengthen the roots of faith. Parents must also cultivate good character, patience, and gratitude in their children—essential aspects of mental and emotional training in the modern world.²⁹

Moreover, Surah Luqman emphasizes the rights of parents, a reminder that is especially important today when the institution of family is weakening. It encourages parents to show love and compassion but also to prioritize their children's moral and religious upbringing.

By embracing the wisdom of Surah Luqman, today's parents can achieve better outcomes in nurturing their children and guiding them toward a life that ensures both worldly success and eternal salvation. The values and advice found in this Surah offer a blueprint for reforming the present-day family system.

The Importance of Moral Elevation and Social Etiquette: Advice for Youth in the Light of Surah Luqman

Youth is a very crucial and delicate phase of life, where the foundation of an individual's personality is laid. It is extremely important to understand the significance of moral elevation and to practice it during this period. The teachings of Surah Luqman play an important role in shaping individual and collective character in the modern age, especially in achieving excellence in ethics and social values, from which many lessons can be learned.³⁰

In the verses of Surah Luqman, the wise Luqman's advice to his son begins primarily with the belief in the oneness of Allah. This is a fundamental principle for young people to strengthen their faith so that they may remain steadfast throughout various stages of life. This advice reminds them that to attain Allah's pleasure, one must choose the right path.³¹

Furthermore, Surah Luqman emphasizes kindness to parents, patience, gratitude, and self-reformation because a society that values gratitude naturally experiences a decline in crime.³² Luqman the Wise advised his son to treat parents with kindness, to enjoin good, and to forbid evil, teaching youth that moral elevation is not only about performing good deeds but also about transforming oneself. Even in the presence of differing opinions, moral standards should be upheld, truth should be expressed in the right manner, and powers should be used properly. The chosen path should be that which pleases Allah. Moderation and gratitude are the ladder on which any society advances toward progress.

Surah Luqman also highlights the importance of seeking knowledge and wisdom. Young people should pursue knowledge because knowledge helps a person understand their nature and find solutions to social problems.³³

These teachings of moral elevation will help youth move toward a better future, where they not only work on self-improvement but also contribute to the welfare of society. Therefore, the advice of Surah Luqman is essential not only for the spiritual and ethical growth of youth but also provides guiding principles for leading a successful and righteous life.³⁴

The Integration of Knowledge, Wisdom, and Faith

In Surah Luqman, Allah Almighty not only warns against frivolous talk but also directs reflection on knowledge and wisdom and their proper guidance. The Holy Quran is a source and center of both worldly and spiritual sciences; it encompasses not only beliefs and acts of worship but also covers science, geography, physics, botany, economics, politics, and many other fields, like various departments of a grand university.

The mention of wisdom in Surah Luqman particularly points out that the real purpose of knowledge is not mere accumulation of information but understanding the wisdom hidden within. Knowledge is beneficial only when it enables a person to distinguish between truth and falsehood, lawful and unlawful. From Luqman's advice, we learn that knowledge alone is not sufficient; knowledge that leads us to the recognition of Allah is true knowledge. If we chase knowledge blindly, the distinction between halal and haram may vanish, and knowledge becomes meaningless. Wisdom must accompany knowledge because it guides us to truthfulness and righteousness. Every field of knowledge, whether astronomy, botany, or biology, ultimately leads to the oneness of Allah.

Understanding the cosmic system, celestial phenomena, and the complexities of the earth compels a person to acknowledge that this universe has a Creator, who is the One and Only Allah.

Khalid Rubai narrates that Luqman was an Ethiopian slave and a carpenter. Once, his master asked him to slaughter a goat and bring its finest parts. Luqman brought the tongue and heart. Later, the master ordered him to bring the most disliked parts of the goat. Again, Luqman brought the tongue and heart. Surprised, the master asked why. Luqman replied that when these two are pure, no organ of the body is purer; and when they are corrupt, no organ is more corrupt³⁵

Therefore, the Quran teaches us wisdom along with knowledge so that we truly understand these sciences and apply in our lives the knowledge that brings us closer to Allah.

The Significance of Humility and Anonymity and the Prohibition of Fame and Show-Off

Humility and anonymity are virtues in human life that not only reflect the elevation of character but also lead a person to social tranquility and spiritual upliftment.

These traits protect an individual from selfishness and ostentation, which are the opposite of worldly fame and desire for recognition. The craving for fame and show-off tarnishes a person's inner self and weakens the sincerity of deeds.

Humble individuals work for the welfare of others not to be recognized or praised, but with the intention that every action pleases Allah. True success lies in reaching a position where there is no thought of display or self-praise in the heart, and all efforts are solely for Allah's satisfaction.

It was reported that Hazrat Mu'adh bin Jabal was seen crying near the Prophet's tomb. When asked why, he said it was due to a hadith in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Even a small amount of show-off is shirk (polytheism), and Allah loves those pious and wealthy people who remain anonymous, who are neither remembered in their absence nor recognized in their presence; their hearts are lamps of guidance and they are free from all kinds of darkness."

From Hazrat Abu Umamah, it is narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: Allah says, "My most beloved wali (friend) is the believing person who has little wealth but prays diligently to his Lord, remembers Him in private, remains unknown among people and does not seek fame, provided he remains patient. Then the Prophet gestured with his hand and said, 'His death will come soon, his inheritance will be small, and those who mourn him will be few.'

Islam has cut the roots of fame and ostentation. Every deed depends on the intention; if the intention is not pure, the value of the deed diminishes no matter how great it is. Hence, sincerity and humility are the true measures of righteousness and the qualities that bring a person closer to Allah.³⁶

From Hazrat Anas, it is narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "It is enough evil for a person if people point fingers at him either for his religiosity or worldly affairs." Allah looks not at your faces but at your hearts and deeds. From Hazrat Ali it is narrated: "Do not seek fame; do not elevate yourself so that people start mentioning you. Seek knowledge, remain anonymous, be silent, and you will attain peace. Keep the good pleased and anger the wicked."³⁷

Sound Pollution and Its Related Solutions

In Surah Luqman, verse 19, Luqman (peace be upon him) advises his son regarding ethics and conduct in life: "Walk with moderation and lower your voice; indeed, the harshest voice is the braying of the donkey." This verse emphasizes the limits and etiquette of "voice" or "sound,"³⁸ which teaches us an important lesson about "voice pollution" or sound pollution in the present era.

Sound pollution has become a significant challenge today, negatively affecting our health, mental peace, and social behavior. Like environmental pollution, loud and unpleasant noises burden human life and the environment. In these verses, Allah

commands us to adopt moderation and balance, which also applies to the use of voice.

Some arguments from Surah Luqman regarding the elimination of sound pollution are:

1. **Effects on Mental and Physical Health:** Loud and constant noise negatively impacts mental and physical health, causing stress, anxiety, sleep deprivation, and increased risk of heart diseases. Luqman's advice to "keep the voice low" is an excellent solution to avoid sound pollution because moderation or silence promotes mental peace.
2. **Impact on Social and Community Relations:** Speaking loudly or making noise disturbs others and causes social disruption. Sound pollution can damage communication and relationships. Luqman's advice promotes social harmony, encouraging everyone to control their voice.
3. **Environmental Impact:** Sound pollution affects not only humans but also animals and birds, disturbing their natural habitats. Declaring the donkey's braying as the worst sound is a metaphor to protect the natural environment from unwanted and loud noises.
4. **Legal and Moral Responsibility:** Nowadays, laws exist to control sound pollution aimed at protecting the public. The Quranic verse provides moral guidance reminding us to ensure our voices and actions do not burden others socially or personally.

Luqman's advice offers an excellent lesson for eliminating sound pollution, emphasizing moderation and silence as the best ethical conduct. In today's world, where sound pollution is a global problem, following this Quranic guidance can bring peace not only to our lives but also to society at large.

Surah Luqman as a Source and Centre of Guidance for Callers to Islam:

When entrusting the responsibility of calling and preaching to the callers (Da'een), the wisdom of the Holy Quran, especially Surah Luqman, should be deeply ingrained in the heart. This Surah lays down principles that refine every aspect of da'wah and teach the correct methods to be adopted in preaching.

Wisdom and Insight:

The first and foremost principle in da'wah and preaching is that the callers should present their message with wisdom and insight. Just as the verses of Surah Luqman mention the greatness of Allah and the system of the universe, inviting humans to ponder and reflect, similarly, the callers should invite their audience to think deeply. Instead of merely influencing their listeners with words, they should present questions and examples to engage their minds and compel them to think.

Value of Knowledge and Humility:

A caller should not take pride in their knowledge. The advice of Luqman (peace be upon him) clearly shows that knowledge is a grace from Allah, and callers must be grateful for this grace. Understanding Allah's power teaches the caller humility. Allah has established the heavens without pillars, which is a sign of His power, indicating that He possesses knowledge of all things, no matter how hidden they are.

The Teaching of Enjoining Good and Patience:

Surah Luqman teaches the command of enjoining good and forbidding evil, which is the fundamental duty of every caller. However, this responsibility should not be limited to verbal calls alone; callers must invite people towards goodness with patience and perseverance, as difficulties and opposition in the path of preaching are inevitable. In such adverse conditions, virtues like moral character and patience should never be forgotten. The best example of this is the final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, during his mission in Ta'if.³⁹

Compelling the Audience to Reflect:

In Surah Luqman, Allah repeatedly invites mankind to ponder the system of the universe. Callers should adopt this wisdom and direct their audiences, especially atheists, towards the truth by using their innate reason and understanding. For example, by presenting the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of day and night, and the system of the sun and moon, they should show that these are manifestations of Allah's power, created not just to be seen but to be reflected upon.

Methods That Touch the Hearts of the Audience:

Another important principle in the style of da'wah is that callers should connect the truth with the most cherished things of their listeners' hearts to attract them to the truth. In Surah Luqman, Allah stirs the human being by revealing the reality of wealth and children on the Day of Judgment — those things considered precious in this world will become worthless in the Hereafter.

Therefore, during da'wah and preaching, callers should show people these signs of the universe and explain Allah's power and knowledge in such a way that they reach the truth using their own intellect and consciousness.

Reflection on the System of Nature and the Application of Surah Luqman's Philosophy to Contemporary Challenges:

The final verses of Surah Luqman describe the greatness of Allah and the vastness of His knowledge, which encompasses everything. Allah says that not even a leaf falls on the earth without His knowledge, nor is there anything as small as a grain of dust that escapes His awareness. These verses draw our attention to Allah's infinite

knowledge and highlight human limitations. Despite science and research, humans can never fully explore the vastness of Allah's knowledge because every part of creation is filled with complexity and wisdom beyond full human comprehension.

Allah invites reflection on the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, and the secrets hidden in the depths of the seas, directing us towards the grandeur of astronomy and the cosmos. Facing today's scientific challenges, modern technology and knowledge have indeed revealed many secrets of nature, but reaching the ultimate knowledge of Allah remains impossible for humans.

That is why Allah the Almighty says that even if all the trees on earth were pens and the seas ink, His praise would not be exhausted. Human scientific progress has succeeded in understanding many aspects of creation, such as determining the sex of a child in the womb or forecasting the weather, but some knowledge remains limited. For example, the time of the Day of Judgment, when rain will fall, or tomorrow's sustenance are matters exclusively under Allah's control, beyond human intellect.⁴⁰

Now, the question arises: does knowing Allah's unseen knowledge equate to what the Prophet ﷺ warned against—like consulting soothsayers and astrologers for hidden knowledge, which he forbade severely? The Prophet ﷺ said:

*"Whoever goes to a soothsayer and asks him about something and believes in what he says, his prayers will not be accepted for forty days."*⁴¹

Does this fall under the same prohibition? Today, technology can determine the child's gender in the mother's womb, so saying that this knowledge belongs only to Allah might seem incorrect. However, on deeper reflection, such objections are baseless. Through modern scientific tools, humans can only estimate the sex of the child; they cannot know other important aspects, such as the child's future abilities, intelligence, or character—knowledge that belongs solely to Allah.

Similarly, weather forecasts by meteorological departments are only probabilistic and not guaranteed to be accurate. Artificial rain sometimes is less effective than claimed. Therefore, objecting to the hadith's wording is not correct because the Quran and Sunnah always guide us toward truth and original knowledge, which are beyond limited human intellect.

This verse invites reflection on the system of nature: you who want to know the Hour (Day of Judgment) cannot even comprehend four unseen matters near to you, yet you desire to know the Hour. The verse uses verbs for both rain falling and knowing what is in the womb, indicating these matters can vary, whereas the Hour is fixed. Another point is that humans can gain some imperfect knowledge through effort and research.

There is a distinction between *'Ilm al-Ghayb* (knowledge of the unseen) and *Anba' al-Ghayb* (news of the unseen). *Ilm al-Ghayb* is the complete and absolute knowledge

possessed only by Allah, whereas *Anba' al-Ghayb* is partial knowledge granted by Allah to angels by command, to Prophets through revelation, and to saints through inspiration.⁴²

Allah has given the Prophets full knowledge of certain unseen matters, but the general principles of the unseen universe remain solely with Allah. Partial scattered knowledge has been given to many people according to their capacity.⁴³ Allah repeatedly invites reflection on the heavens and the earth in the Quran. Similarly, researchers discover many secrets of the earth and heavens through investigation.

*The Poet Allama Iqbal expressed in his poetry "If anyone is capable, we give him the honor of discovery; the world also offers new things to those who seek."*⁴⁴

All these matters are fully known only to Allah and beyond human limited understanding. However, modern scientific advancements have made some predictions possible, such as weather forecasting, determining fetal sex via ultrasound, or estimating a patient's lifespan by doctors. Despite these, denial of Allah's perfect and ultimate knowledge is not valid.

Mufti Muhammad Shafi (may Allah have mercy on him) explained these unseen matters in his *Tafseer Ma'ariful Quran*, stating that mention of unseen knowledge highlights human weakness and limitation. No matter how advanced science becomes, it remains temporary and imperfect. He emphasized that Allah's knowledge is absolute, while human knowledge is experimental and temporary.⁴⁵

Similarly, Allama Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) stated in his tafseer that this knowledge is Allah's exclusive attribute, and human intellect and experience cannot achieve final knowledge of such matters. This complete knowledge rests only with Allah, while humans rely on external causes and limited understanding.⁴⁶

In science, meteorological predictions are common but often uncertain and limited. According to the World Meteorological Organization, weather forecasts up to 5-7 days can be 80-90% accurate, but beyond that, they are merely estimates dependent on various factors. This shows that despite scientific progress, only Allah possesses complete and perfect knowledge.⁴⁷

Likewise, ultrasound technology can determine fetal sex, but with limitations. According to a study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), fetal sex determination is more accurate after 14 weeks but errors still occur. The fetus's sex and other biological factors (such as health, brain development, future life) are beyond science's domain.⁴⁸

Doctors' estimates of time of death are based on experience and conditions, not absolute knowledge. A study published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine* reported that doctors' predictions of patient death time are often 20-30% inaccurate.⁴⁹

From an Islamic viewpoint, there is no contradiction between the Qur'an and science; rather, there is harmony. The Qur'an has always invited humanity to reflect deeply and ponder over creation. A study conducted by Al-Farooq Islamic Centre revealed that scientific progress is a means to understand the signs of the Qur'an

more clearly. However, the knowledge contained in the Qur'an is perfect and complete, while human knowledge is experiential and subject to change over time. Human knowledge, whether scientific or jurisprudential, is limited and can never compare to the knowledge of Allah. Scientific advancement is part of Allah's wisdom, through which He encourages human beings to think and reflect. Yet, this progress can never reach the level of absolute and perfect knowledge. It is the responsibility of humans to recognize the signs and knowledge given by Allah, and scientific development does not challenge this truth but rather further clarifies Allah's greatness.

Recommendations:

1. Parents and teachers should implement the teachings of Surah Luqman in practical life. These advices serve as guidance for our daily living. They include respect for parents, affirmation of monotheism, gratitude, patience, and the teachings of justice and fairness. These teachings lead us toward social harmony and well-being, and in their light, we can build an ideal society.
2. If Surah Luqman is included as part of the school curriculum and its teachings are imparted to children by teachers, our future generations will undoubtedly possess high morals and spiritual insight. For social reform, it is essential that Surah Luqman becomes a foundational part of early education.
3. Mosques, public places, and educational institutions should play a key role in promoting the teachings of Surah Luqman. Imams and preachers should highlight these teachings during Friday sermons and other public occasions so that ethics, character building, and human values can be revived in society.
4. The increasing noise pollution in today's society causes mental stress, illnesses, and social tension. It is recommended that children and youth be trained from an early age to avoid excessive noise and loud sounds, and awareness against noise pollution should be included in the educational curriculum.
5. Students and the general public should be taught moderation and humility so that they may adopt balanced behavior not only in knowledge but also in practical life. Avoiding arrogance and pride is necessary to create a better and more balanced society.
6. Surah Luqman repeatedly teaches the importance of gratitude. Parents and teachers should cultivate the habit of gratitude among students. This habit will bring blessings to individuals' personal lives and promote peace and prosperity at the societal level. Therefore, the curriculum should include activities that encourage children to thank Allah for His blessings and develop awareness of the Favors of life.

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