

Sura Dukhaan

1. The first ayat of this sura is has two letters of the Arabic alphabet. Can you circle these letters?

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش
ص ض ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه
و ي

2. This is a well-known and oft-recited sura regarding which Prophet Muhammad is reported to have said, "Whosoever recites al-Dukhaan during the night will greet the morning with..." what?
3. What is the meaning of the word 'dukhaan'. In which ayat and context does the word appear in this sura?

What will the disbelievers say when they encounter the 'dukhaan'. Give the ayat number.

4. Scientifically speaking, what is smoke and how is it created?

What creation of Allah (swt) was made from 'smokeless fire'? (Hint: we discussed it in one of the previous quizzes!)

5. In ayats #13-14 of this sura, who is being referred to? What claims did the people to whom he was sent (to guide) make about him?

In contrast, what do scholars tell us about the oath with which the sura begins in ayat #2?

وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ

6. This sura gives an account of which prophet's story in order to provide a spiritual example/reflect upon similarities with Prophet Muhammad's (saw) challenges in guiding the Meccans?
7. What is the Holy Quran describing in ayats #25-28 of this sura? How does it relate to us?
8. The sura ends with a command in ayat #59. Who is this command for and what is Allah (swt) conveying?
9. The only reference to Laylatul Qadr in the Holy Quran, outside of Sura Qadr, is made in this sura. What is this special night called and in which ayat?
10. This is one of three suras recommended to recite on Laylatul Qadr. Which are the other two suras?

Using what you have now learned about these three suras, and what you already knew about them, why do YOU think they have been recommended to recite on this special night?

Bonus: TO BE DONE WITH PARENTAL PERMISSION AND SUPERVISION ONLY!

Make a smoke ring air cannon

Materials

- a plastic bottle
- a balloon
- incense
- a lighter or matches
- scissors
- packing tape
- Adult supervision (REQUIRED)

Instructions

Cut out the bottom of the bottle. Make sure the cut edges are smooth so that they don't poke through and break the balloon.

Tie a knot at the opening of the balloon (no inflating). This will be the trigger.

Then cut off about half an inch at the other end of the balloon.

Stretch the cut end of the balloon and cover it over the cut bottom of the bottle.

Tape the balloon onto the bottle so that it doesn't slip off when you pull the knot out.

To make a smoke ring, light an incense and blow out the fire (since we only want the smoke).

Carefully insert the incense into the bottle but do not let go. Make sure the tip does not touch and melt the bottle.

Cover the mouth of the bottle with your hand while holding the incense inside for the smoke to build up.

When the bottle is filled with smoke, uncover the bottle and remove the incense.

Now, in a lightly lit room, tap the balloon membrane gently and you will see a ring of smoke come out. It is easiest to see against a dark background.

(For more details visit <https://www.rookieparenting.com/air-canon-smoke-ring/>)

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1. The first ayat of this sura is has two letters of the Arabic alphabet. Can you circle these letters?

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2. This is a well-known and oft-recited sura regarding which Prophet Muhammad is reported to have said, “Whosoever recites al-Dukhaan during the night will greet the morning with...” what?

Seventy thousand angels asking forgiveness for him/her

3. What is the meaning of the word ‘dukhaan’. In which ayat and context does the word appear in this sura?

Ayat #10 – ‘manifest smoke’ or ‘dukhaan’ is understood as one of the signs that the Hour – that is, the end of the world – is at hand. The smoke is said to afflict believers like a harsh cold wind but to penetrate into disbelievers and cause great affliction (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

What will the disbelievers say when they encounter the ‘dukhaan’. Give the ayat number.

Ayat #12 – They will pray to Allah (swt) to remove the dukhaan and proclaim to now be believers

4. Scientifically speaking, what is smoke and how is it created?

Smoke occurs when there is incomplete combustion (not enough oxygen to burn the fuel completely). In complete combustion, everything is burned, producing just water and carbon dioxide. When incomplete combustion occurs, not everything is burned. Smoke is a collection of these tiny unburned particles.

What creation of Allah (swt) was made from ‘smokeless fire’? (Hint: we discussed it in one of the previous quizzes!)

Jinn (see sura Rahmaan)

5. **In ayats #13-14 of this sura, who is being referred to? What claims did the people to whom he was sent (to guide) make about him?**

The Holy Quran is referring to the prophets, and more specifically to Prophet Muhammad (saw). The Meccans would claim that Revelation was merely words that had been taught to Prophet Muhammad (saw) by someone else, or that they were the ramblings of a madman and that he (the Prophet) had been possessed by a jinn.

In contrast, what do scholars tell us about the oath with which the sura begins in ayat #2?

وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ

The Quran is described as a clear Book, clear in both wording and meaning. This appellation is understood to allude to its being sent down by God rather than composed by human beings. It also implies that it makes the path of guidance clear from the path of misguidance, and truth clear from error, and that it clarifies what is needed in order to follow religion properly (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

6. **This sura gives an account of which prophet's story in order to provide a spiritual example/reflect upon similarities with Prophet Muhammad's (saw) challenges in guiding the Meccans?**

Prophet Musa

7. **What is the Holy Quran describing in ayats #25-28 of this sura? How does it relate to us?**

The abundance that Firawn and his people enjoyed in this world was taken from them in a single moment and left behind for others to enjoy. It is an important reminder for us as we will similarly leave our wealth and property behind when we die; others will then benefit from what was once ours, as we will no longer have any use for it. Our deeds, on the other hand, is what will remain useful for us.

8. **The sura ends with a command in ayat #59. Who is this command for and what is Allah (swt) conveying?**

This verse instructs the Prophet, "Be on the watch for the disbelievers' destruction, just as they are on the watch for yours" or in other words "Await the victory from your Lord. They await the destruction they claim will befall you" (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

9. **The only reference to Laylatul Qadr in the Holy Quran, outside of Sura Qadr, is made in this sura. What is this special night called and in which ayat?**

Ayat #3 – Blessed night

10. This is one of three suras recommended to recite on Laylatul Qadr. Which are the other two suras?

Sura Ankabut and Sura Ruum

Using what you have now learned about these three suras, and what you already knew about them, why do YOU think they have been recommended to recite on this special night?

Answers are subjective. Suggested answer: These suras strengthen believers to remain on the straight path. They remind us that Allah (swt) is the most Powerful and the One, and no matter what others around us are saying to intimidate us, we are going to be the ultimate winners. We just have to remember to be steadfast in this life and remain focused on the Hereafter. Layatul Qadr, as the most special night of the most special month, is the perfect opportunity to make this resolve for the coming year iA

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