

## Sura Naml

### 1. What creation of Allah (swt) is this sura named after and what significance does it play in the sura? What can we learn from this?

Ayats #17-19 tells us the story of the ants for which this sura is named. The ants see the army of Sulayman marching towards them and one ant warns the rest to go into their homes, to keep from being crushed by the army as it passes. Prophet Sulayman not only hears the ant, but understands, and responds with a prayer – "My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants."

This story is meant to be reflective and is open to subjective responses. To me, it is a reminder to be thankful to Allah (swt) for all He has given us. The fact that Prophet Sulayman is praying to Allah (swt) for the ability to be thankful shows that we are so reliant on Allah (swt) that we can't even thank Him without his help! Scholars note that to 'do righteousness' refers to the life of this world while '[the ranks of] Your righteous servants' refers to the Hereafter. It is a reminder to me that I should endeavour to do good and strive for success in this life while also striving for success in my *akhira*.

**Go outside and see if you can find this creation; describe what you see.**

I went into my garden and found lots of ants. There are many of them altogether and they are constantly moving! They don't stop for more than a second. They are so tiny and everything around them is so much bigger. But they are still going around outside and climbing over things. I saw the entrance to their home as well. Did you see something different when you watched other ants?

### 2. This sura recounts the stories of which 4 Prophets of Allah (swt)?

Prophet Musa, Prophet Sulayman, Prophet Salih, Prophet Lut

**Three of the four natural elements (earth, water, air and fire) were key to three of the Prophets' stories told in this sura. Which 3 elements are discussed and how were they crucial to their stories?**

*Fire* in the story of Prophet Musa: the fire was used by Allah (swt) to speak to Prophet Musa (Ayats #7-12)

*Water* in the story of Prophet Sulayman: the water was covered with glass and is what convinced the Queen of Sheba to turn to Islam (Ayat #44)

*Earth* in the story of Prophet Lut: Allah (swt) sent an 'evil rain' (see also 25:40) of earth and stone to punish the people of Sodom (Ayat #58)

3. **What is the significance of the number '9' in this sura? Give the ayat number(s) to support your answer.**

Prophet Musa was sent with 9 signs to show Pharaoh and his people (ayat #12)

From the people of Thamud, 9 individuals hamstrung the she-camel sent by Allah (swt) and conspired to kill Prophet Salih (ayat #48)

4. **Ayah #26 of this sura has special significance in the Quran – what is special about this ayat?**

It is a sajdah ayat – upon reading this ayah Muslims should perform prostration

5. **What makes ayat #30 of this sura unique to the rest of the Quran?**

It is the only instance where the entire Bismillah is repeated somewhere other than at the start of a sura.

**Where else in the Quran does the same line make a noticeable (dis)appearance?**

Sura Tawbah is the only sura which doesn't begin with Bismillah.

6. **Ayats #59-64 features a series of rhetorical questions which contain the refrain:**

أَلَيْسَ مَعَ اللَّهِ . **What does this mean?**

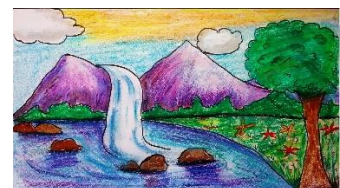
Is there a god alongside Allah (swt)?

**What are some of the examples given by Allah (swt) in these ayats to demonstrate His unique greatness?**

He created the heavens and the earth. He sends down rain which makes the beautiful plants grow. He made life sustainable on earth. He created rivers and mountains. He created a barrier between fresh and salty water. He helps those who need help. He guides us through dangers. He created the winds.

7. **What 3 geographical features are referenced in Ayat #61 as evidence that Allah (swt) created a perfect earth for us all to live on? Make a drawing showing these features.**

The rivers, the mountains and the sea barrier.



8. In Ayah #20, a special bird is mentioned – the (HudHud) hoopoe bird. Draw a picture of the hoopoe bird. What sound does this bird make?



Sounds like 'hoo-pee'

9. Two of the 99 beautiful names of Allah (swt) are used in this sura to describe where the Quran comes from – i.e. what qualities of Allah (swt) the Quran emulates. Which two names of Allah (swt) are used and in which ayat?

The Wise and The Knowing (Ayat #6)

**Why do you think these are the qualities used?**

These are the qualities you would expect a teacher/guide to have and Allah (swt) is reiterating that He is the best source of knowledge for us

10. What two senses does Allah (swt) refer to as being unused, or unable to be used, when people disobey Him or don't believe in Him? Give the ayat numbers.

Sight – in ayat #4, Allah (swt) tells us these people will 'wander blindly'

Hearing – in ayats #80-81, Allah (swt) says 'nor will you make the deaf hear'; 'only the believers will hear'

**What does this tell us as to when and how we should be using our senses?**

We should use our eyes and ears to seek the truth and pay attention to the signs of Allah (swt) around us.