106 | Surah Quraysh

سورة قريش

4 Ayat

Parent's tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir

Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim · 106:1–4

Background and Meaning

Quraysh names the tribe associated with Makkah and the Sacred House. Ibn Kathir identifies this as a Makkan surah. He explains its relationship with the preceding surah, al-Fil, while stressing that the two are separate surahs in the written Qur'an. The protection described in al-Fil helps the reader understand the security and blessings recalled here. The four ayat move from the familiar trading journeys of Quraysh to the worship owed to the Lord who provided food and safety.

Tafsir of the Surah

Ayah 1: The security and accustomed life of Quraysh. Ibn Kathir records explanations of ilaf connected with the gathering, familiarity and security enjoyed by Quraysh. The opening draws attention to an established blessing in their lives. Its connection with al-Fil is a connection of meaning: the defeat of the army that threatened the Sacred House protected the setting in which Quraysh lived. This does not make the two chapters a single surah.

Ayah 2: The winter and summer journeys. Ibn Kathir explains the familiar journeys as trade to Yemen in winter and to al-Sham in summer. Quraysh could travel and return with a degree of security because people recognised them as residents of Allah's sanctuary. He notes that this respect could also protect those travelling with them. Their livelihood depended on more than goods and effort: the safety surrounding the journeys was itself a blessing.

Ayah 3: Worship the Lord of this House. The command directs Quraysh to thank Allah for these great favours by worshipping Him alone. Ibn Kathir explains the reference to the House as the Sacred House whose sanctuary Allah made secure. He connects the verse with al-Naml 27:91, where the Prophet ﷺ is commanded to worship the Lord of the sacred city. The House is honoured, and worship belongs to its Lord.

Ayah 4: Food in place of hunger. Allah identifies Himself as the One who fed them. Ibn Kathir treats provision as a favour calling for sincere worship of Allah without partners. The surah turns attention from the visible means of livelihood to the Giver of that livelihood. Food, trade and the regular return of supplies are recalled as reasons for gratitude and obedience.

Ayah 4: Security in place of fear. The same Lord who provided food also gave safety. Ibn Kathir connects the warning against ingratitude with al-Nahl 16:112–113, which describes a secure and well-provided town that rejected Allah's blessings and then experienced hunger and fear. The comparison shows the seriousness of responding to blessings with denial. This short surah joins provision and security to tawhid: Quraysh are called to worship the One who granted both.

106 | Surah Quraysh

سورة قريش

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

١ لِإِيلَٰفِ قُرَيْشٍ

Memorised

For the security of Quraish.

٢ إِۦلَٰفِهِمْ رِحْلَةَ ٱلشِّتَآءِ وَٱلصَّيْفِ

Memorised

Their security during winter and summer journeys.

٣ فَلْيَعْبُدُوا۟ رَبَّ هَٰذَا ٱلْبَيْتِ

Memorised

Let them worship the Lord of this House.

٤ ٱلَّذِىٓ أَطْعَمَهُم مِّن جُوعٍ وَءَامَنَهُم مِّنْ خَوْفٍۢ

Memorised

Who has fed them against hunger, and has secured them against fear.

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim, 106:1–4.
Arabic commentary: quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura106-aya1.html
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