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How to Use These Books

The Mini Tafseer Book Series is designed to teach children the Tafseer (exegesis) of all the suwaar (chapters) in the 30th Part of the Qur'aan. Each book in this 38 book series covers a different surah. The books feature:

- Special facts about the surah
- Arabic text of the surah
- English transliteration (to assist non-Arabic speakers)
- English translation
- Simplified Tafseer
- Illustrations/Coloring pages (no animals/humans)
- Highlighted Arabic vocabulary
- Sahih Ahadith
- One sentence summary of what the surah is about
- Review section
- Notes on the text (additional facts and information)

Teaching Tips:

If your younger child has trouble going through the whole book in one sitting, or does not retain all of the information taught, then just focus on the Tafseer pages first (i.e. those that explain the verses of the surah) and save the additional information contained in the Quick Facts, What's Special, Asbaab An-Noozool, and Vocabulary sections* for later when your child has mastered the Tafseer.

For older or advanced students who need more of a challenge, you can take time to go through all sections and discuss the lesson notes for that section (located at the end of the text). This will make lessons more challenging and provide a deeper understanding of the Tafseer, and Allah knows best.

**Some books may not contain all of these sections.*

Preview

Mini Tafseer Book Series

Suratul-Balad

"I swear by this city;"

(Laa ooq-see-moo bee-haa-thal-ba-lad)

 لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ

"And you, are free of restriction in this city,"

(Wa-an-ta hil-loom bee-ha-thal-ba-lad)

 وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ

First, Allah swears by...

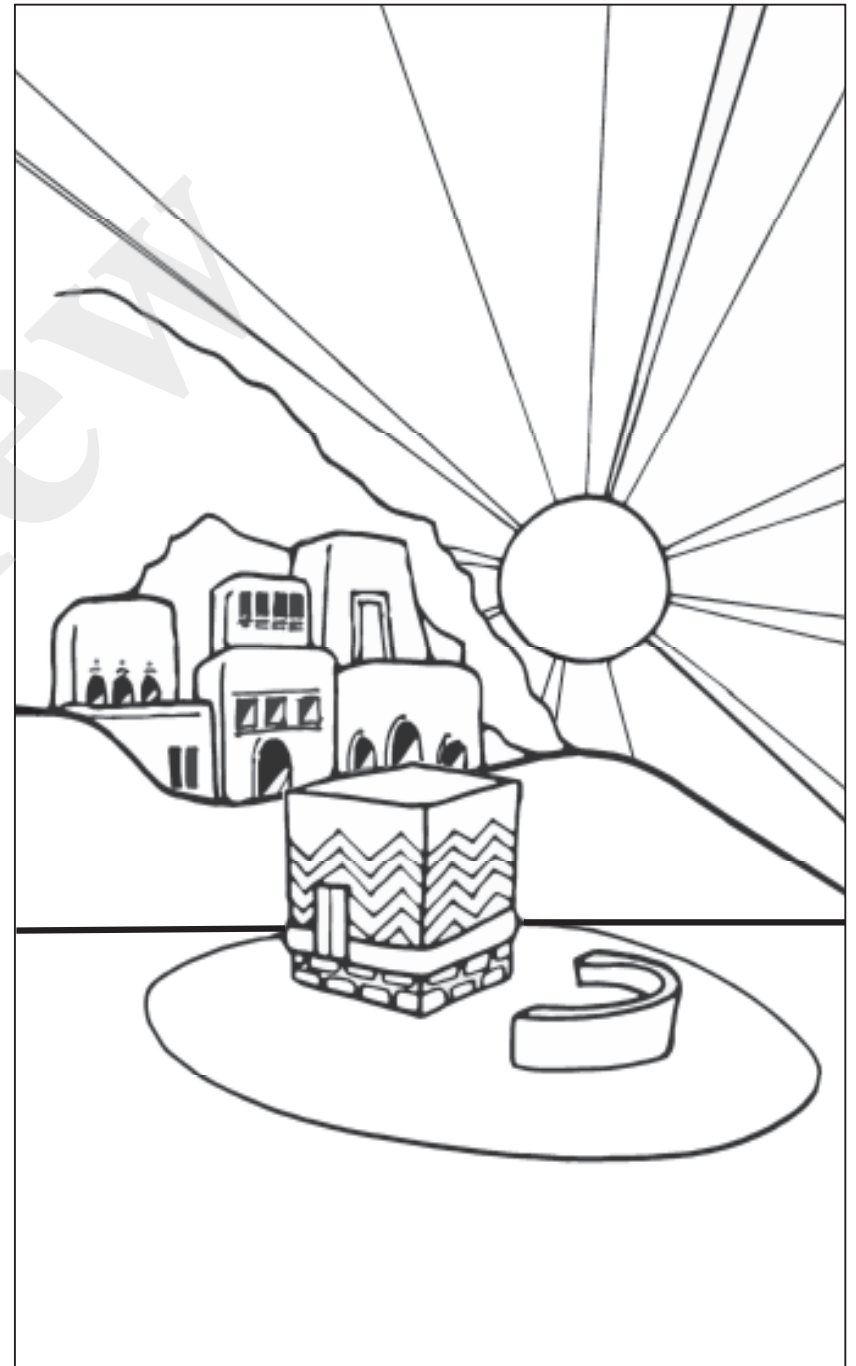
"This **city**, and **you** who are unrestricted
in this city..."

The scholars of the Qur'aan say
that the city Allah is talking about in
Suratul-Balad is...

Makkah

and that the "you" whom Allah is
addressing is...

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



The Mother of all Cities...

Makkah is the mother of all cities, and Rasulullah ﷺ was Makkah's **finest son** (i.e. greatest person born there).

When Rasulullah ﷺ became a prophet, teaching the people of Makkah was a **great hardship** for him. His people treated him badly and refused to listen.

Life was so hard for him there, that he eventually had to leave Makkah and move to another city, called **Madinah**.

The people of Madinah wanted to learn about Islaam, so they had invited Rasulullah ﷺ to come live with them.

Even though Rasulullah ﷺ left Makkah, he did not give up on his city. He planned to return (to purify and protect it from disbelief) after the Muslims in Madinah grew strong enough to form an army and fight the Makkans.

Eight years later...

When the army was finally ready, Rasulullah ﷺ needed **permission³** from Allah to bring his army into Makkah, as it was a holy city, a place in which no fighting has ever been allowed.

Some scholars believe that it is this permission, which Allah gave to Rasulullah ﷺ, that is mentioned in the **second ayah** of Suratul-Balad, and Allah knows best.

Once Allah gave Rasulullah ﷺ permission to enter Makkah with his army, Rasulullah ﷺ returned to the city, removed the idols from the Kabah, and established Makkah as the center of the Muslim world.

This event is known in Islamic history as...

"Fat-hoo Makkah"
(The Conquest of Makkah).

So let's review...

Allah starts Suratul-Balad by swearing by certain things.

The first things He swears by are **Makkah**, the mother of all cities, and **Rasulullah** ﷺ, who suffered great hardship in that city.

What comes next?

“And (by) the father and that which is born (of him);”

(Wa-waa-lee-diw wa-maa wa-lad)

وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ

Second, Allah swears by...

The **father** and his **offspring**.

Most of the scholars of the Qur'aan say that the father Allah is talking about in Suratul-Balad is⁴...

Prophet Adam ﷺ

and the offspring of the father being talked about are...

All of **humankind**
(because we are all the children of Adam ﷺ)



**Now for a little
BONUS GRAMMAR LESSON!**

(This activity is intended for older or
advanced students)

What suffix (letter combination), added to
the end of a **singular** noun¹³, (talking
about one thing) makes the noun **dual**
(talking about two things)?

Hint: There are three examples of this in
your vocabulary list, so check which of the
words in your list end with the same suffix
(letter combinations).

And the suffix is....



That amazing Yaa/Noon!

The suffix Yaa/Noon (with Sukoon and Kusra, which sounds like "**ayn**") is a clue to help us understand better the meaning of these words.

The suffix Yaa/Noon tells us we are talking about **two things**, not just one.

A good way to remember this is that adding **two letters** makes the noun talk about **two things!**

But be careful!

Some nouns in Arabic have Yaa/Noon at the end, but they are **not** dual.

How you can tell the difference?

If the Yaa/Noon sounds like "een" it is not dual, rather it is **plural** (talking about three or more things). For example...

Believers

المُؤْمِنِينَ

Truthful (people)

صَادِقِينَ

So remember...

Yaa/Noon sounding like "**ayn**" makes a word **dual** (talking about two), and

Yaa/Noon sounding like "**een**" makes the word **plural** (talking about many).

So, what does that tell us about your vocabulary words?

Well it tells us that all the words that have the Yaa/Noon suffix are talking about **two things** not one...

TWO eyes

عَيْنَيْنِ

TWO lips

شَفَتَيْنِ

TWO paths

النَّجْدَيْنِ

Now you try it!

Look at the following words from the Qur'aan and see if the Yaa/Noon suffix helps you understand what they mean.

Fill in the missing word to finish the translation. The first one is done for you.

TWO days يَوْمَيْنِ

_____ witnesses شَهِدَيْنِ

_____ men رَجُلَيْنِ

_____ armies فِئَتَيْنِ

_____ sisters الْأُخْتَيْنِ

_____ months شَهْرَيْنِ

One last thing...

Sometimes you may find a word in the Qur'aan that is dual, but it does not end in the "ayn" sound, rather it ends with an "aan" sound spelled with Alif/Noon.

Here are some examples...

TWO parties/groups

طَائِفَتَانِ

TWO women

امْرَأَتَانِ

TWO hosts

الْجَمْعَانِ

Just so you will not be confused, you should know that the "ayn" and "aan" sounds are BOTH dual. The reason for the different ending has to do with how the noun is used in the sentence.

For those of you who know grammar, the "ayn" ending is when the noun is the object (the person, place or thing that receives the action of the sentence) of the sentence and the "aan" sound is when the noun is the subject (who or what the sentence is about) ¹⁴

So now you know!

Suratul-Balad Review



Where was Suratul-Balad revealed?

Makkah



What is Suratul-Balad about?

It is all about hardship.



What two sets does Allah swear by in this surah?

- **Makkah**, the mother of all cities, and **Rasulullah ﷺ**, who suffered great hardship in that city.
- **Adam ﷺ**, the father of all humankind, and **the sons and daughters of Adam** (humankind), who face great hardships in this life.



Why does Allah swear by these sets?

To show us that life is hard.



What are the two types of hardship Allah tells us about in Suratul-Balad?

1. Hardships of the human lifecycle.
2. Tests of character and faith.



What are some of the hardships of the human lifecycle?

- Pregnancy
- Labor
- Teething
- Working
- Old age
- Death
- Punishment of the hereafter



What is one of the tests of character that Allah mentions in Suratul-Balad?

Having a lot of wealth.



What does Allah say some people think will never happen?

Some people think they will never lose the blessings they have, or be asked about how they used those blessings.

Notes to the text

¹ Allah has said that we should seek refuge with Him from Shaytaan before reciting Qur'aan by saying, "A-oo-thoo-bill-laa-he-min-nash-shay-taan-nir-ra-jeem".

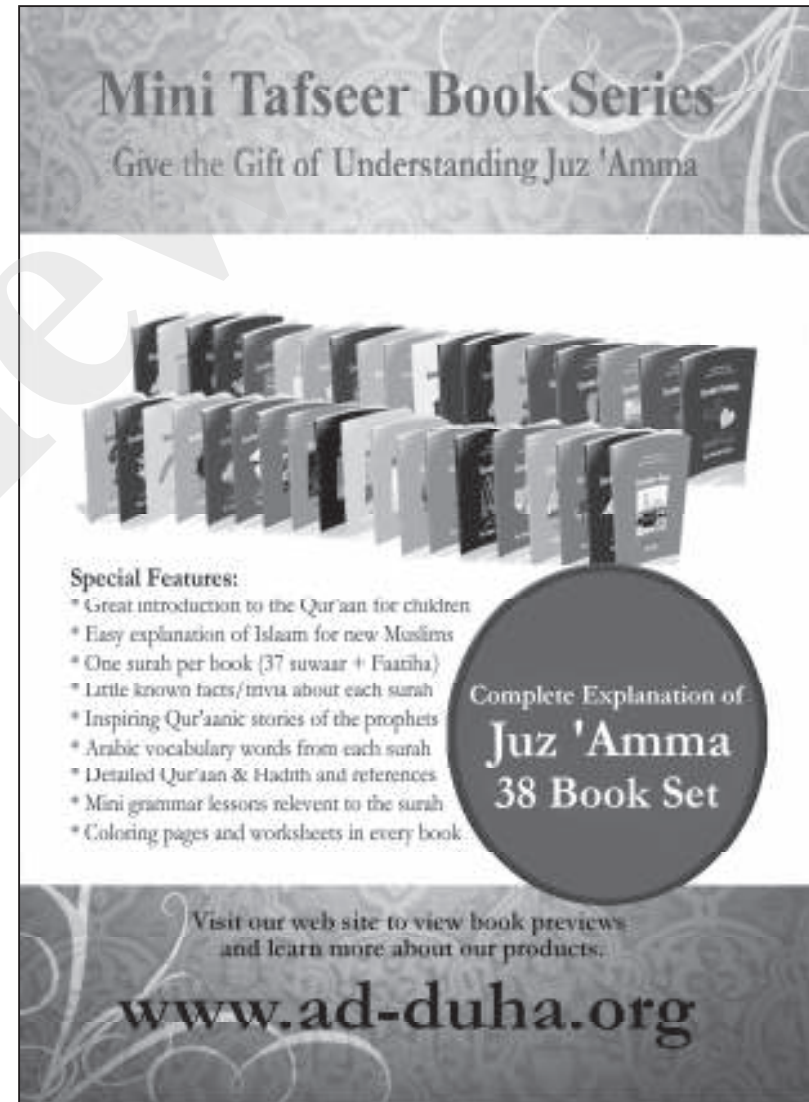
(So when you) want to recite the Qur'an, seek refuge with Allah from Shaytaan, the outcast (the cursed one). (Qur'aan 16:98)

The majority of scholars state that reciting this phrase, known as the Isti'aathah in Arabic (pronounced Is-ti-`aa-thah), is recommended and not required, and therefore, not reciting it does not constitute a sin. However, Rasulullah ﷺ always said the Isti`aathah. In addition, the Isti`aathah wards off the evil of Shaytaan, which is necessary; the rule is that the means needed to implement a requirement of the religion is itself also required. And when one says, "I seek refuge with Allah from the cursed devil." Then this will suffice. (Tafseer Ibn Kathir)

² Saying the Basmallah, "Bis-mil-laa-hir-rah-maa-nir-ra-heem" before reciting any surah, except for the ninth, Suratut-Towba, which does not have the Basmallah in the beginning, is agreed upon by all scholars past and present.

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