



## **Surat al Fatiha (4)**

### **IYYAKA NA'BUDU**

we were led through a journey of understanding in the previous verses, and so have realised the relationship between ourselves, the world and the Creator. We learnt that are from Him and to Him is our eventual return, none has power and might save through He who initiates each blessing and exalts each good deed. We understand the complete subservience of creation before Him, and the humility of man before the works of Allah. In the light of this knowledge of the past and future of the creation, we turn our attention to the present - the time which is between our hands... the time in which we have the power to make our deeds reflect our beliefs.

In conclusion of what we have learnt, we are led to the oath that it is *He Alone* who we should worship; not because He wants or needs it from us, but because it is the only path to success and happiness in this life and the next. We are also spurred to worship Him in gratitude of His great kindness and affection towards us, so that we may build a closer bond with Him.

***In repeating these words we remind ourselves of the oath of allegiance we have pledged to Him, and repeat the promise with the intention to live the next day of our lives in obedience of His wishes. So, we embark on the road to true submission to Him through acknowledging our humility and pledging servitude.***

### **WA IYYAKA NASTA'EEN**

... in the same breath, by acknowledging Allah's supreme control over the universe and ourselves, we realise that none who we call on besides Allah can help us against Him. We understand that no partner or idol or intermediary should be worshipped instead of Him.

these words remind us that if Allah wishes something to befall us, there is none who can prevent it. and if someone wishes to inflict something upon us, it will not happen without Allah's permission if He has decided upon it as part of His plan. We are reminded not to despair if we face difficulty, and not to rely upon ourselves or other people alone to get through it.

Allah has stated in the Quran that He will not test anybody except to the limit of their capabilities... and in knowing He is ar-Rahman ar-Rahim we know that

every test he sends to us is a blessing, because we are capable of passing it. We can find strength in Him when we believe we are too weak to face something, because we know He would never give us a test we are not strong enough to pass. If we trust in Him and rely on His help, we can accomplish more than we ever dreamed we could.

***With these words we are reminded of His influence and control over everything that befalls us, and are inspired to trust His plan for us, and our own capabilities in dealing with what faces us.***

***This verse introduces the first part of the faith of islam: MONOTHEISM. through understanding the nature of creation and man's place in it, and the Greatness of the Creator above all, we are led to a logical understanding of the importance of the first part of the shahadah: that there is nobody worthy of worship except Allah.***

***we are led through stages of understanding until we willingly submit and become Muslim: we adopt a position of humility and servitude, and admit our limitations and seek His aid. With these words, Allah is teaching us how to pray.***