



# The Use and Application of Aqşam Al-Qur'an

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**Abstract:** This article delves deeply into the concept of aqşam in the Qur'an from both etymological and terminological perspectives to provide a more comprehensive understanding of oaths as a crucial aspect of Qur'anic rhetoric. It also explores their practical benefits in strengthening Muslims' faith in divine messages. Using a thematic approach, this study categorizes verses containing oaths to analyze their patterns, structures, and purposes while examining classical and contemporary scholars' interpretative methods regarding the elements of aqşam, such as *adat qasam*, *muqşam bih*, and *muqşam alaih*. The findings indicate that aqşam serves to reinforce divine messages that carry educational, spiritual, and moral values. Allah swears by His own name or His creations to affirm the truth of revelation, establish an emotional connection with readers, and draw attention to signs of His power. A profound understanding of aqşam offers practical benefits, particularly in Islamic education, by helping educators instill faith in Allah's greatness, enhance spiritual motivation, and cultivate moral values. This study aims to contribute academically by bringing the Muslim community closer to the Qur'an, both intellectually and emotionally.

**Keywords:** Application of aqşam; Aqşam al-Qur'an; Oaths.

## Introduction

The Qur'an is the holy book that serves as a guide for Muslims, encompassing teachings on faith, worship, and morality. Within it, various communication methods are employed to affirm the truth and urgency of divine messages. One such method is *qasam*—oaths found in numerous verses (Faturrohman & Hrp, 2024). The presence of oaths in the Qur'an is not merely for linguistic embellishment but aims to emphasize truth or deliver significant warnings. By using *qasam*, the reader's or listener's attention is directed toward a specific topic, helping them grasp its importance and further affirming the greatness and truth of Allah (Asror, 2018).

Studying *qasam* in the Qur'an provides deeper insight into how Allah conveys His revelation. Through the various oaths present in Qur'anic verses, Muslims are invited to reflect on the signs of Allah's power, His majesty, and the urgency of the themes being conveyed. In this regard, *qasam* functions as a persuasive and educational approach that strengthens the faith of

Muslims while encouraging them to draw lessons and wisdom from natural phenomena, historical events, and the values embedded in divine revelation. Thus, the study of *qasam* offers an opportunity for Muslims to gain a deeper understanding of the Qur'an's profound meanings and to further solidify their conviction in the truth of their religion (Zulihafnani, 2011).

Beyond its rhetorical impact, *qasam* in the Qur'an also serves as a method to challenge and engage its audience, particularly those who doubted the authenticity of the message (Elis, 2018). By swearing upon celestial bodies, natural elements, and historical events, the Qur'an not only captures attention but also compels its listeners to reflect on undeniable truths embedded in creation. This method encourages a deep contemplation that leads to spiritual and intellectual enlightenment, bridging the gap between revelation and human reasoning.

Moreover, the study of *qasam* extends beyond linguistic analysis and delves into theological and philosophical discourse. It prompts discussions on the significance of divine testimony, the role of emphasis in

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religious communication, and the broader implications of oaths in shaping the worldview of believers. Understanding qasam in its various contexts allows scholars and laypersons alike to appreciate the Qur'anic discourse more profoundly, reinforcing the scripture's divine origins and its timeless relevance in guiding human thought and behavior.

## Method

This study employs a qualitative method with an analytical approach to understand Aqsam al-Qur'an, or oaths in the Qur'an. A qualitative approach is chosen because this research focuses on deeply comprehending the meaning and purpose of oaths in Qur'anic verses, as well as their role in reinforcing divine messages. Data is collected through library research. The findings of this study are expected to provide new insights into the meaning of aqsam in the Qur'an and the role of oaths as a divine communication tool – not only to convey truth but also to invite readers to reflect on the signs of Allah's greatness in the universe (Rahmadiyah, 2018).

## Result and Discussion

### *The Meaning of Qasam*

Etymologically, aqsam is the plural form of qasama, which means oath (al-half) and has the same meaning as yamin. Both terms are synonymous, representing a similar concept. Terminologically, scholars have provided various definitions of qasam. It is defined as an expression used to affirm or emphasize a message by including specific words known as adat qasam. According to Kazim Fathi al-Rawi, qasam refers to an expression used to reinforce the intent of the person taking the oath (Ramadhana et al., 2022).

In technical terms, qasam is a statement that binds a person to either refrain from or commit an action, strengthened by something regarded as sacred or significant by the oath-taker, whether physically or in their belief. Kāzhim Fathī al-Rāwī explains that qasam is an expression used to affirm a person's intent or will, either to confirm or deny something. Meanwhile, Ibn al-Qayyim describes qasam as a declaration that serves to assert and reinforce a statement, particularly when it is accompanied by testimony (shahādah) (Safira & Haris, 2023).

Qasam is interpreted as a firm resolution of the heart to either perform or abstain from an action, reinforced by something deemed great, whether intrinsically or based on belief, by the oath-taker. In the Qur'an, qasam functions as a rhetorical device to strengthen or emphasize a message or statement by invoking Allah's name or His creation, known as muqasam bih. Additionally, the term yamin not only

signifies an oath but also means "right hand." Qasam is also referred to as yamin, which is a metaphorical extension of al-yadd (hand), as in Arab culture, a person often grasps the right hand of their interlocutor when making an oath.

In general, an oath can be defined as a statement used to reinforce information by relying on oath-related elements. Thus, when referring to Allah's oath, it signifies the affirmation of His message through divine words utilizing oath elements. Based on these definitions, qasam can be formulated as a structured expression aimed at convincing listeners of the truth asserted by the oath-taker. The qasam found in the Qur'an serves the same purpose—to strengthen those who doubt its content. Nashruddin Baidan defines oaths in the Qur'an as divine revelations delivered to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in the form of oath statements. From this definition, the science of Aqsām al-Qur'an is the discipline that deeply studies these statements (Jailani & Hasbiyallah, 2019).

### *Elements of Qasam*

The occurrence of an oath is accompanied by essential elements that support it. Without these elements, a statement cannot be considered an oath. At a minimum, qasam consists of three key components:

### *Adat Qasam*

The forms (sighat) used to indicate qasam can be either verbs (fi'il) or particles (huruf), such as ba (بـ), ta (تـ), and waw (و), which function as substitutes for the verb of qasam due to its frequent use in speech. According to Manna' al-Qaththan, the particle ta is rarely found in the Qur'an, whereas the use of ba is always accompanied by a verb. The ba particle can be replaced with waw when used with explicit words and can also be substituted in the lafdh al-jalalah (Allah's name).

Since qasam is often used in conversation, it is commonly abbreviated by omitting the verb of qasam and using only the particle. An example of this can be found in Surah An-Nahl (16:38).

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَا يَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَمُوتُ بَلَىٰ وَعْدًا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

*They swear by Allah with their strongest oaths, 'Allah will not resurrect the dead.' But no! (He will surely resurrect them), as a true promise from Him, though most people do not know.*

The most commonly used form of qasam (oath) is waw (و), as mentioned in the words of Allah SWT in Surah At-Tin [95]: 1-2,

وَالَّتَيْنِ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَطُورِ سِينِينَ

*By the fig and the olive, and by Mount Sinai*

As for the specific use of the lafz al-jalalah (the name of Allah) as a substitute for the verb of qasam, the letter ta (ت) is used, as seen in the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anbiya' [21]: 57.

وَتَاللَّهِ لَآكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَامَكُمْ بَعْدَ أَنْ تُولُوا مُدِيرِينَ

*By Allah, I will surely plot against your idols after you have turned and gone away.*

*Al-Muqsam Bih*

Something that is used as an object of oath by Allah. In the Qur'an, oaths are sometimes expressed by mentioning the Great Name (Allah), and at other times by using the names of his creations. Oaths (qasam) that use the name of Allah in the Qur'an are found in only seven places, including in the words of Allah in Surah Maryam [19]: 68 and Surah Yunus [10]:53 (Suhaimi, 2021).

فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَحْشُرَنَّهُمْ وَالشَّيَاطِينَ ثُمَّ لَنُحْضِرَنَّهُمْ حَوْلَ جَهَنَّمَ جِثِيًّا

*By your Lord, surely We will raise them together with the devils, then We will bring them around Jahannam on their knees.*

وَيَسْتَنْبِئُونَكَ أَحَقُّ هُوَ قُلُّنَّ إِي وَرَبِّي إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ

*And they ask you: "Is that (the promised punishment) true? Saying: "Yes, by my Lord, indeed the punishment is true and you will never escape (from it)."*

*Al-Muqsam Alaih*

Muqsam 'alaih is sometimes also referred to as jawab qasam. It is the statement that accompanies qasam (oath) and serves as its response. Therefore, muqsam 'alaih must be something worthy of being the object of an oath, such as matters that are unseen or hidden, especially if the oath is intended to affirm their existence. Allah says in Surah Al-Zariyat [51]: 1-6:

وَالذَّرِّيَّتِ ذَرُورًا فَأَلْحَمْتِ وَقُرًّا فَالْجَرِيَّتِ يُسِرًّا فَالْمَقْسِمَاتِ  
أَمْرًا إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَصَادِقٍ وَإِنَّ الدِّينَ لَوَاقِعٌ

*By the (winds) that scatter dust forcefully, And the clouds that bear rain, And the ships that sail with ease, And (the angels) who distribute affairs, Indeed, what you are promised is certainly true, And indeed, the Day of Recompense will surely occur.*

*Types of Aqsam in the Qur'an*

Manna' al-Qaththan divides qasam into two categories: Qasam muzhar atau dzahir, Qasam yang terlihat jelas fi'il dan muqsam bih nya, baik dengan menggunakan fi'il atau huruf-huruf qasam yang telah dijelaskan sebelumnya. Seperti yang banyak terulang dalam Al-Qur'an yakni pada Qs. An-Nahl [16] : 38.

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَآ يَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَمُوتُ بَلَى وَعْدًا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَآ يَعْلَمُونَ

*"And they swear by Allah with their strongest oaths, 'Allah will not resurrect the dead.' But no! (He will resurrect them) as a true promise from Him, but most of mankind does not know."*

In this verse, the fi'il qasam (verb of the oath) is aqsamu bi, and the muqsam bih (object of the oath) is the word Allah. This type of qasam is easier to recognize because its wording is explicit. Another example of this can be found in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Qiyamah [75]: 1-2:

لَآ أَقْسِمُ بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا أَقْسِمُ بِالنَّفْسِ اللَّوَّامَةِ

*"I swear by the Day of Resurrection. (2) And I swear by the soul that constantly reproaches itself."*

*Qasam Mudhmar*

This type of qasam does not explicitly mention the verb of the oath (fi'il qasam) or the object of the oath (muqsam bih). Instead, it is indicated by the presence of lam taucid (the emphatic) in the response to the oath (jawab qasam).

لَتُبْلَوْنَ فِي أَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَلَتَسْمَعَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَذَى كَثِيرًا وَإِنْ تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ

*You will surely be tested in your wealth and yourselves. And you will surely hear many hurtful things from those who were given the Scripture before you and from the polytheists. But if you are patient and mindful of Allah, then indeed, that is a matter (worthy) of determination*

In this verse, the verb of the oath is not explicitly stated, nor is its object (muqsam bih). However, the presence of qasam can be recognized through the use of the emphatic particle lam taucid in words like لَتُبْلَوْنَ and لَتَسْمَعَنَّ. This implicit oath affirms the certainty of Allah's promise, such as tests involving wealth and life, as well as disturbances from the People of the Book and the polytheists, which will undoubtedly occur.

This type of qasam is more difficult to understand, especially for those who lack a deep understanding of the Arabic language. Unlike qasam dzahir or muzhar, which explicitly mention the verb of the oath and its object, qasam mudhmar can only be identified through sentence structure and context analysis. Nevertheless, this type of oath still conveys a strong meaning, emphasizing the certainty of Allah's promise or warning to His servants in a more subtle manner.

#### *The Letters of Aqşam Al-Qur'an*

Al-Qasam always uses specific letters known as 'adawat al-qasam, namely ba, waw, and ta. According to the analysis of Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah, the letter waw is used most frequently as an oath particle in the Qur'an compared to the other two letters. The letters used in oaths include:

*The oath using the letter ba'*

لَا أَقْسِمُ بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ

*I swear by the Day of Judgment. (QS. Al-Qiyamah [75]: 1)*

Swearing using the letter ba' is accompanied by words that indicate an oath, as shown in the example above.

#### *Oath Using the Letter Waw*

فَوَرَبِّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِّثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ تَنْطِقُونَ

*So by the Lord of the heavens and the earth, indeed, what has been promised is certain to occur just as you speak. (QS. Al-Dhariyat [51]: 23)*

An oath using waw does not need to be accompanied by the word \*al-qasam\* and is followed by an explicit expression.

#### *An oath using the letter ta'*

وَيَجْعَلُونَ لِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ نَصِيْبًا مِّمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ تَاللَّهِ لَنِسْتَلْنَ  
عَمَّا كُنْتُمْ نَفْتَرُونَ

*And they allocate a portion of the provision We have given them to idols whose power they do not know. By Allah, you will surely be questioned about what you have fabricated. (QS. An-Nahl [16]: 56)*

After the letter ta', it is commonly followed by the name of Allah and does not use the word \*al-qasam\*. Oaths using ta' are rarely found compared to the other two oath particles (Huda, 2022).

#### *Forms of Aqşam in the Qur'an*

In the Qur'an, the forms of aqşam (oaths) are highly varied and serve to emphasize a statement or draw the reader's attention to important matters. The following are the forms of aqşam found in the Qur'an:

*Oath by the Essence of Allah SWT, as in Surah Al-Hijr [15]: 92.*

فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَسْأَلَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

*So by your Lord, We will surely question them all.*

*Oath by the Actions of Allah SWT, as in Surah As-Syams [91]: 5.*

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا

*By the sky and its construction (which is wondrous).*

*Oath by the Angels of Allah SWT, as in Surah An-Nazi'at [79]: 1-3.*

وَالَّذِينَ عَمِلُوا غُرُوبًا، وَالَّذِينَ نَسِطُوا نَسِطًا، وَالسَّيِّئَاتِ سَبِيحًا

*By (the angels) who extract (souls) with harshness, by (the angels) who extract (souls) with gentleness, by (the angels) who descend swiftly from the heavens.*

*Oath by the Book or Revelation of Allah SWT, as in Surah Yasin [36]: 1-2.*

يَس وَالْقُرْءَانَ الْحَكِيمِ

*Ya Sin. By the Qur'an, full of wisdom.*

*Oath by the Prophet of Allah SWT, as in Surah Al-Hijr [15]: 72.*

لَعَمْرُكَ إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ

*By your life (O Muhammad), indeed, they wander blindly in their intoxication (of disbelief).*

#### *The Usage and Application of Aqşam in the Qur'an.*

The usage and application of aqşam in the Qur'an play a significant role in affirming the truth and strength of the messages conveyed. Aqşam, as the plural form of qasam, serves as a means to reinforce the information found in Qur'anic verses. In this context, qasam is often used to exalt muqşam bihi (the object of the oath), whether it is the name of Allah or His creations. Through this, Allah calls upon humanity to reflect on His power and recognize the importance of His messages (Aisyah et al., 2024).

Aqşam in the Qur'an delivers valuable lessons regarding the relationship between humans, the



universe, and the Creator. Through various oaths, Allah cultivates spiritual and moral awareness within Muslims, teaching them to value time, reflect on the signs of His power in the universe, and understand the importance of obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. Studying aqşam also helps deepen the understanding of how Allah conveys His messages, strengthening both the emotional and intellectual connection between believers and the Qur'an. Therefore, aqşam not only serve to reinforce divine messages but also function as a means to enhance faith and devotion to Allah (Misnawati, 2020).

## Conclusion

Qasam in the Qur'an plays a crucial role in affirming the truth and reinforcing the messages conveyed by Allah to humankind. Etymologically, qasam means an oath used to strengthen a statement by mentioning things considered noble, either in a physical or spiritual sense. In the context of the Qur'an, qasam is used to emphasize the truth of Allah's revelation by invoking His name or His creations as the object of the oath. Qasam consists of three main elements: adat qasam (the oath structure), muqşam bih (the object of the oath), and muqşam alaih (the statement affirmed by the oath). There are two primary types of qasam: qasam muzhar or dzahir, which explicitly mentions the verb of the oath and its object, and qasam mudhmar, which does not explicitly state the verb or object but is understood through the sentence context and the use of certain words. Qasam employs specific letters such as ba, waw, and ta, each serving to clarify the meaning of the oath. These letters have distinct rules for their usage in qasam, adding variation and emphasis to the message being conveyed. In the Qur'an, qasam appears in various forms, such as oaths invoking the name of Allah, angels, His scriptures, or natural phenomena—all aimed at affirming the truth and reminding people of Allah's power. The application of qasam encourages reflection, deepens faith, and strengthens obedience to Allah. It also enhances one's understanding of divine messages and fosters a stronger connection with his revelations.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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