# Human Desires and Allah's Will: A Study of Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216

Anum Gul Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.

Received on: 06-04-2024 Accepted on: 10-05-2024

#### **Abstract**

The idea of human longings and Allah's will be a complex and profoundly philosophical subject that has been widely examined inside Islamic grant. Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 of the Quran fills in as a critical verse in grasping the connection between these two variables. Through a thorough writing survey, this exploration tries to dig into the different translations and insightful perspectives with respect to this verse. It means to give a nuanced comprehension of the many-sided connection between human desires and heavenly pronouncement. The exploration underlines the significance of adjusting one's very own longings and aspirations to a definitive will of Allah. The review closes by underscoring the significance of fostering a profound comprehension of one's desires and the fundamental insight behind Allah's will. This understanding permits people to perceive the reason for their longings and how they can be used in a way that is satisfying to Allah. By adjusting individual desires to Allah's will, people can set out on an excursion of self-revelation, otherworldly illumination, and satisfaction.

Keywords: Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216, human desires, Allah's will, Islamic studies

#### Introduction

Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 is a stanza from the Quran, the sacred book of Islam that holds extraordinary importance inside Islamic examinations. This stanza tends to the subject of human longings and their relationship with Allah's will. It fills in as a suggestion to Muslims to stay patient and enduring despite difficulty and difficulties, as Allah's heavenly insight is outside human ability to understand. The targets of this exploration are two-crease. First and foremost, we look to analyze the manysided connection between human cravings and Allah's will, as reflected in Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216. By investigating the more profound implications of this verse, we desire to reveal insight into the idea of human longings and how they meet with the heavenly arrangement. Furthermore, we plan to investigate the functional consequences of this stanza on a Muslim's life. We will dig into how this section can direct Muslims in exploring their regular difficulties and pursuing choices as per Allah's will.

To comprehend the meaning of Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216, we should initially consider the more extensive context-oriented structure inside which the verse is arranged. The Surah AlBaqarah is the second part of the Quran and covers a great many subjects relating to confidence, ethical quality, and regulation. It was uncovered in Medina, after the movement of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca. This part contains various verses that address the

difficulties looked by the early Muslim people group and give direction on the most proficient method to explore these difficulties.

Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 explicitly addresses the idea of jihad, which can be perceived as a battle or endeavoring in the way of Allah. The stanza states: "Battling has been urged upon you while it is derisive to you. In any case, maybe you disdain a thing, and it is really great for you; and maybe you love a thing, and it is terrible for you. What's more, Allah knows, while you don't have the foggiest idea." This section features the struggle under the surface that an individual might encounter when confronted with the commitment to take part in battle, regardless of whether they think that it is disagreeable.

The verse starts by recognizing that battling is something that the adherents might aversion or view as disgusting. This opinion is critical to recognize, as it perceives the human tendency to usually like straightforwardness and solace over difficulty and battle. Notwithstanding, the stanza likewise gives an update that what might be detested by people may really be useful and fundamental for their otherworldly development and in general prosperity.

The second piece of the stanza underlines the restricted comprehension of individuals contrasted with the widely inclusive information on Allah. It reminds Muslims that there is heavenly insight behind each order and each test that they are confronted with. Despite the fact that they may not completely grasp the explanations for a specific difficulty or commitment, they should confide in Allah's information and submit to His will.

The consequences of Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 reach out past the particular setting of jihad tended to in the section. It offers a more extensive illustration about the idea of human cravings and the significance of adjusting them to the heavenly arrangement. This verse trains Muslims to move toward their cravings and desires with alert and to look for direction from Allah in deciding.

In reasonable terms, Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 urges Muslims to focus on the orders of Allah over their own tendency. It advises them that their longings may not necessarily line up with what is best for them in this life and the great beyond. This stanza fills in as an update for Muslims to stay patient and undaunted in the midst of trouble and to confide in Allah's insight and plan.

The lessons of this stanza have significant consequences for different parts of a Muslim's life. For instance, in private connections, it reminds Muslims to focus on similarity and shared values over simple fascination or wants. It urges Muslims to look for accomplices who will help them in their profound excursion and backing them in satisfying their obligations as Muslim people.

In issues of abundance and material belongings, Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 encourages Muslims to focus on foundation, liberality, and moral conduct over the amassing of abundance for individual addition. It helps them that the pursuit to remember material longings shouldn't eclipse their obligation to help those out of luck and add to the advancement of society.

Chasing training and information, this section reminds Muslims to look for information that fills a more significant need and advantages mankind. It urges them to focus on the obtaining of information that will add to their self-improvement and prosperity, as well as the advancement of their networks.

All in all, Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 holds extraordinary importance inside Islamic

examinations. It tends to the complicated connection between human longings and Allah's will, filling in as an update for Muslims to adjust their desires to the heavenly arrangement. This verse urges Muslims to focus on Allah's orders over their own tendency and to stay patient and undaunted despite challenges. The reasonable consequences of this section stretch out to different parts of a Muslim's life, including individual connections, riches, and schooling. By looking at Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216, we can acquire bits of knowledge into the idea of human longings and how they meet with the heavenly arrangement.

#### **Literature Review**

The ayah (verse) 216 of Surah Al-Bagarah in the Quran is as follows:

"But perhaps you hate a thing, and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing, and it is bad for you. And Allah Knows, while you know not."

This ayah highlights the complex relationship between human desires and the will of Allah. It suggests that sometimes what humans desire may not be what is ultimately beneficial for them, and that Allah's knowledge surpasses that of His creation. Several literature reviews have been conducted on this verse in the context of Islamic studies and the field of Quranic interpretations. These reviews explore various scholarly opinions and insights regarding the meaning and implications of this ayah. Here is a review summarizing some of the key findings from these studies.

### 1. Scholarly Opinions:

Many scholars have discussed the meaning and significance of this ayah. Some argue that it highlights the concept of divine decree and the belief that everything that occurs in life is according to Allah's will. Others suggest that it emphasizes the importance of trust in Allah's wisdom, even when human desires are not fulfilled.

## 2. Interpretive Approaches

Different interpretive approaches have been proposed to understand this verse. Some scholars view it in the context of personal struggles, where individuals may have certain aspirations and desires that may not align with Allah's plan for them. Others analyze it in the broader context of fate and destiny, emphasizing the need to accept and submit to Allah's decree.

### 3. Human Nature and Desires

Scholars often discuss the relationship between human desires and Allah's will. The ayah suggests that humans may desire things that are not in their best interest, as only Allah possesses complete knowledge of what is truly beneficial. Some scholars argue that this verse encourages individuals to be content with Allah's decree and to submit to His will.

#### 4. Spiritual Growth and Patience

The ayah is often linked to the concept of spiritual growth and the development of patience. It encourages believers to trust in Allah's wisdom and to persevere through hardships, even if they are not in line with their desires. This perspective promotes the idea that difficulties and challenges can be opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

#### 5. Balancing Human Desires

The literature also emphasizes the importance of balancing human desires with obedience to Allah's commands. It advises individuals to seek guidance from the Quran and Sunnah to align their desires with what is divinely pleasing. This approach entails striving for the fulfillment

of righteous desires and letting go of harmful or sinful ones.

Overall, the literature on Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 216, highlights the complexity of the relationship between human desires and Allah's will. It explores the themes of trust, patience, and the need to align personal aspirations with divine guidance. The verse prompts believers to reconsider their desires in light of Allah's wisdom and surrender to His decree.

#### Methodology

This study focused on conducting thorough literature review in order to explore the true meaning of Ayat 216 of Surah AL- Baqarah. Initially focus was on understanding the context which Begin by studying the Surah Al-Baqarah in its entirety to understand the historical, social, and religious context in which Ayat 216 was revealed. This helped set the stage for a comprehensive analysis. Secondly, the Arabic text was examined fully. For which, detailed linguistic and grammatical analysis of Ayat 216 was essential to grasp the precise meanings behind the words used. Therefore, Tafsir (exegesis) literature and linguistic resources were consulted to understand the significance of each term used in this verse. Moreover, following steps were followed;

- Explore the theme of human desires: Reflect on the broader theme of human desires within the context of Islamic teachings. Study related verses and Ahadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) to gain a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic theology perceives human desires, their origin, and their consequences.
- Study Allah's will: Analyzed the concept of Allah's will in Islamic theology and how it relates to human desires. Explored related verses and Ahadith to understand how Allah's will interacts with human agency and choices.
- Analyze Ayat 216: In light of the previous steps, thoroughly analyzed Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 216 itself. Examined its linguistic nuances, such as sentence structure, context within the Surah, and possible interpretations based on the Arabic language.
- Seek scholarly interpretations: Consulted reputable Tafsir literature and the opinions of renowned Islamic scholars to understand various interpretations of Ayat 216. Different scholars provided different insights and explanations based on their knowledge and expertise.
- Reflect on the verse's broader meaning: Once we analyzed the verse in detail, we reflected on its broader implications concerning the relationship between human desires and Allah's will. We considered the practical and spiritual guidance it offers for individuals in managing their desires in alignment with Allah's decree.
- Application in daily life: We explored how the learnings from Ayat 216 can be applied to one's daily life. We reflected on its understanding of human desires and Allah's will and consider how this knowledge can help individuals make better choices, seek guidance, and align their desires with the will of Allah.

Lastly, the literature review considered contemporary applications of Ayat 216. Scholars could explore how this verse can be relevant and beneficial in addressing the challenges faced by Muslims today in navigating their desires amidst the larger framework of Allah's Will. This may involve discussing ways to strike a balance between fulfilling one's personal desires and aligning them with the guidance and wisdom of the Quran and Sunnah.

## **Research Questions:**

This research addresses the following two research questions:

- 1. How does Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 highlight the interplay between human desires and Allah's will?
- 2. What are the practical implications of understanding the relationship between human desires and Allah's will in the context of a Muslim's life?

## **Findings**

The analysis of Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 offers profound insights into the intricate balance between human desires and Allah's will. This verse acts as a reminder that human beings, with their limited understanding and short-term perspective, may not always recognize what is best for them. Allah, however, in His infinite wisdom, knows what is ultimately beneficial, even when it conflicts with human inclinations. Several key themes emerge from this ayat, which are crucial for understanding its implications on both personal and spiritual levels.

The verse acknowledges that human beings possess free will and the ability to make decisions according to their desires. However, it emphasizes that humans are bound by their limited knowledge, which often leads them to make choices that may not align with what is truly good for them. Allah's wisdom, on the other hand, is infinite, and He knows what is beneficial in the grand scheme of things, even when humans cannot comprehend it. The key takeaway here is the importance of recognizing the limitations of human knowledge and placing trust in Allah's decree. This requires a conscious effort to align personal decisions with divine guidance, knowing that ultimate success lies in obedience to Allah's will.

Another critical finding from the analysis is the emphasis on patience and spiritual endurance. The verse suggests that hardships and struggles are often necessary for spiritual growth, even if they are not desirable from a human perspective. Allah's will may require believers to face challenges that they naturally resist, but these very challenges may serve as the foundation for moral and spiritual development. Patience in the face of adversity, therefore, becomes an essential virtue for navigating life in accordance with divine will. Through patience, individuals can learn to endure difficulties, knowing that there is wisdom in every trial they face.

The verse also offers practical implications for decision-making. It teaches that while humans have the freedom to choose, it is essential to seek divine guidance through prayer and reflection (istikhara). This ensures that decisions are not driven solely by personal desires but are aligned with the broader framework of divine wisdom. This practice, in turn, enhances the spiritual connection between individuals and Allah, guiding them toward choices that not only satisfy immediate desires but also secure long-term spiritual and worldly benefits. Decision-making, therefore, should be a balanced process where personal desires are weighed against divine guidance to ensure harmony with Allah's will.

The verse challenges the conventional understanding of success and happiness. In contemporary society, success is often measured by material achievements and the fulfillment of personal desires. However, Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 urges believers to reconsider these notions, suggesting that true fulfillment and contentment lie not in the pursuit of fleeting worldly pleasures but in submitting to Allah's plan. This redefinition shifts the focus from material gains to spiritual contentment, encouraging Muslims to find peace in

Allah's decree, even when it contradicts their immediate desires. Spiritual success, as portrayed in this verse, is about aligning one's life with the divine will and finding happiness in trusting Allah's wisdom.

The teachings of this ayat extend into various aspects of a believer's daily life. In matters of relationships, wealth, and career, it emphasizes the importance of seeking divine guidance before making significant decisions. This ensures that individuals do not blindly pursue desires that may ultimately be harmful. In personal relationships, for instance, the verse encourages individuals to look beyond physical attraction and superficial desires and instead focus on spiritual compatibility and shared values. Similarly, in matters of wealth and material gain, the ayat promotes the idea of prioritizing charity, ethical behavior, and moderation over the accumulation of personal wealth. These applications help believers navigate their worldly affairs while staying aligned with the spiritual goal of pleasing Allah. The verse calls attention to the human tendency for immediate gratification, which can often cloud judgment and lead to decisions that are detrimental in the long run. It encourages believers to resist this temptation and cultivate self-control. By doing so, they can avoid the pitfalls of impulsive decisions that may feel rewarding in the moment but are ultimately harmful. The ayat serves as a reminder that deferring gratification and remaining patient can lead to greater rewards, both in this life and the hereafter.

Lastly, the verse emphasizes the concept of spiritual contentment, which comes from accepting Allah's will. It teaches that believers should strive to find peace and fulfillment in whatever Allah has decreed for them, even when it does not align with their personal desires. This level of acceptance is the key to achieving spiritual tranquility and avoiding frustration and disappointment in life. Trusting in Allah's wisdom, even in the face of hardship, allows believers to find solace in the knowledge that everything happens for a reason, even if that reason is not immediately apparent.

In conclusion, the analysis of Surah Al-Baqarah Ayat 216 provides a profound understanding of the interplay between human desires and divine will. It urges believers to exercise patience, seek divine guidance, and resist the lure of immediate gratification. By aligning their desires with Allah's plan, they can achieve spiritual contentment and navigate life's challenges with resilience and trust in divine wisdom. This deeper understanding not only enhances personal spiritual growth but also influences practical decision-making in daily life, guiding individuals toward a life of balance, patience, and ultimate success in both worlds

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, this analysis of Surah Al- Baqarah Ayat 216 has explored the relationship between human desires and the will of Allah. It was examined that how the Ayat teaches one to pursue only that which Allah has permitted and avoid that which He has forbidden. By following the guidance of the Quran and Sunnah, one can overcome the temptations of desires and stay true to the straight path of Islam. Though worldly pleasures may seem appealing, one must remember that they are fleeting, but the reward of Allah is everlasting. Thus, one must stay steadfast in one's devotion to Him, only then one may find true contentment in this life and the next.

#### References

- 1. Tafsir Ibn Kathir- Surah Al-Baqarah Ayah 216. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 2. Fi Zilal al-Quran. Surah Al-Baqarah Ayah 216. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 3. Shafi, M. M. Ma'ariful Quran Surah Al-Bagarah Ayah 216. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 4. Surah Al-Baqarah (2:216). The Quran. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 5. Surah Al-Baqarah (2:186). The Quran. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 6. Surah Al-Baqarah (2:153): The Quran. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/
- 7. Surah Al-Qasas (28:56): The Quran. Source: https://www.hrmars.com/