

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### Tafseer Aayatul-Kursi, commentary on the greatest verse of the Qur'an

Author: **The Eminent Qur'anic Sciences Scholar: Imaam Abdur Rahman As Sa'dee**  
(*rahimahuAllah*)

Source: *Tayseer Al-Kareem, Ar-Rahmaan* and his commentary on *Al-Aqeedah Al-Waasitiyyah*

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The Messenger of Allah (*may Allah send peace and blessings upon him*) informed us that the following verse- *Aayatul-Kursi*- is the greatest verse of the Qur'an, due to the splendid meanings it comprises of:

- The many attributes of Allah, The Exalted Inventor of all things (*Al Baaree Ta'aala*).
- *Tawheed*: completely singling out Allah, alone, without any partners, in all acts of worship.

Allah says:

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

***Allah-there is no deity worthy of worship except Him, "Al-Hayy": The Ever-Living, "Al-Qayyoom": The Sustainer of all existence. Neither drowsiness nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the***

*heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him, except by His permission?! He knows what lies ahead of them and what is behind them, and they encompass not a thing of His knowledge, except for that which He wills. His kursi extends over the heavens and earth, and their preservation does not tire Him. And He is The Most High, The Most Great. [al-Baqarah, 2:255]*

In this verse, Allah informs us that He is **“Allah”**: Meaning, The One to whom belongs worship, in all its senses. None deserves divinity nor to be worshiped except Him. Therefore, deifying and worshipping other than Allah is futile and absurd.

He is **“Al-Hayy”**: **The Ever-Living** : To whom belongs all of the qualities of perfect life; including perfection in hearing, vision, ability, will, might, knowledge, wisdom, mercy, and other proper attributes relating to His essence.

He is **“Al-Qayyoom”**: **The Sustainer**, Who is independent and free of any need of His creation. He sustains all of existence. He originated everything into existence, maintained and provided everything with sustenance, and all the necessities for existence and survival.

Allah's name: *“Al-Hayy”* indicates all of Allah's attributes relating to His essence, while, *“Al-Qayyoom”* entails all of His attributes describing His actions. Thus, all of His lofty attributes refer back to these two beautiful names. Hence, it is narrated that *“Al-Hayy, Al-Qayyoom”* is the greatest name, which if Allah is invoked by, He answers, and if requested by, He grants.

Due to His perfect qualities of life and sustainment, **“Neither drowsiness nor sleep overtakes Him.”** Drowsiness and sleep only occur in the creation, which experiences weakness, exhaustion, and inability, and does not apply to the One of magnificence, greatness, and splendor!

He informs us that He is The Owner of everything that is within the heavens and earth. So everything is a possessed slave of Allah. None can depart from this state.

إِنَّ كُلُّ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِي الرَّحْمَنِ عَبْدًا

***“There is none in the heavens and earth, except that it comes to the Most Merciful as a slave.” [Maryam, 19:93]***

So He is The Owner of all sovereignties. And He is The One, to whom belongs the attributes of dominion, authority, reign, majesty, and management of universal affairs.

Through His supreme rule and authority; none can intercede with Him, except by His permission. All of the notable and distinguished interceders are slaves belonging to Him. None can proceed with intercession, until He permits them:

قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَاعَةُ جَمِيعًا لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

***“Say: To Allah belongs all intercession. To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and earth...” [Az-Zumar, 39:44]***

Allah does not allow anyone to intercede, except intercession for one He is pleased with. And Allah is not pleased, except with the implementation of:

- *Tawheed*: completely singling out Allah, alone, without any partners, in all acts of worship.
- Following all of His Messengers.

Therefore, whomsoever this does not apply to is not entitled any share of intercession. Allah has negated intercession for those who worship others besides Him. They seek intercession from others besides Allah, and without His permission. Their intercession is futile.

Then Allah informs us of His unlimited, all-encompassing knowledge. He knows what awaits the creation of infinite future events, as well as **“what is**

**behind them**", of unlimited past affairs. No concealed thing is hidden from Him:

يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ

***"He knows that which deceives the eyes and what the breast conceal."***  
***[Ghaafir, 40:19]***

None of the creation can encompass anything of Allah's knowledge and information, **"except for what He wills"**, i.e., what He has disclosed to them, by different means, including prescribed and legislative affairs. Yet, this in its entirety, still amounts to nothing, with respect to the knowledge and information of The Inventor (Allah). This is affirmed by the most knowledgeable of Allah, amongst His creation; the messengers and angels. They said (as Allah has informed us):

سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

***"Exalted are You! We have no knowledge, except what You have taught us."*** [al-Baqarah, 2:32]

Allah then informs us of His greatness and magnificence, and that **"His kursi extends over the heavens and earth"**, and that He maintains the heavens and earth, and all of its inhabitants, by means of causation and universal orders, which He has placed in the creation. This describes Allah's grace upon His creation: He has created the heavens and earth for them, and everything within it, as well as maintained it and preserved it from destruction. He has governed it by an amazing system of universal laws, having countless benefits.

All of this, while; **"its preservation does not tire or burden Him"**, due to the perfection of His greatness, ability, and His abundant wisdom in His ordinances.

**“And He is The Most High”** He is the absolute Most High, in all senses: The Most High in His essence; above all of His creation, having risen over the Throne. The Most High by the exaltedness and greatness of His attributes and status: To Him belongs every perfect attribute of excellence. The Most High by His subjugation of the creation:

All of existence submits to Him. Even the stubborn and obstinate are subdued to His subjugation.

And He is **“The Most Great”**:

He is the possessor of all the qualities of greatness, magnificence, nobility, and splendor: The One whom the hearts love, and the souls glorify. The hearts of His prophets, angels, and allies are in complete glorification of His Majesty. There is none greater than Him! Those of knowledge and acquaintance recognize that the greatness of anything and everything, even if it surpassed eminence and was considered indescribable, is still nothing compared to the greatness of The Most High, Most Great!

Clearly, this verse, which is comprised of such extraordinary meanings, entitles it to be the greatest verse of the Qur'an. The heart of one who reads it in contemplation and reflection- while comprehending its meanings- deserves to be filled with certainty, acknowledgement, and *Eemaan* (Faith). Furthermore, by that, he/she will be safeguarded from the evil of Satan.

### Review Questions

1- The Messenger of Allaah (*salallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam*) informed us that Ayat al-Kursi is the greatest ayah in the Qur'an. What reasons did the *mu'alif* (author) Imaam 'Abdur Rahman As Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) give for this?

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2- Imaam 'Abdur Rahman As Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) said that (الله) means \_\_\_\_\_.

3- What does the verse الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ mean?

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4- Allaah says about Himself: لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ. So why are we - the creation - overcome by drowsiness and sleep?

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5- Muslims are slaves of Allaah. So are the disbelievers slaves of Allaah, also?

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6- Imaam As-Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) said: **Allaah does not allow anyone to intercede, except intercession for one He is pleased with. And Allaah is not pleased, except with the implementation of** [and the Shaikh then mentioned two requirements]. What are they?

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7- Imaam As-Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) said: **Allaah has negated intercession for those who worship others besides Him. They seek intercession from others besides Allaah, and without His permission. Their intercession is futile.** So who is this a refutation of?

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8- Can anyone or thing hide from Allaah?

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9- From the creation, who is most knowledgeable of Allaah?

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**13-** It is important to contemplate and reflect when reading Ayat al-Kursi. Imaam As-Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) said the heart of the one who contemplates and reflects when reading Ayat Al-Kursi deserves which benefits?

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**Extra Credit:** What is the greatest name of Allaah that if invoked by, He answers, and if requested, He grants? And then explain the reason Imaam Sa'dee (*rahimahullaah*) gave for this.

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