

Highest Signs: Translating the Quran Beheld

Lesson 79

(77. Mursalat)

Sheikh Nuh Keller

20. Did We not create you from paltry despised fluid;

أَلَمْ نَخْلُقْكُمْ مِنْ مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ ﴿٢٠﴾

Alam nakhlūqakum

- a change of scene from the previous catastrophic scene
- Another vista of the creation and raising forth of life
- prove the absolute power of Allah to bring back the dead
- The hardest thing for the kafirs to believe is resurrection; Allah is describing how easy it is for Him
- As if Allah is saying, “I created you from a paltry fluid and then brought you to perfection, should I then not be able to raise you from the dead?”

Min ma'in mahin

- something contemptible, paltry, and worthless
- a sperm-drop
- verbal form of *mahin* is *fa'il*, a passive participle
- Existential context or reflection on the utterable blessings one has received from Allah of raising each of us forth from something that no one is proud of to a complete human being of extraordinary complexity
- *Min* is the “of” denoting the origin, *ibtida'iyya*
- indefinite of *ma'in* is for *tahqir*: wretched and contemptible

This verse contains two things:

- 1) Reminding us of blessings and potentialities, and
- 2) an indicative proof that Allah is able to raise us up after death to meet our mighty destiny forever

A rhetorical question to point at the consequences of iman and shukr and acknowledgment of Allah's power

This verse is a *tawbikh* of those who deny Allah's power to effortlessly effect the Resurrection and at the same time a reminder to be thankful for Allah's blessing

21. Then make it in a secure place of fast repose;

فَجَعَلْنَاهُ فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ ﴿٢١﴾

Fa ja'alnahu fi qarar

- *Fa* denotes succession or immediacy: *fa ta'qibiyya*
- *ja'ala* denotes doing something and then it stuck in its place and stays where you put it
- The verb *qarra* is said to be settled in a place when it is stationed there solidly; such a place is a *qarar*
- Named a *qarar* if it is a good place if you can stay in, well-set up and well-provided
- *makin* means solidly fixed so that it does not slip or drop; the fetus is not shaken or dropped from the womb

22. Till a set space of time well known;

إِلَى قَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ ۚ

Ila Qadarin ma'lum

- *qadar* is a hyperbole for rhetorical effect, not merely meaning to a period that its length is strictly destined
- *qadar* is the action of Allah
- the determination of destiny in exact, foreseen, due measure
- *qadar* is the consequence of every human being, while *qada* is the effecting of it in its temporal, physical, spatial, and causal context
- The time spent in the womb is determined and known by Allah; Allah has increased it in its magnificence by making the full term intended by Allah in itself
- Refers to the time of gestation in the womb prior to birth

23. Then We precisely determine in every particular,
so how excellent a Determiner!

فَقَدَرْنَا فَنِعْمَ الْقَادِرُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Fa qadarna

- Conjunctive *fa* that follows on from verse 21
- The verb *qadarna* is not from the verb meaning to be able or have the power to do something, but rather to determine, ordain, or decree, as Allah does
- includes the specification of the quantities of the substance that makes up something
- The form and morphology it takes
- The second *fa* is the conjunctive *fa* of clarifying the reason
- highly honors Man, who is an outstanding outcome of Allah's determining

Questions and Answers from Previous Session

