

Highest Signs: Translating the Quran Beheld

Lesson 80

(77. Mursalat)

Sheikh Nuh Keller

25. Have We not made the earth an all-comprising fold

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ كِفَاتًا

- Allah is turning the scenes over one after another, unfolding vistas, to bring hearts to life by His revelation and warning them of disaster that will come because of their remaining oblivious to Judgement and crying lies
- The opening scenes of this sura were the erasure of the stars, sky, and mountains when the final hour comes, the Day of decisive judgment, the destruction of the ancient and later-day kuffar, then the vistas of the creation of Man as a super organism.
- with this verse, we see the whole wide world with everyone over it and under it.
- few people ever remember to give thanks
- of all the innumerable blessings that He has created, so that by the truth, beauty, and goodness we see reflected in what He has created within us and around us, we may turn to the real truth, beauty, and goodness of His infinitude
- have thanks and turn back to Him

25. Have We not made the earth an all-comprising fold

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ كِفَاتًا

Kifatin

- Origin of word comes from to grasp and hold; gather and combine
- the inside of the earth is for your dead, and its surface is for those of you alive
- Allah has made the earth a comprising fold that holds all the living and all the dead
- verbal noun to emphasize its excellence in comprising; hyperbolic effect
- Pattern indicates inclusiveness
- blessing of making earth a home for Man; Allah has prepared the earth to clasp Man in its arms.
- Like a mother who holds you and comforts you in her grasp
- indicates the ongoing care for Man once he is launched into his life, following until his death

26. For the living and the dead alike;

أَحْيَاءَ وَأَمْوَاتًا ٢٦

- accusative for both words because they are objects of the verbal noun
- Indefinite of both is for plentitude and magnificence

27. And placed in it firm-anchoring lofty
mountains proud;
and lavished on you sweet water to drink?

وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ شِمِخَاتٍ وَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمْ مَاءً فُرَاتًا ﴿٢٧﴾

Ja'la

– Make something become something and make it firm in place

Rawasi

– Anchor one's boat

– plural of active participle

– unshakable mountains

– purpose of this verse is twofold: 1) reminding us of Allah's blessing in the loftiness of the mountains and 2) to demonstrate Allah's omnipotent power, for He who raised up mountains can raise up people from the dead

Shamikhah

– tremendous altitude

– proud

– As though the mountains held themselves in higher station than the rest of the earth

Saqa

– To give someone a drink

27. And placed in it firm-anchoring lofty
mountains proud;
and lavished on you sweet water to drink?

وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا رُؤْسِي شِمَخَتٍ وَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمْ مَاءً فُرَاتًا ﴿٢٧﴾

Ma'in furatin

- sweet water
- tankir for tremendousness and plentitude
- verbal pattern of *furatin* hyperbole meaning extremely sweet
- completely quenches thirst
- Allah does this in myriad ways

Asqaynaqum

- nun al-'adhama, 'We' of unutterable might from the moving and lifting up of the sky

28. Woe that day to criers of lies.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُكَذِّبِينَ ﴿٢٨﴾

- Woe to unbelievers, because everything Allah just mentioned of His omnipotent power and knowledge, there are those who cry lies who deny these indescribable blessings.
- Repeated in this verse with a different context: woe when they face what they denied and scorned

29. 'Go all of you forth to what you ever denied:

أَنْطَلِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَا كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَكْذِبُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾

- After mentioning previous vistas and proofs, Allah shifts the action to a completely different scene
- we are now at the scene of Judgement

Intaliqu

- The verb is as if speaking to someone constrained and is someone released; leave after having been stopped
- letters that compose the verb imply speed
- They have been told to speed to their torment
- irony in the use of the verb: they are free to go now, and to burn

bihi tukadhibun

- word order puts the preposition and its object before its verb
- it denotes exclusivity: they always cried lies to what they are now faced with at the end of the way, namely their punishment
- Also denotes disappointment without hope about their fate
- present tense for their repeated crying lies

Questions and Answers from Previous Session

