

ʿĀyatu l-Kursiyy – The Footstool – آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ (Study Guide)

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

God: there is no god but Him, the Ever Living, the Ever Watchful. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. All that is in the heavens and in the earth belongs to Him. Who is there that can intercede with Him except by His leave? He knows what is before them and what is behind them, but they do not comprehend any of His knowledge except what He wills. His throne extends over the heavens and the earth; it does not weary Him to preserve them both. He is the Most High, the Tremendous. [M. A. S. Abdel Haleem]

Word-by-Word Translation

اللَّهُ	لَهُ		
لَا			
إِلَهَ	مَا		
إِلَّا	فِي		
هُوَ	السَّمَوَاتِ		
الْحَيُّ	وَ		
الْقَيُّومُ	مَا		
لَا	فِي		
تَأْخُذُهُ	الْأَرْضِ		
	مَنْ		
سِنَّةٌ	ذَا		
وَ	الَّذِي		
لَا	يَشْفَعُ		
نَوْمٌ			

	إِلَّا	عِنْدَهُ	
	بِمَا		
			إِلَّا
	شَاءَ	بِإِذْنِهِ	
	وَسِعَ		
	كُرْسِيِّهِ		يَعْلَمُ
			مَا
	السَّمَوَاتِ		بَيْنَ
	وَ	أَيْدِيهِمْ	
	الْأَرْضِ		
	وَ		وَ
	لَا		مَا
	يُؤَدُّهُ	خَلْفَهُمْ	
	حَفِظَهُمَا		وَ
			لَا
	وَ		يُحِيطُونَ
	هُوَ	بِشَيْءٍ	
	الْعَلِيِّ		
	الْعَظِيمِ		مِنْ
		عِلْمِهِ	

1. What are two specialties of this 'āyah?
 - a. 'Abū Dharr, raḍiya l-lāhu 'anh, asked the Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu 'alayhi wa sallam, “O Messenger of Allāh, which is **the greatest 'āyah of the Qur'ān?**” He said, “**'Āyatu l-Kursiyy.**” ['Aḥmad]
 - b. 'Abū Hurayrah, raḍiya l-lāhu 'anh, reported that the Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu 'alayhi wa sallam, said, “Everything has a peak (a high point), and no doubt the peak of the Qur'ān is al-Baqarah. In it is an 'āyah, which is a **sayyidah (chief): 'Āyātu l-Kursiyy.**” [at-Tirmidhiyy]

2. What is one of the virtues of this 'āyah?
 - a. The Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu 'alayhi wa sallam, said, “**If someone recites 'Āyatu l-Kursiyy after every farḍ ṣalāh, nothing stops him from entering Paradise except death.**” [an-Nasā'iyy] This means that, immediately after death, this person will start witnessing the traces of Paradise and its comfort and tranquility.

3. What happened between 'Abū Hurayrah, raḍiya l-lāhu 'anh, and the stranger?
 - a. When he was guarding the zakāh from Ramaḍān, someone came and starting stealing the foodstuff. He caught him and said he was going to take him to the Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu 'alayhi wa sallam. The stranger said, “Please don't take me to the Messenger of Allāh, and I will tell you a few words by which Allāh will benefit you: **When you go to bed, recite 'Āyatu l-Kursiyy. Then there will be a guard from Allāh, who will protect you all night long, and Shayṭān will not be able to come near you till dawn.**” When the Prophet, ṣalla l-lāhu 'alayhi wa sallam, heard the story, he said, “He told you the truth, although he is a liar; it was Shayṭān.” [al-Bukhāriyy]

4. What is the summary of 'Āyatu l-Kursiyy?
 - a. It consists of ten sentences. After seeing and understanding these, one realizes that all honor, power, and superiority belong to none but Allāh.
 - b. This 'āyah is the ultimate description of Allāh's Oneness and His perfections with clarity and detail.