

آية الكرسي

*Ayat al-Kursi*

The Verse of the Seat

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ

Allah there is no god except Him is the Living One, the All-sustainer.

لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ

Neither drowsiness befalls Him nor sleep.

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth.

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ

Who is it that may intercede with Him except with His permission?

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

He knows that which is before them and that which is behind them,

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ

and they do not comprehend anything of His knowledge except what He wishes.

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا

His seat embraces the heavens and the earth, and He is not wearied by their preservation,

وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

and He is the All-exalted, the All-supreme.

# آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ The Verse of The Seat

‘The Verse of the Seat’ (*Ayat al-kursi*), is regarded as one of the most important verses of the Qur’an.

It was named *Ayat al-kursi* and referred to as such during the lifetime of the Prophet (s) by the Prophet (s) himself

This highlights its importance, in being singled out from the rest of the Sura.

Many traditions refer to it as ‘the greatest verse in the Qur’an’ and the master (*sayyid*) of all verses of the Qur’an

# Merits

عن ابي عبدالله عليه السلام قال قال أبو ذرٍّ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! مَا أَفْضَلُ مَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْكَ؟ قَالَ: آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ

It has been narrated from Abi ‘Abdillah (a) that he said: “Abu Dharr said: ‘O Messenger of God! What is the best of that which was revealed to you?’ He replied: *Ayat al-kursi*.” (*Tafsir al-Ayyashi*, vol. 1 p. 137)

**The same has been narrated from Abi Umamah:**

عن ابي امامة قال: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّمَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكَ اعْظَمُ؟ قَالَ «اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ» آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ.

9. From Abu Umamah, ‘I asked, “O Apostle of God! Which [verse] revealed to you is the greatest?” He said, “*Allah - there is no god except Him - is the Living One, the All-sustainer... (2:255) the Verse of the Seat (kursi).*” (*Al-Durr al-Manthur*, vol. 2, p. 12)

# Merits

عن علي (ع) قال سمعت نبيكم على أعواد المنبر و هو يقول من قرأ آية الكرسي في دبر كل صلاة مكتوبة لم يمنع من دخول الجنة إلا الموت و لا يواظب عليها إلا صديق أو عابد و من قرأها إذا أخذ مضجعه آمنه الله على نفسه و جاره و جار جاره و الأبياتِ حَوْلَهُ

From Imam (a), ‘I heard your Prophet (s) atop these wooden planks [of the pulpit] saying, “If one recites *Ayat al-kursi* after every obligatory (daily) prayer then nothing holds him back from entering Paradise except death; and none shall be able to persist in (doing) this except one who is sincere or one who is a (true) worshipper. And one who recites it when going to bed, Allah protects him, his neighbour, his neighbour’s neighbour and [all] the houses that are around him.”’  
(*Al-Tawhid*, pg. 18)

# Merits

عن ابى أمَامَةَ الْبَاهِلِيِّ: أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ عَلِيَّ بْنَ اَلِى طَالِبٍ يَقُولُ: مَا أَرَى رَجُلًا أَدْرَكَ عَقْلَهُ اَلْإِسْلَامَ وَ وُلِدَ فِي اَلْإِسْلَامِ يَبِيتُ لَيْلَةً سَوَادَهَا حَتَّى يَقْرَأَ هَذِهِ اَلْآيَةَ «اَللّٰهُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا هُوَ اَلْحَىُّ اَلْقَيُّوْمُ» فَقَرَأَ اَلْآيَةَ اِلَى قَوْلِهِ «و هُوَ اَلْعَلِىُّ اَلْعَظِيْمُ».

From Abu Umamah that he heard Imam Ali (a) saying, ‘I do not think that a man who understands Islam and is born in Islam should pass a night’s darkness (The whole night) until he recites this verse: *Allah- there is no god except Him... (2:255)*

ثم قال. فَلَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ مَا هِيَ - أَوْ قَالَ: مَا فِيهَا- لَمَا تَرَكْتُمُوهَا عَلَى حَال. ان رسول الله اخبرنى قال: أُعْطِيَتْ آيَةُ الْكُرْسِيِّ . مِنْ كَنْزٍ تَحْتَ الْعَرْشِ وَ لَمْ يُؤْتَهَا نَبِيٌّ كَانَ قَبْلِي. قَالَ عَلِيٌّ فَمَا بِتُّ لَيْلَةً قَطُّ مُنْذُ سَمِعْتُهَا مِنْ رَسُولِ اَللّٰهِ حَتَّى أَقْرَأَهَا.

Then he said, ‘If you but knew what it is (or said, ‘what is in it’) you would not leave it on any condition. the Apostle of God said, “I have been given the Verse of the Seat from the treasure below the Throne (*‘arsh*); and no prophet before me was given it.”’ Then Ali (a) continued, “I have not spent a single night, since I heard it from the Apostle of God, without reciting it.” (*Al-Tawid*, pg. 626)

# Merits

عن أبي بن كعب قال قال رسول الله يا أبا المنذر أي آية في كتاب الله أعظم قلت «الله لا إله إلا هو  
الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ» قال فضرب في صدري ثم قال ليهنئك العلم و الذي نفس محمد بيده إن لهذه الآية للسانا  
و شفيتين تقدس الملك عند ساق العرش

Narrated from Ubayy ibn Ka'b: the Messenger of God said, "O Aba al-Mundhir! Which verse of the Quran is the greatest?" I replied, "*Allah, there is no god but him the Living One, the All-Sustainer.*" He patted my chest and said, "Congratulation for your knowledge! By the one in whose hand is the soul of Muhammad this verse has a tongue and two lips purifying the King by the pillar of 'arsh. (*Majma' al-Bayan*)



# Merits

عن علي عليه السلام قال سمعت رسول الله يقول يا علي ... إن فيها لخمسين كلمة في كل كلمة خمسون بركة

Imam Ali (a) said, I heard the Messenger of God saying, “O Ali there are fifty words in it, in each of which is fifty *barakah* (blessing, grace, abundant good). (*Majma' al-Bayan*)

مجمع البيان عن أبي عبد الله قال إن لكل شيء ذروة و ذروة القرآن آية الكرسي

Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq said: ‘There is a pinnacle to everything and the pinnacle of the Qur’an is *Ayatul kursi*.’”

محاسن عن رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم أنها أعظم آية في كتاب الله و أنها مشتملة على اسم الله الأعظم

The Prophet (s) said: *Ayat al-kursi* is the greatest verse in the Book of God, and it includes *al-Ism al-A'zam*

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ

*Allah - there is no god except Him*

The verses that begin with **اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ**

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ 2:255

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ 3:2

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لِيَجْمَعَنَّكُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ 4:87

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى 20:8

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ. 27:26

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ 64:13

الله

The name 'Allah' appears in the Quran close to 1000 times.

It is a name for the sum total of His essence and attributes, including perfection, beauty, omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence.

It is like an acronym for all attributes and beautiful names of God. It invokes that essence who is the most merciful (*al-Rahim*), the most wise (*al-Hakim*), the most powerful (*al-Qadir*), the most forgiving (*al-Ghafur*), and so on. So, it means 'the Being Who concentrates in Himself all the attributes of perfection.'

الله

Therefore, although God can be considered through His different names and attributes (*asma'* and *sifat*) which refer to the same essence, when the name Allah is used it combines all of those attributes and beautiful names.

Yet 'Allah' is a label and not the Essence of God, for He has no name as such.

الله

Allah is either derived from the verb *walaha* which means to confound and perplex,  
Or, from the word *ilāh* which means the one who is yearned for, adored and worthy of worship

# الله

The definitive *al* has been added to it to denote the only true being who is worthy of worship.

Thus, Allah refers to that being about whom the creation is confounded and perplexed in understanding His reality and essence, but yearn for Him, adore Him., and worship Him.

قال أمير المؤمنين عليه السلام : الله معناه المعبود الذي يأله فيه الخلق ، ويؤله إليه ، والله هو المستور عن درك الابصار ، المحجوب عن الأوهام والخطرات (بحار الأنوار، ج ٣، العلامة المجلسي، ص ٢٢٤)

Imam Ali (a) said, “Allah is that deity about whom all the creation is perplexed, and the One who is yearned for. Allah is the One who is veiled from the vision of the eyes and hidden from the imagination of the thoughts.”

# الله

و قال الباقر عليه السلام : الله معناه المعبود الذي أله الخلق عن درك مائتته والإحاطة بكيفيته ، ويقول العرب : أله الرجل : إذا تحير في الشيء فلم يحط به علما ، ووله : إذا فرغ إلى شيء مما يحذره ويخافه ، فالإله هو المستور عن حواس الخلق . (بحار الأنوار، ج ٣، العلامة المجلسي، ص ٢٢٤)

Imam al-Baqir said, “Allah is that worshipped being that the creation is perplexed about His reality and cannot comprehend His qualities. The Arabs say, *aliha al-rajul* when the person is confused and confounded about a thing and cannot comprehend it. And they say, *waleha* when he seeks refuge in something from what he fears and tries to avoid.

So, *ilah* is the one who is hidden from human senses.

# الله

Regardless of what the root word of Allah is, it has become a proper noun which refers to that absolute necessary existence who possesses all the attributes of perfection and is free from any type of deficiency.

Although, according to Imam Ali (a), He is that being about whom all the creation is perplexed, at the same time He is the most apparent existence.

*He is the First and the Last, the Manifest and the Hidden, and He has knowledge of all things (57:3).*

Reflection on the creation, the magnificence of the universe, and how organized its different components interact one with another, has but one message: the uniqueness of the One who created it, and the astonishment, admiration and bewilderment that He invokes in the hearts and minds.