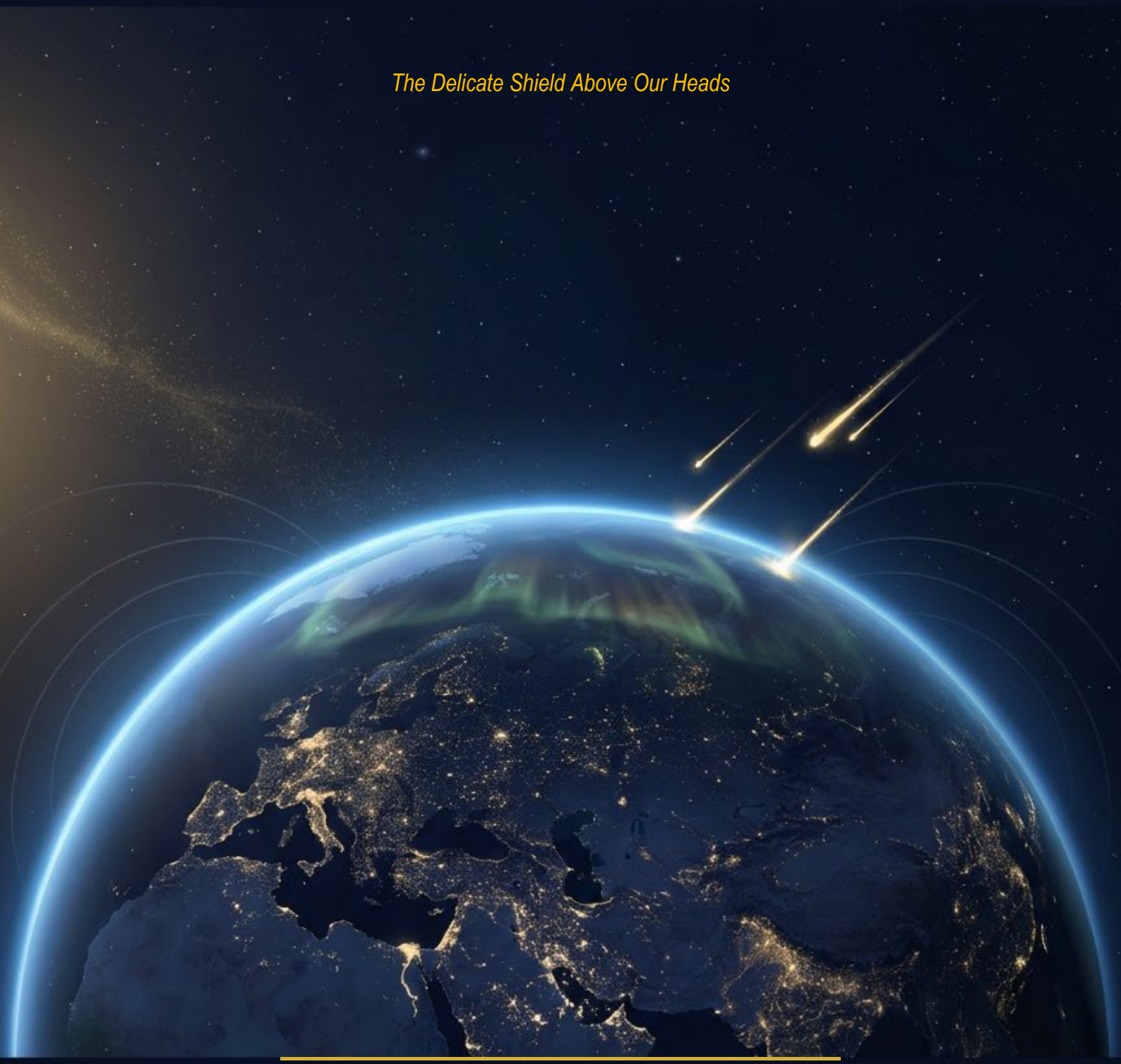
EXPLORING AL-QUR'AN & SCIENCE

THE ROOF KEPT SAFE

The Delicate Shield Above Our Heads



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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وَجَعَلْنَا ٱلسَّمَآءَ سَقْفًا مَّحْفُوظًا ۖ وَهُمْ عَنْ ءَايَٰتِهَا مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

"And We made the sky a protected ceiling, but they, from its signs, are turning away."

SURAH AL-ANBIYA' 21:32

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise belongs to Allah, who made the sky a protected ceiling, adorned it with stars, and guarded it against every rebellious devil. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, whose face would change when he saw a heavy cloud, fearing punishment, and who was relieved when the rain fell as a mercy, and upon his family and Companions.

This eBook is dedicated especially to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

Whenever we shelter beneath the sky, may we remember His words: ***"And We made the sky a protected ceiling"*** (21:32) — and may this eBook become *'ilmun yuntafa'u bih*, knowledge that is benefited from.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook shows ***the Earth seen from space*** at night, with the lights of its cities twinkling. Around the Earth is ***a thin, glowing blue layer*** — the atmosphere — like a ***roof*** covering the whole planet.

Above that layer, several ***meteors*** streak in and ***burn up*** in golden trails before they reach the ground. Near the pole a ***green aurora*** shimmers, while fine lines of the ***magnetic field*** curve around the Earth, deflecting a stream of golden particles coming from the Sun. The image symbolises Allah's words: ***"And We made the sky a protected ceiling"*** (21:32).

Note: This image is ***a symbolic illustration*** only, not an actual satellite image. ***Two gold lines*** at the bottom frame the author's name.

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Colour guide: green box = verse of Al-Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; blue box = scientific finding; blue table = comparison. Narrator names underlined in blue can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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THE ROOF KEPT SAFE

Every home needs a roof. A roof protects us from the heat of the sun, from heavy rain and from strong winds. Without a roof, even a beautiful house cannot be lived in. Al-Qur'an uses the same image for the sky above our heads: ***wa ja'alnā as-samā'a saqfan mahfūzā*** — "And We made the sky ***a protected ceiling***" (21:32).

Elsewhere, Allah swears by ***"the heaven raised high"*** (52:5), describes the sky as adorned with stars and ***protected against every rebellious devil*** (37:7), and as a sky that ***has no rifts*** (50:6). Yet verse 21:32 ends with a sharp rebuke: ***"but they, from its signs, are turning away."***

Modern science has discovered that the Earth is wrapped in remarkable ***protective layers***: an atmosphere that keeps us warm and burns up meteors, an ***ozone layer*** that filters ultraviolet radiation, and a ***magnetic field*** that deflects the solar wind. Human beings have also ***damaged*** part of this roof — and then worked together to repair it. This eBook explores the verses, authentic Hadith and scientific findings about this "roof" — honestly, distinguishing between solid harmony and forced interpretation.

This eBook continues ***"The Sky Raised Without Pillars"***. Where that eBook discussed ***who upholds the sky***, this one discusses ***how the sky protects us***.

THE ROOF IN NUMBERS

Before exploring the verses of Al-Qur'an, here are a few brief facts that will be explained in this eBook, together with their sources:

FACT	FIGURE AND SOURCE
Average surface temperature of the Earth with and without the natural greenhouse effect	About ***15°C***, compared with about ***−18°C*** without it (IPCC AR6, 2021).
Thickness of the entire ozone layer if compressed to the pressure at the Earth's surface	Only about ***3 millimetres*** (NASA Ozone Watch).
Cosmic dust entering the atmosphere every day	Estimates range from ***5 to 270 tonnes*** a day — most of it burns up or becomes fine dust (Plane, 2012).
The Chelyabinsk meteor, Russia (2013)	About ***19 metres*** across, exploded in the air; about ***1,600 people injured***, mostly by broken glass (Popova et al., 2013).
The March 1989 solar storm in Quebec, Canada	The power grid was down for about ***9 hours*** (Boteler, 2019).
Expected recovery of the Antarctic ozone hole to 1980 levels	Around ***2066***, thanks to the Montreal Protocol (WMO/UNEP, 2022).

Note: The translation of Al-Qur'an verses in this eBook is Sahih International. The grade of each Hadith is stated in its Hadith box, with a link to sunnah.com. Every scientific finding includes a link to its original source.

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THE PROTECTED CEILING

This chapter discusses the core verse of this eBook, Surah Al-Anbiya' 21:32, together with the verse that follows it and Allah's oath in Surah At-Tur.

SURAH AL-ANBIYA' 21:32–33

وَجَعَلْنَا ٱلسَّمَآءَ سَقْفًا مَّحْفُوظًا ۖ وَهُمْ عَنْ ءَايَٰتِهَا مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

And We made the sky a protected ceiling, but they, from its signs, are turning away.

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَ ٱلَّيْلَ وَٱلنَّهَارَ وَٱلشَّمْسَ وَٱلْقَمَرَ ۖ كُلٌّ فِى فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

And it is He who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon; all [heavenly bodies] in an orbit are swimming.

Translation: Sahih International — 21:32-33

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 21:32

The word ***saqf*** means a ***roof*** or ceiling. The sky is called a roof because it is above the earth and shelters it, as a roof shelters a house. Ibn Kathir explains that the sky is like ***a dome over the earth***, and that ***mahfūzā*** (protected) means ***lofty and guarded*** so that it cannot be reached. Mujahid interpreted it as ***"raised high"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 21:32

Al-Qurtubi mentions several meanings of "protected": ***protected from falling*** onto the earth (as in 22:65), ***protected from the devils*** by burning flames (as in 15:17), and ***protected from change and decay*** for the term appointed for it. Tafsir al-Qurtubi 21:32

The verse ends with a rebuke: ***"but they, from its signs, are turning away."*** Those signs, says Ibn Kathir, are the sun, the moon, the stars and all the wonders of the sky that point to the power and wisdom of their Creator.

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 21:33

The next verse mentions the night and the day, the sun and the moon — ***all swimming in an orbit*** (*kullun fī falakin yasbahūn*). The roof of the sky is not a static structure; beneath it, everything moves in perfect order. Protection and order are mentioned together.

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SURAH AT-TUR 52:5

وَٱلسَّقۡفِ ٱلۡمَرۡفُوعِ ۝٥

And [by] the heaven raised high.

Translation: Sahih International — 52:5

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 52:5

At the opening of Surah At-Tur, Allah swears by several great things, among them ***as-saqf al-marfū'*** — ***the roof raised high***. Ibn Kathir reports from Sufyan al-Thauri and others that what is meant is ***the sky***, and cites Allah's words in 21:32 as its explanation. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 52:5

REFLECTION — A ROOF THAT NEVER LEAKS

The roof of our house needs repairs after some years: some parts leak, some tiles are blown off by the wind. Yet the roof of the sky has sheltered humanity from the time of Prophet Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ until today.

Allah swears by it because it is ***a great sign***, but because it is always there, we rarely think about it. This is exactly what the verse rebukes: ***we turn away from the signs that are closest to us***.

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THE ADORNMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE SKY

Al-Qur'an repeatedly combines two qualities of the sky: ***adornment*** (*zīnah*) and ***protection*** (*hifz*). The stars adorn the nearest heaven, and the sky is guarded against devils who try to steal news from the heavens.

SURAH AL-HIJR 15:16–18

وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي ٱلسَّمَآءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَّٰهَا لِلنَّٰظِرِينَ ﴿١٦﴾

And We have placed within the heaven great stars and have beautified it for the observers.

وَحَفِظْنَٰهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْطَٰنٍ رَّجِيمٍ ﴿١٧﴾

And We have protected it from every devil expelled [from the mercy of Allah].

إِلَّا مَنِ ٱسْتَرَقَ ٱلسَّمْعَ فَأَتْبَعَهُۥ شِهَابٌ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٨﴾

Except one who steals a hearing and is pursued by a clear burning flame.

Translation: Sahih International — 15:16-18

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 15:16–18

The word ***burūj*** is interpreted by some scholars as the great stars, and by others as the positions of the stars. Allah beautified the sky ***for the observers***, then protected it from ***every devil expelled***. A devil that tries to ***steal a hearing*** is pursued by ***shihāb mubīn*** — a clear burning flame. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 15:16

SURAH AS-SAFFAT 37:6–10

إِنَّا زَيَّنَّا ٱلسَّمَآءَ ٱلدُّنْيَا بِزِينَةٍ ٱلْكَوَاكِبِ ﴿٦﴾

Indeed, We have adorned the nearest heaven with an adornment of stars.

وَحِفْظًا مِّن كُلِّ شَيْطَٰنٍ مَّارِدٍ ﴿٧﴾

And as protection against every rebellious devil.

لَّا يَسَّمَّعُونَ إِلَى ٱلْمَلَإِ ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ وَيُقْذَفُونَ مِن كُلِّ جَانِبٍ ﴿٨﴾

[So] they may not listen to the exalted assembly [of angels] and are pelted from every side.

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دُحُورًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ وَاصِبٌ ﴿٩﴾

Repelled; and for them is a constant punishment.

إِلَّا مَنْ خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ ثَاقِبٌ ﴿١٠﴾

Except one who snatches [some words] by theft, but they are pursued by a burning flame, piercing [in brightness].

Translation: Sahih International — 37:6-10

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 37:6–10

These verses describe the protection of the sky in detail: the devils ***cannot listen*** to ***al-mala' al-a'lā*** (the exalted assembly of angels), they are ***pelted from every side***, and whoever manages to snatch something is ***pursued by a piercing flame*** (*shihābun thāqib*). Ibn Kathir explains that *thāqib* means brilliantly bright and piercing. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 37:10

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SURAH AL-MULK 67:5

وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا ٱلسَّمَآءَ ٱلدُّنْيَا بِمَصَٰبِيحَ وَجَعَلْنَٰهَا رُجُومًا لِّلشَّيَٰطِينِ ۖ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابَ ٱلسَّعِيرِ ۝٥

And We have certainly beautified the nearest heaven with stars and have made [from] them what is thrown at the devils and have prepared for them the punishment of the Blaze.

Translation: Sahih International — 67:5

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 67:5

Allah beautified the nearest heaven with ***masābīh*** (lamps), that is, stars, and made from them ***rujūm*** (what is thrown) at the devils. Ibn Kathir explains that what is thrown is not the star itself, but ***the flames*** (*shuhub*) that issue from it. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 67:5

Al-Bukhari reports, in mu'allaq form in the Book of the Beginning of Creation, the words of ***Qatadah***, a Tabi'i: ***"Allah created these stars for three purposes: as an adornment for the sky, as missiles against the devils, and as signs for guidance. Whoever interprets them otherwise has erred, wasted his share and burdened himself with what he has no knowledge of."*** This is an ***athar*** (a statement of a Tabi'i), not a saying of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ — but it is an important basis for rejecting ***astrology***.

SURAH FUSSILAT 41:12

فَقَضَىٰهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَٰوَاتٍ فِى يَوْمَيْنِ وَأَوْحَىٰ فِى كُلِّ سَمَآءٍ أَمْرَهَا ۚ وَزَيَّنَّا ٱلسَّمَآءَ ٱلدُّنْيَا بِمَصَٰبِيحَ وَحِفْظًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ ٱلْعَزِيزِ ٱلْعَلِيمِ ۝١٢

And He completed them as seven heavens within two days and inspired in each heaven its command. And We adorned the nearest heaven with lamps and as protection. That is the determination of the Exalted in Might, the Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — 41:12

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 41:12

This verse mentions seven heavens completed in two days, each heaven inspired with ***its command*** (*amrahā*). The nearest heaven is adorned with ***lamps*** and ***as protection*** (*wa hifzā*). Protection is mentioned as part of ***the determination of the Exalted in Might, the Knowing***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 41:12

SURAH AL-JINN 72:8–9

وَأَنَّا لَمَسْنَا ٱلسَّمَآءَ فَوَجَدْنَٰهَا مُلِئَتْ حَرَسًا شَدِيدًا وَشُهُبًا ﴿٨﴾

And we have sought [to reach] the heaven but found it filled with powerful guards and burning flames.

وَأَنَّا كُنَّا نَقْعُدُ مِنْهَا مَقَٰعِدَ لِلسَّمْعِ ۖ فَمَن يَسْتَمِعِ ٱلْـَٰٔنَ يَجِدْ لَهُۥ شِهَابًا رَّصَدًا ﴿٩﴾

And we used to sit therein in positions for hearing, but whoever listens now will find a burning flame lying in wait for him.

Translation: Sahih International — 72:8-9

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 72:8–9

These verses record the admission of the ***jinn*** themselves: they used to sit in certain positions in the sky to eavesdrop, but after the sending of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ they found the sky ***filled with powerful guards*** and ***burning flames***, lying in wait for anyone who tried to listen. Ibn Kathir explains that the guarding of the sky was intensified when Al-Qur'an was being revealed, so that revelation ***would not be mixed*** with the predictions of soothsayers. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 72:8

REFLECTION — PROTECTION THAT GUARDS REVELATION

The sky is guarded not only to protect the earth, but also to ***protect the truth***. In the days of ignorance (jahiliyyah), soothsayers claimed to know the unseen with the help of the jinn. The guarding of the sky ensured that revelation reached the Messenger of Allah ﷺ ***pure***, untainted by lies. Today, fortune-telling and modern "psychics" still exist — and Islam rejects them completely.

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THE SKY THAT RETURNS, WITHOUT RIFTS

This chapter discusses three verses that describe the qualities of the roof of the sky: a sky that ***returns***, a sky ***without rifts***, and a sky that is ***strong***.

SURAH AT-TARIQ 86:11–12

وَٱلسَّمَآءِ ذَاتِ ٱلرَّجۡعِ ١١

By the sky which returns [rain].

وَٱلۡأَرۡضِ ذَاتِ ٱلصَّدۡعِ ١٢

And [by] the earth which cracks open.

Translation: Sahih International — 86:11-12

COMMENTARY ON VERSES 86:11–12

Allah swears by ***the sky which has raj'*** (*dhāt ar-raj'*). The word *raj'* means ***return***. Ibn 'Abbas interpreted it as ***rain***, because rain returns again and again every year. Qatadah said: the sky returns the provision of the servants every year. Others held that it refers to the sun, the moon and the stars that return to rise again. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 86:11

The verse is paired with ***the earth which cracks open*** to bring forth plants (86:12). The sky "returns" water to the earth, and the earth "responds" with plants. The water cycle explained in the eBook ***"The Formation of Rain"*** is a clear example of this meaning.

SURAH QAF 50:6

أَفَلَمۡ يَنظُرُوٓاْ إِلَى ٱلسَّمَآءِ فَوۡقَهُمۡ كَيۡفَ بَنَيۡنَٰهَا وَزَيَّنَّٰهَا وَمَا لَهَا مِن فُرُوجٖ ٦

Have they not looked at the heaven above them - how We structured it and adorned it and [how] it has no rifts?

Translation: Sahih International — 50:6

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 50:6

Allah invites people to ***look at the heaven above them***: how it was structured and adorned, and that ***it has no rifts*** (*mā lahā min furūj*). Ibn Kathir explains *furūj* as ***gaps, cracks or flaws***. The verse is an argument for the resurrection: the Lord who built the sky without any flaw is surely able to bring human beings back to life. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 50:6

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SURAH AN-NABA' 78:12

وَبَنَيْنَا فَوْقَكُمْ سَبْعًا شِدَادًا ﴿١٢﴾

And constructed above you seven strong [heavens].

Translation: Sahih International — 78:12

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 78:12

Allah has constructed above us ***seven strong [heavens]*** (*sab'an shidādā*). Ibn Kathir explains that the heavens are vast, lofty, firm and perfectly built, adorned with fixed and moving stars. This verse is part of the chain of blessings in Surah An-Naba' — the earth as a resting place, the mountains as pegs, sleep as rest — all of which point to ***a complete home*** for humankind. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 78:12

REFLECTION — THE PERFECT HOME

Surah An-Naba' lists blessings the way an architect describes a house: ***a floor*** (the earth spread out), ***pillars and pegs*** (the mountains), ***a time of rest*** (sleep and night), ***a strong roof*** (the seven heavens), ***a lamp*** (the sun) and ***a water supply*** (rain). All of this was prepared before human beings asked for it. Is it fitting, then, for us to turn away from the Owner of this house?

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"BUT THEY ARE TURNING AWAY"

The rebuke at the end of verse 21:32 — ***wa hum 'an āyātihā mu'ridhūn*** — is the theme of this chapter. Al-Qur'an repeatedly invites people to observe what lies between the heavens and the earth, yet most people pass by without reflecting.

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:164

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَٰفِ ٱلَّيْلِ وَٱلنَّهَارِ وَٱلْفُلْكِ ٱلَّتِي تَجْرِي
فِي ٱلْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنفَعُ ٱلنَّاسَ وَمَآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ مِنَ ٱلسَّمَآءِ مِن مَّآءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ
ٱلْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ دَآبَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ ٱلرِّيَٰحِ وَٱلسَّحَابِ
ٱلْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ ٱلسَّمَآءِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ ﴿١٦٤﴾

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth are signs for a people who use reason.

Translation: Sahih International — 2:164

COMMENTARY ON VERSE 2:164

This verse gathers ***eight signs*** in a single breath: the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that sail, the rain that revives the earth, the creatures dispersed in it, ***the directing of the winds***, and ***the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth***. All of this happens under the same "roof" — in the space of the atmosphere where the winds blow, the clouds move and the rain falls. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:164

SURAH AN-NAHL 16:79

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا۟ إِلَى ٱلطَّيْرِ مُسَخَّرَٰتٍ فِى جَوِّ ٱلسَّمَآءِ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا ٱللَّهُ ۚ إِنَّ فِى
ذَٰلِكَ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾

Do they not see the birds controlled in the atmosphere of the sky? None holds them up except Allah. Indeed in that are signs for a people who believe.

Translation: Sahih International — 16:79

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COMMENTARY ON VERSE 16:79

Birds fly ***in the atmosphere of the sky*** (*fī jawwis-samā'*) — the space of air between the heaven and the earth — and ***none holds them up except Allah***. Ibn Kathir explains that Allah subjected the air to bear the birds on their wings. The air we breathe every second is part of the same roof. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:79

REFLECTION — WHY DO WE TURN AWAY?

People are easily amazed by things that rarely happen — eclipses, comets, large meteors — yet forget what ***happens every second***: the air we breathe, the blue sky that filters the light, the rain that falls with the seasons. Verse 21:32 rebukes this attitude. Modern science, when read with faith, helps us ***stop turning away*** and begin to observe.

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EVIDENCE FROM THE HADITH

This chapter presents ***eight Hadith*** related to the protection of the sky, the signs in the sky, and the manners of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ towards clouds, wind and rain. Each Hadith is presented in full with its Arabic text, a chain of narrators linked to the narrator pages on sunnah.com, a translation and its grade.

HADITH	THEME
Sahih al-Bukhari 4800	Devils steal a hearing and are pursued by a burning flame (shihab).
Sahih Muslim 2229	Meteors are not thrown for the death or birth of anyone.
Sahih al-Bukhari 4921	Devils are barred from the news of heaven when Al-Qur'an is revealed.
Sahih al-Bukhari 3210	Angels descend into the clouds; devils eavesdrop for soothsayers.
Sahih al-Bukhari 1044	An eclipse is a sign of Allah, not for anyone's death.
Sahih al-Bukhari 3206	The Prophet's ﷺ face would change on seeing a heavy cloud.
Sahih al-Bukhari 1032	The supplication when it rains: "Sayyiban nāfi'ā".
Sahih al-Bukhari 1013	The prayer for rain, then the supplication "Hawālainā wa lā 'alainā".

Note: Hadith Bukhari 4701 has wording very close to Bukhari 4800, so it is cited in the reference list only.

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FIRST HADITH — DEVILS STEAL A HEARING, AND THE BURNING FLAME

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4800

حَدَّثَنَا الْحُمَيْدِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرٌو، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ عِكْرِمَةَ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ، يَقُولُ إِنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ الأَمْرَ فِي السَّمَاءِ ضَرَبَتِ الْمَلاَئِكَةُ بِأَجْنِحَتِهَا خُضْعَانًا لِقَوْلِهِ كَأَنَّهُ سِلْسِلَةٌ عَلَى صَفْوَانٍ فَإِذَا فُزِّعَ عَنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ قَالُوا مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ، قَالُوا لِلَّذِي قَالَ الْحَقَّ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ فَيَسْمَعُهَا مُسْتَرِقُ السَّمْعِ، وَمُسْتَرِقُ السَّمْعِ هَكَذَا بَعْضُهُ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ ـ وَوَصَفَ سُفْيَانُ بِكَفِّهِ فَحَرَفَهَا وَبَدَّدَ بَيْنَ أَصَابِعِهِ ـ فَيَسْمَعُ الْكَلِمَةَ، فَيُلْقِيهَا إِلَى مَنْ تَحْتَهُ ثُمَّ يُلْقِيهَا الآخَرُ إِلَى مَنْ تَحْتَهُ، حَتَّى يُلْقُوهَا عَلَى لِسَانِ السَّاحِرِ أَوِ الْكَاهِنِ، فَرُبَّمَا أَدْرَكَ الشِّهَابُ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُلْقِيَهَا، وَرُبَّمَا أَلْقَاهَا قَبْلَ أَنْ يُدْرِكَهُ، فَيَكْذِبُ مَعَهَا مِائَةَ كَذْبَةٍ، فَيُقَالُ أَلَيْسَ قَدْ قَالَ لَنَا يَوْمَ كَذَا وَكَذَا كَذَا وَكَذَا فَيُصَدَّقُ بِتِلْكَ الْكَلِمَةِ الَّتِي سَمِعَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه said: The Prophet of Allah ﷺ said: ***"When Allah decrees a matter in the heaven, the angels beat their wings in submission to His word, like the sound of a chain on smooth rock. When the terror is removed from their hearts, they ask: 'What has your Lord said?' They answer: 'The truth, and He is the Most High, the Grand' (34:23).*** Then those who steal a hearing (the devils) hear it — and those who steal a hearing are like this, one above another." (Sufyan illustrated this with his palm, tilting it and spreading his fingers apart.)

"So (a devil) hears a word and passes it to the one below him, then the other passes it to the one below him, until it reaches the tongue of the sorcerer or soothsayer. ***Sometimes the burning flame (shihab) overtakes him before he can pass it on, and sometimes he passes it on before the flame overtakes him.*** Then (the soothsayer) adds a hundred lies to it. Then it is said: 'Did he not tell us that on such-and-such a day such-and-such would happen?' So he is believed because of that one word that was heard from the heaven."

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from al-Humaidi, from Sufyan bin 'Uyainah, from 'Amr bin Dinar, from 'Ikrimah, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Surah Saba', Chapter: "Until, when terror is removed from their hearts" (34:23), Hadith No. 4800.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4800

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LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: This Hadith explains the meaning of ***"steals a hearing"*** and ***"burning flame"*** in 15:18 and 37:10. The protection of the sky against devils is ***a matter of the unseen*** that we believe in on the basis of revelation.

Second: The stolen truth is only ***one word***, but it is mixed with ***a hundred lies***. This is how deceivers work to this day: a scrap of truth is used as bait to sell many falsehoods. A Muslim does not believe a fortune-teller even if his "prediction" is sometimes correct.

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SECOND HADITH — METEORS ARE NOT FOR ANYONE'S DEATH

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2229

حَدَّثَنَا حَسَنُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ الْحُلْوَانِيُّ، وَعَبْدُ بْنُ حُمَيْدٍ، قَالَ حَسَنٌ حَدَّثَنَا يَعْقُوبُ، وَقَالَ، عَبْدٌ حَدَّثَنِي يَعْقُوبُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ بْنِ سَعْدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي، عَنْ صَالِحٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، حَدَّثَنِي عَلِيُّ بْنُ حُسَيْنٍ، أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي رَجُلٌ، مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم مِنَ الأَنْصَارِ أَنَّهُمْ بَيْنَمَا هُمْ جُلُوسٌ لَيْلَةً مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم رُمِيَ بِنَجْمٍ فَاسْتَنَارَ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «مَاذَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ إِذَا رُمِيَ بِمِثْلِ هَذَا». قَالُوا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ كُنَّا نَقُولُ وُلِدَ اللَّيْلَةَ رَجُلٌ عَظِيمٌ وَمَاتَ رَجُلٌ عَظِيمٌ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «فَإِنَّهَا لاَ يُرْمَى بِهَا لِمَوْتِ أَحَدٍ وَلاَ لِحَيَاتِهِ وَلَكِنْ رَبُّنَا تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى اسْمُهُ إِذَا قَضَى أَمْرًا سَبَّحَ حَمَلَةُ الْعَرْشِ ثُمَّ سَبَّحَ أَهْلُ السَّمَاءِ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ التَّسْبِيحُ أَهْلَ هَذِهِ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ قَالَ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَ حَمَلَةَ الْعَرْشِ لِحَمَلَةِ الْعَرْشِ مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ فَيُخْبِرُونَهُمْ مَاذَا قَالَ - قَالَ - فَيَسْتَخْبِرُ بَعْضُ أَهْلِ السَّمَوَاتِ بَعْضًا حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ الْخَبَرُ هَذِهِ السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا فَتَخْطَفُ الْجِنُّ السَّمْعَ فَيَقْذِفُونَ إِلَى أَوْلِيَائِهِمْ وَيَرْمُونَ بِهِ فَمَا جَاءُوا بِهِ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ فَهُوَ حَقٌّ وَلَكِنَّهُمْ يَقْرِفُونَ فِيهِ وَيَزِيدُونَ».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah bin 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: A man from among the Ansar who was a Companion of the Prophet ﷺ told me that while they were sitting one night with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, ***a star (meteor) was shot and lit up brightly***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ asked them: "What did you used to say in the days of ignorance when something like this was shot?" They said: "Allah and His Messenger know best. We used to say: tonight a great man has been born and a great man has died."

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"It is not shot for the death of anyone or for his life.*** But our Lord, Blessed and Exalted be His Name, when He decrees a matter, the bearers of the Throne glorify Him, then the inhabitants of the heaven next to them glorify Him, until the glorification reaches the inhabitants of this nearest heaven. Then those next to the bearers of the Throne ask the bearers of the Throne: 'What has your Lord said?' And they inform them of what He said. Then the inhabitants of the heavens ask one another until the news reaches this nearest heaven. ***Then the jinn snatch what they hear and cast it to their allies, and they are pelted with it (the meteors).*** Whatever they convey as it is, is true, but they mix it (with lies) and add to it."

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CHAIN Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Hasan bin 'Ali al-Hulwani and 'Abd bin Humaid, from Ya'qub bin Ibrahim bin Sa'd, from his father, Ibrahim bin Sa'd, from Salih bin Kaisan, from Ibn Shihab al-Zuhri, from 'Ali bin Husain (Zain al-'Abidin), from 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Greetings, Chapter: The Prohibition of Soothsaying and Going to Soothsayers, Hadith No. 2229.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2229a

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ ***corrected the superstition*** of the people of jahiliyyah who linked meteors to the birth or death of great men. Phenomena in the sky are not omens of human fate.

Second: The Companions ***saw*** the bright meteor with their own eyes, and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ linked it to the guarding of the sky. This shows that Islam does not deny what the eye sees, but explains the ***unseen meaning*** behind it — something no telescope can reach.

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THIRD HADITH — THE SKY GUARDED WHEN AL-QUR'AN WAS REVEALED

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4921

حَدَّثَنَا مُوسَى بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَوَانَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي بِشْرٍ، عَنْ سَعِيدِ بْنِ جُبَيْرٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ انْطَلَقَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم فِي طَائِفَةٍ مِنْ أَصْحَابِهِ عَامِدِينَ إِلَى سُوقِ عُكَاظٍ، وَقَدْ حِيلَ بَيْنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَبَيْنَ خَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ، وَأُرْسِلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الشُّهُبُ فَرَجَعَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ فَقَالُوا مَا لَكُمْ فَقَالُوا حِيلَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ خَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ وَأُرْسِلَتْ عَلَيْنَا الشُّهُبُ. قَالَ مَا حَالَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَ خَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ إِلاَّ مَا حَدَثَ، فَاضْرِبُوا مَشَارِقَ الأَرْضِ وَمَغَارِبَهَا فَانْظُرُوا مَا هَذَا الأَمْرُ الَّذِي حَدَثَ. فَانْطَلَقُوا فَضَرَبُوا مَشَارِقَ الأَرْضِ وَمَغَارِبَهَا يَنْظُرُونَ مَا هَذَا الأَمْرُ الَّذِي حَالَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ خَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ. قَالَ فَانْطَلَقَ الَّذِينَ تَوَجَّهُوا نَحْوَ تِهَامَةَ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم بِنَخْلَةَ، وَهْوَ عَامِدٌ إِلَى سُوقِ عُكَاظٍ، وَهْوَ يُصَلِّي بِأَصْحَابِهِ صَلاَةَ الْفَجْرِ، فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا الْقُرْآنَ تَسَمَّعُوا لَهُ فَقَالُوا هَذَا الَّذِي حَالَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَ خَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ. فَهُنَالِكَ رَجَعُوا إِلَى قَوْمِهِمْ فَقَالُوا يَا قَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا قُرْآنًا عَجَبًا يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ فَآمَنَّا بِهِ، وَلَنْ نُشْرِكَ بِرَبِّنَا أَحَدًا. وَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَى نَبِيِّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم {قُلْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِنَ الْجِنِّ} وَإِنَّمَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِ قَوْلُ الْجِنِّ.

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ set out with a group of his Companions heading for the market of 'Ukaz. ***At that time the devils had been barred from the news of the heaven, and burning flames had been sent against them.*** So the devils returned (to their people). Their people asked: "What is the matter with you?" They said: "We have been barred from the news of the heaven, and burning flames have been sent against us." They said: "Nothing has barred you from the news of the heaven except something that has happened. So travel through the east and the west of the earth and see what this thing is that has happened."

So they set out, travelling through the east and the west of the earth. Those who headed towards Tihamah came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ at Nakhlah, while he was on his way to the market of 'Ukaz and was leading his Companions in the Fajr prayer. ***When they heard Al-Qur'an, they listened to it attentively and said: "This is what has barred you from the news of the heaven."*** Then they returned to their people and said: "O our people, we have heard an amazing Qur'an which guides to the right course, and we have believed in it, and we will never associate anyone with our Lord." Then Allah revealed to His Prophet ﷺ: ***"Say, 'It has***

been revealed to me that a group of the jinn listened…'" (72:1). What was revealed to him was the speech of the jinn.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Musa bin Isma'il, from Abu 'Awanah, from Abu Bishr, from Sa'id bin Jubair, from Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Surah al-Jinn, Hadith No. 4921.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4921

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: This Hadith confirms the admission of the jinn in 72:8–9: the guarding of the sky was ***intensified when Al-Qur'an was revealed***. The roof of the sky protects ***revelation*** from being corrupted.

Second: The jinn who heard Al-Qur'an ***believed*** at once. They acknowledged "an amazing Qur'an" merely by hearing it recited. What about us, who read it every day?

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FOURTH HADITH — ANGELS DESCEND INTO THE CLOUDS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3210

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِي مَرْيَمَ، أَخْبَرَنَا اللَّيْثُ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ أَبِي جَعْفَرٍ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ عُرْوَةَ بْنِ الزُّبَيْرِ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ ـ رضى الله عنها ـ زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «إِنَّ الْمَلاَئِكَةَ تَنْزِلُ فِي الْعَنَانِ ـ وَهْوَ السَّحَابُ ـ فَتَذْكُرُ الأَمْرَ قُضِيَ فِي السَّمَاءِ، فَتَسْتَرِقُ الشَّيَاطِينُ السَّمْعَ، فَتَسْمَعُهُ فَتُوحِيهِ إِلَى الْكُهَّانِ، فَيَكْذِبُونَ مَعَهَا مِائَةَ كَذْبَةٍ مِنْ عِنْدِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ».

TRANSLATION:

'Aishah رضى الله عنها, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: ***"The angels descend into al-'anān — that is, the clouds — and mention the matter that has been decreed in the heaven. Then the devils steal a hearing, hear it and whisper it to the soothsayers, and the soothsayers add a hundred lies of their own to it."***

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad, from Ibn Abi Maryam, from al-Laith bin Sa'd, from Ibn Abi Ja'far, from Muhammad bin 'Abd al-Rahman (Abu al-Aswad), from 'Urwah bin al-Zubair, from 'Aishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Beginning of Creation, Chapter: The Mention of the Angels, Hadith No. 3210.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3210

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: This Hadith names ***the clouds*** (*al-'anān*) as the place where the angels descend. The space beneath the roof of the sky — where the clouds drift — is also full of unseen affairs that we do not see.

Second: Like the First Hadith, it affirms that the predictions of soothsayers are ***mixed with lies***. Visiting fortune-tellers and shamans who claim to know the unseen is ***forbidden*** in Islam.

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FIFTH HADITH — THE ECLIPSE: TWO SIGNS OF ALLAH

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1044

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَسْلَمَةَ، عَنْ مَالِكٍ، عَنْ هِشَامِ بْنِ عُرْوَةَ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّهَا قَالَتْ خَسَفَتِ الشَّمْسُ فِي عَهْدِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم فَصَلَّى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم بِالنَّاسِ، فَقَامَ فَأَطَالَ الْقِيَامَ، ثُمَّ رَكَعَ فَأَطَالَ الرُّكُوعَ، ثُمَّ قَامَ فَأَطَالَ الْقِيَامَ وَهْوَ دُونَ الْقِيَامِ الأَوَّلِ، ثُمَّ رَكَعَ فَأَطَالَ الرُّكُوعَ، وَهْوَ دُونَ الرُّكُوعِ الأَوَّلِ، ثُمَّ سَجَدَ فَأَطَالَ السُّجُودَ، ثُمَّ فَعَلَ فِي الرَّكْعَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ مِثْلَ مَا فَعَلَ فِي الأُولَى، ثُمَّ انْصَرَفَ وَقَدِ انْجَلَتِ الشَّمْسُ، فَخَطَبَ النَّاسَ، فَحَمِدَ اللَّهَ، وَأَثْنَى عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ قَالَ «إِنَّ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ آيَتَانِ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ، لاَ يَخْسِفَانِ لِمَوْتِ أَحَدٍ وَلاَ لِحَيَاتِهِ، فَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمْ ذَلِكَ فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ وَكَبِّرُوا، وَصَلُّوا وَتَصَدَّقُوا». ثُمَّ قَالَ «يَا أُمَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ، وَاللَّهِ مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ أَغْيَرُ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَنْ يَزْنِيَ عَبْدُهُ أَوْ تَزْنِيَ أَمَتُهُ، يَا أُمَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ، وَاللَّهِ لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ مَا أَعْلَمُ لَضَحِكْتُمْ قَلِيلاً وَلَبَكَيْتُمْ كَثِيرًا».

TRANSLATION:

'Aishah رضى الله عنها said: There was a solar eclipse in the time of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, so the Messenger of Allah ﷺ prayed with the people. He stood and prolonged the standing, then bowed and prolonged the bowing, then stood and prolonged the standing — but less than the first standing — then bowed and prolonged the bowing — but less than the first bowing — then prostrated and prolonged the prostration. Then he did in the second rak'ah as he had done in the first. Then he finished, and the sun had become clear.

Then he addressed the people, praised Allah and glorified Him, and said: ***"The sun and the moon are two of the signs of Allah. They do not eclipse for the death of anyone or for his life. So when you see that, supplicate to Allah, say takbir, pray and give charity."*** Then he said: "O Ummah of Muhammad, by Allah, there is no one more jealous than Allah when His male servant or female servant commits adultery. O Ummah of Muhammad, by Allah, if you knew what I know, you would laugh little and weep much."

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah bin Maslamah, from Malik bin Anas, from Hisham bin 'Urwah, from his father, 'Urwah bin al-Zubair, from 'Aishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Eclipses, Chapter: Giving Charity During an Eclipse, Hadith No. 1044.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1044

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: Another narration mentions that this eclipse occurred on the day the Prophet's ﷺ son, Ibrahim, died, and people thought it happened because of his death (Bukhari 1043). The Messenger of Allah ﷺ ***immediately rejected*** this belief — even though it might have "honoured" his family. This is the honesty that is the foundation of I'jaz Ilmi: ***do not link natural phenomena to what is untrue***, even when it seems advantageous.

Second: Extraordinary events in the sky are an opportunity to ***return to Allah***: to supplicate, say takbir, pray and give charity. Science explains that a solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and the earth; faith teaches us how to ***respond*** to it.

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SIXTH HADITH — A FACE THAT CHANGED AT THE SIGHT OF HEAVY CLOUDS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3206

حَدَّثَنَا مَكِّيُّ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ جُرَيْجٍ، عَنْ عَطَاءٍ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ ـ رضى الله عنها ـ قَالَتْ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم إِذَا رَأَى مُخِيلَةً فِي السَّمَاءِ أَقْبَلَ وَأَدْبَرَ وَدَخَلَ وَخَرَجَ وَتَغَيَّرَ وَجْهُهُ، فَإِذَا أَمْطَرَتِ السَّمَاءُ سُرِّيَ عَنْهُ، فَعَرَّفَتْهُ عَائِشَةُ ذَلِكَ، فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم «مَا أَدْرِي لَعَلَّهُ كَمَا قَالَ قَوْمٌ {فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُسْتَقْبِلَ أَوْدِيَتِهِمْ}». الآيَةَ.

TRANSLATION:

'Aishah رضى الله عنها said: ***When the Prophet ﷺ saw heavy clouds in the sky, he would come and go, go in and out, and the colour of his face would change. When the sky rained, his worry would leave him.*** 'Aishah mentioned this to him, and the Prophet ﷺ said: "I do not know; perhaps it is like what a people said: ***'And when they saw it as a cloud approaching their valleys…'*** (46:24)."

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Makki bin Ibrahim, from Ibn Juraij, from 'Ata' bin Abi Rabah, from 'Aishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Beginning of Creation, Chapter: Allah's Statement: "And it is He who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy", Hadith No. 3206.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3206

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

First: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ never looked at the sky heedlessly. Heavy clouds reminded him of ***the people of 'Ad***, who thought the cloud brought rain while it brought punishment (46:24). This is the opposite of the ***"turning away"*** rebuked in 21:32.

Second: The roof of the sky that brings mercy can also bring trials — storms, floods and lightning. A believer ***hopes and fears*** at the same time, never feeling secure from Allah's decree.

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SEVENTH HADITH — "SAYYIBAN NĀFI'Ā"

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1032

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ ـ هُوَ ابْنُ مُقَاتِلٍ أَبُو الْحَسَنِ الْمَرْوَزِيُّ ـ قَالَ أَخْبَرَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنَا عُبَيْدُ اللَّهِ، عَنْ نَافِعٍ، عَنِ الْقَاسِمِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم كَانَ إِذَا رَأَى الْمَطَرَ قَالَ «صَيِّبًا نَافِعًا». تَابَعَهُ الْقَاسِمُ بْنُ يَحْيَى عَنْ عُبَيْدِ اللَّهِ. وَرَوَاهُ الأَوْزَاعِيُّ وَعُقَيْلٌ عَنْ نَافِعٍ.

TRANSLATION:

'Aishah رضى الله عنها narrated that ***whenever the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saw rain, he would say:***

"Sayyiban nāfi'ā" — (O Allah, make it) an abundant and beneficial rain.

(Al-Bukhari said:) This narration is supported by al-Qasim bin Yahya from 'Ubaidullah, and it was also narrated by al-Awza'i and 'Uqail from Nafi'.

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad bin Muqatil, from 'Abdullah bin al-Mubarak, from 'Ubaidullah bin 'Umar, from Nafi', from al-Qasim bin Muhammad, from 'Aishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prayer for Rain, Chapter: What Should Be Said When It Rains, Hadith No. 1032.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1032

EIGHTH HADITH — "HAWĀLAINĀ WA LĀ 'ALAINĀ"

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1013

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنَا أَبُو ضَمْرَةَ، أَنَسُ بْنُ عِيَاضٍ قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا شَرِيكُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ أَبِي نَمِرٍ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ، يَذْكُرُ أَنَّ رَجُلاً، دَخَلَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ مِنْ بَابٍ كَانَ وِجَاهَ الْمِنْبَرِ، وَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَائِمٌ يَخْطُبُ فَاسْتَقْبَلَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَائِمًا فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، هَلَكَتِ الْمَوَاشِي وَانْقَطَعَتِ السُّبُلُ، فَادْعُ اللَّهَ يُغِيثُنَا. قَالَ فَرَفَعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَدَيْهِ فَقَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ اسْقِنَا، اللَّهُمَّ اسْقِنَا، اللَّهُمَّ اسْقِنَا». قَالَ أَنَسٌ وَلاَ وَاللَّهِ مَا نَرَى فِي السَّمَاءِ مِنْ سَحَابٍ وَلاَ قَزَعَةً وَلاَ شَيْئًا، وَمَا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ سَلْعٍ مِنْ بَيْتٍ وَلاَ دَارٍ، قَالَ فَطَلَعَتْ مِنْ وَرَائِهِ سَحَابَةٌ مِثْلُ التُّرْسِ، فَلَمَّا تَوَسَّطَتِ السَّمَاءَ انْتَشَرَتْ ثُمَّ أَمْطَرَتْ. قَالَ وَاللَّهِ مَا رَأَيْنَا الشَّمْسَ سِتًّا، ثُمَّ دَخَلَ رَجُلٌ مِنْ ذَلِكَ الْبَابِ

فِي الْجُمُعَةِ الْمُقْبِلَةِ، وَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَائِمٌ يَخْطُبُ، فَاسْتَقْبَلَهُ قَائِمًا فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، هَلَكَتِ الأَمْوَالُ وَانْقَطَعَتِ السُّبُلُ، فَادْعُ اللَّهَ يُمْسِكْهَا، قَالَ فَرَفَعَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَدَيْهِ ثُمَّ قَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ حَوَالَيْنَا وَلاَ عَلَيْنَا، اللَّهُمَّ عَلَى الآكَامِ وَالْجِبَالِ وَالآجَامِ وَالظِّرَابِ وَالأَوْدِيَةِ وَمَنَابِتِ الشَّجَرِ». قَالَ فَانْقَطَعَتْ وَخَرَجْنَا نَمْشِي فِي الشَّمْسِ. قَالَ شَرِيكٌ فَسَأَلْتُ أَنَسًا أَهُوَ الرَّجُلُ الأَوَّلُ قَالَ لاَ أَدْرِي.

TRANSLATION:

Sharik bin 'Abdullah bin Abi Namir heard Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه relate that a man entered the mosque on a Friday through the door facing the pulpit, while the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was standing delivering the sermon. The man faced the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, standing, and said: "O Messenger of Allah, the livestock have perished and the roads are cut off, so pray to Allah to send us rain." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ raised both his hands and said: ***"Allāhummasqinā, Allāhummasqinā, Allāhummasqinā"*** (O Allah, send us rain).

Anas said: "By Allah, we could not see any cloud in the sky, not even a small patch of cloud, nor anything at all, and there was no house or building between us and (the hill of) Sal'." He said: "Then from behind it there appeared a cloud like a shield. When it reached the middle of the sky, it spread out and then it rained." He said: "By Allah, we did not see the sun for six days."

Then a man entered through the same door on the following Friday while the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was standing delivering the sermon, faced him standing and said: "O Messenger of Allah, our property has been destroyed and the roads are cut off, so pray to Allah to withhold it." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ raised both his hands and said: ***"Allāhumma hawālainā wa lā 'alainā, Allāhumma 'alal-ākāmi wal-jibāli wal-ājāmi waz-zirābi wal-audiyati wa manābitish-shajar"*** (O Allah, (let the rain fall) around us and not upon us. O Allah, on the hillocks, the mountains, the forests, the high ground, the valleys and the places where trees grow). So the rain stopped, and we went out walking in the sunshine. Sharik said: "I asked Anas: Was he the same man as the first?" He said: "I do not know."

CHAIN Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad, from Abu Damrah Anas bin 'Iyad, from Sharik bin 'Abdullah bin Abi Namir, from Anas bin Malik رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prayer for Rain, Chapter: The Prayer for Rain in the Main Mosque, Hadith No. 1013.

GRADE: SAHIH — narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1013

LESSONS FROM THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH HADITH

First: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ ***asked for rain*** in times of drought and ***asked for it to be diverted*** when it became excessive. Mercy from the sky must be ***balanced*** — too little brings drought, too much

brings floods. The supplication "***hawālainā wa lā 'alainā***" is especially fitting in monsoon regions such as Malaysia during the rainy season.

Second: His supplication ***did not ask for the rain to stop entirely***, but for it to be diverted to the hills, forests and valleys — where it is beneficial. This teaches us that rain remains a mercy; what is asked for is ***the right place*** for it.

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WHAT MODERN SCIENCE SAYS

This chapter presents scientific findings about ***the Earth's protective layers*** — the atmosphere, the ozone layer and the magnetic field — and how human beings once damaged part of them and then repaired it. Each finding is supported by peer-reviewed research or official scientific reports, with links to the original sources.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION — A LAYERED ROOF

Imagine a house with ***several layers of roofing***: the first layer keeps out the rain, the second filters the hot light, the third stops small stones falling from above, and the outermost deflects strong winds. This is a simple picture of the Earth's "roof" (Figure 1):

• ***Troposphere*** (0–12 km) — where clouds, rain and weather occur. Almost all of the Earth's water vapour is here.

• ***Stratosphere*** (12–50 km) — contains the ***ozone layer***, which absorbs most of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

• ***Mesosphere*** (50–85 km) — where most ***meteors burn up*** through friction with the air.

• ***Thermosphere*** and ***exosphere*** (85 km and above) — home of the ***aurora*** and the International Space Station.

• ***Magnetosphere*** — far beyond the atmosphere, the Earth's magnetic field ***deflects the solar wind***, the stream of charged particles from the Sun.

These layers are invisible to the naked eye, yet without any one of them life on Earth would face great danger. ***"And We made the sky a protected ceiling"*** (21:32).

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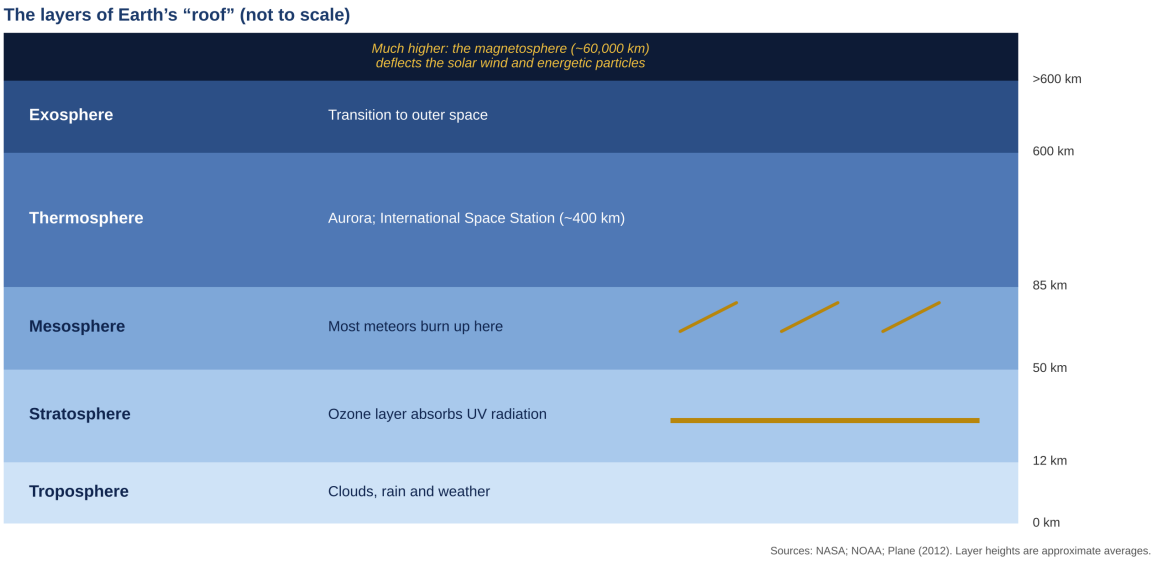


Figure 1: The layers of the Earth's atmosphere and their protective roles (not to scale). The magnetosphere lies far beyond the atmosphere. Sources: NASA, NOAA and Plane (2012).

A BLANKET THAT KEEPS US WARM

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE NATURAL GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The atmosphere contains gases such as ***water vapour*** and ***carbon dioxide*** that trap part of the heat radiated by the Earth. Without this natural greenhouse effect, the Earth's average surface temperature is estimated at around ***−18°C*** — too cold for most life. With the atmosphere, the Earth's average temperature is about ***15°C***.

Compare this with ***the Moon***, which has almost no atmosphere: temperatures at its equator can reach about ***127°C by day*** and fall to about ***−173°C at night*** (Figure 2). The roof of the atmosphere makes the Earth ***moderate*** — neither too hot nor too cold.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

IPCC (2021). Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis — Chapter 7: The Earth's Energy Budget, Climate Feedbacks and Climate Sensitivity. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/chapter/chapter-7/

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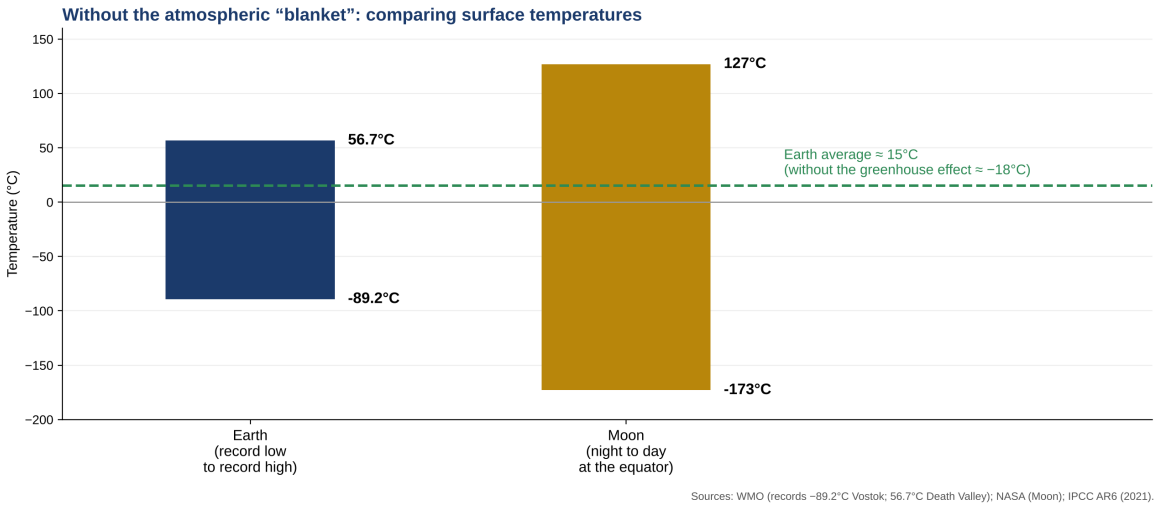


Figure 2: The range of surface temperatures on Earth (record low to record high) compared with the Moon, which has almost no atmosphere. Sources: WMO, NASA and IPCC AR6 (2021).

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: WHEN THE BLANKET BECOMES TOO THICK

This balance can be disturbed. The IPCC report (2021) states that human activity — mainly the burning of fossil fuels — has ***warmed the climate***. Global surface temperature in 2011–2020 was about ***1.1°C higher*** than in 1850–1900.

This reminds us of Allah's words: ***"And the heaven He raised and imposed the balance, that you not transgress within the balance"*** (55:7–8). The roof that Allah protects can still be ***damaged by human hands*** (30:41).

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

IPCC (2021). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis.
https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/

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THE OZONE LAYER: A VERY THIN FILTER

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: A THREAT TO THE OZONE LAYER (1974)

The ozone layer absorbs most ***UV-B*** and almost all ***UV-C*** radiation, which can damage DNA and cause skin cancer and cataracts. Yet this layer is ***very thin*** — if compressed to the pressure at the Earth's surface, it would be only about ***3 millimetres*** thick.

In 1974, ***Mario Molina*** and ***F. Sherwood Rowland*** warned that ***CFCs*** (chlorofluorocarbons) — chemicals used in aerosol sprays, refrigerators and air conditioners — could rise into the stratosphere and ***destroy ozone***. They received the ***1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry*** together with Paul Crutzen.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Molina, M.J. & Rowland, F.S. (1974). Stratospheric sink for chlorofluoromethanes: chlorine atom-catalysed destruction of ozone. Nature, 249(5460), 810–812. https://doi.org/10.1038/249810a0

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE DISCOVERED (1985)

In 1985, ***Farman, Gardiner and Shanklin*** of the British Antarctic Survey reported that the amount of ozone above Antarctica in spring had ***fallen sharply*** since the late 1970s. This phenomenon came to be known as ***"the ozone hole"***.

It is ***a "crack" in the roof made by human beings themselves***. Verse 50:6 speaks of the sky that Allah built ***without rifts***; it was humanity that thinned part of that protective layer.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Farman, J.C., Gardiner, B.G. & Shanklin, J.D. (1985). Large losses of total ozone in Antarctica reveal seasonal ClOx/NOx interaction. Nature, 315(6016), 207–210. https://doi.org/10.1038/315207a0

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SCIENTIFIC FINDING: A ROOF BEGINNING TO HEAL: THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

In 1987, the nations of the world signed the ***Montreal Protocol*** to phase out the use of CFCs. Malaysia also joined it. It is regarded as one of ***the most successful environmental agreements*** in history.

Solomon and colleagues (2016) reported ***early signs of healing*** in the Antarctic ozone hole. The WMO/UNEP scientific assessment (2022) expects ozone over Antarctica to return to 1980 levels around ***2066***, and earlier elsewhere. The people who damaged it are the people who repaired it — once they ***returned to balance***.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Solomon, S. et al. (2016). Emergence of healing in the Antarctic ozone layer. Science, 353(6296), 269–274. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aae0061

WMO/UNEP (2022). Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2022. https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2022/

THE MAGNETIC SHIELD AND THE SOLAR WIND

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: THE VAN ALLEN BELTS (1958)

The first United States satellite, ***Explorer 1*** (1958), carried a radiation detector built by the team of ***James Van Allen***. They discovered ***two belts of radiation*** encircling the Earth — charged particles ***trapped by the Earth's magnetic field***.

This discovery showed that the Earth's magnetic field acts as ***a trap and a shield***, preventing most energetic particles from the solar wind and cosmic rays from reaching the Earth's surface.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

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SCIENTIFIC FINDING: SOLAR STORMS: THE CARRINGTON EVENT (1859) AND QUEBEC (1989)

On 1 September 1859, the astronomer ***Richard Carrington*** observed a very bright ***solar flare***. About a day later, a powerful magnetic storm struck the Earth; aurorae were seen as far as the tropics and telegraph systems were disrupted.

On ***13 March 1989***, a geomagnetic storm knocked out the ***Hydro-Québec*** power grid in Canada. About ***6 million people*** lost electricity for about ***9 hours*** (Boteler, 2019). These events show how powerful the energy from the Sun is — and how great a blessing is the magnetic shield that holds back most of it.

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Carrington, R.C. (1859). Description of a singular appearance seen in the Sun on September 1, 1859. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 20(1), 13–15. https://doi.org/10.1093/mnras/20.1.13

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SCIENTIFIC FINDING: MARS: A PLANET THAT LOST ITS ROOF

NASA's ***MAVEN*** mission studies how ***Mars lost its atmosphere***. Jakosky and colleagues (2018) estimated that much of the Martian atmosphere has been ***lost to space*** over its history, partly because of ***the solar wind*** after the planet lost its global magnetic field.

Today, the atmosphere of Mars is very thin and its surface is dry and cold. Mars is an example of ***a house without a roof*** — and a reminder of the blessing of the protected roof over the Earth.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Jakosky, B.M. et al. (2018). Loss of the Martian atmosphere to space: present-day loss rates determined from MAVEN observations and integrated loss through time. Icarus, 315, 146–157. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2018.05.030

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METEORS: STONES THAT BURN UP ON THE ROOF OF THE SKY

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: TENS OF TONNES OF COSMIC DUST EVERY DAY

Every day, the Earth is showered with ***dust and small stones from space*** (meteoroids). Plane (2012) summarised that estimates of the amount vary between ***5 and 270 tonnes a day***, depending on the method of measurement.

Meteoroids enter the atmosphere at speeds of ***11 to 72 kilometres per second***. Friction with the air heats them until they ***burn and glow*** — the "shooting stars" we see at night. Most of them are destroyed at altitudes of around ***80–120 km***, long before they reach the ground.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Plane, J.M.C. (2012). Cosmic dust in the earth's atmosphere. Chemical Society Reviews, 41(19), 6507–6518. https://doi.org/10.1039/c2cs35132c

SCIENTIFIC FINDING: CHELYABINSK 2013: WHEN A LARGE STONE ARRIVES

On ***15 February 2013***, an asteroid about ***19 metres*** across entered the atmosphere above Chelyabinsk, Russia, and ***exploded in the air*** at an altitude of about 30 km. Its energy was estimated at about ***500 kilotons of TNT***. The shock wave shattered windows across the region and injured about ***1,600 people***, mostly from flying glass (Popova et al., 2013).

Most of the rock was ***destroyed in the air*** before reaching the ground. Imagine if a rock that size fell without the "roof" of the atmosphere — as happens on the Moon, whose surface is covered in craters.

RESEARCH REFERENCE:

Popova, O.P. et al. (2013). Chelyabinsk airburst, damage assessment, meteorite recovery, and characterization. Science, 342(6162), 1069–1073. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1242642

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THE STORY OF A SPECK OF DUST FROM SPACE

A speck of dust from the tail of a comet drifted through space for thousands of years. One night, it was pulled in by the Earth's gravity and plunged into the atmosphere at ***40 kilometres per second*** — more than a hundred times the speed of a bullet.

At an altitude of about 100 km, the thin air began to rub against it. In the blink of an eye it grew red-hot, shone brightly, and then ***vanished into fine dust***. Below, a child in a village pointed at the sky: "Father, a shooting star!"

The child did not know that he had just been protected by an invisible roof. The father, if he knew Al-Qur'an, could explain two things: ***science*** explains how the dust burned up in the atmosphere; ***revelation*** teaches that the sky is guarded — including against devils who steal a hearing — and that a "shooting star" is ***not an omen of anyone's fate*** (Muslim 2229). These two understandings do not contradict each other; each answers a different question.

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BETWEEN HARMONY AND CAUTION

The table below summarises our assessment of each claim commonly heard about the roof of the sky, Al-Qur'an and science.

POPULAR CLAIMS AND THEIR ASSESSMENT

COMMONLY HEARD CLAIM	ASSESSMENT
"The 'protected ceiling' (21:32) is the atmosphere and the magnetic field."	***A beautiful harmony, not a definitive interpretation.*** Classical scholars interpreted it as the sky that is lofty and protected from falling and from devils. The protection of the atmosphere can be ***an additional reflection***, without denying the original meaning.
"The burning flame (shihab) in Al-Qur'an is simply an ordinary meteor."	***Caution needed.*** The verses and Hadith state that shihab is used to ***pelt devils*** — a matter of the unseen. Hadith Muslim 2229 links the meteor that was seen with this protection. We believe in its unseen meaning, without denying the physical explanation of meteors burning up.
"Science has proven the existence of devils through meteors."	***Not accurate.*** Science does not study the unseen and cannot "prove" or "disprove" devils. Belief in the unseen is based on revelation.
"The sky that 'returns' (86:11) means the atmosphere reflects radio waves and heat."	***A weak reflection.*** Ibn 'Abbas and Qatadah interpreted it as ***rain*** returning every year. Modern meanings may be mentioned as reflections, but must not be presented as "proof".
"The ozone hole contradicts the verse 'no rifts' (50:6)."	***No contradiction.*** Verse 50:6 refers to the structure of the sky created by Allah. Ozone depletion is ***damage caused by human action*** (30:41), and it is healing now that humans have stopped causing it.
"Al-Qur'an mentions the ozone layer directly."	***No.*** No verse mentions ozone. Claiming so is a forced interpretation.
"The seven heavens are the seven layers of the atmosphere."	***Not accurate.*** The atmosphere is usually divided into five main layers; the seven heavens in the Hadith of the Isra' and Mi'raj have gates and inhabitants — a matter of the unseen (see the eBook "The Sky Raised Without Pillars").
"An eclipse or meteor is an omen of great events or of death."	***Rejected by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself*** (Bukhari 1044; Muslim 2229).

REFLECTION — WHY THIS CAUTION MATTERS

The best example of caution comes from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself. When an eclipse occurred on the day his son died, people linked it to that death — an "interpretation" that could have honoured him.

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Yet he ***firmly rejected it***. If the Messenger of Allah ﷺ rejected a false link between a phenomenon in the sky and a human event, we have even more reason to be careful not to ***force a link*** between the verses of Al-Qur'an and scientific theories.

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CARING FOR OUR ROOF: PRACTICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Allah protects the roof of the sky, but human beings are entrusted as ***khalifah*** (stewards) not to damage it. The following table combines the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ with modern responsibilities towards the Earth's "roof".

PRACTICE	EVIDENCE AND REFLECTION
Supplicate when it rains: "Sayyiban nāfi'ā"	The Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ (Bukhari 1032).
Supplicate when rain is excessive: "Hawālainā wa lā 'alainā"	The Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ (Bukhari 1013) — fitting during monsoon seasons and floods.
Pray, supplicate, say takbir and give charity during an eclipse	The Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ (Bukhari 1044).
Do not believe fortune-tellers, shamans or astrology	Their predictions are mixed with lies (Bukhari 4800; 3210; Muslim 2229).
Maintain air conditioners and refrigerators properly	Certain refrigerants can damage ozone or warm the climate; use certified technicians.
Reduce wasted energy and open burning	Preserving the balance of the atmospheric "blanket" (55:7–8; IPCC, 2021).
Protect yourself from intense sunlight	Use an umbrella, hat or skin protection in strong heat; never look directly at the sun.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

First: Caring for the environment is part of ***the trust of stewardship (khalifah)***, not merely a political or economic issue. ***"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned"*** (30:41).

Second: When sharing "facts" about the sky, meteors or eclipses on social media, ***check the source***. Many viral claims have no basis in religion or in science.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: The sky is a roof protected by Allah. It is lofty, strong, without rifts, and protected (21:32; 50:6; 78:12).

Second: The protection of the sky guards revelation. Devils were barred from the news of heaven so that Al-Qur'an would arrive pure (72:8–9; Bukhari 4921).

Third: Reject fortune-telling and superstition. Meteors and eclipses are not omens of human fate (Muslim 2229; Bukhari 1044).

Fourth: Do not turn away from the signs. The air, the blue sky and the rain are signs that happen every second (21:32; 2:164).

Fifth: Mercy from the sky must be balanced. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ asked for rain in drought and asked for it to be diverted when it was excessive (Bukhari 1013).

Sixth: Humans can damage and repair. The ozone hole and its recovery show the effect of human action on the Earth's roof.

Seventh: Be honest in I'jaz Ilmi. Follow the example of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who rejected false links between the sky and human events.

SUMMARY: VERSES, MESSAGES AND SCIENTIFIC REFLECTIONS

VERSE AND ITS MESSAGE	REFLECTION FROM MODERN SCIENCE
21:32 — The sky as a protected ceiling.	The atmosphere, the ozone layer and the magnetosphere protect life on Earth.
52:5 — The roof raised high.	The atmosphere extends hundreds of kilometres; the magnetosphere to about 60,000 km.
15:16–18; 37:6–10; 67:5 — The sky adorned and guarded against devils.	Meteors burn up in the mesosphere (Plane, 2012) — the physical explanation; the meaning of guarding against devils is unseen.
86:11 — The sky that returns (rain).	The water cycle between the sea, the clouds and the rain.
50:6 — The sky without rifts.	The ozone "crack" was made by humans and is healing (Solomon, 2016).
55:7–8 — The balance: do not transgress.	The balance of the greenhouse effect; global warming of 1.1°C (IPCC, 2021).

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

• ***When rain falls:*** Say "Allāhumma sayyiban nāfi'ā".

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• ***During floods or excessive rain:*** Use the supplication "Allāhumma hawālainā wa lā 'alainā".

• ***When you see a shooting star or an eclipse:*** Remember Allah, and teach your children that it is not an omen of fate.

• ***At home:*** Maintain your air conditioner properly and reduce wasted energy.

• ***Every day:*** Spend a minute looking at the sky and give thanks for the roof that never leaks.

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CONCLUSION

Al-Qur'an describes the sky as ***a protected ceiling*** — lofty, strong, without rifts, adorned with stars and guarded against devils. The scholars understood this protection as the preservation of the sky from falling and from those who steal news of the unseen. Modern science, for its part, has discovered that the Earth is wrapped in delicate protective layers: an atmosphere that keeps us warm and burns up meteors, an ozone layer that filters harmful radiation, and a magnetic field that deflects the solar wind.

Yet the same verse also rebukes us: ***"but they, from its signs, are turning away."*** So whenever the rain falls, whenever a shooting star streaks across the sky, and whenever we draw breath beneath the blue sky, remember that we are sheltering under ***a roof kept safe*** by Allah — so give thanks, and do not damage it.

In sha' Allah, the Exploring Al-Qur'an & Science series will continue with the title ***"Layers of Darkness in the Ocean's Depths"*** — on the layered darkness of the deep sea (24:40) — using the same method: Al-Qur'an, Hadith and science, with honesty and caution.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	BRIEF MEANING
Saqf	A roof or ceiling; the sky is called "saqfan mahfūzā" in 21:32.
Shihāb	A burning flame that pursues the devils who steal a hearing (15:18; 37:10).
Kahin	A soothsayer who claims to know the unseen, supposedly with the help of the jinn.
Athar	A statement or action of a Companion or Tabi'i, not a saying of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.
Atmosphere	The layer of gases surrounding the Earth, made up of several layers.
Troposphere	The lowest layer of the atmosphere, where weather occurs.
Stratosphere	The layer of the atmosphere that contains the ozone layer.
Ozone	A molecule of three oxygen atoms (O_3) that absorbs ultraviolet radiation.
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon — a man-made chemical that destroys ozone.
Greenhouse effect	The trapping of heat by atmospheric gases, which warms the Earth's surface.
Magnetosphere	The region around the Earth controlled by the Earth's magnetic field.
Solar wind	A stream of charged particles emitted by the Sun.
Meteoroid / meteor	A small rock from space / the streak of light when it burns up in the atmosphere.
Aurora	Coloured light in the polar sky caused by solar particles interacting with the atmosphere.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

• Why does Al-Qur'an use the word "roof" for the sky? What feelings is this image meant to awaken?

• The Messenger of Allah ﷺ rejected a link between an eclipse and the death of his son. What does this attitude teach those of us interested in I'jaz Ilmi?

• How can we explain a "shooting star" to children from the perspective of science and from the perspective of revelation, without mixing the two?

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• The story of the ozone hole shows that humans can damage and repair the Earth's roof. What is one small step we can take at home?

• Verse 21:32 rebukes those who "turn away" from the signs of the sky. In daily life, when do we turn away the most?

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who said: "Charity does not decrease wealth. Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

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CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship, Chapter: The Encouragement of Forgiveness and Humility, Hadith No. 2588.

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

From Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه, that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: a continuing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه .

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA

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