

MODULE 1

Class Title: Ayat-al-Kursi- Part 1 of 2

Aim of the lesson: To understand the explanation of this verse

Category: Scripture

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with narration and discussion

Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(Ta'oodh) A'oodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem

(Tasmiyah) Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

(Du'a) Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today, *InshaAllah*, we are going to continue discussing *Ayat-al-Kursi*. I hope those of you who didn't know it by heart were able to take out the time to learn it.

Slide 2:

“Neither dozing overtakes Him nor sleep.”

Slides 3 and 4:

Again, sleep is a human weakness. We sleep, just as we eat, drink, and breathe to survive. Everything needs sleep; animals, plants, babies, men, women, all need to sleep; it is necessary for all of us or we will go crazy. People who can't sleep get seriously ill. Have you ever met anybody or anything that doesn't sleep?

Slide 5:

Why is Allah (swt) talking specifically about sleep? Why doesn't He mention that He doesn't eat or that He doesn't breathe?

Slide 6:

We can't do anything productive while sleeping. We become very helpless when we are asleep. We can control and defend ourselves only when we are awake; only when we are awake can we (relatively) control ourselves and a lot of the things around us.

Allah (swt) wants us to know that He is All Alert. Do you remember the reason for memorizing this *ayat*? To protect us. Allah (swt) doesn't sleep; He is keeping an eye on us round the clock. He is protecting us round the clock. There is absolutely no break in the protection that he gives us.

Slides 7 – 9:

When we sleep, we become oblivious to this world. People can go to sleep even in the most

uncomfortable places, like this lady. You can even go off to sleep behind a sofa, like this man, if you're really sleepy.

Slide 10:

The things we do to catch up on sleep! When we are really really sleepy nothing can stop us from sleeping, and when we are asleep, we aren't aware of anything that is happening around us.

Slides 11 – 13:

We also snore when we sleep. Even if you are a cool dude like this guy, you lose all your grace when you are snoring! Most of us look quite silly while sleeping. Have you seen yourselves while sleeping?

Slide 14:

Look at this woman; even while she sleeps she's trying to protect her baby, but so many times accidents happen with babies, and if a mother is fast asleep, she may not even know till she wakes up. So even our mothers, who love us so much, become quite oblivious to what is happening to us when they sleep.

Slide 15:

Allah (swt) however, protects us completely, even while we sleep.

Slide 16:

The Prophet (pbuh) said, When you lie down in your bed, recite ayat al-Kursi, Allah! La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists... [al-Baraqaah 2:255] until the end of the ayah, then you will have a protector from Allah and no shaytan (devil) will come near you until morning comes.

[Sahih al-Bukhari]

This is the why I asked you to memorize it last week. If you want complete protection, this is the way to get it.

Let's proceed.

Slide 17:

“To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the Earth.”

This means that He has complete control of the skies and the Earth¹. The phrase '*Allah humma*' means that everything belongs to Him, everything is His, and when something belongs to you, it means you've got complete control over it, right?

¹ There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Gracious (Allah) as a servant. Verily, He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting. And everyone of them will come to Him alone on the Day of Resurrection (without any helper, or protector or defender)) 19:93-95

For example, let's say you have a pen; you can do anything you want with it. You can scribble with it, write with it, uncap it, throw it around, or even break it, because it's your pen. Can anyone else object? No, because it's your pen. Most people don't understand that everything is Allah's (swt).

Slides 18 and 19:

We believe that Allah (swt) created us but we don't believe that Allah (swt) also controls us. Just as the pen is yours, we are Allah's (swt).

Slide 20:

You hear some people saying things like, "This is my body and my soul. I can do whatever I want with them."

Slides 21 and 22:

And they also say things like, "**My** house and **my** children."

Slide 23:

They forget that even their own bodies don't belong to them. This picture shows the end that awaits all of us. We're all going back to Allah (swt).

Slide 24:

When we become possessive, we also become demanding. If I think that something is mine, and I start thinking that I control it because it's mine, then I also become demanding.

Slide 25:

If I think that someone is **my** friend, I'll become very demanding towards them. Someone might ask me why I'm being so demanding towards her and I'll say that, since she's **my** friend, I can do whatever I want and treat her the way I want to. So when you think something is yours, what happens? You try to enforce your right over it; you expect it to fulfill your wishes and you may end up being disappointed.

Slide 26:

We must remember that humans can never fulfill all our expectations; we shouldn't have expectations from others because we might be disappointed.

Slides 27 and 28:

Only Allah (swt) can fulfill all our expectations; in fact He gives us more than we expect. Did you ask for a family? No, but you were born in a family. What about the delicious food you eat all the time? Do you ask for it all the time? No, I'm sure many times your moms get you burgers or order pizzas for you, even when you haven't prayed to Allah (swt).

Slide 29:

Our body is Allah's (swt), so we must use it the way He wants us to. How does He want us to use it? By eating healthy food and not consuming stuff that harms our bodies. That's why smoking is detested in Islam. He also wants us to protect our beauty by covering ourselves. We have been given this body as a loan for a short period of time, and we're supposed to take care of it.

Slide 30:

The basic difference between a disbeliever and a *mo'min* {faithful believer} is that a disbeliever only loves Allah's (swt) creations, whereas a *mo'min* also loves Allah (swt) and His commands. When Allah (swt) asks us to believe in His Books and His Prophets, he is commanding us to do so and, being *momineen*, we obey these commands.

Slide 31:

“Who can intercede with Him without His permission?”

No one can do anything without His (swt)'s permission and approval².

Slide 32:

There is a misconception amongst Muslims that the Prophet (pbuh) will intercede for us on the Day of Judgment **without** Allah (swt)'s permission ³and, despite all our sins Allah (swt) will send us straight to *Jannah* {Paradise}⁴.

Have you ever heard people saying things like, “We're Muslims, we'll eventually go to *Jannah* and the Prophet (pbuh) will intercede for us”?

Yes there is a hadith where the Prophet (pbuh) has said that even if you have an ounce of faith you will eventually go to *Jannah* ⁵.

He also said this: Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated that Rasulullah (pbuh) said: “Everyone of my *Ummah* will enter *Jannah* except those who refuse”. He (pbuh) was asked, “Who will refuse?”

² And there are many angels in the heavens, whose intercession will avail nothing except after Allah has given leave for whom He wills and is pleased with))53:26

³ I will stand under the Throne and fall in prostration, and Allah will allow me to remain in that position as much as He wills. I will thereafter be told, "Raise your head, speak and you will be heard, intercede and your intercession will be accepted". The Prophet then said, "He will allow me a proportion whom I will enter into Paradise."

⁴ They cannot intercede except for him with whom He is pleased))21:28

⁵ Sahih Bukhari; Volume 8, Book 76, Number 565: Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri: Allah's Apostle said, "When the people of Paradise have entered Paradise, and the people of the Fire have entered the Fire, Allah will say. 'Take out (of the Fire) whoever has got faith equal to a mustard seed in his heart.' They will come out, and by that time they would have burnt and became like coal, and then they will be thrown into the river of Al-Hayyat (life) and they will spring up just as a seed grows on the bank of a rainwater stream." The Prophet said, "Don't you see that the germinating seed comes out yellow and twisted?"

He said, “Whoever obeys me, shall enter *Jannah*, and whosoever disobeys me has refused (to enter *Jannah*)”. [Bukhari]

Slide 33:

Prophets will appeal only with Allah’s (swt) permission

Slide 34:

Admittedly, we have been told that the Prophets will appeal for a few people and Allah (swt) will forgive them, but the reason for this is that Allah (swt) wants to honor the Prophets who were disgraced in this world; He wants to grant them respect. Allah (swt) will only give permission to the Prophet (pbuh) to appeal for those people that He has already decided to forgive; the people who did sin but also earned a lot of *ajr* {rewards} during their lives. But Allah (swt) has already decided beforehand. Letting the Prophet (pbuh) appeal for his people will be a way to give him respect, because he had been disgraced by the non-believers. The scholars are of this opinion.

Slides 35 and 36:

Just like we honor a chief guest in a competition: the judges decide who the winners are, the chief guest never decides, but who hands the prize to you? The chief guest. Why? Because letting him present the prizes is our way of honouring the chief guest. Likewise Allah (swt) will judge us but He will honor the Prophet (pbuh) by letting him appeal for some people [Volume 9, Book 93, Number 601, Sahih Bukhari]

Slide 37:

“He knows whatever is between their hands and whatever is behind them.”

He knows what we are hiding and what we’ve been through.

Slide 38:

He knows everything. He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. This refers to His perfect knowledge of all creation; its past, present and future.

Slides 39 and 40:

When we’re defending someone, we may say something like, “You don’t know. He’s a good man, I know him.”

We appeal for a person by claiming to know him better, but Allah (swt) has comprehensive knowledge about everyone. He knows everyone inside out and on the Day of Judgment no one will be able to say to Allah (swt) that He doesn’t know a person, nor will we be able to claim that Allah (swt) has forgotten what kind of a person someone used to be, because Allah (swt) never forgets.

When we argue with our mothers about something, we claim that they don't know the situation well enough. Mostly, when we argue with another person, our argument is usually based on the claim that the other person doesn't have enough knowledge about the subject.

But here we see that Allah (swt) knows everything; so no argument on the Day of Judgment. He knows exactly what's going on everywhere. He knows what is in your hearts and what you're thinking right now.

Slides 41 and 42:

“while they encompass nothing of His knowledge, except what He wills.”

Who are 'they'? Those people who try to guess the future. He has given knowledge to whoever He wants. How do people obtain a little bit of knowledge about the future?

Slide 43:

Basically, the *jinn* tell them secrets with Allah's (swt) will [Bukhaari (7561)] They can't sneak away from Allah (swt) and tell people these secrets without His will and knowledge; He (swt) controls them. But Allah's (swt) will is not always His consent.

We need to understand this. For example, do you think a thief, who breaks into and steals things from people's houses, does so with Allah's (swt) will?

Slides 44 – 45:

Yes, of course, he does it with Allah's (swt) will, but not with Allah's (swt) consent. That's the difference. He does it with Allah's (swt) permission but Allah (swt) is not happy with what he's doing. Allah (swt) lets him do it because the final choice is ours; He doesn't stop us from committing sins but just because He lets us do something, doesn't mean that He's happy about us doing it. The choice is ours and that's the test. Allah (swt) will let you do whatever you want to and He knows what you will do, but the final decision is yours.

Slide 46:

“His Chair extends to the Heavens and to the Earth.”

He rules over the heavens and the Earth.

Slide 47:

We can never imagine Allah's (swt) “Chair” or His throne and we shouldn't even try. Just as we can't imagine how Allah (swt) could be present before the beginning and how He'll still be there when there's nothing, we can't imagine or explain Allah's (swt) throne. We don't need to get into the details; it is something that, *InshaAllah*, we will see and understand on the Day of Judgment when we go to *Jannah*. Right now our minds and brains are too small to comprehend certain things about Allah (swt). His 'Chair' is one of those things.

Slide 48:

“And it does not weary Him to look after them.”

Being tired is also a human weakness. What happens when we get tired? Our body doesn't function the way it should, we lose concentration, our head starts to ache.

Slide 49:

So when we get tired, our work gets affected and may contain many errors. If you do Math homework while you're tired, you start making mistakes, don't you? Your mom may tell you to get some rest and do it afterwards because you're too tired.

Otherwise we do the work half-heartedly. If we say our *salah* {prayer} while we are really tired, what happens? We keep yawning and may even forget what *rakah* we are on.

Have you noticed how slow you become when you're tired? And the quality of your work also goes down, right?

Slide 50:

Why is Allah (swt) telling us that He doesn't get tired? Because when we get tired, we have limited strength.

Slide 51:

For example, when we have to run a household, what do we do? We get other people to help us: a maid, a gardener, a driver, a guard, etc. We depend on them to help us run the household.

Slides 52 – 54:

But Allah (swt) is not dependent on anyone to run this world. He maintains it all on His own; from the single celled amoeba to the vast galaxies. He doesn't need anyone's help.

Slides 55 and 56:

“And He is the Most High, the Supreme.”

What happens when you believe in this fact from the bottom of your heart? Your heart gets filled with awe. You are like OMG – Allah (swt) is The Greatest!

Slide 57:

One who is impressed by Allah (swt) is not easily impressed by other people. Neither do you feel compelled to please anyone at the cost of His displeasure. You don't care if somebody is upset or angry with you or making fun of you, as long as you are pleasing Allah (swt); you don't become people-conscious.

Slides 58 to 60:

Such a person realizes how insignificant he is compared to Allah (swt). Even the most evil powers in this world are absolutely no comparison to the powers of Allah (swt), so obviously you should not be afraid of these evil powers because Allah (swt) is with you; He's on your side. You're on His team and Allah (swt) has taken the responsibility of a person who completely surrenders to His wishes.

I'm going to stop here but I'll show you a small video clip and then we'll talk about what happens in it.

Slide 61:

(Show video clip 2 titled 'Allah knows what's Best')

How do you think the man felt when his house got burned? Angry, frustrated and let down. What about his faith in Allah (swt)? It was weak because he had no hope. So there are times when He puts us in pain, agony and discomfort, but these situations are actually good for us; they may lead us to success either in this world or in the next. What can we learn from this clip? That we need to have complete faith and trust in Allah (swt). If something goes wrong in our life, even after we have recited *Ayat-al-Kursi* or a *du'a* for protection, we must have faith that good will come out of what has happened. We shouldn't delve into how or why; there are times when Allah (swt) shows us the positive results in this world - just as this guy got to see them- but there are times when you may never get to see these positive outcomes. We should always have faith in Allah (swt) after seeking His protection. He knows what is best for us.

(Du'a for end of a gathering) Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'alameen

(Parting salutation to students) Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

Reference for teachers:

- Tafseer-UI-Qur'an by Huma Najmul Hassan [Urdu], www.al-ilm.com
- Tafsir Ibn Kathir