

Ayat al-Kursi

One verse in the middle of al-Baqarah. Asked which verse of the Book was greatest, Ubayy b. Ka'b named this one, and was told that knowledge be pleasant for him.



Who He is

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ

"Allah — there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence." The verse opens with the whole of tawhid.

Qur'an 2:255

He does not tire

لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ

"Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep." Said of the One who is holding everything up.

Qur'an 2:255

All of it is His

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

"To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth." Ownership, not merely rule.

Qur'an 2:255

No one speaks uninvited

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ

"Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission?" Intercession is not denied; it is licensed.

Qur'an 2:255

He knows both sides

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ

"He knows what is before them and what will be after them." Past and future named in one clause.

Qur'an 2:255

And they know nothing of it

وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ

"And they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills." The only knowledge anyone has of Him is given.

Qur'an 2:255

His Kursi

وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا

"His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and their preservation tires Him not." The upholding costs Him nothing.

Qur'an 2:255

The greatest verse

يَا أَبَا الْمُنْذِرِ أَتَدْرِي أَيُّ آيَةٍ مِّنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ مَعَكَ أَعْظَمُ

"O Abu al-Mundhir, do you know which verse of the Book of Allah that you have is greatest?" He answered with this verse, and was struck on the chest: may knowledge be pleasant for you.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab Salat al-Musafirin

Said at bedtime

Abu Hurayrah was taught it by the thief he caught three nights running: recite it when you go to bed and a guard from Allah stays with you till morning. He عليه السلام confirmed the words were true — and told him who he had been talking to.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2311