

Those who contemplate the creation of the heavens and the earth

All praises are for Allah, to whom belongs all in the heavens and the earth. And for Him is all praise in the hereafter. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah; the Uniquely One, who has no partners in His Oneness. The seven heavens and the earth and whatever is in them exalt Him. And there is not a thing except that it exalts [Allah] by His praise, but you do not understand their [way of] exalting.

And I testify that our leader, our Prophet, Muhammad – is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah send your salutations, peace and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all of his family and companions. And upon whomsoever follows them in the best of ways till the Last Day.

To proceed: I advise you and myself to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah.

O Muslims: Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrates: The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) once woke up to pray in the night. And he remained weeping until Bilal came to perform the call to prayer (adhan) for the prayer of Fajr. So when Bilal saw him crying he said: O Messenger of Allah, why are you crying, when Allah has forgiven your sins, both those of the past and the future? To which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) responded by saying: **Should I not be a grateful slave? Indeed a verse was revealed to me in the night, woe unto whoever recites it and does not reflect upon it: “Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.”**

In this verse Allah calls upon those of sound intellects to reflect upon the creation of the heavens and earth. To reflect and contemplate upon the creative capacity of its Creator, for He is the One who says: **“Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth.”** To look into the realm of the heavens is to contemplate upon that which Allah has placed therein. Such as the clear evidences pointing unto His creative wisdom, His immensity and His Divine omnipotence.

So why should we contemplate upon the creation of the heavens?

In the creation of the heavens are manifest signs for people of sound intellects, and clear evidence for those of understanding. These [signs] strengthen our faith in the Lord of all the Worlds, and reinforce certainty in the hearts of the believers. Allah informs us about Sayyidina Ibrahim: **“And thus did We show Ibrahim the realm of the heavens that he would be among the certain [in faith].”** So indeed Allah praises those who reflect upon the creation of the heavens.

Servants of Allah: What is it that we should reflect upon with regards to the creation of the heavens?

Indeed Allah created the heavens as a unique creation; the likes of which had never been created before. Allah thus refers to His own exalted Self by stating He is the: **“Originator of the heavens and the earth.”** He made it through His might, raising it through His omnipotence. Allah says: **“And the heaven We constructed with strength, and indeed, We are [its] expander.”** Which means the heavens were made with might, without the likes of pegs to fasten them. And that they were lifted up with nothing to hold them from above, and no pillars

the likes of which to bear them from below. Allah says: **“He created the heavens without pillars that you see ...”** So reflect upon the precise creation of the heavens, and the strength of its cohesion, despite its tremendous height and vast width. Allah says: **“Are you a more difficult creation or is the heaven? Allah constructed it. He raised its ceiling and proportioned it.”** In other words He made the heavens of tremendous height, of width like a spacious courtyard, being levelled plain [and you’re easier to make].

Glorified is He, the tremendous Creator: **“He created seven heavens in layers. You do not see in the creation of the Most Merciful any inconsistency.”** He created the heavens, layer upon layer, having no inconsistency, no disharmony, no defect and no fault. He made therein all the planets, the illuminating stars, beautifying the sky of this world. Allah says: **“And We have placed within the heaven great stars and have beautified it for the observers.”** He has also created waymark signs therein that guide one in the darkness both in the land and the sea. Allah says: **And waymarks. And by the stars they are [also] guided.** And these stars that are in the heavens, none knows their exact number except Allah.

So O Allah, grant us the ability to gaze in contemplation at your signs; to reflect upon the ever-present origination of your creation. And assist us all in the way of piety. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad, and towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards. In accordance with His words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur’an: ٤:٥٩] May Allah bless me and you with the Noble Qur’an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness

for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful. Assist us all in the way of piety. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad, and towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards. I seek the redemptive forgiveness of Allah, I seek the redemptive forgiveness of Allah.

--End of Part One--

All praises are for Allah who has created the heavens and the earth and made darkness and light. And I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, having no partners in that oneness. And I bear witness that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah send your peace, blessings and grace upon our Sayyid and our Prophet, Muhammad. And upon his companions all of them, and upon whoever follows them in the best of ways till the Last Day. I advise you, slaves of Allah, and myself, to embody a reverential consciousness (taqwa) of Allah.

O Muslims: Allah says: **Say: “Behold what is in the heavens and in the earth!”** So in this verse Allah calls us to look towards the heavens, and to explore space. For in this is an anchoring of faith in their Lord, and an increase in their knowledge. For he who ascends unto the heavens gains an abundance of knowledge and becomes distinguished of intellect.

It was the ambition of the founder of the United Arab Emirates and the builder of its civilization, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God bless his soul; to be of the people of his nation who would partake in space travel. Intense fatigue would never deter him from further scientific research and seeking intellectual advancement. He intended to serve humanity

through his knowledge, to benefit mankind through his research, and to bring glory to his nation. So efforts and expertise were combined, and through diligent following up, and a sustained motivation, inspired by the wise leadership; hopes were fulfilled. Thus, the first astronaut from the UAE went into space. He took with him the Book of his Lord, and the flag of his nation. Taking as essential provision his faith, and trusting in His Lord and sustainer. In an event we are proud of, and a civilizational achievement that will be commemorated in the annals of history. So let our children (our girls and boys) strive likewise in their seeking of knowledge and gaining of understanding. As a means of serving their nations and raising high the status of their societies and communities. That they too attain and achieve such impressive achievements in whatever fields they set their ambitions upon. And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the seal of the Prophets and Messengers, as we have been commanded to do. For Allah says in His glorious Book: **Indeed, Allah and His angels [by asking Him to do so] confer blessing upon the Prophet. O you who believe: Ask for [Allah to confer] blessings upon him and ask for [Allah to grant him] peace. [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]**

O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace and blessings upon our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad; and upon his family and all of his companions. O Allah: Be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali; and the noble companions, be pleased with all of them. **O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah: We ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs**

who have passed on to Your mercy. O Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah: Forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, those living and those who have passed away. For indeed you are the All-Hearing, Ever-Near, the One who answers those who call upon You sincerely. **O Allah: Continue blessing the UAE with stability, security, welfare, and an increase in its bounties. And increase it in advancement and honor, in tolerance and mutual love. And preserve its people upon true contentment. O Sustainer of all existence.** O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and coalition forces of the righteous, and enter them unto paradise with the elect. O Allah: Bestow upon their families the reward of those who are patient, through Your immense generosity. O most generous of the generous. O Allah: Give aid to the Arab Coalition Forces, and spread peace and security throughout the lands of the Muslims, and the entirety of the world. O Allah: Confer upon us Your blessings and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: Bless us. Bless us with your blessings that are of gladness, comprehensive and encompassing. O Allah: Bless us with the blessings of the heavens, and cultivate and enable for us the blessings of the earth. O Allah: Give us in this life that which is beautiful; and in the next that which is beautiful, and save us from the fire. And enter us into paradise with the righteous. O most noble and most forgiving.

Servants of Allah: Remember Allah and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings, He will increase you therein.

So stand up for prayer.