

Background and Meaning

Al-Layl contrasts two ways of living and the destinations towards which they lead. Ibn Kathir connects the contrasting oaths by night, day and the creation of male and female with the differing efforts of human beings. Giving, taqwa and belief in Allah's reward stand against miserliness, imagined independence and denial. The surah ends with sincere generosity performed for the Lord alone. The parent should follow the repeated contrasts carefully, so that the discussion of wealth remains connected with faith, intention and the final return.

Tafsir of the Surah

Ayat 1–4: Different signs and different efforts. Ibn Kathir explains night covering creation in darkness and day appearing with light. The opening oaths introduce the declaration that people's efforts differ. Some act towards good and others towards evil. The contrast is therefore concerned with the direction of a person's deeds, rather than simply the amount of activity in a busy life.

Ayat 5–7: Giving, taqwa and belief. Ibn Kathir explains giving as spending what one has been commanded to give, with awareness of Allah in one's affairs. He records explanations of al-husna connected with Allah's reward and recompense. The promised facilitation is towards good and Paradise. His commentary also cites the Prophet's ﷺ instruction to continue acting, rather than abandon effort because of the divine decree.

Ayat 8–11: Miserliness and false independence. The opposing person withholds and acts as though he has no need of his Lord, while denying the reward of the Hereafter. Ibn Kathir explains the consequence as facilitation towards the path of evil. Wealth will not benefit that person when he falls to his final outcome. Possessions cannot secure a person against the consequences of rejecting Allah's guidance.

Ayat 12–16: Guidance, ownership and warning. Ibn Kathir records the explanation that Allah makes clear what is lawful and unlawful. The first life and the Hereafter belong to Him, and He disposes of both. The surah warns of a blazing Fire, describing the person who denies inwardly and turns away from obedience outwardly. The warning should be read with the earlier account of choices and the guidance that makes their consequences clear.



92 | Surah al-Layl

21 Ayat

Parent's tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir
Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim • 92:1–21

سورة الليل

Tafsir of the Surah • Continued

Ayat 17–21: Giving for Allah alone. Ibn Kathir explains the contrasting person as one who spends in obedience to his Lord, seeking purification. His giving is not repayment for a favour but is done for Allah's sake. Ibn Kathir discusses Abu Bakr as a foremost example while emphasising that the wording is general. The promise of satisfaction completes the passage by connecting sincere intention and generous conduct with the reward Allah grants.



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَىٰ

١

Memorised

By the night as it covers.

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّىٰ

٢

Memorised

And the day as it reveals.

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ

٣

Memorised

And He who created the male and the female.

إِنْ سَعَيْكُمْ لَشَتَّىٰ

٤

Memorised

Your endeavors are indeed diverse.

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ

٥

Memorised

As for him who gives and is righteous.

وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ

٦

Memorised

And confirms goodness.



92 | Surah al-Layl

Memorisation · Continued

سورة الليل

فَسَنِّيْـسِرْهُ وَلِـيْسِرْ



Memorised

We will ease his way towards ease.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَى



Memorised

But as for him who is stingy and complacent.

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَى



Memorised

And denies goodness.

فَسَنِّيْـسِرْهُ وَلِلْعُسْرَى



Memorised

We will ease his way towards difficulty.

وَمَا يَغْنَى عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّى



Memorised

And his money will not avail him when he plummets.

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَى



Memorised

It is upon Us to guide.



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وَإِنَّا لِلْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَىٰ

١٣

Memorised

And to Us belong the Last and the First.

فَأَنْذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ

١٤

Memorised

I have warned you of a Fierce Blaze.

لَا يَصْلَاهَا إِلَّا الْأَشْقَىٰ

١٥

Memorised

None will burn in it except the very wicked.

الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ

١٦

Memorised

He who denies and turns away.

وَسَيَجْنِبُهَا الْآتِقَىٰ

١٧

Memorised

But the devout will avoid it.

الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّىٰ

١٨

Memorised

He who gives his money to become pure.



92 | Surah al-Layl

سورة الليل

Memorisation · Continued

وَمَا لِلْأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَىٰ

١٩

Memorised

Seeking no favor in return.

إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَىٰ

٢٠

Memorised

Only seeking the acceptance of his Lord, the Most High.

وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَىٰ

٢١

Memorised

And he will be satisfied.

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim, 92:1-21.
Arabic commentary: quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura92-ayal.html
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