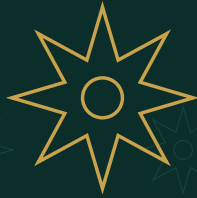


SURAH AS A STORY



Surah Al-Qari'ah

The Striking Calamity

The complete journey — the day the scales are set —
told the way a loving elder shares it with a child



Surah No. 101 • 11 Ayahs • Meccan

NOORANI ILM

nooraniilm.com • free sadaqah jariyah ebook

The Surah at a Glance

Al-Qaari'ah. Mal-Qaari'ah

1-2. The Striking Calamity! What is the Striking Calamity?

Yawma yakoonun-naasu kal-faraashil-mabsoos

4. The Day people will be like scattered moths,

Wa takoonul-jibaalu kal-'ihnul-manfoosh

5. and the mountains will be like carded wool.

Fa-ammaa man saqulat mawaazeenuh. Fahuwa fee 'eeshatir-raadiyah

6-7. As for one whose scales are heavy — he will be in a pleasant life.

Wa ammaa man khaffat mawaazeenuh.

Fa-ummuhoo haawiyah

8-9. But as for one whose scales are light — his refuge will be an abyss.

Naarun haamiyah

11. It is a Fire, intensely hot.

Listen to the Arabic recitation of this Surah, ayah by ayah, with the Qari — free on nooraniilm.com (Read & Recite section).



A Name That Knocks

Beta, this surah takes its name from a word that describes a sound: 'AL-QARI'AH.'

The root 'qar'' means to strike, to knock, to bang against something. A 'qari'ah' is a blow that strikes hard enough to be heard — a hammer on a door, a shock that jolts you upright. It is one of the names of the Day of Judgement: the Striking Calamity, the event that will knock on the hearts of all creation at once.

And look at how the surah opens — with the same style as Surah Al-Haqqah: 'AL-QARI'AH. MAL-QARI'AH. WA MA ADRAKA MAL-QARI'AH?' — The Striking Calamity! What IS the Striking Calamity? And what will make you know what the Striking Calamity is?

Beta, three short bursts, each one heavier than the last. The word is spoken, then questioned, then declared beyond your knowing. It is the Arabic of something too enormous for a plain sentence.



And then, instead of defining it, Allah does something better: He shows it to you in two images that you will never forget.

Moths and Carded Wool

'YAWMA YAKOONUN-NASU

KAL-FARASHIL-MABTHOOTH — the Day PEOPLE will be like SCATTERED MOTHS.'

Beta, have you ever watched moths around a lamp at night? Small, fragile, disoriented — flying in every direction at once, colliding with each other, going nowhere, drawn helplessly toward the light that will burn them.

That is how Allah describes humanity on that Day. Not marching in ordered ranks — SCATTERED. 'Mabthooth' means strewn about, dispersed. All the structures we built — nations, ranks, titles, families, queues, hierarchies — dissolved into a confused, fragile swarm.



Beta, think of how much of our lives is spent trying not to be ordinary: the designation on the business card, the size of the house, the respect at gatherings. And on that Day, every single one of us is a moth in the swarm.

'WA TAKOONUL-JIBALU KAL-'IHNIL-MANFOOSH — and the MOUNTAINS will be like CARDED WOOL.'

'Ihn manfoosh', beta, is wool that has been beaten and teased apart — light, fluffy, floating, so weightless that a breath moves it. And Allah applies that image to MOUNTAINS: the heaviest things we know, the anchors of the earth, the very definition of permanence — turned into drifting fluff.

So the two images together, beta: the strongest thing in creation becomes weightless, and the proudest creature becomes a scattered moth. Everything we measure ourselves by will lose its weight on that Day.

And that is exactly why the next ayahs are about WEIGHT.



Heavy Scales, Light Scales

'FA-AMMA MAN THAQLAT MAWAZEENUH — as for the one whose SCALES are HEAVY — FA-HUWA FEE 'EESHATIN RADIYAH — he will be in a PLEASING LIFE.'

Beta, note the phrase 'eeshatin radiyah' — a life that is itself pleased, satisfied, content. Not just a life he is pleased with, but a life described as pleasing in its own nature. Everything about it agrees with him.

'WA AMMA MAN KHAFFAT MAWAZEENUH — but as for the one whose SCALES are LIGHT — FA-UMMUHU HAWIYAH — his MOTHER is HAWIYAH.'

Beta, that expression is startling: 'his mother is an abyss'. The Arabs used 'umm' — mother — for the place of refuge and return, because a child runs to his mother when the world becomes frightening. So Allah says: on the day of the great terror, when everyone runs somewhere for shelter, THIS man's shelter — his 'mother' — will be Hawiyah: a bottomless pit, a place of endless falling.



And the scholars also note a second meaning of the phrase in Arabic usage: 'ummuhu hawiyah' can indicate a person falling headlong into ruin. Both meanings arrive at the same place.

'WA MA ADRAKA MA HIYAH — and what will make you know what it is? NARUN HAMIYAH — a FIRE, intensely HOT.'

Beta, the surah ends there. Two words. After all the questions and images, the final answer is short and closes the door.

But before we leave, sit with the central idea of this surah, because it is the practical part: the MEEZAN, the scale.

What Makes a Deed Heavy

Beta, notice that Allah does not say 'whoever has MANY deeds' — He says whose scales are HEAVY. Number and weight are not the same thing.



A man may bring a mountain of deeds that weigh nothing, and another may bring a few that tip the scale. So what gives a deed weight?

FIRST — IKHLAS, sincerity. A deed done for Allah alone is dense; a deed done for an audience is hollow. Beta, the same charity, the same prayer, given by two men — one weighs, one does not.

SECOND — following the Sunnah. A deed shaped the way the Prophet ﷺ taught it, rather than the way we prefer it.

THIRD — the state of the heart while doing it. The Prophet ﷺ said that a man may finish his prayer and have only a tenth of it written for him, according to how present his heart was. Beta, two people stand in the same row for the same salah, and their scales record different weights.

And the Prophet ﷺ told us specific things that are heavy. He said the word 'Alhamdulillah' FILLS the scale. He said two phrases are light on the tongue but



heavy on the scale, beloved to the Most Merciful:
'SubhanAllahi wa bihamdih, SubhanAllahil-'Azeem.'
And he said nothing is heavier on the believer's scale
on the Day of Resurrection than GOOD CHARACTER.

Beta, look at that list again. A phrase said while
walking. A moment of gratitude. Being gentle with
people. These are the heavy things — available to a
poor man, a sick man, an unemployed man, anyone.

And there is the famous hadith of the card: a man will
be brought on that Day with ninety-nine scrolls of sins,
each stretching as far as the eye can see. Then a single
small card will be produced bearing 'la ilaha illallah,
Muhammadur-Rasoolullah' — and it will outweigh
them all. Because on Allah's scale, sincerity has a
weight that volume cannot match.

So beta, the lesson of Al-Qari'ah is this: the Day is
coming when the mountains lose their weight and
people lose their rank, and the only thing with any
weight left will be what you placed on that scale. Fill it
with dhikr, with sincerity, with good character — and



remember that the things that weigh most are usually the things that cost least.

What This Surah Teaches Us

1. On that Day the proudest creature is a scattered moth, and the heaviest mountains are floating wool — everything we measure ourselves by loses its weight.
2. What matters is the weight of deeds, not the number.
3. Sincerity gives density: the same act by two people can weigh completely differently.
4. Presence of heart in salah is part of its weight — pray one prayer properly rather than four absently.
5. Fill the scale with what is light on the tongue: 'SubhanAllahi wa bihamdih, SubhanAllahil-'Azeem' and 'Alhamdulillah'.
6. Nothing is heavier on the believer's scale than good character — your manners are an investment.



**7. Everyone runs somewhere for shelter that Day;
make sure your refuge is His mercy and not an abyss.**

**Ya Allah, make our scales heavy with sincerity, dhikr
and good character on the Day of Al-Qari'ah. Ameen.**

— This is a simplified, faithful retelling for understanding, based on the Quran's translation and established tafseer (Ibn Kathir and others). For deeper study, always read with a qualified teacher. —

Noorani Ilm • nooraniilm.com • Free to share — sadaqah jariyah

