

Tafsir Soorah An-Nāzi`āt by Shaykh ibn Uthaymeen

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تفسير سورة النازعات

Verses 1-5

وَالنَّازِعَاتِ غَرْقًا

(1) *By those who pull out with great violence;*

Meaning: The Angels entrusted with taking of the souls of the disbeliever. They remove their souls with great violence. {غَرْقًا}

وَالنَّاشِطَاتِ نَشْطًا

(2) *By those who gently take out*

Meaning: The Angels entrusted with taking the souls of the believers. They remove their souls easy with gentleness like untying a slip knot (الأنشوطة). The Angels entrusted with the believers remove their souls gently, as for the Angels entrusted with the souls of the disbelievers, they remove their souls violently.

This is because when the Angles call for the souls of the disbelievers to exit, they call them by their most hideous attributes. The Angles say to the soul of the disbeliever: "Exits O filthy soul which was in a filthy body. Exit to the Anger of Allah". Therefore their soul flees not wanting to exit to this. It separates within the body such that it needs to be removed with force. They extract the soul violently such that it almost tears the body apart from the severity of the extraction.

As for the souls of the believers –I ask Allah to make us and you from them; when the Angels descend to remove their souls they give them glad tidings. The Angels say: "Exit O good soul which was in a good body. Exit to the Pleasure of Allah". Thus it is easy for their souls to exit their bodies which it was connected to. So it exits with ease. (Ahmad (287/4)

For this reason the Prophet عليه الصلاة والسلام said:

مَنْ أَحَبَّ لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ وَمَنْ كَرِهَ لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ كَرِهَ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ

“Whoever loves to meet Allah, Allah loves to meet him, and whoever hates to meet Allah, Allah hates to meet him.” Aisha may Allah be pleased with her said: “O Messenger of Allah, surely with hate death”. He replied: “I do not mean that. But when death comes to the believer he receives the glad tidings of Allah’s Pleasure and Honor for him. Therefore nothing is more beloved to him than what is awaiting him. Consequently he loves to meet Allah. (Bukhari 6507)

At this moment he realizes he will be transported to an abode better than the abode he is leaving, thus he will become overjoyed just like one of us would be happy if it was said to him you are moving from a mud hut to a well-guarded beautiful palace. So the believer will be overjoyed and he loves to meet Allah.

As for the disbeliever – and with Allah refuge is sought; his affair will be the opposite. When he is informed of the Anger of Allah and the punishment, he will hate to die and he will hate to meet Allah, thus Allah will hate to meet him.

وَالسَّابِقَاتِ سَبْعًا

(3) *And by those that swim along*

These are the Angels. They swim by the command of Allah; meaning they move about rapidly similar to the rapid movement of the swimmer in water. Allah said about the sun, moon, night and the day:

وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

They all swim, each in an orbit. (Soorah Yā-Sīn 36:40)

The meaning of this verse is they move rapidly by the command of Allah the Exalted according to what Allah wants.

The Angels are stronger than the Jinn, and the Jinn are stronger than humans. Look at the statement of Allah the Exalted concerning Sulayman.

قَالَ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ أَيُّكُمْ يَأْتِينِي بِعَرْشِهَا قَبْلَ أَنْ يَأْتُونِي مُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٨﴾ قَالَ عَفْرَيْتُ مَنِ الْجِنَّ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَقُومَ مِنْ

مَقَامِكَ ۖ وَإِنِّي عَلَيْهِ لَقَوِيٌّ أَمِينٌ ﴿٣٩﴾ قَالَ الَّذِي عِنْدَهُ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَرْتَدَّ إِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ

"O chiefs! Which of you can bring me her throne before they come to me surrendering in obedience?" An Ifrit (strong) from the jinns said: "I will bring it to you before you rise from your place. And verily, I am indeed strong, and trustworthy for such work." One who had knowledge from the Scripture said: "I will bring it to you before your glance returns to you (Soorah An-Naml 27:38-40)

This means if you extend your glance and then look back, before you look back I will have brought it to you.

فَلَمَّا رَأَهُ مُسْتَقَرًّا عِنْدَهُ ﴿٤٠﴾

Then when [Sulayman] saw it placed before him

At that very instant he saw it placed in front of him.

قَالَ هَذَا مِنْ فَضْلِ رَبِّي لِيَبْلُوَنِي أَأَشْكُرُ أَمْ أَكْفُرُ ﴿٤١﴾

He said: "This is by the Grace of my Lord to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful!

The scholars have said the Angels carried the throne instantly from Yemen, bringing it to Sulayman in Sham. **This is proof that the strength of the Angels is much greater than the strength of the Jinn.** The strength of the Jinn is greater than the strength of humans because no human is able to take the throne of the queen of Saba from Yemen to Sham except that it would take him a long period of time to do so. Thus the Angels move rapidly at the command of Allah.

فَالسَّابِقَاتِ سَبْعًا ﴿٤٢﴾

(4) *And those who race each other in a race*

This also refers to the Angels; they race to fulfill the command of Allah the Exalted. For this reason the Angels are quicker to implement the command of Allah than man. Allah the Exalted said while describing the Angels who are entrusted over the Hell-fire:

عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادًا لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٤٦﴾

Over which are appointed Angels stern (and) severe, they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded. (Soorah At-Taḥrīm 66:6)

Allah the Exalted said:

وَمَنْ عِنْدَهُ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَلَا يَسْتَحْسِرُونَ ﴿١٩﴾ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾

And those near Him are not too proud to worship Him, nor do they tire. They (glorify His Praises night and day, and they never slacken (Soorah Al-'Anbyā' 21:19-20)

The Angels race to implement the commands of Allah the Exalted. They obey Him and they never disobey His commands.

فَالْمُدَبِّرَاتِ أَمْرًا ﴿٥٠﴾

(5) *And those who arrange [each] matter,*

This is also a description of the Angels who arrange the affair. And this is one affair from the affairs of Allah which He commands the Angels to arrange.

Jibrael is entrusted with the revelation he receives from Allah and descends with to the Messengers.

Israfil is entrusted with blowing into the horn on the Day of Judgment, and blowing into the horn that will cause the people to die, then he will blow another time and this will cause the people to be resurrected.

Mikāil is entrusted with the rain and vegetation

The Angel of death is entrusted with the souls.

Mālik is entrusted with the Hell-fire.

Ridwān is entrusted with Paradise.

And on the right and left side of man there are Angels entrusted with recording the deeds.

Allah swore by the Angels because they are from His best creation. Allah does not swear by anything unless it has a great status either in its essence or because it is a sign from Allah the Exalted.