

The Use of the Word Aayah (Sign) in the Qur'an

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“Verily! In the creation of the Heavens and the Earth... There are indeed signs for the men of understanding”. Surah Aal Imran (3), Aayah190.

The word Aayah (plural Aayat) and its various conjugations appear in the Qur'an 381 times. Aayah means “a Sign” and sometimes refers to a verse of the Qur'an. In general, it means Sign, Wonder, Marvel, Miracle, and Masterpiece. When used in the sense of other than a verse, the Qur'an often refers to the Signs, Wonders, and Miracles in nature all around us. These signs are then used as arguments for the existence of a single God or in arguments for His ability to create life (or recreate it after death). The following verses from Surah Ar Rum (30), Aayat 17-28, are typical:

17. So (give) glory to God, when ye reach eventide and when ye rise in the morning;

18. Yea, to Him be praise, in the heavens and on the earth; and in the late afternoon and when the day begins to decline.

19. It is He Who brings out the living from the dead, and brings out the dead from the living, and Who gives life to the earth after it is dead: and thus shall ye be brought out (from the dead).

20. Among His Signs is this, that He created you from dust; and then -- behold, ye are men scattered (far and wide)!

21. And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.

22. And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colours: verily in that are Signs for those who know.

23. And among His Signs is the sleep that ye take by night and by day, and the quest that ye (make for livelihood) out of His Bounty: verily in that are Signs for those who harken.

24. And among His Signs, He shows you the lightning, by way both of fear and of hope, and He sends down rain from the sky and with it gives life to the earth after it is dead: verily in that are Signs for those who are wise.

25. And among His Signs is this, that heaven and earth stand by His Command: then when He calls you, by a single call, from the earth, behold, ye (straightway) come forth.

26. To Him belongs every being that is in the heavens and on earth: all are devoutly obedient to Him.

27. It is He Who begins (the process of) creation; then repeats it; and for Him it is most easy. To Him belongs the loftiest similitude (we can think of) in the heavens and the earth: for He is exalted in Might, full of wisdom.

28. He does propound to you a similitude from your own (experience): do ye have partners among those whom your right hands possess, to share as equals in the wealth We have bestowed on you? Do ye fear them as ye fear each other? Thus do We explain the Signs in detail to a people that understand.

If you want to read other verses similar to these, you can find them listed in the index of your Qur'an under the word "Signs". Many different subjects are discussed under this heading, and people often enjoy comparing such verses.