

al Kahf - (the Cave) [18] - Grammatical Analysis - Nouman Ali Khan.

New Series: <http://bayyinah.com/elearning/>

(Will continue to be updated insha' Allah, but will take more time due to the more indepth grammar.)

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Part 1: Tafseer of Ayah 1 - 5 | [Download MP3](#)

Introduction;

Grammatical Analysis of surah al Kahf - *Anwar ul Bayaan by fi Halil Lughat ul Qur'an* - by Ali Muhammad PST.

5 volumes, Maktabah Syed Ahmad Shaheed. Published in Urdu. We will be focusing on this book.

Ayah 1:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا

Alhamdu - the Praise [all of it] - muftada'
lillah - for Allah.

All praise and thanks belong to Allah.

lillahi aladhee aNzala 'ala 'abdihee al kitab..

aladhee (ism mansool) - The One who..

aNzala - [Sarf: if'aal. Others include; yuNzila, aNzaal.] -

(aladhee - The One who) aNzala - SENT DOWN.

It could have been Nazzala - (taf'eel - Partial sending down or sending over time.)

But **aNzala implies FULL SENDING DOWN in 1 full package. In totality.** (This is the view of Ibn Abbas who said that the Qur'an was in the Lawh al Mahfoodh [guarded tablet] with Allah, and then it was sent FULLY to the Bayt al 'Izzah in the closest heaven/sky. And from then it was gradually revealed to Prophet Muhammad.

the Praise is for Allah who sent down..

'Ala - UPON.

Related words which could be used;

Ilaa - [To] could be used, which would imply - a Privilege.

I.e. If Ilaa [to] was used, it would imply that This message was given Specifically to Prophet Muhammad, and no-one else ever got such a privilege of a message from Allah.

However, 'Ala (upon) implies Responsibility. Allah obliged His Messenger with the responsibility of the application of the message and it's conveyance.

Summarised:

Ilaa (To) - implies Privilege.

'Ala (Upon) - implies Responsibility of the carrying of the Message.

'abdi Hi - His slave.

the 'Hi' = His.

It could have been 'abdi 'Hu' (which also means His slave). However, 'Hi' [with a Kasra/zeyr] is placed there because of the Kasra/zeyr on the word 'abdl.

So it is suited to have the Kasra/zeyr [l sound] on the word 'Hi' [His] after the word 'abdl.

The pronunciation is smoother in the Hafs recitation by having the Kasras' at the end of the two words; 'abdl hl.

The 1st object mentioned in this ayah is; the **Slave** (of Allah).

The 2nd object mentioned in this ayah is; the **Kitab (Book - the Qur'an)**.

The direct object (maf'ool bihi)

What is **maf'ool bihi**?

It is usually questions of **What and Who**. I.e. what did he do it to? What did he send? What did he see? Who did that?).

In this ayah; What did Allah send down upon His slave (Prophet Muhammad)?

Answer (maf'ool bihi) = the Kitab/Book/Qur'an.

..Wa lam yaj'al-lahu 'iwaja

az-Zamakshari:

Wa = and.

The first sentence and the second sentence simply has the meaning of 'And'.

Another opinion by other scholars;

Waw al Haaliyyah - the sentence coming after it is an Adverbial sentence.

Wa = 'While'.

The book was sent down, While...

This 'While' is an association with the Previous text in comparison to the opinion of az-Zamakshari which would imply that 'Wa' = and - a **discontinuation/break off/departure from the previous sentence.**

Now because az-Zamakshari considers this 'Atf - his grammatical explanation of this ayah becomes abit problematic.

The vast majority of the scholars/interpreters of this ayah said the 'Wa' is infact Haaliyyah - 'While'. So we will stick to this interpretation, and Allah knows best.

wa Lam yaj'aL lahu 'iwaja

The word yaj'aL would really be pronounced as yaj'aLU (damma/peysh). But due to the word Lam placed in front of it - it becomes Jazm - i.e. the yaj'aLU is not pronounced, but it is only pronounced as yaj'aL [forming it into Present/Muddaari' form.]

Lam = Did Not. This makes the word into past tense, even though the saakin on the yaj'aL was formed into present-future tense.

He did not place/even allow..

'Iwaj - 'Awj -

'Awj = a deviation you can see. I.e. A pillar or a tree which you might see which is leaning to the side.

A visual deviation. You can see an 'Awj in it.

'Iwaj - an abstract deviation. I.e. In a moral/abstract deviation. Deviation in ideas, beliefs, principles etc.

This is the word being used in this ayah.

The Faa'il (doer) is He (Allah) did not place any 'Iwaj.

Lahu - jaar/majroor - For it [hu = the Kitab/Book]

He did not allow for it - any 'Iwaj [ideological deviation in it's morals and principles.]

'Iwaj - any deviation in the Book so that one part says one thing in the Book, and that another part opposes that in another part of the Book. I.e. There are no contradictions in the Qur'an.

He has not allowed that to happen = He has not placed any 'Iwaj in the Book.

While He did not allow any 'Iwaj/deviations in it (the Book - the Qur'an).

Ayah 2:

قَيِّمًا لِّيُنذِرَ بَأْسًا شَدِيدًا مِّنْ لَّدُنْهُ وَيُبَشِّرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا حَسَنًا

QayyimAn - [nasb state] - that which corrects, taking something deviated and making it upright.

The Qur'an made the deviated people Upright.

Why is it in Nasb form?

Previously we discussed that az-Zamakshari said that QAYYIMAN is a Haal [Haal - a State form, the way in which something happens]. It is describing aNzala (sending down of the Qur'an).

How did He send it down?
the answer to How is Haal.

az-Zamakshari is saying the answer to How the Qur'an is sent down is that it is Qayyiman [in a state of 'Uprightness'].

This would imply there is a sentence between them; wa lam yaj'al lahu 'iwaja - which had nothing to do with the Kitab/Book. He is implying that the Uprightness is in regard to the aNzala (sending down) being Upright.

Other Grammarians: the Qur'an was sent down WHILE it did not have any moral deviation placed IN IT.

(ayah 2) ..Upright...

By using the interpretation of az-Zamakshari; 'Wa' as 'AND' in this ayah, it separates the Part A of the ayah and connects it directly to ayah 2 while temporarily ignoring part B (of ayah 1.)

Part A: the praise is for Allah who sent down the Book..

Part B: **..and/while** He did not place any moral deviation in it.

(Ayah 2)..**Upright**...

az-Zamakshari: All praise is for Allah who SENT DOWN THE BOOK... -[part B ignored]- **(it is UPRIGHT.)**

Other grammarians: All praise is for Allah who sent down the Book, **WHILE** He did not place any moral deviations in IT [the BOOK]. **(it is Upright**...

So we see that the more suited interpretation might be to say 'While'. Because by using the word 'While' - it allows the ayah 1 part A to connect smoothly to part B, and then smoothly to ayah 2 without any inconsistencies or skipping any of the meanings of any parts of the aayaat.

He sent it - allowing it to make things Upright (Qayyiman).

As the book was coming down - it was in the state of setting things Upright from the beginning.

Li yuNdhira -

Li - (harf ajal/illa) (Lam al ta'leel) - makes the next word Nasb (fat-ha/zabar).

i.e. Instead of yuNdhirU, it makes it yuNdhirA.

(Fi'l: aNdharu/yuNdhiru/iNdhaar).

(makes it 'light' on the tongue).

Li = So that / in Order to.

In order to warn / in order that it may warn..

yuNdhira - it may warn

(maf'ool bihi) - warn about What?

Ba'san shadeedan - an intense War.

Usually, yuNdhira has the word; 'AN (of/about) or Bi - With) before it.

BALAGHAH/Eloquence: By removing its mention from the phrase, it Magnifies the object being discussed. The object being mentioned is HUGE. The object being discussed is so Urgent, that Harf (small connecting word i.e. 'AN or Bi) could not be placed next to the verb (fi'l).

It had to be placed so close to the verb (fi'l) due to its Urgency and Enormity, that the Harf (partial - connecting word is removed.)

Ba's - War.

Shadeed - Intense. Great difficulty.

Intensely great difficult War. (this is what the Book came to warn about).

..Min Ladunhu...

Min (harf al-jarf) - from

Ladun (muddaaf) - ism mabni. An ism that doesn't change at all.
hu (muddaaf ilayh) - **him**.

= Especially From Him.

Ladun - special ownership. Especially.

= Especially from Him.

..wa yuBashshirA.. (maNsoob/nasb form - fat-ha/zabar).

This is due to the LI mentioned at the beginning of the ayah still being applied on this. (if it was not - it would be yuBashshirU).

This means that; LI yuBashshirA is really stated, except the LI is omitted due to it being mentioned earlier at the beginning of the ayah.

Qayyimun LI yundhira ba'san shadeedan min la dunh, wa (LI)
yuBashshir aladheena ya'maloona as-salihaat...

[The early aayaat/verses of Surah al Fat-h has this theme, of the Muddaari' remains consistently in Nasb form (fat-ha/zabar form).]

yuBashshira - Bashshara / yuBashshiru / taBsheer [Baab al-Tafeel.]
- to Congratulate / give good news / to congratulate thoroughly in a great way.

Give good news to who? **Al mu'minEEN - The believerS.**

This could be in Nasb [fat-ha/zabar] or Jarr [kasra/zeyr] form.

Nothing can argue in favour of it being Jarr, and one can argue that it may be Nasb based on the yuBashshirA mentioned before earlier in this ayah.

= So that He may congratulate.

(Ma'ool bihi) - Who may He congratulate?

al Mu'mineen - those who truly Believe.

aladheena - those who. (plural of aladhee mentioned ayah 1).

ya'maloona - (fi'l muddaari' - present tense action) 3rd person - **those who do actions..**

as-Saalihaat - adjective of Saalihaat. = **Good deeds.**

as-SaalihaH (Ta marboota) - Multiple female plural.

as-SaaliHAAT - adjective of Saalihaat.

Feminine Minimum plural (some grammarians say 10 or less).

Allah mentioned as-SaaliHAAT; which means that **Allah does not expect that we do an endless amount of good deeds. But He expects that we do some good deeds.** This is an extreme Mercy from Him. This is covered through the word as-SaaliHAAT.

Salaha - to reconcile and correct something negative into positive.

So what is being implied is that; doing a good deed replaces a bad deed.

Antonym/Opposite: This is why a bad deed is called Dhulm = to misplace something (i.e. place something where it doesn't belong).

Dhulma - a shadow which obstructs light. I.e. A building blocks the light and therefore causes a shadow.

as-SaaliHAATi - (ma'fool bihi). [the kasra/zeyr is there - this is not a Jarr, it is feminine plural].

There is no taNween [Nuun at the end] there because of the Alif, Lam - AL ('the') at the beginning.

(i.e. AL cannot be used when taNween (letter Nuun) occurs at the end of the same word.)

It could have been Saalihaat (good deeds). But Allah says **AL-saalihaat - THE good deeds.**

This is implying that there are very particular/specific, good deeds are which Allah has legislated. We don't determine the morality based on our intellect alone, rather - our good is based on what Allah has legislated, even if we cannot comprehend it's wisdom.

I.e. Prophet Ibrahim attempting to sacrifice his son Isma'eel is one of

the greatest of his good deeds, because Allah had legislated it for him. Even if we cannot comprehend it = AL saalihaat (THE good deeds [which Allah has legislated]).

Anna - (it is similar to the word 'Inna').

= **producing a conclusion.**

I.e. In this context it mean's **'That.'**

so those believers who do good, it (the Book) is congratulating them 'That'...

LaHum - **for them.**

Really; "anna Ajran Hassana Lahum (that reward of good (will be) for them)" should have been the normal sentence structure.

However, the 'Lahum' is placed earlier in the sentence structure for the following reasons;

1 - You should not begin a sentence with a Nakirah (not proper phrase). I.e. If it was Al Ajra hasanah - that would be suitable to be placed at the beginning of the sentence structure. However, Ajran hasanah right at the beginning of an ayah is not correct in grammar.

2 - **Ikhtisas [Exclusivity] - this means that the 'Lahum' (for them) being placed earlier in the sentence structure implies Exclusivity for that group of people.**

i.e.

a - **Anna Lahum Ajran hassana (that For them (exclusively) is a good recompense.**

b - "anna ajran hassana lahum" (without Ikhtisas/exclusivity) would mean; That reward of good is for them (and it might be for others too.)

However, reward of good is only for the believers who do good, so the Exclusive phrase [phrase 1] is stated.

'Only they have a good repayal'.

This alludes to the fact that their are others who falsely assume they will get reward, but they will not. (those who do shirk with Allah [associate partners with Him.]

It also alludes to the fact that it will be a good payback for work that they did. Better reward than what they actually did.

AjrAn HassanA (Nasab form due to the 'Anna' mentioned previously).

Ayah 3:

مَّاكِثِينَ فِيهِ أَبَدًا

Maa kitheena feehi abada

Those who remain therein (in the reward - a state [haal] of goodness)

abada - maf'ool (object/darf of time [can also be of place]).
Time/place has to be in a Nasb state - i.e. abadA.

fee - in

hi - it (it is in jarr [fat-ha/kasra] state due to the kasra on fee)

Kitheena - remain.

similar to:

Khalideen - ongoing.

Ayah 4:

وَيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا

wa yundhirA

Based on the earlier nasab state of; li yundhirA ba'san shadeedan.

So we have Different purposes for the Book:

Li (For) -

1 - yuNdhira - it to Warn.

2 - yuBashshira - to give Good news/congratulate.

3 - yuNdhira - to Warn.

So we see that there is **more emphasis of Warning in this surah**, this is why it has been mentioned twice in comparison to the good news.

wa yuNdhira - and so that it may Warn / in order to Warn..

aladheena - those Who (maf'ool bihi).

Qaaloo (fi'l maaddy - past tense verb) - **(those who) Said..**

ittakhadhA (fi'l maaddy - past tense).

It has a Fat-ha/zabar at the end, so you would think the Faa'il (Doer) is Huwwa (He).

aKhadha - to hold.

ITAKhadha - to hold onto Tightly. Commit to. To be devoted to.

They held onto an idea tightly and devoted themselves to it.

You will see in the Qur'an that Allah will talk about a religious holding onto something as Ittakhadha and not just Khadha, because being devoted to something strongly constitutes your beliefs. And you hold onto them more tightly.

i.e.

Ittakhadhtum-ul 'Ijla - when you devoted yourself tightly to the calf - Quran surah al Baqarah.

(Allah is talking about the jews when they worshipped the calf/cow and devoted themselves strongly to it.)

Those who took with great Zeal, they said - Allah seriously took a son (walad).

aTtakhadha (fi'l maaddy - past tense action/verb)

Allahu - Allah [Faa'il - doer]

waladan - son (maf'ool bihi - i.e. This answers the 'What/Who' question in the statement.).

Ayah 5:

مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ وَلَا لِآبَائِهِمْ كَبُرَتْ كَلِمَةً تَخْرُجُ
مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ إِنَّ يَقُولُونَ إِلَّا كَذِبًا

Maa - is more powerful negation than Laa (No).

This ayah could be said in so many ways, i.e.;

1 - Laysa 'ilmun lahum

2 - Maa 'ilmun lahum

3 - Laa 'ilmun lahum.

(all imply - 'they have no knowledge' in different degrees of strength of negation.)

Why did Allah say the ayah the way He did?

Allah chose this specific syntax;

-Maa is stronger than Laa.

- Maa MIN 'ilmun - they don't have ANY knowledge whatsoever.

Allah said; Maa Lahum bihee min 'ilmin..

By placing the 'LaHum' (for them) earlier in the sentence structure, it implies:

1- Especially them, they are the ones who have no knowledge (regarding what they claim.)

This is implying that the Christians who thought they were the knowledgeable ones are infact the ignorant ones in regard to this issue.

i.e. **'It is infact they who have no knowledge..'**

2 - the words 'LaHum' [for them] are placed closer to the strong negation of 'Maa'. Which strengthens the negation against their claim.

Bihee - regarding this [claim] (against Allah), they have no knowledge.

[bihee is almost serving the role of the word 'AN]

Maybe they might be sophisticated in other worldly matters, but they are ignorant on their claim (that Allah has taken a son).

..wa Laa li aabaaa/ihim - and neither for their forefathers (neither did they have any true knowledge regarding this false claim.)

The emphasis on their fathers (LAA li aabaaa/ihim) is less and there is more emphasis for the children (Maa is used - MAA lahum min 'ilmin).

Why is this?

Laa - can be used for Neither/Nor. For Continuity.

i.e. Neither (maa) they nor (laa) they. You start with Maa and then continue the negation with Laa.

However, there is another reason why Maa (stronger Negation) is stated for the children/offspring of previous people who claimed that Allah took a son.

Why is Maa used for them?

The forefathers may not have had a Messenger come to them to refute their false beliefs. (so a weaker negation - Laa - is used against them.)

However - the christians who did have a Messenger (Prophet Muhammad and the Quran) come to them with clear signs - why are they still rejecting him? (a Stronger negation is required for these people in comparison to their forefathers who did not receive such a Messenger.)

wa laa Li aabaa/ihim - and neither For their forefathers.

Li - harf jarr.
Aabaa/i (muddaaf)
him (muddaaf ilayh)

KaburAt - "how Huge it is" [feminine word - mubalagha/hyperbole/maximum strength form]

But how is it huge, in What sense?

Nasb/mansoob [fat-ha/zabar] = tamyeez - Distinction / in terms of..

Huge in terms of..

(kaburat) **KalimaTan - (huge) Speech.**

(kaburaT was feminine because Speech/kalimaTan is Feminine.)

..(kaburat) Kalimatan takhruju...

Why isn't "Al-latee" ('that which') placed before; 'takhruju' ('comes Out')?

I.e. kaburat Kalimatan "al-latee" takhruju...

Reason: It is not mentioned because the word Kalimatan has no AL (Alif, Lam = 'The.') before it.

Kalimatan is common. If it is not common, AL is placed before it. If AL is placed before it, then "Aladhee" (male form) or "Al-latee" (feminine form) [meaning 'that which'] is placed before it.

..kaburat Kalimatan taKhruju min aFwaahihim (an enormous Word comes Out from their Mouths.)

kaburat (huge) - past tense. (al-hudooth). Single instant.

**taKhruju (comes out) - present-future tense (Muddaari').
Continuity.**

So Allah is covering all tenses. **He is implying that what they say is so huge, yet they persist/continue to repeat this enormity of a (evil) statement.**

min aFwaahihim - from their mouths.

aFwaa (plural - mouths) - Fam (singular) - mouth.

How enormous of a statement comes out of their mouths...

In yaqooloona il-laa kadhiba:

in - usually means 'if'

but when it comes with the word "il-laa" in the same sentence, it means; 'not at all'.

So in this ayah, what is meant is;
Laa yaqooloona il-laa kadhiba
Maa yaqooloona il-laa kadhiba
= They do not say, except a lie.

In Balaghah/Rhetoric - The taNween (letter Nuun placed at the end of a word) usually refers to Magnimity/Magnifying something.

in yaqooloona il-laa **KadhibaN**
they do not say except a **Huge Lie.**

i.e.

ajran HasanaN (Enormous Good reward). (surah al Kahf [18:]2)

KadhibaN (Enormous lie) (ayah [18:]5).

Will be updated insha' Allah...

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