

## Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: Are these people<sup>192</sup> waiting, perchance, for God to reveal Himself unto them in the shadows of the clouds, together with the angels - although [by then] all will have been decided, and unto God all things will have been brought back?<sup>193</sup>

Malik: Are they waiting for Allah to come down to them in the shadow of clouds, along with the angels, and make His decision known? Ultimately all matters will be presented to Allah for decision.

Mustafa Khattab:

Are they waiting for Allah ?Himself? to come to them in the shade of clouds, along with the angels? ?If He did?, then the matter would be settled ?at once?. And to Allah ?all? matters will be returned ?for judgment?.

Pickthall: Wait they for naught else than that Allah should come unto them in the shadows of the clouds with the angels? Then the case would be already judged. All cases go back to Allah (for judgment).

Yusuf Ali: Will they wait until Allah comes to them in canopies of clouds with angels (in His train) and the question is (thus) settled? But to Allah do all questions go back (for decision).<sup>231</sup>

Transliteration: Hal yanthuroona illa an yatiyahumu Allahu fee thulalin mina alghamami waalmalaikatu waqudiya alamru waila Allahi turjaAAu alomooru

### Author Comments

192 - Lit., "they" - obviously referring to the people addressed in the preceding two verses.

193 - I.e., it will be too late for repentance. All commentators agree in that the "decision" relates to the unequivocal manifestation of God's will on the Day of Judgment, which is alluded to in the words, "when unto God all things will have been brought back". Since, in the next verse, the children of Israel are addressed, it is possible that this rhetorical question is connected with their refusal, in the time of Moses, to believe in the divine message unless they "see God face to face" (cf. [2:55](#)).

231 - If faith is wanting, all sorts of excuses are made to resist the appeal of God. They might and do say: "Oh yes! we shall believe if God appears to us with His angels in His glory!" In other words they want to settle the question in their way, and not in God's way. That will not do. The decision in all questions belongs to God. If we are true to Him, we wait for His times and seasons, and do not expect Him to wait on ours.

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