

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: And [remember] when you said, "O Moses, indeed we shall not believe thee unto we see God face to face!" - whereupon the thunderbolt of punishment⁴⁰ overtook you before your very eyes.

Malik: Remember when you said: "O Musa! We shall never believe you until we see Allah with our own eyes," a thunderbolt struck you while you were looking on and you fell dead.

Mustafa Khattab:

And ?remember? when you said, "O Moses! We will never believe you until we see Allah with our own eyes," so a thunderbolt struck you while you were looking on.

Pickthall: And when ye said: O Moses! We will not believe in thee till we see Allah plainly; and even while ye gazed the lightning seized you.

Yusuf Ali: And remember ye said: "O Moses! we shall never believe in thee until we see Allah manifestly" but ye were dazed with thunder and lightning even as ye looked on.⁷⁰

Transliteration: Waith qultum ya moosa lan numina laka hatta nara Allaha jahratan faakhatatkumu alssaAAiqatu waantum tanthuroona

Author Comments

40 - The Qur'an does not state what form this "thunderbolt of punishment" (as-sa'iqah) took. The lexicographers give various interpretations to this word, but all agree on the element of vehemence and suddenness inherent in it (see Lane IV, 1690).

70 - We have hitherto had instances from the Jewish traditional Taurat (or Pentateuch). Now we have some instances from Jewish traditions in the Talmud, or body of exposition in the Jewish theological schools. They are based on the Jewish scriptures, but add many marvellous details and homilies. As to seeing God, we have in Exod. xxxiii 20: "And He said, Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live." The punishment for insisting on seeing God was therefore death; but those who rejected faith were forgiven, and yet they were ungrateful.

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