

Q & A

يَغْشَاهُ

Suurat al-Nuur: 40

Question

السلام عليكم

I'm currently studying the wonderful book [by the Shaykh] on *suurat al-Nuur*.

I have a question for the Shaykh about *ayah* 40:

﴿أَوْ كَظُلُمَاتٍ فِي بَحْرٍ لُجِّيٍّ يَغْشَاهُ مَوْجٌ مِنْ فَوْقِهِ مَوْجٌ مِنْ فَوْقِهِ سَحَابٌ ظُلُمَاتٌ بَعْضُهَا فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ إِذَا أَخْرَجَ يَدَهُ لَمْ يَكِدْ يَرَاهَا...﴾

I'm trying to figure out what/who this *-hu* exactly refers to?

Is it something/-one mentioned in the previous *ayaat* or is it just understood?

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. Abdur Rahim, حفظه الله replied (quote):

Dear Sister Halimah

وعليكم السلام

In reply to your question regarding who is meant by the pronoun *hu* in ﴿يَغشاه﴾ (Suurat al-Nuur : 40), here is the answer:

There are two views:

The first is: that the pronoun refers to the word *baHr-in* which immediately precedes it. So the sentence ﴿يَغشاه﴾ is a *na"t* of this word.

And the meaning is:

Or like layers of darkness in a fathomless *sea* covered by waves [*it*: covering *it* are waves] above which are waves above which are clouds.

The second view is: that the pronoun refers to *the man in the layers of darkness* who is not explicitly mentioned here, but is alluded to in:

﴿إِذَا أَخْرَجَ يَدَهُ﴾

[...*his* hand].

Most of the *Qur'aanic* grammarians hold the first view.

But I have followed the other view in the book.