

القرآن الكريم

يَغْشَاهُ



(النور: ٤٠)

Question

I'm currently studying the Shaykh's wonderful book on *Sūrat al-Nūr*.

Who or what does the *ḍamīr* ﴿ه﴾ refer to in ﴿يَغْشَاهُ﴾ of *āyah* 40?:

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

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Sister Halimah,

وعليكم السلام

In reply to your question regarding who is meant by the pronoun ﴿هُ﴾ in ﴿يَغْشَاهُ﴾ (Sūrat al-Nūr : 40), here is the answer:

There are two views:

The first is: that the pronoun refers to the word ﴿بَحْرٍ﴾ which immediately precedes it:

﴿أَوْ كَظُلُمَاتٍ فِي بَحْرٍ لُجِّيٍّ يَغْشَاهُ﴾.

So the sentence ﴿يَغْشَاهُ﴾ is a *naʿt* of this word. And the meaning is:

*Or like layers of darkness in a fathomless sea covered by waves
[lit: 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 Qurʾānic grammarians hold the first view.

But I have followed the other view in the book.