

Sura 99: Al-Zalzala (The Earthquake)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 8:

1. *When the earth is shaken with its (violent) earthquake;*
2. *And the earth throws out its burdens;*
3. *And humankind says, "What is the matter with it?"*
4. *On that Day it will tell its news,*
5. *Because your Lord will have inspired it.*
6. *On that Day people will emerge in scattered groups to be shown their deeds.*
7. *And whoever does the weight of an atom of good will see it;*
8. *And whoever does the weight of an atom of evil will see it.*

There are different narrations about whether this Sura was revealed in Mecca or in Medina. We are of the opinion that it was most probably revealed in Mecca. Its style and its topic corroborate this opinion. It shakes the heedless hearts violently. Both the style and the topic contribute to this shock which shakes these heedless hearts.

"When the earth is shaken with its (violent) earthquake; and the earth throws out its burdens; and humankind says, 'What is the matter with it?' On that Day it will tell its news, because your Lord will have inspired it." The verses describe scenes from the Day of Resurrection. The earth will shake violently and will throw out what it has inside it; bodies, metals and other things. It is as if the earth is ridding itself of the burden that it was carrying all these years. It is a scene that shakes the ground under the feet of those who listen to it. People will be wondering, what is happening? This is a question of a person who was taken by surprise and does not know what is happening. On that Day, the earth will tell all its news because God would have inspired it to shake and to throw its burdens.

People will then emerge, *"On that Day people will emerge in scattered groups to be shown their deeds. And whoever does the weight of an atom of good will see it; and whoever does the weight of an atom of evil will see it."* The graves will open and people will come out from different directions. They will be shown their records to be held accountable for what they have done. Whoever did a deed even as small as the weight of an atom will be held accountable for it. We know now that there is a body that we call an atom and it is a minute thing. It is so small that we cannot even see it using a microscope. So, one should not belittle any of his deeds whether good or bad.