

## ***(Distance of) two bows or nearer - 53:9 Meanings***

The Holy Verse 53:9 is mostly misrepresented as if the distance between the Holy Prophet<sup>saww</sup> and Almighty was very short, but that is incorrect. Holy Verse means that when Prophet<sup>saww</sup> looked at the earth from the Heavens, it was the distance of two bows or nearer.

السنانى والدقاق والمكتب والوراق جميعا عن محمد الاسدي، عن النخعي، عن النوفلي، عن علي بن سالم، عن أبيه، عن ثابت بن دينار قال: سألت زين العابدين علي بن الحسين (عليه السلام) عن الله جل جلاله هل يوصف بمكان؟ فقال: تعالى الله عن ذلك،

Al Sinany and Daqaq and Al Maktab and Al Waraq altogether from Muhammad Al Asady, from Al Nakhaie, from Al Nowfaly, from Ali Bin Salim, from his father, from Sabit Bin Dinar who said,

'I asked Zayn Al-Abideen Ali<sup>asws</sup> Bin Al-Husayn<sup>asws</sup> about Allah<sup>azwj</sup>, Majestic is His<sup>azwj</sup> Majesty, 'Can He<sup>azwj</sup> be described by a place?' He<sup>asws</sup> said: 'Allah<sup>azwj</sup> is more Exalted than that'.

قلت: فلم أسرى بنبيه محمد (صلى الله عليه وآله) إلى السماء؟ قال: ليريه ملكوت السموات وما فيها من عجائب صنعه وبدائع خلقه،

I said, 'Then why did He<sup>azwj</sup> Ascend His<sup>azwj</sup> Prophet<sup>saww</sup> Muhammad<sup>saww</sup> to the sky?' He<sup>asws</sup> said: 'In order to Show him<sup>saww</sup> the kingdoms of the skies and what is therein from the wonders of His<sup>azwj</sup> Making and beauty of His<sup>azwj</sup> creation'.

قلت: فقول الله عز وجل: " ثم دنا فتدلى فكان قاب قوسين أو أدنى " قال: ذاك رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله) دنا من حجب النور، فرأى ملكوت السموات، ثم تدلى (صلى الله عليه وآله) فنظر من تحته إلى ملكوت الارض حتى ظن أنه في القرب من الارض كقاب قوسين أو أدنى .

I said, 'The Words of Mighty and Majestic: ***Then he approached, so he bowed [53:8] So he was (at a distance of) two bows or nearer [53:9]***'. He<sup>asws</sup> said: 'That is Rasool-Allah<sup>saww</sup>! He<sup>saww</sup> approached the Veils of Light and saw the kingdoms of the skies, then he<sup>saww</sup> bowed and looked beneath him<sup>saww</sup> to the kingdoms of the earth until he<sup>saww</sup> thought that he<sup>saww</sup> was nearer to the earth like (a distance of) two bows or nearer"<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Bihar Al Anwaar – V 18, The book of our Prophet<sup>saww</sup>, P 3 Ch 3 H 57