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يَـّأَيُّهَا ٱلْمُزَّمِّلُ

O you, wrapped up in clothes [73:1]



ANSWER:

Al-Muzzammil / The one wrapped up in clothes



COMMENTARY

The word muzzammil literally means 'one wrapped up in clothes'.

The Holy Prophet addressed in this verse with reference to a particular style of wrapping himself in his clothes. The first event of this kind occurred when the Holy Prophet received first revelation in the cave of Hirā. Being his first experience, he felt it very hard, and was caught by a shivery cold, and once he reached home, he asked his blessed wife Khadijah radī'allāhu 'anhā to wrap him in a blanket which she did. A detailed account of this event is reported by Bukhārī in the very first chapter of his book. Then the revelation stopped for some time. Speaking of this temporary break in the revelation [termed as fatrat-ul-wahy], Sayyidnā Jābir radī'allāhu 'anhu reports that the Messenger of Allah said in his narrative:

"Whilst I was walking along, I heard a voice from heaven and I raised up my eyes. Lo! The Angel that had appeared to me in Hirā was sitting on a chair between heaven and earth, and I was struck with awe on account of him and returned home and said, Wrap me up, wrap me up [zammilūnī, zammilūnī]. Then Allah revealed the first five verses of Sūrah Al-Muddaththir (chapter74)." [Bukhārī and Muslim]

According to this narrative, the Holy Prophet is affectionately addressed as 'O you, enveloped in a mantle,' whereas in this Sūrah he is addressed as 'O you wrapped up in clothes'. Both forms of address are used affectionately and endearingly to console him. The latter title of address 'muzzammil' as it appears in this Sūrah could probably be connected to another incident but it, nonetheless, shows deep love and affection for the Holy Prophet . [Rūh-ul-Ma'ānī]. Having addressed him with this special title, the Holy Prophet is told in the following verses that praying to Allah in the stillness of night [salāt-ut-tahajjud] will prepare him for the heavy task entrusted to him. Some details of the night-prayer have also been set out.

TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

Allah commands His Messenger to cease being wrapped up, and this means to be covered during the night. He commands him to get up and stand in prayer to His Lord. This is as Allah says, (Their





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sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope, and they spend out of what We have bestowed on them.) (32:16) Thus, the Prophet did as Allah ordered him, by standing for prayer at night. This was obligatory upon him alone, as Allah said, (And in some parts of the night offer the Salah with it (the Qur'an), as an additional prayer for you. It may be that your Lord will raise you to Maqam Mahmud.) (17:79)

Here Allah explains how much prayer he should perform. Allah says, **(O you wrapped up! Stand all night, except a little.)** Ibn 'Abbas, Ad-Dahhak and As-Suddi all said, (O you wrapped up!) "This means, O you who are asleep." Qatadah said, "The one who is wrapped up in his garments."

And Allāh Ta'ālā knows best.

