



ANSWER

وَالشَّفْعِ

and by the even... [89:3]



COMMENTARY

(and by the even... 89:3). The Qur'ān has not specified what the words 'the even' [...] refer to. Therefore, the commentators have assigned different interpretations to them. Nevertheless, it has been mentioned in a Prophetic Hadith narrated by Abū-z-Zubair from Sayyidnā Jābir *radi'allāhu 'anhu* thus: '[...] and *ash-shaf* refers to the Day of Sacrifice [because it falls on the 10th day of Dhul Hijjah]'

Qurtubī cites this narration and confirms that its chain of authorities is more authentic than the other tradition narrated by Sayyidnā 'Imrān Ibn Husain *radi'allāhu 'anhu* which talks about... even [two/four] units of prayers. Therefore, Sayyidnā Ibn 'Abbās *radi'allāhu 'anhu* 'Ikramah and Nahhās *rahimahumā Allah* have preferred the view that 'even' refers to the Day of Sacrifice [...].

Some commentators like Ibn Sīrīn, Masrūq, Abū Sālih and Qatādah *rahimahumā Allah* said that 'even' refers to the entire creation, because Allah has created them in pairs, and thus He says: 'And from everything We have created (a pair of) two kinds [51:49] - belief/disbelief, happiness/unhappiness, light/darkness, night/day, cold/heat, sky/earth, human/Jinn and male/female as against all of these pairs [...].

And Allah Ta'ālā knows best.

