



ANSWER

وَالطَّارِقِ

...and by the Night-Comer [86:1]



COMMENTARY

The first oath, in the beginning of the Sūrah, is by the sky and *tāriq*. The word *tāriq* means the 'Night-Comer'. Stars normally disappear during the day and only appear at night, therefore they are called *tāriq*. The Qur'ān itself raises the question:

(and what may let you know what the Night-Comer is? ... 86:2) and then answers the question thus: (The star of piercing brightness!... 86:3). The word *najm* means 'star'. The Qur'ān does not specify any particular 'star'. Therefore, it may be applied to any star. Some of the commentators say that *najm* refers to the Pleiades or Saturn, and they quote specimens of Arabic speech to confirm their argument. The word *thāqib* means 'piercing brightness'.

TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

Swearing by the Existence of Humanity surrounded by the Organized System of Allah

Allah swears by the heaven and what He has placed in it of radiant stars. Thus, He says, (By the heaven, and At-Tariq;) Then He says, (And what will make you to know what At-Tariq is) Then He explains it by His saying, (The star of Ath-Thaqib.) Qatadah and others have said, "The star has been named Tariq because it is only seen at night and it is hidden during the day." His view is supported by what has been mentioned in the authentic Hadith that prohibits a man to come to his family Taruq. This means that he comes to them unexpectedly at nighttime.

(Ath-Thaqib.) Ibn `Abbas said, "The illuminating." `Ikrimah said, "It is illuminating and it burns the Shaytan".

And Allah Ta'ālā knows best.

