

Surah 55. Ar-Rahman

Asad: And the skies has He raised high, and has devised [for all things] a measure,³

Malik: He has raised the heaven on high and created the balance:

Pickthall: And the sky He hath uplifted; and He hath set the measure,

Yusuf Ali: And the Firmament has He raised high and He has set up the balance (of Justice) ⁵¹⁷⁷

Transliteration: Waalssamah rafaAAha wawadaAAa almeezana

Khatab:

As for the sky, He raised it ?high?, and set the balance ?of justice?

Author Comments

3 - The noun mizan, usually denoting a "balance", has here the more general connotation of "measure" or "measuring" by any means whatsoever (Zamakhshari), in both the concrete and abstract senses of the word. (Cf. also the parabolic use of the term mizan in [42:17](#) and [57:25](#).)

5177 - The "balance of justice" in this verse is connected with "the Balance" in the next two verses, that men may act justly to each other and observe due balance in all their actions, following the golden mean and not transgressing due bounds in anything. But the Balance is also connected figuratively with the heavens above in three symbols: (1) Justice is a heavenly virtue: (2) the heavens themselves are sustained by mathematical balance; and (3) the constellation Libra (the Balance) is entered by the sun at the middle of the zodiacal year.

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