

Surah 56. Al-Waqi'a

Asad: NAY, I call to witness the coming-down in parts [of this Qur'an]²⁶

Malik: I swear by the setting of the stars,

Pickthall: Nay, I swear by the places of the stars

Yusuf Ali: Furthermore I call to witness the setting of the Stars ⁵²⁵⁸

Transliteration: Falā oqsimu bimawaqīAAi alInnujoomi

Khatab:

So I do swear by the positions of the stars—

Author Comments

26 - Or: "the setting [or "orbiting"] of the stars". The term mawqi' (of which mawaqi' is the plural) denotes the "time [or "place" or "manner"] at which something comes down". Although many of the commentators think that the phrase mawaqi' an-nujum relates to the break-up of the stars at the Last Hour, Ibn 'Abbas, 'Ikrimah and As-Suddi were definitely of the opinion, strongly supported by the subsequent verses, that this phrase refers to the step-by-step revelation - or "coming-down in parts (nujum)" - of the Qur'an (cf. Tabari and Ibn Kathir; see also note [1] on [53:1](#)). By "calling to witness" the gradual manner of its revelation, the Qur'an points implicitly to the astounding fact that it has remained free of all inconsistencies and inner contradictions (cf. [4:82](#) and the corresponding note [97]) despite all the dramatic changes in the Prophet's life during the twenty-three years of the "unfolding" of the divine writ: and this explains, too, the subsequent parenthetical clause (verse {76}).

5258 - Cf. liii. 1.

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