

Quran 101

Surah Al Bakarah (the Cow), Ayah 257

May 14, 2025



Allah is the Guardian of the believers—He brings them out of darkness and into light. As for the disbelievers, their guardians are false gods who lead them out of light and into darkness. It is they who will be the residents of the Fire. They will be there forever. 2:257

Reflections*:

***Reflections are personal insights and interpretations. They are not meant to be taken as authoritative**

In this ayah, two intertwined themes can be observed. The first has to do with light, and the second is about having a protective friend.

Light, in our physical world, is known to be an indispensable means of maintaining the life of botany by means of photosynthesis, as well as human nourishment as a source of vitamin D. There are also published studies that correlate prolonged exposure to light with happiness. Light also helps with sleep cycles and more. Light is the means of uncovering the beauty and dangers of the world surrounding us.

When it comes to the Qur'anic perspective, the imagery of light connotes different aspects of belief: revelation is called light, faith is called light, angels are light, and more. A life without light in both material and religious aspects is a life without guidance. In a literal sense, because walking in the dark is difficult; and in a figurative sense, since the absence of light connotes spiritual depletion of faith.

However, these two aspects of light and darkness are closely related. Light can pave the way in both aspects, and the absence of it takes away beauty, direction and reality. You are unable to perceive anything around yourself when in a pitch-black place. Similarly, one is oblivious of many worldly and spiritual aspects when the light of faith is absent. A person will lack a sense of where they stand in life, and where they're headed to. Revelation is fundamental sustenance necessary for our spiritual survival; it is necessary to see the beauty of life, its reality and its dangers, and necessary for our uplifted sense of hope, purpose and tranquility.

From a grammatical perspective: as a noun, "wali" denotes permanence, unlike the related verb which could have been used in one tense or another. By using the nominal form of the word instead of the verbal form, it is understood that Allah always has been and always will be the Protective Friend of those who have come to faith; the one always looking out for their best interests.

Then, the verb for believing "aamanoo" is in the past tense, while the verb for bringing out of the darkness "yukhriju" is in the present tense (which also describes the future). Therefore, Allah - who has the permanent quality of being the protective friend of those who have committed to belief - will take them out of darkness in the present and in the future.

Darkness here doesn't just mean disbelief; it encapsulates much more, like greed, laziness, and hopelessness. Allah as the everlasting Protective Friend is promising that He will take every person who believed out of those darknesses.

Know with full conviction that when you rely on Alwali, when you put your trust in Him, you are stepping out of a world of constriction into a world of freedom, from a state of hopelessness to places of immense opportunities, from locked doors to open fields, and from extreme darknesses into paths of light. Nothing is impossible with Alwali, your Protector.

Alhamdulillah for our Wali who revives, covers, illuminates, and reassures.

Source: <https://quranreflect.com/?tags=%23RamadanReflections2021>

Key Takeaways:

1. Allah is the Wali (Protector/Guardian) of the believers:

- He takes personal responsibility for guiding and caring for them.
- This guardianship includes removing them from the metaphorical "darkness" (of ignorance, sin, disbelief) into "light" (of knowledge, faith, and righteousness).

2. Disbelievers follow false authorities or "Taghut":

- These are forces or entities that rebel against God or lead people away from the truth.
- Their path leads from any potential light into greater darkness.

3. The consequence of following either path is stark:

- Believers, through Allah's guidance, find light and ultimate salvation.
- Disbelievers, by aligning with falsehood, are destined for Hell, where they will remain eternally.

Thematic Emphasis:

This verse encapsulates a recurring Qur'anic theme: **guidance is a gift from Allah**, and those who turn away from it fall into deeper spiritual ruin. **It highlights the spiritual battle between light and darkness**, truth and falsehood, and where ultimate allegiance leads

Duaa' (Supplications or Prayer)

The du'a is one the simplest acts a believer can make to communicate and establish a connection with his or her creator. In the Quran, Surah Baqarah verse 186, Allah (swt) says,

“When my servants ask you about me, (tell them), I am really close to them, I listen to the prayer of each suppliant when he invokes me”

This week Duaa:

Rabbana atina fid dunyaa hasanatanw wa fil aakhirati hasanatanw wa qinaa azaaban Naar

“Our Lord, give us in this world [that which is] good and in the Hereafter [that which is] good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire.” – 2:201 –

Suggested video to watch later:

A Reflection on 2:256

<https://youtu.be/Y6hSyLHaCH8>

(about 18 minutes)



Feedback / Suggestions

We appreciate your comments & Feedback, please scan the QR code or use the link below for a short survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAdwqSy3074IOjXgFpme2ii2251jvmYYcGmGQKquRFn6AKZA/viewform>



Notes:
