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How to Use These Books

The Mini Tafseer Book Series is designed to teach children the Tafseer (exegesis) of all the suwaar (chapters) in the 30th Part of the Qur'aan. Each book in this 38 book series covers a different surah. The books feature:

- Special facts about the surah
- Arabic text of the surah
- English transliteration (to assist non-Arabic speakers)
- English translation
- Simplified Tafseer
- Illustrations/Coloring pages (no animals/humans)
- Highlighted Arabic vocabulary
- Sahih Ahadith
- One sentence summary of what the surah is about
- Review section
- Notes on the text (additional facts and information)

Teaching Tips:

If your younger child has trouble going through the whole book in one sitting, or does not retain all of the information taught, then just focus on the Tafseer pages first (i.e. those that explain the verses of the surah) and save the additional information contained in the Quick Facts, What's Special, Asbaab An-Noozool, and Vocabulary sections* for later when your child has mastered the Tafseer.

For older or advanced students who need more of a challenge, you can take time to go through all sections and discuss the lesson notes for that section (located at the end of the text). This will make lessons more challenging and provide a deeper understanding of the Tafseer, and Allah knows best.

**Some books may not contain all of these sections.*

Preview

Mini Tafseer Book Series

Suratul-Layl

Quick Facts about Suratul-Layl

Suratul-Layl was revealed in **Makkah**. That means it was revealed in the beginning of Rasulullah's ﷺ prophethood, before the Hijrah (migration) to Madinah. Thus, Suratul-Layl is called a "**Makki**" surah. (i.e. revealed in Makkah)

Suratul-Layl gets its name from the word "**Al-Layl**", meaning "The Night", which Allah swears by in the first ayah.

Suratul-Layl talks a lot about one of the most famous Sahaabah...
Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq رضي الله عنه 1

So what is Suratul-Layl all about?

Suratul-Layl is all about **Qadr** (fate) and knowing **what type of person you are....**

A person who likes to do **good things** will go to **Jannah...**

A person who likes to do **bad things** will go to **Jahannam.**

SPECIAL!
SPECIAL!
SPECIAL!

Now let's learn what makes
Suratul-Layl so...

SPECIAL!
SPECIAL!
SPECIAL!
SPECIAL!

The first thing that is so special
about Suratul-Layl is that...

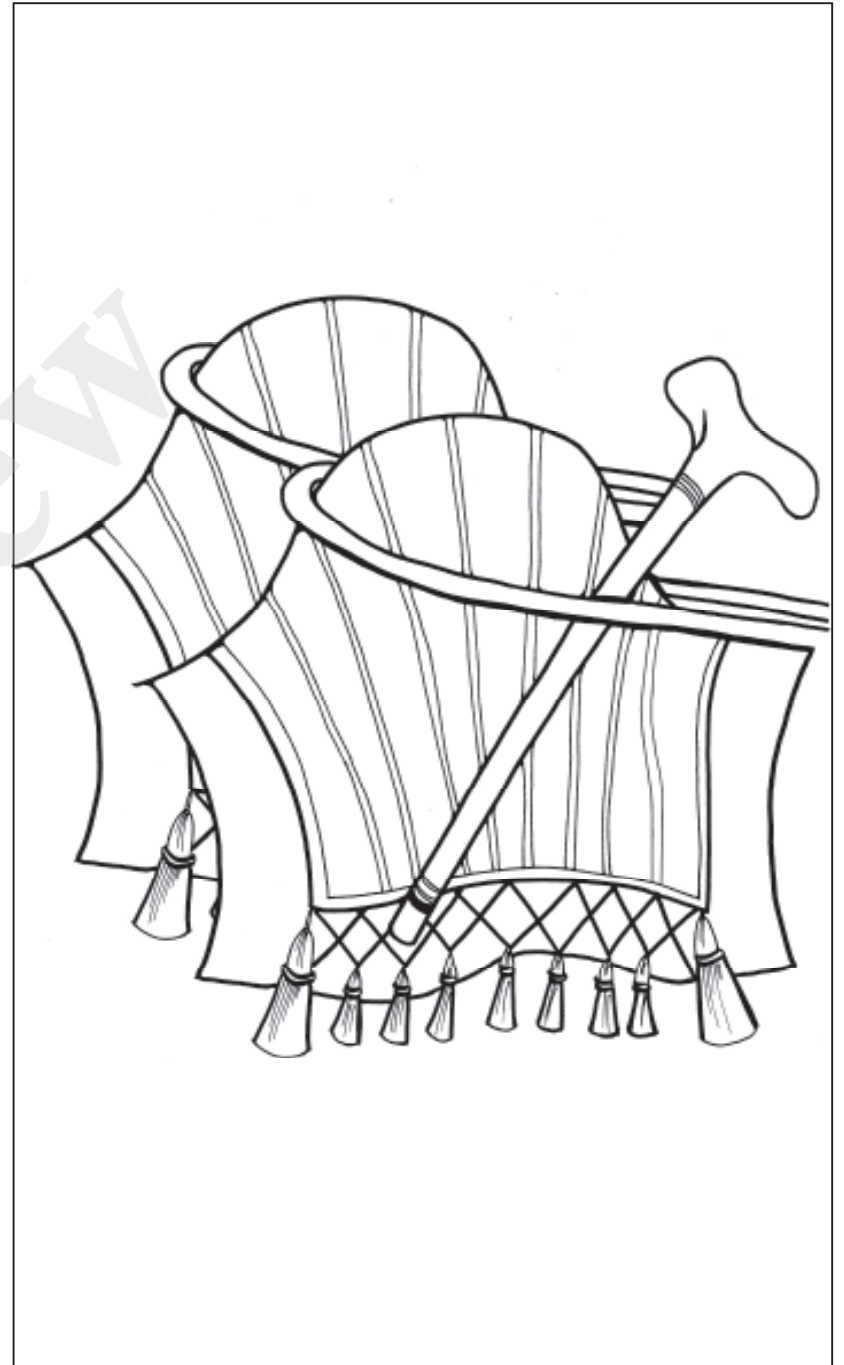
Rasulullah ﷺ once recommended
reciting it for Isha' prayer in Jamaa'
(congregation) because it is not too
long, or too short; **it is just right!**

The story goes like this...

Jaabir رضي الله عنه narrated, "Once a man was driving two camels and night had fallen. He found Mu'aadh (i.e. Mu'aadh ibn Jabal رضي الله عنه, a famous Sahaabah and one of the best recitors of his time) praying (Ishaa'), so he made his camels kneel and joined Mu'aadh in the prayer. The latter recited Suratul-Baqarah or Suratun-Nisaa' (both very long chapters from the Qur'aan), (so) the man left the prayer and went away (i.e. because he had been working all day, and was too tired to stand that long).

When he (the man) came to know that Mu'aadh had criticized him (for leaving), he went to the Prophet ﷺ, and complained against Mu'aadh. The Prophet ﷺ said three times, "O Mu'aadh! Are you putting the people to trial? It would have been better if you had recited Sabbi-his-ma rab-bee-kal-a'laa (Suratul-'Alaa), Wash-sham-see wad-doo-ha-ha (Suratush-Shams), or **Wal-lay-lee ee-dha yagh-sha (Suratul-Layl)**, for the old, the weak and the needy pray behind you."²

(Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)



The second thing that is so special about Suratul-Layl is...

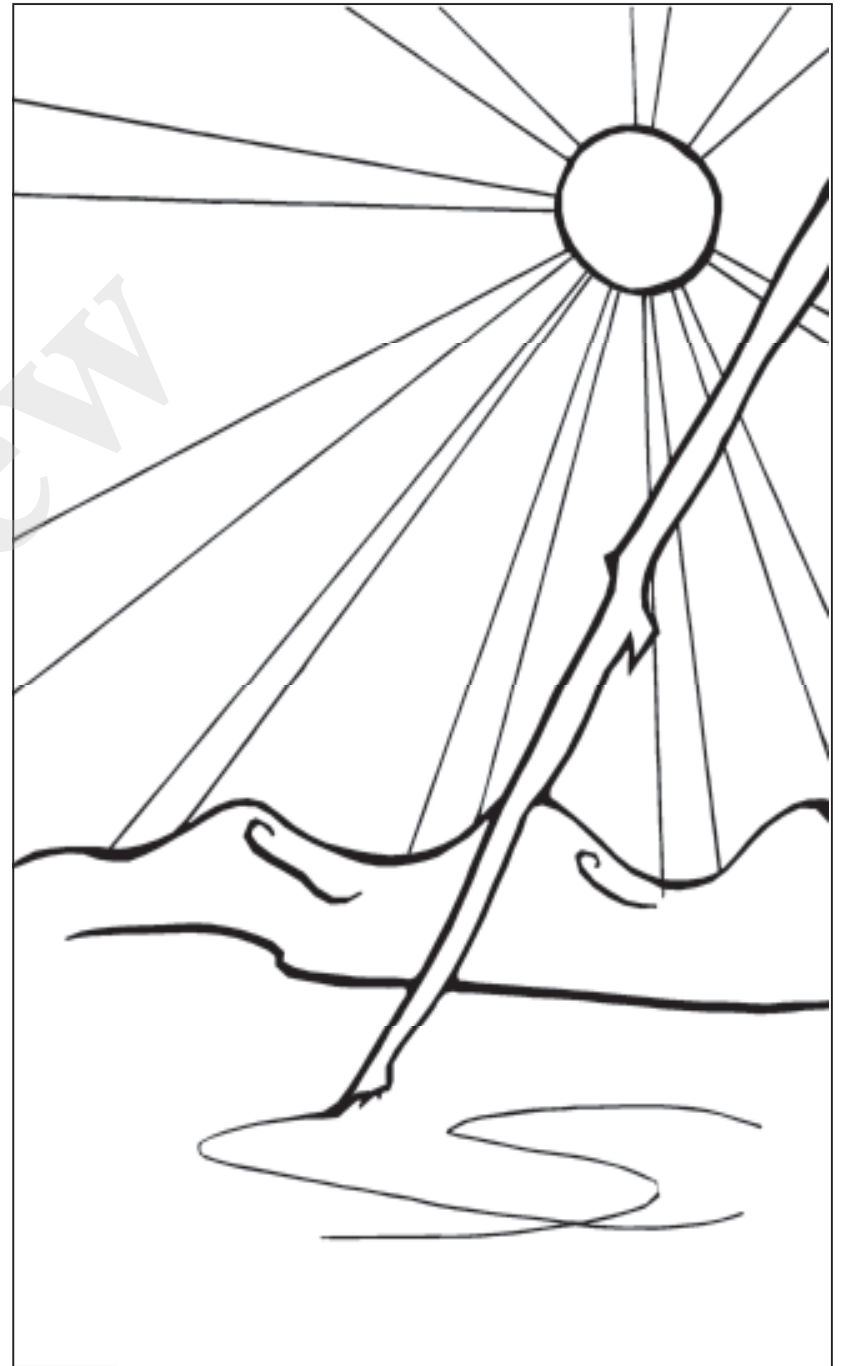
Rasulullah ﷺ used Suratul-Layl to teach the Sahaabah an important lesson about **Qadr** (fate)...

The story goes like this...

Ali bin Abi Talib علي بن أبي طالب (the cousin of Rasulullah صلى الله عليه وسلم and the fourth Caliph of Islaam) related, "We were at a funeral in the cemetery of **Baqee` Al-Gharqad** when the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم came and sat down. So we came and sat around him and he had a stick with him. Then he bowed his head and he began to scratch the ground with his stick. He then said...

"There is not anyone among you -- or is not a single soul (that has been created) -- except that his place has been written in Paradise or in the Fire, and it has been written that he will be miserable or happy."

A man said, "O Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم! Should we just depend on what has been written for us and give up doing deeds? Because whoever of us is of the people of happiness, then he will be of the people of happiness (i.e. in Jannah), and whoever among us is of the people of misery, then he will be of the people of misery (i.e. in Jahannam)?" ³



The Prophet ﷺ replied, "Those people who are the people of happiness, they will have the deeds of the people of happiness made easy for them. And those people who are the people of misery, they will have the deeds of the people of misery made easy for them."

Then he recited the following ayaat from Suratul-Layl:

﴿فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ
وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ

فَسَنِّيئِرُهُ لِيُسْرَىٰ
وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَىٰ

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ
فَسَنِّيئِرُهُ لِيُعْسِرَىٰ ﴿١﴾

(As for him who gives and fears Allah, and believes in the best (reward). We will make smooth for him the path of ease (goodness). But he who is greedy and thinks himself self-sufficient, and belies the best (reward). We will make smooth for him the path to evil.)

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

So, the lesson was that **Allah has written** exactly what each of us will do during our lifetimes, and where each of us will end up after we die (i.e. Jannah or Jahannam).

Believing in this part of Allah's power, known as **Qadr**, is part of being a good Muslim.

So even though it is already written (known by Allah) what type of person we will be, it is important for us to do the deeds of a good person.

If we find **doing good deeds easy** than we can know that we probably are of the people of Jannah. Alhamdulillah!

But the opposite is also true...

If we find that **doing bad deeds is easy** for us, then we know that most likely we will be in Jahannam.

May Allah protect us from that!

Does Allah decide if we will be
good or bad?

Do we have free choice?

You may think it sounds like Allah
decides if we will be good or bad.
That's not true...

...we are the ones who decide.

If Allah decided what we would do,
then there would be no need for Him to
send books and prophets to teach us,
or to reward or punish us based on
whether we follow them.

Rather, it is precisely because we have
free choice that Allah has sent us
prophets and books to teach us how to
make the **right choices**.

Now that we have learned what is so special about Suratul-Layl, let's get ready to learn what Suratul-Layl is all about!

We will start by learning **4 new words** from the Qur'aan.

The more words you know from the Qur'aan, the better you will understand each surah that you learn insha-Allah.

Understanding the Qur'aan is what Allah wants us to do!

So let's get started
right now!

4 NEW WORDS!*

Vocabulary List

Keep a look out for the following vocabulary words while you read! These words will help you remember the meaning of Suratul-Layl, insha-Allah!

the night

الَّيْلُ
(al-layl)

the day

النَّهَارِ
(an-na-haar)

the male

الذَّكَرَ
(adh-dha-kar)

the female

الْأُنثَى
(al-oon-tha)

Now that we are ready,
we need to start the right way...

There are **two things** we should say before
we start reading a surah from the Qur'aan,
can you remember what they are?



#1 We say the Isti'aadhah⁴...

I seek refuge with Allah from the cursed Shaytaan.

(‘A-‘oo-thoo-bil-laa-he-me-nash-shay-taa-nir-ra-jeem)

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ
الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

We start reading Qur'aan by asking
Allah to protect us from Shaytaan
and...

#2 We say the Basmallah⁵...

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful,
the Especially Merciful.

(Bis-mil-laa-hir-rah-maa-nir-ra-heem)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We remember Allah and say how
great He is for giving us so many
wonderful blessings!

Okay!

We are ready to go now! You know your **new words** and you've said the **Isti'aathah** and **Basmallah**...

Now it is time to learn what **Suratul-Layl** says...

Good people love doing good deeds!

Many of the ayaat (verses) in the Qur'aan have a story behind them that tells why they were revealed. These stories are called...

Asbaab

An-Noozool

The story behind the revelation of **Suratul-Layl** helps us learn from one of the most righteous men in the history of **Islaam!**

This surah was not revealed all at one time, rather it was revealed in **parts**. However, the parts are related to the story of **one man**...

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq ﷺ

...the closest friend of Rasulullah ﷺ, and the first Caliph of Islaam.

Abu Bakr ﷺ loved to do **good things**. One of the things he loved most was to **free slaves**; especially elderly slaves, and female slaves, who had accepted Islaam.

Abu Bakr's father, **Abu Quhafah**, noticed his son buying and freeing slaves, and asked why he did it. Freeing old and weak slaves did not benefit Abu Bakr, or so his father thought.

But, Abu Bakr told his father that he had his own reasons for doing what he was doing. In his heart, Abu Bakr knew that he was freeing slaves because he **loved doing good things** to grow closer to Allah.⁶

The scholars of the Qur'aan say that it is because of this incident that verses **17-18 of Suratul-Layl** were revealed.

These ayaat confirm that good people (like Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه) do good things to **please Allah**, not to get benefits.

As for verse **19 till the end of the surah**, these were revealed about another incident when Abu Bakr freed a slave who would later be one of the most well-known Muslims in history! ⁷

Let's learn more...

One day Rasulullah ﷺ passed by a group of men punishing an Ethiopian slave in the desert. The slave belonged to one of the wealthy men of Makkah named Abdullah ibn Jud'aan.

You might have heard this slave's name before...**Bilal ibn Rabah** رضي الله عنه, who would later become the first Moo'athin (caller of the Adhaan) in Islaam.

Bilal was being punished because he had insulted the gods of the Quraysh, and had become a Muslim without the permission of his master.

While Bilal was being tortured, he kept repeating that there is only one God (Allah), no matter what the men did.

Rasulullah ﷺ heard Bilal, and told him that the one God would save him, then he went to Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه to tell him what was happening.



Abu Bakr رضي الله عنه immediately grabbed a bag of gold, rushed to the men, and **bought Bilaal** رضي الله عنه on the spot.

The men gladly took the money in order to get rid of Bilaal, but they were not finished with their evil behavior.

Being greedy and selfish, they did not understand why Abu Bakr would buy a slave that was disobedient, so they told everyone that Abu Bakr must have bought Bilaal because he **owed Bilaal some money or a favor.**

But that was not true, and **Allah revealed Suratul-Layl** to show everyone from that time till Yowmul-Qiyaamah, that Abu Bakr (and good people like him) are good because they like being good, and they hope Allah will be happy with them. **They do not want any reward or benefit from other people.**

Now let's read Suratul-Layl...

“By the night when it covers;”

(Wal-lay-lee ee-tha yagh-shaa)

وَ اللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَىٰ

"And (by) the day when it appears,"

(Wan-na-haa-ree ee-thaa ta-jal-laa)

وَ النَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّىٰ

"And (by) He who created the male and female,"

(Wa-ma kha-la-qath-tha-ka-ra wal-oon-thaa)

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ

"Indeed, your efforts are diverse."

(In-na sa'-ya-koom la-shat-taa)

إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّىٰ

Suratul-Layl starts with Allah swearing an oath...

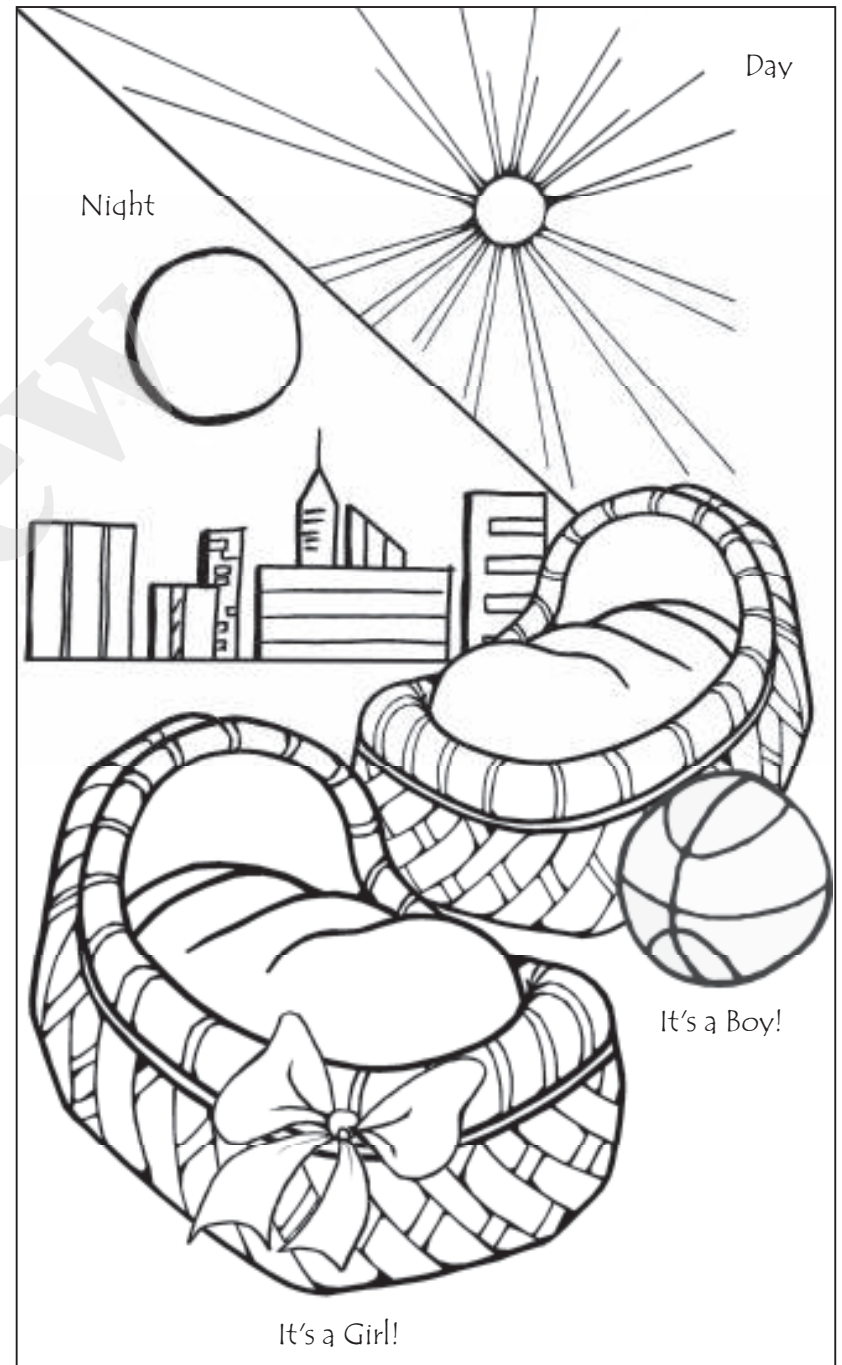
Allah only swears by things that are very important, things that we know are true, or things that will help us understand what He is telling us.

**In Suratul-Layl Allah swears by
three things...**

**The night, the day, and
the way that Allah creates
boys and girls**

Just like day and night are very different,
and girls and boys are very different, the
choices that people make in their lives
are **very different**, too.

Some people choose to be **good** and
other people choose to be **bad**.⁸



“As for he who gives and fears Allah,”

(Fa-am-maa man a’-taa wat-ta-qaa)

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ ﴿٥﴾

“And believes in the best (reward),”

(Wa-sad-da-qa bil-hoos-naa)

وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ ﴿٦﴾

"We will ease him towards ease."

(Fa-sa-noo-yas-see-roo-hoo lil-yoos-raa)

فَسَنِّيئِرُهُۥٓ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ ﴿٧﴾

Allah tells us...

The people who ...

share their money, fear doing things Allah does not like, and are sure that Allah will **reward** them for listening to Him, Allah will make it easy for them to go to **Jannah!**

Allah will make it easy for them because **they like to do good things**. When they are asked to do something good, they want to do it right away, and they feel happy to do it.

Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq رضي الله عنه was a man like this. He loved to do good things, and was always looking for ways to help other people. Because of this, the scholars say that this surah is talking about him (and people who are like him).

“But as for him who withholds and considers himself free of need,”

(Wa-am-ma mum-ba-khee-la was-tagh-naa)

وَأَمَّا مَنْ بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَىٰ

“And denies the best (reward),”

(Wa-kath-tha-ba bil-hoos-naa)

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ

“We will ease him toward difficulty.”

(Fa-sa-noo-yas-see-roo-hoo lil-‘oos-raa)

فَسَيِّئِرُهُ لِّلْعُسْرَىٰ

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