



The keys of the unseen are five

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "The keys of the unseen are five {Indeed, Allah has the knowledge of the Hour. He sends down the rain and knows what is in the wombs. No soul knows what it will do tomorrow, nor does any soul know in which land it will die. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.}"

[Authentic] [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri]

The unseen belongs to Allah alone; none knows it except Him. The Prophet (ﷺ) informed us that the keys and treasures of the unseen are five: First: None knows when the Hour will occur except Allah—this refers to the knowledge of the Hereafter, for the Day of Judgment is its beginning. And if the knowledge of its beginning is unknown, then all that follows it is even more hidden. Second: None knows when rain will come except Allah—this refers to matters of the higher world. Rain is mentioned specifically, even though there are apparent causes that may indicate its coming by custom and observation, yet these causes do not provide certainty or exact knowledge. Third: What is in the wombs—whether male or female, black or white, complete or defective, wretched or blessed, and the like. The womb was mentioned specifically because people often make assumptions about it based on customary signs, yet Allah denied that anyone truly knows its reality; and if this is the case for what is most observable, then what is beyond it is even more hidden and unknowable. Fourth: No one knows what will happen tomorrow except Allah—this refers to the events that occur within time and its unfolding happenings. The word “tomorrow” is mentioned specifically because it is the nearest of future times; so if no one truly knows what will occur in such a near time—despite possible signs or indications—then knowledge of what lies further ahead is even more beyond reach. Fifth: No soul knows in what land it will die—this refers to matters of the lower world. Although people generally die in their homelands, this is not always the case. Even if one dies in their own land, they do not know the exact spot where they will be buried, even if there is a graveyard of their ancestors. {Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware}—He encompasses all things, outward and inward, the hidden and the unseen, the secrets and the mysteries. Thus, this verse includes all types of the unseen and refutes every false claim to the knowledge of it.

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