

August 11

[O Muhammad]

If you ask the doubters,

'who is Lord of the seven heavens

and of the Great Throne?'

They will answer again, 'God.'

Then say, 'Would you not want to be

among the God-fearing?'

Then ask, 'In whose hands

is the sovereignty of everything,

the Protector, who does not need protection?

Answer, if you really know.'

They will answer, again, 'God.'

Then say, 'How can you turn away from [the Truth]?'

Yet when We bring them the Truth,

the nonbelievers are but liars.

23:86-90

August 12

We created seven levels of heaven above you,
We have never been negligent
in caring for the universe.

We send rain down from the sky
in measured amounts to settle into the earth,
although We can just as easily make it vanish.

With this rain, We brought forth gardens
of date-palm trees for you,
as well as vineyards and orchards,
in which there are many fruits for you to eat.

With that rain, We also create the [olive] trees
that spring forth on Mount Sinai
and produce fine oil for eating.