

Surah 42, ash-Shura [consultation], Mecca 42

The Quran's Text & Yusuf Ali's Translation:

اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْمِيزَانَ... ^{up}

42:17. It is God Who has sent down **the Book in truth, and the Balance** (by which to weigh conduct).

...وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ قَرِيبٌ ﴿١٧﴾

And what will make thee realize that perhaps the Hour is close at hand?

[Ali's comments: 4550. Revelation is like a balance, an instrument placed by God in our hands, by which we can weigh all moral issues, all questions of right and wrong in conduct. We must do so constantly. For the Judgment in any given case may come at any time: it may be quite near, and we must always be prepared. The Balance may also refer to the God given faculty by which man can judge between right and wrong. **]**

Muhammad Asad's Translation:

(42: 17) [for] it is God [Himself] who has bestowed revelation from on high, setting forth the truth, and [thus given man] a balance [wherewith to weigh right and wrong]. 22 And for all thou knowest, the Last Hour may well be near!

[Asad's comments:

22 The above two interpolations are based on **57:25**, where the idea underlying this verse has been stated clearly. The implication is that since God Himself has given man, through successive revelations, a standard whereby to discern between right and wrong, it is presumptuous and futile to argue about the nature of His Being and His ultimate judgment: hence the reference, in the second half of this and the next verse, to the Last Hour and, thus, the Day of Judgment.

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ... ^{up}

57:25. We sent aforetime our messengers with Clear Signs and sent down with them the Book and the Balance (of Right and Wrong), that men may stand forth in justice;

[**Ali's Comments:** 5313. Three things are mentioned as gifts of God. In concrete terms they are; the Book, the Balance, and Iron,

which stand as emblems of three things which hold society together, viz.

- Revelation, which commands Good and forbids Evil;
- Justice, which gives to each person his due;
- and the strong arm of the Law, which maintains sanctions for evil-doers.

For Balance, see also 42:17, and n. 4550.]