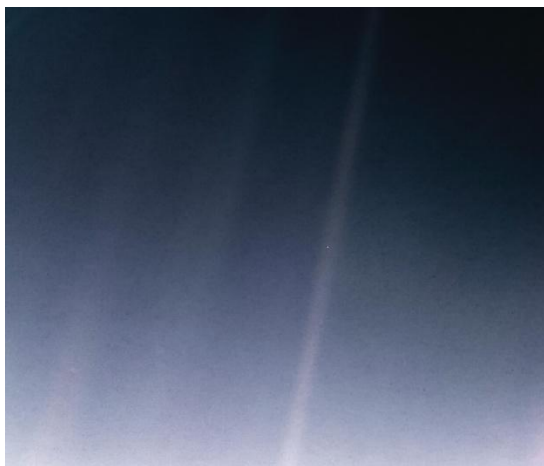


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

A Speck Beneath Allah's Throne

The "Pale Blue Dot" is one of the most humbling images humanity has ever taken, and it powerfully serves as a window into learning & understanding the greatness of Allah's creation especially when we reflect on the Kursī (Footstool) and the 'Arsh (Throne) in light of what we know from Revelation and modern astronomy.



The “Pale Blue Dot” is a photograph of Earth taken on February 14, 1990, by the Voyager 1 space probe from an unprecedented distance of over 6 billion kilometers (3.7 billion miles). **Can you see the dot?**

Abu Dharr al-Ghifari (رضي الله عنه) said that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said: “The seven heavens in comparison to the Kursī is nothing but like a ring thrown in a desert, and the excellence of the 'Arsh (Throne of Allāh) over the Kursī is like the excellence of that desert over that ring.”

This hadith is meant to give us a sense of the immense size and majesty of Allah’s creation — particularly the Kursī (Footstool) and the 'Arsh (Throne) — by using a powerful visual analogy:

- Imagine the vastness of an open desert.
- Now imagine throwing a small ring into it.
- The ring represents the seven Heavens — all the galaxies, planets, stars, and skies we know and will never know of.
- The Kursī is like the desert in comparison to that tiny ring — showing that even the entire universe is incredibly tiny compared to the Kursī.
- Then, the ‘Arsh (Throne) is so much greater than the Kursī that it's as if the Kursī is a ring and the ‘Arsh is the desert.

This is a staggering visualization to help the human mind grasp just how great the creation of Allāh is and His Ability to do all things — and by extension, how infinitely greater Allāh Himself is, since He is the Creator of all of it.

Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah (رحمه الله) explained this Hadith in several places, particularly in his book Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā and Dar’ Ta‘āruḍ al-‘Aql wa al-Naql. Here are key points from his explanation:

The Kursī is a real, created entity distinct from the ‘Arsh

Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله affirmed the Kursī as a created object and not a metaphor. He rejected interpretations that tried to explain it away as "knowledge" or "power." According to the correct view of Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jema’ah, both the Kursī and the ‘Arsh are real and distinct creations of Allāh.

The Kursī is beneath the ‘Arsh

The Kursī is like a footstool placed beneath the Throne (‘Arsh). Allāh says in the Ayah al-Kursī: "His Kursī extends over the Heavens and the earth..."¹

Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله explained that this means the Kursī is vast beyond imagination, covering all of the Heavens and the earth, yet still smaller than the ‘Arsh.

¹ Surah al-Baqarah, 2:255

3. The 'Arsh is the greatest of Allāh's creations

Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said that the 'Arsh is the greatest and most magnificent created thing, and it is above all of the rest of creation — the place where Allāh rose (istiwa) in a way befitting His majesty.

This comparison humbles the intellect

One of the key benefits, Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said, is that this hadith humbles the intellect.

Even the vast universe that stuns scientists and astronomers is incredibly tiny in relation to the Kursī — and the Kursī itself is incredibly tiny next to the 'Arsh. Therefore, how Great is Allāh, who created and sustains all of these things — and is far above them!

Ibn al-Qayyim رحمه الله said: "The Throne is the roof of all creation and the greatest, most magnificent thing Allāh has created. It surrounds all created things, and everything else is beneath it."

He stated that the Kursī is a real, vast creation, not metaphorical. He affirmed the literal interpretation as held by Ahl al-Sunnah — that the Kursī is beneath the 'Arsh and distinct from it, and it magnifies Allāh's power and dominion, not to be confused with His essence.

He said رحمه الله "If the Kursī is so expansive that the seven heavens are like a ring in comparison to it, and the 'Arsh is like a desert compared to the Kursī, then what do you think of the greatness of the One who created and controls both the Kursī and the 'Arsh?"

In al-Nūniyyah, he poetically describes how the 'Arsh is the most honored creation because: "It is the closest to Allāh, the most obedient to Him, and the place where His mercy and command descend from."

He said رحمه الله "The Angels who carry the 'Arsh are the most special of the Angels because of their closeness to Allāh and their constant glorification of Him."

He said رحمه الله "The believer, when contemplating these realities, breaks free from the narrowness of the world and enters into the vastness of servitude (‘ubudiyyah) to the Lord of the Throne."

Shaykh al-Albani رحمه الله comments: "The hadīth comes forth as an explanation of (Allāh’s) statement, the Most High: ‘His Kursī extends over the heavens and the earth,’ and it is clear with regard to the existence of the Kursī being the greatest of creations after the Throne (of Allāh), and that it is an independent, physical entity and not something abstract.

Therefore, there is a refutation in (this hadīth) against the one who interprets (the Kursī) to mean ‘dominion’ and ‘extent of rule,’ as mentioned in some explanations of the Qur’ān. And it was not narrated from Ibn Abbās that (the Kursī) is ‘knowledge,’ so it is not correct to attribute it to him because it is from the narration of Ja‘far bin Abi l-Mughīra from Sa‘īd bin Jubayr from (Ibn ‘Abbās). Ibn Jarīr reported it. Ibn Mandah said: ‘Ibn Abi l-Mughīra is not strong with regard to (narrating from) Ibn Jubayr.’

And know that it is not correct to describe the Kursī...as in some narrations that...four angels carry it, each angel having four faces, and their feet are upon the rock that is under the seventh earth, etc. So all of this is not correct in being attributed to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and some of (these narrations) are more severe in weakness than others."

Translator’s Note: Shaykh Al-Albānī after this however, did grade the following narration as authentic: Abu Mūsā al-Ash‘arī said: "The Kursī is the place of the two Feet and it has a groaning like that of a camel saddle."²

Source: silsilat ul-ahādīth us-sahīha ~ the series of authentic narrations ~ hadīth no. 109

² Mukhtasar ul-‘Ulū #85, graded Sahīh Mawqūf (attributed to a Companion) by Shaykh al-Albānī.

Calculations

The Kursī (Footstool) – Greater Than the Universe

Modern Astronomy Estimates:

- Diameter of the observable universe: ~93 billion light-years (~880 sextillion kilometers)
- 1 light-year: ~9.46 trillion km
- Speed of light: ~300,000 km/s

Despite this unimaginable size, the Prophet ﷺ said: "The seven heavens in comparison to the Kursī are like a ring thrown in a desert..."³

That means:

- All galaxies, stars, black holes, and the space between them — everything we can observe — is like a ring.
- The Kursī is the desert.

If the Earth is just a speck at 6 billion km, and the entire universe is just a ring in comparison to the Kursī... Then how vast and incomprehensibly great must the Kursī be?

The ‘Arsh (Throne) – Even Greater Than the Kursī

The hadith continues:

“...and the excellence of the ‘Arsh over the Kursī is like the excellence of that desert over that ring.”

In other words:

- If the Kursī is a desert, then the ‘Arsh is a desert compared to that desert, while the Kursī becomes the ring.

This places the ‘Arsh beyond even the bounds of everything we can fathom — far beyond the observable universe.

³ Authenticated by al-Albānī

Visualizing:

Let's put this into (somewhat of a) perspective:

- That tiny speck in the photo — Earth — is where all of human history happened.
- Every nation, war, empire, invention, success, heartbreak, and joy... all occurred on that dot.
- And yet it is nothing in comparison to the universe, that is... the observable universe, and that in turn is itself like a ring in front of the Kursī.
- And the Kursī is like a ring before the 'Arsh.
- And Allah is above the 'Arsh, distinct from His creation, sustaining all of it forever — without effort or need.

Benefits of the Hadith on the Kursī and the 'Arsh:

This hadith is meant to **awaken true awe, veneration and reverence** in worship in our hearts for Him Alone:

1. It Magnifies Our Perception of Allah's Greatness ('Aẓamah)

- The hadith stretches our understanding to grasp the scale of creation, only to then realize:

"If this is creation... how Great is the Creator?"

- Allah's Greatness is Beyond Imagination, you literally cannot imagine. Even the observable universe is dwarfed by His creation — and He is not within it, but above all of it.
- It increases one's reverence, submission, and sense of insignificance before Allah.

2. It Deepens Tawḥīd (Oneness of Allah)

- Recognizing Allah's power, independence, and authority over all creation deepens Tawḥīd al-Rubūbiyyah (Lordship) and al-Asma wa Siffat (perfect and absolute Names & Attributes).

- Knowing Allah is above the ‘Arsh, distinct from His creation, protects from deviant beliefs (e.g., pantheism, hulūl, or wahdat al-wujūd).

3. It Humbles the Human Being and Awakens True Humility

- We’re often impressed by mountains, oceans, galaxies — but all of that is only within a single ring thrown in a desert.
- This destroys arrogance and pride.
- Ibn al-Qayyim said: “When the soul sees itself as great, let it look to the heavens — and then to the Kursī — and then to the ‘Arsh. It will break.”
- How small we are, how fragile, how dependent — when even the seven heavens are like a ring in a desert before the Kursī.
- It teaches us that true greatness belongs only to Allah, and our role is not to be seen — but to submit, worship, and be sincere.

4. It Builds Fear (Khashyah) and Awe

- Standing before The Only Lord who created a Throne so vast creates a trembling awe in the heart.
- Ibn al-Qayyim mentioned that true khashyah comes from knowing Allah’s greatness, not just fearing punishment.

5. It Brings Comfort: Allah is in Control

- When you realize Allah is above the Kursī and the ‘Arsh, not a leaf falls without His will, you feel safe and it should increase you in Inqiyād (submission) and tawakkal (trust, dependence, reliance).
- The chaos of the world below seems minor under the perfect control of the One above. Submit and trust in Him alone for everything.
- We are Infinitely Dependent on Him. That tiny dot is where we live, sin, worship, repent, and die. How insignificant we are — and how much we need His mercy.

6. It Nurtures Love and Longing for Allah

- The ‘Arsh is the nearest created thing to Allah.
- The carriers of the ‘Arsh are those closest to Him and most beloved.
- Ibn al-Qayyim said the believer yearns to be near Allah just as the ‘Arsh is.

7. It Makes Worship More Sincere and Focused

- When you realize you’re praying to the Rabb of the ‘Arsh, your ṣalāh becomes more focused, your du‘ā more desperate, your heart more present.
- Your sajdah becomes submission beneath the One above the ‘Arsh.
- This understanding crushes any trace of shirk (association) and strengthens pure Tawḥīd — knowing there is none like Him, none beside Him, and none worthy of worship but Him alone in truth.
- Worship becomes deeper, more sincere, and more focused when you realize the One you pray to is Rabb of the Kursī and the ‘Arsh — Who alone controls all of the Kursi and ‘Arsh as well.

8. It Helps You Detach from the Dunya

- If all the heavens are just a ring, then your wealth, power, career, and house are less than specks.
- Our “titles”, empires, and wealth — all vanish before the Majesty of al-‘Aẓīm, the Rabb of the ‘Arsh.
- Ibn al-Qayyim often urged the believer to stop clinging to that which will perish and turn to what is eternal.

9. It Confirms the Attributes of Allah without Distortion

- The hadith affirms real, physical creations (Kursī, ‘Arsh) without metaphor.
- Ibn Taymiyyah and Ibn al-Qayyim emphasized this as a cornerstone of ‘Aqidah, defending it from distortion (ta’wīl) or denial.

10. It Shows the Order, Hierarchy, and Structure of the Universe

- The hadith teaches us that creation is not chaotic — it's ordered:
 - Earth
 - Heavens (7)
 - Kursī
 - 'Arsh
- Each level has purpose, function, and meaning. This refines our worldview — nothing is random.

11. It Increases Love for the Prophet ﷺ

- He ﷺ is the one who told us this. Through him, Allah opened our eyes to realities we would never have known otherwise.
- Every hadith like this deepens appreciation for his role as a teacher, leader and perfect example of the seen and unseen knowledge and a mercy to mankind.

12. It Reorients Our Du'ā

- One of Allah's Names is:

"Rabb al-'Arsh al-'Aẓīm" – The Lord of the Mighty Throne.

- When making du'ā, calling upon Him by this Name carries the weight of this hadith.
- You're calling on the One Whose Throne dwarfs the universe less than a speck!

13. It Proves That Allah is Above — Not Within Creation

- The hadith clearly places creation (heavens, Kursī, 'Arsh) beneath Allah.
- Ibn al-Qayyim used it to refute those who claimed Allah is "everywhere" physically.

- Allah is above His Throne, not limited by creation, not part of it.

14. It Strengthens Yaqīn (Certainty) in the Unseen

- Believing in the ‘Arsh and Kursī, which are unseen, strengthens our overall īmān in al-ghayb.
- Believing in the Angels who carry the ‘Arsh strengthens our belief in The Angels of Allah and how mighty He alone created them – who are in complete obedience.
- The more we reflect on these unseen realities, the more solid our faith becomes.

15. It Puts the Vastness of the Universe in Perspective

- When you're overwhelmed by the vastness of the universe, remember — to the Kursī, it's nothing but a ring in the desert.
- The galaxies, stars, and endless skies we marvel at are insignificant in comparison to just one of Allah's created things — the Kursī — let alone the ‘Arsh.

16. It Reminds Us That Allah is Far Above His Creation

- When you reflect on the Kursī and the ‘Arsh, you're reminded that Allah is far above all of His creation — in greatness, might, and majesty. Not only that, rather He is in no need of the creation He created!
- Allah is not part of His creation, nor is He contained by it. He is above all, just as He described Himself — high above the ‘Arsh, yet near to us in knowledge, mercy, and response.

17. It Turns the Heart Back to Allah Alone

- The more you understand His creation, the more your heart pulls away from it and turns fully to Him — the Creator and Sustainer of all.
- The dunya fades in significance when you remember the ‘Arsh — and your heart finds peace only with the One who is above it.

