



THE HOLY QUR'AN

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

محمّد  
قرآن

**THE HOLY QUR'ÂN**  
**ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

# بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

ایڈمی آف قرآنک اسٹڈیز اینڈ اسلامک ریسرچ

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**The Supreme Sunni and Shia**

**Councils of the Republic of Labenon**

# FOREWARD

In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the Merciful.

*"For the people who think"*

"Read in the name of your Lord, who created, created man from clot of congealed blood.

Read! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful. One, who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.

Indeed man transgresses in thinking himself self-sufficient. Surely in your Lord is the return". (Al-Quran)

This translation of Quran is (1) Unique in its nature, being easily understandable because of its simplest possible modern English language, specially meant for the students and also for those who are not well versed in highly academic English language of the top Scholars. (2) Further, this translation is very close to Arabic text. (3) Recognized by the top scholars of international standard of different schools of thought. This translation has been revised and checked by Dr. Mahmud Zayd of the American University of Beirut with the assistance of a committee of top scholars like Professor Umar, Farrukh, Majid Fakhir and Mr. Ali Aql.

(4) After its completion the whole work was submitted for approval of both the Supreme Muslim Sunni and Shia Councils in Republic of Lebanon. Approval was secured and documented as per their certificates attached.

Regarding the message of Quran and its significance, says Imam Ali.

*"Your salvation is guaranteed by the Book of God. With its help you will recognize the way God wants you to tread. Through it you will speak truth. From it you will hear the voice of reason and truth. Its difficult or dogmatic sayings will explain each other and will bear testimony to their rationality and continuity.*

*Holy Quran truly guides you towards Islam. Its teachings are like a house standing on strong pillars (keeping those who enter the fold of Islam safe from calamities of both the worlds). Quran is a source of such an inherent power that those who follow it will never be humiliated or defeated".*

Hence it will be a pure act of goodness to read, understand and follow Quran since it is a dialogue with Almighty God and to acquire knowledge from the one whose knowledge is unfathomable - "The Book which is not to be doubted".

We believe that Quran is the word of God, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) through the medium of human language. Although it is impossible to "reproduce" the Quran as such in any other language, it is non-the-less possible to render its message comprehensible to people, who like most of the westerners do not know Arabic at all, or as in case of most of the educated non-Arab Muslims of the world - not well versed in finding their way through it unaided.

Lastly, all the readers of this translation are requested (1) to recite the Holy Quran in Arabic language as well; (2) to introduce this simplest translation of Quran to other Muslims and non-Muslims for spreading the message of Almighty God for the benefit of entire mankind; (3) we must make it our aim to follow what we recite in Quran. If we do not understand Quran how can we follow its teachings?

**(Mufassir-e-Quran)**

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## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURÂHS)

### السُّورُ و الأجزاء

<b>PART I</b> .....	1	<b>PART VII</b> .....	79
1. AL-FĀTIḤAH... الفاتحة ...	1	6. AL-AN'ĀM..... الأنعام..	84
(The Opening)		(The Cattle)	
2. AL-BAQARAH... البقرة ....	2	<b>PART VIII</b> .....	93
(The Cow)		7. AL-A'RĀF..... الأعراف..	100
<b>PART II</b> .....	14	(The Elevated Places)	
2. AL-BAQARAH... البقرة....	14	<b>PART IX</b> .....	107
(The Cow)		8. AL-ANFĀL..... الأنفال..	117
<b>PART III</b> .....	28	(The Voluntary Gifts)	
2. AL-BAQARA... البقرة....	28	<b>PART X</b> .....	120
(The Cow)		9. AL-TAUBAH..... التوبة..	124
3. ĀL-I-'IMRĀN... آل عمران....	34	(The Repentance)	
(Family of Amran)		<b>PART XI</b> .....	133
<b>PART IV</b> .....	41	10. YŪNUS..... يونس..	137
4. AL-NISĀ'..... النساء....	52	(Jonah)	
(The Women)		11. HŪD..... هود... ..	146
<b>PART V</b> .....	55	(Hūd)	
4. AL-NISĀ'..... النساء....	55	<b>PART XII</b> .....	146
(The Women)		12. YŪSUF..... يوسف..	156
<b>PART VI</b> .....	67	(Joseph)	
5. AL-MĀ'IDAH... المائدة... ..	70	<b>PART XIII</b> .....	160
(The Table Spread with Food)		13. AL-RA'D..... الرعد..	165
		(The Thunder)	

## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS)

<p>14. IBRĀHĪM.....إبراهيم... 170 (Abraham)</p> <p><b>PARTXIV</b> ..... 175</p> <p>15. AL-ḤIJR.....الحجر... 175 (The Rock)</p> <p>16. AL-NAḤL.....النحل... 179 (The Bee)</p> <p><b>PARTXV</b> ..... 189</p> <p>17. AL-ISRĀ'.....الإسراء... 189 (The Night-Journey)</p> <p>18. AL-KAḤF.....الكهف... 198 (The Place of Refuge)</p> <p><b>PARTXVI</b> ..... 203</p> <p>19. MARYAM.....مريم... 207 (Mary)</p> <p>20. TĀHĀ.....طه... 213 (Perfect Man! be at rest)</p> <p><b>PARTXVII</b> ..... 221</p> <p>21. AL-ANBIYĀ'.....الأنبياء... 221 (The Prophets)</p> <p>22. AL-ḤAJJ.....الحج... 228 (The Pilgrimage)</p> <p><b>PARTXVIII</b> ..... 235</p> <p>23. AL-MU'MINŪN.....المؤمنون... 235 (The Believers)</p> <p>24. AL-NŪR.....النور... 241 (The Light)</p> <p>25. AL-FURQĀN.....الفرقان... 248 (The Standard of Truth and Falsehood)</p> <p><b>PARTXIX</b> ..... 249</p> <p>26. AL-SHU'ARĀ'.....الشعراء... 253 (The Poets)</p>	<p>27. AL-NAML.....النمل... 261 (The Tribe of Naml - Namlites)</p> <p><b>PARTXX</b> ..... 264</p> <p>28. AL-QAṢAṢ.....القصص... 267 (Narrative)</p> <p>29. AL-'ANKABŪT.....العنكبوت... 275 (The Spider)</p> <p><b>PARTXXI</b> ..... 278</p> <p>30. AL-RŪM.....الرؤم... 281 (The Byzantines)</p> <p>31. LUQMĀN.....لقمن... 286 Luqman</p> <p>32. AL-SAJDAH.....السجده... 289 (The Prostration)</p> <p>33. AL-AḤZĀB.....الأحزاب... 292 (The Confederates)</p> <p><b>PARTXXII</b> ..... 294</p> <p>34. SABĀ.....سبا... 299 (Sheba)</p> <p>35. FĀṬĪR.....فاطر... 304 (Originator)</p> <p>36. YĀ SĪN.....يس... 308 (O Perfect Man!)</p> <p><b>PARTXXIII</b> ..... 309</p> <p>37. AL-SĀFĀ'Ā1.....الصافات... 312 (Those Ranging in Ranks)</p> <p>38. SĀD.....ص... 317 (The Truthful God)</p> <p>39. AL-ZUMUR.....الزمر... 322 (The Multitudes)</p> <p><b>PARTXXIV</b> ..... 324</p> <p>40. ḠHĀFĪR.....غافر... 328 (Grantor of Protection)</p>
---	---



## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS)

41. FUSSILAT..... فُصِّلَتْ .. 335  
(Clear in Exposition)
- PART XXV ..... 338**
42. AL-SHURĀ..... الشُّورَى... 339  
(The Council)
43. AL-ZUKHRUF... الزُّكْرَفُ... 344  
(The Ornaments)
44. AL-DUKHĀN... الدُّخَانُ... 349  
(The Draught)
45. AL-JĀTHIYAH... الْجَاثِيَةِ... 351  
(The Fallen on the Knees)
- PART XXVI ..... 354**
46. AL-AHQĀF... الْأَحْقَافُ... 354  
(The Sand Dunes)
47. MUHAMMAD... مُحَمَّدٌ... 358  
(Muhammad)
48. AL-FATH... الْفَتْحُ... 362  
(The Victory)
49. AL-HUJURĀT... الْحُجُرَاتُ... 365  
(The Chambers)
50. QĀF..... ق .. 367  
(Allāh is Almighty)
51. AL-DHĀRIĀT... الذَّرِيَاتُ... 370  
(The Scatterers)
- PART XXVII ..... 371**
52. AL-TŪR..... الطُّورُ... 373  
(The Mount)
53. AL-NAJĀM..... النُّجُومُ... 375  
(The Parts of the Qur'ān)
54. AL-QAMAR..... الْقَمَرُ... 378  
(The Moon)
55. AL-RAḤMĀN... الرَّحْمَنُ... 381  
(The Most Gracious)
56. AL-WĀQIAH... الْوَاقِعَةُ... 384  
(The Great Event)
57. AL-HADĪD... الْحَدِيدُ... 387  
(The Iron)
- PART XXVIII ..... 390**
58. AL-MUJĀDILAH... الْمُجَادِلَةُ... 390  
(The Pleading Woman)
59. AL-HASHR... الْحَشْرُ... 393  
(The Banishment)
60. AL-MUMTAHANAH... الْمُتَمَتِّنَةُ... 396  
(She that is to be Examined)
61. AL-SĀFF... الْأَصْفُ... 398  
(The Ranks)
62. AL-JUMU'ah... الْجُمُعَةُ... 400  
(The Congregation)
63. AL-MUNĀFIQŪN... الْمُتَفِقُونَ... 401  
(The Hypocrites)
64. AL-TAGHĀBUN... التَّغَابُنُ... 403  
(Manifestation of Loss)
65. AL-TALĀQ... الطَّلَاقُ... 405  
(The Divorce)
66. AL-TAHRĪM... التَّحْرِيمُ... 407  
(The Prohibition)
- PART XXIX ..... 409**
67. AL-MULK... الْمُلْكُ... 409  
(The Supreme Power)
68. AL-QALAM... الْقَلَمُ... 411  
(The Pen)
69. AL-HĀQQAH... الْحَاقَّةُ... 413  
(The Great Inevitable Reality)
70. AL-MĀ'ĀRUJ... الْمَعَارِجُ... 415  
(The Ways of Ascent)
71. NŪH... نُوحٌ... 417  
(Noah)

## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>72. AL-JINN..... الْجِنُّ ..... 419<br/>(The Jinn)</p> <p>73. AL-MUZZAMMIL..... الْمُزَّمِّلُ ..... 421<br/>(He who has Wrapped Himself)</p> <p>74. AL-MUDDATHTHIR..... الْمُدَّثِّرُ ..... 423<br/>(One Endowed with Excellent Capabilities)</p> <p>75. AL-QIYĀMAH..... الْقِيَامَةُ ..... 425<br/>(The Resurrection)</p> <p>76. AL-INSĀN..... الْإِنْسَانُ ..... 427<br/>(The Human Being)</p> <p>77. AL-MURSALĀT..... الْمُرْسَلَاتُ ..... 428<br/>(Those Sent Forth)</p> <p><b>PART XXX ..... 429</b></p> <p>78. AL-NABA'..... النَّبَأُ ..... 429<br/>(The Important Announcement)</p> <p>79. AL-NĀZI'ĀT..... النَّازِعَاتُ ..... 431<br/>(Those who perform their Duties Vigerously)</p> <p>80. 'ABASA..... عَبَسَ ..... 432<br/>(He Frowned)</p> <p>81. AL-TAKWĪR..... التَّكْوِيْرُ ..... 434<br/>(Losing of the Light)</p> <p>82. AL-INFĀR..... الْإِنْفِطَارُ ..... 434<br/>(The Cleaving Asunder)</p> <p>83. AL-MUTAFFIFĪN..... الْمُطَفِّفِيْنَ ..... 435<br/>(The Defaulters in Duty)</p> <p>84. AL-INSHIQĀQ..... الْإِنْشِقَاقُ ..... 436<br/>(The Bursting Asunder)</p> <p>85. AL-BURŪJ..... الْبُرُوجُ ..... 438<br/>(The Starry Spheres)</p> <p>86. AL-TĀRIQ..... الطَّارِقُ ..... 438<br/>(The Night Visitant)</p> <p>87. AL-A'LĀ..... الْأَعْلَى ..... 439<br/>(The Most High)</p> <p>88. AL-GHĀSHIYAH..... الْغَاشِيَةُ ..... 440<br/>(The Overwhelming Event)</p> | <p>89. AL-FAJR..... الْفَجْرُ ..... 440<br/>(The Dawn)</p> <p>90. AL-BALAD..... الْبَلَدُ ..... 441<br/>(The City)</p> <p>91. AL-SHAMS..... الشَّمْسُ ..... 443<br/>(The Sun)</p> <p>92. AL-LAIL..... اللَّيْلُ ..... 443<br/>(The Night)</p> <p>93. AL-DHUḤĀ..... الضُّحَى ..... 444<br/>(The Forenoon Brightness)</p> <p>94. AL-SHARḤA..... الشَّرْحُ ..... 444<br/>(The Expanding)</p> <p>95. AL-TĪN..... التِّينُ ..... 445<br/>(The Fig)</p> <p>96. AL-'ĀLAQ..... الْأَلَقُ ..... 445<br/>(The Clot)</p> <p>97. AL-QADR..... الْقَدْرُ ..... 446<br/>(The Majesty)</p> <p>98. AL-BAYYINAH..... الْبَيِّنَةُ ..... 446<br/>(The Manifest Proof)</p> <p>99. AL-ZALZALAH..... الزَّلْزَلَةُ ..... 447<br/>(The Shaking)</p> <p>100. AL-'ADYĀT..... الْأَدْيَاتُ ..... 447<br/>(The Chargers)</p> <p>101. AL-QĀRI'AH..... الْقَارِعَةُ ..... 448<br/>(The Disastreous Rattling)</p> <p>102. AL-TAKĀTHUR..... التَّكَاثُرُ ..... 448<br/>(The Vying with One Another)</p> <p>103. AL-'ĀSR..... الْعَصْرُ ..... 448<br/>(The Time)</p> <p>104. AL-HUMAZAH..... الْهُمَزَةُ ..... 449<br/>(The Slanderer)</p> <p>105. AL-FIL..... الْفِيلُ ..... 449<br/>(The Elephant)</p> <p>106. QURAIŞH..... قُرَيْشٌ ..... 449<br/>(Tribe of Quraish)</p> <p>107. AL-MĀ'ŪN..... الْمَاعُونُ ..... 450<br/>(The Acts of Kindness)</p> |
|---|---|

## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 108. AL-KAUTHAR... الكوثر... 450<br>(The Abundance of Good) | 112. AL-İKHLĀS... الإخلاص... 451<br>(The Purification of the<br>Unity of God) |
| 109. AL-KĀFIRŪN... الكافرون... 450<br>(The Disbelievers)    | 113. AL-FALAQ... الفلق... 451<br>(The Daybreak)                               |
| 110. AL-NĀSR... النصر... 451<br>(The Help)                  | 114. AL-NĀS... الناس... 452<br>(The Mankind)                                  |
| 111. AL-LAHAB... اللهب... 451<br>(The flame)                |   |

## LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS) IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 80. 'ABASA... عبس... 432<br>(He Frowned)               | 7. AL-A'RĀF... الأعراف... 100<br>(The Elevated Places)    |
| 100. AL-'ADYĀT... العديت... 447<br>(The Charger)       | 103. AL-'ĀSR... العصر... 448<br>(The Time)                |
| 46. AL-AHQĀF... الأحقاف... 354<br>(The Sand Dunes)     | 90. AL-BALAD... البلد... 441<br>(The City)                |
| 33. AL-AHZĀB... الأحزاب... 292<br>(The Confederates)   | 2. AL-BAQARAH... البقرة... 2<br>(The Cow)                 |
| 87. AL-A'LĀ... الأعلى... 439<br>(The Most High)        | 98. AL-BAYYINAH... البينة... 446<br>(The Manifest Proof)  |
| 96. AL-'ĀLAQ... العلق... 445<br>(The Clot)             | 85. AL-BURŪJ... البروج... 438<br>(The Starry Spheres)     |
| 3. AL-'ĪMRĀN... آل عمران... 34<br>(Family of Amran)    | 51. AL-DHĀRIĀT... الذریت... 370<br>(The Scatterers)       |
| 6. AL-AN'ĀM... الأنعام... 84<br>(The Cattle)           | 44. AL-DUKHĀN... الدخان... 349<br>(The Draught)           |
| 21. AL-ANBIYĀ'... الأنبياء... 228<br>(The Prophets)    | 93. AL-DHUḤĀ... الضحى... 444<br>(The Forenoon Brightness) |
| 8. AL-ANFĀL... الأنفال... 117<br>(The Voluntary Gifts) | 89. AL-FAJR... الفجر... 440<br>(The Dawn)                 |
| 29. AL-'ANKABŪT... العنكبوت... 275<br>(The Spider)     |   |

LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS) IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

113. AL-FALAQ.....أَلْفَلَقُ.....451 (The Daybreak)	112. AL-ĪKHLĀS...إِلْخْلَاصُ.....451 (The Purification of the Unity of God)
48. AL-FATH.....أَلْفَتْحٌ.....362 (The Victory)	82. AL-ĪNFIĀR...الْإِنْفِثَارُ.....434 (The Cleaving Asunder)
1. AL-FĀTIHĀH...أَلْفَاتِحَةُ.....1 (The Opening)	76. AL-ĪNSĀN.....الْإِنْسَانُ.....427 (The Human Being)
35. FĀṬIR.....فَاطِرٌ.....304 (Originator)	84. AL-ĪNSHIQĀQ...الْإِنشِقَاقُ.....436 (The Bursting Asunder)
105. AL-FIL.....أَلْفِيلُ.....449 (The Elephant)	17. AL-ĪSRĀ'.....الْإِسْرَاءُ.....189 (The Night-Journey)
25. AL-FURQĀN.....أَلْفُرْقَانُ.....248 (Standard of True and False)	45. AL-JĀTHIYĀH...الْجَاثِيَةُ.....351 (The Fallen on the Knees)
41. FUSSILAT.....فُصِّلَتْ.....335 (Clear in Exposition)	72. AL-JINN.....أَجْنٌ.....419 (The Jinn)
40. GHĀFIR.....غَافِرٌ.....328 (Grantor of Protection)	62. AL-JUMU'ah...الْجُمُعَةُ.....400 (The Congregation)
88. AL-GHĀSHIYĀH...أَلْغَاشِيَةُ.....440 (The Overwhelming Event)	109. AL-KĀFIRŪN...الْكَافِرُونَ.....450 (The Disbelievers)
57. AL-HADĪD.....أَلْحَدِيدُ.....387 (The Iron)	18. AL-KAHF.....أَلْكَهْفُ.....198 (The Place of Refuge)
22. AL-HAJJ.....أَلْحَجُّ.....228 (The Pilgrimage)	108. AL-KAUTHĀR...أَلْكَوْثَرُ.....450 (The Abundance of Good)
69. AL-HĀQQĀH.....أَحَاقَّةٌ.....413 (The Great Inevitable Reality)	92. AL-LAIL.....أَلَيْلٌ.....443 (The Night)
59. AL-HASHR.....أَلْحَشْرُ.....393 (The Banishment)	31. LUQMĀN.....لُقْمَنُ.....286 Luqman
15. AL-HUR.....أَلْحَجْرُ.....175 (The Rock)	70. AL-MĀ'ĀRUJ.....أَلْمَعَارِجُ.....415 (The Ways of Ascent)
11. HŪD.....هُودٌ.....146 (Hud)	5. AL-MĀ'IDĀH...أَلْمَائِدَةُ.....70 (The Table Spread with Food)
49. AL-HUJURĀT...أَلْحُجُرَاتُ.....365 (The Chambers)	19. MĀRYAM.....مَرْيَمُ.....207 (Mary)
104. AL-HUMAZĀH...أَلْهُمَزَةُ.....449 (The Slanderer)	
14. IBRĀHĪM.....إِبْرَاهِيمُ.....170 (Abraham)	

LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS) IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

111. AL-LAHAB.....الأنف..... 451  
(The flame)
107. AL-MĀ'ŪN.....أَمْعُونَ..... 450  
(The Acts of Kindness)
74. AL-MUDDATHHIR...المدثر... 423  
(One Endowed with  
Excellent Capabilities)
47. MUĤAMMAD...محمد..... 358  
(Muhammad)
58. AL-MUJĀDILAH.....المجدلة..... 390  
(The Pleading Woman)
67. AL- MULK.....الملك... 409  
(The Supreme Power)
23. AL-MU' MINŪN...المؤمنون... 235  
(The Believers)
60. AL-MUMTAHANAH.....المتحنة..... 396  
(She that isto be Examined)
63. AL-MUNĀFIQŪN.....المنفقون..... 401  
(The Hypocrites)
77. AL-MURSALĀT...المرسلت... 428  
(Those Sent Forth)
83. AL-MUJĀFFIN...المطفيين... 435  
(The Defaulters in Duty)
73. AL-MUZZAMMIL.....المرزمل... 421  
(He who has Wrapped Himself)
78. AL-NABĀ'.....النبا..... 429  
(The Important Announcement)
16. AL-NAHL.....النحل..... 179  
(The Bee)
53. AL-NAJM.....النجم... 375  
(The Parts of the Qur'ān)
27. AL-NAML.....النمل..... 261  
(The Tribe of Naml - Nammites)
114. AL-NĀS.....الناس... 452  
(The Mankind)
110. AL-NASR.....أنصر..... 451  
(The Help)
79. AL-NĀZĪ'ĀT...الترغت..... 431  
(Those who perform their  
Duties Vigerously)
4. AL-NISĀ'.....النساء..... 52  
(The Women)
71. NŪH.....نوح..... 417  
(Noah)
24. AL-NŪR.....النور..... 241  
(The Light)
97. AL-QADR.....القدر..... 446  
(The Majesty)
50. QĀF.....ق... 367  
(Allāh is Almighty)
68. AL-QALAM.....القلم..... 411  
(The Pen)
54. AL-QAMAR.....القمر..... 378  
(The Moon)
101. AL-QĀRĪ'AH.....القارعة..... 448  
(The Disastreous Rattling)
28. AL-QASĀS.....القصص..... 267  
(Narrative)
75. AL-QIYĀMAH.....القيامة..... 425  
(The Resurrection)
106. QURĀISH.....قريش..... 449  
(Tribe of Quraish)
13. AL-RA'D.....الرعد..... 165  
(The Thunder)
55. AL-RAĤMĀN...الرحن..... 381  
(The Most Gracious)
30. AL-RŪM.....الرؤم..... 281  
(The Byzantines)
34. SABĀ.....سبأ..... 299  
(Sheba)
38. SĀD.....ص..... 317  
(The Truthful God)

LIST OF CHAPTERS (SURĀHS) IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

61. AL-SĀFF.....أَلصَّف.....398 (The Ranks)	65. AL-TALĀQ.....أَلطَّلَاق.....405 (The Divorce)
37. AL-SĀFFĀT.....أَلصَّفَات.....312 (Those Ranging in Ranks)	86. AL-TĀRIQ.....أَلطَّارِق.....438 (The Night Visitant)
32. AL-SAJDAH.....أَلسَّجْدَة.....289 (The Prostration)	9. AL-TAUBAH.....أَلتَّوْبَة.....124 (The Repentance)
91. AL-SHAMS.....أَلشَّمْس.....443 (The Sun)	95. AL-TĪN.....أَلتَّيْن.....445 (The Fig)
94. AL-SHARĤA.....أَلشَّرْح.....444 (The Expanding)	52. AL-TŪR.....أَلطُّور.....373 (The Mount)
42. AL-SHŪRĀ.....أَلشُّورَى.....339 (The Council)	56. AL-WĀQIAH.....أَلوَأَقِيعَة.....384 (The Great Event)
26. AL-SHU'ARĀ'.....أَلشُّعْرَاء.....253 (The Poets)	36. YĀ SĪN.....يَس.....308 (O Perfect Man)
20. TĀHĀ.....طه.....213 (Perfect Man! be at rest)	10. YŪNUS.....يُونُس.....137 (Jonah)
64. AL-TAGĤĀBUN.....أَلتَّغَابِن.....403 (Manifestation of Loss)	12. YŪSUF.....يُوسُف.....156 (Joseph)
66. AL-TAĤRĪM.....أَلتَّحْرِيم.....407 (The Prohibition)	99. AL-ZALZALAH.....أَلزَّلْزَلَة.....447 (The Shaking)
102. AL-TAKĀTHUR.....أَلتَّكَاثُر.....448 (The Vying with One Another)	43. AL-ZUKĤRUF.....أَلزُّكْرُف.....344 (The Ornaments)
81. AL-TAKWĪR.....أَلتَّكْوِير.....434 (Losing of the Light)	39. AL-ZUMUR.....أَلزُّمُر.....322 (The Multitudes)

Sura 1

"Al - Fatiha"

The Opening

*In the Name of Allah  
the Compassionate , the Merciful*

*Praise be to Allah,  
Lord of the Worlds, the Compassionate,  
the Merciful.*

*Master of the Day of Judgement!*

*You Alone We Worship,  
and to you alone we look for help.*

*Guide us to the straight path,  
The path of those upon whom you bestowed  
favours, not those who have invited Your  
wrath, nor those  
who have gone astray.*

## Sura 2

### Al-Baqara

### THE COW

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**2.1** *Alif lam mim.* This Book is not to be doubted. It is a guide for the righteous, who have faith in the unseen and are steadfast in prayer; who spend out of what We have given them; who believe in that which has been revealed to you and to others before you, and firmly believe in the life to come. These are rightly guided by their Lord; these shall surely triumph.

**2.6** Those who disbelieve, whether you forewarn them or not, they will not have faith. Allah has set a seal upon their hearts and ears; their sight is dimmed and grievous punishment awaits them.

**2.8** There are some who declare: 'We believe in Allah and the Last Day,' yet they are not believers. They seek to deceive Allah and those who believe in Him: but they deceive none save themselves, though they may not perceive it. There is a sickness in their hearts which Allah has increased: they shall be sternly punished because they lie.

**2.11** When it is said to them: 'Do not commit evil in the land', they reply: 'We do nothing but good.' But it is they who are the evil-doers, though they may not perceive it.

And when it is said to them: 'Believe as others believe,' they reply: 'Are we to believe as fools believe?' It is they who are the fools, if only they knew it!

**2.14** When they meet the faithful, they declare: 'We, too, believe.' But when they are alone with their devils, they say to them: 'We follow none but you: we were only mocking.' Allah will mock at them and keep them long in sin, blundering blindly along.

**2.16** Such are those that barter away guidance for error: they profit nothing, nor are they on the right path. They are like one who kindled a fire, but as soon as it lit up all around him, Allah took away their light and left them in darkness—they could not



see.

**2.18** Deaf, dumb, and blind, they shall never return ( to the right path).

**2.19** Or like those who, under a cloudburst from the sky with darkness, thunder and lightning, thrust their fingers in their ears at the sound of every thunder-clap for fear of death: and Allah thus encompasses the unbelievers. The lightning almost takes away their sight: whenever it flashes upon them they walk on, but as soon as it darkens they stand still. Indeed, if Allah pleased, He could take away their sight and hearing: He has power over all things.

**2.21** O Men, serve your Lord, who has created you and those who have gone before you, so that you may guard yourselves against evil: who has made the earth a bed for you and the sky a dome, and has sent down water from the sky to bring forth fruits for your sustenance. Do not knowingly set up other gods beside Him.

**2.23** If you are in doubt of what We have revealed to Our Servant, produce one chapter comparable to it. Call upon your helpers besides God to assist you, if what you say be true. But if you fail, as you are sure to fail, then guard yourselves against the fire whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the unbelievers.

**2.25** Proclaim good tidings to those who have faith and do good works. They shall dwell in gardens watered by running streams: whenever they are given fruit to eat they will say: 'This is what we were given before,' for they shall be given the like. Therein they will have pure spouses, and shall abide there forever.

Allah does not disdain to give a parable about a gnat or larger creature. The faithful know that it is the truth from their Lord, but the unbelievers ask: 'What could Allah mean by this parable?'

By it, Allah leaves many in error and enlightens many. But He leaves in error none except the evil-doers, who break His covenant after accepting it and divide what Allah has bidden to be united and commit evil in the land. Truly these shall have much to lose.

**2.28** How can you deny Allah? Did He not give you life when you were dead, and will He not cause you to die and then restore you to life? Will you not return to Him at last? He created for you all that the earth contains; then, ascending to the sky, fashioned it into seven heavens. He has knowledge of all things.

**2.30** When your Lord said to the angels: 'I am placing on the earth one that shall be My deputy,' they replied: 'Will You put there one that will do evil and shed blood, when we have for so long sung Your praises and sanctified Your name?'

'He said: 'I know what you do not know.'

He taught Adam the names of all things and then set them before the angels, saying: 'Tell Me the names of these, if what you say be true.'

**2.32** 'Glory to you,' they replied, 'we have no knowledge except that which You have given us. You alone are Wise, Knowing.'

Then said He to Adam: 'Tell them their names.' And when Adam had named them, He said: 'Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heaven and earth, and all that you reveal and all that you hide?'

**2.34** And when we said to the angels: 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam,' they all prostrated themselves except Satan, who in his pride refused and became an unbeliever.

To Adam We said: 'Dwell with your wife in Paradise and eat of it as much as you wish and wherever you will. But never approach this tree or you shall both become transgressors.'

**2.36** But Satan made them slip from it and caused them to depart from that in which they had been. 'Go hence,' We said, 'and be enemies to each other. The earth will for a while provide your dwelling-place and sustenance.'

Then Adam received commandments from his Lord, and his Lord relented towards him. He is the Forgiving One, the Merciful.

**2.38** 'Go down hence, all,' We said. 'When Our guidance is revealed, those that accept it shall have nothing to fear or to regret; but those that deny and reject Our revelations shall be

## THE COW

the people of the Fire, and there they shall abide forever.'

**2.40** Children of Israel, remember the favours I have bestowed upon you. Keep your covenant, and I will be true to My covenant with you. Me you must fear. Have faith in My revelations, which confirm your Scriptures, and do not be the first to deny them. Do not sell My revelations for a paltry price and guard yourselves from me. Do not confound truth with falsehood, nor knowingly hide the truth. Attend to your prayers, pay the alms-tax, and bow down with those who bow down. Would you enjoin righteousness on others and forget it yourselves? Yet you read the Scriptures. Have you no sense?

**2.45** Fortify yourselves with patience and prayer. This may indeed be an exacting discipline, but not to the devout, who know that they will meet their Lord and that to Him they will return.

**2.47** Children of Israel, remember the blessing I have bestowed on you, and that I have exalted you above the nations. Guard yourselves against the day when no soul can avail another in the least: when neither intercession nor ransom shall be accepted from it, nor will they be helped.

**2.49** (Remember) how We delivered you from Pharaoh's people who had oppressed you cruelly, slaying your sons and sparing your women. Surely that was a great trial from your Lord. We parted the sea for you and, taking you to safety, drowned Pharaoh's men before your very eyes. We treated with Musa for forty nights, but in his absence you took up the calf and worshipped it, thus committing evil. Yet after that We pardoned you, so that you might give thanks.

**2.53** And (recall) when We gave Musa the Scriptures and knowledge of right and wrong, so that you might be rightly guided; and when Musa said to his people: 'You have wronged yourselves, my people, in worshipping the calf. Turn in repentance to your Creator and slay the culprits among you. That will be best for you in His sight.' And He relented towards you. He is the Forgiving One, the Merciful.

**2.55** And when you said to Musa: 'We will not believe in you until we see Allah with our own eyes,' a thunderbolt struck you

## AL BAQARA

whilst you were looking on. Then We raised you from your stupor, so that you might give thanks.

**2.57** We caused the clouds to cast their shadow over you and sent down for you manna and quails, saying: 'Eat of the good things We have given you.' Indeed, they did not wrong Us, but they wronged themselves.

'Enter this city,' We said, 'and eat where you will and as much as you wish.' Make your way reverently through the gates, saying: "Forgive us." We shall forgive you your sins and bestow abundance on the righteous.' But the wrongdoers perverted Our words and We let loose on the wrongdoers a scourge from heaven as a punishment for their misdeeds.

**2.60** When Musa prayed for water for his people, We said to him: 'Strike the Rock with your staff.' Thereupon twelve springs gushed from it, and each tribe knew their drinking-place. We said: 'Eat and drink of that which Allah has provided and do not corrupt the land with evil.'

**2.61** 'Musa,' you said, 'we will no longer put up with this monotonous diet. Call on your Lord to give us some of the varied produce of the earth, green herbs and cucumber, corn and lentils and onions.'

'What!' he answered. 'Would you exchange that which is good for what is worse? Go back to one of the cities. There you shall find all that you have asked for.'

Humiliation and abasement were stamped upon them and they incurred the wrath of Allah; because they disbelieved His signs and slew His prophets unjustly; because they were rebels and transgressors.

**2.62** Believers, Jews, Christians, and Sabaeans—whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and does what is right—shall be rewarded by their Lord; they have nothing to fear or to regret.

**2.63** And when We made a covenant with you and raised the Mount above you, saying: 'Receive what we have given you with earnestness and bear in mind its precepts, that you may guard yourselves against evil,' yet after that you turned away, and but for Allah's grace and mercy you would have surely been among the lost.

## THE COW

**2.65** You have surely heard of those of you that violated the Sabbath. We said to them: 'You shall be changed into detested apes.' We made them an example to their own generation and to those who followed them, and a lesson to the righteous.

**2.67** When Musa said to his people: 'Allah commands you to sacrifice a cow,' they replied: 'Are you making game of us?'

'Allah forbid that I should be so mocking!' he said.

'Call on your Lord,' they said, 'to make known to us what kind of cow she shall be.'

Musa replied: 'Your Lord says: "Let her be neither an old cow nor a young heifer, but in between." Do, therefore, as you are bidden.'

**2.69** 'Call on your Lord,' they said, 'to make known to us what her colour shall be.'

**2.70** Musa replied: 'Your Lord says: "Let the cow be yellow, a rich yellow pleasing to the eye.'

'Call on your Lord,' they said, 'to make known to us the exact type of cow she shall be; for to us cows look all alike. If Allah wills, we shall be rightly guided.'

Musa replied: 'Your Lord says: "Let her be a healthy cow, not worn out with ploughing the earth or watering the field; a cow free from any blemish.'

'Now you have told us the truth,' they answered. And they slaughtered her, after they had been reluctant to do so.

**2.72** And when you slew a man and then fell out with one another concerning him, Allah made known what you concealed. We said: 'Strike him with a piece of it.' Thus Allah restores the dead to life and shows you His signs, that you may grow in understanding.

**2.74** Yet after that your hearts became as hard as rock or even harder, for from some rocks rivers take their course: some break asunder and water gushes from them; and others tumble down through fear of Allah. Allah is not unaware of what you do.

**2.75** Do you then hope that they will believe in you, when some of them have already heard the Word of Allah and knowingly perverted it, although they understood its meaning?

**2.76** When they meet the faithful, they declare: 'We, too, are believers.' But when alone, they say to each other: 'Must you preach to them what Allah has revealed to you so that they may dispute with you concerning it in the Hereafter? Have you no sense?'

Do they not know that Allah has knowledge of all they hide and all that they reveal?

**2.78** There are illiterate men among them who, ignorant of the Scriptures, know of nothing except lies and vague fancies. Woe to those that write the Scriptures with their own hands and then declare: 'This is from Allah,' in order to gain a small (worldly) price for it. So woe to them because of what their hands have written, because of that which they gain.

**2.80** They declare: 'The Fire will never touch us except for a few days.' Say: 'Did Allah make you such a promise—Allah will not break His promise—or do you assert about Allah what you have no means of knowing?'

Truly, those that commit evil and become engrossed in sin are the people of the Fire; in it they shall remain forever. But those that have faith and do good works are the people of Paradise; for ever they shall abide in it.

**2.83** When We made a covenant with the Children of Israel: You serve none but Allah. Show kindness to your parents, to your kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to the destitute. Exhort men to righteousness. Attend to your prayers and pay the alms-tax. But you all turned your backs except a few, and gave no heed.

And when We made a covenant with you: You shall not shed your kinsmen's blood or turn them out of their dwellings, to this you consented, and bore witness.

**2.85** Yet there you are, slaying your own kinsfolk, and turning a number of them out of their dwellings, and helping each other against them with sin and aggression. Though should they come to you as captives, you would ransom them. Surely their expulsion was unlawful. Do you then believe in one part of the Scriptures and deny another?

Those of you that act thus shall be rewarded with disgrace in this world and with the most grievous punishment (on the Day of Resurrection). Allah is watching over all your actions.

## THE COW

**2.86** Such are they who buy the life of this world at the price of the life to come. Their punishment shall not be lightened, nor shall they be helped.

**2.87** To Musa We gave the Scriptures and after him We sent other messengers. We gave Isa, the son of Mariam, veritable signs and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Will you then scorn each apostle whose message does not suit your fancies, charging some with imposture and slaying others?

**2.88** They say: 'Our hearts are sealed. 'But Allah has cursed them for their unbelief. They have but little faith.

**2.89** And when a Book confirming their own has come to them from Allah, while before that they used to pray for help against those who disbelieved—when there came to them what they knew (to be true), they denied it. May Allah's curse be upon the infidels! Evil is that for which they have bartered away their souls: that they should deny Allah's own revelation, grudging that He should reveal His bounty to whom He chooses from His servants! They have incurred Allah's most inexorable wrath. An ignominious punishment awaits the unbelievers.

**2.91** When it is said to them: 'Believe in what Allah has revealed,' they reply: 'We believe in what was revealed to us.' But they deny what has since been revealed, although it is the truth, corroborating their own Scriptures.

Say: 'Why did you kill the prophets of Allah, if you are true believers? Musa came to you with clear signs, but in his absence you worshipped the calf and committed evil.'

**2.93** When We made a covenant with you and raised the Mount above you (saying): 'Take what We have given you with willing hearts and hear (Our commandments), 'they replied: 'We hear, but disobey.'

For their unbelief, they were made to imbibe (the love of) the calf into their very hearts. Say: 'Evil is that to which your faith prompts you if you are indeed believers.'

**2.94** Say: 'If the abode of the Hereafter with Allah is for you alone to the exclusion of all others, then invoke death if you are truthful.'

But they will never invoke death, because of what they

did; and Allah knows the evil-doers. Indeed, you will find that they love this life more than other men: more than the pagans do. Every one of them wishes to live a thousand years.

But his prolonged life will surely not save him from torture. Allah is watching over all their actions.

**2.97** Say: 'Whoever is an enemy of Gabriel!' For surely he has revealed it by Allah's grace to your heart, confirming what was (revealed) earlier and a guidance and good tidings to the believers.

**2.98** Whoever is an enemy of Allah, His angels, or His apostles, or of Gabriel or Michael. (will surely find that ) Allah is the enemy of the unbelievers.

**2.99** We have sent down to you clear revelations: none will deny them except the evil-doers. What! Whenever they make a covenant, must some of them cast it aside? Most of them do not believe.

**2.101** And now that an apostle has come to them from Allah confirming their own Scriptures, some of those to whom the Scriptures were given cast off the Book of Allah behind their backs, as though they know nothing and accept what the devils tell of Sulayman's kingdom.

**2.102** Not that Sulayman disbelieved: it is the devils who disbelieved. They teach men witchcraft and that which was revealed to the angels Harut and Marut in Babylon. Yet they never instruct any man without saying to him beforehand: 'We have been sent to tempt you; do not disbelieve.' From these two, they learn that by which they can create discord between husband and wife, although they can harm none with what they learn except by Allah's leave. They learn, indeed, what harms them and does not profit them; yet they know full well that anyone who chose it would have no share in the life to come.

**2.103** Vile is that for which they have sold their souls, if they but knew it! Had they embraced the Faith and kept from evil far better for them would His reward have been, if they but knew it.



**2.104** Believers, do not say (to Our Apostle) *Ra'ina*, but say *Undhurna*<sup>1</sup>. Take heed; the unbelievers shall be sternly punished.

The unbelievers among the People of the Book, and the polytheists, resent that any blessings should have been sent down to you from your Lord. But Allah chooses whom He will for His mercy. And Allah's grace is infinite.

If We abrogate any verse or cause it to be forgotten, We will replace it by a better one or one similar. Do you

**2.107** not know that Allah has power over all things? Do you not know that it is to Allah that the control over the heavens and the earth belongs, and that there is none besides Him to protect or help you?

Would you rather demand of your Apostle that which was once demanded of Musa? He that barter faith for unbelief has surely strayed from the right path.

**2.109** Many of the People of the Book wish, through envy, to lead you back to unbelief, now that you have embraced the faith and the truth has been made plain to them. Forgive them and bear with them until Allah makes known His will. He has power over all things.

Attend to your prayers and pay the alms-tax. Whatever good you do shall be rewarded by Allah. He is watching over all your actions.

**2.111** They declare: 'None but Jews and Christians shall be admitted to Paradise.' Such are their wishful fancies. Say: 'Let us have your proof, if what you say be true.' Indeed, those that surrender themselves to Allah and do good works shall be rewarded by their Lord: they shall have nothing to fear or to regret.

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1. These words mean 'Listen to us' and 'Look upon us' respectively; but in Hebrew the sound of the first conveys the sense, 'Our evil one.' The Jews used the expression as a derisive pun.

The Jews say the Christians follow nothing that is good, and the Christians say it is the Jews who follow nothing that is good. Yet they both read the Scriptures. Even thus speak those who do not know. Allah will judge their disputes on the Day of Resurrection.

Who is more unjust than the men who seek to destroy the mosques of Allah and forbid His name to be mentioned in them? These men may not enter them except stricken with fear. They shall be held to shame in this world and sternly punished in the next.

**2.115** To Allah belongs the east and the west. Whichever way you turn, there is the face of Allah. He is Omnipresent and All-knowing.

They say: 'Allah has begotten a son.' Glory be to Him. His is what the heavens and the earth contain; all things are obedient to Him. Creator of the heavens and the earth! When He decrees a thing, He need only say 'Be,' and it is.

And those who do not know ask: 'Why does Allah not speak to us or give us a sign?' The same demand was made by those before them: their hearts are all alike. But to those whose faith is firm, We have already revealed Our signs.

**2.119** We have sent you forth to proclaim the truth and to give warning. You shall not be questioned about the people of Hell.

You will please neither the Christians nor the Jews unless you follow their faith. Say: 'The guidance of Allah is the only guidance.' And if after all the knowledge you have been given you yield to their desires, there shall be none to help or protect you from the wrath of Allah.

**2.121** Those to whom We have given the Book, and who read it as it ought to be read, truly believe in it; those that deny it shall assuredly be the losers.

**2.122** Children of Israel, remember My favour which I have bestowed upon you and that I exalted you above the nations. Fear the day when no soul avails another: when neither ransom nor intercession shall be accepted from it, nor any help be given it.

When his Lord put Ibrahim to the proof by enjoining on

him certain commandments and Ibrahim fulfilled them, He said: 'I have appointed you a leader of mankind.'

'And what of my descendants?' asked Ibrahim.

'My covenant,' said He, 'does not apply to the evil-doers.'

2.125 And when We made the House<sup>1</sup> a resort and a sanctuary for mankind saying: 'Make the place where Ibrahim stood a house of worship,' We enjoined Ibrahim and Ismail to cleanse Our House for those who walk round it, who meditate in it, and who kneel and prostrate themselves.

'Lord,' said Ibrahim, 'make this a land of peace and bestow plenty upon its people, those of them that believe in Allah and the Last Day.'

'As for those that do not,' He answered, 'I shall let them prosper a while and then drag them to the scourge of the Fire. Evil shall be their fate.'

2.127 And when Ibrahim and Ismail built the House and dedicated it, (they said): 'Accept this from us, Lord. You are the Hearing, the Knowing. Lord, make us submissive to You; make of our descendants a nation that will submit to You. Teach us our rites of worship and turn to us mercifully; You are the Forgiving, the Merciful. Lord, send forth to them an apostle of their own people who shall declare to them your revelations and instruct them in the Book and in wisdom and purify them of sin. You are the Mighty, the Wise one.'

Who but a foolish man would forsake the faith of Ibrahim? We chose him in this world, and in the world to come he shall dwell among the righteous. When his Lord said to him: 'Submit,' he answered: 'I have submitted to the Lord of the Worlds.'

2.132 Ibrahim enjoined the same on his children, and so did Yaquub, saying: 'My children, Allah has chosen for you the true faith. Do not depart this life except as men who have submitted to Him.'

Or were you present when death came to Yaquub? He said to his children: 'What will you worship when I am gone?' They replied: 'We will worship your God and the God of your forefathers Ibrahim and Ismail and Ishaq: the One God. To Him, we will surrender ourselves.'

1. Ka'ba.

That was a nation which has passed away. Theirs is what they earned, and yours what you have earned. You shall not be questioned about what they did.

**2.135** They say: 'Accept the Jewish or the Christian faith and you shall be rightly guided.'

Say: 'By no means! We believe in the faith of Ibrahim, the upright one: He was no polytheist.'

Say: 'We believe in Allah and that which is revealed to us, and in what was revealed to Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yaqub, and the tribes; to Musa and Isa and the other prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Allah we have surrendered ourselves.'

If they believe as you have done they shall be rightly guided; if they reject it, they shall surely be in schism. Against them, Allah is your all-sufficient defender. He is the Hearing, the Knowing.

(We take) on Allah's own dye. And who has a better dye than Allah's? And we are His worshippers.

**2.139** Say: 'Would you dispute with us about God, Who is our Lord and your Lord? We shall both be judged by our words. To Him alone we are devoted.

Or do you claim that Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yaqub, and the tribes, were all Jews or Christians? Say: 'Who knows better, you or Allah? Who is more unjust than the man who hides a testimony which he has received from Allah? He is watching over all your actions.

**2.141** That nation has passed away. Theirs is what they earned and yours what you have earned. You shall not be questioned about what they did.

**2.142** The foolish among people will say: 'What has made them turn away from their *qiblah*?''

Say: 'The east and the west are Allah's. He guides whom He will to the right path.'

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1. The direction the Muslim faces in prayer. At first the believers were ordered to turn towards Jerusalem, afterwards to Makkah.

And thus We have made you a just nation, so that you may testify against mankind and that your own Apostle may testify against you. We decreed your former *qiblah* only in order that We might know the Apostle's true adherents and those who were to disown him. It was indeed a hard test, but not to those whom Allah guided. He was not to make your faith fruitless. He is Compassionate and Merciful to men.

**2.144** Indeed, We see you look repeatedly towards heaven. We will make you turn towards a *qiblah* that will please you. So turn your face towards the Sacred Mosque; wherever you are, turn your faces to it.

Those to whom the Book was given know this to be the truth from their Lord. Allah is watching over all their actions. But even if you gave those to whom the Book had been given every proof, they would not accept your *qiblah*, nor would you accept theirs; nor would any of them accept the *qiblah* of the other. If after all the knowledge you have been given you yield to their desires, then you will surely become an evil-doer.

**2.146** Those to whom We gave the Book know him as they know their own sons. But some of them deliberately conceal the truth. The truth is from your Lord: therefore never doubt it.

Each one has a goal towards which he turns. So emulate one another in good works. And wherever you be, Allah will bring you all before Him. He has power over all things.

Whichever way you depart, face towards the Sacred Mosque. This is surely the truth from your Lord. Allah is never heedless of what you do.

**2.150** Whichever way you depart, face towards the Sacred Mosque: and wherever you are, face towards it, so that men will have no plea against you, except the evil-doers among them. Have no fear of them; fear Me, so that I may perfect My favour to you and that you may be rightly guided.

**2.151** Indeed We have sent forth to you an apostle of your own people who will recite to you Our revelations and purify you of sin, who will instruct you in the Book and in wisdom and teach you that of which you have no knowledge. Remember Me, then, and I will remember you. Give thanks to Me and never deny Me.

O believers, seek assistance in patience and prayer. Allah is with those that are patient. Do not say that those who are slain in the cause of Allah are dead; they are alive, although you are not aware of them.

We shall test you with some fear and hunger, with loss of life and property and crops. Give good news to the patient,

2.156 who in adversity say: 'We belong to Allah, and to Him we shall return.' On such men will be Allah's blessing and mercy, such men are rightly guided.

Safa and Marwa<sup>1</sup> are beacons of Allah. It shall be no offence for the pilgrim or the visitor to the Sacred House to walk around them. He that does good of his own accord shall be rewarded by Allah. Allah is Rewarding and Knowing.

2.159 Those that hide the clear proofs and the guidance We have revealed after We have proclaimed them in the Book, shall be cursed by Allah and shall be cursed by the cursors; except those that repent and mend their ways and make known the truth. Towards them I shall relent. I am, the Relenting One, the Merciful. The infidels who die unbelievers shall incur the curse of Allah, the angels, and all people. Under it they shall remain forever; their punishment shall not be lightened, nor shall they be given respite.

Your God is one God. There is no god but Him. He is the Compassionate, the Merciful.

2.164 In the creation of the heavens and the earth; in the alternation of night and day; in the ships that sail the ocean with what is beneficial to man; in the water which Allah sends down from the sky and with which He revives the earth after its death, dispersing over it all manner of beasts; in the movements of the winds, and in the clouds that are driven between earth and sky: surely in these there are signs for people who understand.

2.165 Yet there are some who worship other objects besides Allah, bestowing on them the adoration due to Allah, and the love of Allah is stronger in the faithful. But if they face their punishment, the wrongdoers will know that might is His alone and that Allah is stern in retribution. Seeing the punishment, the leaders will disown their followers, and the bonds

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1. Two hills in Makkah.

which now unite them will break asunder. Those who followed them will say: 'Could we but live again, we would disown them as they have now disowned us.'

Thus Allah will show them their own works as source of regret to them, and they shall never come out of the Fire.

**2.168** Men, eat of what is lawful and wholesome on the earth and do not walk in Satan's footsteps, for he is your sworn enemy. He enjoins you to commit evil and indecency and to assert about Allah what you do not know.

When it is said to them: 'Follow what Allah has revealed,' they reply: 'We will follow that wherein we found our fathers,' even though their fathers were senseless men lacking in guidance.

The unbelievers are like that whom one calls, but hears nothing except a shout and a cry. Deaf, dumb, and blind, they understand nothing.

O believers, eat of the wholesome things with which we have provided you and give thanks to Allah, if it is He whom you worship.

**2.173** He has forbidden you carrion, blood, and the flesh of swine; also any flesh that is consecrated other than in the name of Allah. But whoever is constrained to eat any of these, not intending to sin or transgress, incurs no guilt. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**2.174** Those that suppress any part of the Book Allah has revealed in order to gain a small price shall swallow nothing but fire into their bellies. On the Day of Resurrection, Allah will neither speak to them nor purify them. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

Such are those that buy error with guidance, and torture with forgiveness. How steadfastly they seek the Fire! That is because Allah has revealed the Book with the truth; those that disagree about it are in extreme schism.

**2.177** Righteousness does not consist in whether you face towards the east or the west. The righteous man is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day, in the angels and the Book and the prophets; who for the love of Allah gives his wealth to his kinsfolk, to the orphans, to the needy, to the wayfarers and

to the beggars, and for the redemption of captives; who attends to his prayers and pays the alms-tax; who is true to his promises and steadfast in trial and adversity and in times of war. Such are the true believers; such are the God-fearing.

**2.178** O believers, retaliation is decreed for you in bloodshed: a free man for a free man, a slave for a slave and a female for a female. He who is pardoned by his aggrieved brother shall be prosecuted according to usage and shall pay him a liberal fine. This is an alleviation from your Lord and mercy. He that transgresses thereafter shall have stern punishment.

In retaliation you have a safeguard for your lives O men of understanding. Perchance you will guard yourselves against evil.

It is decreed that when death approaches, those of you that leave wealth shall bequeath it equitably to parents and kindred. This is a duty incumbent on the righteous. He that alters that (the will) after hearing it shall be accountable for his crime. Allah is Hearing and Knowing.

He that suspects an error or an injustice on the part of a testator and brings about a settlement among the parties incurs no guilt. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**2.183** O believers, fasting is decreed for you as it was decreed for those before you; perchance you will guard yourselves against evil.

**2.184** Fast a certain number of days, but if any one of you is ill or on a journey let him fast a similar number of days later on; and for those that find it extremely difficult to fast, there is ransom: the feeding of a poor man. He that does good of his own account shall be well rewarded; but to fast is better for you, if you but knew it.

The month of Ramadhan is the month in which the Quran was revealed, a book of guidance with proofs of guidance distinguishing right from wrong. Therefore, whoever of you is well in that month, let him fast. But he who is ill or on a journey shall fast a similar number of days later on.

Allah desires your well-being, not your discomfort. He desires you to fast the whole month so that you may magnify



Him for giving you His guidance, and that you may give thanks.

**2.186** When My servants question you about Me, tell them that I am near. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to Me; therefore, let them answer My call and put their trust in Me, that they may be rightly guided.

It is now lawful for you to lie with your wives on the night of the fast; they are an apparel to you, as you are an apparel to them. Allah knew that you were deceiving yourselves. He has relented towards you and pardoned you. Therefore, you may now lie with them and seek what Allah has ordained for you. Eat and drink until you can tell a white thread from a black one in the light of the coming dawn. Then resume the fast till nightfall and do not approach them while you take to your mosques.

These are the bounds set by Allah: do not come near them. Thus He makes known His revelations to mankind that they may guard themselves against evil.

Do not usurp one another's property by unjust means, nor bribe with it the judges in order that you may knowingly and wrongfully deprive others of a part of their possessions.

**2.189** They question you about the new moons. Say: 'They are times fixed for mankind and for the pilgrimage.'

Righteousness does not consist in entering your dwellings from the back. The righteous man is he that fears Allah. Enter your dwellings by their doors and fear Allah, so that you may prosper.

**2.190** Fight for the sake of Allah those that fight against you, but do not be aggressive. Allah does not love the aggressors. Kill them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from which they drove you. Idolatry is worse than carnage. But do not fight them within the precincts of the Sacred Mosque unless they attack you there; if they attack you put them to the sword. Thus shall the unbelievers be rewarded: but if they desist, know that Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

Fight against them until idolatry is no more, and Allah's religion reigns supreme. But if they desist, fight none except the evil-doers.

**2.194** A sacred month for a sacred month: sacred things too are subject to retaliation. If any one attacks you, attack him as he attacked you. Have fear of Allah, and know that Allah is with the righteous.

Give for the cause of Allah and do not with your own hands cast yourselves into destruction. Be charitable; Allah loves the charitable.

**2.196** Make the pilgrimage and visit the Sacred House for Allah's sake. If you are prevented, send such offerings as you can afford and do not shave your heads until the offerings have reached their destination. But if any of you is ill or suffers from an ailment of the head, he must pay a ransom either by fasting or by alms-giving or by offering a sacrifice.

If in peacetime anyone of you combines the visit with the pilgrimage, he must offer such gifts as he can afford; but if he lacks the means, let him fast three days during the pilgrimage and seven when he has returned; that is, ten days in all. That is incumbent on him whose family are not present at the Holy Mosque. Have fear of Allah and know that He is stern in retribution.

**2.197** Pilgrimage is (in) the appointed months. He that intends to perform it in those months must abstain from sexual intercourse, obscene language, and acrimonious disputes while on pilgrimage. Allah is aware of whatever good you do. Provide yourselves well: the best provision is piety. Fear Me, then, you that are endowed with understanding.

It shall be no offence for you to seek the bounty of your Lord. When you come running from *Arafat*, remember Allah as you approach the sacred monument. Remember Him that gave you guidance though before that you were in error. Then go out from the place whence the pilgrims will go out and implore the forgiveness of Allah. He is Forgiving and Merciful. And when you have fulfilled your sacred duties, remember Allah as you remember your forefathers or with deeper reverence.

There are some who say: 'Lord, give us good in this world.' These shall have no share in the Hereafter.

## THE COW

**2.201** But there are others who say: 'Lord, give us what is good both in this world and in the next and keep us from the fire of Hell.' These shall have a share of what they have earned. Swift is the reckoning of Allah.

And give glory to Allah on the appointed days. He that departs on the second day incurs no sin, nor does he who stays longer, if he truly fears Allah. Have fear of Allah, then, and know that you shall all be gathered before Him.

**2.204** There are some men whose views on this life please you: they even call on Allah to vouch for that which is in their hearts; whereas, in fact, they are the deadliest of your opponents. No sooner do they leave you than they hasten to commit evil in the land, destroying crops and cattle. Allah does not love evil.

When it is said to them: 'Have fear of Allah,' vanity carries them off to sin. Hell shall be enough for them, a dismal resting-place.

**2.207** But there are others who would give away their lives in order to find favour with Allah. Allah is compassionate to His servants.

**2.208** O believers, submit all of you to Allah and do not walk in Satan's footsteps; he is your sworn enemy. If you lapse back after the clear signs that have been shown to you, know that Allah is Mighty and Wise.

Are they waiting for Allah to come down to them in the shadow of a cloud, with all the angels? Their fate will have been settled then. To Allah shall all things return.

Ask the Children of Israel how many clear signs We have given them. He that tampers with the boon of Allah after it has been bestowed on him shall be severely punished. Allah is stern in retribution.

For the unbelievers, the life of this world is decked with all manner of temptations. They scoff at the faithful, but those that fear Allah shall be above them on the Day of Resurrection. Allah gives without measure to whom He will.

**2.213** Mankind were once one nation. Then Allah sent forth prophets to give them good news and to warn them; and with these He sent down the Book with the truth, that it might judge the disputes of men. None disputed it save those to whom it was given after clear arguments had come to them, and that was through envy of one another. So Allah guided by His will those who believed in the truth which had been disputed. Allah guides whom He will to the right path.

**2.214** Did you suppose that you would go to Paradise untouched by (the suffering) which was endured by those before you? Affliction and adversity befell them; and so battered were they that each apostle, and those who shared his faith, cried out: 'When will the help of Allah come?' His help is ever near.

They will ask you about alms-giving. Say: 'Whatever you bestow in charity must go to your parents and to your kinsfolk, to the orphan and to the poor man and to the wayfarer. Allah is aware of whatever good you do.'

**2.216** Fighting is obligatory for you, much as you dislike it. But you may hate a thing although it is good for you, and love a thing although it is bad for you. Allah knows, but you do not.

**2.217** They ask you about the sacred month. Say: 'To fight in this month is a grave offence; but to debar others from the path of Allah, to deny Him, and to expel His worshippers from the Holy Mosque, is far more grave in His sight. Idolatry is worse than carnage.'

They will not cease to fight against you until they force you to renounce your faith—if they are able. But whoever of you recants and dies an unbeliever, his works shall come to nothing in this world and in the world to come. Such men shall be the people of Hell, and there they shall abide forever.

Those that have embraced the faith and those that have left their land and fought for the cause of Allah, may hope for Allah's mercy. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**2.219** They ask you about drinking and gambling. Say: 'There is great sin in both, although they have some benefit for men; but their sin is far greater than their benefit.'

They ask you what they should spend: Say: 'What you can spare.' Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations, so that you may reflect upon this world and the Hereafter. They question you concerning orphans. Say: 'To deal justly with them is best. If you mix their affairs with yours, remember they are your brothers. Allah knows the just from the unjust. If Alla' pleased, He could afflict you. He is Mighty and Wise.'

**2.221** You shall not wed idolatresses, unless they embrace the faith. A believing slave-girl is better than an idolatress, although she may please you. Nor shall you wed idolaters, unless they embrace the faith. A believing slave is better than an idolater, although he may please you. These call to the Fire; but Allah calls you, by His will, to Paradise and to forgiveness. He makes plain His revelations to mankind, so that they may be mindful.

**2.222** They ask you about menstruation. Say: 'It is an indisposition. Keep aloof from women during their menstrual periods and do not touch them until they are clean again. Then have intercourse with them as Allah enjoined you. Allah loves those that turn to Him in repentance and purify themselves.'

**2.223** Women are your fields: go, then, into your fields as you please. Do good works and fear Allah. Bear in mind that you shall meet Him. Give good news to the believers.

Do not make Allah in your oaths when you swear a hindrance to your doing good and fearing Allah and making peace among men. Allah is Hearing and Knowing. He will not call you to account for that which is vain in your oaths. But He will take you to task for that which is intended in your hearts. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

Those who swear not to go into their wives must wait four months. If they change their mind, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful; but if they decide to divorce them, know that He hears all and knows all.

**2.228** Divorced women must wait, keeping themselves from men, three menstrual courses. It is unlawful for them, if they believe in Allah and the Last Day, to hide what He has created in their wombs: in which case their husbands would do well to take them back, should they desire reconciliation.

Women shall with justice have rights similar to those exercised against them, although men have a status above women. Allah is Mighty and Wise.

**2.229** Divorce may be pronounced twice, and then a woman must be retained in honour or allowed to go with kindness. It is unlawful for husbands to take from them anything they have given them, unless both fear that they may not be able to keep within the bounds set by Allah; in which case it shall be no offence for either of them if the wife ransom herself.

These are the bounds set by Allah; do not transgress them. Those that transgress the bounds of Allah are wrongdoers.

**2.230** If a man divorces his wife, he cannot remarry her until she has wedded another man and been divorced by him; in which case it shall be no offence for either of them to return to the other, if they think that they can keep within the limits set by Allah.

Such are the bounds of Allah. He makes them plain to men of understanding.

**2.231** When you have divorced your wives and they have reached the end of their waiting period, either retain them in honour or let them go with kindness. But you shall not retain them in order to harm them or to wrong them. Whoever does this wrongs his own soul.

Do not make fun of Allah's revelations. Remember the favours He has bestowed upon you, and the Book and the wisdom which He has revealed for your instruction. Fear Allah and know that He has knowledge of all things.

If a man has divorced his wife and she has reached the

end of her waiting period, do not prevent her from remarrying her husband if they have come to an honourable agreement. This is enjoined on every one of you who believes in Allah and the Last Day; it is more honourable for you and more chaste. Allah knows, but you do not.

**2.233** Mothers shall give suck to their children for two whole years for him who wishes the sucking to be completed. They must be maintained and clothed in a reasonable manner by the father of the child. None should be charged with more than one can bear. A mother should not be allowed to suffer on account of her child, nor should a father on account of his child. The same duties devolve upon the father's heir. But if, after consultation, they choose by mutual consent to wean the child, they shall incur no guilt. Nor shall it be any offence for you if you prefer to have a nurse for your children, provided that you pay her what you promise, according to usage. Have fear of Allah and know that He is cognizant of all your actions.

**2.234** And those of you who die and leave wives behind, such wives should keep in waiting for four months and ten days after their husband's death.

When they have reached the end of their waiting period, it shall be no offence for you to let them do whatever they choose for themselves, provided that it is lawful. Allah is cognizant of what you do.

**2.235** It shall be no offence for you openly to propose marriage indirectly to such women or to cherish them in your hearts. Allah knows that you will remember them. Do not arrange to meet them in secret and, if you do, speak to them honourably. But you shall not consummate the marriage before the end of their waiting period. Know that Allah has knowledge of all your thoughts. Therefore take heed and bear in mind that Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**2.236** It shall be no offence for you to divorce your wives before the marriage is consummated or the dowry settled.

Provide for them with fairness; the rich man according to his means, and the poor man according to his. This is binding on righteous men. If you divorce them before the marriage is consummated but after their dowry has been settled, give them half of their dowry, unless they or the man in whose hand is the marriage tie agree to forgo it. But it is more pious that he should forgo it. Do not forget to show kindness to each other. Allah observes your actions.

Attend regularly to your prayers, including the middle prayer, and stand up with all devotion before Allah. When you are exposed to danger, pray on foot or while riding; and when you are restored to safety remember Allah, as He has taught you what you did not know.

**2.240** Those who die and leave women behind should bequeath to them a year's maintenance without causing them to leave their homes; but if they leave of their own accord, no blame shall be attached to you for any legitimate course they may deem fit to pursue. Allah is Mighty and Wise. Reasonable provision should also be made for divorced women. That is incumbent on righteous men.

Thus Allah makes known to you His revelations that you may understand.

**2.243** Have you not considered those that fled the country in thousands for fear of death? Allah said to them: 'You shall perish,' and then He brought them back to life. Surely Allah is bountiful to mankind, but most men do not give thanks.

**2.244** Fight for the cause of Allah and bear in mind that He hears all and knows all.

Who will grant Allah a generous loan? He will repay him many times over. It is Allah who enriches and makes poor. To Him you shall return.

Have you not thought of what the leaders of the Children of Israel demanded of one of their prophets after the death of Musa? 'Raise up for us a king,' they said, 'and we will fight for the cause of Allah.'

He replied: 'What if you refuse to fight, when ordered so to do?'



'Why should we refuse to fight for the cause of Allah,' they replied, 'when we and all our children have been driven from our dwellings?'

But when (at last) they were ordered to fight, they all refused, except a few of them. Allah knows the evil-doers.

**2.247** Their prophet said to them: 'Allah has raised Saul to be your king.' But they replied: 'Should he be given the kingship, when we are more deserving of it than he? Besides, he is not rich at all.'

He said: 'Allah has chosen him to rule over you and made him grow in wisdom and in stature. Allah gives His sovereignty to whom He will. He is Munificent and All-knowing.'

Their prophet also said to them: 'The advent of the Ark shall be the portent of his reign. Therein shall be tranquillity from your Lord, and the relics which the House of Musa and the House of Harun left behind. It will be borne by the angels. That will be a sign for you, if you are true believers.'

**2.249** And when Saul marched out with his army, he said: 'Allah will put you to the proof at a certain river. He that drinks from it shall cease to be one of my followers, but he that does not drink from it shall be among my followers, except he who takes a handful from it in his hand.'

But they all drank from it, except a few of them. And when Saul had crossed the river with those who shared his faith, they said: 'We have no power this day against Goliath and his warriors.'

But those of them who believed that they would meet Allah (on Judgement-day) replied: 'Many a small band has, by Allah's grace, vanquished a mighty army. Allah is with the steadfast.'

**2.250** When they met Goliath and his warriors, they cried: 'Lord, fill our hearts with steadfastness. Make us firm of foot and help us against the unbelievers.'

By Allah's will, they routed them. Dawud slew Goliath, and Allah bestowed on him sovereignty and wisdom and taught him what He pleased. Had Allah not defeated some by the

might of others, the earth would have been utterly corrupted. But Allah is bountiful to His creatures.

Such are the revelations of Allah. We recite them to you in all truth, for you are one of Our messengers.

**2.253** Of these messengers, We have exalted some above others. To some Allah spoke directly; others He raised to a lofty status. We gave Isa, the son of Mariam, clear signs and strengthened him with the Holy Spirit. Had Allah pleased, those who succeeded them would not have fought against one another after the clear signs had been given them. But they disagreed among themselves; some had faith, and others had none. Yet had Allah pleased, they would not have fought against one another. Allah does what He will.

O believers, spend a part of what We have given you before that day arrives when there shall be neither trading nor friendship nor intercession. Truly, it is the unbelievers who are the wrongdoers.

**2.255** Allah: there is no god but Him, the Living, the Eternal One. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. His is what the heavens and the earth contain. Who can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows all about the affairs of men at present and in the future. They can grasp only that part of His knowledge which He wills. His throne is as vast as the heavens and the earth, and the preservation of both does not weary Him. He is the Exalted, the Immense One.

**2.256** There shall be no compulsion in religion. True guidance is now distinct from error. He that renounces the idols and puts his faith in Allah shall grasp the firmest handle that will never break. Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

Allah is the Supporter of the faithful. He leads them from darkness to the light. As for the unbelievers, their supporters are false gods, who lead them from light to darkness. They are the heirs of Hell and shall abide in it forever.

**2.258** Have you not thought of him who argued with Ibrahim

about his Lord because He had bestowed on him the Kingdom? Ibrahim said: 'My Lord is He who has power to give life and to cause death.'

'I, too,' replied the other, 'have power to give life and to cause death.'

'Allah brings up the sun from the east,' said Ibrahim. 'Bring it up yourself from the west.'

The unbeliever was confounded. Allah does not guide the evil-doers.

**2.259** Or of him, who, when passing by a ruined and desolate city, remarked: 'How can Allah give life to this city, now that it is dead?' Thereupon Allah caused him to die, and after a hundred years brought him back to life.

'How long have you stayed away?' asked Allah.

'A day,' he replied, 'or part of a day.'

'No,' said Allah, 'Surely you have stayed away a hundred years. Yet look at your food and drink; they have not rotted. And look at your ass. We will make you a sign to mankind. And look at the bones (and see) how we revive them and clothe them with flesh.'

And when it had all become manifest to him, he said: 'I know now that Allah has power over all things.'

**2.260** And when Ibrahim said: 'Show me, Lord, how you raise the dead,' He replied: 'Have you no faith?'

'Yes,' said Ibrahim, 'but I wish to reassure my heart.'

'Take four birds,' said He, 'draw them to you, and cut their bodies to pieces. Scatter them over the mountain-tops, then call them. They will come swiftly to you. Know that Allah is Mighty and Wise.'

**2.261** They that give their wealth for the cause of Allah are like a grain of corn which brings forth seven ears, each bearing a hundred grains. Allah gives abundance to whom He will; He is Munificent and All-knowing.

Those that spend their wealth for the cause of Allah and do not follow their spending with taunts and insults shall be rewarded by their Lord; they shall have nothing to fear or to regret.

**2.263** A kind word and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury. Allah is Self-sufficient and Indulgent.

O believers, do not mar your almsgiving with taunts and mischief-making, like him who spends his wealth for the sake of ostentation and believes neither in Allah nor in the Last Day. Such a man is like a smooth rock covered with earth: a shower falls upon it and leaves it hard and bare. They shall gain nothing from their works. Allah does not guide the unbelievers.

But those that give away their wealth from a desire to please Allah and to reassure their own souls are like a garden on a hill-side: if a shower falls upon it, it yields up twice its normal crop; and if no rain falls upon it, it is watered by the dew. Allah takes cognizance of all your actions.

**2.266** Would any one of you, being a man well-advanced in age with helpless children to support, wish to have a garden - a garden of palm-trees, vines and all manner of fruits, and watered by running streams-blasted and consumed by a fiery whirlwind?

Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations, so that you may give thought.

**2.267** O believers, spend of the wealth you have lawfully earned and of that which We have brought out of the earth for you; not worthless things which you yourselves would only reluctantly accept. Know that Allah is Self-sufficient and Glorious.

**2.268** Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to commit what is indecent. But Allah promises you His forgiveness and His bounty. Allah is Munificent and All-knowing.

He gives wisdom to whom He will; and he that receives the gift of wisdom is rich indeed. Yet none except men of sense bear this in mind.

Whatever you spend and whatever vows you make are known to Allah. The evil-doers shall have none to help them.

To be charitable in public is good, but to give alms to the poor in private is better and will atone for some of yours

sins. Allah has knowledge of all what you do.

**2.272** It is not for you to guide them. Allah gives guidance to whom He will.

Whatever wealth you give shall rebound to your own advantage, provided that you give it for the love of Allah. And whatever wealth you give shall be paid back to you in full: you shall not be wronged.

(Charity) is for the poor who, being wholly preoccupied with fighting for the cause of Allah, cannot travel in the land (in quest of trading ventures). The ignorant take them for men of wealth on account of their being too proud (to beg). But you can recognize them by their look—they never importune men for alms. Whatever alms you give are known to Allah.

**2.274** Those that give alms by day and by night, in private and in public, shall be rewarded by their Lord. They have nothing to fear or to regret.

Those who take usury shall rise up before Allah like men whom Satan has demented by his touch; for they claim that usury is like trading. But Allah has permitted trading and forbidden usury. He that receives an admonition from his Lord and mends his ways may keep what he has already earned; his fate is in the hands of Allah. But he that pays no heed shall be among the people of the Fire and shall remain in it forever.

**2.276** Allah has laid His curse on usury and blessed almsgiving with increase. He bears no love for the ungrateful sinner.

Those that have faith and do good works, attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax, will be rewarded by their Lord and will have nothing to fear or to regret.

**2.278** O believers, have fear of Allah and waive what is still due to you from usury, if your faith be true; or war shall be declared against you by Allah and His Apostle. If you repent, you may retain your principal, wronging none (with an increase) without being wronged (by suffering a loss).

If your debtor be in straits, grant him a delay until he

can discharge his debt; but if you waive the sum as alms, it will be better for you, if you but knew it.

Fear the day when you shall all return to Allah; when every soul shall be requited according to its deserts. None shall be wronged.

**2.282** O believers, when you contract a debt for a fixed period, put it in writing. Let a scribe write it down for you with fairness; no scribe should refuse to write as Allah has taught him. Therefore, let him write; and let the debtor dictate, fearing Allah, his Lord, and not diminishing the sum he owes. If the debtor be a feebleminded or ignorant person, or one who cannot dictate, let his guardian dictate for him in fairness. Call in two male witnesses from among you but if two men cannot be found, then one man and two women whom you judge fit to act as witnesses; so that if either of them forget, the other will remember. Witnesses must not refuse to give evidence if called upon to do so. So do not fail to put your debts in writing, be they small or big, together with the date of payment. This is more just in the sight of Allah; it ensures accuracy in testifying and is the best way to remove all doubt. But if the transaction in hand be a bargain concluded on the spot, it is no offence for you if you do not commit it to writing.

See that witnesses are present when you sell one another, and let no harm be done to either scribe or witness. If you harm them, you shall commit a transgression. Have fear of Allah. He teaches you; He has knowledge of all things.

**2.283** If you are travelling the road and a scribe cannot be found, then let pledges be taken. If anyone of you entrusts another with a pledge, let the trustee restore the pledge to its owner; and let him fear Allah, his Lord.

You shall not withhold testimony. He that withholds it will have a sinful heart. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.

**2.284** To Allah belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. Whether you reveal your thoughts or hide them, Allah will bring you to account for them. He will forgive whom He will and punish whom He pleases; He has power over all things.

The Apostle believes in what has been revealed to him by his Lord, and so do the faithful. They all believe in Allah and His angels, His books, and His apostles: We discriminate against none of His apostles. They say: 'We hear and obey. Grant us your forgiveness, Lord; to You we shall all return.

**2.286** Allah does not charge a soul with more than it can bear. It shall be requited for whatever good and whatever evil it has done. Lord, do not be angry with us if we forget or lapse into error. Lord, do not lay on us the burden you laid on those before us. Lord, do not charge us with more than we can bear. Pardon us, forgive us our sins, and have mercy upon us. You alone are our Protector. Give us victory over the unbelievers.'

## Sura 3

### "Al Imran"

### THE IMRANS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**3.1** *Alif lam mim.* Allah! There is no god but Him, the Living, the Ever-existent One.

He has revealed to you the Book with the truth, confirming what preceded it; and He has already revealed the Torah and the Gospel for the guidance of men, and the distinction between right and wrong.

Those that deny Allah's revelations shall be sternly punished; Allah is Mightily and capable of punishment. Nothing on earth or in heaven is hidden from Him. It is He who shapes you in your mothers' wombs as He pleases. There is no god but Him, the Mighty, the Wise.

**3.5** It is He who has revealed to you the Book. Some of its verses are precise in meaning — they are the foundation of the Book— and others allegorical. Those whose hearts are infected with disbelief follow the allegorical part, so as to create dissension and to interpret it. But no one knows its interpretation except Allah. Those who are well — grounded in knowledge say: 'We believe in it: it is all from our Lord. But only the wise take heed. Lord,

**3.8** do not cause our hearts to go astray after You have guided us. Grant us Your own mercy; You are the munificent Giver. Lord, You will surely gather all mankind before You upon a day that will indubitably come. Allah will not break His promise.'

Those who disbelieve, neither their riches nor their children shall in the least save them from Allah. They shall become the fuel of Fire. Like them, Pharaoh's people and those before them denied Our revelations; therefore Allah smote them in their sinfulness. Allah is stern in retribution.

Say to the unbelievers: 'You shall be discomfited and driven into Hell — an evil resting — place!'

**3.13** Indeed, there was a sign for you in the two armies which met on the battlefield.<sup>1</sup> One was fighting for the cause of Allah,

1. In the battle of Badr



## THE IMRANS

the other a host of unbelievers. The faithful saw with their very eyes that they were twice their own number. But Allah strengthens with His aid whom He will. Surely in that there was a lesson for the discerning.

**3.14** Men are tempted by the lure of women and offspring, of hoarded treasures of gold and silver, of splendid horses, cattle, and plantations. These are the comforts of this life, but far better is the return to Allah.

Say: 'Shall I tell of better things than these, with which the righteous shall be rewarded by their Lord? Theirs shall be gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell forever: wives freed from impurity, and grace from Allah.' Allah is watching over His servants: those who say: 'Lord, we believe in You: forgive us our sins and keep us from the torment of Fire'; who are steadfast, sincere, obedient, and charitable; and who implore forgiveness at break of day.

Allah bears witness that there is no god but Him, and so do the angels and men of learning. He is the Executor of Justice, the Only God, the Mighty, the Wise.

**3.19** The only true faith in Allah's sight is Islam. Those to whom the Book was given disagreed among themselves only after knowledge had been given them out of envy among themselves. He that denies Allah's revelations should know that He is swift in reckoning.

If they argue with you, say: 'I have surrendered myself to Allah and so have those that follow me.'

To those who have received the Book and to the ignorant, say: 'Will you surrender yourselves to Allah?' If they become Muslims, they shall be rightly guided; if they give no heed, then your only duty is to warn them. Allah is watching over all His servants.

**3.21** Those that deny Allah's revelations and slay the prophets unjustly and kill the men who preach fair dealing – warn them of a woeful scourge. Their works shall come to nothing in this world and in the next, and there shall be none to help them.

**3.23** Have you not considered those who have received a portion of the Book? When they are called on to accept the

judgement of Allah's Book, some turn their backs and pay no heed. For they declare: 'The Fire will not touch us except for a certain number of days.' In their religion, they are deceived by their own lies.

What will they do when We gather them all together upon a day which is sure to come, when every soul will be given what it has earned with no injustice?

**3.26** Say: 'Lord, Sovereign of all sovereignty. You bestow sovereignty on whom You will, and take it away from whom You please; You exalt whomever You will and abase whomever You please. In your hand lies all that is good; You have power over all things. You cause the night to pass into the day, and the day into the night; You bring forth the living from the dead and the dead from the living. You give without stint to whom You will.'

Let believers not make friends with infidels in preference to the faithful - he that does this has no connection with Allah unless you guard yourselves against them. Allah admonishes you to fear Him: for to Him you shall all return.

**3.29** Say: 'Whether you hide what is in your hearts or reveal it, it is known to Allah. He knows all that the heavens and earth contain and has power over all things.'

The day will surely come when each soul will be confronted with whatever good it has done. As for its evil deeds, it will wish they were a long way off. Allah admonishes you to fear Him. He is compassionate towards His servants.

Say: 'If you love Allah, follow me. Allah will love you and forgive your sins. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.'

Say: 'Obey Allah and the Apostle.' If they give no heed, then, truly, Allah does not love the unbelievers.

**3.33** Allah chose Adam and Nuh, Ibrahim's descendants and the descendants of Imran above all His creatures. They were the offspring of one another. Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

(Remember) when the wife of Imran said: 'Lord, I dedicate to your service that which is in my womb. Accept it from me. You alone hear all and know all.'

**3.36** And when she was delivered of the child, she said: 'Lord, I have given birth to a daughter' - Allah well knew of what she

was delivered: the male is not like the female – ‘and have called her Mariam. Protect her and all her descendants from Satan, the Accursed One.’

Her Lord graciously accepted her. He made her grow a goodly child and entrusted her to the care of Zakariyya.

Whenever Zakariyya visited her in the Shrine, he found that she had food with her. ‘Mariam,’ he said, ‘where is this food from?’

‘It is from Allah,’ she answered. ‘Allah gives without limit to whom He will.’

**3.38** Thereupon, Zakariyya prayed to his Lord, saying: ‘Lord, grant me upright descendants. You hear all prayers.’

And as he stood praying in the Shrine, the angels called out to him, saying: ‘Allah bids you rejoice in the birth of Yahya, who shall confirm the Word of Allah. He shall be princely and chaste, a prophet and a righteous man.’

**3.40** ‘Lord,’ said Zakariyya, ‘how shall I have a son when I am now overtaken by old age and my wife is barren?’

‘Such is the will of Allah,’ He replied. ‘He does what He pleases.’

‘Lord,’ said he, ‘vouchsafe me a sign.’

‘For three days and three nights,’ He replied, ‘You shall not speak to any man except by signs. Remember your Lord always; give glory to Him morning and evening.’

And (remember) when the angels said to Mariam: ‘Allah has chosen you. He has made you pure and exalted you above all women. Mariam, be obedient to your Lord; bow down and worship with the worshippers.’

**3.44** This is an account of what is hidden. We reveal it to you. You were not present when they cast their pens (to see) which of them should have charge of Mariam; nor were you present when they argued about her.

**3.45** The angels said to Mariam: ‘Allah bids you rejoice in a Word from Him. His name is al-Masih, Isa the son of Mariam. He shall be noble in this world and in the next, and shall be favoured by Allah. He shall speak to men in his cradle and in the prime of manhood, and shall lead a righteous life.’

‘Lord,’ she said, ‘how can I bear a child when no man

has touched me?'

**He replied:** 'Such is the will of Allah. He creates whom he will. When He decrees a thing, He need only say: "Be," and it is. He will instruct him in the Book and in wisdom, in the Torah and in the Gospel, and send him forth as an apostle to the Children of Israel. He will say:

**3.49** "I bring you a sign from your Lord. From clay, I will make for you the likeness of a bird. I shall breathe into it and, by Allah's leave, it shall become a living bird. By Allah's leave, I shall give sight to the blind man, heal the leper, and raise the dead to life. I shall tell you what to eat and what to store up in your houses. Surely that will be a sign for you, if you are believers. I come to confirm the Torah that has already been revealed and to make lawful to you some of the things you are forbidden. I bring you a sign from your Lord: therefore, fear Him and obey me. Allah is my God and your God: therefore, serve Him. That is the straight path."

When Isa observed their disbelief, he said: 'Who will be my supporters in the cause of Allah?'

The disciples replied: 'We are the supporters of Allah. We believe in Him. Bear witness that we have surrendered ourselves to Him. Lord, we believe in Your revelations and follow your Apostle. Count us among Your witnesses.'

**3.55** They (the jews) schemed, and Allah schemed. Allah is the supreme schemer. He said: 'Isa, I am about to cause your term on earth to end and lift you up to Me. I shall take you away from those who disbelieve and exalt your followers above them till the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me you shall all return, and I shall judge your disputes. As for those who disbelieved, they shall be sternly punished in this world and in the world to come: there shall be none to help them.'

**3.56** As for those that have faith and do good works, they shall be given their reward in full. Allah does not love the evil-doers.'

That (which) We recite to you is revelation and wise admonition. Isa is like Adam in the sight of Allah. He created him (Adam) of dust and then said to him: 'Be', and he was.

**3.60** This is the truth from your Lord: therefore, do not doubt it

**To those that dispute with you concerning Isa after the knowledge you have received, say: 'Come, let us gather our sons and your sons, our wives and your wives, our people and your people. We will pray together and call down the curse of Allah on every liar.'**

This is the true account. There is no god but Allah. It is Allah who is the Mighty, the Wise.

If they give no heed to you, Allah knows the evil-doers.

**3.64 Say: 'People of the Book, let us come to an equitable agreement among us that we will worship none but Allah, that we will associate none with Him, and that we will not set up one another lords besides Him.'**

If they refuse, say: 'Bear witness that we are Muslims.'

People of the Book, why do you argue about Ibrahim when both the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed till after him? Have you no sense?

Indeed, you have argued about things of which you have some knowledge. Must you now argue about that of which you know nothing at all? Allah knows but you do not.

**3.67 Ibrahim was neither Jew nor Christian. He was an upright man, one who had surrendered himself to Allah. He was no polytheist. Surely the men who are nearest to Ibrahim are those who follow him; this Prophet, and the true believers. Allah is the guardian of the faithful. Some of the People of the Book wish to mislead you; but they mislead none but themselves, though they may not perceive it.**

**3.70 People of the Book! Why do you deny Allah's revelations when you know that they are true?**

People of the Book! Why do you confound the true with the false, and knowingly hide the truth?

**3.72 Some of the People of the Book say to one another: 'Believe in that which is revealed to the faithful in the morning and deny it in the evening, so that they may themselves abandon their faith. Believe in none except those that follow your own religion.' Say: 'The only guidance is the guidance of Allah.' (Do not believe) that any one will get the like of that which you have been given, or that they will ever dispute with you in your Lord's presence.**

Say: 'Grace is in the hands of Allah: He bestows it on

whom He will. He is Munificent and All - knowing. He is Merciful to whom He will. His grace is infinite.'

**3.74** Among the People of the Book there are some who, if you trust them with a heap of gold, will return it to you intact; and there are others who, if you trust them with one dinar, will not hand it back unless you demand it with importunity, for they say: 'We are not bound to keep faith with the non-jewish Arabs.' Thus, they deliberately say of Allah what is untrue. Indeed, those that keep faith and guard themselves against evil know that Allah loves the righteous.

Those that sell the covenant of Allah and their own oaths for a paltry price shall have no share in the world to come. Allah will neither speak to them, nor look at them, nor purify them on the Day of Resurrection. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

**3.78** And there are some among them who twist their tongues when quoting the Book, so that you may think that what they say is from the Book, whereas it is not. They say: 'This is from Allah,' whereas it is not. Thus they knowingly ascribe a falsehood to Allah.

**3.79** No mortal to whom Allah has given the Book and whom He has endowed with judgement and prophethood would say to men: 'Worship me instead of Allah.' But rather: 'Be devoted servants of Allah, for you have taught the Book and you have studied.' Nor would he enjoin you to serve the angels and the prophets as your gods; for would he enjoin you to be unbelievers after you have surrendered yourselves to Allah?

**3.81** And (remember) when Allah made His covenant with the Prophets, (He said): 'Here are the Books and the wisdom which I have given you. An apostle will come forth to confirm them. Believe in him and help him. Will you affirm this and accept the burden I have laid on you in these terms?'

They replied: 'We will affirm it.'

'Then bear witness,' He said, 'and I will bear witness with you. He that hereafter rebels is a transgressor.'

**3.83** Are they seeking a religion other than Allah's, when every soul in heaven and earth has submitted to Him, willingly

or by compulsion? To Him they shall all return.

Say: 'We believe in Allah and what is revealed to us; in that which was revealed to Ibrahim and Ismail, to Ishaq and Yaqub and the tribes; and in that which their Lord gave Musa and Isa and the prophets. We discriminate against none of them. To Him We have surrendered ourselves.'

**3.85** He that chooses a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him, and in the world to come he will be one of the lost.

How will Allah guide those who lapse into unbelief after embracing the faith and acknowledging the Apostle as true, and after receiving clear proofs? Allah does not guide the evil-doers. Their reward shall be the curse of Allah, the angels, and all men: under it they shall abide forever. Their punishment shall not be lightened, nor shall they be reprieved; except those who afterwards repent and mend their ways, for Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**3.90** But those that disbelieve after accepting the true faith and grow in unbelief, their repentance shall not be accepted. These are the truly erring ones.

As for those that disbelieve and die unbelievers, no ransom shall be accepted from them: although it be as much gold as would fill the entire earth. They shall be sternly punished, and none shall help them.

You shall never be truly righteous until you spend of what you love. Whatever you spend is known to Allah.

**3.93** All food was lawful to the Children of Israel except what Israel forbade himself before the Torah had been revealed. Say: 'Bring the Torah and read it, if what you say be true.'

Those that after this invent falsehoods about Allah are great transgressors.

Say: 'Allah has declared the truth. Follow the faith of Ibrahim. He was an upright man, no polytheist.'

**3.96** The first House ever to be built (as sanctuary) for men was that at Bakkah (Makkah), a blessed place, a beacon for the nations. In It, there are clear signs and the spot where Ibrahim stood. Whoever enters it is safe. Pilgrimage to the House is a

duty to Allah for all who can make the journey. As for the unbelievers, Allah can surely do without all creatures.

Say: 'People of the Book, why do you deny the revelations of Allah? He bears witness to all your actions.'

Say: 'People of the Book, why do you debar believers from the path of Allah and seek to make it crooked when you know that it is straight? Allah is watching over all your actions.'

**3.100** O believers, if you yield to some of those who were given the Book, they will turn you back from belief to unbelief. But how can you disbelieve when Allah's revelations are recited to you and His own Apostle is in your midst! He that holds fast to Allah shall be guided to the right path.

**3.102** Believers, fear Allah as you rightly should, and do not die except as Muslims. Cling one and all to the faith of Allah and let nothing divide you. Remember the favours He has bestowed upon you: how He united your hearts when you were enemies, so that you are now brothers through His grace; and how He delivered you from the abyss of Fire when you were on the very brink of it. Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations, so that you may be rightly guided.

Let there become of you a nation that shall call for righteousness, enjoin justice, and forbid evil. Such men shall surely triumph.

**3.105** Do not follow the example of those who became divided and opposed to one another after clear proofs had been given them. These shall be sternly punished on the day when some faces will be bright (with joy) and others blackened (with grief). To the black-faced sinners it will be said: 'Did you disbelieve after embracing the true faith? Taste then our scourge, for you were unbelievers! As for those whose faces will be bright, they shall abide forever in Allah's mercy.'

Such are the revelations of Allah; We recite them to you in all truth. Allah desires no injustice to His creatures. His is all that the heavens and the earth contain. To Him shall all things return.

**3.110** You are the best nation that has ever been raised up for mankind. You enjoin justice and forbid evil. You believe in Allah. Had the People of the Book believed, it would have



surely been better for them. Some of them are true believers, and most of them are evil-doers.

**3.111** They will not harm you except a little. And if they fight against you, they will turn their backs and run away. Then there shall be none to help them. Ignominy shall attend them wherever they are found, unless they make a covenant with Allah or with man. They have incurred the wrath of Allah and have been utterly humbled: because they disbelieved His revelations and slew His prophets unjustly; and because they were rebels and transgressors.

Yet they are not all alike. There are among the People of the Book some upright men who all night long recite the revelations of Allah and pray; who believe in Allah and the Last Day; who enjoin justice and forbid evil and vie with each other in good works. These are righteous men: whatever good they do, shall not be denied them. Allah knows the righteous.

**3.116** As for the unbelievers, neither their riches nor their children shall in the least protect them from Allah. They are the people of the Fire, and there they shall remain forever. The wealth they spend in this world is like a freezing wind that smites the harvest of men who have wronged themselves, laying them waste. Allah has not wronged them; but they wrong themselves.

**3.118** Believers, do not make friends with any men other than your own people. They will spare no pains to corrupt you. They desire nothing but your ruin. Their hatred is clear from what they say, but more violent is the hatred which their breasts conceal.

We have made plain to you Our revelations, if you only understand.

See how you love them and they do not love you. You believe in the entire Book.

When they meet you they say: 'We, too, are believers.' But when alone, they bite their finger-tips with rage. Say: 'Perish in your rage! Allah has knowledge of what is in your chests.'

**3.120** When you are blessed with good fortune, they grieve; but when evil befalls you, they rejoice. If you persevere and guard yourselves against evil, their machinations will never harm you. Allah has knowledge of all their actions.

And (remember) when you<sup>1</sup> left your family at an early hour to lead the faithful to their battle-posts.<sup>2</sup> Allah is Hearing, Knowing! Two parties of you became faint-hearted, but Allah was their protector. In Him let the faithful put their trust.

Allah had already given you victory at Badr when you were helpless. Therefore, have fear of Allah. Perhaps you will give thanks to Him.

You said to the believers: 'Is it not enough that your Lord should send down three thousand angels to help you?'

**3.125** Yes! If you have patience and guard yourselves against evil, and they suddenly attack you, Allah will send to your aid five thousand angels spendingly accoutred.

**3.126** Allah designed this to be but good news for you, so that your hearts might be comforted—victory comes only from Allah, the Mighty, the Wise—and so that He might cut off the flank of the unbelievers or put them to flight, that they might withdraw utterly defeated.

It is no concern of yours whether He will forgive or punish them. They are wrongdoers. His is all that the heavens and the earth contain. He pardons whom He will and punishes whom He pleases. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**3.130** O believers, devour not usury, doubling its rate many times. Have fear of Allah, and you shall prosper. Guard yourselves against the Fire prepared for unbelievers. Obey Allah and the Apostle that you may find mercy. And hasten to earn the forgiveness of your Lord and a Paradise as wide as heaven and earth, prepared for the righteous who spend alike in prosperity and in adversity, for those who curb their anger and those who forgive their fellow-men. And Allah loves the charitable and those who, if they commit evil or wrong their souls, remember Allah and seek forgiveness of Him — for who but Allah can forgive sin —and who do not knowingly persist in what they do. These shall be rewarded with forgiveness from their Lord and gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell forever. Blessed is the reward of those who do good works.

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1. Muhammad.

2. The allusion is to the Battle of Uhud, in which the Muslims were defeated by the Quraysh of Makkah.

**3.137** There have been examples before you. Roam the world and see what was the fate of those who disbelieved (their apostles).

This is a declaration to mankind: a guide and an admonition to the righteous. Take heart and do not despair. Have faith and you shall triumph (over them).

If you have suffered from a wound, so did the enemy. We alternate these vicissitudes among mankind so that Allah may know the true believers and choose martyrs from among you – for He does not love the evil-doers

**3.141** and that He may purify the faithful from sin and annihilate the infidels.

**3.142** Did you suppose that you would enter Paradise before Allah has known the men who fought hard and the steadfast? You used to wish for death before you met it, and now you have seen what it is like with your own eyes. Muhammad is no more than an apostle: other apostles have passed away before him. If he die or be slain, will you recant? He that recants will do no harm to Allah. But Allah will reward the thankful.

**3.145** No one dies unless Allah permits. The term of every life is fixed. And he that desires the reward of this world, We shall give him of it; and he that desires the reward of the life to come, We shall give him of it. And We will reward the thankful.

Many a prophet has fought side by side with many learned followers. They never lost heart on account of what befell them in the path of Allah: they neither weakened nor cringed abjectly. Allah loves the steadfast. Their only words were: 'Lord, forgive us our sins and our excesses; make us firm of foot and give us victory over the unbelievers.' Therefore, Allah gave them the reward of this life, and the glorious recompense of the life to come; Allah loves the charitable.

**3.149** Believers, if you yield to the infidels they will drag you back to unbelief and you will return headlong to perdition. But Allah is your protector. He is the best of helpers.

## AL - IMRAN

**3.151** We will put terror into the hearts of the unbelievers. They serve other gods for whom no sanction has been revealed. Fire shall be their home; dismal indeed is the dwelling-place of the evil-doers.

Allah fulfilled His pledge to you when, by His leave, you went on killing them. But afterwards your courage failed you; discord reigned among you, and you disobeyed (the Apostle) after He had brought you within view of what you wished for. Some chose the gain of this world, and others the world to come. Then He made you turn away from them in order to test you. But now He has forgiven you, for He is gracious to the faithful.

**3.153** Remember how you fled and paid no heed whilst the Apostle in your rear was calling out to you. Therefore, Allah rewarded you with sorrow after sorrow so that you might not grieve for what you missed or what befell you. Allah is cognizant of what you do.

**3.154** Then, after sorrow, He let peace fall upon you – a sleep which overtook some, while others lay troubled by their own fancies, thinking unjust and foolish thoughts about Allah.

'Have we any say in the matter?' they ask.

Say to them: 'All is in the hands of Allah.'

They conceal in their souls what they do not disclose to you.

They complain: 'Had we had any say in the matter, we should not have been slain here.'

Say: 'Had you stayed in your homes, those of you who were destined to be slain would have gone to their graves nevertheless; for it was Allah's will to test what is in your breasts and judge what is in your hearts. He has knowledge of your inmost thoughts.'

**3.155** Those of you who ran away on the day when the two armies<sup>1</sup> met must have been seduced by Satan on account of some evil they had done. But now Allah has pardoned them; He is Forgiving and Merciful.

**3.156** O believers, do not follow the example of the infidels, who

1. In the battle of Uhud

## THE IMRANS

say of their brothers when they meet death abroad or in battle: 'Had they stayed with us, they would not have died, nor would they have been killed.' Allah will make that a regret in their hearts. It is Allah who ordains life and death. He has knowledge of all your actions.

If you should die or be slain in the cause of Allah, His forgiveness and His mercy would surely be better than all the riches they amass. If you should die or be slain, before, Him you shall all be gathered.

It was thanks to Allah's mercy that you dealt so leniently with them. Had you been cruel and hard - hearted, they would have surely deserted you. Therefore, pardon them and implore Allah to forgive them. Take counsel with them in the conduct of affairs; and when you are resolved, put your trust in Allah. Allah loves those that trust (in Him).

**3.160** If Allah helps you, none can overcome you. If He abandons you, who then can help you? Therefore, in Allah let the faithful put their trust.

**3.161** No prophet would act dishonestly; for anyone that steals shall on the Day of Resurrection bring with him that which he has stolen. Then shall every soul be paid what it has earned: none shall be wronged.

Can the man who seeks to please Allah be compared to him who has incurred His wrath? Hell shall be his home. Evil shall be his fate!

**3.163** Varied are their positions with Allah. Allah is cognizant of what they do.

**3.164** Allah has surely been gracious to the faithful in sending them an apostle from among themselves to declare to them His revelations, to purify them, and to instruct them in the Book and in wisdom; for before that they were in monstrous error.

When a disaster befell you after you had yourselves inflicted losses twice as heavy, you exclaimed: 'Whose fault was that?

'Say to them: 'It was your own fault. Allah has power over all things.'

**3.166** The misfortune which befell you when the two armies met was ordained by Allah, so that He might know the true believers and the hypocrites.

When it was said to them: 'Come, fight for the cause of Allah or defend yourselves,' they replied: 'If only we could fight, we would surely come with you.'

On that day, they were nearer unbelief than faith. They said with their mouths what was not in their hearts. But Allah knew their secret thoughts. Such were the men who, as they sat at home, said of their brothers:

**3.168** 'Had they paid heed to us, they would not have been slain.'

Say to them: 'Ward off death from yourselves, then, if what you say be true!'

You must not think that those who were slain in the cause of Allah are dead. They are alive, and well provided for by their Lord; pleased with His gifts and rejoicing that those whom they left behind and who have not yet joined them have nothing to fear or to regret; rejoicing in Allah's grace and bounty. Allah will not deny the faithful their reward.

**3.172** Those who answered the call of Allah and the Apostle after the misfortune had befell them, such of them as do good and fear Allah shall have ample reward. They are those who, on being told: 'Your enemy has mustered a great force against you: fear them,' grew more tenacious in their faith and replied: 'Allah's help is all-sufficient for us. He is the best Protector.'

**3.174** Thus, they earned Allah's grace and bounty and no harm befell them. For they had striven to please Allah, whose bounty is infinite.

**3.175** It is the devil that (prompts men) to frighten his followers. But have no fear of them. Fear Me, if you are true believers. Do not grieve for those that quickly renounce their faith. They will not harm Allah in the least. Allah seeks to give them no share in the Hereafter. Their punishment shall be terrible indeed.

Those who purchase unbelief with faith will do Allah no harm. A woeful punishment awaits them.

**3.178** Let the unbelievers not think that We prolong their days

for their good. We do so only that they may grow in wickedness. Theirs shall be a shameful punishment.

Allah was not to leave the faithful in your condition, but only to separate the evil from the good. Nor was He to reveal to you what is hidden. But He chooses those of His apostles whom He will. Therefore, have faith in Allah and His Apostle; for if you have faith and guard yourselves against evil, your reward shall be rich indeed.

Let not those who are niggardly in spending from that which Allah granted them of His bounty think that their avarice is good for them: it is nothing but evil. The riches they have piled up shall become their fetters on the Day of Resurrection. Allah is He who will inherit the heavens and the earth. He is cognizant of what you do.

Allah has heard the words of those who said: 'Allah is poor, but we are rich.' Their words We will record, and the fact that they have slain their prophets unjustly. We shall say: 'Taste now the torment of the Fire. Here is the reward of your deeds. Allah is not unjust to His servants.'

**3.183** To those that declare: 'Allah has commanded us to believe in no apostle unless he brings an offering to be consumed by the fire,' say: 'Other apostles before me have come to you with clear signs and with what you asked for. Why did you slay them, if what you say be true?'

**3.184** If they reject you, know that other apostles have been rejected before you, although they worked miracles and brought down scriptures and the clear Book.

Every soul shall taste death. You shall receive your rewards only on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever is spared Hell and is admitted to Paradise shall surely gain (his end); for the life of this world is nothing but a fleeting vanity.

**3.186** You shall be tried in your possessions and your persons, and be subjected to the insults of those to whom the Scriptures were given before you and of the polytheists. But if you endure with fortitude and guard yourselves against evil, you shall prove your mettle.

**3.187** When Allah made a covenant with those to whom the Book was given, He said: 'Proclaim these to mankind and do not suppress them.' But they cast the Scriptures behind their backs and sold them for a paltry price. Evil was their bargain.

Do not think that those who rejoice in what they have done and wish to be praised for what they have not done-do not think they will escape from torture. A woeful punishment awaits them.

To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He has power over all things.

In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men of sense; those that remember Allah when standing, sitting, and lying down, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth (saying): 'Lord, You have not created these in vain. Glory be to You! Save us from the torment of the Fire, Lord.

**3.193** Those whom You will cast into Hell shall be put to eternal shame: none will help the evil-doers. Lord, we have heard a preacher call men to the true faith, saying: "Believe in your Lord,"and we believed. Lord, forgive us our sins and remove from us our evil deeds and make us die with the righteous. Lord, grant us what You promised through

**3.194** Your apostles, and do not cast shame upon us on the Day of Resurrection. You will never break Your promise.'

Their Lord answers them, saying: 'I will deny no man or woman among you the reward of their labours. You are the offspring of one another.'

Those that fled their homes or were expelled from them, and those that suffered persecution and fought and died for My cause, shall be forgiven their sins and admitted to gardens watered by running streams, as a reward from Allah; it is Allah who holds the richest recompense.

**3.196** Do not be deceived by the activities of the unbelievers in this land. Their prosperity is brief. Hell shall be their home, a dismal resting-place. As for those that fear their Lord, theirs shall be gardens watered by running streams in which they shall abide forever, and a goodly welcome from their Lord. Allah's reward is surely better for the righteous.

Some there are among the People of the Book who truly



## THE IMRANS

believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to you and to them. They humble themselves before Him and do not sell His revelations for a trifling price. These shall be rewarded by their Lord. Swift is Allah's reckoning.

**3.200** O believers, be patient and let your patience never be exhausted. Stand firm in your faith and fear Allah, so that you may triumph.

## Sura 4

### "Al-Nisa"

### WOMEN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**4.1** Men, have fear of your Lord, who created you from a single soul. From that soul He created its mate, and through them He bestrewed the earth with countless men and women.

Fear Allah, in whose name you plead with one another, and honour the mothers who bore you. Allah is ever watching over you.

**4.2** Give orphans the property which belongs to them. Do not exchange their valuables for worthless things or devour their possessions adding them to yours; for this would surely be a great sin. If you fear that you cannot treat orphans with fairness, then you may marry such women as seem good to you: two, three, or four of them. But if you fear that you cannot do justice, marry one only or those you possess. This will make it easier for you to avoid injustice.

Give women their dowry as a free gift; but if they choose to make over to you a part of it, you may regard it as lawfully yours.

Do not give the feeble-minded the property with which Allah has entrusted you for their support; but maintain and clothe them with its proceeds, and give them good advice.

**4.6** Put orphans to the test until they reach a marriageable age. If you find them capable of sound judgement, hand over to them their property, and do not deprive them of it by squandering it before they come of age.

Let the rich guardian not touch the property of his orphan ward; and let him who is poor use no more than a fair portion of it for his own advantage.

When you hand over to them their property, call in some witnesses; Allah takes sufficient account of all your actions.

**4.7** Men shall have a share in what their parents and kinsmen leave; and women shall have a share in what their parents and kinsmen leave; whether it be little or much, it is legally theirs.

If relatives, orphans, or needy men are present at the

division of an inheritance, give them, too, a share of it, and speak to them in kind words.

Let those who are worried about the welfare of their young children after their own death take care (not to wrong orphans). Let them fear Allah and speak for justice.

**4.10** Those that devour the property of orphans unjustly, swallow fire into their bellies; they shall burn in the flames of fire.

Allah has thus enjoined you concerning your children:

A male shall inherit twice as much as a female. If there be more than two girls, they shall have two thirds of the inheritance; but if there be one only, she shall inherit the half. Parents shall inherit a sixth each, if the deceased has a child; but if he has no children and his parents be his heirs, his mother shall have a third. If he has brothers, his mother shall have a sixth after payment of any bequest he may have bequeathed, or debt.

You know not whether your parents or your children are more beneficial to you. But this is the law of Allah; He is Wise and All-knowing.

**4.12** You shall inherit the half of what your wives leave if they die childless. If they leave children, a quarter of what they leave shall be yours after payment of any bequest they may have bequeathed or debt.

Your wives shall inherit one quarter of what you leave if you die childless. If you leave children, they shall inherit one eighth, after payment of any bequest you may have bequeathed, or debt.

If a man or a woman leave neither children nor parents and have a brother or a sister, they shall each inherit one-sixth. If there be more, they shall equally share the third of the estate, after payment of any bequest that may have been bequeathed or debt without prejudice (to the rights of the heirs). This is a commandment from Allah. He is Gracious and All-knowing.

**4.13** Such are the bounds set by Allah. He that obeys Allah and His Apostle shall dwell forever in gardens watered by running streams. That is the supreme triumph. But he that disobeys Allah and His Apostle and transgresses His bounds, shall be cast into fire and shall abide in it forever. A shameful punishment awaits him.

If any of your women commit fornication, call in four witnesses from among yourselves against them; if they testify to their guilt, confine them to their houses till death overtakes them or till Allah finds another way for them.

If two (men) among you commit it punish them both. If they repent and mend their ways, leave them alone. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**4.17** Allah forgives those who commit evil in ignorance and then quickly turn to Him in repentance. He will pardon them. Allah is Knowing, Wise. But Allah will not forgive those who do evil and, when death comes to them, say: 'Now we repent!' Nor will He forgive those who die unbelievers. For these We have prepared a woeful scourge.

**4.19** O believers, it is unlawful for you to inherit the women of your deceased kinsmen against their will, or to bar them from re-marrying, in order that you may force them to give up a part of what you have given them, unless they be guilty of a proven crime. Treat them with kindness; for even if you do dislike them, it may well be that you may dislike a thing which Allah has meant for your own good.

If you wish to have a wife in the place of a (divorced) one, do not take from her the dowry you have given her even if it be a talent of gold. That would be improper and grossly unjust; for how can you take it back when you have lain with each other and entered into a firm contract?

Henceforth, you shall not marry the women who were married to your fathers. That was an evil practice, indecent and abominable.

**4.23** Forbidden to you are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your paternal and maternal aunts; the daughters of your brothers and sisters, your foster-mothers, your foster-sisters, the mothers of your wives, your stepdaughters who are in your charge, born of the wives with whom you have lain; but it is no offence for you (to marry them) if you have not consummated your marriage with their mothers. (Forbidden to you also) are the wives of your own begotten sons and to take in marriage two sisters at one and the same time unless this had happened in the past. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**4.24** (Forbidden to you also) are married women, except those whom you own. Such is the decree of Allah. All women other than these are lawful to you, provided you seek them with your wealth in modest conduct, not in fornication. Give them their dowry for the enjoyment you have had of them as a duty; but it shall be no offence for you to make any other agreement among yourselves after you have fulfilled your duty. Allah is Knowing, Wise.

**4.25** If any one of you cannot afford to marry free believing women, (let him marry) from among the owned believing women. Allah best knows your faith: you are all alike (in terms of religion). Marry them with the permission of their masters and give them their dowry in all justice, provided they are honourable and chaste and have not entertained other men. If after marriage they commit adultery, they shall suffer half the penalty inflicted upon free adulteresses. Such is the law for those of you who fear to commit sin: but if you abstain, it will be better for you. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**4.26** Allah wishes to make this known to you and to guide you along the paths of those who have gone before you, and to turn to you in mercy. He is Wise, Knowing.

Allah wishes to forgive you, but those who follow their own appetites wish to see you far astray. Allah would lighten your burdens, and man was created weak.

**4.29** Believers, do not consume your wealth among yourselves illegally, but rather trade with it by mutual consent.

You shall not kill one another. Allah is merciful, but he that does that through wickedness and injustice shall be burnt in fire. That is an easy thing for Allah.

**4.31** If you avoid the grave sins you are forbidden, We shall pardon your evil deeds and admit you to an honourable place (Paradise). Do not covet the favours by which Allah has exalted some of you above others. For men is a portion of what they earn, and for women is a portion of what they earn. Ask Allah for His grace. Allah has knowledge of all things.

To everyone we have appointed heirs who (will inherit part) of what parents and kinsmen leave. As for those with whom you have entered into agreements, let them, too, have their due. Allah bears witness to all things.

**4.34** Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the others, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen (parts) because Allah has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them. Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. Allah is High, Supreme.

**4.35** If you fear a breach between a man and his wife, appoint an arbiter from his people and another from hers. If they wish to be reconciled, Allah will bring them together again. Allah is Knowing, Wise.

Serve Allah and associate none with Him. Show kindness to your parents and your kindred, to the orphans and to the needy, to your near and distant neighbours, to your fellow-travellers, to the wayfarers, and to the slaves whom you own. Allah does not love arrogant and boastful men, who are themselves niggardly and enjoin others to be niggardly also; who conceal that which Allah of His bounty has bestowed upon them- We have prepared a shameful punishment for the unbelievers - and who spend their wealth for the sake of ostentation, believing neither in Allah nor in the Last Day. He that chooses the devil for his friend, an evil friend has he.

**4.39** What harm could befall them if they believed in Allah and the Last Day and gave in alms of that which He has bestowed on them? Allah knows them all.

**4.40** Not by the smallest ant's weight will Allah wrong (any man). He that does a good deed shall be repaid twofold. Allah will bestow on him a rich recompense.

**4.41** How will it be when we produce a witness from every nation and call upon you to testify against them? On that day those who disbelieved and disobeyed the Apostle will wish that they were levelled into dust; they shall hide nothing from Allah.

Believers, do not approach your prayers when you are drunk, but wait till you can grasp the meaning of your words; nor when you are polluted—unless you are travelling the road—until

you have washed yourselves. If you are ill or have relieved yourselves or had intercourse with women while travelling and can find no water, take some clean sand and rub your faces and your hands with it. Allah is Pardoning, Forgiving.

**4.44** Consider those to whom a portion of the Book was given. They purchase error and wish to see you led astray. But Allah best knows your enemies. You need none else to protect or help you.

Some Jews take words out of their context and say: 'We hear, but disobey. May you be bereft of hearing. *Ra ina!*'<sup>1</sup> - thus distorting the phrase with their tongues and reviling the true faith.' But if they said: 'We hear and obey: hear us and *undhurna*,<sup>2</sup> it would be better and more proper for them. But Allah has cursed them in their unbelief. They do not believe except a little.

**4.47** You to whom the Book was given! Believe in that which We have revealed, confirming that which you have, before We obliterate faces and turn them backward, or lay Our curse on you as We laid it on the Sabbath-breakers. What Allah ordains shall be accomplished.

**4.48** Allah will not forgive those who associate other gods with Him; but He will forgive whom He will for other sins. He that associates other gods with Him is guilty of a heinous sin.

**4.49** Have you seen those who think themselves pure? Allah purifies whom He will. They shall not be wronged the husk of a date-stone.

See how they invent falsehoods about Allah. This in itself is a most grievous sin.

Consider those to whom a portion of the Book was given. They believe in idols and false gods and say of the infidels: 'These are better guided than the believers.' These are they on whom Allah has laid His curse. He who is cursed by Allah has none to help him.

Will they have a share in the kingdom? If so, they will not give so much as the speck on a date-stone to other men.

1. An Arabic word which means 'Listen to us'.

2. An Arabic word which means 'Look at us'.

**4.54** Or do they envy others what Allah has of His bounty given them? We gave Ibrahim's house the Book and wisdom (prophethood) and an illustrious kingdom. Some believe in him,<sup>1</sup> but others reject him. Sufficient scourge is the fire of Hell.

Those that deny Our revelations We will burn in Hell-fire. No sooner will their skins be consumed than we shall give them other skins, so that they may truly taste Our scourge. Allah is Mighty, Wise.

As for those that have faith and do good works, we shall admit them to gardens watered by running streams, where they shall have purified spouses, and where they shall abide forever. And We shall admit them to a cool shade.

Allah commands you to hand back your trusts to their rightful owners, and to pass judgement upon men with fairness. Noble is that to which Allah exhorts you. Allah is Hearing, Seeing.

**4.59** O believers, obey Allah and the Apostle and those in authority among you. Should you disagree about anything refer it to Allah and the Apostle, if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day. This will in the end be better and more just.

**4.60** Have you seen those who claim that they believe 'in what has been revealed to you and to other prophets' before you? They seek the judgement of the *Taghut*,<sup>2</sup> although they have been bidden to deny him. The devil would lead them far astray.

When it is said to them: 'Come to be judged by that which Allah has revealed and by the Apostle,' the hypocrites turn to you a deaf ear. But how would it be if some disaster befell them on account of what their hands committed? They would come to you swearing in the name of Allah that they desired nothing but amity and conciliation. But Allah knows what is in their hearts. Let them be. Admonish them and sternly rebuke them.

We sent no apostle but that he should be obeyed by Allah's leave. If, when they wronged themselves, they had come to you imploring Allah's pardon, and if you had sought of Allah forgiveness for them, they would have found Him Forgiving and Merciful.

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1. Muhammad.

2. The Taghut is the one who exceeds all bounds in causing mischief.



**4.65** But they will not – I swear by your Lord - they will not be true believers until they seek your arbitration in their disputes. Then they will not doubt the justice of your verdicts and will submit to you entirely.

**4.66** Had We commanded them to lay down their lives or to flee their country, only a few would have done that. Yet, had they done Our bidding, it would have been better for them, and their faith would have been strengthened. We would have bestowed on them a rich reward and guided them to a straight path.

He that obeys Allah and the Apostle shall dwell with the prophets and saints, the martyrs and righteous men whom Allah has favoured. He shall have gracious companions.

Such is the bounty of Allah. He is sufficiently Knowing.

**4.71** O believers, be ever on your guard. March in detachments or in one body. Among you is he who lags behind, so that if a disaster befell you, he would say: 'Allah has been gracious to me; I was not present with them.' But if, by Allah's grace, you were successful, he would say, as though there was no friendship between him and you: 'Would that I had been with them! I should have surely won a great victory.'

Let those who would exchange the life of this world for the Hereafter, fight for the cause of Allah; whoever fights for the cause of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious, We shall richly reward him.

And why should you not fight for the cause of Allah, and for the helpless old men, women, and children who say: 'Deliver us, Lord, from this city of wrongdoers; send forth to us a guardian from Your presence; send to us one that will help us?'

The true believers fight for the cause of Allah, but the infidels fight for the devil. Fight then against the friends of the devil. The devil's cunning is weak indeed.

**4.77** Consider those to whom it has been said: 'Lay down your arms; recite your prayers and pay the alms-tax.' When they were ordered to fight, some of them feared man as much as they fear Allah or even more. 'Lord,' they said, 'why have You decreed that we should fight? Could You not give us a brief respite?'

**4.78** Say: 'Trifling are the pleasures of this life. The Hereafter

is better for those who would keep from evil. You shall not be wronged the husk of a date-stone. Wherever you be, death will overtake you: though you put yourselves in lofty towers.'

When they are blessed with good fortune, they say: 'This is from Allah.' But when evil befalls them, they say: 'The fault was yours.'

Say to them: 'All is from Allah!'

What has come over these men that they should show such lack of understanding?

Whatever good befalls you (man), it is from Allah: and whatever ill, from yourself.

We have sent you forth as an apostle to mankind. Allah is (your) all-sufficient witness.

**4.80** He that obeys the Apostle obeys Allah Himself. As for those that pay no heed to you, know then that We have not sent you to be their keeper,

**4.81** They promise to obey you: but as soon as they leave you, a number of them plot in secret to do otherwise than what you bade them. Allah takes note of all their plots. Therefore let them be, and put your trust in Allah. He is your all-sufficient guardian.

Will they not ponder on the Quran? If it had not come from Allah, they could have surely found in it many contradictions.

When they hear any news of security or fear, they at once make it known to all; whereas if they reported it to the Apostle and to those in authority, those who sought knowledge could learn it from them. But for Allah's grace and mercy, all but a few of you would have followed the devil.

Therefore fight for the cause of Allah. You are accountable for none but yourself. Rouse the faithful; perchance Allah will defeat the unbelievers. He is mightier and more capable of punishment than they.

**4.85** He that mediates in a good cause shall gain by his mediation; but he that mediates in a bad cause shall be held accountable for its evil. Allah controls all things.

**4.86** If a man greets you, let your greeting be better than his—or at least return his greeting. Allah keeps count of all things.

**4.87** Allah: there is no god but Him. He will gather you all together on the Day of Resurrection: that day is sure to come. And whose is a truer word than Allah's?

Why are you thus divided concerning the hypocrites, when Allah Himself has cast them off on account of their misdeeds? Would you guide those whom Allah has caused to err? He whom Allah has led astray cannot be guided.

They would have you disbelieve as they themselves have done, so that you may be all alike. Do not befriend them until they have fled their homes for the cause of Allah. If they desert you, seize them and put them to

**4.90** death wherever you find them. Look for neither friends nor helpers among them except those who join an ally of yours or come over to you because their hearts forbid them to fight against you or against their own people. Had Allah pleased, He would have given them power over you, so that they would have taken arms against you. Therefore, if they keep away from you and cease their hostility and offer you peace, Allah bids you not to harm them.

**4.91** Others you will find who seek security from you as well as from their own people. Whenever they are called back to sedition, they plunge into it headlong. If these do not keep their distance from you, if they neither offer you peace nor cease their hostilities against you, lay hold of them and kill them wherever you find them. Over such men, We give you absolute authority.

**4.92** It is unlawful for a believer to kill another believer except by mistake. He that kills a believer by mistake must free one believing slave and pay blood-money to the family of the victim, unless they choose to give it away in alms. If the victim be a believer from a hostile tribe, the penalty is the freeing of one believing slave. But if the victim be a member of an allied tribe, then blood-money must be paid to his family and a believing slave set free. If a man cannot afford to do this, he must fast two consecutive months. Such is the penance imposed by Allah: He is Knowing, Wise.

**4.93** He that kills a believer by design shall burn in Hell for ever. He shall incur the wrath of Allah, who will lay His curse on

him and prepare for him a woeful scourge.

**4.94** O believers, show discernment when you go out to fight for the cause of Allah, and do not say to those that offer you peace: 'You are not believers,' - seeking the accidental goods of this world; for with Allah there are abundant gains. Such was your custom in days gone by, but now Allah has bestowed on you His grace. Therefore show discernment; for Allah is cognizant of what you do.

**4.95** The believers who stay at home - apart from those that suffer from a grave impediment - are not equal to those who fight for the cause of Allah with their fortunes and their persons. Allah has given those that fight with their fortunes and their persons a higher rank than those who stay at home. He has promised all a good reward; but far richer is the recompense of those who

**4.96** fight for Him: degrees of honour, forgiveness, and mercy. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Unto those whom the angels cause to die, having been unjust to themselves, the angels will say: 'What were you doing?' 'We were oppressed in our land,' they will reply. The angels will say: 'Was not the earth of Allah spacious enough for you to find refuge therein?' Hell shall be their home: an evil fate. Unlike those are the helpless men, women, and children who have neither the strength nor the means to escape. Those Allah may pardon them: He is Pardoning, Forgiving.

He that flees his homeland for the cause of Allah shall find numerous places of refuge in the land and great abundance. He that leaves his dwelling to fight for Allah and His Apostle and is then overtaken by death, shall be rewarded by Allah. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

It is no offence for you to shorten your prayers when travelling the road if you fear that the unbelievers may attack you. The unbelievers are your sworn enemies.

**4.102** When you are with the faithful, conducting their prayers, let one party of them rise up with you, armed with their weapons. After making their prostrations, let them withdraw to the rear and then let another party who have not prayed come forward and pray with you: and let these also be on their guard,

armed with their weapons. It would much please the unbelievers if you neglected your arms and your baggage, so that they could swoop upon you with one assault. But it is no offence for you to lay aside your arms when overtaken by heavy rain or stricken with an illness, although you must be always on your guard. Allah has prepared a shameful punishment for the unbelievers.

**4.103** When your prayers are ended, remember Allah standing, sitting, and lying down. Attend regularly to your prayers so long as you are safe: for prayer is a duty incumbent on the faithful, to be conducted at appointed hours.

Seek out your enemies relentlessly. If you have suffered, they too have suffered: but you at least hope to receive from Allah what they cannot hope for. Allah is Knowing, Wise.

**4.105** We have revealed to you the Book with the truth, so that you may arbitrate among men by that which Allah has shown you. You shall not plead for traitors. Implore Allah's forgiveness: He is Forgiving, Merciful. Nor shall you plead for those who betray themselves; Allah does not love the treacherous or the sinful.

They seek to hide themselves from men, but they cannot hide themselves from Allah. He is with them when they utter in secret what does not please Him: He has knowledge of what they do.

**4.109** Yes, you may plead for them in this life, but who will plead for them with Allah on the Day of Resurrection? Who will be their defender?

He that does evil or wrongs his own soul and then seeks pardon of Allah, will find Allah Forgiving, Merciful.

He that commits sin commits it against his own soul. Allah is Knowing, Wise.

**4.112** He that commits an offence or a crime and charges an innocent man with it, shall bear the guilt of calumny and gross injustice.

But for Allah's grace and mercy, you would have been led astray by some of them. They deceive none but themselves, nor can they do you any harm.

Allah has revealed to you the Book and wisdom and taught you what you did not know before. Allah's goodness to

you has been great indeed.

There is no virtue in much of their secret talks: only in him who enjoins charity, kindness, and peace among men. He that does this to please Allah shall be richly rewarded.

He that disobeys the Apostle after guidance has been made clear to him and follows a path other than that of the faithful, shall be given what he has chosen. We will cast him into Hell: a dismal end.

**4.116** Allah will not forgive setting up partners with Him. He will forgive whom He will all other sins. He that sets up partners with Allah has strayed far from the truth.

They worship none but females, (and) worship none but a rebellious devil (Satan) whom Allah has cursed.

**4.117** because he had said: 'I shall entice a certain number of Your servants and lead them astray. I shall arouse in them vain desires and order them to slit the ears of cattle. I shall order them to tamper with Allah's creation.' Indeed, he that chooses the devil rather than Allah for his protector ruins himself beyond redemption.

He makes promises and stirs up in them vain desires, and the devil makes them promises only to deceive them. Hell shall be their home: from it they shall find no refuge.

**4.122** But those that have faith and do good works shall be admitted to gardens watered by running streams, and there they shall abide forever. Such is the true promise of Allah: and whose is a truer word than Allah's?

It shall not be in accordance with your wishes, nor shall it be in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Book. He that does evil shall be requited with it: there shall be none to protect or help him. But the believers who do good works, whether men or women, shall enter Paradise. They shall not suffer the least injustice.

**4.125** And who has a nobler religion than the man who surrenders himself to Allah, does what is right, and follows the faith of Ibrahim the upright, whom Allah Himself chose to be His friend?

To Allah belongs all that the heavens and the earth

contain. He has knowledge of all things.

**4.127** They consult you concerning women. Say: 'Allah has instructed you about them, and so has the Book, which has been proclaimed to you, concerning the orphan girls whom you deny their lawful rights and refuse to marry; also regarding helpless children. He has instructed you to deal justly with orphans. Allah has knowledge of all the good you do.'

**4.128** If a woman fears ill-treatment or desertion on the part of her husband, it shall be no offence for them to seek a mutual agreement, for agreement is best. Man is prone to avarice. But if you do what is right and guard yourselves against evil, know then that Allah is cognizant of all what you do.

**4.129** In no way you can treat your wives in a just manner, even though you may wish to do that. Do not set yourself altogether against any of them, leaving her, as it were, in suspense. If you do what is right and guard yourselves against evil, (you will find) Allah Forgiving, Merciful. If they separate, Allah will compensate each of them out of His own abundance: He is Munificent, Wise.

**4.131** To Allah belongs all that the heavens and earth contain. We have enjoined those to whom the Book was given before you and (enjoin) you to fear Allah. If you deny Him, know that to Allah belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. He is Self-sufficient and Praiseworthy.

To Allah belongs all that is in heaven and earth. Allah is your all-sufficient guardian. If He pleased, He could destroy you all and replace you by other men. This He has power to do.

Let the man who seeks the reward of this life know that Allah holds the rewards of this life and of the next. He is Hearing, Seeing.

**4.135** Believers, conduct yourselves with justice and bear true witness before Allah, even though it be against yourselves, your parents, or your kinsfolk. Whether he be rich or poor, know that Allah has better right over both. So do not be led by passion, lest you should swerve from the truth. If you distort your testimony or decline to give it, know that Allah is cognizant of all that you do.

O believers, have faith in Allah and His Apostle, in the

Book He has revealed to His Apostle, and in the Book He formerly revealed. He that denies Allah, His angels, His Scriptures, His apostles, and the Last Day, has strayed far from the truth.

**4.137** Those who accept the faith and then renounce it, who again embrace it and again deny it and grow in unbelief - Allah will neither forgive them nor rightly guide them.

**4.138** Give warning to the hypocrites of a stern chastisement: those who choose the unbelievers rather than the faithful for their friends. Are they seeking glory at their hands? Surely all glory belongs to Allah.

Allah has instructed you in the Book that when you hear His revelations being denied or ridiculed, you must not sit and listen to them unless they engage in other talk, or else you shall yourselves become like them. Allah will surely gather in Hell the hypocrites and the unbelievers.

**4.141** They watch your fortunes closely. If Allah grants you a victory, they say: 'Did we not stand on your side?' And if the unbelievers are victorious, they say to them: 'Were we not mightier than you, and did we not protect you from the faithful?'

Allah will judge between you on the Day of Resurrection. He will not let the unbelievers triumph over the faithful.

The hypocrites seek to deceive Allah, but it is Allah who deceives them. When they rise to pray, they stand up sluggishly: they pray for the sake of ostentation and remember Allah but little, wavering between this and that and belonging neither to these nor those. You cannot guide the man whom Allah has left in error.

O believers, do not choose the infidels rather than the faithful for your friends. Would you give Allah a clear proof against yourselves?

**4.145** The hypocrites shall be cast into the lowest depths of the Fire: there shall be none to help them. But those who repent and mend their ways, who hold fast to Allah and are sincere in their belief-they shall be numbered with the faithful, and the faithful shall be richly rewarded by Allah.

And why should Allah punish you if you render thanks to Him and truly believe in Him? Allah is Rewarding, Knowing.



## WOMEN

**4.148** Allah does not like foul words in public, except by a man who is truly wronged. He is Hearing, Knowing. Whether you do good openly or in private, whether you forgive those that wrong you-Allah is Pardoning, Mighty.

Those that deny Allah and His apostles, and those that draw a line between Allah and His apostles, saying: 'We believe in some, but deny others,'-thus seeking a middle way-these indeed are the unbelievers. For the unbelievers We have prepared a shameful punishment.

As for those that believe in Allah and His apostles and discriminate against none of them, they shall be rewarded by Allah. He is Forgiving, Merciful.

**4.153** The People of the Book ask you to bring down for them a book from heaven. Of Musa they demanded a harder thing than that. They said to him: 'Show us Allah distinctly.' And for their wickedness, a thunderbolt smote them. They worshipped the calf after We had revealed to them Our signs; Yet we forgave them that, and bestowed on Musa clear authority.

**4.154** And We raised the Mount above them in view of their covenant and said: 'Enter the door in adoration. Do not break the Sabbath.' We took from them a solemn covenant. But they broke the covenant, denied the revelations of Allah, and killed their prophets unjustly. They said: 'Our hearts are sealed.'

It is Allah who has sealed their hearts, on account of their unbelief. They have no faith, except a few of them.

They denied the truth and uttered a monstrous falsehood against Mariam. They declared: 'We have put to death al-Masih Isa the son of Mariam, the Apostle of Allah.' They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but they mistook the crucified one for him.

**4.158** Those that disagreed about him were in doubt concerning him, for what they knew about it was sheer conjecture; they did not kill him for certain. Allah lifted him up to Him; He is Mighty, Wise. There is none among the People of the Book but will believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.

**4.160** Because of their iniquity, We forbade the Jews good things which were formerly allowed them; because time after

time they have debarred others from the path of Allah; because they practice usury-although they were forbidden it-and cheat others of their possessions. We have prepared a stern chastisement for those of them that disbelieve. But those of them that have deep learning and those that truly believe in what has been revealed to you and to other prophets before you; who attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax and have faith in Allah and the Last Day-these shall be richly rewarded.

We have revealed to you as We revealed to Nuh and to the prophets who came after him; as We revealed to Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yaqub and the tribes; and as we revealed to Isa, Ayyub, Yunus, Harun, Sulayman; and we gave Dawud a Book. Of some apostles We have already told you; but there are others of whom We have not yet spoken-and Allah spoke directly to Musa-apostles who brought good news to mankind and

**4.165** admonished them, that they might have no plea against Allah after their coming. Allah is Mighty and Wise.

Allah Himself bears witness by that which He has revealed to you that it has been revealed with His knowledge; and so do the angels. There is no better witness than Allah.

**4.167** Those that disbelieve and debar others from the path of Allah have strayed far from the truth. Allah will not forgive those who disbelieve and act unjustly; nor will He guide them to any path other than that of Hell; in it they shall remain for ever. That is no difficult thing for Allah.

O men, the Apostle has brought you the truth from your Lord. Have faith and it shall be well with you. If you disbelieve, know that to Allah belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. He is Knowing, Wise.

**4.171** People of the Book, do not transgress the bounds of your religion. Speak nothing but the truth about Allah. Al-Masih, Isa the son of Mariam, was no more than Allah's Apostle and His Word which He cast to Mariam: a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His apostles and do not say: 'Three'. Forbear, and it shall be better for you. Allah is but one God. Allah forbid that He should have a son! His is all that the heavens and the earth contain. Allah is the All-sufficient Protector. Al-Masih does not disdain to be a servant of Allah, nor do the angels who are

nearest to Him. Those who through arrogance disdain His service shall all be brought before Him.

Allah will reward those that have faith and do good works; He will enrich them from His own abundance. As for those who are scornful and proud, He will sternly punish them, and they shall find none besides Allah to protect or help them.

**4.174** Men, you have received clear proof from your Lord. We have sent forth to you a glorious light. Those that believe in Allah and hold fast to Him shall be admitted to His mercy and His grace; He will guide them to Him along a straight path.

**4.176** They consult you. Say: 'Thus Allah instructs you regarding the person who has neither parents nor children. If a man dies and he has a sister, she shall inherit the half of what he leaves. (If a woman dies childless), her brother shall be her sole heir. If a childless man has two sisters, they shall inherit two-thirds of what he leaves; but if he has both brothers and sisters, the share of each male shall be that of two females.'

Thus Allah makes plain to you His precepts so that you may not err. Allah has knowledge of all things.

## Sura 5

### "Al-Maida"

### THE TABLE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**5.1** O believers, be true to your obligations. It is lawful for you to eat the flesh of quadruped cattle other than that which is hereby announced to you. Game is forbidden while you are on pilgrimage. Allah decrees what He will.

O believers, do not violate the rites of Allah, or the sacred month, or the offerings or the victims with garlands, or those that repair to the Sacred House seeking Allah's grace and pleasure. Once your pilgrimage is ended, you shall be free to go hunting.

Do not allow your hatred for those who would debar you from the Holy Mosque to lead you into sin. Help one another in what is good and pious, not in what is wicked and sinful. Have fear of Allah, for He is stern in retribution.

**5.3** You are forbidden (to eat) that which dies of itself, blood, and the flesh of swine; also any flesh dedicated to any other than Allah. You are forbidden the flesh of strangled (animals) and of those beaten or gored to death; of those killed by a fall or mangled by beasts of prey, unless you find it still alive and slaughter it; also of animals sacrificed on stones (to idols).

(You are forbidden) to seek division by the Arrows. That is a vicious practice.

The unbelievers have this day despaired of (vanquishing) your religion. Have no fear of them: fear Me.

This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour to you. I have chosen Islam to be your faith.

He that is constrained by hunger to eat of what is forbidden, not intending to commit sin, then surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**5.4** They ask you what is lawful to them. Say: 'The good things are lawful to you, as well as that which you have taught the birds and beasts of prey to catch, teaching them of what Allah has taught you. Eat of what they catch for you, pronouncing upon it the name of Allah. And have fear of Allah: swift is Allah's reckoning.'

**5.5** (All) good things have this day been made lawful to you. The food of those to whom the Book was given is lawful to you, and yours to them.

Lawful to you are the free believing women and the free women from among those who were given the Book before you, provided that you give them their dowries and live in honour with them, neither committing fornication nor taking them as mistresses.

He that denies the faith shall gain nothing from his labours. In the world to come he is of the losers.

**5.6** O believers, when you rise to pray wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbow, and wipe your heads and your feet to the ankle. If you are polluted, cleanse yourselves. But if you are sick or travelling the road; or if, when you have just relieved yourselves or had intercourse with women, you can find no water, take some clean sand and rub your hands and faces with it. Allah does not wish to burden you; He seeks only to purify you and to perfect His favour to you, so that you may give thanks.

**5.7** Remember Allah's favour (which He has bestowed) upon you, and the covenant with which He bound you when you said: 'We hear and obey.' Have fear of Allah. He knows of those (thoughts) in your hearts.

O believers, be dutiful to Allah and bearers of just witness. Do not allow your hatred for other men to turn you away from justice. Deal justly; justice is nearer to true piety. Have fear of Allah; He is cognizant of what you do.

**5.9** Allah has promised those that have faith and do good works forgiveness and a rich reward. As for those who disbelieve and deny Our revelations, they shall become the people of Hell.

O believers, remember the favour which Allah bestowed upon you when certain people were about to stretch their hands towards you, but He restrained them. Have fear of Allah. In Allah let the faithful put their trust.

Allah made a covenant with the Children of Israel and raised among them twelve chieftains. He said: 'I shall be with you. If you attend to your prayers and pay the alms-tax; if you believe in My apostles and assist them and give Allah a generous loan, I shall forgive you your sins and admit you to

gardens watered by running streams. But he that hereafter denies Me shall stray from the right path.'

**5.13** But because they broke their covenant, We laid on them Our curse and hardened their hearts. They dislocate the words (of the Scriptures) from their places and have forgotten a portion of what they were enjoined. You will ever find them deceitful, except for a few of them. But pardon them and bear with them. Allah loves those who do good.

**5.14** With those who said they were Christians, We made a covenant also, but they too have forgotten much of what they were enjoined. Therefore We stirred among them enmity and hatred which shall endure till the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will declare to them all that they have done.

People of the Book! Our Apostle has come to reveal to you much of what you have hidden of the Book, and to forgive you much. A light has come to you from Allah and a glorious Book, with which He will guide to the paths of peace those that seek to please Him; He will lead them by His will from darkness to the light; He will guide them to a straight path.

**5.17** Unbelievers are those who declare: 'Allah is al-Masih, the son of Mariam.' Say: 'Who could prevent Allah from destroying al-Masih, the son of Mariam, together with his mother and all the people of the earth? His is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. He creates what He will and has power over all things.'

The Jews and the Christians say: 'We are the children of Allah and His loved ones.' Say: 'Why then does He punish you for your sins? Surely you are mortals of His own creation. He forgives whom He will, and punishes whom He pleases. He has control over the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. All shall return to Him.'

**5.19** People of the Book! Our Apostle has come to reveal to you Our will after an interval during which there were no apostles, lest you should say: 'No one has come to give us good news or to warn us.' Now a prophet has come to give you good news and to warn you. Allah has power over all things.

(Bear in mind) what Musa said to his people. (He said):

**'Remember, my people, the favours which Allah has bestowed upon you. He has raised up prophets among you, made you kings, and given you that which He has given to no other nation.**

**5.21 Enter, my people, the holy land (into) which Allah has ordained (that) you (should enter). Do not turn back, or you shall be ruined.'**

**5.22 'Musa,' they replied, 'a race of giants dwells in this land. We will not set foot in it till they are gone. Only then shall we enter.'**

Thereupon, two God-Fearing men whom Allah had favoured said: 'Go in to them through the gate, and when you have entered you shall surely be victorious. In Allah put your trust, if you are true believers.'

They said: 'Musa, we will not go in so long as they are in it. Go, you and your Lord, and fight. We will stay here.'

'Lord,' cried Musa, 'I have none but myself and my brother. Set a barrier between us and (these) wicked people.'

**5.26 He said: 'They shall be forbidden this land for forty years, during which time they shall wander homeless on the earth. Do not grieve for these wicked people.'**

Recount to them in all truth the story of Adam's two sons: how they each made an offering, and how the offering of the one was accepted while that of the other was not. He said: 'I will surely kill you.' (The other) said: 'Allah accepts (offerings) only from the righteous. If you stretch your hand to kill me, I shall not lift mine to slay you; for I fear Allah, the Lord of Creation. I would rather you should add your sin against me to your other sins and thus incur the punishment of Hell. Such is the reward of the wicked.'

His soul prompted him to slay his brother; he killed him and thus became one of the lost. Then Allah sent down a raven, which dug the earth to show him how to bury the naked corpse of his brother. 'Alas!' he cried. 'Have I not strength enough to do as this raven has done and so bury my brother's naked corpse?' And he repented.

**5.32 That was why We laid down for the Children of Israel that whoever killed a human being, except as a punishment for murder or for sedition in the earth, should be looked upon as**

though he had killed all mankind: and that whoever saved a human life should be regarded as though he had saved all mankind.

Our apostles brought them veritable proofs: yet it was not long before many of them committed great evils in the land.

**5.33** Those that make war against Allah and His Apostle and spread disorders in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides, or be banished from the land. They shall be held in shame in this world and sternly punished in the next: except those that repent before you reduce them. For you must know that Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**5.35** Believers, have fear of Allah and seek the means by which you get His favour. Fight valiantly for His cause, so that you may triumph.

As for the unbelievers, if they possessed all that the earth contains and as much besides to redeem themselves from the torment of the Day of Resurrection, it shall not be accepted from them. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

**5.37** They will strive to get out of the Fire, but they shall not: theirs shall be a lasting punishment.

As for the man or woman who is guilty of theft, cut off their hands to punish them for their crimes. That is the punishment enjoined by Allah. He is Mighty, Wise. But whoever repents and mends his ways after committing evil shall be pardoned by Allah. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Do you not know that to Allah belongs the control of the heavens and the earth? He punishes whom He will and forgives whom He pleases. Allah has power over all things.

**5.41** O Apostle, do not grieve for those who plunge headlong into unbelief; the men who say with their tongues: 'We believe,' but have no faith in their hearts, and the Jews who listen to lies and listen for the sake of others who have not come to you. They dislocate the words (of the Scriptures) from their places and say: 'If this be given you, accept it; if not, then beware!'

If Allah wishes to leave a person in error you cannot help him against Allah. For those whose hearts He does not please to purify shall be disgraced in this world and a grievous punishment in the next.



**5.42** They are listeners to falsehoods and devourers of the unlawful. If they come to you, judge between them or turn away from them. If you avoid them they cannot harm you at all; but if you act as judge, judge between them with fairness. Allah loves those that deal justly.

But how will they come to you for judgement, when they already have the Torah in which is Allah's own judgement? Soon after they are bound to ignore you: they are no true believers.

**5.44** We have revealed the Torah having guidance and light. By it, the prophets who surrendered themselves to Allah judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the divines, by what they were required to guard of Allah's books, and to what they are witnesses.

Have no fear of people; fear Me, and do not take a small price for my revelations. Unbelievers are those who do not judge in accordance with Allah's revelations.

**5.45** (In the Torah) We decreed for them a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, and for wounds punishment. But if a man charitably forbears from retaliation, his remission shall atone for him. Transgressors are those that do not judge in accordance with Allah's revelations.

After those prophets We sent forth Isa, the son of Mariam, confirming the Torah already revealed, and gave him the Gospel, in which there is guidance and light, corroborating that which was revealed before it in the Torah, a guide and an admonition to the righteous. Therefore let the followers of the Gospel judge in accordance with what Allah has revealed therein. Evil-doers are those that do not base their judgements on Allah's revelations.

**5.48** And to you We have revealed the Book with the truth confirming what was revealed before it in the other Books, and standing as a guardian over it. Therefore give judgement among them in accordance with Allah's revelations and do not yield to their fancies (swerving) from the truth that has been made known to you.

We have ordained a law and a path for each of you. Had Allah pleased, He could have made you one nation: but that He

might prove you by that which He has bestowed upon you. Vie with one another in good works, for to Allah you shall all return and He will declare to you what you have disagreed about.

**5.49** And pronounce judgement among them in accordance with Allah's revelations and do not be led by their desires. Take heed lest they should turn you away from a part of that which Allah has revealed to you. If they reject your judgement, know that it is Allah's wish to scourge them for some of their sins. Many of the people are wrongdoers.

Is it pagan laws that they wish to be judged by? Who is a better judge than Allah for men whose faith is firm?

Believers, take neither Jews nor Christians for your friends and protectors. They are friends and protectors of one another. Whoever of you seeks their friendship and supports them shall become one of their number. Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

**5.52** You see that faint – hearted hastening to woo them. They say: 'We fear lest a change of fortune should befall us.' But when Allah grants you victory or makes known His will, they shall regret what they had hidden in their breasts. Then will the faithful say: 'Are these the men who solemnly swore by Allah that they would stand by you?' Their works will come to nothing and they shall be losers. Believers, if any of you renounce the faith, Allah will replace them by others who love Him and are loved by Him, humble towards the faithful and stern towards the unbelievers, striving for Allah's cause and fearless of man's censure. Such is the grace of Allah: He bestows it on whom He will. He is Munificent, Knowing.

Your only supporters and protectors are Allah, His Apostle, and the faithful: those who attend to their Prayers, pay their alms-tax, and kneel down in worship.

**5.56** Those who seek the support of Allah, His Apostle, and the faithful (must know) that Allah's followers are sure to triumph.

**5.57** Believers, take as supporters neither those who were given the Book before you, who have made of your religion a jest and a pastime, nor the infidels. Have fear of Allah, if you are true believers. When you call to prayer, they treat it as a jest

## THE TABLE

and a pastime. They do this because they are devoid of understanding.

Say: 'People of the Book, do you hate us for any reason other than that we believe in Allah and in what has been revealed to us and to others before us, and that most of you are evil-doers?'

Say: 'Shall I tell you who will receive a worse reward from Allah? Those on whom Allah has laid His curse and with whom He has been angry, transforming them into apes and swine, and those who worship the devil. Worse is the plight of these, and they have strayed farther from the right path.'

When they came to you they said: 'We are believers.' Indeed, infidels they came and infidels they departed. Allah knows best what they conceal.

**5.62** You see many of them vie with one another in sin and wickedness and devour the unlawful. Evil is what they do.

Why do their rabbis and divines not forbid them to blaspheme or to devour what is unlawful? Evil indeed are their doings.

The Jews say: 'Allah's hand is chained.' May their own hands be chained! May they be cursed for what they say! By no means. His hands are both outstretched: He bestows as He will.

That which Allah has revealed to you will surely increase the wickedness and unbelief of many of them. We have stirred among them enmity and hatred, which will endure till the Day of Resurrection. Whenever they kindle the fire of war, Allah puts it out. They spread evil in the land, and Allah does not love the evil-doers.

**5.65** If the People of the Book accept the true faith and keep from evil, We will pardon them their sins and admit them to the gardens of delight. If they observe the Torah and the Gospel and what is revealed to them from Allah, they shall be eating abundance from above and from beneath their feet.

Some of them are righteous men; but many of them do nothing but evil.

**5.67** Apostle, proclaim what is revealed to you from your Lord; if you do not, you will not have conveyed His message. Allah will protect you from all men. He does not guide the unbelievers.

Say: 'People of the Book, you stand for nothing until you

observe the Torah and the Gospel and that which is revealed to you from your Lord.'

That which is revealed to you from your Lord will surely increase the wickedness and unbelief of many of them. But do not grieve for the unbelievers.

Believers, Jews, Sabaeans, and Christians—whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and does what is right—shall have nothing to fear or to regret.

**5.70** We made a covenant with the Children of Israel and sent forth apostles to them. But whenever an apostle came to them with a message that did not suit their fancies they accused some of lying and killed some. They thought no harm (would come to them): they turned blind and deaf. Allah is ever watching over what they do.

Unbelievers are those that say: 'Allah is al-Masih, the son of Mariam.' For al-Masih himself said: 'Children of Israel, serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord.' He that worships other gods besides Allah shall be forbidden Paradise by Allah, and his abode shall be in the Fire. The evil-doers shall have no helpers.

**5.73** Unbelievers are those that say: 'Allah is one of three. There is but one God. If they do not desist from so saying, those of them that disbelieve shall be sternly punished.

Will they not turn to Allah in repentance and seek forgiveness of Him? He is Forgiving, Merciful.

**5.75** Al-Masih, the son of Mariam, was no more than an apostle: other apostles had gone before him. His mother was a truthful woman. They both ate earthly food.

See how We make plain to them Our revelations. Then see how they ignore the truth.

**5.76** Say: 'Will you serve instead of Allah that which can neither harm nor help you? Allah is Hearing, Knowing.'

Say : 'People of the Book! Do not transgress the bounds of your religion unjustly. Do not yield to the desires of those who have already erred; who have led many astray and have themselves strayed from the straight path.'

Those of the Children of Israel who disbelieved were cursed by Dawud and Isa, the son of Mariam, because they

## THE TABLE

rebelled and committed evil and never restrained one another from wrongdoing. Evil is what they were doing.

You see many of them taking the unbelievers as supporters. Evil is that to which their souls prompt them. They have incurred the wrath of Allah and shall endure eternal torment. Had they believed in Allah and the Prophet and that which is revealed to him, they would not have taken them as supporters. But many of them are evil-doers.

**5.82** You will find that the most implacable of men in their enmity to the faithful are the Jews and the pagans, and that the nearest in affection to them are those who say: 'We are Christians.' That is because there are priests and monks among them; and because they are free from pride.

When they listen to that which was revealed to the Apostle, you will see their eyes fill with tears as they recognize its truth. They say: 'Lord, we believe. Count us among Your witnesses. Why should we not believe in Allah and in the truth that has come down to us? Why should we not hope for admission among the righteous? And for their words Allah has rewarded them with gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell for ever. Such is the recompense of the righteous. But those that disbelieve and deny Our revelations shall be the people of Hell.

**5.87** Believers, do not forbid the wholesome things which Allah has made lawful to you. Do not transgress; Allah does not love the transgressors.

**5.88** Eat of the lawful and wholesome things which Allah has given you. Have fear of Allah, in Whom you believe.

Allah will not take you to account for that which is vain in your oaths. But He will take you to task for the oaths which you solemnly swear. The penalty for a broken oath is the feeding of ten needy men with such food as you normally offer to your own people; or the clothing of ten needy men; or the freeing of one slave. He that cannot afford any of these must fast three days. In this way you shall expiate your broken oaths. Therefore be true to that which you have sworn. Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations, so that you may give thanks.

Believers, wine and games of chance, idols and divining

arrows, are abominations devised by the devil. Avoid them, so that you may prosper. The devil seeks to stir up enmity and hatred among you by means of wine and gambling, and to keep you from the remembrance of Allah and from your prayers. Will you not abstain from them?

**5.92** Obey Allah, and obey the Apostle. Beware; if you give no heed, know that Our Apostle's duty is only to give plain warning.

No blame shall be attached to those that have embraced the faith and done good works in regard to any food they may have eaten, so long as they fear Allah and believe in Him and do good works; and again so long as they fear Allah and do good works. Allah loves the charitable.

Believers, Allah will put you to the proof by means of some game which you can catch with your hands and with your spears, so that He may know those who fear Him in secret. He that transgresses hereafter shall be sternly punished.

**5.95** Believers, kill no game whilst on pilgrimage. He that kills game by design, shall present, as an offering to the Ka'ba, the like of that which he has killed, to be determined by two just men among you; or (he shall), in expiation, (undertake) either the feeding of the poor or the equivalent of that in fasting, so that he may suffer the evil consequences of his deed. Allah has forgiven what is past, but if any one returns to sin He will avenge Himself on him: He is Mighty, capable of punishment.

**5.96** Lawful to you is the game of the sea and its food, a good food for you and for the travellers. But you are forbidden the game of the land whilst you are on pilgrimage. Have fear of Allah, before whom you shall all be assembled.

Allah has made the Ka'ba the Sacred House, a foundation for people (in the affairs of religion); and (has made) the sacred month, and the sacrificial offerings and the victims with garlands, eternal values for mankind; so that you may know that Allah has knowledge of all that the heavens and the earth contain; that He has knowledge of all things.

Know that Allah is stern in retribution, and that He is Forgiving and Merciful.

The duty of the Apostle is only to give warning. Allah knows all that you hide and all that you reveal.

## THE TABLE

Say: 'Good and evil are not alike, even though the abundance of evil tempts you. Have fear of Allah, you men of understanding, so that you may triumph.'

**5.101** O believers, do not ask questions about things which, if made known to you, would only hurt you; but if you ask them when the Qur'an is being revealed, they shall be made plain to you. Allah will pardon you for this; He is Forgiving, Merciful. Other men inquired about them before you, only to disbelieve them afterwards.

Allah demands neither a *bahira*, nor a *saibah*, nor a *wasilah*, nor a *hami*.<sup>1</sup> But those who disbelieve invent lies against Allah. Most of them are lacking in judgement.

**5.104** When it is said to them: 'Come to that which Allah has revealed, and to the Apostle,' they reply: 'Sufficient for us is the faith we have inherited from our fathers,' even though their fathers knew nothing and were not rightly guided.

**5.105** Believers, you are accountable for yourselves; he that goes astray cannot harm you if you are on the right path. You shall all return to Allah, and He will inform you of what you have done.

**5.106** Believers, when death approaches you, let two just men from among you act as witnesses when you make your testaments; or two men from another tribe if the calamity of death overtakes you whilst you are travelling in the land. Detain them after prayers, and if you doubt their honesty ask them to swear by Allah: 'We will not sell our testimony for any price, even to a kinsman. We will not hide the testimony of Allah; for we should then be evil-doers.'

**5.107** If both prove to have been sinful, replace them by another pair from among those immediately concerned, and let them both swear by Allah, saying: 'Our testimony is truer than theirs. We have not exceeded the limit, for we should then be wrongdoers.' Thus they will be more likely to bear true witness

1. *Bahira*, *saibah*, *wasilah* and *hami* are names of animals which the pre-Islamic Arabs offered at the Ka'ba.

or to fear that the oaths of others may contradict theirs. Have fear of Allah and be obedient. Allah does not guide the evil-doers.

One day, Allah will gather all the apostles and ask them: 'How were you received?' They will reply: 'We do not know. You alone have knowledge of what is hidden.'

5.110 Then Allah will say: 'Isa, son of Mariam, remember the favour I have bestowed on you and on your mother: how I strengthened you with the Holy Spirit, so that you preached to men in your cradle and in the prime of manhood; how I instructed you in the Book and in wisdom, in the Torah and in the Gospel; how by My leave you fashioned from clay the likeness of a bird and breathed into it so that, by My leave, it became a living bird; how, by My leave, you healed the blind man and the leper, and by My leave restored the dead to life; and how I protected you from the Children of Israel when you brought them clear signs: thereupon the unbelievers among them said: "This is nothing but plain magic"; how when I enjoined the disciples to believe in Me and in My Apostle they replied: "We believe, bear witness that we submit."

5.112 'Isa, son of Mariam,' said the disciples, 'can your Lord send down to us a table (set with food) from heaven?'

He replied: 'Have fear of Allah, if you are true believers.'

5.113 'We wish to eat of it,' they said, 'so that we may reassure our hearts and know that what you said to us is true, and that we may be witnesses to it.'

'Allah, our Lord,' said Isa, the son of Mariam, 'send to us food from heaven, that it may mark a feast for us and for those that will come after us: a sign from You. Give us our sustenance; You are the best Giver.'

5.115 Allah replied: 'I am sending one to you. But whoever of you disbelieves hereafter shall be punished as no man has ever been punished.'

Then Allah will say: 'Isa, son of Mariam, did you ever say to mankind: "Worship me and my mother as gods beside Allah?"'

'Glory to You,' he will answer, 'How could I say that to which I have no right? If I had ever said so, You would have surely known it. You know what is in my mind, but I cannot tell



## THE TABLE

what is in Yours. You alone know what is hidden. I spoke to them of nothing except what You bade me. (I said): "Serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord." I watched over them whilst living in their midst, and ever since You took me to You, You Yourself have been watching over them. You are the witness of all things. If You punish them, they surely are Your servants; and if You forgive them, surely You are Mighty, Wise.'

Allah will say: 'This is the day when their truthfulness will benefit the truthful. They shall for ever dwell in gardens watered by running streams. Allah is pleased with them and they with Him. That is the supreme triumph.'

5.120 To Allah belongs the control over the heavens and the earth and all that they contain. He has power over all things.

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**6.1** Praise is due to Allah, Who has created the heavens and the earth and created darkness and light. Yet the unbelievers set up other gods as equals with their Lord.

It is He Who has created you from clay. He has decreed a term for you (in this world) and another one set with Him (in the next). Yet you are still in doubt.

**6.3** He is God in the heavens and on earth. He has knowledge of all that you hide and all that you reveal. He knows what you earn.

Yet every time a revelation comes to them from their Lord, they give no heed to it. Thus they deny the truth when it is declared to them: but they shall learn the consequences of their scorn.

**6.6** Can they not see how many generations We have destroyed before them, whom We had made more powerful in the land than you<sup>1</sup>, sending down for them abundant water from the sky and giving them rivers that rolled at their feet? Yet because they sinned, We destroyed them all and raised up other generations after them.

**6.7** Had We sent down to you a Book inscribed on paper and the unbelievers touched it with their own hands, they would still say: 'This is nothing but plain magic.' They ask: 'Why has no angel been sent down to him?' If We had sent down an angel, their fate would have been sealed and they would have never been reprieved. If We had made him an angel, We would have given him the semblance of a man, and would have thus confused them with that in which they are already confused.

**6.10** Other apostles have been laughed to scorn before you. But those that scoffed at them were overtaken by the very scourge they had derided.

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1. The Makkans.

Say: 'Roam the earth and see what was the fate of those that disbelieved their apostles.'

Say: 'To whom belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain?' Say: 'To Allah. He has decreed mercy for Himself, and will gather you all on the Day of Resurrection: that day is sure to come. Those who have forfeited their own souls will never have faith.'

6.14 His is whatever takes its rest in the night or in the day. He is the Hearing, the Knowing. Say: 'Should I take any but Allah for my Defender? He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He gives nourishment to all and is nourished by none.'

6.15 Say: 'I was commanded to be the first to submit to Him.' And do not be one of the polytheists.

Say: 'I will never disobey my Lord, for I fear the torment of a fateful day.'

He who is delivered (from the torment) of that day shall have received Allah's mercy. That is the glorious triumph.

If Allah afflicts you with evil, none can remove it but He; and if He blesses you with good fortune, know that He has power over all things.

He reigns supreme over His servants. He is the Wise, the Knowing.

Say: 'What thing counts most in testimony?'

Say: 'Let Allah be a witness between me and you. This Quran has been revealed to me that I may thereby warn you and all whom it may reach. Will you really witness that there are other gods besides Allah?'

Say: 'I will witness (to no such a thing)!''

Say: 'He is but one God. I deny the gods you serve besides Him.'

Those to whom We have given the Book know him as they know their own children. But those who have forfeited their own souls will never have faith.

6.21 Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah or denies His revelations? The wrongdoers shall never prosper.

On the day when We gather them all together We shall say to the polytheists: 'Where are your partners now, those

whom you claimed (to be your gods)?' They will not argue, but will say: 'By Allah, our Lord, we have never been polytheists.'

You shall see how they will lie against themselves and how their own invention will fail them.

**6.25** Some of them listen to you. But We have cast veils over their hearts and made them hard of hearing lest they understand your words. They will not believe in Our signs even if they see everyone of them.

When they come to argue with you, the unbelievers say: 'This is nothing but old fictitious tales.'

**6.26** They forbid (others) from it and keep away from it. They ruin none but themselves, though they do not perceive it.

If you could see them when they are set before the Fire! They will say: 'Would that we could return! Then we would not deny the revelations of our Lord and would be true believers.' Indeed, that which they concealed will manifest itself to them.

But if they were sent back, they would return to that which they have been forbidden. They are liars indeed.

They declare: 'There is no other life but this; nor shall we ever be raised to life again.'

If you could see them when they are set before their Lord! He will say: 'Is this not the truth?' 'Yes, by our Lord,' they will reply, and He will say: 'Taste then Our scourge, the reward of your unbelief!

They are lost indeed, those who deny that they will ever meet Allah, When the Hour of Doom overtakes them unawares, they will exclaim: 'Alas, we have neglected much in our lifetime!' And they shall bear their burdens on their backs. Evil are the burdens they shall bear.

**6.32** The life of this world is but a sport and a pastime. Surely better is the life to come for those who are righteous. Will you not understand?

We know too well that what they say grieves you. It is not you that they are disbelieving; but the evil-doers deny Allah's own revelations. Other apostles have been denied before you. But they patiently bore with disbelief and persecution until Our help came down to them: for none can change the decrees of Allah. You have already heard of those apostles.

## CATTLE

If you find their aversion hard to bear, seek if you can a burrow in the earth or a ladder to the sky by which you may bring them a sign. Had Allah pleased, He would have given them guidance, one and all. Do not be ignorant then.

**6.36** Those who listen will surely answer. As for the dead, Allah will bring them back to life. To Him they shall all return.

**6.37** They ask: 'Why has no sign come down to him from his Lord?'

Say: 'Allah is well able to send down a sign.' But most of them do not know.

There is no animal on the earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, but they are communities like your own. We have left out nothing in the Book. They shall all be gathered before their Lord.

**6.39** Those that deny Our revelations are deaf and dumb (and) in darkness. Allah leaves in error whom He will, and guides to the right path whom He pleases.

Say: 'When Allah's scourge smites you and the Hour of Doom (suddenly) overtakes you, will you call on any but Allah (to help you), if you are truthful? No, on Him alone you will call; and if He please, He will relieve your affliction. Then you will forget what you associate with Him.'

**6.42** We sent forth (apostles) before you to other nations, and then afflicted them with calamities and misfortunes so that they might humble themselves. If only they humbled themselves when Our scourge overtook them! But their hearts were hardened, and the devil made what they did seem fair to them.

And when they had forgotten what We admonished them with, We granted them all that they desired; but just as they were rejoicing in what they were given, We suddenly smote them and they were (plunged) into utter despair. Thus were the evil-doers annihilated. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Creation!

**6.46** Say: 'Tell me: If Allah took away your hearing and your sight and set a seal upon your hearts, could any god but Allah restore them to you?'

See how We make plain to them Our revelations. And

yet they turn away. Say: 'Tell me: if the scourge of Allah overtook you unawares or openly, would any perish but the transgressors?'

**6.48** We send forth Our apostles only to give good news to mankind and to warn them. Those that believe (in them) and mend their ways shall have nothing to fear or to regret. But those that deny Our revelations shall be punished for their misdeeds.

Say: 'I do not tell you that I possess the treasures of Allah or know what is hidden, nor do I claim to be an angel. I follow only that which is revealed to me.'

Say: 'Are the blind and the seeing alike? Will you not think?'

**6.51** And warn with it those who dread to be brought before their Lord that they have no guardian or intercessor besides Allah, so that they may guard themselves against evil. Do not drive away those that call on their Lord morning and evening, seeking only to gain His favour. You are not by any means accountable for them, nor are they accountable for you. If you drive them away, you shall yourself become an evil-doer.

Thus We have made some of them a means for testing others, so that they should say: 'Are these the men whom Allah favours amongst us?' But does not Allah best know the thankful?

When those that believe in Our revelations come to you, say: 'Peace be upon you. Your Lord has decreed mercy on Himself. If any one of you commits evil through ignorance and then repents and mends his ways, then He is Forgiving, Merciful.'

Thus We make plain Our revelations, so that the path of the wicked may be laid bare.

**6.56** Say: 'I am forbidden to worship whom you invoke besides Allah.'

Say: 'I will not yield to your wishes, for then I should have strayed and should not be of the guided.'

Say: 'I have received clear proof from my Lord, yet you deny Him. I do not have that which you would hasten; judgement is for Allah only. He declares the truth and is the best of arbiters.'

Say: 'Had I that which you would hasten, our dispute would be ended. But Allah best knows the evil-doers.'

**6.59** He has the keys of the unseen: none knows them but He. He has knowledge of all that land and sea contain; every leaf that falls is known to Him. There is no grain in the darkest bowels of the earth, nor anything green or dry, but is recorded in a clear Book.

**6.60** 'It is He that makes you dead by night, knowing what you have done by day, and then rouses you so that an ordained term (of life) may be fulfilled. To Him you shall all return, and He will declare to you all that you have done.'

'He reigns supreme over His servants. He sends forth guardians who watch over you and carry away your souls without fail when death overtakes you. Then are all men restored to Allah, their true Lord. His is the judgement, and most swift is His reckoning.'

Say: 'Who delivers you from the perils of land and sea, when you call out to Him humbly and in secret, saying: "Save us, and we will be truly thankful?"'

Say: 'Allah delivers you from them, and from all afflictions. Yet you worship others with Him.'

**6.65** Say: 'He has power to let loose His scourge upon you from above your heads and from beneath your feet, and to divide you into discordant factions, causing the one to suffer at the hands of the other.'

See how We make plain Our revelations, that they may understand.

Your people have rejected this, although it is the very truth. Say: 'I am not your keeper. The time will come when every prophecy shall be fulfilled, and you shall know of it.'

**6.68** When you see those that scoff at Our revelations, withdraw from them till they engage in some other talk. If the devil causes you to forget, leave the wrongdoers as soon as you remember. Those that fear Allah are not by any means accountable for them. We remind them only so that they may guard themselves against evil.

**6.70** Avoid those that treat faith as a sport and a pastime and are seduced by the life of this world. Admonish them hereby lest a soul be damned by its own sins. It has no guardian or

intercessor besides Allah: and though it offers every ransom, it shall not be accepted from it. Such are those that are damned by their deeds. They shall drink boiling water and be sternly punished for their unbelief.

**6.71** Say: 'Are we to call besides Allah what can neither help nor harm us? Are we to turn on our heels after Allah has guided us, like him who, being bewitched by devils, blunder aimlessly in the earth, although his friends call him to the right path, shouting: "Come this way!"?' Say: 'The guidance of Allah is the only guidance. We are commanded to surrender ourselves to the Lord

**6.72** of the Creation and to pray, and fear Him. Before Him you shall all be assembled.

It was He Who created the heavens and the earth in all truth. On the day when He says: 'Be,' it shall be. His word is the truth. His shall be the sovereignty on the day when the trumpet is sounded. He has knowledge of the visible and the unseen. He alone is the Wise, the Knowing.

And remember when Ibrahim said to his father Azar: 'Will you take idols as your gods? Surely you and all your people are in palpable error.'

Thus We showed Ibrahim the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, so that he might become a firm believer.

When night drew its shadow over him, he saw a star. 'That,' he said 'is surely my God.'

But when it set he said: 'I do not like to worship the setting ones.'

**6.77** When he beheld the rising moon, he said: 'That is my God.' But when it set, he said: 'If Allah does not guide me, I shall surely go astray.'

Then, when he beheld the sun shining, he said: 'That must be my God: it is larger (than the other two).'

But when it set, he said to his people: 'I am done with what you associate with God. I will turn my face to Him who has created the heavens and the earth, and live a righteous life. I am no polytheist.'

**6.80** His people argued with him. He said: 'Will you argue with me about Allah, who has given me guidance? I do not fear



those you set up with Him, except by His will. My Lord has knowledge of all things. Will you not be warned?

**6.81** And how should I fear what you set up with Him when you yourselves are not afraid of setting up with Him what He has not sanctioned. Which of the two parties is more deserving of safety? (Tell me), if you know the truth. Those that have faith and do not taint their faith with wrongdoing shall surely have security, and follow the right path.'

Such was the argument with which We furnished Ibrahim against his people. We raise whom We will to an exalted rank. Your Lord is Wise, Knowing.

**6.84** We gave him Ishaq and Yaqub and guided each of them; and We guided Nuh before them. Among his descendants were Dawud and Sulayman, Ayyub and Yusuf and Musa and Harun—thus are the righteous rewarded—Zakariyya, Yahya, Isa and Elias, who all were upright men, and Ismail, Elyasa, Yunus and Lut. All these We exalted above Our creatures, as We exalted some of their fathers, their children, and their brothers, We chose them and guided them to a straight path.

Such is Allah's guidance; He bestows it on whom He pleases of His servants. Had they associated others with Him, their labours would have been vain indeed.

On those men We bestowed the Book, wisdom, and prophethood. If these deny them, We will entrust them to others who do not disbelieve in them.

Those were (the men) whom Allah guided. Follow then their guidance and say: 'I demand of you no recompense for this. It is a reminder to all mankind.'

**6.91** They have no true notion of Allah's glory, those that say: 'Allah has never revealed anything to a mortal.'

Say: 'Who, then, revealed the Book which Musa brought down, a light and guidance for mankind? (The Book) which you have transcribed on scraps of paper, declaring some of it and suppressing much, (although) you have now been taught what neither you nor your fathers knew before?'

Say: 'It was surely Allah (who revealed them).' Then leave them to amuse themselves with foolish chatter.

**6.92** And this is a blessed Book which We have revealed,

confirming what came before it, that you may warn the Mother City<sup>1</sup> and those that dwell around her. Those who have faith in the life to come will believe in it and be steadfast in their prayers.

Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah, or says: 'This has been revealed to me,' when nothing has been revealed to him? Or the man who says: 'I can reveal the like of what Allah has revealed?'

Could you but see the wrongdoers when death overwhelms them! With hands outstretched, the angels (will say): 'Yield up your souls. You shall be rewarded with a shameful punishment this day, for you have said of Allah what is untrue and scorned His revelations. And now you have returned to Us, alone, as We created you at first, leaving behind all that We have bestowed on you: Nor do We see with you your intercessors, those whom you claimed to be the partners (of Allah). Broken are the ties which bound you, and that which you presumed has failed you.'

**6.95** It is Allah who splits the seed and the fruit-stone. He brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living. Such is Allah. How then can you turn away from Him?

He kindles the light of dawn. He has ordained the night for rest and the sun and the moon for reckoning. Such is the ordinance of Allah, the Mighty, the Knowing.

**6.98** It is He that has created for you the stars, so that they may guide you in the darkness of land and sea. We have made plain Our revelations to men who understand.

It was He that created you from one being and furnished you with a dwelling and a resting-place. We have made plain (Our) revelations to men of understanding.

**6.99** He sends down water from the sky, and with it brings forth the buds of every plant. From these We bring forth green foliage and close-growing grain, palm-trees laden with clusters of dates within reach, vineyards and olive groves and pomegranates (which are) alike and different. Behold their fruits when they bear fruit and ripen. Surely in these there are signs for true believers.

**6.100** Yet they regard the jinn as Allah's partners, though He Himself created them, and in their ignorance ascribe to Him

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1. Makkah

sons and daughters. Glory to Him! Exalted be He above their descriptions of Him.

He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. How could He have a son when He had no consort? He created all things and has knowledge of all things.

That is Allah, your Lord, There is no god but Him, the Creator of all things. Therefore, serve Him. He is the Guardian of all things.

No mortal eyes can see Him, though He sees all eyes. He is the Kind, the Knowing.

**6.104** Momentous signs have come to you from your Lord. He that sees them shall himself have much to gain, but he who is blind to them shall lose much. I am not your keeper.

Thus We make plain Our revelations, so that they may say: 'You have studied well,' and that this may become clear to men of understanding. Therefore, follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord. There is no god but Him. Avoid the polytheists. Had Allah pleased, they would not have associated others with Him. We have not made you their keeper, nor are you their guardian.

**6.108** Do not revile (the idols) which they invoke besides Allah, lest in their ignorance they should spitefully revile Allah. Thus we have made the actions of all men seem pleasing. To their Lord they shall return, and He will declare to them all that they have done.

**6.109** They solemnly swear by Allah that if a sign be given them they would believe in it. Say: 'Signs are vouchsafed by Allah.' And how can you tell that if a sign be given them they will not believe in it?

**6.110** We will turn away their hearts and eyes (from the truth) since they refused to believe in it at first. We will leave them to blunder about in their wrongdoing.

**6.111** If We sent down the angels to them and caused the dead to speak with them and ranged all things before them, they would still not believe, unless Allah willed it. But most of them are ignorant men.

Thus We have assigned for every prophet an enemy: the devils among men and jinn, who inspire one another with vain and varnished falsehoods. But had your Lord pleased, they would not have done so. Therefore leave them to their own inventions, so that the hearts of those who have no faith in the life to come may be inclined to it and, being pleased, persist in their sinful ways.

Should I seek a judge other than Allah when it is He who has revealed the Quran for you fully explained? Those to whom We have given the Book know that it is the truth revealed by your Lord. Therefore have no doubts.

**6.115** Perfected are the words of your Lord in truth and justice. None can change them. He is the Hearing, the Knowing.

If you obeyed the greater part of mankind, they would lead you away from Allah's path. They follow nothing but idle fancies and preach nothing but falsehoods. Allah best knows the men who stray from His path and those that are rightly guided.

**6.118** Eat then of such as has been consecrated in the name of Allah, if you truly believe in His revelations. And why should you not eat of that on which the name of Allah is mentioned when He has already made plain to you what is forbidden, except when you are constrained?

Many are those that are misled through ignorance by their fancies: but your Lord best knows the transgressors.

Sin neither openly nor in secret. Those that commit sin shall be punished for their sins.

Do not eat of any flesh that has not been consecrated in the name of Allah; for that is sinful.

The devils will inspire their friends to argue with you. If you obey them, you shall indeed become polytheists.

**6.122** Can the dead man whom We have raised to life and given a light with which he may be guided among men, be compared to him who blunders about in darkness from which he will never emerge? Thus their foul acts seem fair to the unbelievers.

**6.123** And thus we have placed in every town its arch-transgressors to scheme there. But they scheme only against themselves, though they may not perceive it. When a sign is revealed to them they say: 'We will not believe in it unless we

are given that which Allah's apostles have been given.' But Allah knows best whom to entrust with His message.

Allah will humiliate the transgressors and mete out to them a grievous punishment for their scheming. If Allah wills to guide a man, He opens his bosom to Islam. But if He pleases to leave him in error, He makes his bosom small and narrow as though he were climbing up to the sky. Thus Allah lays the scourge on the unbelievers.

Such is the path of your Lord, a straight path. We have made plain Our revelations to thinking men. Theirs is the abode of peace with their Lord. He will give them His protection in reward for what they do.

**6.128** On the day when He assembles them all together, He will say: 'Jinn, you have seduced mankind in great numbers.' And their friends among men will say: 'Lord, we have enjoyed each other's company. But now we have reached the end of the appointed term which You decreed for us.'

He (Allah) will say: 'The Fire shall be your home, and there you shall remain for ever unless Allah ordains otherwise.' Your Lord is Wise, Knowing.

Thus We give the wicked sway over each other as a punishment for what they earn.

**6.130** (Then He will say): 'Jinn and men! Did there not come to you apostles of your own who proclaimed to you My revelations and warned you of this day?'

They will reply: 'We bear witness against our own souls.' Indeed, the life of this world beguiled them. They will testify to their own faithlessness.

**6.131** Your Lord will not destroy a nation without just cause and due warning. They all get degrees (of reward) according to their deeds. Your Lord is watching over all their actions.

Your Lord is Self-Sufficient and Merciful. He can destroy you if He will and replace you by whom He pleases, just as He raised you from the offspring of other nations.

That which you are promised is sure to come. You shall not escape it.

Say: 'Do all that is in your power, my people, and I will do what is in mine. You shall before long know to whom will be the

good end of the abode. The wrongdoers shall not triumph.'

**6.136** They set aside for Allah a share of what He has created of tilth and cattle saying: 'This is for Allah'—so they pretend—'and this for our associate—gods.' The share of their associate-gods never reaches Allah, but Allah's share reaches their associate-gods. How ill they judge!

**6.137** And thus their associate-gods have induced many polytheists to kill their children so that they may ruin them and confuse them in their faith. But had Allah pleased, they would not have done so. Therefore, leave them to their false inventions.

They say: 'These cattle, and these crops are forbidden. None may eat of them save those whom we permit.' So they assert. And there are other cattle whose backs are forbidden, and others over which they do not pronounce the name of Allah, thus committing a sin against Him. Allah will punish them for their invented lies.

They also say: 'What is in the wombs of these cattle is lawful to our males but not to our wives.' But if it is still-born, they all partake of it. He will punish them for that which they attribute to Him. He is Wise, Knowing.

**6.140** Lost are those that in their ignorance have wantonly slain their own children and made unlawful what Allah has given them, inventing falsehoods about Allah. They have gone astray and are not guided.

**6.141** It is He who brings forth gardens (with) creepers and upright (plants), the palm and seed-produce with various fruits and the olive and pomegranates alike and different. Eat of its fruit when it bears fruit and pay what is due of them upon the harvest day. But do not be prodigal; Allah does not love the prodigal.

**6.142** And of the cattle, some are for carrying burdens and others for slaughter. Eat of that which Allah has given you and do not walk in the devil's footsteps; he is your sworn enemy.

(He has given you) eight kinds of livestock. (Take first) a pair of sheep and a pair of goats. Say: 'Of these, has He forbidden you the males, the females, or their offspring? Answer me, if you are men of truth.' Then a pair of camels and a pair of cattle. Say: 'Of these, has He forbidden you the males, the

females, or their offspring? Were you present when Allah gave you these commandments?

Who is more wicked than the man who, in his ignorance, invents a lie about Allah to mislead others? Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

**6.145** Say: 'I find nothing in what has been revealed to me that forbids men to eat of any food except carrion, running blood, and the flesh of swine—for these are unclean—and what has been profanely slaughtered to gods other than Allah. But whoever is constrained to eat of any of these, not intending to sin or transgress, then your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

We forbade the Jews all (animals) with undivided hoofs and the fat of sheep and oxen, except what is on their backs and intestines and what is mixed with their bones. Such is the penalty with which We rewarded them for their misdeeds.

What We say is true. If they disbelieve in you, say: 'Your Lord has an all-encompassing mercy: but His punishment can not be warded off from the evil-doers.'

**6.148** The polytheists will say: 'Had Allah pleased, neither we nor our fathers would have associated other gods with Him; nor would we have forbidden anything. In the same way, those who have gone before them denied the truth until they felt Our scourge.

Say: 'Have you any knowledge you can show us? You believe in nothing but conjecture and follow nothing but falsehoods.'

**6.149** Say: 'Allah alone has the conclusive proof. Had He pleased, He would have guided you all.'

Say: 'Bring those witnesses of yours who can testify that Allah has forbidden this.' If they so testify, do not testify with them, nor yield to the wishes of those that deny Our revelations, disbelieve in the life to come, and set up (other gods) as equals with their Lord.

Say: 'Come, I will tell you what your Lord has made binding on you: that you shall serve no other gods besides Him; that you shall show kindness to your parents; that you shall not kill your children because you cannot support them; We provide for you and for them; that you shall not commit foul sins, whether openly or in secret; and that you shall not kill—for that is

forbidden by Allah—except for a just cause. Thus Allah exhorts you, that you may discern.

**6.152** Do not touch the property of orphans, but strive to improve their lot until they reach maturity. Give just weight and full measure; We never charge a soul with more than it can bear. Speak for justice, even if it affects your own kinsmen. Be true to the covenant of Allah. Thus He exhorts you, so that you may take heed.

This path of Mine is straight. Follow it and do not follow other paths, for they will lead you away from Him. Thus Allah commands you, so that you may guard yourselves against evil.

**6.154** Then to Musa We gave the Book to complete Our blessing for him who does good (by following it) and (to make) plain all things, and (to provide) guidance and mercy, so that his people might believe in the ultimate meeting with their Lord. And now We have revealed this Book with Our blessings. Observe it and keep from evil, so that you may find mercy and not say: 'The Book was revealed only to two sects before us; we have no knowledge of what they read';

**6.157** or: 'Had the Book been revealed to us, we would have been better guided than they.'

A clear sign has now come to you from your Lord: a guidance and a blessing. And who is more wicked than the man who denies the revelations of Allah and turns away from them? Those that turn away from Our revelations shall be sternly punished for their indifference.

**6.158** Are they waiting for the angels or your Lord Himself to come down to them, or for a sign of His to be given them? On the day when such a sign is given them, faith shall not avail the soul which had no faith before or did not put its faith to good use.

Say: 'Wait if you will; we too are waiting.'

Have nothing to do with those who have split up their religion into sects. Allah will call them to account and declare to them what they have done.

He that does a good deed shall be repaid tenfold; but he that commits a sin shall be punished only for it. None shall be wronged.



## CATTLE

**6.161** Say: 'My Lord has guided me to a straight path, to an upright religion, to the faith of the upright Ibrahim, who was no polytheist.'

Say: 'My prayers and my devotions, my life and my death, are all for Allah, Lord of the Creation: He has no partner. Thus I am commanded, being the first of the Muslims.'

Say: 'Should I seek any but Allah for my god, when He is the Lord of all things? Each man shall reap the fruits of his own deeds: no soul shall bear another's burden. In the end you shall all return to your Lord, and He will inform you about that in which you differed.'

**6.165** He has made you successors in the world and exalted some of you in rank above others, so that He might prove you with His gifts. Swift is your Lord in retribution; yet He is Forgiving, Merciful.

## Sura 7

"Al- A'raf"

### THE HEIGHTS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

*Alif lam mim sad.* (This) Book is revealed to you; let your heart not be troubled about it. It is revealed to you that you may thereby warn the unbelievers and admonish the faithful.

**7.3** Observe that which is brought down to you from your Lord and do not follow other masters besides Him. But you seldom take warning.

How many a town have We laid in ruin! In the night Our scourge fell upon it, or at midday, when they were drowsing.

And when Our scourge fell upon them, their only plea was: 'We have indeed been wicked men.'

We will question those to whom Our message was sent, as We shall question the messengers. With knowledge We will recount to them (what they have done), for We are never absent.

**7.8** On that day, (their deeds) shall be weighed with justice. Those whose scales are heavy shall triumph; but those whose scales are light shall lose their souls, because they have denied Our revelations.

We strongly established you on earth and provided you with a livelihood: yet you are seldom thankful.

We created you and gave you form. Then We said to the angels: 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam.' They all prostrated themselves except Satan, who did not.

'Why did you not prostrate yourself when I commanded you?' Allah asked.

'I am nobler than Adam,' he replied. 'You created me of fire and him of clay.'

He said: 'Begone from it! This is no place for your contemptuous pride. Away with you! Henceforth you shall be humble.'

Satan replied: 'Reprieve me till the Day of Resurrection.'

**7.15** 'You are reprieved,' said He.

'Because You have led me into sin,' said Satan, 'I will

## THE HEIGHTS

waylay them as they walk on Your straight path, and spring upon them from the front and from the rear, from their right and from their left. Then You shall find the greater part of them ungrateful.'

'Begone!' said Allah. 'A despicable outcast. With those that follow you I shall fill the pit of Hell.'

7.19 To Adam He said: 'Dwell with your wife in Paradise, and eat from whatever you please; but never approach this tree or you shall both become transgressors.'

But the devil tempted them, so that he might reveal to them that which had been hidden from them of their shame. He said: 'Your Lord has forbidden you to approach this tree only to prevent you from becoming angels or immortals.' Then he swore to them that he would give them friendly counsel.

7.22 Thus he cunningly seduced them. And when they had eaten of the tree, their shame became visible to them, and they both covered themselves with the leaves of the garden.

Their Lord called out to them, saying: 'Did I not forbid you to approach that tree, and did I not warn you that the devil was your sworn enemy?'

They replied: 'Lord, We have wronged ourselves. Pardon us and have mercy on us, or we shall surely be among the lost.'

7.24 He said: 'Go hence, and may your descendants be enemies to each other. The earth will for a while provide your sustenance and dwelling-place. There you shall live and there you shall die, and thence you shall be raised to life.'

Children of Adam! We have given you clothing with which to cover your nakedness, and garments pleasing to the eye, but the finest of all these is the robe of piety.

That is one of Allah's revelations. Perchance they will take heed.

7.27 Children of Adam! Let the devil not deceive you, as he deceived your parents out of Paradise. He stripped them of their garments to reveal to them their nakedness. He and his companions see you whence you cannot see them. We have made the devils supporters of the unbelievers.

7.28 When they commit an indecent act, they say: 'This is

what our fathers used to do before us. Allah Himself enjoined it.'

Say: 'Allah does not enjoin what is indecent. Would you tell of Allah what you do not know?'

Say: 'My Lord enjoins justice. Turn to Him wherever you kneel in prayer and call on Him with true devotion. You shall return to Him as He created you.'

Some He has guided, and some He has justly left in error; for they had chosen the devils for supporters instead of Allah and deemed themselves on the right path.

Children of Adam, dress well every time you pray. Eat and drink, but avoid excess. He does not love the intemperate.

**7.32** Say: 'Who has forbidden you to wear the nice clothes or to eat the good things which Allah has bestowed upon His servants?'

Say: 'These are for the faithful in the life of this world, (though shared by others); but they shall be theirs alone on the Day of Resurrection.'

Thus We make plain Our revelations to men of understanding.

Say: 'My Lord has forbidden all indecent acts, whether overt or disguised, sin and wrongful oppression; He has forbidden you to associate with Him that which is not sanctioned by Him, or to tell of Allah what you do not know.'

A space of time is fixed for every nation; when their hour is come, not for one moment shall they hold it back, nor can they go before it.

Children of Adam, when apostles of your own come to proclaim to you My revelations, those that take warning and mend their ways will have nothing to fear or to regret; but those that deny and scorn Our revelations shall be the people of the Fire, and there they shall remain for ever.

**7.37** Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah or denies His revelations? Such men shall have their share of (punishment prescribed in) the Book, and when Our messengers (angels) come to carry off their souls they shall say to them: 'Where now are those whom you invoked besides Allah?' 'They have forsaken us,' they will answer, and will admit that they were unbelievers.

**7.38** Allah will say: 'Enter the fire (of Hell) and join the nations of jinn and men that have gone before you.'

## THE HEIGHTS

As it enters, every nation will curse the one that went before it, and when all are gathered there, the last of them will say of the first: 'These, Lord, are the men who led us astray. Let their punishment be doubled in the Fire.'

He will answer: 'You shall all be doubly punished, although you may not know it.'

Then the first will say to the last: 'You were no better than we. Taste the penalty of your misdeeds.'

The gates of heaven shall not be opened for those that have denied and scorned Our revelations; nor shall they enter Paradise until a camel shall pass through the eye of a needle. Thus shall the guilty be rewarded.

**7.41** Hell shall be their couch, and sheets of fire shall cover them. Thus shall the wicked be rewarded.

As for those that have faith and do good works—We never charge a soul with more than it can bear—they are the people of Paradise, and there they shall abide for ever.

We shall take away all hatred from their hearts. Rivers shall roll at their feet, and they shall say: 'Praise be to Allah who has guided us hither. Had Allah not given us guidance we should have strayed from the right path. The messengers of our Lord have surely preached the truth.' And a voice will cry out to them, saying: 'This is the Paradise which you have inherited with your labours.'

**7.44** Then the people of Paradise will cry out to the people of the Fire: 'What our Lord promised we have found to be true. Have you, too, found the promise of your Lord to be true?'

'Yes', they shall answer, and a herald will cry out among them: 'Cursed are the evil-doers who have debarred others from the path of Allah and sought to make it crooked, and who had no faith in the life to come.'

**7.46** And between them is a veil, and on the Heights there shall stand men who will know every one of them by his marks. To the people of Paradise they shall say: 'Peace be upon you!' But they shall not yet join them, though they long to do so.

And when they turn their eyes towards the people of the

Fire, they will cry: 'Lord, do not cast us among the wicked people!' Then they shall say to men whose marks they recognize: 'Nothing have your riches or your scornful pride availed you. Are these the men whom you swore would never earn Allah's mercy?'

(And again turning to the blessed, they shall say): 'Dwell in Paradise. You have nothing to fear or to regret.'

**7.50** The people of the Fire will cry out to the people of Paradise: 'Give us some water, or some of that which Allah has given you.' But the blessed shall reply: 'Allah has forbidden both to the unbelievers, who made their religion a pastime and an idle sport, and who were beguiled by their earthly life.'

On this day We will forget them as they forgot the meeting of that day: for they denied Our revelations.

**7.52** We have bestowed on them a Book which We have made plain with knowledge, a guidance and a blessing to true believers. Are they waiting but for its fulfilment? On the day when it is fulfilled, those that have forgotten it will say: 'Our Lord's messengers have surely preached the truth. Will no one plead on our behalf? Or could we but go back to life, we would not do as we have done.' They shall forfeit their souls, and that which they invented will fail them.

**7.54** Your Lord is Allah, who in six days created the heavens and the earth, and then established Himself on the Throne. He throws the veil of night over the day. Swiftly they follow one another.

It was He who created the sun, the moon, and the stars, and made them subservient by His command. His is the creation, His the command. Blessed be Allah, the Lord of all creatures!

Pray to your Lord with humility and in secret. He does not love the transgressors.

**7.56** Do not make mischief in the earth after it has been purged. Pray to Him with fear and hope; His mercy is within reach of the righteous.

He sends forth the winds as carriers of the good news of His mercy, and when they have carried up a heavy cloud, He drives it on to some dead land and lets water fall upon it,

bringing forth all manner of fruit. Thus He will raise the dead to life. Perchance you will take heed.

Good soil yields fruit by Allah's leave. But poor and scant are the fruits which spring from barren soil. Thus We make plain Our revelations to those who render thanks.

Long ago, We sent forth Nuh to his people. He said: 'Serve Allah, my people, for you have no god but Him. Beware of the torment of a fateful day.'

**7.60** But the elders of his people said: 'We can see that you are in clear error.'

'I am not in error, my people,' he replied. 'I am sent forth by the Lord of the Creation to make known to you His will and to give you friendly counsel, for I know of Allah what you do not know. Do you think it strange that a reminder should come to you from your Lord through a mortal like yourselves, that He should warn you to guard yourselves against evil and that mercy may be shown to you?'

**7.64** They did not believe him. So We saved Nuh and all who were with him in the Ark and drowned those that denied Our revelations. Surely they were blind men.

And to (the tribe of) Aad We sent their compatriot Hud. He said: 'Serve Allah, my people, for you have no god but Him. Will you not guard yourselves against evil?'

The disbelieving chiefs of his people said: 'We can see you are a foolish man and, what is more, we think that you are lying. 'I am not foolish, my people,' he replied. 'I am sent forth by the Lord of the Creation to make known to you His message and to give you honest counsel.'

**7.69** Do you think it strange that an admonition should come to you from your Lord through a mortal like yourselves and that he should warn you. Remember that He has made you the heirs of Nuh's people and endowed you with greater power than he has given to other men. Remember the favours of Allah so that you may prosper.

**7.70** They said: Would you have us serve Allah only and renounce the gods which our fathers worshipped. Bring down the scourge with which you threaten us if what you say be true!

**7.71** He answered your Lord's punishment and wrath have already visited you. Would you dispute with me about names which you and your fathers have invented and for which no sanction has been revealed from Allah. Wait if you will; I too am waiting.

We delivered Hud and all who were with him through Our mercy, and annihilated those that disbelieved our revelations. They were unbelievers all.

**7.73** And to Thamoud we sent their brother Saleh. He said: 'Serve Allah, my people, for you have no god but Him. A clear proof has come to you from your Lord. Here is Allah's she-camel: a sign for you. Leave her to graze at will in Allah's land and do not molest her, lest you incur a woeful punishment. Remember that He has made you the successor of Aad, and provided you with dwellings in this land. You have built mansions on its plains and hewed out houses in the mountains. Remember Allah's favours and do not corrupt the earth by making mischief.'

The haughty chiefs of his people said to the weak who believed: 'Do you really believe that Saleh is sent forth from his Lord.

They answered: We believe in this message with which he has been sent.

Those who were haughty said: 'We deny all that you believe in.' They slaughtered the she-camel and defied the commandment of their Lord, saying to Saleh: 'Bring down the scourge with which you threaten us if you truly are one of the messengers.'

**7.79** Thereupon an earthquake seized them, and they were prostrate in their dwellings. Saleh left them, saying: 'I conveyed to you, my people, the message of my Lord and gave you counsel; but you had no love for those who sought to guide you.'

**7.80** And (We sent) Lut, who said to his people: 'Will you persist in these indecent acts which no other nation has committed before you? You lust after men instead of women. Truly, you are a degenerate people.'

**7.82** Their only answer was: 'Banish them from your town,



(him and all his followers). They are men who would keep chaste.'

We delivered Lut and all his kinsfolk, except his wife, who stayed behind, and let loose a shower upon them. Consider the fate of the evil-doers.

And to Madian, We sent their brother Shu'ayb. He said: 'Serve Allah, my people for you have no god but Him. A clear sign has come to you from your Lord. Give just weight and measure and do not defraud others of their possessions. Do not corrupt the land after it has been purged of evil. That is best for you, if you are true believers.'

**7.86** 'Do not sit in every road, threatening believers and debarring them from the path of Allah, nor seek to make that path crooked. Remember how He multiplied you when you were few in number. Consider the fate of the evil-doers.'

**7.87** 'If there are some among you who believe in my message and others who disbelieve it, be patient until Allah shall judge between us. He is the best of judges.'

The haughty chiefs of his tribe said: 'Return to our fold, Shu'ayb, or we will banish you from our city, you and all your followers.'

'Even though we abhor (your creed)?' he replied. 'If we returned to your faith from which Allah has delivered us, we should be false to our Lord; nor can we turn to it again except by the Will of Allah, our Lord. He has knowledge of all things, and in Him we have put our trust. Lord, judge rightly between us and our people; you are the best of judges.'

**7.90** But the infidel chiefs said to their people: 'If you follow Shu'ayb, you shall assuredly be lost.'

**7.91** Thereupon, an earthquake seized them, and they were prostrate in their dwellings. Those that considered Shu'ayb a liar seemed as if they had never lived there. Lost were those who disbelieved him.

Shu'ayb left them, saying: 'I conveyed to you, my people, the messages of my Lord and gave you good counsel. How can I grieve for the unbelievers?'

**7.94** We sent no prophet to a town but afflicted its people with calamities and misfortunes to humble them. Then We changed adversity to good fortune, so that in the hour of prosperity they said: 'Our fathers also had their joys and sorrows.' And in their heedlessness, We overtook them.

Had the people of those towns believed and kept from evil, We would have showered upon them the riches of heaven and earth. But they denied, and We punished them for their misdeeds.

**7.97** Were the people of those towns secure from being overtaken by Our punishment in the night whilst they were sleeping?

Were they secure from being overtaken by Our wrath in the morning while at their play?

**7.99** Did they feel themselves secure from Allah's scheming? None feels secure from it except those who shall be lost.

Is it not plain to those who inherit the earth after its people (had gone) that if We pleased We could punish them for their sins and set a seal upon their hearts, leaving them bereft of hearing?

Those towns We tell some of their history. Their messengers came to them with clear proofs, yet they would not believe what they had denied before: thus Allah seals up the hearts of the unbelievers.

We found the larger part of them untrue to their covenants; indeed, We found most of them evil-doers.

After those We sent forth Musa with Our signs to Pharaoh and his chiefs, but they too disbelieved them. Consider the fate of the evil-doers.

**7.104** Musa said: 'Pharaoh, I am an apostle from the Lord of the Creation, and should tell nothing of Allah but what is true. I bring you an undoubted sign from your Lord. Let the Children of Israel depart with me.'

He answered: 'If you have come with a sign, show it to us if you are one of those who are truthful.'

Musa threw down his staff, and thereupon it changed into a serpent plain (for all to see). Then he drew out his hand and it appeared white to the beholders.

**7.109** The elders of Pharaoh's people said: 'This man is a

skilled enchanter who seeks to drive you from your kingdom. What do you advise ?'

Others said: 'Put them off awhile, him and his brother, and send forth heralds to your cities to summon every skilled magician to your presence.'

The magicians came to Pharaoh. They said: 'Shall we be rewarded if we win?'

'Yes,' he answered. 'And you shall become my favourites.'

**7.115** They said: 'Musa, will you first throw or shall we?'

'Throw,' he replied.

And when the magicians threw, they bewitched the people's eyes and terrified them by a display of great wonders.

**7.117** Then We revealed to Musa: 'Now throw down your staff.' And thereupon his staff swallowed up their false devices.

Thus the truth prevailed and their doings proved vain. They were defeated and put to shame, and the enchanters prostrated themselves in adoration, saying: 'We believe in the Lord of the Creation, the Lord of Musa and Harun.'

Pharaoh said: 'Do you dare believe in Him without my consent? This is a plot which you have contrived in order to turn my people out of their city. But you shall see. I will cut off your hands and feet on alternate sides and then crucify you all!'

They replied: 'We shall surely return to our Lord.'

**7.126** You would punish us only because we believed in His signs when they came to us. Lord, give us patience and let us die in submission.'

**7.127** The elders of Pharaoh's nation said: 'Will you allow Musa and his people to commit evil in the land and to forsake you and your gods?'

He replied: 'We will put their sons to death and spare their daughters. We shall yet triumph over them.'

**7.128** Musa said to his people: 'Seek help from Allah and be patient. The earth is Allah's; He gives it to those of His servants whom He chooses. Happy shall be the lot of the righteous.'

They replied: 'We were oppressed before you came to us, and oppressed we still remain.'

He said: 'Your Lord will perchance destroy your enemies and make you rulers in the land. Then He will see how you conduct yourselves.'

**7.131** We afflicted Pharaoh's people with dearth and famine so that they might take heed. When good things came their way, they said: 'It is our due,' but when evil befell them they ascribed it to the evil auspices of Musa and his people. Yet it was Allah who had ordained their ill fortune, though most of them did not know it.

**7.132** They said (to Musa): 'Whatever miracles you may work to confound us, we will not believe in you.'

So We sent upon them floods and locusts, with lice and frogs, and with blood. All these were clear signs, yet they scorned them, for they were wicked people.

And when the plague smote them, they said: 'Musa, pray to your Lord for us invoking the promise he has made you. If you lift the plague from us, we will believe in you and let the Children of Israel go with you.'

But when We had lifted the plague from them for a term which they had to reach, they broke their promise.

So We punished them and drowned them in the sea, for they had denied Our signs and gave no heed to them.

**7.137** We gave the persecuted people dominion over the eastern and western lands which We had blessed. Thus your Lord's gracious word was fulfilled for the Children of Israel because they had endured with fortitude; and We destroyed the edifices and towers of Pharaoh and his people.

**7.138** We led the Children of Israel across the sea, and they came upon a people zealously devoted to idols which they had. They said to Musa: 'Make us a god like their gods.'

Musa replied: 'You are indeed an ignorant people. That which they follow is doomed, and all their works are vain. Should I seek any god for you but Allah? He has exalted you above the nations. And (remember) that he delivered you from Pharaoh's people, who had oppressed you cruelly, putting your sons to death and sparing your daughters. Surely that was a great trial from your Lord.'

**7.142** We promised Musa thirty nights, to which We added ten nights more: so that the appointment with his Lord took forty nights.

Musa said to Harun, his brother : 'Take my place among my people. Do what is right and do not follow the path of the wrongdoers.'

**7.143** And when Musa came at the appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said : 'Lord , reveal Yourself to me, that I may look upon You.'

He replied: You shall not see Me. But look upon the Mountain; if it remains firm in its place then shall you see Me.

And when his Lord revealed Himself to the mountain, he crushed it to fine dust. Musa fell down senseless and when he came to himself, he said : ' Glory be to you! Accept my repentance I am the first of believers.'

He said, 'Musa, I have chosen you of all mankind to make known My messages and My words. Take therefore what I have given you and be thankful.'

**7.145** We inscribed for him upon the tablets all kinds of exhortation and clear explanations of all things ( and said to him): 'Observe these steadfastly and enjoin your people to observe what is best in them. I shall show you the home of the wicked. I will turn away from my signs the arrogant and the unjust, so that even if they witness each and every sign they shall deny them. If they see the right path they shall not walk upon it : but if they see the path of error, they shall choose it for their path; because they disbelieved Our signs and gave no heed to them.'

**7.147** 'Vain are the deeds of those who disbelieve in Our signs and in the life to come. Shall they not be rewarded according to their deeds?

In his absence, the people of Musa made a calf from their ornaments, a (lifeless) body with a hollow sound. Did they not see that it could neither speak to them nor give them guidance? Yet they worshipped it and thus committed evil.

But when they repented and realized that they had strayed, they said: ' If our Lord does not have mercy on us and pardon us, we shall be lost.'

7.150 And when Musa returned to his people, angry and sorrowful, he said: ' Evil is the thing you have done in my absence! Would you hasten the retribution of your Lord?

He threw down the Tablets and, seizing his brother by the hair, dragged him towards him.'

Son of my mother, cried Harun, ' the people considered me weak, and almost did me to death. Do not let my enemies rejoice over me; do not number me among the wrongdoers. '

7.151 ' Lord, ' said Musa , ' forgive me and forgive my brother. Admit us to Your mercy, for You are most merciful!

Those that worshipped the calf incurred the wrath of their Lord and disgrace in this life. Thus shall those who invent lies be rewarded . As for those that do evil and later repent and have faith, then your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

7.154 When his anger was allayed, Musa took up the Tablets, upon which was inscribed guidance and mercy to those that fear their Lord. He chose from among his people seventy men for Our appointment, and when the earth shook beneath their feet, Musa said: ' Had it been Your will, Lord, You could have destroyed them long ago. But would You destroy us for that which the fools amongst us did? It is naught but your trial by which you leave in error whom You will, and guide whom You please. You alone are our guardian. Forgive us and have mercy on us. You are the noblest of those who forgive.

7.156 Ordain for us what is good, both in this life and in the Hereafter. To You alone we turn.'

He replied: ' I will visit My scourge upon whom I please: yet My mercy encompasses all things. I will show mercy to those that keep from evil, give the alms-tax, and believe in Our signs; and those that shall follow the Apostle -the Unlettered Prophet-whom they shall find mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel. He will enjoin righteousness upon them and forbid them to do evil. He will make good things lawful to them and prohibit all that is foul . He will relieve them of their burdens and of the shackles that weigh upon them. Those that believe in him and honour him, those that aid him and follow the light sent forth with him, shall surely succeed.'

**7.158** Say: ' People, I am sent forth to you all by Allah. His is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. There is no god but Him. He ordains life and death. Therefore, have faith in Allah and His Apostle, the Unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His word. Follow him so that you may be rightly guided.

Yet among the people of Musa there were some who preached the truth and acted justly. We divided them into twelve tribes, each a nation. And when his people demanded drink of him, We said to Musa: ' Strike the rock with your staff.' Thereupon twelve springs gushed from the rock and each tribe knew its drinking-place.

We caused the clouds to cast their shadow over them and sent down for them manna and quails, saying: ' Eat of the good things We have given you. ' Indeed, they did Us no wrong, but they wronged themselves.

**7.161** When it was said to them : 'Dwell in this town, and eat of wh itever you please; pray for forgiveness and enter the gate adoring: We will forgive you your sins and give abundance to the righteous,' -the wicked amongst them changed what was said for other words. Therefore, We let loose upon them a scourge from heaven as a punishment for their misdeeds.

**7.163** Ask them about the town which overlooked the sea and what befell its people when they broke the Sabbath. Each Sabbath, their fish used to appear before them floating on the water , but on week-days they never came near them. Thus We tempted the people because they had done wrong.

**7.164** And when some asked: ' Why do you admonish men whom Allah will destroy or sternly punish?' they replied: ' We admonish them so that we may be free from blame in the sight of your Lord, and that they may guard themselves against evil. ' Therefore , when they forgot the warning they had been given, We delivered those who had warned them against evil, and sternly punished the wrongdoers for their misdeeds. And when they had scornfully persisted in what they had been forbidden, We said to them : ' Be detested apes. '

**7.167** Then your Lord declared He would raise against them others who would oppress them cruelly till the Day of

**Resurrection.** Swift is the retribution of your Lord, yet surely He is Forgiving, Merciful.

We dispersed them through the earth in multitudes—some were righteous men, others were not—and tested them with blessings and misfortunes so that they might desist (from sin). Then others succeeded them who inherited the Book and availed themselves of the vanities of this life, saying: ' We shall be forgiven our sins. ' But if similar vanities came their way, they would again seize them.

Are they not committed to the covenant of the Book, which they have studied well, to tell nothing of Allah but what is true? Surely the world to come is a better prize for those that guard themselves against evil. Have you no sense?

As for those that strictly observe the Book and are steadfast in prayer, we do not waste the reward of the righteous.

**7.171** When We suspended the mountain over them as though it were a shadow and they feared that it was falling down on them (We said): ' Hold fast to that which We have given you and bear in mind what it contains, so that you may keep from evil. '

**7.172** When your Lord brought forth descendants from the loins of Adam's children, and made them testify against themselves, (He said) : ' Am I not your Lord? They replied: ' We bear witness that you are.' (This He did) lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection: ' We had no knowledge of that,' or: 'Our forefathers set up partners with Allah; but will You destroy us, their descendants, on account of what the followers of falsehood did?'

Thus We make plain Our revelations so that they may return to the right path.

**7.175** Tell them of the man to whom We vouchsafed Our signs and who turned away from them: how the devil overtook him as he was led astray. Had it been Our will We would have exalted him through(Our signs), but he clung to this earthly life and succumbed to his fancies. He was like the dog which pants whether you chase it away or let it alone. Such are those that deny Our revelations. Recount to them these narratives, so that they may take thought.



## THE HEIGHTS

**7.177** Dismal is the example of those that denied Our revelations; they were unjust to themselves.

He whom Allah guides is rightly guided, but he whom Allah leaves in error shall surely be lost.

We have predestined for Hell many jinn and many men. They have hearts, yet they cannot understand; eyes, yet they do not see; and ears, yet they do not hear. They're like cattle—indeed, they are the more misguided. Such are the heedless.

Allah has the Most Excellent Names. Call on Him by His names and keep away from those that pervert them. They shall be punished for their misdeeds.

Among those whom We created there are some who give true guidance and act justly. As for those that deny Our revelations, We will lead them step by step to ruin whence they cannot tell; for though I bear with them, My stratagem is sure.

Has it never occurred to them that their compatriot is no madman, but one who gives plain warning?

**7.185** Will they not ponder upon the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that Allah created, to see whether their hour is not drawing near? And in what other revelation will they believe?

**7.186** None can guide those whom Allah leaves in error. He leaves them blundering about in their wickedness.

They ask you about the Hour (of Doom) and when it is to come. Say: 'None knows except my Lord. He alone will reveal it at the appointed time. A fateful hour it shall be, both in the heavens and on earth. It will come suddenly.'

They will put questions to you, as though you had full knowledge of it. Say: 'None knows about it save Allah, though most men are unaware of this.'

**7.188** Say: 'I have not the power to acquire benefits or to avert evil from myself, except by the will of Allah. Had I possessed knowledge of what is hidden, I would have availed myself of much that is good, and no harm would have touched me. But I am not more than one who gives warning and good news to true believers.'

**7.189** It was He who created you from a single being. From that being He created his mate, so that he might find comfort in her. And when he had covered her, she conceived, and for a time her burden was light. She carried it with ease, but when it grew

heavy, they both cried to Allah, their Lord: ' Grant us a goodly child and we will be truly thankful.'

Yet when He had granted them a goodly child, they set up other gods besides Him in return for what He had given them. Exalted be He above what they associate with Him.

Will they worship besides Him that which can create nothing, but is itself created? They cannot help them nor can they help themselves.

If you call them to the right path, they will not follow you. It is the same whether you call them or hold your tongues.

**7.194** Those whom you invoke besides Allah are, like yourselves, His servants. Call on them, and let them answer you, if what you say be true!

**7.195** Have they feet to walk with? Have they hands to hold with? Have they eyes to see with? Have they ears to hear with?

Say: 'call on your partners and scheme against me. Give me no respite. My guardian is Allah, who has revealed the Book. He is the guardian of the righteous. Those whom you invoke besides Him cannot help you, nor can they help themselves.'

If you call them to the right path, they will not hear you. You find them looking towards you, but they cannot see you.

**7.199** Show forgiveness, enjoin justice, and avoid the ignorant. If you are afflicted by the devil's temptation, seek refuge in Allah; He hears all and knows all.

If those that guard themselves against evil are touched by a temptation from the devil, they have but to recall Allah's precepts and they shall see the light. As for the brothers (of the devils), they shall be kept long in error, nor shall they ever desist.

And if you do not recite to them a revelation, they say: ' Have you not yet invented one? ' Say: ' I follow only what is revealed to me by my Lord. This Book is a veritable proof from your Lord, a guide and a blessing to true believers.'

When the Quran is recited, listen to it in silence so that Allah may show you mercy. Remember your Lord deep in your soul with humility and awe, and without ostentation: (remember Him) morning and evening, and do not be negligent.

**7.206** Those who dwell with your Lord are not too proud to serve Him. They give glory to Him and prostrate themselves before Him.

## Sura 8

"Al - Anfal"

### THE SPOILS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**8.1** They ask you about the spoils. Say: ' The spoils belong to Allah and the Apostle. Therefore, have fear of Allah and end your disputes. Obey Allah and His Apostle, if you are true believers.'

The true believers are those whose hearts are filled with awe at the mention of Allah, and whose faith grows stronger as they listen to His revelations. They are those who put their trust in their Lord, pray steadfastly, and spend of that which We have given them . Such are the true believers. They shall have degrees with their Lord and shall be forgiven by Him, and a generous provision shall be made for them.

**8.5** It is like when your Lord caused you to leave your home in truth, though some of the faithful were reluctant. They argued with you about the truth that had been revealed, as though they were being led to certain death while looking.

**8.7** (Remember) when Allah promised to grant you one of the two bands, and you wished the one that was not strong. He wanted to establish the truth by His word and to annihilate the unbelievers, so that Truth should triumph and falsehood be discomfited, though the wrongdoers wished otherwise.

And when you prayed to your Lord for help, He answered: 'I am sending to your aid a thousand angels in succession.' By this good news Allah sought to reassure your hearts, for victory comes only from Allah ; He is Mighty, Wise.

**8.11** Also when you were overcome by sleep, a token of His protection. He sent down water from the sky to cleanse you and to purify you of Satan's filth, to strengthen your hearts and to steady your footsteps.

**8.12** And when Allah revealed to the angels, saying: 'I shall be with you . Give courage to the believers. I shall cast terror into the hearts of the infidels. Strike off their heads, smite the ends of their fingers

This is because they defied Allah and His Apostle. He that defies Allah and His Apostle shall be sternly punished. (We said to them): 'Feel Our scourge. The torment of the Fire awaits the unbelievers.' O believers, when you encounter the infidels gathered (for battle) do not turn your backs to them in flight. If anyone on that day turns his back to them in flight, except it be for tactical reasons, or to join another band, he shall incur the wrath of Allah and Hell shall be his home: an evil fate.

**8.17** It was not you, but Allah, who slew them. It was not you who threw at them : Allah threw at them so that He might richly reward the faithful. He is Hearing, Knowing. And He will surely weaken the designs of the unbelievers.

**8.19** If you were seeking a judgement, now has a judgement come to you. If you desist, it will be best for you. If you resume (your war against the faith), We will return to their assistance, and your forces, many though they be in number, shall avail you nothing. And Allah is with the faithful.

O believers , obey Allah and His Apostle, and do not turn away from him when you hear him (speak). Do not be like those who say: ' We hear,' but give no heed to what they hear.

The meanest beasts in Allah's sight are those that are deaf, dumb, and devoid of reason. Had He perceived any virtue in them, He would have surely endowed them with hearing . But even if He had made them hear, they would have turned away and refused to listen.

**8.24** O believers, obey Allah and the Apostle when he calls you to that which gives you life. Know that Allah stands between man and his heart, and that in His presence you shall all be gathered.

**8.25** And guard yourselves against a ~~sedition~~ which will not afflict the wrongdoers alone. Know that Allah's punishment is stern.

And remember how He gave you shelter when you were few in number and considered weak in the land, ever fearing the onslaught of your enemies. He made you strong with His help and bestowed great benefits upon you, so that you might give thanks.

**8.27** O believers, do not betray Allah and the Apostle, nor

knowingly betray your trust. Know that your children and your worldly goods are but a temptation, and that Allah's reward is great.

Believers, if you fear Allah, He will give you discrimination and cleanse you of your sins and forgive you. The bounty of Allah is great.

And (remember) how the unbelievers plotted against you<sup>1</sup>. They sought to take you captive or have you killed or banished. They plotted—but Allah plotted also. Allah is most profound in His machinations.

**8.31** Whenever Our revelations are recited to them, they say: 'We have heard them. If we wished, we could speak the like. They are but fables of the ancients.'

They also say: 'Lord, if this be Your revealed truth, rain down upon us stones from heaven or send some dreadful scourge to punish us.'

But Allah was not to punish them whilst you were dwelling in their midst. Nor would He punish them if they sought forgiveness of Him.

**8.34** And why should Allah not chastise them, when they have debarred others from the Sacred Mosque, although they were not its guardians? Its only guardians are those that fear Allah, though most of them do not know it.

Their prayers at the Sacred House are nothing but whistling and clapping of hands. They shall be punished for their unbelief.

**8.36** Those who disbelieve spend their wealth in debarring others from the path of Allah. They will spend it; but it will become a cause of regret for them, and in the end they will be overcome. The unbelievers shall be gathered in Hell.

**8.37** Thus Allah will separate the wicked from the just. He will heap the wicked one upon another and then heap them together and cast them in Hell. Such are those that shall be lost.

Tell the unbelievers that if they mend their ways, their past shall be forgiven; but if they persist in sin, let them reflect upon the fate of their forefathers.

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1. Muhammad.

## THE SPOILS

**8.39** Make war on them until persecution is no more and Allah's religion reigns supreme. If they desist, Allah is cognizant of all their actions; but if they give no heed, know then that Allah will protect you. He is the noblest Helper and Protector.

And know that to Allah, the Apostle, the Apostle's kinsfolk, the orphans, the needy, and the wayfarers shall belong one fifth of whatever you take as spoils: if you truly believe in Allah and what We revealed to Our servant on the day of victory, the day when the two armies met. Allah has power over all things.

**8.42** And (remember) when you were encamped on this side (of the valley) and the unbelievers on the farther side, with the caravan below. Had you made an appointment with them, you would have surely failed to keep it; but Allah sought to accomplish what He had ordained, so that, by clear evidence, he that was destined to perish might perish, and he that was destined to live might live. And surely Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

And (remember) when Allah made them appear to you in a dream as a small band. Had He showed them to you as a great army, your courage would have failed you and you would have quarrelled over the affair. But this Allah spared you. He knows what is in the hearts.

And when you met them, He made each appear to the other few in number, that He might accomplish what He had ordained. To Allah shall all things return.

**8.46** O believers, when you meet their army stand firm and pray fervently to Allah, so that you may triumph. Obey Allah and His Apostle and do not dispute with one another, lest you should lose courage and your resolve weaken. Have patience: Allah is with those that are patient.

**8.47** Do not be like those who left their homes elated with insolence and vainglory. They debar others from the path of Allah: but Allah has knowledge of all their actions.

And (remember) when the devil made their foul deeds seem fair to them. He said: 'No man shall conquer you this day. I shall be your protector.' But when the two armies came within sight of each other, he took to his heels, saying: 'I am done with you, for I can see what you cannot. I fear Allah. His punishment is stern.'

And when the hypocrites and the cowards said: ' Their religion has deceived them. ' But he that puts his trust in Allah ( shall find) Allah Mighty, Wise.

**8.50** If you could see the angels when they carry off the souls of the unbelievers! They shall strike them on their faces and their backs, saying: ' Taste the torment of Fire! This is your punishment for what your hands committed.' Allah is not unjust to His servants.

**8.52** Like Pharaoh's people and those that have gone before them, they disbelieved Allah's revelations. Therefore, Allah will smite them in their sinfulness. Mighty is Allah and stern His retribution.

This is because Allah does not withhold His favours from men until they change what is in their hearts. Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

Like Pharaoh's people and those that have gone before them, they denied the revelations of their Lord, and so We destroyed them for their sins and drowned Pharaoh's people. They were all evil-doers.

**8.55** The basest creatures in the sight of Allah are the faithless who will not believe; those who, time after time, violate their treaties with you and have no fear of Allah. If you meet them in battle, deal with them so as to strike fear in these that follow them, perchance those followers will take warning.

If you fear treachery from any of your allies, you may throw back to them (their treaty) fairly. Allah does not love the treacherous.

Let the unbelievers not think that they will escape(Us). They have not the power to do so. Muster against them all the men and cavalry at your disposal, so that you may strike terror into the enemies of Allah and your enemy, and others besides them whom you do not know but Allah does. All that you give for the cause of Allah shall be repaid you. You shall not be wronged.

**8.51** If they incline to peace, make peace with them, and put your trust in Allah. Surely He is the Hearing, the Knowing. Should they seek to deceive you, Allah is all-sufficient for you. He has made you strong with His help and rallied the faithful

round you making their hearts one. If you had given away all the riches of the earth, you could not have so united them; but Allah has united them. He is Mighty, Wise.

**8.64** O Prophet, Allah is your strength and the faithful who follow you.

Prophet, rouse the faithful to arms. If there are twenty steadfast men among you, you shall vanquish two hundred; and if there are a hundred, they shall rout a thousand unbelievers, for they are devoid of understanding.

Allah has now lightened your burden, for He knows that you are weak. If there are a hundred steadfast men among you, they shall vanquish two hundred; and if there are thousand, they shall, by Allah's will, defeat two thousand. Allah is with those that are steadfast.

A prophet may not take captives until he has destroyed many disbelievers in his land. You seek the chance gain of this world, but Allah desires for you the world to come. And Allah is Mighty, Wise.

**8.68** Had there not been a previous sanction from Allah, you would have been sternly punished for what you have taken. Enjoy, therefore, the good and lawful things which you have gained in war, and fear Allah. He is Forgiving, Merciful.

O Prophet, say to those you have taken captive: 'If Allah finds goodness in your hearts, He will give you that which is better than what has been taken from you, and He will forgive you. Allah is Forgiving Merciful.'

**8.71** But if they seek to betray you, know that they had already betrayed Allah. Therefore, he has made you triumph over them. Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

**8.72** Those that have embraced the faith and migrated (from Makkah), and fought for the cause of Allah with their wealth and their persons; and those that sheltered them and helped them, shall be friends to each other.

And those that have embraced the faith but have not migrated from their homes shall in no way become your responsibility until they do that. But if they seek your help in the cause of your religion, it is your duty to aid them, except against



a people you have a treaty with. Allah is cognizant of all your actions.

**8.73** The unbelievers give aid to one another. If you do not do the same, there will be persecution in the Land and great corruption. Those that have embraced the faith and migrated from their homes and fought for the cause of Allah, and those that have sheltered them and helped them—they are the true believers. They shall receive mercy and a generous provision.

**8.75** Those that have since embraced the faith and fled their homes and fought with you—they too are of you. And according to the Book of Allah, those who are bound by ties of blood are nearest to one another. Allah has knowledge of all things.

**9.1** A declaration of immunity by Allah and His Apostle to the idolaters with whom you have made agreements:

For four months you shall go unmolested in the land. But know that you shall not escape the judgement of Allah, and that Allah will humble the unbelievers.

A proclamation to the people by Allah and His Apostle on the day of the great pilgrimage:

Allah and His Apostle are free from obligation to the idolaters. If you repent, it will be well with you; but if you give no heed, know that you shall not escape His judgement.

**9.4** Proclaim a woeful punishment to the unbelievers, except those idolaters who have fully honoured their treaties with you and aided none against you. With these keep faith, until their treaties have run their term. Allah loves the righteous.

When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and pay the alms-tax, let them go their way. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

If an idolater seeks asylum with you, give him protection so that he may hear the Word of Allah, and then convey him to safety. For they are ignorant men.

How can the idolaters have any treaty with Allah and His Apostle, save those with whom you have made treaties at the Sacred Mosque? So long as they keep faith with you, keep faith with them. Allah loves the righteous.

**9.8** How (can you trust them)? If they prevail against you, they will respect neither agreements nor ties of kindred. They flatter you with their tongues, but their hearts refuse. Most of them are evil-doers.

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1. This is the only chapter in the Quran which does not begin with the invocation 'In the Name of Allah, etc.' Traditional commentators regard it as a continuation of 'THE SPOILS.'

**9.9** They sell Allah's revelations for a small price and debar others from His path. Evil is what they do. They honour with the believers neither treaties nor ties of kindred. Such are the transgressors.

If they repent and take to prayer and pay the alms-tax, they shall become your brothers in the faith. Thus We make plain Our revelations for men of understanding.

But if, after coming to terms with you, they break their oaths and revile your faith, make war on the leaders of unbelief—for no oaths are binding with them—so that they may desist.

**9.13** Will you not fight against those who have broken their oaths and conspired to banish the Apostle? They were the first to attack you. Do you fear them? Surely Allah is more deserving of your fear, if you are true believers.

**9.14** Make war on them: Allah will chastise them through you and humble them. He will grant you victory over them and heal the spirit of the faithful. He will take away all anger from their hearts: He shows mercy to whom He pleases. He is Wise, Knowing.

Did you imagine that you would be abandoned before Allah has had time to know those of you who have fought valiantly and served none but Him and His Apostle and the faithful? Allah is cognizant of all your actions:

The idolaters should not visit the mosques of Allah, for they are self-confessed unbelievers. Vain shall be their works, and in the Fire they shall abide for ever.

None should visit the mosques of Allah except those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax and fear none but Allah. These shall be rightly guided.

**9.19** Do you pretend that he who gives a drink to the pilgrims and pays a visit to the Sacred Mosque is as worthy as the man who believes in Allah and the Last Day and fights for Allah's cause? These are not held equal by Allah. He does not guide the wrongdoers.

Those that have embraced the faith and migrated from their homes and fought for Allah's cause with their wealth and their persons are held in higher regard by Allah. It is they who

shall triumph. Their Lord has promised them joy and mercy, and gardens of eternal bliss where they shall dwell for ever. Allah's reward is great indeed.

**9.23** Believers, do not befriend your fathers or your brothers if they choose unbelief in preference to faith. Wrongdoers are those that befriend them.

Say: ' If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your tribes, the property you have acquired, the merchandise you fear may not be sold, and the homes you love, are dearer to you than Allah, His Apostle and the striving for His cause, then wait until Allah shall fulfil His decree. Allah does not guide the evil-doers.'

**9.25** Allah has helped you on many a battle-field. In the Battle of Hunain, you set great store by your numbers, but they availed you nothing : the earth, for all its vastness, seemed to close in upon you and you turned your backs and fled.

**9.26** Then Allah caused His tranquility to descend upon His Apostle and the faithful: He sent to your aid invisible warriors and sternly punished the unbelievers. Thus were the infidels rewarded. Yet Allah will show mercy to whom He will. He is Forgiving, Merciful.

O believers, know that the idolaters are unclean. Let them not approach the Sacred Mosque after this year is ended. If you fear poverty, Allah, if He pleases, will enrich you through His bounty. He is Knowing, Wise.

Fight against such of those to whom the Book was given as believe neither in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the true faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued.

**9.30** The Jews say Uzayr is the son of Allah, while the Christians say al-Masih is the son of Allah. Such are their assertions, by which they imitate those who disbelieved before. Allah's curse be on them! How they are turned away (from the truth)!

They take their rabbis and monks as Lords besides Allah, and also al-Masih, son of Mariam, though they were

## REPENTANCE

ordered to serve one God only. There is no god but Him. Exalted be He above those whom they associate with Him!

They desire to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths: but Allah seeks only to perfect His Light, though the infidels abhor it.

It is He who has sent forth His Apostle with guidance and the true faith to make it triumphant over all religions, however much the polytheists may dislike it.

**9.34** Believers, many are the rabbis and the monks who defraud men of their possessions and debar people from the path of Allah.

**9.35** Those that hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in Allah's cause—proclaim to them a woeful punishment. On (that) day their treasures will be heated in the fire of Hell, and their foreheads, sides, and backs branded with them. They will be told: 'These are the riches which you hoarded. Taste then that which you were hoarding.'

Allah ordained the months twelve in number when He created the heavens and the earth. Of these, four are sacred, according to the true faith. Therefore, do not wrong yourselves in them and fight against the idolaters all together as they themselves fight against you all together. Know that Allah is with the righteous.

The postponement of sacred months is a grossly impious practice, in which the unbelievers are misguided. They allow it one year and forbid it the next, so that they may make up for the months which Allah has sanctified, thus making lawful what Allah has forbidden. Their foul acts seem fair to them: Allah does not guide the unbelievers.

**9.38** Believers, why is it that when it is said to you: 'March in the cause of Allah,' you linger slothfully in the land? Are you content with this life in preference to the life to come? Few indeed are the blessings of this life, compared to those of the life to come.

If you do not fight, He will punish you sternly and replace you by other men. You will in no way harm Him: for Allah has power over all things.

**9.40** If you do not help him<sup>1</sup>, Allah will help him as He helped

1. Muhammad

him when he was driven out ( from Makkah) by the unbelievers with one other<sup>1</sup>. In the cave, he said to his companion: ' Do not despair. Allah is with us.' Allah caused His tranquility to descend upon him and sent to his aid invisible warriors, so that he routed the unbelievers and exalted the Word of Allah. Allah is Mighty, Wise.

**9.41** Whether unarmed or well-equipped, march on and fight for the cause of Allah, with your wealth and your persons. This will be best for you, if you but knew it.

Had the gain been immediate or the journey easy, they would have followed you: but the distance seemed too far to them. Yet they will swear by Allah: 'Had we been able, we would have marched with you.' They bring ruin upon themselves. Allah knows that they are lying.

**9.43** Allah forgive you! Why did you give them leave to stay behind before you knew those who spoke the truth from those who invented false excuses?

Those that believe in Allah and the Last Day will not beg you to exempt them from fighting with their wealth and their persons. Allah best knows the righteous. Only those seek exemption who disbelieve in Allah and the Last Day and whose hearts are filled with doubt. And in their doubt, they waver.

Had they intended to set forth with you, they would have prepared themselves for war. But Allah did not like their going forth and held them back, and it was said: ' Stay back with those who stay back.'

**9.47** Had they taken the field with you, they ~~would~~ have only added to your burden. They would have ~~wormed~~ their way through your ranks, seeking to sow discord among you: and amongst you there were some who would have gladly ~~listened~~ to them. Allah knows the evil-doers.

**9.48** They had sought before this to sow dissension, and thought out plots against you. But in the end justice was done and the will of Allah triumphed, much as they disliked it.

Some of them say: ' Give us leave (to stay behind) and

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1. Abu Bakr, the first of the Caliphs.

do not expose us to temptation.' Surely they have already succumbed to temptation. Hell shall engulf the unbelievers.

If you meet with success, it grieves them; but if a disaster befalls you, they say: 'We have taken our precautions.' And they turn away, rejoicing.

**9.51** Say: 'Nothing will befall us except what Allah has ordained. He is our Guardian. In Allah, let the faithful put their trust.'

**9.52** Say: 'Are you waiting for anything to befall us except one of the two excellent things: (victory or martyrdom)? We are waiting for Allah's scourge to overtake you, direct from Him or at our hands. Wait if you will; we too are waiting.

Say: 'Whether you give willingly or with reluctance, your offerings shall not be accepted from you; for you are wicked men.'

**9.54** Nothing prevents their offerings from being accepted except that they have denied Allah and His apostle. They pray half-heartedly and grudge their contributions.

Let neither their riches nor their children rouse your envy. Through these Allah seeks to punish them in this life, so that they shall be unbelievers.

They swear by Allah that they are (believers) like you. Yet they are not. They are afraid of you. If they could find a shelter or cave, or any hiding-place, they would run in frantic haste to seek refuge in it.

**9.58** There are some among them who speak ill of you<sup>1</sup> concerning the distribution of alms. If a share is given them, they are contented: but if they receive nothing, they grow resentful.

**9.59** Would that they were satisfied with what Allah and His Apostle have given them, and would say: 'Allah is all-sufficient for us. He will provide for us from His own abundance, and so will His Apostle. To Allah, we will turn.'

Alms shall be only for the poor and the needy and for those employed to administer alms, and for those attracted to the faith, and for captives and debtors and for the cause of Allah and the wayfarer. That is a duty enjoined by Allah. He is Wise, Knowing.

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1. Muhammad.

**9.61** And there are others among them who molest the Prophet, saying; ' He believes everyting he hears.' Say: ' He hears only what is good for you. He believes in Allah and puts his trust in the faithful. He is a blessing to the true believers among you. Those that wrong the Apostle of Allah shall be sternly punished.'

**9.62** They swear in the name of Allah in order to please you. But it is more just that they should please Allah and His Apostle, if they are true believers.

Are they not aware that the man who defies Allah and His apostle shall abide for ever in the fire of Hell? That surely is the supreme humiliation.

The hypocrites are afraid lest a Sura be revealed to them, telling them what is in their hearts. Say: ' Scoff if you will; Allah will surely bring to light what you are dreading.'

If you question them, they will say: ' We were only jesting and making merry.' Say: ' Would you mock at Allah, His revelations, and His Apostle? Make no excuses. You disbelieved after your belief. If We forgive some of you, We will punish others, for they are guilty men.'

**9.67** Be they men or women, the hypocrites are all alike. They enjoin what is evil, forbid what is just, and tighten their purse-strings. They forsook Allah, so Allah forsook them. Surely the hypocrites are evil-doers.

Allah has promised the hypocrites, both men and women, and the unbelievers, the fire of Hell. They shall abide in it for ever. It is sufficient for them. The curse of Allah is upon them; theirs shall be a lasting torment.

( You are) like those before you. They were mightier than you, and had greater riches and more children. Like them, you have enjoyed your earthly lot and, like them, you have engaged in idle talk. But vain were their works in this life, and vain they shall be in the life to come. They shall assuredly be lost.

**9.70** Have they not heard the story of those who have gone before them? The fate of Nuh's people and of Thamoud and Aad; of Ibrahim's people and the people of Madian and the Ruined Cities? Their messengers showed them clear signs. Allah did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves.



**9.71** The true believers, both men and women, are friends to each other. They enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil; they attend to their prayers and pay the alms—tax and obey Allah and His Apostle. On these Allah will have mercy. He is Mighty, Wise.

Allah has promised the men and women who believe in Him gardens watered by running streams, in which they shall abide for ever. He has promised them goodly mansions in the gardens of Eden. And what is more, they shall have greater favour from Allah. That is the supreme triumph.

**9.73** O Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously with them. Hell shall be their home: an evil fate.

**9.74** They swear by Allah that they said nothing. Yet they did utter the word of unbelief and renounced Islam after embracing it. They sought to do what they could not attain. Yet they had no reason to be spiteful; except perhaps because Allah and His Apostle had enriched them through His bounty. If they repent, it will indeed be better for them, but if they give no heed, Allah will sternly punish them both in this world and in the world to come. They have none on earth to protect or help them.

Some of them make a covenant with Allah (saying): 'If Allah is bountiful to us, we will give alms and live like righteous men.' But when Allah had bestowed His favours on them, they grew niggardly and turning their backs, hurried away.

**9.77** He has caused hypocrisy to be in their hearts till the day they meet Him, because they have been untrue to the promise they made Him and because they have invented falsehoods.

Are they not aware that Allah knows what they conceal and what they talk about in secret? Are they not aware that Allah knows what is hidden? As for those that taunt the believers who give freely, and scoff at those who give according to their means, may Allah scoff at them. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

**9.80** (It is the same) whether or not you beg forgiveness for them. If seventy times you beg forgiveness for them Allah will not forgive them, for they have denied Allah and His Apostle. Allah does not guide the evil-doers.

**9.81** Those who were left behind were glad that they were left behind Allah's apostle, for they had no wish to fight for the cause of Allah with their wealth and their persons. They said (to each other): 'Do not go to war, the heat is fierce.'

Say to them: "More fierce is the heat of Hell-fire!" Would that they understood.

**9.82** They shall laugh but little and shed many tears. Thus shall they be rewarded for their misdeeds.

If Allah brings you back to a party of them and they ask leave to march with you, say: "You shall not march with me, nor shall you fight with me against my enemies. You chose to remain at home on the first occasion; therefore you shall now stay with those who remain behind.'

You shall not pray for any of their dead, nor shall you attend their burial. For they denied Allah and His Apostle and remained sinners to the last.

**9.85** Let neither their riches nor their children rouse your envy. Through these Allah seeks to punish them in this life, so that they shall die unbelievers.

Whenever a Surah was revealed, saying: 'Believe in Allah and fight with His Apostle', the rich among them asked you to excuse them, saying: 'Leave us with those who are to stay behind.'

They were content to be with those who stayed behind: a seal was set upon their hearts, leaving them bereft of understanding. But the Apostle and the men who shared his faith fought with their goods and their persons. Those shall be rewarded with good things. Those shall surely prosper. Allah has prepared for them gardens watered by running streams, in which they shall abide for ever. That is the supreme triumph.

**9.90** Some Arabs of the desert who had an excuse came begging leave to stay behind; whilst those who denied Allah and His Apostle remained idle at home. A woeful scourge shall fall on those of them that disbelieved.

**9.91** It shall be no offence for the disabled, the sick, and those lacking the means to spend, to stay behind, if they are true to

## REPENTANCE

Allah and His Apostle. The righteous shall not be blamed: Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. Nor shall those (be blamed) who, when they came to you demanding conveyances (to the battle-front) and you said: 'I can find none to carry you,' went away in tears grieving that they could not find the means to spend.

But the blame is to be laid on those that seek exemption although they are men of wealth. They are content to remain with those who stay behind. Allah has set a seal upon their hearts; so they are devoid of understanding.

**9.94** When you return, they will apologize to you. Say: 'Make no excuses: we will not believe you. Allah has revealed to us the truth about you. He and His Apostle are watching over all your actions. You shall return to Him who knows alike the visible and the unseen, and He will declare to you what you have done.'

When you return, they will appeal to you in Allah's name to let them alone. Let them alone. They are unclean. Hell shall be their home, the punishment for their misdeeds.

They will swear to you in order to please you. But if you accept them, Allah will not accept the evil-doers.

**9.97** The desert Arabs surpass (the town-dwellers) in unbelief and hypocrisy, and have more cause to be ignorant of the laws which Allah has revealed to His Apostle. But Allah is Wise, Knowing.

**9.98** Some desert Arabs regard what they give for the cause of Allah as a compulsory fine and wait for some misfortune to befall you. May ill-fortune befall them! Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

Yet there are other desert Arabs who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and regard what they spend as a means of bringing them close to Allah and to the prayers of the Apostle. Indeed, closer they shall be brought; Allah will admit them to His mercy. He is Forgiving, Merciful.

**9.100** As for those who led the way, the first of the *muhajirs*<sup>1</sup> and the *ansar*<sup>2</sup>, and those who nobly followed them, Allah is pleased with them and they with Him. He has prepared for them

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1. Muhammad's early followers who emigrated with him to Madinah.

2. Muhammad's supporters in Madinah.

## AL- TAWBA

gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell for ever. That is the supreme triumph.

**9.101** Some of the desert Arabs around you are hypocrites, and so are some of the people of Madinah who are obstinate in hypocrisy. You do not know them, but We do. Twice We will chastise them: then they shall incur a grievous torment.

Others there are who have confessed their sins; their good works had been intermixed with evil. Perchance Allah will turn to them in mercy. He is Forgiving, Merciful. Take alms from their wealth, so that they may thereby be cleansed and purified, and pray for them: for your prayers will give them comfort. Allah is Hearing, Knowing.

**9.105** Do they not know that Allah accepts the repentance of His servants and takes their alms, and that Allah is the Forgiving One, the Merciful?

Say: 'Do as you will, Allah will behold your works and so will His Apostle and the faithful; then you shall return to Him who knows alike the unseen and the visible, and He will declare to you all that you have done.'

There are yet others who must await Allah's decree. He will either punish or pardon them. And Allah is Knowing, Wise.

**9.107** And there are those who built a mosque to cause harm and to spread unbelief and disunite the faithful, and to provide refuge for him<sup>1</sup> who had made war on Allah and His Apostle before. They swear that their intentions were good, but Allah bears witness that they are lying. You shall not set foot in it. It is more fitting that you should pray in a mosque founded on piety from the very first. There you shall find men who would keep pure. Allah loves those that purify themselves.

**9.109** Who is a better man, he who founds his house on the fear of Allah and His good pleasure, or he who builds on the brink of a crumbling precipice, so that it will fall with him into the fire of Hell? Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

**9.110** The edifice which they have built shall ever inspire their

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1. Abu ' Amir.

## REPENTANCE

hearts with doubt, until their hearts are cut in pieces. Allah is Knowing, Wise.

Allah has purchased of the faithful their lives and worldly goods in return for Paradise. They will fight for His cause, slay, and be slain. Such is the true pledge which He has made them in the Torah, the Gospel and the Quran. And who is more true to his promise than Allah? Rejoice then in the bargain you have made. That is the supreme triumph.

Those that repent and those that serve Allah and praise Him; those that fast and those that kneel and prostrate themselves; those that enjoin justice, forbid evil, and observe the commandments of Allah, shall be richly rewarded. Proclaim the good tidings to the faithful.

**9.113** It is not for the Prophet or the believers to beg forgiveness for polytheists, even though they be near of kin, after it has become manifest that they are the people of the Fire. Ibrahim prayed for his father only to fulfil a promise he had made him. But when he realized he was an enemy of Allah, he disowned him. Surely Ibrahim was a compassionate and tender-hearted man.

**9.115** Nor will Allah leave men in error after He has given them guidance, until He has made plain to them all that they should avoid. Allah has knowledge of all things.

His is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth; He ordains life and death. You have none besides Allah to protect or help you.

Allah turned in mercy to the Prophet, the *muhajirs* and the *ansar*, who stood by him in the hour of adversity, when some of them were on the point of losing heart, He turned to them in mercy. Surely to them He is Compassionate, Merciful.

**9.118** And (He was also merciful) to the three who had been left behind. So that as the earth, for all its vastness, and their own souls, seemed to close in upon them, they knew there was no refuge from Allah except in Him. Then He turned to them in mercy, so that they might repent. Allah is the Forgiving One, the Merciful.

**9.119** O believers, have fear of Allah and stand with the truthful. No cause have the people of Madinah and the desert

Arab who dwell around them to stay behind Allah's Apostle or to prefer their lives to his; for they are afflicted neither by thirst nor by hunger nor by toil on account of the cause of Allah, nor do they take a step which may provoke the unbelievers, nor do they do any harm to an enemy, but shall be counted as a good deed in the sight of Allah: He will not deny the righteous their recompense. Each sum they give, be it small or large, and each journey they undertake, shall be noted down, so that Allah may reward them for their noblest deeds.

**9.122** It is not right that all the faithful should go (to war) at once. Some of them only should, and some should stay behind to instruct themselves in religion and admonish the others when they return, so that they may take heed.

O believers, make war on the infidels who dwell around you. Let them find firmness in you. Know that Allah is with the righteous.

**9.124** Whenever a Sura is revealed some of them ask: 'Which of you has it strengthened in faith?' It will surely increase the faith of the believers and give them joy. As for those whose hearts are diseased, it will add to their disbelief so that they shall die unbelievers.

**9.126** Do they not see how every year they were tried once or twice? Yet they neither repent nor take warning. Whenever a Sura is revealed, they glance at each other, asking: 'Is any one watching?' Then they turn away. Allah has turned away their hearts, for they are senseless men.

There has now come to you an apostle of your own, one who grieves at your sinfulness and is solicitous over you: one who is compassionate and merciful to true believers.

**9.129** If they give no heed, say: Allah is all-sufficient for me. There is no god but Him. In Him I have put my trust. He is the Lord of the Glorious Throne'.

## Sura 10

"Yunus"

JONAH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**10.1** *Alif lam ra.* These are the verses of the sound Book. Does it seem strange to mankind that we should have revealed Our will to a mortal from among themselves, saying: Give warning to mankind and bear the good tidings to those who believe that they have a reward with their Lord?

The unbelievers say : 'This is a clear enchanter.' Yet your Lord is Allah, who in six days created the heavens and the earth and then established Himself on the throne, regulating all things. There is no intercessor except by His permission. Such is Allah, your Lord: Therefore, serve Him. Will you not take heed?

**10.4** To Him is the return of you all: Allah's promise shall be fulfilled. He gives being to His creatures, and in the end He will bring them back to life, so that He may justly reward those who have believed and done good works. As for the unbelievers, they shall drink boiling water and be sternly punished for their unbelief.

**10.5** It was He that make the sun bright and the moon light, ordaining the latter's phases that you may learn the number of years and the reckoning. He created them only to manifest the truth. He makes plain His revelations to men of understanding.

In the alternation of night and day, and in all that Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, there are signs for righteous men.

Those who deny do not expect meeting Us, delighting in the life of this world and contenting themselves with it, and those who give no heed to Our revelations, their abode is the Fire on account of what they earned ( of misdeeds).

**10.9** As for those that believe and do good words, Allah will guide them through their faith. Rivers will run beneath them in the Gardens of Delight.

**10.10** Their prayer there will be ' Glory to you, Lord! ' And their greeting: ' Peace! ' ' Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Creation.'

will be the last of their prayers.

Had Allah hastened the punishment of men as they would (like Him to) hasten their reward, their fate would have certainly been decreed. Therefore We let those who deny the Last Judgement blunder about in sin.

When misfortune befalls man, he prays to Us lying on his side, sitting or standing. But as soon as We relieve his affliction, he pursues his former ways, as though he never prayed for Our help. Thus their foul deeds seem fair to the transgressors.

We destroyed generations before you when they did wrong and denied the clear signs which their messengers had given them. Thus shall the guilty be rewarded. Then We made you their successors in the earth, so that We might see how you would conduct yourselves.

**10.15** When Our clear revelations are recited to them, those who do not hope to meet Us, say to you: 'Bring us a Quran other than this, or make changes in it'.

Say: 'It is not for me to make a change in it by myself. I follow only what is revealed to me. I cannot disobey my Lord, for I fear the punishment of a fateful day.'

**10.16** Say: 'Had Allah pleased, I would never have recited it to you, nor would He have given you any knowledge of it. A long time I dwelt amongst you before it was revealed. Will you not understand?'

Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah or denies His revelations? Truly, the evil-doers shall not prosper.

They worship besides Allah that which can neither harm nor help them, and say: 'These will be our intercessors with Allah.'

Say: 'Do you presume to tell Allah of what He knows to be neither in the heavens nor in the earth? Glory to Him! Exalted be He above what they associate with Him!'

**10.19** There was a time when men were one nation. Then they disagreed among themselves: and had Allah not ordained before (the deferring of their punishment), their differences would have long been settled.



## YUNUS

**10.20** And they say: ' Why has no sign been given him by his Lord? '

Say: ' Allah alone has knowledge of what is hidden. Wait if you will: I too am one of those who wait.'

And if We show mercy to a people after some misfortune has afflicted them, then they begin to scheme against Our revelations. Say: ' More swift is Allah's scheming. Our messengers are recording what you scheme.'

**10.22** It is He who guides you by land and sea until when you are in the ships, and they sail carrying them in a pleasant wind, a violent wind overtakes them, and billows surge upon them from every side and they fear that they are encompassed. Then they pray to Allah with all fervour, saying: ' Deliver us from this peril and we will be truly thankful.

**10.23** Yet when He has delivered them, they commit evil in the land and act unjustly.

O men, it is your own souls that you are corrupting by your enjoyment in this life: to Us you shall in the end return, and We will declare to you all that you have been doing.

**10.24** This present life is only like water which We send down from the clouds so that the luxuriant herbage sustaining man and beast may grow; until when the earth puts on its lovely garment and becomes adorned, and its people think that they are its masters, down comes Our scourge upon it, by night or in broad day, laying it waste, as though it has not blossomed yesterday. Thus We make plain Our revelations to thoughtful men.

Allah invites you to the Home of Peace. He guides whom He will to a straight path. For those that do good is a reward and more. Neither blackness nor misery shall cover their faces. They are the people of Paradise: in it they shall abide for ever.

**10.27** As for those that have earned evil, evil shall be rewarded with like evil. Misery will cover them—they shall have none to defend them from Allah—as though their faces were veiled with the night's black patches. They are the people of Hell: in it they shall abide for ever.

**10.28** And on the day when We assemble them all together,

## JONAH

We shall say to the polytheists: 'Keep to your places, you and your partners!' We will separate them one from another, and then their partners will say to them: 'It was not us that you worshipped. Allah is our all-sufficient witness: we were unaware of your worship.'

Thereupon, each soul will know what it has done. They shall be sent back to Allah, their true Lord, and that which they invented will escape them.

**10.31** Say: 'Who provides for you from heaven and earth? Who has endowed you with sight and hearing? Who brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? Who ordains all things?'

They will reply: 'Allah.'

Say: 'Will you not take heed, then? Such is Allah, your true Lord. That which is not true must needs be false. How then can you turn away from Him?'

Thus the word of your Lord is made good; the evil-doers have no faith.

**10.34** Say: 'Can any of your partners (associate-gods) produce a Creation, then reproduce it? Allah produces a Creation, then reproduces it. How is it that you are so misled?'

**10.35** Say: 'Can any of your partners (associate-gods) guide you to the truth? Allah can guide you to the truth. Who is more worthy to be followed: He that can guide to the truth or he that cannot unless he himself is guided? What has come over you that you judge the way you do?'

Most of them follow nothing but mere conjecture. But conjecture is no substitute for Truth. Allah is cognizant of what they do.

This Quran could not have been composed by any but Allah. It confirms what was revealed before it and fully explains the Scriptures. There is no doubt about it, from the Lord of the Creation.

If they say: 'It is his own invention,' say: 'Compose one Sura like it. Call on whom you may besides Allah to help you, if what you say be true!'

**10.39** Indeed, they disbelieve what they cannot grasp, for its interpretation has not yet reached them. Those who passed

before them acted in the same way. But see what the end of the wrong-doers was.

**10.40** Some believe in it, while others do not. But your Lord best knows the evil-doers.

If they disbelieve you, say: 'My deeds are mine and your deeds are yours. You are not accountable for my actions, nor am I for yours.'

Some of them listen to you. But can you make the deaf hear you, incapable as they are of understanding?

Some of them look upon you. But can you show the way to blind, bereft as they are of sight?

Indeed, Allah does not in any way wrong mankind, but they wrong themselves.

The day (will come) when He will gather them again, as though they had stayed (in this world) but an hour of the day. They will recognize one another. Lost are those that disbelieve in meeting their Lord and do not follow the right path.

**10.46** Whether We let you witness some of that with which We threaten them, or cause you to die (before it falls upon them), to Us they shall return. Allah is watching over what they do.

To every nation is (sent) an apostle. When their apostle comes, justice is done among them; they are not wronged.

They ask: 'When will this promise be (fulfilled), if what you say be true?'

**10.49** Say: 'I have not the power to benefit or to harm myself except what Allah pleases. Unto every nation is a fixed term. When their term expires they cannot delay it for an hour, nor can they bring it before (its time).'

Say: 'Should His scourge fall upon you by night or by day, what of it would the guilty hasten? And when it overtakes you, do you believe in it then? Now you believe whereas formerly you wanted it to be hastened.'

**10.52** Then it shall be said to the wrongdoers: 'Taste the everlasting torment! Shall you be rewarded except according to your deeds?'

**10.53** They ask if it is true. Say: 'It is, by my Lord! You shall not escape.'

Verily if each soul that has done injustice had all that is in the earth, it would offer it for ransom. And they will feel regret when they see the punishment. But judgement shall be fairly passed upon them; they shall not be wronged.

Now surely to Allah belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. The promise of Allah is true, though most of them may not know. It is He who ordains life and death, and to Him you shall all return.

**10.57** Men, an admonition has come to you from your Lord, a healing for what is in the hearts, a guide and a blessing to true believers.

Say: 'In Allah's grace and mercy let them rejoice, for these are better than that which they amass.'

Say: 'Tell me, have you considered the things that Allah has given you and made lawful and unlawful? Has Allah given you His leave, or do you invent falsehoods in His name?'

**10.60** What will those who invent falsehoods about Allah think on the Day of Resurrection? Allah is Bountiful to men: yet most of them do not give thanks.

**10.61** You shall be engaged in no affair, neither shall you recite on it any portion of the Quran, nor shall you do any action, but We will be witnesses over you. Not an atom's weight in earth or heaven escapes your Lord, nor is there any object smaller or greater, but is recorded in a glorious book.

**10.63** Now surely the servants of Allah have nothing to fear or to regret. Those that have faith and keep from evil shall rejoice both in this world and in the next: the word of Allah cannot be changed. That is the supreme triumph.

Let their words not grieve you. All glory belongs to Allah. He is the Hearing, the Knowing.

To Allah belong all (who dwell) on earth and in heaven. Those who invoke associates besides Allah follow nothing but idle fancies and preach nothing but falsehoods.

**10.67** He it is who has made the night for your rest and (given) the day light. Surely in this there are signs for people who listen.

**10.68** They Say: 'Allah has begotten a son.' Allah forbid! Self-sufficient is He. His is all that the heavens and the earth contain. Surely for this you have no sanction. Would you say of Allah what you do not know?

**10.69** Say: 'Those that invent falsehoods about Allah shall not prosper. (They may take their) ease in this life, but to Us they shall (in the end) return, and We will sternly punish them for their unbelief.'

And recount to them the tale of Nuh. He said to his people: 'O my people, if it is hard on you that I should dwell in your midst and preach to you Allah's revelations—for in Him I have put my trust—decide your course of action and gather your associates (besides Allah). Let not your action be dubious. Execute your judgment against me, and give me no respite. Then if you turn away from me, I demand of you no recompense. Allah will reward me. I am commanded to be one of those who surrender themselves to Him.'

**10.73** But they disbelieved him. Therefore We saved Nuh and those who were with him in the Ark, and made them successors, and drowned those who denied Our revelations. Consider the fate of those who were given warning.

**10.74** After him We sent apostles to their descendants. They showed them clear signs, but they would not believe in what they had disbelieved. Thus We seal up the hearts of the transgressors.

Then We sent forth Musa and Harun with Our signs to Pharaoh and his nobles. But they were arrogant, for they were wicked men. When the truth came to them from Us they said: 'This is plain magic.'

Musa said: 'Is this what you say of the truth when it has come to you? Is this magic? Magicians never prosper!'

**10.78** They said: 'Have you come to turn us away from the faith of our fathers, so that you two may have the command in the land? We will never believe in you.'

Then Pharaoh said: 'Bring every skilled magician to my presence.'

When the magicians came, Musa said to them: 'Cast down what you may.' And when they had thrown, he

**10.81** said: 'What you have brought is deception. Surely God will render it vain. Allah does not bless the work of the evil-doers. By His words He vindicates the truth, much as the guilty may dislike it.'

**10.83** So a few of his people believed in Musa for fear of Pharaoh and his nobles. Pharaoh was a tyrant in the land, an evil-doer.

Musa said: 'O my people, if you believe in Allah, in Him put your trust if you surrender yourselves (to Him).'

They said: 'In Allah we have put our trust. Lord, do not let us be tried by wicked men. Deliver us, through Your mercy, from the unbelievers.'

We revealed Our will to Musa and his brother: 'Take houses in Egypt for your people and make your homes places of worship. Conduct prayers and give good news to the faithful.'

**10.88** 'Lord,' said Musa. 'You have bestowed on Pharaoh and his nobles splendour and riches in this life, so that they may lead (people) astray from your path. Lord, destroy their riches and harden their hearts, so that they shall not believe until they face their woeful punishment.'

**10.89** Allah said: 'Your prayer is heard. Follow the right path and do not walk in the footsteps of ignorant men.'

We led the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh and his legions pursued them with wickedness and tyranny. But as he was drowning he cried: 'Now I believe that there is no god save the God in whom the Children of Israel believe. To Him I give up myself.'

(Allah said): 'Now (you believe)! But before this you disobeyed and were a wrongdoer. We shall save you in your body this day, so that you may become a sign to all posterity: for most men give no heed to Our signs.'

We settled the Children of Israel in a blessed land and provided them with good things. Nor did they disagree (among themselves) until knowledge was given them. Your Lord will judge their differences on the Day of Resurrection.

**10.94** If you are in doubt of what We have revealed to you, ask those who have read the Book before you. The truth has come to you from your Lord: therefore do not be

**10.95** one of the doubters. Nor shall you deny the revelations of Allah, for then you shall be lost.

**10.96** Those concerning whom the word of your Lord will be fulfilled will not have faith, even if every sign comes to them, until they see their woeful punishment. Had this been otherwise, then if a nation had believed, it would have profited from its faith. But it was so only with Yunus's people. When they believed, We spared them the penalty of disgrace in this life and gave them comfort for a while. Had your Lord pleased, all the people of the earth would have believed in Him. Would you then force men to be believers?

No soul can have faith except by the will of Allah. He will visit His scourge upon the senseless.

Say: 'Behold what the heavens and the earth contain!' But neither signs nor warnings will avail the unbelievers.

What can they wait for but days similar to (the days) of those who have gone before them? Say: 'Wait if you will; I too am waiting.'

**10.103** Then we shall save Our apostles and the true believers. It is but just that We should save the faithful.

Say: 'Men! If you are in doubt concerning my religion, (know that) I worship none of those you serve besides Allah, but I serve Allah who will cause you to die: for I am commanded to be one of the faithful, and (I was bidden): "Set your face uprightly towards religion, and do not be a polytheist. Do not pray besides God to anything which can neither help nor harm you, for if you do you will become a wrongdoer. If Allah afflicts you with a misfortune none can remove it but He; and if He wills good for you, none can withhold His bounty. He is bountiful to whom He will. He is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

Say: 'Men! The truth has come to you from your Lord. He that follows the right path follows it to his own advantage, and he that goes astray does so at his own peril. I am not your keeper.'

**10.109** Observe what is revealed to you, and have patience till Allah makes known his judgement. He is the best of judges.

## Sura 11

### HUD

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**11.1** *Alif lam ra.* (This is) a Book with verses most perfected, then made plain from the Wise, the Aware. That you should serve none but Allah. I am (sent) to you by Him to warn you and to give you good news.

And seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn to Him in repentance. He will make a good provision for you till an appointed day and will bestow His grace upon those that have merit. But if you turn away, then beware of the torment of a fateful day. To Allah you shall all return. He has power over all things.

**11.5** Surely they cover up their breasts to conceal (their thoughts) from Him. But when they put on their garments, does He not know what they hide and what they reveal? He knows that which is in the hearts.

There is not a creature on the earth whose sustenance is not (provided) by Allah. He knows its resting-place and its repository. All is (recorded) in a glorious Book.

He it is Who made the heavens and the earth in six days—And His throne was on water—that he might try you and see who of you excels in works.

If you<sup>1</sup> say: 'After death you shall be raised to life,' the unbelievers declare: 'This is nothing but plain magic.'

**11.8** And if We put off their punishment till an appointed time, they ask: 'Why is it delayed?'

Now surely on the day when it overtakes them, they shall not escape it. And they will be encompassed by that at which they scoffed.

**11.9** If We show man Our mercy and then withhold it from him, he yields to despair and becomes ungrateful. And if, after adversity We bestow favours upon him, he says: 'Gone are my sorrows from me,' and grows jubilant and boastful.

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1. Muhammad



Except those who are steadfast and do good works. They shall have forgiveness and a rich reward.

You may chance to omit a part of that which is revealed to you and be distressed when they say: 'Why has no treasure been sent down to him? Why has no angel come with him?'

You are only a warner. Allah is the guardian of all things. Or if they say: 'He has invented it<sup>1</sup> himself,' say to them: 'Produce ten invented chapters like it. Call on whom you will of those besides Him, if what you say be true. But if they fail you, know that it is revealed with Allah's knowledge, and that there is no god but Him. Will you then accept Islam?'

**11.15** Those that desire the life of this world with all its frippery shall be rewarded for their deeds in their own lifetime: they will not suffer any loss. These are the men who in the world to come will have nothing but the Fire. Vain is what they did in it and fruitless are their works.

Is he then (like them) who has received a clear proof from his Lord, recited by a witness from Him and heralded by the Book of Musa a guide and a blessing? These have faith in it, but the factions who deny it shall be consigned to the Fire. Therefore do not doubt it. It is the truth from your Lord: yet most men do not believe.

And who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah? Such men shall be brought before their Lord, and witnesses will say: 'These are they who lied about Allah.'

**11.19** Allah's curse is on the wrongdoers, who debar others from His path and seek to make it crooked, and who deny the life to come. These shall not escape in this world; there is none to protect them besides Allah. Their punishment shall be doubled; they could neither see nor hear.

**11.21** Such are those who shall forfeit their souls. Their false devices shall vanish from them; and surely in the life to come they shall be the greatest losers.

Those that have faith and do good works and humble themselves before their Lord, they are the people of Paradise, and there they shall abide for ever.

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1. The Quran.

The similitude of the two parties is as the blind and the deaf, and the seer and hearer. Can they be equal? Will you not take heed?

**11.25** And We sent forth Nuh to his people. He said: 'Surely I am a plain warner to you. Serve none but Allah. I fear for you the torment of a woeful day.'

The unbelieving elders of his people said: 'We see you as a mortal like ourselves. Nor can we find any among your followers except the lowliest among us—those (who have believed) by rash judgement; neither do we see any superiority in you over us; we consider you liars.'

He said: 'Tell me my people! If I have a clear proof from my Lord and He has bestowed on me His grace, though it be hidden from you, can we compel you to accept it against your will? I seek of you no wealth for this, my people; for my reward is only with Allah. Nor will I drive away the faithful, for they will surely meet their Lord. But I can see that you are ignorant men. Were I to drive them away, my people, who would protect me from Allah? Will you not take heed?

'I do not say to you that I possess Allah's treasures, and I know not what is hidden. I do not claim to be an angel, nor do I say to those whom you disdain that Allah will not be bountiful to them—He knows best what is in their hearts—for then I should become a wrongdoer.'

**11.32** They said: 'O Nuh, you have disputed, and disputed too much, with us. Bring down upon us that with which you threaten us, if what you say be true!'

**11.33** He said: 'Allah will bring it down upon you when He pleases: you shall not escape it. Nor will my advice profit you if I intend to give you good advice, if Allah intends to lead you into error. He is your Lord, and to Him you shall return.'

If they say: 'He has invented it himself,' say: 'If I have indeed invented it, then on me be my guilt. I am innocent of your crimes.'

And it was revealed to Nuh: 'None of your people will believe in you save those who have already believed. Do not grieve at what they do. Build an ark under Our watchful eyes, according to Our bidding. Do not plead with Me for the

wrongdoers: they shall all be drowned.'

**11.38** And he built the ark. And whenever the elders of his people passed by him, they jeered at him. He said: 'If you mock us, we shall mock you as you mock us. You shall know who will get a punishment which disgraces him, and who will be afflicted by an everlasting scourge.'

And when Our will was done and water welled out from the Oven, We said to Nuh: 'Take into the Ark a pair from every species and your family except those already doomed, and those who believe. And none save a few believed with him.'

Nuh said: 'Embark in it. In the name of Allah will be its sailing and anchor. My Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.'

And as the Ark moved on with them amidst the mountainous waves, Nuh cried out to his son, who was apart: 'Embark with us, my child,' he said 'Do not stay with the unbelievers!'

He said: 'I shall seek refuge in a mountain, which will protect me from the flood.'

He said: 'None shall be secure this day from Allah's judgement, except those to whom He will show mercy!' And (thereupon) the billows rolled between them, and he was drowned.

**11.44** And it was said: 'Earth, swallow up your waters. Heaven, cease (your rain)!' The water was made to abate and all was over. And it came to rest upon Al-Judiyy, and it was said: 'Gone are the evil-doers.'

**11.45** Nuh called out to his Lord, saying: 'Lord, my son was my own flesh and blood. Your promise was surely true. You are the most Just of judges.'

He said: 'O Nuh, he was no kinsman of yours. This is not a righteous deed. Do not question Me about things you know nothing of. I admonish you lest you become an ignorant man.'

He said: 'My Lord, I seek refuge with You from asking Thee that of which I have no knowledge. If You do not pardon me and have mercy on me, I shall be among the losers.'

It was said: 'O Nuh, descend with peace from Us and blessings on you and on nations (descending) from those with you. And there are nations for whom We provide, and then a

painful torment from Us will afflict them.'

**11.49** These are announcements of the unseen which we reveal to you; neither you nor your people knew them. Have patience; the (good) end is for the righteous.

To Aad We sent their brother Hud. He said: 'My people, serve Allah; you have no God but Him. You are only fabricators. My people, I ask of you no recompense. My reward is only with Him Who created me. Will you not understand?'

'My people, seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn to Him in repentance. He will send from Heaven abundant rain upon you; He will add strength to your strength. Do not turn away from Him guilty.'

They said: 'O Hud, you have given us no clear proof. We will not forsake our gods at your behest, nor will we believe in you. We can only suppose that our gods have afflicted you with evil.'

**11.56** He said: 'I call Allah for witness, and you too bear witness that I am innocent of what you associate with Him. So scheme against me, all together, then give me no respite. I have put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is not a living creature on the earth whose destiny He does not control. Straight is the path of my Lord.'

**11.57** 'If you turn away, I have delivered to you that with which I was sent to you, and my Lord will replace you by other men. You can do Him no harm. My Lord is watching over all things.'

And when Our judgement came to pass, We delivered Hud, together with those who believed with him through Our mercy. And We delivered them from a woeful scourge.

**11.59** Such were Aad. They denied the revelations of their Lord, disobeyed His apostles, and did the bidding of every rebellious reprobate. They were overtaken by a curse in this world, and cursed they shall be on the Day of Resurrection.

And surely Aad denied their Lord. Gone are Aad, the people of Hud.

And to Thamoud, We sent their brother Saleh. He said: 'My people, serve Allah; you have no god but Him. It was He who made you from the earth and gave you dwellings upon it. Seek forgiveness of Him and turn to Him in repentance. My

Lord is near at hand, Answering.'

**11.62** They said: 'Saleh, great were the hopes we placed in you before this. Would you now forbid us to serve the gods our fathers worshipped? Truly, we strongly doubt the faith to which you call us.'

He said: 'My people, think! If I have a clear proof from my Lord and He has bestowed on me His grace, who would protect me from Allah if I disobeyed Him? Surely you will not increase for me except my perdition.'

**11.64** 'My people, here is Allah's she-camel, a clear sign for you. Leave her to graze at will in Allah's own land and do not molest her lest an instant scourge should fall upon you.'

Yet they slew her. He said: 'You have but three days to live in your dwellings. This promise cannot be disproved.'

And when Our judgement came to pass, We delivered Saleh together with those who believed with him through Our mercy from the ignominy of that day. Mighty is your Lord and All-powerful.

**11.68** A (dreadful) cry rang above the evil-doers, and when morning came they were prostrate in their dwellings as though they had never prospered there.

Now surely Thamoud denied their Lord. So gone are Thamoud.

**11.69** Our messengers came to Ibrahim with good news. They said: 'Peace!' 'Peace!' he said, and hastened to bring them a roasted calf. But when he saw that their hands did not reach to it, he was afraid of them. (But) they said: 'Do not be alarmed. We are sent forth to the people of Lut.'

His wife, who was waiting on them, rejoiced. We gave her the good news of Ishaq, and after Ishaq of Yaqub.

'Alas!' she replied. 'How shall I bear a child when I am old and my husband is well-advanced in years? This is indeed a strange thing.'

They said: 'Do you marvel at the ways of Allah? May Allah's blessings and mercy be upon you, People of the House. Glorious is He, and Worthy of praise.'

And when apprehension departed from him and the good

news reached him, he pleaded with Us for the people of Lut; verily Ibrahim was forbearing, tender-hearted and devout.

We said: 'Ibrahim, stop this. Your Lord's decree has come. There must overcome them an inevitable punishment.'

**11.76** And when Our messengers came to Lut, he was grieved for them, (for) he was unable to offer them protection. And he said: 'This is indeed a day of woe.'

His people came running towards him and they used to do evil. 'My people,' he said: 'here are my daughters: they are more lawful to you. Have fear of Allah and do not humiliate me by (wronging) my guests. Is there not one good man amongst you?'

They replied: 'You know we have no need for your daughters. You know full well what we are seeking.'

He said: 'Would that I had strength enough to overcome you, or could find refuge in some mighty party!'

**11.81** They (the angels) said: 'Lut, we are the messengers of your Lord: they shall not touch you. Depart with your kinsfolk in some part of the night and let none of you look back, except your wife. She shall suffer the fate of the others. Their appointed time is the morning. Is not the morning near?'

**11.82** And when Our judgement came to pass, We laid them (their towns) upside down, and let loose upon them a shower of clay-stones bearing the tokens of your Lord. And it is not far off from the wrongdoers.

And to (the people of) Madian, We sent their brother Shu'ayb. He said: 'My people, serve Allah; you have no god but Him. Do not give short weight or measure. I see you are prosperous. And I fear for you the punishment of an all-compassing day.

'My people, give just weight and measure in all fairness. Do not defraud others of their possessions and do not corrupt the land with evil. What remains with Allah is better for you, if you are true believers. I am no guardian over you.'

'Shu'ayb,' they replied, 'did your prayers teach you that we should renounce the gods of our fathers and that we ought not to conduct our affairs in the manner we pleased? Truly, you are the wise and gracious man!'

**11.88** He said: 'Think, my people! If I have a clear proof from my Lord and He has bestowed on me good provision, (should I seek the unlawful)? I do not want to oppose you in that which I forbid you. I seek only to reform as much as I can, and my success is with none but Allah. In Him I have put my trust and to Him I turn.

'And, my people, let your disagreement with me not bring upon you the doom which overtook the people of Nuh, Hud, and Saleh; nor is it long since the tribe of Lut was punished. Seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn to Him in repentance. My Lord is Merciful, Loving.'

**11.91** They said: 'O Shu'ayb, we do not understand much of what you say to us. And we see you weak among us. But for your tribe, we would have stoned you. You are not dear to us.'

He said: 'Have you more consideration for my tribe than for Allah? Dare you turn your backs upon Him?'

**11.93** My Lord has knowledge of all your actions. Do what you will, my people, and so will I. You shall know who will be afflicted with punishment that will put him to shame, and who is a liar. Wait if you will; I too am waiting.'

**11.94** And when Our judgement was executed We delivered Shu'ayb through Our mercy, together with those who shared his faith. A (dreadful) cry rang above the evil-doers, and when morning came they were prostrate in their dwellings: they might never have prospered there. Gone are the people of Madian, just as Thamoud are gone.

**11.96** We sent forth Musa with Our signs and with illustrious power to Pharaoh and his nobles. But they followed the behests of Pharaoh; evil were Pharaoh's behests. He shall stand at the head of his people on the Day of Resurrection and lead them into the Fire. Dismal is the place to which they shall be led.

A curse followed them in this (world) and a curse shall follow them on the Day of Resurrection. Evil is the gift they shall receive.

**11.101** That, which We have related, is an account of the towns: some have survived, while others were annihilated. We did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves. Their false gods

which they called upon besides Allah availed them nothing: when your Lord's decree came to pass, (those false gods) added to them nothing but ruin.

**11.102** Such was the scourge which your Lord has visited upon the sinful towns. His punishment is stern and harrowing.

Surely in this there is a sign for him that dreads the terrors of the life to come. That is a day on which all men shall be assembled. That shall be a witnessed day.

We shall not defer it except until an appointed term. On that day no man shall speak but by His leave. Some shall be damned, and others blessed. The damned shall be cast into the Fire where, groaning and wailing, they shall abide as long as the heavens and the earth endure, unless your Lord ordains otherwise: your Lord accomplishes what He will. As for the blessed, they shall dwell in Paradise as long as the heavens and the earth endure, unless your Lord ordains otherwise. (Theirs) shall be an unfailing gift.

**11.109** Have no doubt as to what they worship. They serve only that which their fathers served before them. We shall pay them in full their undiminished measure.

**11.110** We gave Musa the Book, but disagreement arose about it. Had your Lord not ordained it before, their fate would have long been settled. And surely they are in disquieting doubt about this.

Your Lord will reward all men according to their deeds. He has knowledge of all their actions. Follow then the right path as you are bidden, together with those who have repented with you, and do not transgress. He is aware of what you do.

And put no trust in the wrongdoers, lest you get touched by the Fire. You have no protectors besides Allah. Then you will not be helped.

And attend to your prayers at the two ends of the day and in part of the night. Good deeds make amends for sins.

That is an admonition for thoughtful men. Therefore have patience; the righteous shall not lose their reward.

**11.116** Were there among the generations that have gone before you any upright men who preached against corruption in the land, except the few whom We delivered from among them?



The wrongdoers pursued their worldly pleasures and thus became guilty. Your Lord would not have ruined those towns, without just cause, had their inhabitants been righteous men.

Had your Lord pleased, He would have made mankind a single nation. But only those whom He has shown mercy will cease to differ (in religion). For this end He has created them. The word of your Lord shall be fulfilled: 'I will fill Hell with jinn and men, all together.'

**11.120** And all we relate to you of the account of the messengers is (meant) to put courage into your heart, and through this the truth is revealed to you, with precepts and admonitions for true believers.

Say to those who disbelieve: 'Do whatever lies within your power, and so shall we. Wait if you will; we too are waiting.'

**11.123** Allah alone has knowledge of what is unseen in the heavens and in the earth; to Him everything shall be referred. Serve Him, and put your trust in Him. Your Lord is watching over all your actions.

## SURA 12

"YUSUF"

JOSEPH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**12.1** *Alif lam ra.* These are the verses of the Book which clearly indicates (right and wrong). We have revealed it in the Arabic tongue so that you may understand.

We will narrate to you the best of narratives by revealing this Quran, though before We revealed it you were unaware.

Behold, Joseph said to his father: 'Father, I saw (in dream) eleven stars and the sun and the moon; I saw them prostrating themselves before me.'

He said: 'O my son, say nothing of this dream to your brothers lest they should plot evil against you: the devil is the sworn enemy of man.'

**12.6** And thus your Lord will choose you and teach you to interpret dreams, and will perfect His favour to you and to the house of Yaqub as he perfected it to your fathers Ibrahim and Ishaq before you. Your Lord is Knowing, Wise.'

**12.7** Surely in ( the tale of ) Yusuf and his brothers there are signs for inquirers.

**12.8** They said (to each other ): 'Yusuf and his brother are dearer to our father than ourselves, though we are many. Truly, our father is much mistaken.( Let us ) kill Yusuf, or cast him away in some far-off land, so that your father's love will be yours alone, and you will be afterwards righteous men.'

One of them said: 'Do not kill Yusuf. If you must get rid of him, cast him into a dark pit. Some caravan will pick him up.'

They said: 'O our father, why do you not trust us with Yusuf? Surely we are his sincere well-wishers. Send him with us tomorrow that he may play and enjoy himself. We will take good care of him.'

He said: 'It would much grieve me to let him go with you; for I fear lest the wolf should eat him when you are off your guard.'

**12.14** They said: 'If the wolf could eat him despite our numbers,

then we should surely be lost!' And when they took Yusuf with them, they decided to cast him into a dark pit. We revealed to him: 'You shall tell them of all this when they will not know you.'

At nightfall, they returned weeping to their father. They said: 'We went racing and left Yusuf with our things. The wolf devoured him. But you will not believe us, though we speak the truth.' And they showed him their brother's shirt, stained with false blood.

He said: 'No, your souls have tempted you to do something. But ( why not recourse to) good patience. Allah alone can help against that of which you speak.'

And travellers passed by, who sent their waterman ( to the pit ). And when he had let down his pail, he cried: 'Rejoice! A boy!'

They concealed him among their goods. But Allah knew what they did. They sold him for a trifling price, for a few pieces of silver. They cared nothing for him.

**12.21** The Egyptian who bought him said to his wife: 'make his stay honourable. He may prove useful to us, or we may adopt him as our son.'

Thus We established Yusuf in the land, and we taught him the interpretation of dreams. Allah has power over all His affairs, though most men may not know it. And when he reached maturity, We bestowed on him wisdom and knowledge. Thus We reward the righteous.

And she in whose house he was sought to seduce him. She bolted the doors and said: 'Come!'

'Allah forbid!' he replied. 'My Lord has made my dwelling a good one. Wrongdoers never prosper.'

She made for him, and he himself would have made for her had he not been shown a clear sign by his Lord. Thus We warded off from him indecency and evil, for he was one of Our faithful servants.

**12.25** They ran to the door and she tore his shirt from behind. And at the door, they met her husband.

She said: 'What is the punishment of one who sought to violate your wife except to be thrown into prison or sternly punished?'

He said: 'It was she who sought to seduce me.'

'If his shirt is torn from the front,' said one of her people,

'she is speaking the truth and he is lying. If it is torn from behind, then he is speaking the truth, and she is lying.'

And when he saw Yusuf's shirt rent from behind, he said to her: 'This is one of your tricks, you women. Your cunning is great indeed! Yusuf, say no more about this. (Woman), ask pardon for your sin. You have done wrong.'

Some women in the city said: 'The Prince's wife has sought to seduce her servant. He has made her fond of him. It is clear that she has gone astray.'

**12.31** When she heard of their intrigues, she sent and prepared for them a banquet (at her house). To each she gave a knife, and ordered Yusuf to present himself before them. When they saw him, they were amazed at him and cut their hands, and said: 'Allah forbid! This is no mortal, but a gracious angel.'

**12.32** She said: 'This is the man on whose account you reproached me. I sought to seduce him, but he was unyielding. If he declines to do my bidding, he shall be thrown into prison and held in scorn.'

He said: 'I would prefer prison to that to which they invite me. Shield me from their cunning, or I shall yield to them and be one of the foolish.'

**12.34** His Lord heard his prayer and warded off their wiles from him. He is the Hearer, the Knower.

Then it occurred to them, even after they had seen the signs, that they should imprison him for some time.

Two young men went to prison with him. One of them said: 'I saw (in my dream) that I was pressing grapes.' And the other said: 'I saw (in my dream) that I was carrying a loaf upon my head, and that birds came and ate of it. Tell us the meaning of these dreams, for we can see you are good.'

**12.37** He said: 'No food with which you may be provided will come to you, but I will give you its interpretation before it comes to you. This knowledge is a part of that which my Lord taught me, for I have left the faith of those that disbelieve in Allah and deny the life to come. I follow the faith of my fathers, Ibrahim, Ishaq, and Yaqub. We must never serve any besides Allah. Such is the gift which Allah has bestowed upon us and all mankind. Yet most men do not give thanks.'

**12.39** My two fellow-prisoners! Are sundry gods better than Allah, the One, the Conqueror? Those whom you serve besides Him are nothing but names which you and your fathers have invented and for which Allah has revealed no sanction. Judgement rests with Allah only. He has commanded you to worship none but Him. That is the true faith: yet most men do not know.

'My two fellow-prisoners, one of you will serve his king with wine. The other will be crucified, and the birds will peck at his head. This settles the matter you are enquiring about.'

**12.42** And he said to the prisoner who he knew would be freed: 'Remember me in the presence of your lord.'

But the devil made him forget to mention (Yusuf) to his lord, so that he stayed in prison for a few years.

**12.43** The king said: 'I saw seven fatted cows which seven lean ones devoured; and seven green ears of corn and seven others dry. O my nobles, tell me the meaning of this vision, if you can interpret visions.'

They said: 'They are confused dreams; nor are we skilled in the interpretation of dreams.'

The one of the two who had been freed remembered after all that time. He said: 'I shall tell you what it means. Give me leave to go.'

He said: 'Yusuf, man of truth, tell us of the seven fatted cows which seven lean ones devoured; also of the seven green ears of corn and the other seven which were dry, so that I go back to the people that, perchance, they may understand.'

**12.47** He (Yusuf) replied: 'You shall sow for seven consecutive years. Leave in the ear of corn you reap, except a little which you may eat. Then there shall follow seven hard years which will consume all but little of that which you have stored. Then there will come a year of abundant rain, in which the people will press the grape.'

**12.50** The king said: 'Bring this man before me.'

But when the king's envoy came to him, he said: 'Go back to your master and ask him about the women who cut their

hands. My Lord knows their cunning.'

He said to the women: 'What made you seek to entice Yusuf?'

'Allah forbid!' they replied. 'We know no evil of him.'

'Now the truth must come to light,' said the Prince's wife. 'It was I who sought to seduce him. He has told the truth.'

'From this,' (said Yusuf), '(my lord) will know that I did not betray him in his absence, and that Allah does not guide the work of the treacherous.

**12.53** Not that I am free from sin: man's soul often commands evil, except him to whom Allah has shown mercy. My Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.'

**12.54** The king said: 'Bring him before me. I will choose him for myself.'

And when he had spoken with him the king said: 'You shall henceforth dwell with us, honoured and trusted.' He said: 'Give me charge of the treasures of the realm. I am a good keeper who knows.'

**12.56** Thus We established Yusuf in the land to dwell wherever he liked. We bestow Our mercy on whom We will, and never deny the righteous their reward. Better is the reward of the life to come for those who believe in Allah and keep from evil.

Yusuf's brothers came and presented themselves before him. He recognized them, but they knew him not. And when he had given them their provisions, he said: 'Bring me your (other) brother from your father. Do you not see that I give just measure and am the best of hosts?'

**12.60** If you do not bring him, you shall have no corn, nor shall you come near me again.'

They replied: 'We will try to get him from his father. This we will surely do.'

He (Yusuf) said to his servants: 'Put their money into their packs, so that they may find it when they return to their people. Perchance they will come back.'

When they returned to their father, they said: 'Father, corn is denied us. Send our brother with us and we shall have our measure. We will take good care of him.'

12.64 He replied: 'Am I to trust you with him as I once trusted you with his brother? But Allah is the best of guardians: of all those that show mercy, He is the most Merciful.'

When they opened their packs, they found that their money had been returned to them. 'Father,' they said, 'what do we desire? Here is our money untouched. We will buy provisions for our people and take care of our brother. We shall receive an extra camel-load; that should be easy.'

12.66 He replied: 'I shall not let him go with you until you swear in Allah's name to bring him back to me, unless you are prevented.' And when they had given him their pledge, he said: 'Allah is the witness of what we say. My sons, do not enter from one gate. Enter from different doors. I cannot be of any help to you against Allah; judgement is His alone. In Him, I have put my trust. In Him alone let the trustful put their trust.'

12.68 And when they entered from where their father had advised them, nothing availed them against the decree of Allah. It was but a wish in Yaqub's soul which he had thus fulfilled. He was possessed of knowledge because of what We had taught him, though most men were unaware of it.

When they presented themselves before Yusuf, he lodged his brother with himself, and said: 'I am your brother. Do not grieve at what they did.'

12.70 And when he had given them their provisions, he hid a drinking-cup in his brother's pack.

Then a crier called out after them: 'Travellers, you are thieves!'

12.71 They turned back and asked: 'What have you lost?'

'We miss the king's drinking-cup,' he replied. 'He that restores it shall have a camel-load. I pledge my word for it.'

'By Allah,' they said, 'you know we did not come to do evil in this land. We are no thieves.'

They said: 'What shall be the penalty of him who stole it, if you prove to be lying?'

They replied: 'He in whose pack (the cup) is found shall be (your bondsman). Thus we punish the wrongdoers.'

**12.76** He searched their bags before his brother's and then took out the cup from his brother's bag.

Thus We directed Yusuf. By the king's law he had no right to seize his brother unless Allah willed otherwise. We raise whom We will degrees: but above those that have knowledge there is One (more) Knowing.

They said: 'If he has stolen—know then that a brother of his has committed a theft before him.'

But Yusuf kept his secret and did not reveal it to them. He said: 'You are in a worse position. And Allah knows best what you state.'

**12.78** They said: 'Noble prince, this boy has an aged father. Take one of us, instead of him. We can see you are a generous man.' He replied:

'Allah forbid that we should seize any but the man with whom our property was found: for then we should be unjust.'

**12.80** When they despaired of him, they went aside to confer together. The eldest said: 'Know you not that your father took a pledge from you in the name of Allah, and that you broke your faith before this concerning Yusuf? I shall not stir from this land until my father gives me leave or Allah makes known to me His judgement: He is the Best of judges. Return to your father and say to him: 'Your son has committed a theft.'

**12.82** We testify only to what we know. How could we guard against the unforeseen? Ask the town where we were and the caravan in which we travelled. We speak the truth.'

**12.83** He said: 'No, your souls have tempted you to (do) something. But patience is in order. Allah may bring them all to me. He alone is the Knowing, the Wise.' And he turned away and said: 'Alas for Yusuf!' His eyes went white with grief, for he repressed (grief).

They said: 'By Allah, will you not cease to think of Yusuf until you stand at death's door or perish?'

He replied: 'I complain to Allah of my sorrow and sadness. I know from Allah what you do not know. Go and seek news of Yusuf and his brother. Do not despair of Allah's mercy;



none but unbelievers despair of Allah's mercy.'

And when they presented themselves before him they said: 'O prince, we and our people are afflicted with distress. We have brought but little money. Give us some corn, and be charitable to us: Allah rewards the charitable.'

**12.89** 'Do you know,' he replied, 'what you did to Yusuf and his brother in your ignorance?'

**12.90** They said: 'Can you indeed be Yusuf?'

'I am Yusuf,' he answered, 'and this is my brother. Allah has been gracious to us. Those that keep from evil and endure with fortitude, Allah will not deny the doers of good their reward.'

'By Allah,' they said, 'Allah has exalted you above us all. We have indeed been guilty.'

**12.92** He replied: 'Let no reproach be on you this day. May Allah forgive you: He is the most Merciful of the merciful. Take this shirt of mine and throw it over my father's face: he will recover his sight. Then return to me with all your people.'

**12.94** When the caravan departed, their father said: 'I feel the breath of Yusuf, though you will not believe me.'

'By Allah,' they said, 'this is but your old illusion.'

And when the bearer of good news arrived, he threw Yusuf's shirt over the old man's face, and his sight came back to him. He said: 'Did I not tell you that I know from Allah what you do not know?'

**12.97** His sons said: 'Father, implore forgiveness for our sins. We have indeed been sinners.'

He said: 'I shall implore my Lord to forgive you. He is Forgiving, Merciful.'

And when they presented themselves before Yusuf, he embraced his parents and said: 'Welcome to Egypt, safe, if Allah wills!'

He helped his parents to a throne (couch), and they all fell on their knees and prostrated themselves before him.

'This,' said Yusuf to his father, 'is the meaning of my old vision: my Lord has fulfilled it. He has been gracious to me. He has released me from prison and brought you out of the desert

after the devil had stirred up strife between me and my brothers. My Lord is gracious to whom He will. He alone is the Knower, the Wise.

**12.101** 'Lord, You have given me power and taught me to interpret dreams. You are the Creator of the heavens and the earth, my Guardian in this world and in the next. Let me die in submission and join the righteous.'

**12.102** That (which We have now revealed to you) is of the announcements of the unseen. You were not present when they conceived their plans and schemed against him. Yet, though you desire it, most men will not believe.

You shall demand of them no recompense for this. It is a reminder to all mankind.

Many are the marvels of the heavens and the earth; yet they pass them by and pay no heed to them. The greater part of them believe in Allah only if they associate others with Him.

Are they confident that Allah's scourge will not fall upon them, or that the Hour of Doom will not overtake them unawares, without warning?

**12.108** Say: 'This is my path. With sure knowledge, I call on you to have faith in Allah, I and all my followers. Glory be to Him! I am not one of the polytheists.'

**12.109** Nor were the apostles whom We sent before you other than mortals from among the townsmen, to whom We sent revelations.

Have they not travelled in the land and seen what was the end of those before them? Better is the world to come for those that keep from evil. Can you not understand?

And when at length Our apostles despaired and thought that they would be treated as liars, Our help came down to them, delivering whom We pleased. The evil-doers could not be saved from Our scourge. In their histories is a lesson to men of understanding.

**12.111** This is no invented tale, but a confirmation of previous (scriptures), an explanation of all things, a guidance and a blessing to true believers.

## Sura 13

"Al-Ra'd"

THUNDER

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**13.1** *Alif lam mim ra.* These are the verses of the Book. That which is revealed to you from your Lord is the truth, yet most men have no faith.

It was Allah who raised the heavens without visible pillars. He then ascended His throne and forced the sun and the moon into His service, each pursuing an appointed course. He ordains all things. He makes plain His revelations so that you may firmly believe in meeting your Lord.

**13.3** It was He who spread out the earth and placed upon it firm mountains and rivers. And of all fruits, He has put in it couples (male and female) and drew the veil of night over the day. Surely in these there are signs for thinking men.

And in the land, there are adjoining plots: gardens of vines and corn and palm-trees, the single and the clustered. They are watered with one water. Yet we make some excel others in taste. Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding.

**13.5** If anything could make you marvel, then you should surely marvel at those who say: 'When we are dust, shall we be raised to life again?'

Such are those who deny their Lord. Their necks shall be bound with chains. They are the people of the Fire. In it they shall abide for ever.

They bid you hasten the evil before the good. Yet many were the punishments before them. Your Lord is Merciful to men, despite their wrongdoing; yet stern is He in retribution.

The unbelievers say: 'Why has no sign been given him by his Lord?' But your mission is only to give warning. Every nation has its guide.

**13.8** Allah knows what every female bears: and what shortens or lengthens the womb's term. And everything with Him has a measure.

## THUNDER

**13.9** He is Knower of the unseen and the seen. (He is) the Supreme One, the Most High.

It is alike whether you conceal the word or speak aloud, whether you hide under the cloak of night or walk about in broad day. Each has guardian (angels) before him and behind him, who watch him by Allah's command.

Allah does not change a people's lot unless they change what is in their hearts. If He seeks to afflict them with a misfortune, none can ward it off. Besides Him, they have no protector.

**13.12** It is He who shows you the lightning, inspiring you with fear and hope, and Who brings up the heavy clouds. The thunder sounds His praises, and the angels, too, for awe of Him. He hurls His thunderbolts at whom He pleases. Yet the unbelievers wrangle about Allah. Stern is His might.

**13.14** His is the true prayer. Those to which they pray besides Allah give them no answer. They are like a man who stretches out his hands to the water and bids it rise to his mouth: it cannot reach it! Vain are the prayers of the unbelievers.

All who dwell in the heavens and on earth shall prostrate themselves before Allah, some willingly and some by force; their very shadows too, morning and evening.

Say: 'Who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth?'

Say: 'Allah.'

Say: 'Why then have you chosen protectors besides Him, who, even to themselves, can do neither harm nor good?'

Say: 'Are the blind and the seeing alike? Does darkness resemble the light?'

Have those they associate with Allah brought into being a creation like His, so that both creations appear to them alike?'

Say: 'Allah is the Creator of all things. He is the One, the Conqueror.'

**13.17** He sends down water from the sky which fills the riverbeds to overflowing, so that their torrents bear a swelling foam, akin to that which rises from smelted ore when men make ornaments and tools. Thus Allah depicts truth and falsehood. The scum is cast away, but that which is of use to man remains behind. Thus Allah coins His parables.

**13.18** For those that obey, Allah is good. But those that disobey Him—if they possessed all that the earth contains, and as much besides, they would gladly offer it for their ransom. Theirs shall be an evil reckoning. Hell shall be their home, a dismal resting-place. Is then he who knows that what has been revealed to you by your Lord is the truth, like him who is blind?

Truly, none will take heed but the wise: those who keep faith with Allah and do not break their pledge; who join together what He has bidden to be united; who fear their Lord and dread the terrors of Reckoning-day; and those who for the sake of Allah endure with fortitude, attend to their prayers, and spend of what We have given them in private and in public; and who ward off evil with good. These shall have a blissful end. They shall enter the Gardens of Eden, together with the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their descendants. From every gate the angels will come to them, (saying): 'Peace be to you for all that you have steadfastly endured. Blessed is the final reward (of Paradise).'

**13.25** As for those who break Allah's covenant after accepting it, who part what He has bidden to be united and commit evil in the land, a curse shall be laid on them, and they shall have an evil abode (in Hell).

Allah gives abundantly and sparingly to whom He pleases. Those who disbelieve rejoice in this life: but brief indeed is the comfort of this life compared to the life to come.

And those who disbelieve say: 'Why has no sign been given him by his Lord?'

Say: 'Allah leaves in error whom He will, and guides those who repent and have faith and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah. Surely in the remembrance of Allah all hearts are comforted. Blessed are those who have faith and do good works; blissful their end.'

**13.30** Thus We have sent you forth to a nation before whom others have passed away, that you may recite to them Our revelations. Yet they deny the Lord of Mercy. Say: 'He is my Lord. There is no god but Him. In Him I have put my trust, and to Him I shall return.'

**13.31** Even if there be a Quran by which the mountains could be removed or the earth cleaved asunder or the dead made to

speak, ( they will not believe ). But to God is the power over everything. Do those who believe know that had Allah pleased He could have guided all people?

As for those who disbelieve, because of what they do, disaster will not cease to afflict them, or crouch at their very doorstep until Allah's promise is fulfilled. Allah will not break His promise.

**13.32** Other apostles were mocked before you: but though I bore long with those who disbelieved, My scourge at length overtook them. And how (terrible) was My scourge!

Who is it that watches over every soul and all its actions? Yet they set up partners besides Allah. Say: 'Name them. Or would you tell Allah of that which is unknown to Him? Or (are you going to do that) in outward speech only?'

Indeed, their foul devices seem fair to the unbelievers, for they are debarred from the right path. None can guide those whom Allah has left in error. They shall be punished in this life: but more painful is the punishment of the life to come. None shall protect them from Allah.

**13.35** This is the Paradise which the righteous have been promised: it is watered by running streams: eternal are its fruits and eternal are its shades. Such is the reward of the righteous. But the reward of the unbelievers is the Fire.

**13.36** Those to whom We have given the Book rejoice in what is revealed to you, while some factions deny a part of it. Say: 'I am commanded to serve Allah and to associate none with Him. To Him I pray, and to Him I shall return.'

And thus We have revealed it, a (code of) judgements in the Arabic tongue. If you succumb to their desires after the knowledge you have been given, none shall save or protect you from Allah.

**13.38** We have sent forth other apostles before you and given them wives and children. Yet none of them could work miracles except by Allah's leave. Every term has its Book. Allah confirms or abolishes what He pleases. With Him is the Mother Book.

Whether We let you witness some of the punishment with which We threaten them, or cause you to die (before it is

fulfilled), your mission is only to give warning: it is for Us to do the reckoning.

Do they not see how We get to the land and reduce its borders? If Allah decrees a thing, none can reverse it. Swift is His reckoning.

Those who have gone before them also plotted, but Allah is the master of every subtle device. He knows what every soul earns. The unbelievers shall know for whom the final reward (of Paradise) is.

**13.43** Those who disbelieve say: 'You are no true Apostle. Say: 'Allah is an all-sufficient witness between me and you,' as well as those who have knowledge of the Book.'

## Sura 14

"Ibrahim"

ABRAHAM

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**14.1** *Alif lam ra.* We have revealed to you this book so that, by the will of their Lord, you may lead men from darkness to light; to the path of the Mighty, Glorious One: the path of Allah; Allah to whom belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth.

Woe to the unbelievers, because of stern punishment. Those who love this life more than the life to come, debar others from the path of Allah and seek to make it crooked are far astray.

**14.4** We have sent no apostle but in the language of his own people, so that he might make plain to them (his message). But Allah leaves in error whom He will and guides whom He pleases. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

**14.5** We formerly sent forth Musa with Our signs, (saying): 'Lead your people out of the darkness into the light; and remind them of Allah's days (favours.)' Surely in this there are signs for every steadfast, thankful man. Remember! Musa said to his people: 'Remember Allah's goodness to you when He delivered you from Pharoah's people, who had oppressed you cruelly, and who slew your sons and spared your daughters. Surely that was a great trial from your Lord.' And (remember) when your Lord declared: "If you give thanks, I will bestow more upon you: but if you deny My favours, know that My punishment is terrible indeed."

**14.8** And Musa said: 'If you and all mankind prove thankless, He is surely Self-sufficient, Praised.'

**14.9** Have you not heard what befell the nations that have gone before you? The people of Nuh, Aad, and Thamoud, and those who came after? None knows them but Allah. Their apostles came to them with clear signs, but they thrust their hands into their mouths and said: 'We deny what you are sent with. Indeed, we are in strong doubt as to that to which you call us.'

**14.10** Their apostles said: 'Is there any doubt about Allah, the



## ABRAHAM

Creator of the heavens and the earth? He calls you to Him that He may forgive you your sins and relieve you till your appointed hour.'

They said: 'You are but mortals like ourselves. You wish to turn us away from that which our fathers worshipped. Give us some palpable proof.'

**14.12** Their apostles said to them: 'We are nothing but mortals like you. But Allah bestows His grace on those of His servants whom He chooses. We cannot give you proof, except by Allah's leave. In Him, let true believers put their trust. And why should we not trust in Allah, when He has already guided us to our paths? We will endure your persecution patiently. In Allah, let all the faithful put their trust.'

Those who disbelieved said to their apostles; 'Return to our faith or we will banish you from our land.'

But Allah revealed to them: 'We shall destroy the wrongdoers and let you dwell in the land after them. This is for him who dreads My eminence and fears My threats.'

And they called for help, and every hardened sinner was destroyed.

**14.16** Hell lies before him and he is given stinking water to drink. He takes it in portions, but he cannot swallow it. Death will come to him from every quarter, yet he shall not die. A dreadful torment is before him.

Those who disbelieve in their Lord, their works are like ashes which the wind scatters on a stormy day: they shall not be able to gain anything from what they earn; that is straying far away (from the truth).

**14.19** Do you not see that Allah has created the heavens and the earth with truth? He can destroy you if He wills and bring into being a new creation: that is no difficult thing for Him.

All shall appear before Allah. The weak will say to those who were haughty: 'We were your followers. Can you protect us from Allah's chastisement?'

They will say: 'Had Allah guided us we would have guided you. It is now the same whether we panic or bear patiently. There is no way out for us.'

**14.22** And when Our judgement has been passed, the devil will say to them: 'True was the promise which Allah made you. I too made you a promise, but did not keep it. Yet I had no power over you except that I called you, and you answered me. Do not now blame me, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your associating me before with Allah.'

The wrongdoers shall be sternly punished. As for those that have faith and do good works, they shall be admitted to gardens watered by running streams, in which, by their Lord's leave, they shall abide for ever. Their greeting shall be: 'Peace!'

**14.24** Do you not see how Allah sets forth a parable that the good work is like a good tree whose root is firm and its branches are in the sky, yielding its fruit every season by Allah's leave? Allah gives parables to men so that they become mindful. And the parable of an evil word is like an evil tree torn out of the earth and has no stability.

**14.27** Allah will strengthen the faithful with (His) steadfast Word, both in this life and the Hereafter. He leaves the wrongdoers in error. Allah accomplishes what He pleases.

Have you not seen those who change thanks to Allah's grace into disbelief and drive their people into the House of Perdition? They shall burn in Hell; evil shall be their fate.

They set up equals with Allah to lead others astray. Say to them: 'Take your pleasure: you are surely destined for Hell.'

**14.31** Tell My servants, those who are true believers, to be steadfast in prayer and spend of what We have given them in private and in public, before the coming of that day in which there is neither trading nor friendship.

**14.32** It is Allah who made the heavens and the earth, and sends down water from the sky with which He brings forth fruits for your sustenance. He drives the ships which, by His leave, sail the ocean in your service. He has created rivers for your benefit, and the sun and the moon, which steadfastly pursue their courses. And He has subdued to you the night and the day. He grants you all that you ask Him. If you reckoned up Allah's favours, you could not count them. Truly, man is wicked and thankless.

**14.35** And (remember) when Ibrahim said: 'Lord, make this<sup>1</sup> town safe. Preserve me and my descendants from serving idols. Lord they have led many men astray. He that follows me shall surely belong to me, but if any one turns against me, you are surely Forgiving, Merciful.

**14.37** 'Lord, I have settled some of my offspring in a barren valley near Your Sacred House, so that they may observe the prayer. Put in the hearts of men kindness towards them, and provide them with the earth's fruits, so that they may give thanks.

**14.38** 'Lord, You have knowledge of all that we hide and all that we reveal:' nothing in heaven or earth is hidden from Allah.

'Praise be to Allah who has given me Ismail and Ishaq in my old age! Surely my Lord is the Hearer of prayer.'

'Lord, make me and my descendants steadfast in prayer. Lord, accept my prayer.'

'Forgive me, our Lord, and forgive my parents and all the faithful on the Day of Reckoning.' Do not think that Allah is unaware of the wrongdoers' actions. He only gives them respite till the day on which all eyes will stare (with consternation). They shall rush in terror with heads uplifted and hearts utterly vacant. They shall stare, but see nothing.

**14.44** Forewarn mankind of the day when the scourge will overtake them; when the wrongdoers will say: 'Lord, grant us respite for a while. We will obey Your call, and follow Your apostles.'

But did you not once swear that you would never cease to be? You lived in the dwellings of those who wronged themselves: yet you knew full well how We had dealt with them, and We had given you many a parable.

They plot their plots. But their plots are (known) to Allah. And even if their plots can move mountains, (Allah will foil them).

Do not think that Allah will break the pledge He gave to His Apostles. Mighty is Allah, and capable of revenge.

On the day when the earth is changed into a different earth and the heavens (into new heavens), mankind shall stand before Allah, the One, the Conqueror. On that day, you shall

1. Makkah

see the guilty bound together with chains; their garments shall be of pitch, and their faces (shall be) covered with flames.

Allah will reward each soul according to its deeds. Swift is Allah's reckoning.

**14.52** This is a clear message to mankind. Let them heed thereby, and know that Allah is one God. Let the wise bear this in mind.

## Sura 15

"Al-Hijr"

### THE ROCK

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**15.1** *Alif lam ra.* These are the verses of the Book which clearly indicates (right and wrong).

The day will surely come when those who disbelieve will wish that they were Muslims. Let them feast and make merry; and let their hopes beguile them. They shall know.

Never have We destroyed a nation whose term of life was not ordained beforehand. No people can forestall their doom, nor can they retard it.

**15.6** They say : 'you to whom the warning was revealed, you are surely mad. Bring down the angels, if what you say be true.

We do not send angels except with the truth. Then they shall have no respite.

It was We who revealed the Quran, and We will certainly preserve it. We have sent forth before you (apostles) among the older sects.

**15.9** But there came to them no apostle but was mocked. Thus We make it enter the hearts of the guilty. They do not believe in him (despite) the example of the ancients.

If We opened for the unbelievers a gate in the heavens and they kept ascending through it, still they would say: ' Our eyes were dazzled: truly, we must have been bewitched people.'

**15.16** We have put constellations in the heavens and make them look nice to the beholders, and guarded them from every accursed devil. But he who listens by stealth is pursued by a visible flame.

We have spread out the earth and set upon it immovable mountains. We have caused to grow in it from every ordained thing; and we have made in it means of subsistence for you and for him for whom you do not provide.

And there is not a thing but with Us are the storehouses of it; and We do not send it down except in a known measure.

**15.21** We send the fertility winds and send water from the sky

from which We make you drink and which you cannot store.

And surely it is We who give life and death. We are the Inheritor.

We know those who have gone before, and those who will come. Your Lord will gather them all before Him. He is Wise, Knowing.

**15.26** We created man from dry clay, from black moulded loam, and before him the jinn from smokeless fire. Your Lord said to the angels: 'I am creating man from dry clay, from black moulded loam. When I have fashioned him and breathed of My spirit into him, kneel down and prostrate yourselves before him'.

All the angels prostrated themselves, except Satan who refused to be one of those who prostrated themselves.

**15.32** He said: 'Satan, why do you not prostrate yourself?' He replied: 'I will not bow to a mortal created of dry clay, of black moulded loam.'

(Allah) said: 'Begone, you are accursed. A curse shall be on you till Judgement-day.'

He said: 'Lord, reprieve me till the Day of Resurrection.'

**15.37** He answered: 'You are reprieved till the Appointed Day.'

(Satan) said: 'Since you have left me in error, I will seduce mankind on earth: I will seduce them all, except those that faithfully serve You.'

**15.41** He replied: 'This is the right course for Me. You shall have no power over My servants, except the sinners who follow you. They are all destined for Hell. It has seven gates, and through each gate (goes) a portion of them. But the righteous shall dwell amongst gardens and fountains; in peace and safety they shall enter them. We shall remove all hatred from their hearts, and they shall recline on couches face to face, a band of brothers. Toil shall not weary them there, nor shall they ever be removed from it.'

**15.49** Tell My servants that I am the Forgiving, the Merciful, and that my punishment is dire indeed.

Tell them of Ibrahim's guests. They went in to him and said: 'Peace, but he replied: 'We fear your intent.'

**15.53** 'Do not be alarmed,' they answered. 'We come to you with good news. You shall have a son possessing knowledge.'

He said: 'Do you bring me such news in my old age? Of what do you give me good news?

They said: 'We have made known to you the truth. Do not be one of those who despair.'

He said: 'Who but a sinner would despair of Allah's mercy?' (Then) he said: 'Messengers, what is your errand?'

**15.55** They replied: 'We are sent to a guilty people. Except Lut's family, we shall deliver them all except his wife.' We had decreed that she should remain with those who were to stay behind.

**15.61** And when Our envoys came to the house of Lut, he said to them: 'I do not know you.'

'No,' they replied: 'We bring you (news) of that concerning which they were disputing. We bring you the truth, for what we say is true. Depart with your kinsfolk in a part of the night. Walk in their rear and let none of you turn round. Go where you are commanded.'

And we made known to him this decree that the wrongdoers were to be utterly destroyed next morning

**15.67** The townsfolk came to him rejoicing. He said: 'These men are my guests; do not disgrace me. Have fear of Allah and do not shame me.'

**15.70** They replied: 'Did we not forbid you (to entertain) strangers?'

He said: 'Here are my daughters: take them, if you are bent on evil.'

**15.72** By your life, they were blundering in madness! At sunrise the dreadful cry rang above them. We laid their town upside down and rained clay-stones upon them.

**15.75** Surely in this there are signs for prudent men. And it is on a still exiting road. Surely in this there is a sign for true believers.

The dwellers of the Thicket<sup>1</sup> were also guilty. On them,

1. Madiän.

too, We took vengeance, and they are both on a plain road.

And the people of Hijr<sup>1</sup> also denied the messengers. We gave them signs , but they ignored them. They hewed their dwellings into the mountains (and lived) in safety. But one morning the dreadful cry overtook them. Nothing did their gains avail them.

**15.85** We did not create the heavens and the earth and what is between them except in truth. The Hour of Doom is sure to come: therefore , forgive them nobly. Your Lord is the creator, the Knower.

We have given you the seven oft-repeated verses and the Glorious Quran. Do not regard with envy the good things We have bestowed on certain groups of them, nor grieve on their account . Show kindness to the faithful. And say: ' I am the plain warner.'

As we sent down (punishment) upon the dividers who broke up the Quran into parts (believing in some and denying others), so by the Lord, We will question them all about what they did.

Proclaim, then, what you are bidden and avoid the polytheists. We will Ourselves sustain you against those that mock you—those who serve other gods besides Allah. They shall before long know.

We know that you are vexed by what they say.

**15.99** Give glory to your Lord and be one of those who prostrate themselves before Him. Worship your Lord till the inevitable (death) overtakes you.

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1. Territory North of Madinah, where Thamoud dwelt.



## Sura 16

"AL-NAHL"

THE BEE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**16.1** The Judgement of Allah will surely come to pass: do not seek to hurry it on. Glory to Him! Exalted be He above what they associate with Him. He sends down the angels with the Spirit by His will to those of His servants whom He chooses, (bidding them proclaim): 'There is no god but Me: therefore, fear Me.'

**16.3** He created the heavens and the earth with truth. Exalted be He above what they associate with Him.

He created man from a little germ: yet he is a professed disputer.

And the cattle He created for you. In them, you have warm clothing and (other) benefits. And of them you eat. And in them there is beauty for you when you bring them home and when you lead them to pasture.

They carry your burdens to a land, which you could not otherwise reach except with painful toil. Your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

**16.8** (He has given you) horses, mules; and donkeys, which you may ride or use as ornaments; and He creates what you do not know.

It rests with Allah to show the right path. Some turn aside from it, but had He pleased, He would have guided you all aright.

It is He who sends down water from the sky, which provides drink for you and brings forth the trees on which your cattle feed. And thereby He brings up corn and olives, dates and grapes and all the fruits. Surely, in this there is a sign for thinking men.

**16.12** He has made the night and the day, and the sun and the moon, subservient to you: the stars also serve you by His leave. Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding.

**16.13** And what He created for you in the earth is of various

hues: surely in this there is a sign for thoughtful men.

**16.14** It is He who has subjected to you the ocean, so that you may eat of its fresh fish and bring up from it ornaments with which to adorn your persons. And you see the ships ploughing their course through it. (All this He has created) that you may seek His bounty and render thanks to Him.

He set firm mountains upon the earth lest it should move away with you; and rivers, and roads, so that you may be rightly guided. By the stars, too, are men directed.

Is He, then, who has wrought the creation, like him who has created nothing? Will you not take heed?

**16.18** If you reckoned up Allah's blessings, you could not exhaust them. He is Forgiving, Merciful.

**16.19** Allah has knowledge of all that you hide and all that you reveal. But those whom they invoke besides Allah create nothing: they are themselves created. They are dead, not living; nor do they know when they will be raised to life.

Your God is one God. Those that deny the life to come have faithless hearts and are puffed up with pride. Allah surely knows what they hide and what they reveal. He does not love the proud.

**16.24** And if they are asked: 'What has your Lord revealed?' they say: 'Old fictitious tales!' They shall bear the full brunt of their burdens on the Day of Resurrection, together with the burdens of those who in their ignorance were misled by them. Evil is that which they shall bear.

Those who have gone before them also plotted. But Allah smote their edifice at its foundations and its roof fell down upon their heads. And the scourge overtook them whence they did not know.

**16.27** He will disgrace them on the Day of Resurrection. He will say: 'Where are your associate-gods now, the subject of your disputes?' And those to whom knowledge has been given will say: 'Misery and shame shall this day fall on the unbelieving people.'

**16.28** Those whom the angels will cause to die steeped in sin

will offer submission, saying: 'We have done no wrong!' Surely Allah knows what you have done. Enter the gates of Hell to be in it for ever. Dismal is the abode of the proud.

(When) it is said to those who guard against evil: 'What has your Lord revealed?' They will reply: 'That which is best.' Good is the reward of those that do good works in this present life: but far better is the reward of the life to come. Blessed is the dwelling-place of the righteous. They shall enter the Gardens of Eden. Rivers shall roll at their feet, and they shall have there all they desire. Thus shall the righteous be rewarded.

The angels will say to those whom they cause to die in purity: 'Peace be on you. Come into Paradise for what you did.'

**16.33** Are they waiting for the angels to come down or for the fulfillment of your Lord's judgement? Thus did those who have gone before them. Allah did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves: the evil which they did recoiled upon them, and the scourge at which they scoffed encompassed them.

**16.35** Those who associate other gods with Allah say: 'Had Allah pleased, neither we nor our fathers would have served other gods besides Him; nor would we have forbidden anything without His sanction.' Thus also did those before them. Yet what should apostles do but give plain warning?

**16.36** We raised an apostle in every nation, saying: 'Serve Allah and avoid the idols.' Amongst them were some whom Allah guided, and others destined to go astray. Roam the world and see what the end of the disbelievers was!

Strive as you may to guide them, Allah will not guide those decreed to go astray. There shall be none to help them. They solemnly swear by Allah that He will never raise the dead to life. But surely Allah's promise is binding on Him, though most men may not know it.

**16.39** This is in order that He might show them that in which they differ, and in order that those who disbelieve might know that they were lying. When We decree a thing, We need only say: 'Be,' and it is.

And those who after they have been oppressed emigrated for the cause of Allah, We will provide them with a good (abode) in this life: but better is the reward of the life to

come, if they but knew it. (It is) those who are steadfast and on their Lord they rely.

We have not sent any before you but men to whom We revealed (scriptures). Ask the knowledgeable (Christians and Jews) if you do not know. (We sent) them with clear proofs and Books. And We revealed to you the Reminder (Quran) so that you may make clear to men what has been revealed to them, and that they may give thought.

**16.46** Are those who plot evil confident that Allah will not cave in the earth beneath them, or that His scourge will not fall upon them whence they do not know? Or that He will not smite them in the course of their journeys when they cannot escape, or that He will not give them over to slow destruction? Yet your Lord is Compassionate and Merciful.

**16.48** Do they not see how every object Allah created casts its shadow right and left, prostrating itself before Him in all humility? To Allah bow all the creatures of the heavens and the earth, and the angels also. They are not proud; they fear their Lord above and do as they are bidden.

Allah has said: 'You shall not serve two gods, for He is but one God. Revere none but Me' His is what the heavens and the earth contain. To Him, obedience is due always. Would you then fear any but Allah?

**16.53** Whatever good you have is from Allah, and to Him you turn for help when misfortune befalls you. Yet no sooner does He remove your ills than some of you set up other gods besides Him giving no thanks for what We grant them. Take your pleasure, then, (in this life); you shall before long know.

**16.56** They set aside to what they do not know a portion of what We have given them. By Allah, you shall be questioned about your false inventions!

They ascribe daughters to Allah-glory be to Him! -but they themselves would have what they desire. When the birth of a girl is announced to one of them, his face grows dark and he is filled with inward gloom. Because of the bad news, he hides himself from men: should he keep her with disgrace or bury her under the dust? How ill they judge!

**16.60** Evil is the similitude of those who deny the life to come. But most sublime is the similitude of Allah. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

If Allah punished men for their sins, not one creature would be left alive. He reprieves them to an appointed day; when their hour is come, not for one moment shall they stay behind : nor can they go before it.

They ascribe to Allah what they themselves dislike. They utter the lie that a good reward awaits them. But let them have no doubt: the Fire awaits them, and there they shall be left.

**16.63** By Allah , We have sent (messengers) before you to other nations. But the devil made their foul deeds seem fair to them, and to this day He is their patron. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

We have not revealed to you the Book except that you may declare to them the truth concerning which they are disputing. It is a guide and a blessing to those who believe.

**16.65** Allah sends down water from the sky with which He quickens the earth after its death. Surely in this there is a sign for men who listen.

**16.66** In cattle too you have a worthy lesson. We give you to drink of that which is in their bellies, between the bowels and the blood-streams: pure milk, a pleasant (beverage) for those who drink it.

And (you have) the fruits of the palm and of the vine, from which you derive intoxicants and wholesome food.

Surely in this there is a sign for men of understanding.

**16.68** Your Lord revealed to the bee, (saying): 'Build your homes in the mountains, in the trees, and in the hives which men shall make for you. Feed on every kind of fruit, and follow the trodden paths of your Lord.'

From its belly comes forth a fluid of many hues, a healing (drink) for men. Surely in this there is a sign for those who would give thought.

**16.70** Allah created you, and He will cause you to die. Some of you shall have their lives prolonged to abject old age, when all that they once knew they shall know no more. Allah is Knowing, Mighty.

Allah has caused some of you to excel others in worldly possessions. Those who have been favoured do not give their wealth to those whom their right hands possess so as to be equal in that respect. Would they deny Allah's goodness?

**16.72** Allah has given you wives from among yourselves, and through them He has granted you sons and grandsons. He has provided you with good things: will they then believe in falsehood and deny His favours?

They worship besides Allah that which can confer on them no benefits from heaven or earth. Nor have they any power. Compare none with Allah: He has knowledge, but you have not.

**16.75** Allah sets forth this parable. On the one hand, there is a helpless slave, the property of his master. On the other, a man on whom We have bestowed Our bounty, so that he gives of it both in private and in public. Are the two alike? Allah forbid! Most men have no knowledge.

He also sets forth the parable of two men. One of them is a dumb and helpless man, a burden on his master: wherever he sends him he returns with empty hands. Is he equal with one who enjoins justice and follows the right path?

**16.77** To Allah belongs the unseen of the heavens and the earth. The business of the Final Hour shall be accomplished in the twinkling of an eye, or even less. Allah has power over all things.

Allah brought you out of your mothers' wombs devoid of all knowledge, and gave you ears and eyes and hearts, so that you may give thanks.

Do they not see the birds that wing their flight in heaven's vault? None sustains them but Allah. Surely in this there are signs for true believers.

**16.80** Allah has given you houses to dwell in, and the skins of beasts for shelter, so that you may find them light on the day of wandering and on the day of halting; while from their wool, fur and hair He has given you comfort and domestic goods for a time.

**16.81** Allah has given you of what He has created shelter. And He has given you refuge in the mountains. He has furnished

you with garments to protect you from the heat, and with coats of armour to shield you in your wars. Thus He perfects His favours to you, so that you may submit to Him.

But if they turn away, your mission is only to give plain warning.

**16.83** They recognize the favours of Allah, then they deny them, and most of them are ungrateful.

On the day We call a witness from every nation, then permission will not be given to the unbelievers, nor shall they be allowed to make amends. And when the guilty face their punishment, their torment shall never be allayed, nor shall they ever be reprieved.

**16.86** And when those who set up partners with Allah behold their partners, they shall say: 'Lord, these are our partners to whom we used to pray besides You.' But their partners will retort: 'Surely you are liars.' They shall proffer submission to Allah on that day, and their own inventions will forsake them.

(As for) those that disbelieve and debar others from the path of Allah, We shall add to their chastisement for their misdeeds.

**16.89** And on the day when We shall raise up in every nation a witness against them from among themselves, We (shall) bring you to testify against your people: to you We have revealed the Book which manifests the truth about all things, a guide, a blessing, and good news to those who submit to Allah.

Allah enjoins justice, kindness and charity to one's kindred, and forbids indecency, wickedness and oppression. He admonishes you so that you may take heed.

**16.91** Keep faith with Allah when you make a covenant with Him. Do not break your oaths after you have sworn them: for (by swearing in His name), you make Allah your surety. Allah has knowledge of what you do.

Do not, like the woman who unravels to bits the thread which she has firmly spun, take oaths with mutual deceit because one party is more numerous than the other. In this, Allah puts you to the proof. On the Day of Resurrection, He will declare to you the truth of that over which you are now at odds.

Had Allah pleased, He would have united you into one

nation. But He leaves in error whom He will and gives guidance to whom He pleases. You shall be questioned about what you did.

Do not take oaths to deceive each other, lest your foot should slip after being rightly guided, and lest evil should befall you for debarring others from the path of Allah and grievous chastisement be your (lot).

**16.95** Do not barter away the covenant of Allah for a trifling price. His reward is better than all your gain, if you but knew it. That which you have is transitory, but that which Allah has is enduring.

We shall reward the steadfast according to their noblest deeds. Be they men or women, those that embrace the faith and do what is right We will surely grant a happy life; We shall reward them according to their noblest actions.

**16.98** When you recite the Quran, seek refuge in Allah from the accursed devil: no power has he over believers who put their trust in their Lord. He only has power over those who befriend him, and those who serve other gods besides Allah.

**16.101** When We change one verse for another-Allah knows best what He reveals-they say: 'You<sup>1</sup> are an imposter.' Indeed, most of them know not.

Say: 'The Holy Spirit brought it down from your Lord in truth to reassure the faithful, and to give guidance and good news to those that surrender themselves to Allah.'

**16.103** We do know that they say: 'A mortal taught him.' But he to whom they allude speaks a foreign tongue, while this is eloquent Arabic speech.

**16.104** Those who disbelieve in Allah's revelations, Allah does not guide them. A grievous punishment awaits them.

None invents falsehoods save those who disbelieve the revelations of Allah: they alone are the liars.

Those who disbelieve in Allah after their belief-not he who recants while his heart remains loyal to the faith, but he who opens his breast for disbelief-shall incur the wrath of Allah and be sternly punished. For such men love the life of this world more than the life to come. Allah gives no guidance to the unbelievers.

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1. Muhammad



**16.108** They are those whose hearts and ears and eyes are sealed by Allah; they are the heedless. In the life to come, they shall assuredly be lost.

**16.110** Surely your Lord-to those who emigrated after they had been persecuted and then strove and kept patient-your Lord after that is Forgiving, Merciful. On the day when every man will come pleading for himself and when every soul will be requited for its deed, they will not be dealt with unjustly.

Allah has made an example of the city<sup>1</sup> which was once safe and peaceful. Its provisions used to come in abundance from every quarter: but its people denied the favours of Allah. Therefore, He afflicted them with famine and fear as a punishment for what they did.

An apostle of their own was sent to them, but they disbelieved him. Therefore, Our scourge smote them in their sinfulness.

Eat of the good and lawful things which Allah has bestowed on you and give thanks for His favours if you truly serve Him.

**16.115** He has forbidden you that which dies of itself, blood, and the flesh of swine; also, any flesh consecrated other than in the name of Allah. But whoever is compelled to eat any of these, not intending to sin or transgress, will find Allah Forgiving, Merciful.

**16.116** And do not utter when you speak falsely: 'This is lawful, and this is forbidden,' in order to invent a falsehood about Allah. Those who invent falsehoods about Allah shall never prosper. Brief is their enjoyment (of this life), and grievous the punishment that awaits them.

We have forbidden the Jews what We have already related to you. We never wronged them, but they wronged themselves.

Surely your Lord-to those who commit evil through ignorance and afterwards repent and mend their ways-your Lord thereafter is surely Forgiving, Merciful.

Ibrahim was a model of piety, an upright man obedient to Allah. He was no polytheist. (He was) grateful for His favours. He chose him and guided him to a straight path. We blessed him in this world, and in the world to come he shall dwell

1. Makkah

amongst the righteous.

**16.123** Then We revealed to you: 'Follow the faith of saintly Ibrahim: he was no polytheist.'

The Sabbath was ordained only for those who differed about it. On the Day of Resurrection, your Lord will judge their disputes.

Call men to the path of your Lord with wisdom and mild exhortation. Reason with them in the most courteous manner. Your Lord best knows those who stray from His path and best knows those who are rightly guided.

If you punish, let your punishment be proportionate to the wrong that has been done you. But if you are patient, it is certainly best for the patient.

Be patient (then); and your patience is (possible) only by Allah's (help). Do not grieve for the unbelievers, nor distress yourself at their intrigues.

**16.128** Allah is with those who keep from evil and do good (to others).

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**17.1** Glory be to Him who made His servant go by night from the sacred Mosque to the farthest Mosque whose precincts We have blessed, that We might show him (some) of Our signs. He is the Hearer, the Seer.

We gave Musa the Book and made it a guide for the Children of Israel (enjoining): 'Take no other guardian than Myself. (You are) the descendants of those whom We carried in the Ark with Nuh. He was a truly thankful servant.'

**17.4** And We declared to the Children of Israel in the Book: 'Twice you shall commit evil in the land. You shall become great transgressors.'

**17.5** And when the first of the two declarations came to be fulfilled, We sent against you a mighty (group) of Our servants who ravaged your land. And it was an accomplished threat.

Then We granted you the other round against them and aided you with wealth and children, and made you increase in number. (We said): 'If you do good, it shall be to your own advantage; but if you do evil, you shall sin against yourselves.'

And when the second proclamation came to pass, (We raised another people) to afflict you and to enter the Mosque as they entered it the first time and utterly destroy whatever they conquered.

**17.8** It may be that Allah will have mercy on you. But if you return (to mischief), We will return (with punishment). We have made Hell a prison-house for the unbelievers.

This Quran will guide to that which is most upright. It promises the believers who do good works a rich reward, and threatens those who deny the life to come with a grievous scourge. Yet man prays for evil as fervently as he prays for good. Truly, man is ever hasty.

**17.12** We made the night and the day two signs. And We blot

out the sign of the night and make the sign of day shine forth so that you may seek the bounty of your Lord and learn the number of years and reckoning. We have made all things manifestly plain to you.

**17.13** The works of each man We have bound about his neck. On the Day of Resurrection, We shall confront him with a book spread wide open, (saying): 'Read your book. Enough for you this day that your own soul should call you to account.'

He that seeks guidance shall be guided to his own advantage, but he that errs shall err at his own peril. No soul shall bear another's burden. Nor do We punish until we have sent forth an apostle.

**17.16** When We resolve to annihilate a town, We first command those that live in luxury (to obey Us). But they transgress therein. Thus the sentence is justly pronounced against it and We utterly destroy it.

**17.17** How many generations have We destroyed since Nuh's time! It is sufficient that your Lord knows and sees His servants' sins.

He that desires this fleeting life We hasten to him in it whatever We will: (We hasten that) to whom We please. Then We have prepared Hell for him; he will burn in it despised and helpless.

As for him that desires the life to come and strives for it as he ought to, being also a believer—those are they whose striving is amply rewarded by Allah.

On all-on these and those—We bestow the bounty of your Lord, and the bounty of your Lord was never withheld (from any one).

**17.21** See how We have exalted some above others. Yet the life to come is greater by degrees and is more exalted.

Serve no other gods besides Allah, lest you be despised, forsaken. Your Lord has enjoined you to worship none but Him, and to show kindness to your parents. If either or both of them attain old age with you, show them no sign of impatience, nor rebuke them; but speak to them kind words. Treat them with humility and tenderness and say: 'Lord, be merciful to them.'

They nursed me when I was an infant.'

17.25 Your Lord best knows what is in your hearts. If you are good, He will forgive those that turn to Him.

17.26 Give to the near of kin their due, and also to the destitute and to the wayfarers. Do not squander (your substance) wastefully, for the wasteful are the devils' brothers; and the devil is ever ungrateful to his Lord. But if you turn away from them to seek your Lord's mercy, hoping to attain it, then say kind words to them.

Be neither miserly nor prodigal, for then you should either be reproached or be reduced to penury.

Your Lord gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases. He knows and observes His servants.

17.31 You shall not kill your children for fear of want. We will provide for them and for you. To kill them is a great sin.

17.32 You shall not draw near to adultery, for it is foul and its way is evil.

You shall not kill any man whom Allah has forbidden (you to kill) except for a just cause. If a man is slain unjustly, we have given his heir the power (to demand satisfaction). But let him not exceed the limit in slaying, for he (the victim) will be helped.

Do not draw near the property of orphans except in a nice way, until they reach maturity. And keep your promise. Surely it will be inquired into.

Give full measure, when you measure, and weigh with even scales. That is fair, and better in the end.

Do not follow what you do not know. Surely the hearing, sight and heart-about all these (you) shall be questioned.

17.37 Do not walk proudly in the earth. You cannot cleave the earth, nor can you rival the mountains in stature.

The evil of all this is odious in the sight of your Lord.

These injunctions are but a part of the wisdom which your Lord has revealed to you. Take no other god besides Allah, lest you should be cast into Hell, despised and helpless.

17.40 What! Has your Lord blessed you with sons and Himself adopted daughters from among the angels? Truly you utter a

dreadful thing.

**17.41** We have made plain (Our revelations) in this Quran so that (the unbelievers) may take warning. Yet it has only added to their unbelief. Say: 'If, as you affirm, there were other gods besides Allah, they would surely find a way to (challenge) Him.'

Glory to Him! Exalted be He, high above what they say.

**17.44** The seven heavens, the earth, and all who dwell in them praise Him. All creatures celebrate His praise. Yet you cannot understand their praises. Benignant is He and Forgiving.

**17.45** When you recite the Quran, We place between you and those who deny the life to come a hidden barrier. We cast a veil upon their hearts and deafness in their ears, lest they understand it. (That is why) when you mention your Lord alone in the Quran, they turn their backs in flight.

We well know (what they wish to) hear when they listen to you, and (what they say) when they converse in private; when the wrongdoers declare: 'You follow only a bewitched person.'

Behold what they compared you to. They have surely gone astray and cannot find the (right) path.

'What!' they also say. 'When we are turned to bones and dust, shall we be restored as a new creation?'

**17.50** Say: 'You shall, whether you turn to stone or iron, or any other substance which you may think unlikely to be given life.'

They will ask: 'Who will restore us?'

Say: 'He that created you at first.'

They will shake their heads and ask: 'When will this be?'

Say: 'It may be near at hand. On that day, He will summon you all, and you shall answer Him with praise. You shall think that you have stayed away but for a little while.'

**17.53** Tell My servants to be courteous in their speech. The devil would sow discord among them; he is the sworn enemy of man.

**17.54** Your Lord knows you best. He will show you mercy if He will, and punish you if He pleases.

We have not charged you to be their guardian. Your Lord

is best aware of all who dwell in heaven and earth.

We have exalted some prophets above others. To Dawud, We gave the Zabur.

Say: 'Pray if you will to those whom you deify besides Him. They cannot relieve your distress, nor can they change it.'

**17.57** Those to whom they pray, themselves seek to approach their Lord, vying with each other to be near Him. They crave for His mercy and fear His punishment; for your Lord's punishment is to be feared indeed.

**17.58** There is no town but shall be destroyed or sternly punished by Us before the Day of Resurrection. That is written in the Book.

And We refrain from giving signs only because the ancients disbelieved them. To Thamoud, We gave the she-camel as a visible sign, yet they laid violent hands on her. We give signs only by way of warning.

We have told you that your Lord encompasses all men. We have made the vision which We showed to you only as a test for men's faith, and likewise the tree accursed in the Quran. We seek to put fear in their hearts, but it only increases their wickedness.

When We said to the angels: 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam,' they all prostrated themselves, except Satan, who replied: 'Shall I bow to him whom You have made of clay?'

**17.62** Do you see this being whom You have exalted above me? If You give me respite till the Day of Resurrection, I will overpower all but a few of his descendants.'

**17.63** 'Begone!' said He. 'Hell is your reward, and the reward of those that follow you. An ample reward it shall be. Rouse with your voice whomever you are able from among them. Attack them with your cavalry and infantry. Be their partner in their riches and in their offspring. Promise them what you will. The devil promises them only to deceive them. Over My true servants you shall have no power. Your Lord will be their all-sufficient Guardian.'

It is your Lord who drives your ships at sea so that you may seek His bounty. He is indeed Merciful towards you.

When at sea a misfortune befalls you, all but He of those to whom you pray forsake you; yet when He brings you safe to dry land, you turn your backs upon Him. Truly, man is ever

thankless.

**17.68** Are you confident that He will not cave in the earth beneath you, or let loose a deadly sand-storm upon you? Then you shall find none to protect you.

Or are you confident that He will not take you back into it, and smite you with a violent tempest and drown you for your thanklessness? Then you shall find none to help you against Us.

We have bestowed blessings on Adam's children and carried them by land and sea. We have provided them with good things and exalted them above many of Our creatures.

**17.71** The day will surely come when We shall summon every nation with its Imam. Those who are given their books in their right hands will read their recorded doings, and shall not in the least be wronged. But those who have been blind in this life, shall be blind in the life to come and go farther astray.

They sought to entice you from Our revelations, hoping that you might invent something else in Our name, and thus become their trusted friend. Indeed, had We not strengthened your faith you might have made some compromise with them, and thus tasted a punishment in this life and in the next. Then you should have found none to protect you (from Our wrath).

**17.76** They sought to provoke you and thus drive you out of the land. Had they succeeded, they would have survived your departure only for a little while.

Such was Our way with the apostles whom We sent before you. You shall find no change in Our way.

**17.78** Keep up your prayer at the decline of the sun till the darkness of the night and (keep) the recital of the Quran at dawn. Surely the recital of the Quran at dawn is witnessed. Pray during the latter part of the night, an additional duty (for which) your Lord may exalt you to a position of praise and glory.

Say: 'Lord, grant me a goodly entrance and a goodly exit, and sustain me with Your power.'

**17.81** Say: 'Truth has come and falsehood has been overthrown. Falsehood was bound to be discomfited.'

We reveal of the Quran that which is a healing and mercy to true believers, though it adds nothing but ruin to the evil-doers.



**17.83** Yet when We bestow favours on man, he turns his back and holds aloof. But when evil befalls him, he grows despondent.

**17.84** Say: 'Each man behaves after his own fashion. But your Lord best knows who is best guided.'

They put questions to you about the Spirit. Say: 'The Spirit is by my Lord's command. Little indeed is the knowledge vouchsafed to you.'

If We pleased We could take away that which We have revealed to you: then you should find none to plead with Us on your behalf, except for mercy from your Lord: for His bounty to you is great indeed.

**17.88** Say: 'If men and jinn combined to write the like of this Quran, they would surely fail to compose one like it, though they helped one another.'

**17.89** And We have set forth in this Quran every kind of parable, yet the greater part of men refuse (to respond) except with ingratitude. They say: 'We will not believe in you until you make a spring gush from the earth, or until you have a garden of palms and vines and cause rivers to flow forth in them with abundant water; until you cause the sky to fall upon us in piece, as you have threatened to do, or bring down Allah and the angels in our midst; until you build a house of gold, or ascend to heaven; nor will we believe in your ascension until you have sent down for us a book which we can read.'

Say: 'Glory to my Lord! Am I anything but a human apostle?'

**17.94** Nothing prevents men from having faith when guidance is revealed to them but the excuse: 'Could Allah have sent a human being as an apostle?'

Say: 'Had the earth been a safe place for angels to dwell in, We would have sent forth to them an angel from heaven as an apostle.'

Say: 'Sufficient is Allah as a witness between me and you. He knows and observes His servants.'

**17.97** Those whom Allah guides are rightly guided; but those whom He leaves in error shall find no friend besides Him. We

shall gather them all on the Day of Resurrection, prostrate upon their faces, deaf, dumb, and blind. Hell shall be their abode: whenever its flames die down, We will rekindle them into a greater fire.

**17.98** Thus shall they be rewarded: because they disbelieved Our revelations and said: 'When we are turned to bones and dust, shall we be raised up as a new creation?'

Do they not see that Allah, who has created the heavens and the earth, has power to create their like? Their fate is pre-ordained beyond all doubt. Yet the wrongdoers respond only with ingratitude.

**17.100** Say: 'Had you possessed the treasures of my Lord's mercy, you would have withheld them for fear of spending. How niggardly is man!'

To Musa We gave nine clear signs. Ask the Children of Israel how he first appeared amongst them. Pharaoh said to him: 'Musa, I can see that you are bewitched.'

'You know full well,' he replied, 'that none but the Lord of the heavens and the earth has sent down these as examples. Indeed, O pharaoh, I believe you are doomed.'

**17.103** Pharaoh sought to scare them out of the land; but We drowned him, together with all who were with him. And We said thereafter to the Children of Israel: 'Dwell in this land. When the promise of the Hereafter comes to be fulfilled, We shall assemble you all together.'

We have sent down (the Quran) in truth, and in truth it has come down. We have sent you forth only to proclaim good news and to give warning.

**17.106** (It is) a Quran which We have divided into sections so that you may recite it to the people with deliberation. We have imparted it by gradual revelation.

Say: 'It is up to you to believe or not to believe in it. Those to whom knowledge was given before its revelation prostrate themselves upon their faces when it is recited to them and say: "Glorious is our Lord. His promise has been fulfilled." They fall down upon their faces, weeping; and as they listen, their humility increases.'

Say: 'Call on Allah or on Al-Rahman. By whatever name

## AL-ISRA OR BANI ISRAIL

you call (is well). His are the Most Beautiful Names.' Pray neither with a loud voice nor with a low one, but seek between these extremes a middle course.

17:111 Say: 'Praise be to Allah who has never begotten a son; who has no partner in His Sovereignty; who needs none to defend Him from humiliation.' Proclaim His greatness.

## Sura 18

"Al-Kahf"

THE CAVE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**18.1** Praise be to Allah who has revealed the Book to His servant shorn of crookedness and unswerving from the truth, so that he may give warning of a dire scourge from Him, proclaim to the faithful who do good works that a rich and everlasting reward awaits them, and admonish those who say that Allah has begotten a son. Surely of this they could have no knowledge, neither they nor their fathers: a monstrous blasphemy is that which they utter. They preach nothing but falsehood.

Yet, you may destroy yourself with grief sorrowing after them if they deny this revelation.

**18.7** We have made that which is on earth an ornament for it, so that We may test them as to which of them do best.

**18.8** We will surely reduce all that is on it to barren dust.

Or did you think the Companions of the Cave and al-Raqim were a wonder among Our signs?

When the youths sought refuge in the Cave, they said: 'Lord bestow on us from Your mercy and guide us out of our affair.'

We sealed up their hearing in the Cave for a number of years, and then awakened them to find out who of the two parties could best tell the length of their stay.

**18.13** We recount to you their story in all truth. They were young men who had faith in their Lord, and We advanced them in guidance. We put courage in their hearts when they stood up and said: 'Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We call on no other god besides Him: for if we did, we should be blaspheming. Our people serve other gods besides Him. Why do they not bring clear authority for what they do? Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood against Allah?

**18.16** 'When you depart from them and from what they worship other than god, go to the Cave for shelter. Allah will extend to

## THE CAVE

you His mercy and will dispose of your affair for you with advantage.'

You might have seen the rising sun decline to the right of their cave and, as it set, go past them on the left, while they stayed within in an open space. That was one of Allah's signs. He whom Allah guides is rightly guided; but he whom He leaves in error shall find no friend to guide him.

You might have thought them awake, though they were sleeping. We turned them about to right and left, while their dog lay at the entrance with legs outstretched. Had you looked upon them, you would have surely turned your back and fled in terror.

**18.19** And thus We roused them that they might question one another. 'How long have you been here?' asked one of them. 'A day, or but a few hours,' replied some; and others: 'Your Lord knows best how long we have stayed here. Let one of you go to the city with this silver coin and see what food is purest and bring you provision from it. Let him conduct himself with caution and not disclose your whereabouts to anyone. For if they find you out, they will stone you to death or force you back into their faith. Then you shall surely be ruined.'

**18.21** Thus did We make their case known, so that men might know that Allah's promise was true and that the Hour of Doom was sure to come.

They argued among themselves concerning them. Some said: 'Build a monument over their remains. Their Lord knows best who they were.' Those who were to win said: 'Let us build a place of worship over them.'

**18.22** (Some) will say: 'The sleepers were three: their dog was the fourth.' Others, guessing at the unknown, will say: 'They were five: their dog was the sixth.' And yet others: 'Seven: their dog was the eighth.'

Say: 'My Lord knows best their number. None knows them except a few.'

Therefore, when you dispute about them, adhere only to that which is clear and do not ask any of them concerning them.

**18.23** Do not say of anything: 'I will do it tomorrow,' without adding: 'If Allah wills.' When you forget, remember your Lord and say: 'May Allah guide me nearer than this to the truth.'

And they stayed in the Cave three hundred years and (some) add nine. Say: 'None but Allah knows how long they stayed. His are the secrets of the heavens and the earth. Clear is His sight, and keen His hearing. Man has no other guardian besides Him. He allows none to share His sovereignty.'

Recite what is revealed to you in the Book of your Lord. None can change His words. You shall find no refuge other than Him.

**18.28** And keep yourself with those who pray to their Lord morning and evening, seeking His face. And do not turn your eyes away from them in quest of the good things of this life, nor obey him whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance; who follows his desires and whose case exceeds due bounds.

**18.29** Say: 'This is the truth from your Lord. Let him who will, believe in it, and him who will, deny it.'

For the wrongdoers, We have prepared a fire which will encompass them like the walls of a pavilion. When they cry out for relief, they shall be showered with water as hot as molten brass, which will scald their faces. Evil shall be their drink, dismal their resting-place.

**18.30** As for those that have faith and do good works, We waste not the reward of him who does good work. They shall dwell in the Gardens of Eden, with rivers rolling at their feet. They shall be decked with bracelets of gold and arrayed in green garments of silk and rich brocade, reclining therein on couches: blissful their reward and happy their resting-place!

Give them the parable of two men, to one of whom We gave two vineyards and surrounded them with palm-trees, and in between the two we placed a cornfield. Each of the two (gardens) yielded its produce and failed not in the least. We caused a river to flow in them. Thus the man had fruit. He said to his companion while conversing with him: 'I am richer than you and mightier in followers.'

**18.35** And when, having thus wronged his soul, he entered his vineyard, he said: 'Surely this will never perish! Nor do I believe that the Hour of Doom will ever come. Even if I returned to my Lord, I should surely find a better place than this.'

## THE CAVE

His companion said, while he was conversing with him: 'Have you no faith in Him who created you from dust, then from a little germ, and then fashioned you into a man? As for myself, Allah is my Lord. I will associate none with Him. When you entered your garden, why did you not say: "That which Allah has ordained must surely come to pass: there is no

**18.40** strength save in Allah"? Though you see me poorer than yourself and blessed with fewer children, yet my Lord may give me a garden better than yours, and send down thunderbolts from heaven upon your vineyard, turning it into a barren waste, or drain its water deep into the earth so that you can find it no more.'

And his fruits were destroyed, and he began to wring his hands with grief at all that he had spent on them: for the vines had tumbled down upon their trellises. 'Would that I have served no other gods besides my Lord!' he cried. He had none to help him besides Allah, nor was he able to defend himself.

**18.44** Their protection comes only from Allah, the true God. He is the best to reward and the best in requiting.

Coin for them a simile about this life. It is like vegetation of the earth that flourishes when watered by the rain, soon turning into stubble which the wind scatters abroad. Allah has power over all things.

**18.46** Wealth and children are the ornament of this life. But deeds of lasting merit are better with your Lord in reward and hope.

And (remember) the day when We shall blot out the mountains and you will see the earth a levelled plain; when We shall gather all mankind together, leaving not a soul behind.

**18.48** They shall be ranged before your Lord, who will say to them: 'You have returned to Us as We created you at first. Yet you thought Our promise to you was not to be fulfilled.'

The book will be set down (before them), and you shall see the sinners dismayed at that which is inscribed in it. They shall say: 'Woe to us! What can this book mean? It omits nothing small or great: all are noted down!' and they shall find their deeds recorded there. Your Lord will wrong no one.

When We said to the angels: 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam,' all prostrated themselves except Satan, who was

a jinni disobedient to his Lord. Would you then serve him and his offspring as your masters rather than Myself, despite their enmity towards you? A sad substitute the wrong-doers have chosen!

**18.51** I did not call them to witness at the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor at their own creation; nor was I to take those who mislead as helpers.

One day, He will say: 'Call on those whom you claimed to be My partners.' They will invoke them, but receive no answer; for We shall place a deadly gulf between them. And when the sinners behold the fire of Hell, they will know it is there they shall be flung. They shall find no escape from it.

**18.54** In this Quran, We have set forth for men all manner of Parables. But man is in most things contentious,

Nothing can prevent men from having faith and seeking forgiveness of their Lord, now that guidance has been revealed to them: unless they are waiting for the fate of the ancients to overtake them or to see Our scourge with their own eyes.

We send Our apostles only to proclaim good news and to give warning. But with false arguments the unbelievers seek to confute the truth, scoffing at My revelations and My warnings.

**18.57** Who is more wicked than the man who, when reminded of his Lord's revelations, turns away from them and forgets what his hands have done? We have cast veils over their hearts, lest they should understand Our words, and made them hard of hearing. Call them as you may to the right path, they shall never be guided.

Your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful. Had it been His will to scourge them for what they have earned, He would have hastened their punishment; but they have an appointed hour, which they shall never escape.

And all those towns! We destroyed them when they did wrong; yet We set the time for their destruction.

And (remember) when Musa said to his servant: 'I will not give up until I reach the point where the two seas meet, though I may march for ages.'

**18.61** But when at last they came to the point where the two (seas) met, they forgot their fish, which made its way freely into the water.



**18.62** And when they had journeyed farther on, Musa said to his servant; 'Bring us some food; we are worn out with travelling.'

'Know,' replied the other, 'that I forgot the fish when we were resting on the rock. None but Satan made me forget to mention this. The fish made its way into the sea in a miraculous fashion.'

**18.64** 'This is what we have been seeking,' said Musa. They went back the way they came and found one of Our servants to whom We had vouchsafed Our mercy and whom We had endowed with knowledge of Our own. Musa said to him: 'May I follow you so that you may teach me of the good you have been taught?'

'You will not bear with me,' replied the other. 'For how can you bear with that which is beyond your knowledge?'

Musa said: 'If Allah wills, you shall find me patient: I shall not in anything disobey you.' He said: 'If you are bent on following me, you must ask no question about anything till I myself speak to you concerning it.'

**18.71** So the two set forth, but as soon as they embarked, he bored a hole in the bottom of the ship.

'A strange thing you have done!' exclaimed Musa. 'Is it to drown her passengers that you have bored a hole in it?'

'Did I not tell you,' he replied, 'that you would not bear with me?'

Musa said: 'Blame me not for what I forgot, nor be hard on me for what I did.'

They journeyed on until when they fell in with a certain youth; Musa's companion slew him. Musa said: 'Have you killed an innocent person who had not killed another? Surely you have committed a wicked crime.'

'Did I not tell you,' he replied, 'that you would not bear with me?' Musa said: 'If ever I question you again, abandon me; for then I should have given you a full excuse.'

**18.77** They travelled on until they came to the inhabitants of a certain town. They asked the people for some food, but they declined to receive them as their guests. There they found a wall on the point of falling down. His companion restored it, and Musa said: 'Had you wished, you could have demanded

payment for your labours.'

**18.78** 'Now has the time arrived when we must part,' said the other, 'But first I will tell you the interpretation of those acts of mine which you could not bear to watch with patience.

'As for the ship, it belonged to poor people working on the sea. I damaged it because in their rear there was a king who was taking every ship by force.

**18.80** 'As for the youth, his parents are both true believers, and we feared lest he should plague them with his wickedness and unbelief. It was our wish that their Lord should grant them another in his place, a son more righteous and more filial.

'As for the wall, it belonged to two orphan boys in the town. Beneath it was buried a treasure which belonged to them; their father had been a righteous man. Your Lord decreed that they should dig out their treasure when they grew to manhood-a mercy from your Lord. What I did was not done by my will.

'That is the interpretation of what you could not bear to watch with patience.'

**18.83** They will ask you about Dhul-Qarnain. Say: 'I will give you something of his story.

'We made him mighty in the land and gave him means to (achieve) all things. He journeyed on a certain road until he reached the West and saw the sun setting in a pool of black mud. Hard by he found a certain people.

"'Dhul-Qarnain," We said,"you must either punish them or show them kindness."

'He replied: "The wicked we shall surely punish. Then they shall return to their Lord and be sternly punished by Him. As for those that have faith and do good works, we shall bestow on them a rich reward and deal indulgently with them."

**18.90** 'He then journeyed along another road, until he reached the East and saw the sun rising upon a people for whom We provided no protection against it. So it was; and We had full knowledge of what he had.

**18.91** 'Then he followed yet another route, until he came between the Two Mountains and found beneath them a people who could barely understand a word. "Dhul-Qarnain," they said,

## THE CAVE

**"Gog and Magog are ravaging this land. Build us a barrier against them and we will pay you tribute."**

'He replied: "The power which my Lord has given me is better (than any tribute). Lend me a force of labourers, and I will raise a barrier between you and them. Come, bring me blocks of iron."

'At length, when he dammed up the valley between the Two Mountains, he said: "Blow (with your bellows)." And when he made the iron blocks red with heat, he said: "Bring me molten brass to pour on them."

'Thus they (Gog and Magog) could not scale it, nor could they dig their way through it. He said: "This is a mercy from my Lord. But when my Lord's promise has been fulfilled, He will level it to dust. The promise of my Lord is true."

**18.99** On that day, We will let them come in successive waves. The Trumpet shall be sounded, and We will gather them all together.

On that day Hell shall be laid bare before the unbelievers, who have turned a blind eye to My admonition and a deaf ear to My warning.

Do the unbelievers think that they can make My servants patrons besides Me? We have prepared Hell to be their dwelling-place.

**18.103** Say: 'Shall we tell you who will lose most through their labours? Those whose endeavours in this world are misguided and who yet think that what they do is right; who disbelieve the revelation of their Lord and deny that they will ever meet Him.' Vain are their works. On the Day of Resurrection, We shall not give any weight to them.

Hell is their reward; because they had no faith and scoffed at My revelations and My apostles. As for those who have faith and do good works, they shall dwell in the gardens of Paradise. There (they shall dwell) for ever desiring not to be removed to any other place.

**18.109** Say: 'If the waters of the sea were ink with which to write the words of my Lord, the sea would surely be drained before His words were finished, though we brought another sea to replenish it.'

**18.110** Say: 'I am but a mortal like yourselves. It is revealed to me that your God is one God. Let him that hopes to meet his Lord do what is right and worship none besides Him.'

## Sura 19

"Mariam"

MARY

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**19.1** *Kaf ha ya ain sad.* A recital of your Lord's mercy to his servant Zakariyya: He invoked his Lord in secret, saying: 'My bones are enfeebled, and my head glows silver with age. Yet never, Lord, have I prayed to You in vain. I now fear my kinsmen who will succeed me, for my wife is barren. Grant me a son who will be my heir and an heir to the house of Yaqub, and who will find grace in Your sight.'

'Rejoice, Zakariyya,' came the answer. 'You shall be given a son, and he shall be called Yahya; a name no man has borne before him.'

**19.8** 'How shall I have a son, Lord,' asked Zakariyya, 'when my wife is barren, and I am well advanced in years?'

He replied: 'Such is the will of your Lord. It shall be no difficult task for Me, for I brought you into being when you were nothing before.'

'Lord,' (said Zakariyya), 'give me a sign.'

'Your sign is that for three days and three nights,' He replied, 'You shall be bereft of speech, though otherwise sound in body.'

**19.11** Then (Zakariyya) came out from the Shrine and told them by signs to give glory to their Lord morning and evening.

(We said): 'O Yahya, hold fast to the Book.' We bestowed on him wisdom while yet a child and (gave him) pity (for others) and purity; and he grew up a righteous man; honouring his father and mother, and neither arrogant nor rebellious. Peace on him on the day he was born and the day he dies; and may peace be on him when he is raised to life.

**19.16** And you shall recount in the Book the story of Mariam: how she left her people and betook herself to a solitary place to the east.

• We sent to her Our spirit in the semblance of a full-grown man. And when she saw him she said: 'I take refuge in the

Merciful from you! If you fear the Lord, (leave me and go your way).'

**19.19** 'I am the messenger of your Lord ,' he replied, 'and have come to give you a holy son.' 'How shall I bear a child,' she answered, 'when I am not touched by man and not unchaste?'

'Thus it will be,' your Lord said: 'That is easy for Me. and We shall make him a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us. This is Our decree.'

**19.22** Thereupon she conceived him, and retired to a far-off place. And when she felt the throes of childbirth she lay down by the trunk of a palm-tree, crying: 'Oh, would that I had died before this and passed into oblivion!'

But (a voice) from below cried out to her: 'Do not despair. Your Lord has provided a brook that runs at your feet, and (if you) shake the trunk of this palm-tree it will drop fresh ripe dates upon you. Therefore eat and drink and rejoice, and should you meet any mortal say to him: "I have vowed a fast to the Merciful and will not speak with any man today."' "

**19.28** Carrying the child, she came to her people, who said to her: 'O Mariam, you have done an unusual thing. O sister of Harun, your father was never a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste.'

**19.29** She pointed to him. But they replied: 'How can we speak with a baby in the cradle?' (Whereupon) he said: 'I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet. He made me blessed wherever I go, and He has commanded me to be steadfast in prayer and to give alms to the poor as long as I shall live. He has made me kind to my mother and not insolent, miserable. So peace be on me on the day I was born, and on the day I die; and may peace be upon me on the day when I shall be raised to life.'

**19.34** Such was Isa, the son of Mariam. That is the (whole) truth, which they still doubt. Allah forbid that He Himself should beget a son! When He decrees a thing He need only say: 'Be,' and it is.

Allah is my Lord and your Lord: therefore serve Him. That is the right path.

Yet the Sects are divided concerning Isa. But woe to the unbelievers when the grievous Day comes. How sharp will their sight and hearing be on the day when they appear before Us! Truly, the unbelievers are in the grossest error.

**19.39** Forewarn them of that woeful day, when Our decrees shall be fulfilled whilst they heedlessly persist in unbelief. For We shall inherit the earth and all who dwell upon it. To Us, they shall return.

You shall also recount in the Book the story of Ibrahim:

He was a truthful man and a prophet. He said to his father: 'O father, why worship that which can neither see nor hear, nor can do anything for you?

**19.43** 'Father, to me has come knowledge which has not reached you: therefore, follow me. I will guide you to a straight path.

'Father, do not worship Satan; for he has rebelled against the Lord of Mercy.

'Father, I fear that Allah's scourge will fall upon you and you will become one of Satan's minions.'

**19.46** His father replied: 'Do you renounce my gods, Ibrahim? Desist from this folly or I will stone you. Now leave me for a while.'

'Peace be on you,' said Ibrahim. 'I shall implore my Lord to forgive you: for to me He has been gracious. But I will not live with you or with those you invoke besides Allah. I will call on my Lord. Perhaps I shall not be unblessed in calling my Lord.'

**19.49** And when Ibrahim has turned away from his people and those they worshipped besides Allah, We gave him Ishaq and Yaqub. Each of them We made a prophet, and We bestowed on them of Our mercy and granted them an honourable and true renown.

Tell also from the Book of Musa. He was an apostle, a prophet, and a chosen man.

We called out to him from the right side of the Mountain, and drew him near for secret communion. We gave him, of Our mercy, his brother Harun, (himself) a prophet.

**19.54** Then you shall tell of Ismail: he, too, was a man of his word, an apostle and a prophet.

He enjoined prayer and almsgiving on his people, and his Lord was pleased with him.

And of Idris: he, too, was a man of truth and a prophet, whom we honoured and exalted. These are the men to whom Allah has been gracious: the prophets from among the descendants of Adam and of those whom We carried in the Ark with Nuh; the descendants of Ibrahim, of Israel, and of those whom We have guided and chosen. For when the revelations of the Merciful were recited to them, they fell down on their knees in tears and adoration.

19.59 But the generations who succeeded them neglected their prayers and followed lusts. These shall assuredly be lost. But those that repent and embrace the Faith and do what is right shall be admitted to Paradise and shall not be wronged in any way. They shall enter the Gardens of Eden, which the Merciful has promised His servants in the unseen. His promise shall be fulfilled.

There they shall hear no idle talk, but only the voice of peace. And there they shall be given their sustenance morning and evening. Such is the Paradise which we shall give the righteous to inherit.

19.64 We (the angels) do not descend from Heaven save at the bidding of your Lord. To Him belongs what is before us and behind us, and all that lies between.

Your Lord does not forget. He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Worship Him then and be patient in His service. Do you know of any one worthy of the name?

'What!' says man, 'When I am once dead, shall I be raised to life?'

19.67 Does man forget that We created him before out of nothing? By the Lord, We will call them to account in company with all the devils and set them on their knees around the fire of Hell: from every sect We will carry off its stoutest rebels against the Most Merciful. We alone know who deserves most to be burnt therein.

19.71 There is not one of you who shall not pass through it: such is the absolute decree of your Lord. We will deliver those who fear Us, but the wrongdoers shall be left there on their knees.



When Our clear revelations are recited to them, the unbelievers say to the faithful: 'Which of the two parties has a better position or company?'

How many generations have We destroyed before them, far greater in riches and in splendour!

**19.75** Say: 'The Merciful will bear long with those in error, until they witness the fulfilment of His threats: be it a wordly scourge or the Hour of Doom. Then shall they know whose is the worse plight and whose the smaller following.'

**19.76** Allah will increase the guidance of those that have followed the right path. Deeds of lasting merit shall earn you a better reward in His sight and a more auspicious end.

Behold him who rejects Our signs and yet says: 'I shall surely be given wealth and children!'

Has he gained knowledge of the unseen? Or has the Merciful made him such a promise?

By no means! We will record his words and make his punishment long and terrible. We shall inherit what he speaks of and he will come before Us all alone.

And they have chosen other gods to help them. But (in the end) they will renounce their worship and turn against them.

Know that We send down to the unbelievers devils who incite them to sin. Therefore, have patience with them, for We count out to them a (determined) number (of days). The day will surely come when We will gather the righteous in multitudes before the Lord of Mercy, and drive the sinful (like thirsty cattle) into Hell. None has power to intercede for them save him who has received the sanction of the Merciful.

**19.88** And they say: 'The Lord of Mercy has begotten a son.' Surely you say a monstrous falsehood! The very heavens might crack, the earth break asunder, and the mountains crumble to dust when they ascribe a son to the Merciful. It does not become Al-Rahman to beget one!

There is none in the heavens or on earth but shall return to Him in utter submission. He has kept strict count of all (His creatures) and numbered them; and one by one they shall approach Him on the Day of Resurrection. On those who accepted the true faith and were charitable, the Compassionate

## MARY

will bestow love.

We have revealed to you (the Quran) in your own tongue that you may thereby proclaim good tidings to the upright and give warning to contentious people.

**19.98** How many generations have We destroyed before them! Can you find one of them still alive, or hear so much as a whisper from them?

## Sura 20

### TA HA

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**20.1** Ta ha. It was not to distress you that We revealed the Quran, but to admonish the God-fearing. It is a revelation from Him who has created the earth and the lofty heavens, the Merciful who is firmly established on the throne.

His is what the heavens and the earth contain, and all that lies between them and underneath the soil. You (have no need) to speak aloud; for He has knowledge of all that is secret and all that is yet more hidden.

He is Allah. There is no god but Him. His are the Most Beautiful Names.

Has the story of Musa reached you?

When he saw a fire, he said to his people: 'Stay here, for I can see a fire. Perchance I can bring you a lighted torch or find a guide hard by.'

When he came near it, a voice called out to him: 'Musa, I am your Lord. Take off your sandals, for you are now in the sacred valley of Towa.

**20.13** 'Know that I have chosen you. Therefore, listen to what shall be revealed.

'I am Allah. There is no god but Me. Serve Me, and recite your prayers in My remembrance.

'The Hour of Doom is sure to come. But I choose to keep it hidden, so that every soul may be rewarded for its labours. Let those who disbelieve in it and yield to their desires not turn your thoughts from it, lest you perish. What is it you are carrying in your right hand, Musa?'

**20.18** He replied: 'It is my staff; upon it I lean and with it I beat down the leaves for my flock. It has other uses besides.'

He said: 'Musa, cast it down.'

Musa threw it down, and thereupon it turned into a scurrying serpent.

**20.21** 'Take it up and do not be alarmed,' He said, 'We will

change it back to its former state. Now put your hand under your armpit. It shall come out white, although unharmed, as another sign. 'But before long We shall show you the most wondrous of all Our signs. Go to Pharaoh: he has transgressed all bounds.'

**20.25** 'Lord,' said Musa, 'expand my breast, and ease my task for me. Free my tongue from its impediment, that men may understand my speech. Give me a minister from among my kinsmen, Harun my brother. Grant me strength through him and let him share my task, so that we may give glory to You and remember You always. You are surely watching over us.'

**20.36** He replied: 'Your request is granted, Musa. We had already shown you favour when We revealed Our will to your mother, saying: "Put him in the ark and throw it into the river. The river will cast him on to the bank, and he shall be taken up by an enemy of Mine and his." I lavished My love on you, so that you might be reared under My watchful eye.'

**20.40** 'Your sister went to them and said: 'Shall I bring you one who will nurse him?'

'Thus We restored you to your mother, so that her mind might be set at ease and that she might not grieve.

'And when you killed a man We delivered you from affliction and then proved you by other trials.

'You stayed among the people of Madian for a number of years, and at length came here as I ordained. I have chosen you for Myself. Go, you and your brother, with My signs, and do not cease to remember Me. Go both of you to Pharaoh, for he has transgressed all bounds. Speak to him with gentle words; he may yet heed and fear (God).'

**20.45** 'Lord,' they said, 'We fear lest he should hasten to do evil to us or transgress all bounds.'

He replied: 'Have no fear. I shall be with you. I see all and hear all. Go to him and say: "We are the messengers of your Lord. Let the Children of Israel depart with us, and torment them not. We have come to you with a sign from your Lord: peace be on him who follows the guidance. It is revealed to us that His scourge will fall on those who deny and turn away."

**20.49** Pharaoh said: 'And who is your Lord, Musa?'

'Our Lord,' he replied, 'is He who gave all creatures their distinctive form and then rightly guided them.'

'How was it, then, with the ancients?' asked Pharaoh.

**20.52** He answered: 'My Lord alone has knowledge of that; it is recorded in His book. He does not err, nor does He forget. It is He who has made the earth your cradle and made in it paths for you to walk on. It is He who sends down water from the sky with which He brings forth every kind of plant, (saying): "Eat and pasture your cattle. Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding. From the earth We have created you, and to the earth We will restore you; and from it We will bring you back (to life)."'

**20.56** We showed Pharaoh Our signs, but he denied them and gave no heed. He said: 'Have you come, Musa, to drive us from our land with your sorcery? Know that we will confront you with magic as powerful as yours. Appoint a tryst between us and you, which neither we nor you shall fail to keep, and a place equally distant from you and from ourselves.'

**20.59** He replied: 'Meet me on the day of the Feast, and let all the people be assembled before noon.'

Pharaoh withdrew; he gathered his magicians and came back (with them). 'Woe to you!' said Musa. 'Invent no falsehoods against Allah, or He will destroy you with His scourge. Liars will surely fail.'

They disputed one with another, but kept what they said secret. They said (to Pharaoh): 'These two are sorcerers who intend to drive you from your land by their magic and destroy your noblest traditions. Muster all your power and then assemble in ranks; those who win today shall surely triumph.'

To Musa they said: 'Will you first throw down or shall we?'

**20.66** 'Throw first,' he answered.

And by the power of their magic, their cords and staffs appeared to Musa's eyes as though they were running.

**20.67** Musa was alarmed. But We said to him: 'Have no fear; you shall surely have the upper hand. Throw that which is in your right hand. It will swallow up that which they faked, for that

which they fakēd is but the deceitful show of witchcraft. The magician shall not prosper, wherever he goes.'

The magicians prostrated themselves, crying: 'We believe in the Lord of Harun and Musa.'

'Do you (dare) believe in Him without my consent?' said Pharaoh. 'This man must be your master, who taught you witchcraft. I will cut off your hands and feet on alternate sides and crucify you on the trunks of palm-trees. You shall know whose punishment is more terrible, and more lasting.'

**20.72** They replied: 'We cannot prefer you to the clear signs which have come to us and to Him who has created us. So decide as you will; you take decisions only in this present life. We have put our faith in our Lord so that He may forgive us our sins and the witchcraft you have forced us to practise. Better is the

**20.74** reward of Allah, and more lasting. He that comes before his Lord laden with sin shall be consigned to Hell, where he shall neither die nor live. But he that comes before Him with true faith and good works shall be exalted to the highest rank, He shall abide for ever in the Gardens of Eden, in gardens watered by running streams. Such shall be the recompense of those that purify themselves.'

**20.77** We revealed Our will to Musa, saying: 'Set forth with My servants in the night and strike for them a dry path across the sea. Have no fear of being overtaken, nor let anything dismay you.'

Pharaoh pursued them with his legions, but the waters overwhelmed them. For Pharaoh misled his people: he did not guide them.

**20.80** Children of Israel! We delivered you from your enemies and made a covenant with you on the right flank of the Mountain. We sent down manna and quails for you. 'Eat of the wholesome things with which We have provided you and do not transgress, lest you should incur My wrath,' (We said): 'He that incurs My wrath shall assuredly be lost, but he that repents and believes in Me, does good works and follows the right path, shall be forgiven. But, Musa, why have you come with such haste from your people?'

Musa replied: 'They are close behind me. I hastened to You, my Lord, so that I might earn Your pleasure.'

(Allah) said: 'We proved your people in your absence, but the Samiri has led them astray.'

**20.86** Angry and sorrowful, Musa went back to them. 'My people,' he said, 'did your Lord not make you a gracious promise? Did the time (of my absence) seem too long to you, or was it to incur your Lord's anger that you failed me?'

**20.87** They replied: 'We failed you through no fault of ours. We were made to carry loads of the people's ornaments, and throw them (into the fire). The Samiri did the same, and forged a calf for them, an image with a hollow sound. "This," they said, "is your god and the god of Musa but whom Musa has forgotten."' "

**20.89** Did they not see that it returned them no word (answer), and that it could neither help nor harm them?

Harun had said to them: 'My people, this is but a test for you. Your Lord is the Merciful. Follow me and obey my command.' But they had replied: 'We will worship it until Musa returns.' Musa said to Harun: 'Why did you not follow me when you saw them going astray? Why did you disobey me?'

'Son of my mother,' he replied, 'Do not seize my beard nor the hair of my head. I was afraid that you might say: "You have sown discord among the Children of Israel and did not wait for my orders."' "

'O Samiri,' cried Musa, 'what had come over you?'

**20.96** He replied: 'I saw what they did not see. I took a handful of dust from the trail of the Messenger and flung it away: thus did my soul prompt me.'

'Begone!' (cried Musa). 'Your lot in this life is to say: "Touch me not." Nor shall you escape (in the life to come) your appointed doom. Behold this idol which you have served with such devotion: we will burn it to cinders and scatter its ashes over the sea.'

Your God is Allah, besides whom there is no other god. He has knowledge of all things.

**20.99** Thus We recount to you the history of past events. A Message of Our own We have given you: those that reject it shall bear a heavy burden on the Day of Resurrection. They shall bear it for ever: an evil burden for them on the Day of

**Resurrection, the day when the Trumpet shall be sounded.**

On that day, We shall assemble all the sinners. Their eyes will become dim (with terror), and they shall murmur among themselves: 'You have stayed away but ten (days).'

**20.104** We know full well what they will say. The most upright among them will declare: 'You have stayed away but one day.'

**20.105** They ask you about the mountains. Say: 'My Lord will crush them to fine dust and leave them a desolate waste, with no hollows nor jutting mounds to be seen therein.'

**20.108** On that day, men will have no choice but to follow their truthful summoner, their voices hushed before the Lord of Mercy; and you shall hear no sound except the faint sound (of marching feet). On that day none shall have power to intercede for them except him that has received the sanction of the Merciful and whose word is acceptable to Him. He knows what is before them and behind them, but they themselves have no knowledge of it.

(All) faces shall be humbled before the Living One, the Eternal. Those who are burdened with sin shall come to grief: but those who have believed and done good works shall fear neither inequity nor injustice.

**20.113** Thus We sent it down, an Arabic Quran, and explained in it warnings and threats so that they may guard themselves against evil and so that it may be a reminder for them. Exalted be Allah, the king, the Truth.

Do not be quick with the Quran before its revelation is completed, but rather say: 'Lord, increase my knowledge.'

**20.115** We made a covenant with Adam, but he forgot and showed himself lacking in steadfastness. And when We said to the angels: 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam,' they all prostrated themselves except Satan, who refused.

'Adam,' We said, 'This is your enemy and your wife's. Let him not turn you out of Paradise and plunge you into affliction. Here you shall not hunger or be naked; you shall not thirst, or feel the scorching heat.'

**20.120** But Satan whispered to him, saying: 'Shall I show you



the Tree of Immortality and a kingdom which never decays?'

They both ate of its fruit, so that they beheld their nakedness and began to cover themselves with leaves. Thus Adam disobeyed his Lord and went astray.

Then his Lord had mercy on him; He relented towards him and rightly guided him.

**20.123** 'Go hence both of you.' He said, 'and may your offspring be enemies to each other. When My guidance is revealed to you, he who follows it shall neither err nor be afflicted; but he who gives no heed to My warning shall live in distress and come before Us blind on the Day of Resurrection.' 'Lord,' he will say, 'why have You brought me blind before You while (in my life-time) I had sight?'

**20.126** He will answer: 'Thus Our revelations were declared to you and you forgot them. So this day you are yourself forgotten.'

And thus do We reward the transgressor who denies the revelations of his Lord. But the punishment of the life to come is more terrible and more lasting.

Do they not see how many generations, in whose dwellings they go about, We destroyed before them? Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding.

**20.129** Had it not been for a word which came forth before from your Lord, and a term which had been fixed, it (the punishment) would surely have overtaken them. Therefore, bear with what they say. Give glory to your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. Praise Him in parts of the night and at the two ends of the day so that you may be pleased.

**20.131** Do not strain your eyes toward the worldly benefits We have bestowed on some of them, for with these We seek only to try them. Your Lord's provision is better and more lasting.

Enjoin prayer on your people and be diligent in its observance. We ask you to provide no provision: We shall Ourselves provide for you. Blessed shall be the end of the devout.

They say: 'Why does he give us no sign from his Lord?' Have they not been given sufficient proof in previous Books?

Had We destroyed them before him, they would have

said: 'Lord, if only You had sent us an apostle! We would have followed Your revelations before we were humbled and disgraced.'

**20.135** Say: 'Each one is waiting: so wait if you will. You shall know who has followed the right path and who has been rightly guided.'

## Sura 21

### "Al-Anbiya"

### THE PROPHETS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**21.1** The Day of Reckoning for mankind is drawing near, yet the people heedlessly turn away. No fresh warning comes to them from their Lord, but they flippantly listen to it: their hearts are set on pleasure.

In private the unbelievers say to each other: 'Is this man not a mortal like you? Do you go to witchcraft even while your eyes are open?'

Say: 'My Lord has knowledge of what ever is said in heaven and on earth. He hears all and knows all.'

Some say: 'It is but a medley of dreams.' Others: 'He has invented it himself.' And yet others: 'He is a poet: let him show us some sign, as did those (apostles) who were sent before (with signs).'

**21.6** Yet the nations We destroyed before them never believed. Will they believe?

We never sent before you other than men whom We inspired. Ask the People of the Book if you do not know this. Nor did We give them bodies that ate no food, nor were they immortal. Then We fulfilled Our promise: We delivered them and those We willed, and utterly destroyed the transgressors. (And now) We have revealed a Book for your admonition. Will you not understand?

We have destroyed many a sinful nation and replaced them by other men. And when they felt Our might they fled from (their cities). (It was said to them): 'Do not run away. Return to your comforts and your dwellings, so that you may be questioned!'

They said: 'Woe to us, we have done wrong!' And this they kept repeating until We mowed them down and put out their light.

**21.16** It was not in sport that We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. Had it been Our will to find a pastime, We could have found one near at hand if We were to do it.

**21.18** We will hurl Truth at Falsehood, until Truth shall triumph and Falsehood be no more. Woe shall befall you, for all (the falsehoods) you have uttered.

His are all who dwell in the heavens and the earth. Those who stand in His presence are not too proud to worship Him, nor are they ever wearied. They praise Him day and night, unflaggingly.

Or have they chosen earthly deities? And (can) these deities restore the dead to life? Had there been other gods in heaven or earth besides Allah, there would have been confusion in both. Exalted be Allah, Lord of the Throne, above those (falsehoods) they ascribe to Him.

**21.23** None shall question Him about His works, but they shall be questioned. Have they chosen other gods besides Him?

Say: 'Show us your proof. Here is the Message (the Quran) of those with me and the Message of those before me.' But most of them do not know the truth, and this is why they turn away.

We sent no apostle before you to whom We did not send this inspiration: 'There is no god but Me. Therefore, serve Me.'

**21.26** They say: 'The Merciful has begotten children.' Allah forbid! They are but His honoured servants. They do not speak till He has spoken: they act by His command. He knows what is before them and behind them. They intercede for none save those whom He accepts, and tremble for awe of Him. Whoever of them declares: 'I am a god besides Him,' shall be requited with Hell-fire. Thus We reward the wrongdoers.

Do not the disbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were one solid mass which we tore asunder, and that We made every living thing of water? Will they not have faith?

**21.31** We set firm mountains upon the earth lest it should move away with them, and hewed out highways (in the rock) so that they might be rightly guided.

**21.32** We made the heaven like a canopy and provided it with strong support: yet from its signs they turn away.

**21.33** It was He who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; each floats freely in an orbit of its own.

No man before you<sup>1</sup> have We made immortal. If you yourself are doomed to die, will they live forever?

Every soul shall taste death. We will prove you all with good and evil by way of trial. To Us you shall be recalled.

When the unbelievers see you, they do not treat you except with mockery, saying: 'Is this the man who talks about your gods?' They deny all mention of the Merciful.

Impatience is the stuff man is made of. You shall before long see My signs: do not ask Me to hasten them.

**21.38** They say: 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if what you say be true?'

If only the unbelievers knew the day when they shall be powerless to shield their faces and their backs from the fire of Hell; the day when none shall help them! It will overtake them unawares and stupefy them. They shall have no power to ward it off, nor shall they be reprieved.

Other apostles have been mocked before you; but those who scoffed at them were smitten by the very thing they mocked.

**21.42** Say: 'Who will protect you, by night and by day, from the Lord of Mercy?' Yet they turn away from their Lord's remembrance.

Or have they other gods to defend them? They shall have no power over their own salvation, nor shall they be protected from Our scourge.

We have bestowed good things upon these men and on their fathers until life became long for them. Can they not see how We visit their land and reduce its borders? Is it they who will triumph?

**21.45** Say: 'I warn you only by revelation.' But the deaf can hear nothing when they are warned.

Yet if the lightest touch of the vengeance of your Lord affected them, they would say: 'Woe to us: we have done wrong!'

**21.47** We shall set up just scales on the Day of Resurrection, so that no man shall in the least be wronged. Actions as small as a grain of mustard seed We will bring (to be weighed out). And sufficient are We as reckoners.

1. Muhammad

We showed Musa and Harun the criterion (to distinguish between right and wrong), and gave them a light and a message for the righteous: those who fear their Lord in secret and dread the terrors of judgement-day.

And this is a blessed Message which We have revealed. Will you then reject it?

We bestowed on Ibrahim his rectitude before, for We knew him well. He said to his father and to his people: 'What are these statues to which you are so devoted?'

They replied: 'We found our fathers worshipping them.'

**21.54** He said: 'Then you and your fathers were in the grossest error.'

'Is it the truth you have brought us,' they asked, 'or is this but a jest?'

'Nay,' he answered, 'your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. It was He who made them: to this I bear witness. By the Lord, I will certainly plot against your idols as soon as you have turned your backs and gone.'

He broke them all in pieces, except their supreme god, so that they might return to Him.

'Who has done this to our deities?' asked some. 'He must surely be a wicked man.'

**21.60** Others replied: 'We have heard a youth called Ibrahim speak of them.'

They said: 'Then bring him here in sight of all the people, that they may act as witnesses.'

'Ibrahim,' they said, 'was it you who did this to our deities?'

'No,' he replied. 'It was their chief who smote them. Ask them, if they can speak.'

**21.64** Thereupon they turned to themselves and said (to each other): 'Surely you are the ones in the wrong.'

But then they were confounded (and said to Ibrahim): 'You know they cannot speak.'

**21.66** He said: 'Would you then worship that, instead of Allah, which can neither help nor harm you? Shame on you and on that you worship! Have you no sense?'

They said: 'Burn him and avenge your gods, if you are

going to do anything!

Fire.' We said, 'be coolness and safety for Ibrahim. They sought to make a plan against him, but we made them the greater losers. We delivered him and Lut, and brought them to the land which We had blessed for all mankind.

We gave him Ishaq, and then Yaqub (for a grandson); and We made each a righteous man. We ordained them leaders to guide at Our behest and enjoined on them charity, prayer and almsgiving. They served (none but) Ourselves.

21.74 To Lut, We gave judgement and knowledge and delivered him from the town which wrought abomination; for truly they were people of iniquity and evil. We admitted him to Our mercy, he was a righteous man.

And (remember Nuh) When he invoked Us, We heard his prayer, and We saved him and all his kinsfolk from the great calamity, and delivered him from the people who had denied Our revelations. Evil men they were; We drowned them all.

21.78 And (remember) Dawud and Sulayman: how they passed judgement regarding the cornfield in which strayed lambs had grazed by night. We did witness their judgement.

We gave Sulayman insight into the case, and to each We gave judgement and knowledge.

We caused the mountains and birds to join with Dawud in Our praise. All this We have done.

We taught him the craft of making coats of mail, so that you might have protection in your wars. Will you then give thanks?

21.81 To Sulayman (We subdued) the raging wind: it sped at his bidding to the land which We had blessed. We have knowledge of all things.

21.82 And of the devils there were those who dived into the sea for him and performed other tasks besides. We kept a watchful eye over them.

21.83 And (remember) Ayyub: how he called on his Lord, (saying): 'I am sorely afflicted: but of all those that show mercy You are the most merciful.'

We heard his prayer and relieved his affliction. We

## THE PROPHETS

restored to him his family and as many more with them: a blessing from Ourselves and a reminder to worshippers.

And (remember) Ismail, Idris, Dhul-kifl, who all were patient. To Our mercy We admitted them, for they were upright men.

And (remember) Dhul-Nun<sup>1</sup>: how he went away in anger, thinking We had no power over him. But in the darkness, he cried: 'There is no god but You. Glory be to You! I have done wrong.'

**21.88** We heard his prayer and delivered him from affliction. Thus We shall save the true believers.

And (remember) Zakariyya, who invoked his Lord, saying: 'Lord, let me not remain childless, (though) of all heirs You are the best.'

We heard his prayer and gave him Yahya, curing his wife (of sterility). They vied with each other in good works and called on Us with piety, fear, and submission.

**21.91** And (remember) the woman<sup>2</sup> who kept her chastity. We breathed into her of Our spirit, and made her and her son a sign to all men.

Verily, this brotherhood of yours is one brotherhood, and I am your only Lord. Therefore serve Me. Men have divided themselves (into schisms), but to Us they shall all return. He that does good works in the fullness of his faith, his endeavours shall not be lost: We record them all.

(It is ordained that) no nation We have destroyed shall ever rise again. But when Gog and Magog are let

**21.97** loose and rush headlong down every hill; when the true promise nears its fulfilment; the eyes of the unbelievers will fixedly stare (and they will say): 'Woe to us! Of this we have been heedless. We have done wrong.'

You and all those that you worship besides God shall be the fuel of Hell; there you shall all go down.

**21.98** Were they true gods, they would not go there: but in it they shall abide for ever. They shall groan with pain and be bereft of hearing.

1. Yunus
2. Mariam



But those to whom We have already shown Our favour shall be far removed from it. They shall not hear its roar, but shall delight for ever in what their souls desire.

The Supreme Terror shall not grieve them, and the angels will receive them (saying): 'This is the day you have been promised.'

**21.104** On that day, We shall roll up the heaven like a scroll of writings. As we produced the first creation, so will We reproduce it. This is a promise We shall assuredly fulfil.

We wrote in the Scripture after the Message had been given: 'The righteous among My servants shall inherit the earth.' Verily in this is a message to those who serve Us.

We have not sent you forth but as a mercy to mankind. Say: 'It is revealed to me that your God is one God. Will you submit to Him?'

If they turn back, say: 'I have warned you all alike, though I cannot tell whether what you are promised is imminent or far off. Allah knows your spoken words and what you hide. And I know not if this may be a trial for you and a provision for a time.'

**21.112** Say: 'Lord, judge in truth. Our Lord is the Merciful, whose help We seek against your blasphemies.'

## Sura 22

"Al-Hajj"

### PILGRIMAGE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**22.1** Men, have fear of your Lord. The catastrophe of the Hour of Doom shall be terrible indeed.

When that day comes, every suckling mother shall forsake her infant, every pregnant female shall deliver her burden, and you shall see mankind reeling like drunkards although not drunk : but dreadful will be Allah's chastisement.

**22.3** Yet there are some who dispute about Allah without knowledge and follow every rebellious devil. Every such devil is doomed to lead astray him who follows it, and lead him to the scourge of the Fire.

**22.5** Men, if you are in doubt about the Resurrection, remember that We first created you from dust, then from a life-germ, then from a clot, and then from a lump of flesh partly formed and partly unformed, so that We might manifest to you (Our power).

We cause to remain in the wombs whatever we please for an appointed term, and then We bring you forth as infants, that you may grow up and reach your prime. Some of you die (young), and some live on to abject old age when all that they once knew they shall know no more.

And you see the earth dry and barren: but no sooner do We send down rain upon it than it begins to stir and swell , putting forth every kind of radiant bloom. That is because Allah is the Truth: He gives life to the dead and has power over all things.

**22.7** And the Hour of Doom is sure to come—in this there is no doubt. And Allah will raise up those in the graves.

Some wrangle about Allah, though they have neither knowledge nor guidance nor an illuminating Book. He, who bends his side in scorn to lead others astray from Allah's path, for him is disgrace in this life and shall taste the torment of Hell on the Day of Resurrection. 'This,' We shall say, 'is the reward of your misdeeds. Allah is not unjust to His servants.'

## PILGRIMAGE

**22.11** There are some who serve Allah and (yet stand) on the very fringe (of the true faith). When blessed with good fortune they are content, but when an ordeal befalls them they turn around, forfeiting this life and Hereafter. That way true perdition lies.

He calls on, besides Allah, that which can neither harm nor help him. That is the supreme folly.

He calls on that which would sooner harm than help him: an evil master and an evil friend.

As for those who have faith and do good works, Allah will admit them to gardens watered by running streams. Allah indeed does what He pleases.

**22.15** If any one thinks that Allah will not give victory (to His Apostle) in this world and in the world to come, let him tie a rope to the ceiling of his house and cut (himself) off. Then let him see if his wives have done away with that which has enraged him.

We have sent it in clear verses. Allah gives guidance to whom He will.

**22.17** Those who believe, the Jews, the Sabaeans, the Christians, the Magians, and the polytheists, Allah will judge them on the Day of Resurrection. He bears witness to all things.

**22.18** Do you not see that to God bow all things in the heavens and on earth: the sun and the moon and the stars, the mountains and the trees, the beasts, and many men? Yet many have deserved His scourge. He who is humbled by Allah has none to honour him. God does what He pleases.

Here are two antagonists who contend about their Lord. Garments of fire have been prepared for the unbelievers. Scalding water shall be poured upon their heads, melting their skins and that which is in their bellies. For them are rods of iron.

Whenever they try to get out of it, (escaping) from anguish, they are restored to it. (It will be said): 'Taste the torment of burning.'

**22.23** God will admit those that have faith and do good works to gardens watered by running streams. They shall be decked therein with pearls and bracelets of gold, and arrayed in garments of silk. For they have been shown the noblest of words and guided to the right path of Allah.

The unbelievers who debar others from the path of Allah and from the Sacred Mosque which We gave to all mankind, the dwellers in it and the strangers alike, and those who seek therein to wrong unjustly, shall be sternly punished.

When We prepared for Ibrahim the site of the Sacred Mosque, (We said): 'Worship none besides Me. Keep My House clean for those who walk around it and those who stand upright or kneel and prostrate themselves.'

**22.27** Proclaim the pilgrimage to men. They will come to you on foot and on the backs of swift camels from every distant quarter; (they will come) to avail themselves of many a benefit and to pronounce on the appointed days the name of Allah over the cattle which He has given them. Eat of their flesh yourselves, and feed the poor and the unfortunate.

**22.29** Then let the pilgrims accomplish their acts of cleansing, make their vows, and go round the Ancient House. Such (is Allah's commandment). He that reveres the sacred rites of Allah shall fare better in the sight of his Lord.

The flesh of cattle is lawful to you, except that which you are told (to avoid). Guard yourselves against the filth of idols and avoid all falsehood. (Be) true (in faith) to Allah, associating none with Him. He who associates others with Allah is like him who falls from heaven and is snatched away by the birds or carried by the wind to some far-off region. Such (is his state).

**22.32** He that reveres Allah's rites, surely it is from the piety of the hearts. In them, you have benefits until an appointed time. Then their place of sacrifice is at the Ancient House.

For every nation We have ordained a ritual, that they may pronounce the name of Allah over the animals which He has given them (for food). Your God is one God; to Him surrender yourselves. Give good news to the humble, whose hearts are filled with awe at the mention of their Lord; who endure their misfortunes with fortitude, attend to their prayers, and bestow in charity of that which We have given them.

**22.36** And the camels We have made a part of Allah's rites. They are of much use to you. Pronounce over them the name of Allah as they line up; and when they have fallen down on their

sides, eat of their flesh and feed with it the contented and the beggar. Thus We have subjected them to you, so that you may give thanks.

**22.37** Their flesh and blood does not reach Allah; it is your piety that reaches Him. Thus He has subjected them to you, so that you may glorify Him for guiding you.

And give good news to the righteous. Allah will defend the true believers (against evil). Verily God does not love the treacherous and the thankless.

Permission (to take up arms) is hereby given to those who are attacked, because they have been wronged.

**22.40** Allah has power to grant them victory: those who have been unjustly driven from their homes, only because they said: 'Our Lord is Allah.' Had Allah not repelled some men by the might of others, the monasteries and churches, the synagogues and mosques in which Allah's name is frequently remembered, would have been utterly destroyed. But whoever helps Allah shall be helped by Him.

**22.41** Allah is truly Powerful and Mighty: (He will assuredly help) those who, once made masters in the lands, will attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax, enjoin justice and forbid evil. Allah controls the destiny of all things.

If they deny you, (remember that) before them the peoples of Nuh, Ibrahim and Lut, the tribes of Thamoud and Aad, and the dwellers of Madian had denied (their apostles). Musa was also rejected. I bore long with the unbelievers and in the end My scourge overtook them. And how terrible My utter rejection was!

How many a town have We destroyed while it was sinful, so that it lies in ruins, and how many a deserted well and lofty palace!

**22.46** Have they never journeyed through the land so that they may have hearts to reason with, or ears to hear with? It is not the eyes, but the hearts in the breasts, that are blind.

They bid you hasten the punishment. God will not break His promise. Each day with your Lord is like a thousand years in Your reckoning.

And how many a town which was sinful have We given

respite! Then I seized it. To Me shall all things return.

Say: 'O men, I have been sent to warn you plainly. Those that accept the true faith and do good works shall be forgiven and richly rewarded; but those who seek to confute Our revelations shall be the people of Hell.'

**22.52** Never have We sent a single prophet or apostle before you, but when he desired (recited), Satan tampered with his desire (recitation). But Allah abrogates the interjections of Satan and confirms his own revelations. And Allah is Wise, All-knowing. (This He permits) so that He may make Satan's interjections a temptation for those whose hearts are diseased or hardened—and the wrongdoers are in wide schism; and so that those to whom knowledge has been given may realize that this (Quran) is the truth from your Lord and thus believe in it and that their hearts may be open to it. Verily Allah will surely guide the faithful to a straight path.

**22.55** The unbelievers will never cease to doubt it until the Hour of Doom overtakes them unawares or the scourge of the Woeful Day descends upon them. On that day Allah will reign supreme. He will judge them all. Those that have embraced the true faith and done good works shall enter the Gardens of Delight, but the unbelievers who have denied Our revelations shall receive an ignominious punishment.

**22.58** As for those that have emigrated from their home for the cause of Allah and afterwards died or were slain, Allah will make a generous provision for them. He is the most munificent Giver. He will receive them well: All-knowing is Allah and Forbearing.

Thus shall it be. He that repays an injury in kind and then is wronged again shall be helped by Allah. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

That is so. Allah causes the night to pass into the day, and the day into the night. He it is Who hears all and observes all.

**22.62** Allah is Truth, and Falsehood is all that they invoke besides Him. He is the Most High, the Supreme One.

Do you not see that Allah sends down water from the sky and forthwith the earth becomes green? Allah is Gracious, Knowing.

## PILGRIMAGE

His is all that the heavens and earth contain. He is the Self-sufficient, the Glorious One.

**22.65** Do you not see that He has subdued to you all that is on the earth? He has also given you ships which sail the sea at His bidding. He holds the sky from falling down: (This it shall not do) except by His own will. Compassionate is Allah, and Merciful to men.

It is He who has given you life, and He who will cause you to die and make you live again. Surely man is ungrateful.

**22.67** For every nation We have ordained a ritual which they observe. Let them not dispute with you concerning this. Call them to the path of your Lord: surely you are rightly guided. If they argue with you, say: 'Allah knows best all that you do. On the Day of Resurrection, He will judge between you respecting that in which you differ.

**22.70** Are you not aware that Allah has knowledge of what heaven and earth contain? All is recorded in His Book. That is easy for Allah.

Yet they worship besides Allah that for which no sanction is revealed and of which they know nothing. Truly, the wrongdoers shall have none to help them.

**22.72** When Our clear revelations are recited to them, you will notice denial in the faces of the unbelievers. They can barely restrain themselves from assaulting those who recite Our revelations to them.

Say: 'Shall I tell you what is worse than that? The Fire which Allah has promised those who deny Him. An evil fate.'

**22.73** O men, this is a parable. Listen to it. Those whom you invoke besides Allah could never create a single fly, though they combined to do this. And if a fly carried away anything from them, they could never retrieve it. Powerless is the invoker and the invoked.

They do not have a right estimate of God's power. For Allah is Powerful and Mighty.

He chooses His messengers from the angels and from men. He hears all and observes all. He knows what is before

them and behind them. To Him shall all things return.

**22.77** You that are true believers, kneel and prostrate yourselves. Worship your Lord and do good, so that you may triumph.

Fight for the cause of Allah with the devotion due to Him. He has chosen you and laid on you no burdens in the observance of your faith, the faith of Ibrahim your father. He has given you the name of Muslims before and in this so that His Apostle may be a witness for you, and that you yourselves may be witnesses for your fellow-men.

Therefore attend to your prayers and pay the alms-tax and hold fast to Allah, for He is your Guardian. A gracious Guardian and a gracious Helper!



## Sura 23

"Al-Muminun"

THE BELIEVERS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**23.1** Successful indeed are the believers, who are humble in their prayers; who turn away from vain talk; who give alms; who restrain themselves from sexual desires, except with their wives and the girls they possess, for these are lawful to them. Those who go beyond that are transgressors. (Successful also are those) who are true to their trusts and pledges and those who strictly guard their prayers. These are the heirs who will inherit Paradise; they shall abide there for ever.

**23.12** We did create man from an essence of clay: then placed him, a life-germ, in a safe enclosure<sup>1</sup>. The germ We made a clot of blood, and the clot a lump of flesh. This We fashioned into bones, then clothed the bones with flesh, and then produced it as another creation. Blessed be Allah, the noblest of creators!

**23.15** You shall surely die hereafter, and be restored to life on the Day of Resurrection. We have created seven ways above you; of Our creation, We are never heedless.

**23.18** We sent down water from the sky in due measure, and lodged it into the earth. But if We please, We can take it all away.

With it, We caused vineyards and palm-groves to spring up, yielding abundant fruit for your sustenance. Also a tree which grows on Mount Sinai and gives oil and relish for the caters.

**23.21** In the cattle, too, you have an example of Our power. You drink of that which is in their bellies, you eat their flesh, and gain other benefits from them besides. By them, as by ships that sail the sea, you are carried.

We sent forth Nuh to his people. 'Serve Allah, my people,' he said, 'for you have no god but Him. Will you not guard against evil?'

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1. The Womb.

**23.24** The unbelieving elders of his people said: This man is but a mortal like you, feigning himself your superior. Had Allah willed, He could have sent down angels. Nor did such a thing happen to our forefathers. He is surely possessed. Keep an eye on him awhile.' Nuh said: 'Help me, Lord. They will not believe me.'

We revealed (Our will) to him, saying: 'Build an ark under Our watchful eye, according to Our guidance and Our inspiration. When Our judgement comes to pass and water wells out from the Oven, take aboard a pair from every species and the members of your household, except those of them already doomed. Do not plead with Me for those who have done wrong: they shall be drowned. And when you and all your followers have gone aboard, say: "Praise be to Allah who has delivered us from people who do wrong. Lord, let my landing from this ark be blessed. You are the best to make (us) land."'

**23.30** Surely in that are (veritable) signs. Thus We put (them) to the proof.

Then We raised after them another generation and sent forth to them an apostle of their own. 'Serve Allah,' (he said), 'for you have no god but Him. Will you not take heed?'

**23.33** (But) the unbelieving elders of his people, who disbelieved and denied the life to come and on whom We had bestowed the good things of this life, said: 'This man is but a mortal like yourselves; he eats of

**23.34** what you eat and drinks of what you drink. If you obey a mortal like yourselves, you shall be lost. Does he promise you that when you are dead and turned to dust and bones, you will be raised to life? Far, very far is that which you are promised. There is no other life but this, our earthly life: we live and die, never to live again. This man is but an impostor who tells of Allah what is untrue; We will never believe him.'

**23.39** He said: 'Help me, Lord, they will not believe me.'

We replied: 'Before long they shall rue it.' Our scourge overtook them in all justice and We swept them away like withered leaves. Gone are those wicked men.

After them We raised other generations--no people can delay their doom or go before it--and sent forth Our apostles in

succession. Yet time after time they disbelieved their apostles, so that We made them follow one another and made them a byword (for iniquity). Gone are the unbelievers.

**23.45** Then We sent Musa and his brother Harun with Our signs and clear authority to Pharaoh and his nobles. But they received them with scorn, for they were arrogant men. 'What!' they said. 'Are we to believe in two mortals like us, whose people are our bondsmen?' They denied them, and thus incurred destruction. And We gave Musa the Book, so that his people might be rightly guided.

**23.50** We made the son of Mariam and his mother a sign to mankind and gave them a shelter on a peaceful hill-side watered by a fresh spring.

Apostles! Eat of that which is wholesome and do good works: I have knowledge of all your actions. Your brotherhood is but one brotherhood, and I am your only Lord: therefore fear Me.

Yet men have divided themselves into different sects, each rejoicing in what it had. Leave them in their error till death over takes them.

**23.55** Do they think that in giving them wealth and children We are hastening to do them good? By no means! They do not understand.

**23.57** Those who live in fear of their Lord; who believe in the revelations of their Lord; who worship none besides their Lord; who give what they give with their hearts filled with awe, (knowing) that they will return to their Lord: these hasten to good things and are the first to attain them.

We charge no soul with more than it can bear. We have a Book which speaks the truth: none shall be wronged.

**23.63** But their hearts are blind to this; and they have deeds besides which they continue to do. But when We visit Our scourge upon those of them that live in comfort, they will cry out for help. (We shall say): 'Do not howl this day, for from Us you shall receive no help. My revelations were recited to you many a time, but you turned your backs in scorn, talking nonsense about them by night.'

Should they not heed the Word of Allah?

## THE BELIEVERS

Or was anything revealed to them that had not been revealed to their forefathers?

**23.69** Or is it because they do not know their Apostle that they deny him?

Do they say he is possessed?

He has proclaimed to them the truth. But most of them abhor the truth. Had the truth followed their desires, the heavens, the earth, and all who dwell in them would have surely been corrupted. We have given them their admonition; yet from their admonition they turn away.

Are you seeking a reward of them? Your Lord's recompense is better. He is the most munificent Giver.

**23.73** You are calling them to a straight path, but those who deny the life to come will ever stray from the right path.

If We showed them mercy and relieved their misfortunes, they would still blunder about in their transgression. We punished them, but they neither humbled themselves to their Lord nor did they submissively invoke Him. And when We opened on them a gate of severe chastisement, they plunged into utter despair.

It was He who gave you ears, eyes, and hearts: yet you are seldom thankful.

**23.79** It was He who placed you on the earth, and before Him you shall be assembled.

**23.80** It is He who gives life and death, and His is the alteration of the night and the day. Can you not understand?

But they say what the ancients said before them. 'When we are bones and dust,' they say, 'shall we be raised to life? This we have been promised before, we and our fathers. It is but (one) of the ancients fictitious tales.'

Say: 'Whose is the earth and all that it contains? (Tell me) if you know the truth.'

'Allah's,' they will reply.

Say: 'Then will you not take heed?'

Say: 'Who is the Lord of the seven heavens, and of the Glorious Throne?'

'Allah,' they will reply.

Say: 'Will you keep from evil, then?'

Say: 'In whose hands is the sovereignty of all things, protecting all, while against Him there is no protection? Tell me, if you know the truth.'

'In Allah's,' they will reply.

Say: 'How then can you be so bewitched?'

**23.90** Nay, We have revealed to them the truth, but they are liars.

Never has Allah begotten a son, nor is there any other god besides Him. Were this otherwise, each god would govern his own creation, each holding himself above the other. Exalted be Allah above their falsehoods!

He is the knower alike of the visible and the invisible. Exalted be He above the gods they associate with Him!

**23.93** Say: 'Lord, if You let me witness that against which they are warned, do not put me among this wrongdoing people.' Indeed, We have power enough to let you see that which they are promised.

**23.96** Repel evil with good. We are fully aware of all (the slanders) they utter. And say: 'Lord, I seek refuge in You from the promptings of the devils. Lord, I seek refuge in You from their presence.'

**23.100** Until when death comes to a wrongdoer, he will say: 'Lord, let me go back, that I may do good works in the world I have left behind.'

Never! It is only a word which he will speak. Behind them there shall stand a barrier till the Day of Resurrection. And when the Trumpet is sounded, on that day their ties of kindred shall be no more, nor will one ask after another.

**23.102** Those whose scales are heavy shall triumph, but those whose scales are light shall forfeit their souls and abide in Hell for ever. Its flames will scorch their faces and they will writh with pain with their lips apart.

(We shall say): 'Were My revelations not recited to you, and did you not deny them?'

'Lord,' they will reply, 'misfortune overcame us and we went astray. Lord, deliver us from Hell. If we return to sin, then we shall indeed be wicked men.'

## THE BELIEVERS

**23.108** He will say: 'Stay there in shame and do not plead with Me. Among My servants there were those who said: "Lord, we believe in You. Forgive us and have mercy on us: You are the Best of the merciful." But you derided them until they caused you to forget My

**23.111** warning. You laughed at them. Today I shall reward them for their fortitude, for it is they who have triumphed.'

And He will ask: 'How many years did you live on earth?'

They will reply: 'A day or possibly less. Ask those who have kept count.'

He will say: 'Brief indeed was your sojourn, if you but knew it! Did you think that We had created you in vain and that you would never be recalled to Us?'

Exalted be Allah, the King, the Truth. There is no god but Him, the Lord of the Glorious Throne.

He that invokes another god besides Allah—a god of whose divinity he has no proof—his reckoning will be only with his Lord. The unbelievers shall never prosper.

**23.118** Say: 'Lord, forgive and have mercy. You are the best of those that show mercy.'

## Sura 24

"Al-Nur"

LIGHT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**24.1** This is a sura (chapter) which We have revealed and sanctioned, proclaiming in it clear revelations. so that you may take heed.

The adulterer and the adulteress shall each be given a hundred lashes. Let no pity for them detain you from obedience to Allah, if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day; and let their punishment be witnessed by a number of believers.

The adulterer may marry only an adulteress or an idolatress; and the adulteress may marry only an adulterer or an idolater. True believers are forbidden such (marriages).

Those that defame honourable women and cannot produce four witnesses shall be given eighty lashes. And do not accept their testimony ever after, for they are great transgressors—except those among them that afterwards repent and mend their ways. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**24.6** And those who accuse their wives and have no witnesses except themselves, let each of them testify by swearing four times by Allah that his charge is true, calling down in the fifth time upon himself the curse of Allah if he is lying. But they shall spare her the punishment if she swears four times by Allah that his charge is false and calls down Allah's wrath upon herself if it be true.

**24.10** If it were not for Allah's grace and mercy on you and that He is Forgiving and Wise, (He would immediately uncover your sins and hasten your punishment).

Those who invented that slander<sup>1</sup> were a number of your own people. Do not regard it as a misfortune, for it has proved an advantage. Each one of them shall be punished according to the sin he committed. As for him who had the greater share in it, his punishment shall be terrible indeed.

**24.12** When you heard it, why did the faithful, men and women,

1. Reference here is made to a Lie about Aisha, Muhammad's wife.

not think well of their own people, and say: 'This is an evident falsehood?' Why did they not produce four witnesses? If they could not produce any witnesses, then they were surely lying in the sight of Allah.

**24.14** But for Allah's grace and mercy towards you in this life and in the next, you would have been sternly punished for the talk you indulged in. You carried with your tongues and uttered with your mouths what you did not know. You may have thought it a trifle, but in the sight of Allah it was a grave offence.

When you heard it, why did you not say: 'It is not right for us to speak of this. Allah forbid! This is a monstrous slander'?

**24.17** Allah bids you never again to repeat the like, if you are true believers. Allah makes plain to you His revelations. He is Wise, All-knowing.

Those who delight in spreading slanders against the faithful shall be sternly punished in this life and in the next. Allah knows, but you do not.

**24.20** But for Allah's grace and mercy, His compassion and forgiveness (you would have long since been punished).

You that are true believers, do not walk in the footsteps of Satan. He that walks in Satan's footsteps is incited by him to indecency and evil. But for Allah's grace and mercy, none of you would have been cleansed of sin. Allah purifies whom He will; He hears all and knows all.

Let not the honourable and rich among you swear not to give to their kindred, the poor, and those who have emigrated for the cause of Allah. Rather, let them pardon and forgive. Do you not wish Allah to forgive you? He is Forgiving, Merciful.

Those who defame honourable but unaware believing women shall be cursed in this world and in the next. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment on the day when their own tongues, hands, and feet will testify to what they did. On that day, Allah will justly requite them. They shall know that Allah is the Glorious Truth.

**24.26** Unclean women are for unclean men, and unclean men for unclean women. But good women are for good men, and good men for good women. These shall be cleared of calumny;



they shall be shown forgiveness, and a generous provision shall be made for them.

**24.27** Believers, do not enter the dwellings of other men until you have asked their owners' permission and wished them peace. That will be best for you. Perchance you will take heed.

If you find no one in them, do not go in till you are given leave. If you are refused admission, it is but right that you should go away. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.

It shall be no offence for you to seek shelter in uninhabited dwellings which can be of use to you. Allah knows what you hide and what you reveal.

**24.30** Say to the believing men and women to turn away their eyes (from what is unlawful) and to restrain their sexual desires. This will make their lives purer. Allah has knowledge of all their actions.

**24.31** Say to the believing women to turn their eyes away (from temptation) and to preserve their chastity; to cover their adornments except such as are normally displayed; to draw their veils over their bosoms and not to reveal their finery except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their step-sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women-servants, the women they possess, male attendants lacking in natural vigour, and children who have no knowledge of sex. And let them not stamp their feet in walking so as to reveal their hidden trinkets.

Believers, turn to Allah together in repentance, that you may prosper.

**24.32** Take in marriage those women among you who are single and those of your male and female slaves who are honest. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them from His own abundance. Allah is Bounteous, Knowing.

**24.33** Let those who cannot afford to marry live in continence until Allah enriches them of His bounty. As for those of your slaves who wish for a deed (of freedom), free them if you find in them any promise and bestow on them a part of the riches which Allah has given you.

You shall not force your slave-girls into prostitution in order that you may make money, if they wish to preserve their chastity. If any one compels them then surely after such compulsion, Allah will be Forgiving, Merciful.

**24.34** We have sent down to you revelations showing you the right path, and a story about those who have gone before you and an admonition to righteous men.

Allah is the light of the heavens and the earth. His light may be compared to a niche that enshrines a lamp, the lamp within a glass which (looks) as if it were a brilliant star. (It is) lit from a blessed olive tree, neither eastern nor western. Its very oil would almost shine forth, though no fire touched it. Light upon light; Allah guides to His light whom He will.

Allah sets forth parables for men. He has knowledge of all things.

**24.36** (His light is found) in houses which Allah has sanctioned to be exalted and to have therein His name glorified. In them morning and evening His praise is sung by men whom neither trade nor sale can divert from remembering Him, from offering prayers, or from giving alms; who dread the day when men's hearts and eyes shall be troubled; (who hope) that Allah will requite them for their noblest deeds and lavish His grace upon them. Allah gives without measure to whom He will.

**24.39** As for the unbelievers, their works are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty traveller thinks it is water, but when he comes near he finds that it is nothing. He finds Allah there, who pays him back in full. Swift is Allah's reckoning.

Or like darkness on a bottomless ocean covered with clashing billows and overcast with clouds: darkness upon darkness. If he stretches out his hand, he can scarcely see it. Indeed the man from whom Allah withholds His light shall find no light at all.

**24.41** Do you not see how Allah is praised by those in heaven and earth and the birds with wings outspread? He notes the prayers and praises of all His creatures and has knowledge of all their actions.

To Allah belongs the sovereignty in the heavens and the

earth. To Him shall all things return.

**24.43** Do you not see how Allah drives the clouds, then gathers them and piles them up in masses which pour down torrents of rain? From Heaven's mountains He sends down hail, pelting with it whom He will and turning it away from whom He pleases. The flash of His lightning almost snatches off men's sight.

**24.44** Allah makes the night and the day succeed one another: surely in this there is a lesson for clear-sighted men.

Allah created every animal from water. Some creep upon their bellies, others walk on two legs, and others on four. Allah creates what He pleases. He has power over all things.

We have sent down revelations showing clearly (the truth). Allah guides whom He will to a straight path.

They declare: 'We believe in Allah and His apostle and obey them both.' But a party of them turn away after this. Surely these are no believers.

**24.48** And when they are called to Allah and His Apostle that he may judge between them, a party of them turn away. Had justice been on their side, they would have come to him in all obedience.

Is there a sickness in their hearts, or are they in doubt? Do they fear that Allah and His Apostle may deny them justice? Surely these are wrongdoers.

But when true believers are called to Allah and His Apostle that he may pass judgement upon them, their only reply is: 'We hear and obey'. Such men shall surely prosper.

**24.52** Those who obey Allah and His apostles, those that revere Allah and fear Him, shall surely triumph.

They solemnly swear by Allah that if you order them, they would certainly go forth. Say: 'Do not swear; true obedience (will count). Allah is cognizant of all your actions'.

**24.54** Say: 'Obey Allah and obey His Apostle. If you turn away, he is still bound to fulfil his duty, and you yourselves are bound to fulfil yours. If you obey him, you shall be guided. The duty of an apostle is only to give a plain message'.

**24.55** Allah has promised those of you who believe and do

good works to make them masters in the land as He had made their ancestors before them, to strengthen the Faith He chose for them, and to change their fear to safety. Let them worship Me and serve no other gods besides Me. Wicked indeed are they who after this deny Me.

**24.56** Attend to your prayers, pay the alms-tax, and obey the Apostle, so that you may be shown mercy. Never think that the unbelievers will be beyond (God's) reach in this world. Hell shall be their home. An evil fate awaits them.

Believers, let your slaves and those who have not come of age ask your leave when they come in to see you on three occasions: before the morning prayer, when you have put off your garments in the heat of noon, and after the evening prayer. These are the three occasions of privacy. At other times, it is wrong neither for you nor for them to go around (visiting) one another. Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations: He is Knowing, Wise.

**24.59** And when they have reached the age of puberty, let your children still ask your leave as their elders do. Thus Allah makes plain to you His revelations. He is Wise, Knowing.

It shall be no offence for old spinsters who have no hope of marriage to discard their cloaks provided they do not reveal their adornments. Better if they abstain (from this). Allah hears all and knows all.

**24.61** It shall be no offence for the blind, the lame, the sick and yourselves to eat at your table. Nor shall it be an offence for you to eat in your houses and in the houses of your fathers, your mothers, your brothers, your sisters, your paternal uncles, your paternal aunts, your maternal uncles, your maternal aunts or in houses with the keys of which you are entrusted, or in those of your friends. It shall be equally lawful whether you eat together or apart.

When you enter houses, salute one another with a salutation from Allah, blessed and kind. Thus Allah makes clear to you His revelations so that you may understand.

**24.62** The believers are only those who have faith in Allah and His Apostle, and who, when gathered with him upon a grave

occasion, do not depart till they have begged his leave. The men who ask your leave are those who truly believe in Allah and His Apostle. When they ask your leave to go away on some business of their own, grant it to whomever you please and implore Allah to forgive them; Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Do not make the calling of the Apostle among yourselves like your calling one another. Allah knows those of you who steal away, concealing themselves. Let those who disobey his orders beware, lest some affliction befall them or some woeful scourge be visited upon them.

**24.64** To Allah belongs what the heavens and the earth contain. He has knowledge of what you are about. On the day when they return to Him, He will declare to them all that they have done. He has knowledge of all things.

## Sura 25

### AL-FURQAN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**25.1** Blessed be He who has revealed Al-Furqan (the Criterion) to His servant, that he may be a warner to all mankind; the Lord of the heavens and the earth, who has begotten no children and has no partner in His sovereignty; who has created all things and ordained them in due proportion.

Yet (the unbelievers) serve, besides Him, other gods which can create nothing and were themselves created: (gods) which can neither help nor harm themselves, and which have no power over life or death, or the raising of the dead.

**25.4** The unbelievers say: 'This is but a forgery of his own invention, in which others have helped him'. Unjust is what they say and false.

And they say: 'Fables of the ancients he has written: they are dictated to him morning and evening.'

Say 'It was sent down by Him who knows the secrets of heaven and earth. He is Forgiving, Merciful.'

**25.7** They also say: 'How is it that this Apostle eats and walks about the market-places? Why has no angel been sent down with him to warn us? Or (why) has no treasure been given him, no garden to provide his sustenance?'

And the wrongdoers say: 'The man you follow is surely bewitched.'

**25.9** See what they compare you with? Surely they have gone astray and cannot return to the true path.

Blessed be He who, if He wills, can give you better things than these: gardens watered by running streams, and palaces.

**25.11** They deny the Hour of Doom. For those who deny that hour, We have prepared a blazing fire. When it sees them from a far-off place, they shall hear it raging and roaring. And when, chained together, they are flung into some narrow space, inside it, they will then and there plead for destruction. (But they will be

told): 'Do not plead today for one destruction; plead for more and more.'

Say: 'Which is better, this or the Paradise of Immortality which the righteous have been promised? It is their recompense and their resort. Abiding there for ever, they shall find in it all that they desire. That is a promise to be prayed for from your Lord.'

25.17 On the day when He assembles them with all that they worship besides Allah, He will say: 'Was it you who misled My servants, or did they themselves go astray?'

They will answer: 'Glory be to You. We should not have taken other guardians besides You. But You gave them and their fathers the good things of life, so that they forgot Your warning and thus became lost people.'

25.19 (Then Allah will say): 'Now they deny what you say. You cannot avert (your doom) nor (get) help. Those of you who have done wrong, We shall sternly punish.'

25.20 We have sent no apostles before you who did not eat or walk about in the market-place. We test you by means of one another. Will you not have patience? Your Lord observes all.

Those who do not hope to meet Us ask: 'Why have no angels been sent to us? Why can we not see our Lord?' How arrogant they are, and how great their transgression!

On the day when they behold the angels, there will be no joy for the sinners. The angels will say: 'A barrier which cannot be crossed.' Then We shall turn to that which they have done and render it as scattered dust.

On that day, the people of Paradise (will have) a better abode and a nicer resting-place.

25.25 On that day, the sky with all its clouds shall be rent asunder and the angels sent down in their ranks. On that day the Merciful will truly reign supreme. A day of woe it shall be to the unbelievers.

25.27 On the day when the wrongdoer will bite his hands, he will say: 'Would that I had taken a (straight) path with the Apostle! Woe is me! Would that I had never chosen so-and-so for my companion! He led me astray from the Reminder after it

had reached me. Satan is ever treacherous to man!

The Apostle says: 'Lord, my people have treated this Quran as a forsaken thing.' And thus to every prophet We have appointed adversaries among the wrongdoers: but you need none besides your Lord to guide and help you.

**25.32** The unbelievers ask: 'Why was the Quran not revealed to him all at once?'

(We have revealed it) thus so that We may strengthen your faith. We have imparted it to you by gradual revelation. No sooner will they come to you with an argument than We shall reveal to you the truth and properly explain it. Those who will be dragged headlong into Hell shall have an evil plight and shall go farther away from the (right) path.

**25.35** We revealed the Book to Musa and gave him his brother Harun to help him. Then We said: 'Go to the people who have denied Our signs.' And We utterly destroyed them.

**25.37** As for Nuh's people, We drowned them when they denied their apostles, and made of them an example to all men. For the wrongdoers We have prepared a stern chastisement.

So too Aad and Thamoud and the people of the Rass and many generations in between; to each of them We gave examples, and each of them We utterly annihilated.

They have doubtless passed by the city which was destroyed by the fatal rain: have they never seen it? Yet they have no hope for the Resurrection.

**25.41** Whenever they see you, they scoff at you, (saying): 'Is this the man whom Allah has sent as (His) Apostle? He would have turned us away from our deities, if we had not adhered to them?' But when they face their punishment, they shall know who has been more grossly misled.

Have you seen him who has made gods of his own desires? Would you be a guardian over him?

**25.44** Do you think that most of them can hear or understand? They are like cattle, and even more misguided.

Do you not see how your Lord lengthens the shadow? Had it been His will, He could have made it constant. But He



## AL-FURQAN

makes the sun an indication of it; little by little We shorten it.

It is He who has made the night a mantle for you and sleep a rest. He makes each day a resurrection.

**25.48** It is He who drives the winds as harbingers of His mercy, and sends down pure water from the sky, so that He may give life to dead lands and provide drink for cattle and many people that We have created.

We have made plain to them Our revelations so that they may take heed. Yet most men decline to render thanks.

Had it been Our will, We could have raised a warner in every town. Do not yield to the unbelievers, but fight them strenuously with it (the Quran).

**25.53** It was He who sent the two seas rolling, the one sweet and fresh, the other salt and bitter, and set a barrier between them, and an insurmountable obstruction.

**25.54** It was He who created man from water and gave him kindred of blood and of marriage. Your Lord is All-powerful.

Yet the unbelievers worship that which can neither help nor harm them. Surely the unbeliever is a helper (of evil) against his Lord.

**25.56** We have sent you only to proclaim good news and to give warning. Say: 'I demand of you no recompense for this except that he who will take (the right) path to his Lord.'

Put your trust in the Living One who never dies. Celebrate his praise: He sufficiently knows all His servants' sins. He it is who in six days created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them, and then ascended His throne. He is the Lord of Mercy. Ask those who know, concerning Him.

**25.60** When it is said to them: 'Prostrate yourselves before the Merciful', they ask: 'Who is the Merciful? Would you have us worship whatever you impose on us?' And this adds to their aversion.

**25.61** Blessed be He who decked the sky with constellations and set in it a lamp and a shining moon. He makes the night and day follow each other: a sign to those who would take heed

and desire to render thanks.

The true servants of the Merciful are those who walk humbly on the earth, and when the ignorant address them they say: 'Peace!'; who pass the night standing and on their knees in adoration of their Lord; who say: 'Lord, ward off from us the punishment of Hell, for its punishment is everlasting: an evil dwelling and an evil resting-place; who when they spend are neither extravagant nor niggardly, but keep the golden mean; who invoke no other god besides Allah and do not kill the soul which God has forbidden except for a just cause; who do not commit adultery. For he that does this shall meet with evil: his punishment shall be doubled on the Day of Resurrection, and he shall abide therein for ever in disgrace, unless he repent and believe and do good works, for then Allah will change his sins to good actions: Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful. He that repents and does good works truly returns to Allah; (and the true servants are those) who do not bear false witness and do not lose their dignity when listening to profane chatter; who do not turn a

25.72 blind eye and a deaf ear to the revelations of their Lord when they are reminded of them; who say: 'Lord, give us joy in our wives and children and make us examples to those who fear You'. These shall be rewarded with the highest place for their patience. There they shall find welcome and greeting, and there they shall abide for ever: a blessed dwelling and blessed resting-place.

25.77 Say (to the unbelievers): 'Little cares my Lord for you if you do not invoke Him. Now that you have denied His revelations, His punishment is bound to overtake you.'

## Sura 26

### "Al-Shu'ara"

### THE POETS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**26.1** *Ta sin mim.* These are the verses of the Book which clearly indicates (right and wrong). You will perhaps fret yourself to death on account of their unbelief. If We will, We can reveal to them a sign from heaven before which they will bow their heads: in utter humility.

**26.5** They deny and turn their backs on each fresh warning they receive from the Merciful: they have indeed denied, but the truth of that which they have laughed to scorn will before long dawn upon them.

Do they not see the earth, how We have brought forth in it all kinds of beneficial plants? Surely in this there is a sign; yet most of them do not believe.

**26.10** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. And (remember) when your Lord called to Musa, saying: 'Go to those wicked people, the people of Pharaoh. Will they not have fear of Me?'

'Lord,' he replied, 'I fear they will deny me. I may become impatient and stammer in my speech. Send for Harun. They hold a charge against me, and I fear that they may put me to death.'

**26.15** 'Have no fear,' said He. 'Go both of you with Our signs; We shall be with you and shall hear all. Go to Pharaoh and say to him: "We are messengers from the Lord of all men. Send with us the Children of Israel."

(Pharaoh) said to Musa: 'Did We not bring you up when you were an infant? And have you not spent several years of your life amongst us? Yet you have done what you have done; surely you are ungrateful.'

(Musa) replied: 'I did that when I was in error. I fled from you because I feared you. But my Lord has given me wisdom and made me one of the apostles. And this is the favor with which you taunt me: you have enslaved the Children of Israel.'

**26.23** 'Who is the Lord of all men?' asked Pharaoh. Musa

replied: 'He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. If only you had faith!'

'Do you hear?' said Pharaoh to those around him.

'He is your Lord,' went on Musa, 'and the Lord of your forefathers.'

Pharaoh said: 'The apostle who has been sent to you is surely possessed!'

**26.28** 'He is the Lord of the East and the West,' said Musa, 'and all that lies between them. If only you could understand!'

'If you serve any other god but myself,' replied Pharaoh, 'you shall be thrown into prison.'

'Even if I showed you a convincing sign?' said Musa.

Pharaoh replied: 'Show us your sign, if what you say be true.'

**26.32** Musa threw down his staff and thereupon it changed to a veritable serpent. Then he drew out his hand, and it appeared white to all who saw it.

'This man,' said Pharaoh to his nobles, 'is a skilled enchanter who seeks to drive you from your land by his witchcraft. What is your counsel?'

**26.36** They replied: 'Put them off awhile, him and his brother, and send forth heralds to your cities to summon every skilled magician to your presence.'

The magicians were gathered on the appointed day, and the people were asked if they had all assembled. 'Yes,' they replied. 'Perchance we may follow the magicians if they win the day.'

And when the magicians came to Pharaoh, they said: 'Shall we be rewarded if we win?'

**26.42** 'Yes,' he answered, 'and you shall become my favoured friends.'

Musa said to them: 'Throw down all that you wish to throw.'

They cast down their ropes and staffs, saying: 'By Pharaoh's glory, we shall surely win!'

**26.45** Then Musa threw down his staff and it swallowed their false devices. The magicians prostrated themselves in

adoration, saying: 'We believe in the Lord of the Creation, the Lord of Musa and Harun.'

(Pharaoh) said: 'Do you dare believe in Him without my consent? This man must be your master, who has taught you witchcraft. But you shall see. I will cut off your hands and feet on alternate sides and crucify you all.'

**26.50** 'No harm,' they replied, 'for to our Lord we shall return. We trust that He will forgive us our sins, since we are the first who have believed.'

Then We revealed Our will to Musa, saying: 'Set forth with My servants by night, for you will be pursued.'

Pharaoh sent forth heralds to all the cities. 'These,' they said, 'are but a puny band, who have provoked us much. But we are a numerous army, well-prepared.'

**26.57** Thus We made them leave their gardens and their fountains, their treasures and their sumptuous dwellings. Even thus; and we gave them to the Children of Israel.

At sunrise, they followed them. And when the two bands came in view of each other, Musa's companions said: 'We have surely been overtaken!'

**26.62** 'No,' replied Musa, 'My Lord is with me and He will guide me.'

We revealed to Musa to strike the sea with his staff, and the sea was cleft asunder, each part as high as a massive mountain. In between We led the others. We delivered Musa and those who were with him, and drowned the others.

**26.67** Surely in that there was a sign; yet most men do not believe. Truly, your Lord is the Mighty one, the Merciful.

Recount to them the story of Ibrahim. He said to his father and to his people: 'What is that which you worship?'

They replied: 'We worship idols and pray to them with all fervour.'

'Do they hear you when you call on them?' he asked. 'Can they help you or do you harm?'

They replied: 'Nay, but we found our fathers doing that.'

**26.75** He said: 'Do you see those which you worship, you and

your forefathers? They are enemies to me. Not so the Lord of the Creation, who created me; Who gives me guidance, food and drink; Who, when I am sick, cures me; Who will cause me to die and bring me back to life hereafter; Who, I pray, will forgive me my sins on the Day of Judgement.

**26.83** 'Lord, bestow on me wisdom and let me join the righteous. Give me renown among posterity and place me amongst the heirs of the Blissful Garden. Forgive my father, for he has gone astray. Do not hold me to shame on the Day of Resurrection; the day when wealth and children will avail nothing and when none shall be saved except him who comes before his Lord with a pure heart; when Paradise shall be brought in sight of the righteous and Hell be brought near to the erring. A voice will say to them: "Where are those you worshipped? Can they help you or even help themselves?" And into Hell they shall be hurled, they and those who misled them, and Satan's legions all. "By Allah, " they will say while they quarrel:

**26.98** "We erred indeed when we made you equals with the Lord of the Creation. It was the evil-doers who led us astray. We have no intercessors now, no intimate friend. Could we but live our lives again, we would be true believers."

**26.103** Surely in that there was a sign, yet most of them do not believe.

**26.104** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. The people of Nuh, too, denied their apostles, (Remember) when Nuh, their brother, said to them: 'Will you have no fear of your Lord? I am indeed your true apostle. Fear Allah, then, and follow me. For this I demand of you no recompense, for none can reward me except the Lord of the Creation. Have fear of Allah and follow me.'

**26.111** They replied: ' Are we to believe in you when the lowest of the low are your followers?'

'I have no knowledge of what they may have done,' said Nuh. ' My Lord alone can bring them to account. Would that you understood! I will not drive away the true believers. I am sent only to give plain warning.'

**26.116** 'Nuh,' they replied, 'desist, or you shall be stoned to death.' He said: 'Lord, my people have denied me. Judge openly between me and them. Save me and the believers who are with me.'

We delivered him and those who were with him in the laden Ark, and overwhelmed the others with the Flood.

Surely in that there was a sign; yet most of them do not believe.

**26.122** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. Aad, too, disbelieved their apostles. Their compatriot Hud had said to them: 'Will you not have fear of Allah? I am indeed your true Apostle. Fear Allah then and follow me. For this I demand of you no recompense; none can reward me except the Lord of the Creation. Will you build a monument on every hill? Vain is your work. You raise strong fortresses, hoping that you may last for ever. When you exercise your power, you act like cruel tyrants. Have fear of Allah, and follow me. Fear Him who has given you all the things you know. He has given you flocks and children, gardens and fountains. Truly I fear for you the torment of a fateful day.'

**26.136** They replied: 'It is the same whether you preach or not. That with which you threaten us is but a legend of the ancients. Surely we shall never be punished.'

They denied him, and thus We utterly destroyed them. Surely in that there was a sign; yet most of them do not believe.

**26.140** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. Thamoud, (too) disbelieved their apostles. Their brother Saleh said to them 'Will you not have fear of Allah? I am indeed your true apostle. Fear Allah and follow me. For this I demand of you no recompense; none can reward me except the Lord of the Creation. Are you to be left safe in this land, amidst gardens and fountains, cornfields and palm-trees heavily laden with fine fruit, hewing your dwellings in the mountains wantonly? Have fear of Allah and obey me. Do not do the bidding of the extravagant who commit evil in the earth and reform nothing.'

They replied: 'Surely you are one of the bewitched. You are but a mortal like ourselves. Show us a sign, if what you say be true.'

**26.155** He said: 'Here is a she-camel. She shall have her share of water as you have yours on an appointed day. Do not molest her, or the scourge of a fateful day shall fall upon you.'

Yet they slew her, and then repented of their deed. The scourge overtook them.

Surely in that there was a sign. Yet most of them do not believe.

**26.159** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. Lut's people, too, disbelieved their apostles. Their compatriot Lut said to them: 'Will you not have fear of Allah? I am indeed your true apostle. Fear Allah then and follow me. I demand of you no recompense for this; none can reward me except the Lord of the Creation. Will you fornicate with males and leave your wives, whom Allah has created for you? Surely you are great transgressors.'

'Lut,' they replied, 'desist or you shall be banished.'

**26.168** He said: 'I abhor your ways. Lord, preserve me and my kinsfolk from their evil doings.'

We delivered Lut and all his kinsfolk, save for one old woman who stayed behind, and the rest We utterly destroyed. We pelted them with rain, and evil was the rain which fell on those who had been warned.

**26.174** Surely in that there was a sign. Yet most of them do not believe.

Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. The dwellers of the Forest,<sup>1</sup> too, disbelieved their apostles. Shu'ayb said to them: 'Will you not have fear of Allah? I am indeed your true apostle. Fear Allah, then, and obey me. I demand of you no recompense: none can reward me except the Lord of the Creation. Give just measure and defraud none. Weigh with even scales and do not cheat others of what is rightly theirs; nor corrupt the land with evil. Fear Him who created you and those who have gone before you.'

**26.185** They replied: 'You are surely one of the bewitched. You are but a mortal like ourselves. Indeed, we believe that you are lying. Bring down upon us a part of heaven if what you say be true.'

1. The people of Madian.



He said: 'My Lord has full knowledge of all your actions.' They disbelieved him and thus the scourge of the Day of Darkness smote them; it was the punishment of a fateful day.

Surely in that there was a sign; yet most of them do not believe.

**26.191** Your Lord is the Mighty One, the Merciful. Verily this is revealed by the Lord of the Creation. The Faithful Spirit brought it down into your heart, that you might warn mankind in plain Arabic speech. It was (foretold) in the scriptures of the ancients. Is it not sufficient proof for them that the learned of the Children of Israel know it? If We had revealed it to a non-Arab, and he had recited it to them, they still would not have believed. We thus put it in the hearts of the evil-doers: they shall not believe in it until they see the woeful scourge which in their heedlessness will suddenly smite them. And then they will say: 'Shall we be reprieved?'

**26.204** Do they wish to hasten Our punishment? (Think! ) If We let them live in ease for many years, and then the scourge with which they are threatened falls upon them, of what avail will their past enjoyments be to them?

Never have We destroyed a town which We did not warn and admonish beforehand. We are never unjust.

It was not the devils who brought down this revelation: it is neither in their interest nor in their power. Indeed, they are too far away to overhear it.

**26.213** Call on no other god besides Allah, lest you incur His punishment. Admonish your nearest kinsfolk and show kindness to the believers who follow you. If they disobey you, say: 'I am not accountable for what you do.'

Put your trust in the Mighty One, the Merciful, who observes you when you stand upright and (sees) your movements among those who prostrate themselves. He hears all and knows all.

Shall I tell you on whom the devils descend? They descend on every lying sinner. They pour what they hear, but most of them are liars.

Poets are followed by erring men. Behold how aimlessly they rove in every valley, preaching what they never practise. Not so are the true believers who do good works and remember

## THE POETS

Allah and defend themselves only after they had been wronged.  
The wrongdoers will see what a come-back they shall have.

## Sura 27

"Al-Naml"

THE ANT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

27.1 *Ta sin.* These are the verses of the Quran, the Book which indicates (right and wrong); a guidance and joyful news to true believers, who attend to their prayers and pay alms—tax and firmly believe in the life to come.

As for those who deny the life to come, We make their foul deeds seem fair to them, so that they blunder about in their folly. Such are those who will be sternly punished and in the Hereafter have much to lose.

27.6 You have received the Quran from Him who is Wise and All-knowing. (Tell of) Musa, who said to his people: 'Surely I see fire. I will go and bring you news and a lighted torch with which you may warm yourselves.'

And when he came near, a voice called out to him: 'Blessed be He who is in this fire and all around it! Glory to Allah, Lord of the Creation!' Musa, it is I, Allah, the Mighty, the Wise One. Throw down your staff.'

And when he saw his staff writhing like a serpent, he turned his back and fled, running on and on, without turning back again.

'Musa, do not be alarmed,' (Said He), 'My apostles are never afraid in My presence. As for those who sin and then do good instead of evil, I am Forgiving and Merciful to them.'

27.12 'Put your hand into your pocket. It will come out white, although unharmed. This is but one of the nine signs which shall be shown to Pharaoh and his people; for, truly, they are wicked men.'

But when Our undoubted signs were shown to them, they said: 'This is plain witchcraft.' They denied them unjustly and in arrogance, though their souls knew them to be true. Consider the fate of the evil-doers.

We bestowed knowledge on Dawud and Sulayman. They said: 'Praise be to Allah who has exalted us above many of His believing servants.'

**27.16** Sulayman became Dawud's heir. He said: 'Know, my people, we have been taught the tongue of birds and endowed with all good things. Surely this is a signal favour.'

To Sulayman were marshalled his forces of jinn and men and birds, and set in battle array. When they came to the Valley of the Ants, an ant said: 'O ants, go into your dwellings lest Sulayman and his warriors should unwittingly crush you.'

**27.19** Sulayman smiled at her words, and said: 'Inspire me, Lord, to render thanks for the favours You have bestowed on me and on my parents, and to do good works that will please You. Include me, through Your mercy, among Your righteous servants.'

He inspected his birds and said: 'Why is it that I do not see the Hoopoe here? Or is he one of the absentees? If he does not give me a good excuse, I shall sternly punish him or even slay him.'

**27.22** The bird, who was not long in coming, said: 'I have just seen what you know nothing of. With truthful news I come to you from Sheba. There I found a woman reigning over the people. She is possessed of every virtue and has a splendid throne. But she and her subjects worship the sun instead of Allah. Satan has made their deeds seem pleasing to them and debarred them from the right path. They are not well-guided, and they are kept away from worshipping Allah, who brings to light all that is concealed in heaven and earth and knows what you hide and what you reveal. Allah; there is no god but Him, the Lord of the Glorious Throne.'

**27.27** Sulayman replied: 'We shall soon see if what you say is true or false. Go and deliver to them this message of mine. Then turn aside and wait their answer.'

**27.29** The Queen (of Sheba) said: 'Know, my nobles, that a gracious message has been delivered to me. It is from Sulayman and reads as follows: "In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful, Do not exalt yourselves above me, but come to me in all submission." Nobles, let me hear your counsel, for I make no decision except in your presence.'

**27.33** They replied: 'We are possessors of strength and mighty prowess. It is for you to command, and we shall wait upon your

pleasure.'

She said: 'When kings enter a city, they ruin it and humiliate its nobles. These (men) will do the same. But I shall send them a present and see with what reply my envoys will return.'

**27.36** And when her envoy came to him, Sulayman said: 'Is it wealth that you would give me? That which Allah has bestowed on me is better than all the riches He has given you. Yet you glory in your gift. Go back to your people: we will march against them with forces they cannot oppose, and drive them from their land humbled and contemned.'

**27.38** And he said: 'O nobles, which of you will bring to me her throne, before they sue for peace?'

One audacious among the jinn replied: 'I will bring it to you before you rise from your seat. I am strong enough and faithful.'

**27.40** But he who had knowledge of the Book, said: 'I will bring it to you before your gaze comes back to you.'

And when he saw it set before him, Sulayman said: 'This is a favour from my Lord with which He would test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful. He that gives thanks has much to gain; but he who is ungrateful, truly Allah is All-sufficient and Bountiful!'

**27.41** (Then) he said: 'Let her throne be altered, so that we may see whether she will get to know(it), or will be one of those who are not rightly directed.'

And when she came to Sulayman, she was asked: 'Is your throne like this?' And she replied: 'It looks as though it were the very one.'

(Sulayman said): 'Before her we were given knowledge, and before her we surrendered to Allah. That which she worshipped besides Allah has led her astray, for she comes from an unbelieving nation.'

**27.44** She was asked to enter the palace; and when she saw it, she thought it was a pool of water and bared her legs. But Sulayman said: 'It is a palace paved with glass.'

'Lord,' she said, 'I have wronged my own soul. Now I submit with Sulayman to Allah, Lord of the Creation.'

**27.45** To Thamoud We sent their brother Saleh. He said: 'Serve none but Allah.' But they were divided into two warring factions.

'My people,' he said, 'why do you wish to hasten evil rather than good? If only you seek forgiveness of Allah, you may yet receive His mercy.'

They said: 'We presage evil from you and from your followers.'

He replied: 'The evil you presage can come only from Allah; you are a people put to the proof.'

**27.48** In the town there was a band of nine men, who did evil in the land and nothing that was good. They said: 'Let us swear by Allah to kill him in the night, together with all his household. We will then say to his next of kin: "We were not even present when they were killed. It is the truth we are telling."

And they devised a scheme and We devised a scheme, without their knowledge. And behold the consequences of their plots! We destroyed them utterly, together with all their people. Because they sinned, their dwellings are desolate ruins. Surely in this there is a sign for prudent men. But We delivered the true believers who kept from evil.

**27.54** And (tell of) Lut. He said to his people: 'Do you commit indecencies while you see? Do you lustfully seek men instead of women? Surely you are an ignorant people.'

Yet they gave no answer but this: 'Banish the house of Lut from your city. They are men who would keep chaste.'

So We delivered him and all his tribe, except his wife, whom We caused to stay behind, pelting the others with rain; and evil was the rain which fell on those who had been warned.

**27.59** Say: 'Praise be to Allah and peace upon His servants whom He has chosen! Who is more worthy, Allah or that which they serve besides Him? (Surely worthier is He) who made the heavens and the earth. He sends down water from the sky, bringing forth gardens of delight. Try as you may, you cannot cause such trees to grow.' Another god besides Allah? Yet they set up equals with Him.

**27.61** (And surely worthier is He) who has established the earth

and watered it with running rivers; who has set mountains upon it and placed a barrier between the Two Seas. Another god besides Allah? Indeed, most of them are ignorant men.

(Surely worthier is He) who answers the oppressed when they cry out to Him and relieves affliction, and makes you inheritors of the earth. Another god besides Allah? How little you reflect!

**27.63** (Surely worthier is He) who guides you in the darkness of land and sea and, sends the winds as harbingers of His mercy. Another god besides Allah? Exalted be He above their idols!

(Surely worthier is He) who originates the creation and then reproduces it; who gives you sustenance from earth and sky. Another god besides Allah? Say: 'Show us your proof, if what you say be true!'

**27.65** Say: 'No one in the heavens or the earth has knowledge of what is hidden except Allah. Nor shall they ever know when they will be raised to life.'

**27.66** Have they attained a knowledge of the life to come? Surely they are in doubt about it and their eyes are sealed.

The unbelievers say: 'When we and our fathers are turned to dust, shall we be raised to life? We were promised this once before, and so were our fathers. It is but a fable of the ancients.'

Say: 'Roam the world and see what was the end of the guilty.' Do not grieve for them, nor be distressed at their intrigues.

And they ask: 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if what you say be true?'

Say: 'A part of what you hasten may well be near to you.'

**27.73** Your Lord is bountiful to men: yet most of them do not give thanks.

Your Lord has knowledge of what they hide in their hearts and what they reveal. There is no secret in heaven or earth but is recorded in a clear book.

This Quran declares to the Children of Israel most of that concerning which they disagree. It is a guidance and a blessing to true believers. Your Lord will rightly judge them. He is the Mighty One, the All-knowing. Therefore put your trust in Allah, for undoubtedly you are (on the path) of the manifest truth.

**27.80** You cannot make the dead hear you, nor can you make the deaf hear you call when they turn their backs. It is not for you to guide the blind out of their error. None shall hear you except those who believe in Our revelations and surrender themselves to Us.

**27.82** On the day when Our judgement overtakes them, We will bring out from the earth a beast that shall speak to them. Truly, men had no faith in Our revelations.

On that day We shall gather from every nation a multitude of those who disbelieved Our revelations. They shall be led in separate bands. And when they come, He will say (to them): 'You denied My revelations although you knew nothing of them. What was it you were doing?' Our judgement will smite them for their sins, and they shall be dumbfounded.

**27.86** Do they not see how We have made the night for them to rest in and the day to give them light? Surely there are signs in this for true believers.

On that day the Trumpet shall be sounded and all who dwell in heaven and earth be seized with fear, except those whom Allah will be pleased (to exempt). All shall come to Him abased.

The mountains which you take to be firm will pass away like clouds. Such is the might of Allah, who has rightly perfected all things. He has knowledge of all your actions.

Those that have done good shall be rewarded with what is better, and shall be secure from the terrors of that day.

**27.90** But those that have done evil shall be hurled headlong into the Fire. Shall you not be rewarded according to your deeds?

(Say): 'I am bidden to serve the Lord of this City, which He has made sacred. All things are His.

'I am commanded to surrender to Him, and to recite the Quran. He that takes the right path shall himself have much to gain.'

To him who goes astray, say: 'I am only a warner.'

**27.93** Then say: 'Praise be to Allah! He will show you His signs and you will recognize them. Your Lord is not unmindful of all your actions.'



## Sura 28

"Al-Qasas"

### THE NARRATIVE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**28.1** *Ta sin mim.* These are the verses of the Book which makes plain (right and wrong). We shall recount to you some of the story of Musa and Pharaoh in truth for people who believe.

Now Pharaoh exalted himself in the land. He divided its people into castes, one group of which he persecuted, putting their sons to death and sparing their daughters. Truly, he was an evil-doer.

**28.5** But it was Our will to favour those who were oppressed, and to make them leaders and inheritors, and to give them power in the land; and to show Pharaoh, Haman, and their army, at their hands, the very thing they dreaded.

We revealed this to Musa's mother: 'Give him suck, but if you are concerned about his safety put him down the river. Have no fear, nor be dismayed; for We shall restore him to you and make him one of the apostles.'

**28.8** But Pharaoh's men picked him up, so that (as decreed) he might become their adversary and their scourge. For Pharaoh, Haman, and their warriors were sinners all.

Pharaoh's wife said to him: 'Here is a joy of the eye for me and for you. Do not slay him. He may be of use to us, or we may adopt him as our son.' But little they knew (what they were doing).

**28.10** The heart of Musa's mother cared for nothing but him. She would have revealed who he was, had We not given her strength so that she might become a true believer. She said to (Musa's) sister: 'Go, and follow him.'

She watched him from a distance, unseen by others. Now We had caused him to refuse suck until (his sister) said to them: 'Shall I direct you to a family who will bring him up for you and take good care of him?'

**28.13** Thus we restored him to his mother, so that she might rejoice in him and grieve no more, and that she might know that

Allah's promise was true. Yet most men are not aware of this.

**28.14** And when he had reached maturity and became full-grown, We bestowed on him wisdom and knowledge. Thus We reward the righteous.

**28.15** And he entered the town unnoticed by the people and found two men fighting, the one of his own party, the other an enemy. The man of his party appealed for his help against his enemy, so that Musa struck him with his fist and killed him. 'This is the work of Satan,' said Musa. 'He is the sworn enemy of man and seeks to lead him astray. Forgive me, Lord, for I have sinned against my soul.'

And Allah forgave him; for He is the Forgiving One, the Merciful. He said: 'By the favour You have shown me, Lord, I vow that I will never lend a helping hand to a wrong-doer.'

Next morning, as he was walking in the town in fear and caution, the man he had helped the day before cried out to him again for help. 'Clearly,' said Musa, 'you are truly a quarrelsome man.'

**28.19** And when Musa was about to seize him who was the enemy of both of them, he said: 'Musa, would you kill me as you killed that person yesterday. You are surely seeking to be a tyrant in this land, not an upright man.'

But someone came running from the other end of the city. 'Musa, he cried, 'the elders are plotting to kill you. Run for your life, for I am giving you sincere advice.'

He went away in fear and vigilance, saying: 'Lord, deliver me from these evil men.' and as he made his way towards Madian, he said: 'May the Lord guide me to the right path.'

**28.23** When he came to the well of Madian, he found there a band of men watering, and beside them two women who were keeping back (their sheep). 'What is your trouble?' he asked.

They replied: 'We cannot water them until the shepherds have driven away their flocks. Our father is an aged man.'

**28.24** Musa watered for them (their sheep) and then retired to the shade, saying: 'Lord, I stand in need of whatever good You may send me.'

**28.25** One of the girls came bashfully towards him and said: 'My father invites you. He wishes to reward you for having watered (the sheep) for us.'

And when Musa went to him and told him his story, (the old man) said: 'Fear nothing. You are now safe from those wicked men.'

One of the girls said: 'Father, take this man into your service. Men who are strong and honest are the best that one can hire.'

**28.27** He said: 'I will give you one of these two daughters of mine in marriage if you stay for eight years in my service; but if you wish it, you may stay ten. I shall not deal harshly with you; Allah willing, you shall find me an upright man.'

'So be it between me and you,' said Musa. 'Whichever term I fulfil, I trust that I shall not be wronged. Allah is the witness of what we say.'

**28.29** And when he had fulfilled his term and was journeying with his folk, Musa descried a fire on the mountain-side. He said to his family: 'Stay here, for I can see a fire. Perhaps I can bring you news, or a lighted torch with which you may warm yourselves.'

When he came near, he was called from the right side of the valley in the blessed spot of the tree: 'Musa, I am Allah, Lord of the Creation. Throw down your staff.'

And when he saw his staff writhing as though it were a jinne, he turned his back and fled, running on and without turning back again.

'Musa,' (said the voice), 'approach and have no fear. You are safe. Put your hand in your pocket: it will come out white, although unharmed. Now draw back your hand close to your side (to guard) against fear. These are two signs from your Lord for Pharaoh and his people. Truly, they are evil-doers.'

**28.33** 'Lord,' said Musa, 'I have killed one of their men and fear that they will slay me. Harun my brother is more fluent in speech than I; send him with me as a helper to confirm my words, for I fear that they will disbelieve me.'

**28.35** He replied: 'We will give you your brother to help you, and invest you both with authority so that they shall not reach

you. With Our signs, you, and those who follow you, shall surely triumph.'

And when Musa came to them with Our undoubted signs, they said: 'This is nothing but deceitful magic; nor have we heard of the like among our forefathers.' Musa replied: 'My Lord knows best the man who brings guidance from Him and whose will be the best end in the Hereafter. The wrongdoers shall never prosper.'

'Nobles,' said Pharaoh, 'you have no other god that I know of except myself. Kindle a fire, O Haman, on clay (to make bricks) and build for me a tower that I may climb to the god of Musa. I am convinced that he is lying.'

**28.39** Pharaoh and his warriors conducted themselves in the land with pride and injustice, and thought they would never be recalled to Us. But We seized them and We cast them into the sea. Consider the fate of the evil-doers.

We made them leaders inviting men to the Fire, but on the Day of Resurrection none shall help them. In this world We laid Our curse on them, and on the Day of Resurrection We shall dishonour them.

And after We had destroyed the previous generations, We gave Musa the Book as a clear testimony, a guide and a blessing for men, so that they might give thought.

**28.44** You<sup>1</sup> were not present on the western side (of the mountain) when We charged Musa with his commission, nor did you witness the event. We raised many generations after him whose lives were prolonged. You did not dwell among the people of Madian, nor did you recite to them Our revelations; but We sent (you) fully inspired.

**28.46** You were not present on the mountain-side when We called (out to Musa). Yet (We have sent you forth) as a blessing from your Lord to forewarn a people to whom no warner has been sent before, so that they may take heed and may not say, when evil befalls them on account of their misdeeds: 'Lord, had You sent us an apostle, we would have obeyed Your revelations and believed in them.'

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1. Muhammad.

**28.48** And now that they have received from Us the truth, they ask: 'Why is he not given the like of what was given to Musa?' But do they not deny what was given to Musa? They say: 'Two works of magic supporting one another!' And they declare: 'We will believe in neither of them.'

Say: 'Bring down from Allah a scripture that is a better guidance than these and I will follow it, if what you say be true!'

**28.50** If they do not answer you, know that they are the slaves of their desires. And who is in greater error than the man who is led by his desires without guidance from Allah? Allah does not guide the evil-doers.

We have caused Our Word to reach them so that they may give thought. Those to whom We gave the Book before, are believers in it. When it is recited to them, they say: 'We believe in it because it is the truth from Our Lord. We surrendered ourselves to Him before it came.'

**28.54** Twice shall their reward be given them, because they have endured, repelling evil with good and giving in alms a part of that which We bestowed on them; and because they pay no heed to vain talk, but say: 'We have our actions and you have yours. Peace be upon you. We do not seek (the company of) ignorant men'

You cannot guide whom you please: it is Allah who guides whom He will. He best knows those who yield to guidance.

They say: 'If we accept the guidance with you, we shall be driven from our land,' But have We not given them a sanctuary of safety to which fruits of every kind are brought as a provision from Ourselves? Indeed, most of them do not know.

**28.58** How many a nation have We destroyed that once flourished in wanton ease! Its dwellings are but rarely inhabited; We were its only heirs.

**28.59** Nor did your Lord destroy the nations until He had sent apostles to their capital cities proclaiming to them Our revelations. We do not destroy towns except when their populations sin.

**28.60** The things you have been given are but the conveniences and the gaudy show of this present life. Better is

Allah's reward and more lasting. Have you no sense?

Can he who has received Our gracious promise, and will see it fulfilled, be compared with him to whom We have given the comforts of this life and who will be summoned on the Day of Resurrection?

On that day (Allah) will call to them, saying: 'Where are those whom you alleged to be My partners?'

Those who have justly earned Our doom will say: 'Lord these are the men whom we misled. We led them astray as we ourselves went astray. We plead innocent before You; it was not us that they worshipped.'

**28.64** It will be said to them: 'Call on your partners!' And they will call on them, but they shall get no answer. They shall see our punishment and wish that they were rightly guided.

On that day (Allah) will call to them saying: 'What answer did you give Our apostles?' And on that day such will their confusion be that they will ask no questions. But those who repent and embrace the faith and do what is right may hope for salvation.

**28.68** Your Lord creates what he will and chooses freely, but they have no power to choose. Glorified and exalted be He above all that they associate with Him.

Your Lord knows what their bosoms hide and what they reveal. He is Allah: there is no god but Him. Praise is His in this world and in the next. His is the power supreme. To Him you shall be recalled.

Say: 'Think! If Allah should enshroud you in perpetual night till the Day of Resurrection, what other god could give you light! Will you not hear?'

**28.72** Say: 'Think! If Allah should give you perpetual day until the Resurrection, what other god could bring you the night to sleep in? Will you not see?'

**28.73** In His mercy He has given you the night that you may rest in it, and the day that you may seek His bounty and render thanks.

On that day He will call out to them saying: 'Where are those whom you alleged to be My partners?' From every nation We will bring a witness, and We shall say to them: 'Show Us your proof.' Then they shall know that the truth is Allah's, and

their own inventions will forsake them.

**28.76** Qarun was one of Musa's people. But he treated them with insolence, for We had given him such treasures that their very keys would have weighed down a band of sturdy men. His people said to him: 'Do not exult (in your riches); Allah does not love the exultant. But seek, by means of that which Allah has given you, to attain the abode of the Hereafter. Do not forget your share in this world. Be good to others as Allah has been good to you, and do not strive for evil in the land, for Allah does not love the evil-doers.'

**28.78** But he replied: 'These riches were given me on account of the knowledge I possess.'

Did he not know that Allah had destroyed before him from the generations men who were mightier and greater money-collectors than he? The wrongdoers shall not be questioned about their sins.

And when he went out in all his finery among his people, those who loved this life said: 'Would that we had the like of Qarun's fortune! He is indeed a lucky man.'

**28.80** But those to whom knowledge had been given said: 'Alas for you! Better is the reward of Allah for him who has faith and does good works; but none shall attain it save the patient.'

We caused the earth to swallow him, together with his dwelling, so that he found none to protect him from Allah; nor was he one of those who defended themselves.

**28.82** And those who on the day before had coveted his lot began to say: 'Behold! Allah gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases. Had he not shown us favour, He could have caused the earth to swallow us. Behold! The ungrateful shall never prosper.'

**28.83** As for the abode of the Hereafter, we shall assign it to those who seek neither glory in this world nor evil. The blessed end is for the righteous.

He that does good shall be rewarded with what is better. But he that does evil, the evil-doers will be requited only for what they do.

He who has ordained the Quran to you will surely bring you back (to Makkah). Say: 'My Lord best knows him who brings guidance, and him who is in gross error.'

You never hoped that this Book would be sent to you except as mercy from your Lord. Therefore give no help to the unbelievers. Let no one turn you away from Allah's revelations, now that they have been revealed to you. Call men to your Lord, and serve none besides Him.

**28.88** Invoke no other god with Allah. There is no god but Him. All things shall perish except His face. His is the judgement, and to Him you shall return.



## Sura 29

"Al-Ankabut"

### THE SPIDER

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**29.1** *Alif lam mim.* Do men think that once they say: 'We are believers,' they will be left alone and not be tried?

We tested those who have gone before them. Allah knows those who are truthful and those who are lying.

Or do the evil-doers think that they will escape (Our punishment)? How ill they judge!

He that hopes to meet his Lord (must know) that Allah's appointed hour is sure to come. He alone hears all and knows all.

**29.6** He who strives, strives for himself. Allah does not need His creatures' help. As for those who have faith and do good works, We shall cleanse them of their sins and reward them according to their noblest deeds.

We have enjoined man to show kindness to his parents. But if they bid you to associate with Me what you know nothing of, do not obey them. To Me you will all return, and I shall declare to you all that you have done. Those that accept the true faith and do good works shall be included among the righteous.

**29.10** Some profess to believe in Allah, yet when they suffer in His cause they treat the persecution of man as though it were the punishment of Allah. But if your Lord gives you victory, they say: 'We were on your side.'

**29.11** Does Allah not know what is in the hearts of men? Most certainly Allah knows the true believers and also the hypocrites.

The unbelievers say to the faithful: 'Follow us, and we will bear the burden of your sins.' But they will bear none of their sins. They are surely lying.

They shall bear their own burdens, and other burdens besides. On the Day of Resurrection, they shall be questioned about their falsehoods.

**29.14** We sent forth Nuh to his people, and he dwelt amongst them for one thousand years, less fifty. Then in their sinfulness

## THE SPIDER

the Flood overwhelmed them. But We delivered him and all who were in the Ark, and made (the event) a sign to mankind.

And (tell of) Ibrahim. He said to his people: 'Serve Allah and fear Him. That would be best for you, if you but knew it. You worship idols besides Allah and invent falsehoods. Those whom you serve besides Him can give you no provision. Therefore seek the bounty of Allah, and worship Him. Give thanks to Him, for to Him you shall return.'

**29.18** 'If you deny me, likewise other nations before you denied their apostles. An apostle's duty is but to give plain warning.'

Do they not see how Allah initiates the Creation, and then reproduces it? That is easy enough for Allah.

Say: 'Roam the earth and see how Allah initiated the Creation. Then Allah will create a later Creation. Allah has power over all things; He punishes whom He will and shows mercy to whom He pleases. To Him you shall be turned.'

**29.22** Neither on earth nor in heaven shall you be beyond reach: nor have you any guardian or helper besides Allah.

Those that disbelieve His revelations and deny that they will ever meet Him shall despair of My mercy. Theirs shall be a woeful punishment.

So naught was the reply of Ibrahim's people except that they said: 'Kill him or burn him.'

But from the fire Allah delivered him. Surely in this there are signs for true believers.

**29.25** Ibrahim said: 'You have chosen idols instead of Allah (to promote) mutual affection among you in this world. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you shall disown one another, and curse one another. Hell shall be your home, and none shall help you.'

Lut believed in him. He said: 'I will flee this land and go to my Lord. He is the Mighty One, the All-Knowing.'

We gave him Ishaq and Yaqub and bestowed on his descendants prophethood and the Scriptures. We gave him his reward in this life, and in the life to come he shall dwell among the righteous.

**29.28** And (remember) Lut who said to his people: 'You commit indecent acts which no other nation has committed before you.'

You lust after men and cut off the highway. You turn your very gatherings into orgies.'

But his people's only reply was: 'Bring down Allah's scourge upon us, if what you say be true.'

'Lord,' said he, 'deliver me from these degenerate men.'

And when Our messengers brought Ibrahim the good news they said: 'We are about to destroy the people of this town, for its people are wicked men.'

29.32 Ibrahim said: 'Lut is in it.'

'We well know who live in it,' they replied. 'We shall deliver him and all his kinsfolk, except his wife, who shall remain behind.'

And when Our messengers came to Lut, he grew sad and troubled on their account, for he could not protect them. But they said: 'Have no fear, nor distress yourself. You shall be delivered with all your kinsfolk, except your wife, who shall remain behind. We shall bring down a scourge from heaven upon the people of this town to punish them for their sins.'

Surely We left of that city a clear sign for men of understanding.

29.36 And to the people of Madian (We sent) their brother Shu'ayb. He said: 'Serve Allah, my people. Look forward to the Last Day. Do not corrupt the earth with wickedness.'

29.37 But they disbelieved him. So the earth shook beneath their feet, and when morning came, they were prostrate in their dwellings.

And and Thamoud (We also destroyed). This is vouched for by their ruins. Satan had made their foul deeds seem fair to them and debarred them from the right path, keen-sighted though they were.

And Qarun, Pharaoh, and Haman! Musa came to them with clear signs, but they conducted themselves with insolence, powerless though they were to escape Us: each of them We seized for his crime. On some We sent down a violent whirlwind; others were seized by the Dreadful Cry; some We caused to be swallowed up by the earth, and yet others We drowned (in the water). Allah would never have wronged them but they wronged themselves.

**29.41** Those whom they took besides Allah may be compared to the spider's cobweb. Surely the spider's is the frailest of all dwellings; if they but knew it. Allah knows what they invoke besides Him; He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

We coin these similes for the instruction of men; but none will grasp their meaning except the wise.

Allah has created the heavens and the earth in truth. Surely in this there is a sign for true believers.

Proclaim the portions of the Book that are revealed to you and be steadfast in prayer. Prayer fends away indecency and evil. But the greatest thing is to remember Allah. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.

**29.46** And do not argue with the People of the Book except in the best way, unless it be with those among them who do evil. Say: 'We believe in that which is revealed to us and which was revealed to you. Our God and your God is one. To Him we surrender ourselves.'

**29.47** Likewise We revealed the Book to you. Those to whom We gave the Scriptures believe in it, and so do some of these (pagan Arabs). Only the unbelievers deny Our revelations.

**29.48** Never have you<sup>1</sup> read a book before this, nor have you ever transcribed one with your right hand. Had you done either of these, the unbelievers might have doubted. But in the hearts of those who are endowed with knowledge it is clear revelations. Only the wrongdoers deny Our signs.

They ask: 'Why has no sign been given him by his Lord?' Say: 'Signs are in the hands of Allah. My mission is only to give plain warning.'

Is it not enough for them that we have revealed to you the Book which is recited to them? Surely in this there is a blessing and an admonition to true believers.

**29.52** Say: 'Allah is an All-sufficient witness between me and you. He knows all that the heavens and the earth contain. Those who believe in falsehood and deny Allah shall surely be lost.'

They challenge you to hasten Our scourge. But had it

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1. Muhammad.

not been for the appointed term, they would have been overtaken by punishment; it will overtake them all of a sudden without their knowledge. They challenge you to hasten the punishment, but Hell will encompass the unbelievers; when Our scourge will assail them from above and from beneath, and Allah will say to them: 'Taste the reward of your own deeds.'

**29.56** You who are true believers among My servants, My earth is vast. Therefore, serve Me. Every soul shall taste death, and in the end you shall return to Us.

Those that embrace the true faith and do good works shall be for ever lodged in the mansions of Paradise, where rivers will roll at their feet. Blessed is the reward of those who labour patiently and put their trust in Allah.

**29.60** Countless are the beasts that do not bear their provisions. Allah provides for them, as He provides for you. He alone hears all and knows all.

If you ask them who it is who has created the heavens and the earth and subjected the sun and the moon, they will say: 'Allah.' How then can they turn away from Him?

Allah gives abundantly to whom He will, and sparingly to whom He pleases. He has knowledge of all things.

**29.63** If you ask them who it is that sends down water from the sky and thereby quickens the earth after its death, they will reply: 'Allah.' Say: 'Praise, then, be to Allah!' But most of them do not understand.

**29.64** The life of this world is but a sport and a pastime. It is the abode in the Hereafter that (is the true) life: if they but knew it.

When they embark, they pray to Allah with all fervour; but when He brings them safe to land, they serve others besides Him showing ingratitude for Our favours and revelling in wanton ease. They shall before long know.

Do they not see how We have made a safe sanctuary while all around them men are carried off by force? Would they believe in falsehood and deny Allah's goodness?

And who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah and denies the truth when it is declared to him? Is there not a home in Hell for the unbelievers?

## THE SPIDER

**29.69** Those who fight for Our cause, We will surely guide to Our Own paths. Allah is with the righteous.

## Sura 30

"Al-Rum"

### THE GREEKS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**30.1** *Alif lam mim.* The Greeks have been defeated<sup>1</sup> in a neighbouring land. But after their defeat they shall themselves gain victory within a few years. Allah's is the command before and after.

On that day the believers will rejoice in Allah's help. He gives victory to whom He will. He is the Mighty One, the Merciful.

That is Allah's promise; to His promise He will never be untrue. Yet most men do not know it.

**30.7** They know some outward show of this life, but of the life to come they are heedless. Have they not considered that Allah did not create the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them except in truth, and for an appointed term? Yet most men deny that they will ever meet their Lord.

**30.9** Have they never journeyed through the land and seen what was the fate of their forebears? Far mightier were they; they tilled the land and built upon it more than these have built. And to them, too, their apostles came with undoubted signs. Allah did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves. Evil was the end of the evil-doers, because they had denied the revelations of Allah and scoffed at them.

Allah brings His creatures into being and then He reproduces them. To Him He will recall you all.

On the day when the Hour of Doom strikes, the wrongdoers will be speechless with despair. None of their partners will intercede for them; indeed, they shall deny their partners.

**30.14** On the day when the Hour of Doom strikes, mankind will be separated one from the other. Those who have believed and done good works shall rejoice in a fair garden; but those who have disbelieved and denied Our revelations and the meeting of the life to come, shall be delivered up for punishment.

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1. By the Persians in 615 A.D.

**30.17** Therefore, glorify Allah when you enter the evening and when you rise in the morning. Praise be to Him in the heavens and the earth, in the afternoon and at noon.

He brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living and revives the earth after its death. Likewise you shall be brought forth.

**30.20** And of His signs is that He created you from dust and behold: you became men and multiplied throughout the earth. And of His signs is that He gave you wives from among yourselves, that you might live in tranquillity with them, and put love and kindness in your hearts. Surely there are signs in this for thinking men.

And of His signs are the creation of heaven and earth and the diversity of your tongues and colours. Surely there are signs in this for all mankind.

And of His signs is that you sleep at night and seek by day His bounty. Surely there are signs in this for those who hear.

**30.24** And of His signs is that He shows you the lightning (to inspire) fear and hope. He sends down water from the sky, and with it, He quickens the earth after its death. Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding.

And of His signs is that the heaven and earth stand firm at His bidding. And when with one shout He will summon you out of the earth, you shall go out to Him.

His is what the heavens and the earth contain. All are obedient to Him.

He initiates Creation, then reproduces it: that is easier for Him.

His is the most exalted attribute in heaven and earth. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

**30.28** He sets for you a similitude, drawn from your own lives. Have you from among those whom your right hand possesses partners in what We have given you, who equally share it with you? Do you fear them as you fear one another? Thus We made plain Our revelations to men of understanding.

Indeed, the wrongdoers are led unwittingly by their own desires. And who can guide those whom Allah has led astray? There shall be none to help them.



**30.30** Therefore set your face in devotion to the true faith, the upright nature with which Allah has endowed man. Allah's creation cannot be changed. This is surely the true religion, although most men do not know it.

Turn to Allah and fear Him. Be steadfast in prayer and be not of those who associate others with Allah, those who split up their religion into sects, each exulting in its own beliefs.

**30.33** When evil befalls men they turn in prayer to their Lord. But no sooner does He make them taste His mercy than some of them become polytheists, showing no gratitude for what We gave them. Enjoy yourselves (awhile), but (in the end) you shall know (your error).

Or have We revealed to them a sanction which enjoins that which they associate with Him?

When We give men a taste of mercy, they rejoice in it, but when evil befalls them through their own fault they grow despondent. Do they not see that Allah gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases? Surely there are signs in this for true believers.

**30.38** Give their due to the near of kin, to the needy, and to the wayfarers. That is best for those who seek the countenance of Allah; such men will surely prosper.

That which you give in usury so that it may increase in other people's property will not increase with Allah; but the alms you give for His sake shall be repaid to you many times over.

**30.40** It is Allah who has created you and given you your sustenance. He will cause you to die hereafter and will then bring you back to life. Can any of your partners do the least of these? Allah forbid! Exalted be He above those they associate with Him.

Evil appears on land and sea as a result of the (evil) which men's hands have done. (Allah has ordained it thus for men) so that they may taste the fruit of their own works and mend their ways.

**30.42** Say: 'Roam the earth and see what was the end of those who flourished before you. Most of them worshipped others besides Allah.'

**30.43** Therefore set your face in devotion to the true faith before that day arrives which none may put off against the will of Allah. On that day mankind will be sundered. Those who disbelieve will answer for their unbelief, while the righteous will make ready their blissful home: for then Allah will in His bounty reward those who have embraced the faith and done good works. Allah does not love the unbelievers.

**30.46** And of His signs is that He sends the winds as bearers of good tidings, so that you may taste of His mercy and ships may sail at His bidding; so that you may seek His bounty and render thanks to Him.

We sent before you other apostles to their peoples and they showed them clear signs. We punished the guilty, and rightly succoured the true believers.

It is Allah who drives the winds that raise the clouds. He spreads them as He will in heaven and breaks them up, so that you can see the rain falling from their midst. When He sends it down upon His servants, they are filled with joy, though before its coming they may have lost all hope.

**30.50** Behold then the tokens of Allah's mercy; how He gives fresh life to the earth after its death. He it is who brings back the dead to life. He has power over all things.

Yet if We let loose on them a wind which makes (their plants) seem yellow, they would still continue to be ungrateful.

You cannot make the dead hear you, nor can you make the deaf hear your call if they turn their backs and give no heed; nor can you guide the blind out of their error. None shall give ear to you save those who believe in Our revelations, and are submissive to Our will.

**30.54** Allah creates you weak: after weakness He gives you strength, and after strength infirmity and grey hairs. He creates whatever He will. He is the All-Knowing, the Almighty.

When the Hour of Doom strikes, the wrongdoers will swear that they had stayed but one hour. Thus they are ever deceived.

**30.56** But those to whom knowledge and faith have been given will say: 'You have stayed in Allah's Book till the Day of Resurrection. This is the Day of Resurrection: yet you did not

know it.'

On that day, their pleas shall not avail the wrongdoers, nor shall they be asked to make amends.

In this Quran We have set forth for men all manner of examples. Yet if you recite to them a single verse, the unbelievers will surely say: 'You are preaching lies.' Thus Allah seals the hearts of ignorant men.

30.60 Therefore, have patience. Allah's promise is true. Let not those who have no certainty make you impatient.

## Sura 31

### LUQMAN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**31.1** *Alif lam mim.* These are the revelations of the Wise Book, a guidance and a blessing to the righteous, who attend to their prayers, pay the alms-tax, and firmly believe in the life to come. These are rightly guided by their Lord and will surely prosper.

Some there are who would gladly pay for a frivolous tale, so that in their ignorance they may mislead others from the path of Allah and make fun of it., For these We have prepared a shameful punishment.

**31.7** When Our revelations are recited to him, he turns his back in scorn, as though he never heard them : as though his ears were sealed . To him proclaim a woeful scourge.

(But) those who have faith and do good works shall enter the Gardens of Delight, where they shall dwell for ever. Allah's promise shall be fulfilled: He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

He created the heavens without visible pillars and set immovable mountains on the earth lest it should shake with you. He dispersed upon it all manner of beasts, and sent down water from the sky with which He caused all kinds of goodly plants to grow.

Such is Allah's creation: now show me what the others besides Him created. Truly, the unbelievers are in the grossest error.

**31.12** We bestowed wisdom on Luqman (saying): 'Give thanks to Allah. He that gives thanks to Him has much to gain, but if any one is ungrateful, Allah is Self-Sufficient and Glorious.'

**31.13** And (remember) when Luqman said to his son when admonishing him: 'My son, associate none with Allah, for to associate other with Him is a tremendous wrong.'

And We enjoined man (to show kindness) to his parents, for weakness after weakness his mother bears him and he is not weaned before he is two years of age. We said: 'Give thanks to Me and to your parents. To Me shall all things return.

But if they press you to associate with Me what you know nothing of, do not obey them. Be kind to them in this world, and follow the path of those who turn to Me. To Me you shall all return, and I will declare to you all that you have done.'

'My son, Allah will bring all things to light, be they as small as a grain of mustard seed, be they hidden inside a rock or in heaven or earth. Allah is Wise and All-Knowing.

**31.17** 'My son, be steadfast in prayer, enjoin justice, and forbid evil. Endure with fortitude whatever befalls you. That is a duty incumbent on all.

'Do not turn away from men with scorn, nor walk proudly on the earth: Allah does not love the arrogant and the vain-glorious. Rather let your gait be modest and your voice low: the harshest of voices is the braying of the asses.'

Do you not see how Allah has subjected to you all that the heavens and the earth contain and lavished on you both His visible and unseen favours? Yet some would argue about Allah without knowledge or guidance or illuminating scriptures.

**31.21** When it is said to them: 'Follow what Allah has revealed,' they reply: 'We will follow nothing but what we found our fathers following.' Yes, even though Satan is inviting them to the scourge of Hell.

He that surrenders himself to Allah and leads a righteous life has grasped the firmest handle. To Allah shall all things return. As for those that disbelieve, let their unbelief not vex you. To Allah they shall return and He will declare to them all that they have done. Allah has knowledge of what is in hearts.

**31.24** We suffer them to take their ease awhile, and then will drive them to stern punishment.

If you ask them: 'Who has created the heavens and the earth?' they will reply: 'Allah.' say: 'Praise, then, be to Allah!' But most of them are ignorant men.

His is what the heavens and the earth contain. He is Self-sufficient and Worthy of Praise.

**31.27** If all the trees in the earth were pens, and the sea, with seven more seas to replenish it, were ink, the writing of Allah's words could never be finished. Mighty is Allah and Wise.

Your creation and your resurrection is in no way more than that of one single soul. Allah hears all and observes all.

**31.29** Do you not see how Allah causes the night to pass into the day and the day into the night and has forced the sun and the moon (into His service), each running for an appointed term? Allah is cognizant of all your actions. Verily He is the Truth, while that which they invoke besides Him is false. Allah is the Most high, the Supreme One.

Do you not see how the ships speed upon the ocean by Allah's grace, so that He may reveal to you His wonders? Surely there are signs in this for every steadfast, thankful man.

**31.32** When the waves, like giant shadows, envelop them, they pray to Allah with all devotion. But no sooner does He bring them safe to land than some of them falter (between faith and unbelief). Truly, only the treacherous and the ungrateful deny Our revelations.

Men, fear your Lord, and fear the day when no parent shall avail his child nor any child his parent. Allah's promise is surely true. Let the life of this world not deceive you, nor let the Dissembler trick you concerning Allah.

**31.34** Allah alone has knowledge of the Hour of Doom. He sends down the rain and knows what is in the wombs. No mortal knows what he will earn tomorrow; no mortal knows in what land he will die. Surely Allah is Knowing, Aware.

## Sura 32

"Al-Sajda"

### ADORATION

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**32.1** *Alif lam mim.* The revelation of the Book in which there is no doubt is from the Lord of the Creation.

Or do they say: 'He<sup>1</sup> has invented it himself?'

It is the truth from your Lord so that you may forewarn a nation, whom none has warned before you, and that they may be rightly guided.

It was Allah who in six days created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them, and then ascended His throne. You have no guardian or intercessor besides Him. Will you not take heed?

He governs all things from heaven to earth. And in the end it will ascend to Him in one day, a day whose space is a thousand years by your reckoning.

**32.6** Such is He, the Knower of the visible and the invisible. He is the Mighty One, the Merciful, who created all things in the best way. He first created man from clay, then bred his offspring from a drop of paltry fluid. He then moulded him and breathed into him of His spirit. He gave you eyes and ears, and hearts: yet you are seldom thankful.

**32.10** They say: 'When we are once lost into the earth, how can we then be created anew?' Indeed, they deny that they will ever meet their Lord.

Say: 'The angel of death, who has been given charge of you, will carry off your souls. Then to your Lord you shall all return.'

Would that you could see the wrongdoers when they hang their heads before their Lord! They will say: 'Lord, we now see and hear. Send us back and we will never do wrong again. We are firm believers.'

Had it been Our will, We could have guided every soul. But My word shall be fulfilled: 'I will fill the pit of Hell with jinn and man all together.'

<sup>1</sup> Muhammad.

## ADORATION

**32.14** (We shall say to them): 'Taste Our punishment for you forgot this day. We, too, will forget you. Taste Our eternal scourge, which you have earned by your misdeeds.'

None believes in Our revelations save those who, when reminded of them, prostrate themselves in adoration and give glory to their Lord in all humility; who forsake their beds to pray to their Lord in fear and hope; who give in charity of that which We have bestowed on them. No mortal knows what bliss is in store for these as a reward for their labours.

**32.18** Can he, then, who is a true believer, be compared to him who is an evil-doer? Surely they are not alike.

Those that have faith and do good works shall be received in Gardens of Refuge, as a reward for that which they have done. But those who do evil shall be cast into the Fire. Whenever they try to get out of Hell they shall be driven back, and a voice will say to them: 'Taste the torment of Hell-fire, which you have persistently denied.'

**32.21** But We will inflict on them the lighter punishment (of this world) before the supreme punishment (of the world to come), so that they may return (to the right path). And who is more wicked than the man who gives no heed to the revelations of his Lord when he is reminded of them? We shall punish the guilty.

We have given the Book to Musa—so be not then in doubt of his receiving it—and made it a guidance to the Children of Israel. And when they grew steadfast and firmly believed in Our revelations, We appointed leaders from among them who gave guidance at Our bidding. On the Day of Resurrection your Lord will resolve for them their differences.

Do they not know how many generations We have destroyed before them amid whose dwellings they walk. Surely in this there are clear signs. Will they not then heed?

**32.27** Do they not see how We drive the rain to the parched lands and bring forth therewith crops of which they and their cattle eat? Have they no eyes to see with?

They ask: 'When will this judgement come, if what you say be true?'

Say: 'On the Day of Judgement the unbelievers will gain nothing from their faith, nor shall they be respited.'



32.30 Therefore give no heed to them, and wait as they are waiting.

**"Al-Ahzab" THE CONFEDERATE TRIBES**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**33.1** O Prophet, have fear of Allah, and do not listen to the unbelievers and the hypocrites. Allah is Wise and All-Knowing.

Obey what is revealed to you from your Lord, for Allah is cognizant of all your actions, and put your trust in Him; He is your All-sufficient Guardian.

Allah has never put two hearts within one man's body. He does not regard the wives whom you divorce as your mothers<sup>1</sup>, nor your adopted sons as your own sons. These are mere words which you utter with your mouths; but Allah declares the truth and guides to the right path.

**33.5** Name your adopted sons after their fathers; that is more just in the sight of Allah. If you do not know their fathers, regard them as your brothers in the faith and as your cousins. Your (unintentional) mistakes shall be forgiven, but not your deliberate errors. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**33.6** The Prophet has a greater claim on the faithful than they have on each other. His wives are their mothers.

~~Blood relations~~ are closer to one another in the Book of Allah than to other believers or *-muhajirs*,<sup>2</sup> although you are permitted to do your friends a kindness. That is decreed in Allah's Book.

**33.7** And (remember) We took from the prophets their covenant and from you, from Nuh and Ibrahim, from Musa and Isa, the son of Mariam. A solemn covenant We took from them, so that Allah might question the truthful about their truthfulness. But for the unbelievers He has prepared a woeful punishment.

**33.9** Believers, remember Allah's goodness to you when there came against you hosts. We unleashed against them a wind and soldiers you could not see. Allah saw all that you were doing.

1. In allusion to the formula: 'Be to me as my mothers' back,' which was a pre-Islamic formula for divorce.

2. The emigrants to Madinah.

**33.10** They came on you from above and from below. The eyes were blurred, the hearts leapt to your throats, and your faith in Allah was shaken. There the faithful were put to proof, there they were severely afflicted. The hypocrites and those in whose hearts there is disease said: 'Allah and His Apostle promised nothing but delusion.' Others said: 'People of Yathrib,<sup>1</sup> you cannot stand much longer. Go back.' And yet others sought the Prophet's leave, saying: 'Our homes are defenceless,' whereas they were not. They only wished to flee.

**33.13** Had the city been entered from every quarter and had they been roused to rebellion, they would have surely rebelled. But they would have occupied it only for a short while.

Before that, they swore to Allah never to turn their backs in flight. And an oath to Allah must be answered for.

**33.16** Say: 'Nothing will your flight avail you. If you escaped from death or slaughter, you would enjoy this world only for a little while.'

Say: 'Who can protect you from Allah if it is His will to scourge you? And who can prevent Him from showing you mercy?' They shall find none besides Allah to protect or help them.

Allah well knows those of you who hold others back; who say to their comrades: 'Join our side,' and seldom take part in the fighting, being ever reluctant to assist you. When fear overtakes them they look to you for help, their eyes rolling as though they were on the point of death. But once they are out of danger they assail you with their sharp tongues, covetously demanding part of the booty. Such men have no faith. Allah will bring their deeds to nothing. That is no difficult thing for Allah.

**33.20** They think the Confederates have not withdrawn. Indeed, if the Confederates should come again they would sooner be in the desert among the wandering Arabs asking news of you; but were they with you, they would take but little part in the fighting.

**33.21** You have a good example in Allah's Apostle for anyone who looks to Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah always.

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1. The old name of Madinah.

When the true believers saw the Confederates they said: 'This is what Allah and His Apostle have promised us; surely their promise has come true.' And this only increased their faith and submission.

**33.23** Among the believers there are men who have been true to their covenant with God. Some have died, and others await their end, yielding to no change, so that Allah may reward the truthful for their truthfulness and sternly punish the hypocrites—or show them mercy if He will: Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

Allah turned back the unbelievers in their rage, and they gained no advantage. He spared the faithful (the stress of) war: Mighty is Allah, and All-powerful.

**33.26** He brought down from their strongholds those who had supported them from among the People of the Book and cast terror into their hearts, so that some you killed and others you took captive.

He made you heirs of their land, their houses, and their goods, and of yet another land on which you had never set foot before. Truly, Allah has power over all things.

**33.28** O Prophet, say to your wives: 'If you seek this life and all its finery, come, I will make provision for you and release you honourably. But if you seek Allah and His Apostle and the Hereafter, know that Allah has prepared a rich reward for those of you who do good works.'

Wives of the Prophet! Those of you who commit a proven sin shall be doubly punished. That is no difficult thing for Allah. But those of you who obey Allah and His Apostle and do good works shall be doubly rewarded; for them We have made a generous provision.

**33.32** Wives of the Prophet, you are not like other women. If you fear Allah, do not be too complaisant in your speech, lest the lecherous-hearted should be moved with desire. Show discretion in what you say. Stay in your homes and do not display your finery as women used to do in the former days of *jahiliyya*. Attend to your prayers, give alms to the poor, and obey Allah and His Apostle.

Allah only wishes to remove uncleanness from you,

Members of the Family, and to purify you. Bear in mind the revelations of Allah which are recited in your houses and wisdom. Benignant is Allah and All-knowing.

For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women; for devout men and women; for men and women who are patient; for men and women who humble themselves; for men and women who give charity; for men and women who fast; for men and women who guard their chastity; and for men and women who remember Allah much—for them all has God prepared forgiveness and a great reward.

**33.36** It is not for true believers—men or women—to take their choice in their affairs if Allah and His Apostle decree otherwise. He that disobeys Allah and His Apostle strays far indeed.

And (remember) when you<sup>1</sup> said to the man<sup>2</sup> whom Allah and yourself have favoured: 'Keep your wife and have fear of Allah.' You sought to hide in your heart what Allah was to reveal. You were afraid of man, although it would have been more right to fear Allah. And when Zayd divorced his wife, We gave her to you in marriage, so that it should not be difficult for true believers to wed the wives of their adopted sons if they divorced them. Allah's will must needs be done.

**33.38** No blame shall be attached to the Prophet for doing what is sanctioned for him by Allah. Such was the way of Allah with the prophets who passed away before him—Allah's decrees are pre-ordained — who fulfilled the mission with which Allah had charged them, fearing Allah and fearing none besides Him. Sufficient is Allah's reckoning.

**33.40** Muhammad is the father of no man among you. He is the Apostle of Allah and the last of the Prophets. Allah has knowledge of all things.

Believers, remember Allah frequently: praise Him morning and evening. He and His angels bless you, so that He may lead you from darkness to the light. He is merciful to true believers.

On the day they meet Him their greeting shall be: 'Peace!' A rich reward He has prepared for them.

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1. Muhammad

2. Zayd, Muhammad's adopted son.

Prophet, We have sent you forth as a witness, a bearer of good news, and a warner; one who shall call men to Allah by His leave and guide them like a shining light.

**33.47** Announce to the believers the good tidings that Allah has bounteous blessings in store for them. Do not obey the unbelievers and the hypocrites: disregard their insolence.

Put your trust in Allah; Allah is your All-sufficient Guardian.

**33.49** Believers, if you marry believing women and divorce them before the marriage is consummated, you have no right to require them to observe a waiting period. Provide well for them and release them honourably.

**33.50** Prophet, We have made lawful to you the wives to whom you have granted dowries and those whom your right hand possesses and whom Allah has given you as booty; the daughters of your paternal and maternal uncles and of your paternal and maternal aunts who migrated with you; and any other believing woman who gives herself to you and whom you wished to take in marriage. This is only for you and not any other believer.

We well know the duties We have imposed on the faithful concerning their wives and those whom your right hand possesses, so that there should be no difficulty for you. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**33.51** You may defer any of your wives you please and invite any of your wives you please. Nor is it unlawful for you to receive any of those whom you have temporarily set aside. That is more proper, so that they may be contented and not vexed, and may all be pleased with what you give them.

Allah knows what is in your hearts. He is All-knowing and Benignant.

**33.52** It shall be unlawful for you to take more wives or to change your present wives for other women, though their beauty please you, except where those whom your right hand possesses are concerned. Allah observes all things.

Believers, do not enter the houses of the Prophet for a meal without waiting for the proper time, unless you are given leave. But if you are invited, enter; and when you have eaten,

## THE CONFEDERATE TRIBES

disperse. Do not engage in familiar talk, for this would annoy the Prophet and he would be ashamed to bid you go; but of the truth Allah is not ashamed. If you ask his wives for anything, speak to them from behind a curtain. This is more chaste for your hearts and their hearts.

You must not annoy Allah's Apostle, nor shall you ever wed his wives after him; this would be a grave

**33.54** offence in the sight of Allah. Whether you reveal a thing or conceal it, Allah has knowledge of all things.

**33.55** It shall be no offence for (the Prophet's) wives to be seen unveiled by their fathers, their sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women, and those whom their right hands possess. Women, have fear of Allah, for He is witness to all things.

The Prophet is blessed by Allah and His angels. Bless him, then, you that are true believers, and greet him with a worthy salutation.

Those who annoy Allah and His Apostle shall be cursed by Allah in this life and in the life to come. He has prepared for them a shameful punishment.

**33.58** Those who annoy believing men and believing women undeservedly shall bear the guilt of slander and a gross sin.

Prophet, enjoin your wives, your daughters and the wives of true believers to draw their veils close round them. That is more proper, so that they may be recognized and not molested. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**33.60** If the hypocrites and those who have disease in their hearts and the scandal-mongers of Madinah do not desist, We will rouse you against them and they will be your neighbours in it only for a while. Cursed wherever they are found, they will be seized and put to death.

**33.61** Such has been the way of Allah with those who have gone before them. You shall find no change in Allah's ways.

People ask you about the Hour of Doom. Say: 'The knowledge of it is with God alone. Who knows? It may well be that it is near at hand.'

Allah has laid His curse upon the unbelievers and prepared for them a blazing Fire. Abiding there for ever, they shall find none to protect or help them. On the day when their faces are turned over in

**33.66** the Fire, they shall say: 'Would that we had obeyed Allah and the Apostle!' And they shall say: 'Lord, We obeyed our masters and our eminent ones, but

**33.67** they led us away from the right path. Lord, let their punishment be doubled; lay on them a mighty curse.'

Believers, do not behave like those who slandered Musa. Allah cleared him of their calumny and he was exalted in Allah's sight.

**33.70** Believers, fear Allah and speak the truth. He will bless your works and forgive you your sins. He who obeys Allah and His Apostle shall win a great victory.

We offered the trust to the heavens, to the earth, and to the mountains, but they refused to bear it, and were afraid of it. Man undertook to bear it, but he has proved unjust and foolish.

**33.73** Allah will surely punish the hypocrites, men and women, and the unbelievers, both men and women; but Allah pardons believing men and believing women. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.



## Sura 34

"Saba"

SHEBA

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**34.1** Praise be to Allah, to whom belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain! Praise be to Him in the world to come. He is the Wise One, the All-knowing. He has knowledge of all that goes into the earth and all that springs up from it; all that comes down from heaven and all that ascends to it. He is the Forgiving One, the Merciful.

**34.3** The unbelievers declare: 'The Hour of Doom will never come.' Say: 'No, by the Lord, it is surely coming! He knows all that is hidden. Not an atom's weight in heaven or earth escapes Him; nor is there anything smaller or greater but is in a clear record. He will surely reward those who have faith and do good works; they shall be forgiven and a generous provision shall be made for them. But those who strive to belittle Our revelations shall suffer the torment of a harrowing scourge.'

Those to whom knowledge has been given can see that what is revealed to you from your Lord is the truth, leading to the path of the Almighty, the Glorious One.

**34.7** The unbelievers say: 'Shall we show you a man<sup>1</sup> who claims that when you have been mangled into bits you will be raised to life again? Has he invented a lie about Allah, or is he mad?' Truly, those who deny the life to come are in torment and in farthest error.

Do they not see what is before them and behind them in heaven and earth? If We will, We can cave in the earth under their feet or let a part of the sky fall upon them. Surely there is a sign in this for every penitent man.

On Dawud We bestowed Our favours. (We said): 'Mountains, and you birds, echo his songs of praise.' We made hard iron pliant to Him, (saying): 'Make coats of mail and measure their links with care. Do what is right: I see all your actions.'

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1. Muhammad.

**34.12** To Sulayman (We subdued) the wind, travelling a month's journey morning, and a month's journey evening. We gave him a spring flowing with molten brass, and jinn who served him by leave of his Lord. Those of them who did not do Our bidding We shall punish in the fire of Hell. They made for him whatever he pleased: shrines and statues, basins as large as watering-troughs, and fixed cauldrons. We said: 'Give thanks, House of David.' Yet few of My servants are truly thankful.

**34.14** And when We had decreed (Sulayman's) death, nothing showed them that he was dead until they saw a worm eating away his staff. And when he fell down, the jinn realized that had they had knowledge of what was hidden, they would not have continued in their abject penalty.

**34.15** For the (natives of) Sheba there was indeed a sign in their dwelling-place: two gardens on the right and on the left. We said to them: 'Eat of what your Lord has given you and render thanks to Him. Pleasant is your land Forgiving is your Lord.'

But they turned away. So We sent against them the waters of the Dam and replaced their gardens by two others bearing bitter fruit, tamarisks, and a few nettle shrubs. Thus We punished them for their ingratitude: do We punish any but the ungrateful?

**34.18** Between them and the cities that We have blessed, We placed towns easy to be seen, and made travel therein in convenient stages. (We said): 'Travel through them by day and night in safety.'

**34.19** But they said: 'Lord, make the stages between our journeys longer.' They wronged themselves; so We made them a byword and scattered them throughout the land. Surely there is a sign in this for every steadfast, thankful man.

Satan had judged them rightly; they followed him all, except for a band of true believers. Yet he had no power over them except that We would know who believed in the life to come from him who is in doubt about it. Your Lord watches over all things.

Say: 'Call on those whom you claim to be besides Allah. They do not control an atom's weight in heaven or earth, nor have they any share in either. **Nor has** Allah any helpers among

them.'

**34.23** No intercession with Allah avails except for him who has received His sanction. When fear is banished from their hearts, they shall ask each other: 'What has your Lord ordained?' The truth,' they shall answer. 'He is the Most High, the Supreme One.'

Say: 'Who provides for you from heaven and earth?'

Say: 'Allah. It is certain that we or you are rightly guided or are in evident error.'

Say: 'You are not accountable for our sins, nor are we accountable for your actions.'

Say: 'Our Lord will bring us all together, then He will rightly judge between us. He is the All-knowing Judge.'

**34.27** Say: 'Show me those whom you joined with Him as partners. Nay (you will not). Allah alone is Wise and Mighty.'

We have sent you forth to all mankind, so that you may give them good news and warn them. But most men have no knowledge. They ask: 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if what you say be true?'

**34.30** Say: 'Your day is already appointed. Not for one hour can you hold it back, nor can you hasten it.'

**34.31** The unbelievers say: 'We will never believe in this Quran, nor in the Scriptures which came before it.'

If only you could see the wrongdoers when they are brought before their Lord! They will blame one another. Those who were despised will say to those who were proud: 'But for you, we would have been believers.'

Then those who were proud will say to those who were despised: 'Was it we who debarred you from Allah's guidance when it was given you? No. You yourselves were wrongdoers.'

**34.33** 'By no means, those who are despised will say to those who were proud. 'It was (your) scheming night and day, when you commanded us to disbelieve in Allah and set up equals to Him.'

And they will regret in secret when they see the punishment. And chains shall be placed round the necks of the unbelievers. They will not be requited except for what they did.

**34.34** Never did we send a warner to a town but the wealthy in it said: 'We do not believe in that with which you have been

sent.' And they said: 'We have been given more wealth and children (than the faithful). Surely we shall never be punished.'

Say: 'My Lord gives abundantly to whom He will, and sparingly to whom He pleases. But most men do not know it.'

**34.37** Neither your riches nor your children shall bring you nearer to Us. But only those that have faith and do what is right—those shall be doubly rewarded for their deeds; they shall dwell in peace in the mansions (of Paradise). But those who strive to belittle Our revelations shall be brought for punishment.

**34.39** Say: 'My Lord gives abundantly to whom He will, and sparingly to whom He pleases,. Whatever you give in alms He will pay you back for it. He is the most munificent Giver.'

On the day when He gathers them all together, He will say to the angels: 'Was it you that these men worshipped?'

'Glory to you!' they will answer. 'You are our protector against them! They worshiped the jinn, and it was in the jinn that most of them believed.'

**34.42** On that day you shall have no power to help or harm one another. To the wrongdoers We shall say: 'Taste the torment of the Fire, which you persistently denied.'

When Our clear revelations are recited to them, they say: 'This is nothing but a man who would turn you away from that which your fathers used to worship.' And they say: "This<sup>1</sup> is nothing but an invented lie.' And those who disbelieve say of the truth when it reaches them: 'This is nothing but plain magic.'

**34.44** Yet We have given them no scriptures to study nor have We sent them before you any warner.

Those who have gone before them (likewise) denied (Our revelations). These have not got a tenth of what We gave (to those); yet they denied My apostles. And then how terrible was My rejection (of them)!

Say: 'I exhort you to one thing: stand up before Allah in pairs or singly and ponder whether your compatriot<sup>2</sup> is truly mad. He is sent forth to warn you against a dreadful scourge.'

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1. The Quran.
  2. Muhammad.

**34.47** Say: 'I demand no recompense of you: keep it for yourselves. My reward is only with Allah. He is a witness to all things.'

Say: 'My Lord hurls the truth. He has knowledge of all that is hidden.'

Say: 'Truth has come. Falsehood has vanished and shall return no more.'

**34.50** Say: 'If I am in error, the loss is surely mine; but if I am in the right, it is because of that which my Lord has revealed to me. He hears all and is near at hand.'

If you could only see (the unbelievers) when they are seized with terror! They shall not escape, but shall be seized from a near place. They will say: 'We believe in Him.' But how will they attain the faith from a distant place, since they at first denied it, and sneered at the unseen from far away?

They shall be prevented from attaining that which they desire as was done before with their partisans, who were in perplexing doubt.

## Sura 35

### "Fatir" THE ORIGINATOR OF CREATION

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**35.1** Praise be to Allah, the Creator of heaven and earth, Maker of the angels messengers, with wings, two, three, or four. He multiplies His creatures according to His will. Allah has power over all things.

The blessings Allah bestows on man none can withhold; and what He withholds none can bestow apart from Him. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

**35.3** Men, bear in mind Allah's goodness towards you. Is there any other creator who provides you from heaven and earth? There is no god but Him. How then can you turn away?

**35.4** If they disbelieve you, other apostles have been disbelieved before you. To Allah shall all things return.

Men, the promise of Allah is true. Let the life of this world not deceive you, nor let the Dissembler trick you about Allah. Satan is your enemy: therefore treat him as an enemy. He tempts his followers so that they may become the people of the Fire.

**35.7** The unbelievers shall be sternly punished, but those that accept the true faith and do good works shall be forgiven and richly rewarded.

**35.8** Is he the evil of whose deeds is made fair-seeming to him, so that he sees it good (like the man who is rightly guided)? Allah leaves in error whom He will and guides whom He pleases. Do not let your soul<sup>1</sup> expire in grief for them: Allah has knowledge of all their actions.

Allah sends forth the winds which set the clouds in motion. We drive them on to some dead land and revive the soil after its death. Such is the Resurrection.

**35.10** He who seeks glory and power, to Allah belong all glory and power. To Him ascend good words, and He exalts

1. Muhammad.

## THE ORIGINATOR OF CREATION

righteous deeds. But those who plot evil shall be sternly punished. And the plotting of those will come to nothing.

Allah created you from dust, then from a life-germ. Then he made you pairs (males and females). No female conceives or is delivered without His knowledge. No man grows old or has his life cut short but in accordance with His decree. All this is easy for Allah.

**35.12** The two seas are not alike. The one is fresh, sweet and pleasant to drink from, while the other is salt and bitter. From each you eat fresh fish and bring up ornaments to wear. And you see the ships plough their course through them so that you may seek His bounty and give thanks.

**35.13** He causes the night to pass into the day and the day into the night. He has forced the sun and the moon into His service, each running for an appointed term. Such is Allah, your Lord. His is the sovereignty. Those whom you invoke besides Him have a power over nothing. If you pray to them they cannot hear you, and even if they hear you they cannot answer you. On the day of Resurrection they will reject your associating others with Allah. None can tell you (the truth) like the One who is All-Knowing.

**35.15** Men, it is you who stand in need of Allah. He is All-sufficient and Glorious. He can destroy you if He will and replace you with a new creation; this is no difficult thing for Allah.

**35.18** No (soul) shall bear another's burden. If a laden (soul) cries out for help, nothing of (its burden) will be carried even by a relative.

You shall admonish none but those who fear their Lord though they cannot see Him, and are steadfast in prayer. He that purifies himself has much to gain. To Allah shall all things return.

**35.19** The blind and the seeing are not alike, nor are the darkness and the light. The shade and the heat are not alike, nor are the living and the dead. Allah can cause whom He will to hear Him, but you cannot make those who are in their graves hear you.

You are but a warner. We have sent you with the truth as bearer of good news and as a warner; for there is no nation

which did not have a warner. If they disbelieve you, know that those who have gone before them also disbelieved. Their apostles came to them with clear signs, with scriptures, and with the light-giving Book. But in the end I smote the unbelievers: and how terrible was My rejection(of them).

**35.27** Did you not see how Allah sent down water from the sky and brought forth fruits of different hues? In the mountains there are streaks of various shades of red and white, and jet-black rocks. Men, beasts, and cattle have their different colours, too.

From among His servants, it is the learned who fear Allah. Allah is Mighty and Forgiving.

**35.29** Those who recite the Book of Allah and attend to their prayers and give alms in private and in public may hope for imperishable gain. Allah will give them their rewards and enrich them from His own abundance. He is Forgiving and Rewarding.

What We have revealed to you in the Book is the truth confirming what was before it. Allah knows and observes his servants.

**35.32** Then We gave the Book as inheritance to those of our servants whom We have chosen. Some of them wrong their souls, some follow a middle course, and some, by Allah's leave vie with each other in charitable works: this is the supreme virtue.

**35.33** They shall enter the Gardens of Eden, where they shall be decked with bracelets of gold and pearls, and arrayed in robes of silk. They shall say: 'Praise be to Allah who has removed all sorrow from us. Our Lord is Forgiving and Rewarding. Through His grace He has admitted us to the Eternal Mansions, where no toil nor weariness shall touch us.'

As for the unbelievers, theirs is the fire of Hell. They shall not die and thus be relieved, nor shall its torments be ever lightened for them. Thus, shall every thankless one be rewarded.

**35.37** There they will cry out: 'Lord remove us hence! We will then do good and not as we have done.' (But He will answer); 'Did We not make your lives long enough for any one who would be warned to take warning? Besides, the warner did come to you; taste then the torment of Hell. None shall help the



## THE ORIGINATOR OF CREATION

wrongdoers.'

**35.38** Allah knows the mysteries of heaven and earth. He knows that which is in men's hearts.

It is He who made you inheritors of the earth. He who denies Him shall bear the burden of his unbelief. In denying Him the unbelievers increase nothing for themselves except odium in the sight of Allah; and their unbelief increases nothing but their perdition.

Say: 'Behold your partners on whom you call besides Allah. Show me what part of the earth they have created! Have they a share in the heavens?

Have We given them a Book from which they derive clear proofs? Truly, vain are the promises the wrongdoers give one another.

**35.41** It is Allah who keeps the heavens and the earth from falling. Should they fall, none could hold them back but He. He is Forbearing, Forgiving.

They solemnly swore by Allah that if a warner should come to them they would accept his guidance more readily than did other nations. Yet when a warner came to them, his coming only increased their repugnance, behaving arrogantly in the land and plotting evil. But evil shall recoil on those that plot evil.

Do they expect to be treated except like the ancients? No change will you find in Allah's way; nor will it be altered.

**35.44** Have they not journeyed through the land and seen the fate of those who went before them, nations far mightier than they?

There is nothing in heaven or earth beyond the power of Allah. All-Knowing is He and Mighty.

**35.45** If it was Allah's will to punish men for their misdeeds, not one creature would be left alive on the earth's surface. But He respites them till an appointed time. And when their hour comes, they shall know that Allah has been watching over all His servants.

## Sura 36

### YA SIN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**36.1** *Ya sin.* I swear by the Wise Quran that you are one of those sent upon a straight path.

This is a revelation of the Mighty One , the Merciful, so that you may warn a people whose fathers were not warned, and, therefore, they are heedless. The sentence has justly been pronounced against most of them, because they do not believe.

**36.8** We have bound their (hands to their) necks with chains of iron reaching to their chins, so that they cannot bow their heads. We have set a barrier before them and a barrier behind them and covered them over, so that they cannot see.

**36.11** It is alike whether or not you forewarn them : they will not believe.

You shall admonish only him who follows the Reminder and fears the Merciful, though he cannot see Him. To him give news of pardon and a rich reward.

It is We who will bring back the dead to life and record the deeds of men and the marks they leave behind: We note all things in a clear book.

**36.13** Give them as an example the people of the town to which came the apostles. (At first) We sent to them two messengers, but when they rejected both We reinforced them with a third. They said: 'We have been sent to you by Allah.'

**36.15** But the people replied: 'You are only men like ourselves. The Merciful has revealed nothing: you are surely lying.'

They said: 'Our Lord knows that we have been sent to you. Our only duty is to warn you plainly.'

The people answered: 'We forebode evil from you. If you do not desist, we will stone you and a painful punishment will be inflicted on you.'

**36.19** They said: 'The evil you forebode can come only from yourselves. Will you not take heed? Surely you are great transgressors.'

**36.20** Thereupon a man came running from the far side of the city. 'My people,' he said, 'follow those who have been sent (by Allah). Follow those who ask no reward of you and are rightly guided. Why should I not serve Him who has created me and to whom you shall all be recalled? Should I serve other gods than Him? If it is the will of the Merciful to afflict me, their intercession will avail nothing, nor will they save me. Indeed, I should then be in certain error. I believe in your Lord! So hear me.'

**36.26** It was said (to him): 'Enter Paradise,' and he exclaimed: 'Would that my people knew how gracious my Lord has been to me, how highly He has exalted me!'

But when he was gone, We sent down no host from heaven against his people: this We never do. One shout was heard—and they fell down lifeless.

Alas for the servants! They laugh to scorn every apostle that comes to them. Do they not see how many generations We have destroyed before them? Never shall they return to them: all without exception shall be brought before Us.

**36.33** Let the once-dead earth be a sign to them. We gave it life, and from it produced grain for their sustenance. We provided it with the palm and the vine and watered it with gushing springs, so that they might feed on its fruit. It was not their hands that made all this. Should they not give thanks?

**36.36** Glory be to Him who created pairs of all the things which the earth grows and of their own kind and that of which they have no knowledge.

A sign for them is the night. From it We draw out the day—and they are plunged in darkness.

The sun hastens to its resting-place: that is the decree of the Mighty One, the All-Knowing.

And for the moon, We have ordained mansions till it becomes again as an old dry palm-branch.

The sun is not allowed to overtake the moon, nor does the night outpace the day. Each in its own orbit runs.

And a sign for them is that We carried their offspring in the laden Ark. And similar vessels We have made for them to voyage in. We drown them if We will: none can help them, nor

can they be delivered, except through Our mercy and unless We please to prolong their lives awhile.

**36.45** When it is said to them: 'Have fear of that which is before you and behind you, so that Allah may show you mercy,' (they give no heed). Indeed, there comes to them no sign of their Lord's signs, but they turn away from it.

And when it is said to them: 'Give alms of that which Allah has given you,' the unbelievers say to the faithful: Are we to feed those whom Allah can feed if He chooses? Surely you are in undoubted error.'

**36.48** They also say: 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if what you say be true?'

They await but one blast, which will overtake them whilst they are disputing. They will make no will, nor shall they return (to their kinsfolk).

**36.51** And the Trumpet is blown, and behold, from the graves they rush forth to their Lord. 'Woe to us!' They will say. 'Who has roused us from our resting-place? This is what the Lord of Mercy promised : the apostle have spoken the truth!' And it is but one shout and they are all gathered before Us.

**36.54** On that day no soul shall suffer the least injustice. You shall be rewarded according only to your deeds.

On that day the people of Paradise shall be wholly taken up with joy. Together with their wives, they shall recline in shady groves upon soft couches. They shall have fruits and all that they desire.

'Peace!' shall be the word from a merciful God. (And He will say): Stand aside O guilty people , this day. Did I not enjoin you, Sons of Adam, not to serve Satan who is your acknowledged enemy, and that you should worship Me? Surely that was the right path. Yet he has led many of you astray. Had you no sense? This is the Hell with which you have been threatened. Burn therein this day as a punishment for your unbelief.'

**36.65** On that day We shall seal their mouths. Their hands will speak to us, and their very feet will testify to their misdeeds. Had it been Our will We could have put out their sight so that

they should struggle for the way. But how could they have seen their error?

Had it been Our will We could have transformed them where they stood, so that they could neither go forward nor retrace their steps.

**36.68** He whom We bring to old age, we reverse his growth. Can they not understand?

We have taught Muhammad no poetry, nor does it become him (to be a poet). This is but a reminder and an eloquent Quran to admonish the living and to pass judgement on the unbelievers.

Do they not see how among the things Our hands have made. We have created for them the cattle of which they are masters? We have subjected these to them, that they may ride on some and eat the flesh of others; and they draw other benefits and (diverse) drinks from them. Will they not give thanks?

**36.74** They have set up other gods besides Allah, hoping that they may be helped. They cannot help them: they shall be brought like a host (for punishment).

Let their words not grieve you. We have knowledge of what they hide and all what they reveal.

**36.77** Is man not aware that We created him from a little life-germ?

**36.78** Yet he is an open opponent. He makes comparisons for us, and forgets his own creation. He asks: 'Who will give life to rotten bones?'

Say: 'He will give them life again Who created them at first: He has knowledge of every (kind of) creation; He who gives you from the green tree a fire with which you light your fuel.'

Has He who created the heavens and the earth no power to create their like? That He surely has. He is the All-Knowing Creator. When He decrees a thing He need only say: 'Be', and it is.

**36.83** Glory be to Him who has control of all things, and to Him you will all be brought back.

## Sura 37

"Al-Saffat"

THOSE RANGED IN RANKS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**37.1** I swear by those who range themselves in ranks, and by those who are strong in repelling (evil), and by those who recite Our Word, that your God is One: the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them: the Lord of the Eastern (and Western) Regions.

**37.6** We have adorned the lower heaven with the ornament of the planets, (thus providing) security against every rebellious devil. And (thus the devils) cannot listen to the Exalted Assembly, but are pelted from every side. Theirs is a perpetual torment; except him who snatches away something and gets pursued by a shining flame.

**37.11** Then ask them if they are a stronger creation than those whom We have created. We have created them of sticky clay.

You marvel, while they scoff. When they are admonished they pay no heed. When they are shown a sign they mock at it and say: 'This is plain magic. What! When we are dead and turned to dust and bones, shall we be raised to life, we and our forefathers?'

Say: 'Yes. And you shall be held to shame.'

**37.19** It will be one cry and they shall see. They will say: 'Woe to us. This is the Day of Judgement.' (The angels then will say): 'This is the Day of Separation which you denied?' (And it will be said to the angels): 'Gather together the wrongdoers, their wives, and the things which they worshipped besides Allah, and lead them to the path of Hell. Keep them there for questioning.' (A voice will then say to the wrongdoers): 'But what has come over you that you cannot help one another?'

**37.26** On that day they will all submit to Allah. They will reproach each other, saying: 'You used to come to us from the right hand (swearing that you speak the truth).' They answer: 'No! It was you who would not be believers. We had no power

over you: you are sinners all. Just is the verdict which Our Lord has passed upon us; we shall surely taste His punishment. We misled you, (but) we ourselves have been misled.'

**37.33** On that day they will all share Our punishment. Thus We shall deal with the devil-doers. For when it was said to them: 'There is no god but Allah,' they got arrogant and said: 'Are we to renounce our gods for the sake of a mad poet?'

Surely he has brought the truth, confirming those who were sent before him. You shall all taste the painful punishment: you shall be rewarded according to your deeds.

**37.40** But (to) the true servants of Allah there is a fixed sustenance: fruits. And they are honoured in the Gardens of Delight. Reclining face to face upon soft couches, they shall be served with a goblet filled at a gushing fountain, white, and delicious to those who drink it. It deprives not of reason, nor will they be intoxicated by it. Besides them will be those with modest gaze and large lovely eyes, (as chaste) as carefully protected eggs.

**37.51** They will put questions to each other. One of them will say: 'I had a friend who used to ask: "Do you really believe? When we are dead and turned to dust and bones, shall we be brought to judgement?"' And he will (continue to) say: 'Come, let us look down.' He will look down and see his friend in the midst of Hell. 'By the Lord,' he will say to him, 'you almost ruined me! But for the grace of Allah I should have surely been brought up (to eternal torment). Shall we not die except our first death, and shall we not be punished at all?'

**37.60** Surely that is the supreme triumph. For the like let those who work strive.

Is this a better welcome or the Zaqqum-tree? We have made this tree a trial for the wrongdoers. It is a tree which grows in the nethermost part of Hell, bearing fruit like devils' heads: on it they shall feed, and with it they shall fill their bellies. On top of that they shall have draughts of scalding water. Then to Hell they shall return.

**37.69** They found their fathers erring, yet they eagerly followed

in their footsteps. Most of the ancients had gone astray before them, though We had sent apostles to give them warning. Consider the fate of those whom We have warned: they perished all, except Allah's true servants.

Nuh prayed to Us, and his prayers were graciously answered. We delivered him and all his people from the mighty scourge, so that his descendants were the sole survivors. We bestowed on him the praise of later generations: 'Peace be on Nuh among all men!'

**37.80** Thus We reward the righteous: he was one of Our believing servants. The others We drowned in the Flood.

Verily among his followers was Ibrahim. (Remember when) he came to his Lord with a pure heart; and when he said to his father and to his people: 'What is it that you worship? Is it false gods besides Allah that you desire? What do you think of the Lord of the Worlds?'

**37.88** He cast a glance at the stars and said: 'I am sick!' And his people turned their backs and went off.

He stole away to their idols and said to them: 'Will you not eat (your offerings)? Why do you not speak?' With that he fell upon them, striking them down with his right hand.

The people came running to the scene. He said: 'Would you worship that which you have carved with your own hands, when it was Allah who created you and all that you have made?'

**37.97** They replied: 'Build a pyre and cast him into the blazing flames.' Thus they schemed against him: but We made them the most humiliated.

**37.99** He said: 'I will go to my Lord; He will guide me. My Lord, grant me a righteous (son).'

We gave him the good news of a gentle son. And when he reached the age when he could work with him his father said to him: 'My son, I dreamt that I was sacrificing you. Tell me what you think.'

He replied: 'Father, do as you are bidden. Allah willing, you shall find me one of those who are steadfast.'

**37.103** And when they had both surrendered themselves to



Allah's will, and Ibrahim had laid down his son prostrate upon his face, We called out to him, saying: 'Ibrahim, you have fulfilled your vision.' Thus did We reward the righteous. That was indeed a bitter test. We ransomed him with a noble sacrifice and bestowed on him (the praise) of later generations. 'Peace be on Ibrahim!'

Thus We reward the righteous. He was one of Our believing servants.

**37.112** We gave him the good news of Ishaq, a saintly prophet, and blessed them both. Among their offspring were some who did good works and others who clearly wronged their souls.

We showed favour to Musa and Harun and delivered them, with all their people, from a mighty scourge. We succoured them, and they became victorious. We gave them the enlightening Book, and guided them to the right path. We bestowed on them the praise of later generations: 'Peace on Musa and Harun!'

**37.122** Thus We reward the righteous. They were two of Our believing servants.

And Elias was among those sent (by Us). He said to his people: 'Have you no fear of Allah? Would you invoke Baal and forsake the Most Gracious Creator? Allah is your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers.'

**37.127** But they denied him, and thus they will be brought (for punishment), except Allah's true servants. We bestowed on him the praise of later generations: 'Peace on Elias!'

Thus We reward the righteous. He was one of Our believing servants.

Lut, too, was among those sent (by Us). We delivered him and all his kinsfolk, except for an old woman who stayed behind, and utterly destroyed the others. You pass by their sites in the morning and at night-time: will you not take heed?

**37.139** Yunus, too, was one of those sent (by Us). He fled to the laden ship, cast lots, and was condemned. A whale swallowed him, for he had done amiss; and had he not devoutly praised Allah he would have stayed in its belly till the Day of Resurrection. We threw him, gravely ill, upon a desolate shore and caused a gourd-tree to grow over him. Thus We sent him to a hundred thousand strong or more. They believed in him

and We let them live in ease awhile.

**37.149** Now ask them if it be true that Allah has daughters, while they themselves choose sons. Did We create the angels females in their presence? It is of their falsehood that they say: 'Allah has begotten children.' Surely they lie.

Would He choose daughters instead of sons? What is the matter with you? How do you judge?

Will you not take heed? Or have you a positive proof? Show us your scriptures; if what you say be true!

They assert kinship between Him and the jinn. But the jinn well know that they will all be brought before Him. Exalted be Allah above their imputations! Not so are the true believers.

**37.161** Neither you nor what you worship shall deceive any about Allah save him who is destined for Hell. (Those ranged in ranks say): 'We each have our appointed place. We are verily those who range themselves in ranks (to serve Him). And we are verily those who glorify Him.'

Some used to say: 'Had we received an admonition from the ancients, we would have become true servants of Allah.' Yet they now disbelieve (in the Quran). They shall before long know.

**37.171** Long ago We promised the apostles who served Us that they would receive Our help and that Our armies would be victorious. So turn away from them for a while. Watch them and they shall see.

Do they wish to hasten Our punishment? When it descends upon their courtyards, evil will be the morning of those forewarned.

So turn away from them for a while. And watch them, and they shall see. Exalted be your Lord, the Lord of glory and power, above what they ascribe (to Him).

**37.182** Peace be on the apostles. and praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

## Sura 38

### SAD

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**38.1** *Sad.* By the Quran, full of admonition. Verily the unbelievers are (steeped) in false pride and opposition.

How many generations We have destroyed before them. They all cried out (for mercy), when it was too late to escape.

They marvel that a warner has come to them from amongst themselves. The unbelievers say: 'This is an enchanter telling lies. Has he made the gods one God? This is indeed strange.'

**38.6** Their leaders go about (saying): 'Go and firmly adhere to your gods: This is a thing designed. We never heard of this in the former faith. It is nothing but a false invention. Was the word of Allah revealed to him alone among us?'

Surely they are in doubt about My warning. (And) certainly they have not yet tasted My punishment.

**38.9** Or have they the treasures of the mercy of your Lord, the Mighty, the Munificent One? Is theirs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them? Then let them climb up to the sky by ropes!

(Nothing but) a defeated host of factions is there. The people of Nuh, Aad and Pharaoh of the stakes, Thamoud, the people of Lut and the dwellers of the Forest-such were the Confederates. Not one of them but did deny the apostles. But (My) punishment justly (overtook them).

**38.15** Yet these only wait for a single shout which cannot be retarded. They say: 'Our Lord, hasten to us our fate before the Day of Reckoning.'

Bear with what they say. And remember Our servant Dawud the mighty. He was ever turning in repentance. We made the mountains join with him in praise evening and morning, and the birds, too, in all their flocks; all were obedient to him. We made his kingdom strong and gave him wisdom and decisive speech.

**38.21** Has the story of the two litigants, who entered his

chamber by climbing over the wall, reach you? When they went in to Dawud and saw that he was alarmed, they said: 'Have no fear. We are two litigants, one of whom has wronged the other. Judge rightly between us and do not be unjust; guide us to the right path.'

'My brother here has ninety-nine ewes, but I have only one ewe. He demanded that I should entrust it to him and got the better of me in the dispute.'

Dawud replied: 'He has certainly wronged you in seeking to add your ewe to his flock. Many partners are unjust to one another; but not so those who have faith and do good works, and they are few indeed.'

Dawud realized that We had tested him. He sought forgiveness of his Lord and fell down penitently on his knees. We forgave him his sin, and he shall be honoured by Us and shall have an excellent return (to Us).

**38.26** (We said): 'Dawud, We have made you a vicegerent in the land. Rule with justice among men and do not yield to lust, lest it should turn you away from Allah's path. Those that stray from Allah's path shall be sternly punished, because they forget the Day of Reckoning.'

**38.27** It was not in vain that We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. That is the fancy of the unbelievers. But woe to the unbelievers because of the fire of Hell!

Are We to treat alike those that have faith and do good works, and those that corrupt the earth with wickedness? Are We to treat the righteous as We treat the wicked?

It is a Book that We have revealed with Our blessings, so that the wise might ponder its revelations and take warning.

**38.30** We gave Sulayman to Dawud; and he was a good and faithful servant. When, one evening, his prancing steeds were ranged before him, he said: 'I have preferred the good (of this world) to the remembrance of my Lord; for now (the sun has vanished behind the veil of darkness. Bring me back my chargers!' And with (the sword) he fell to hacking their legs and necks.

**38.34** We put Sulayman to the proof and placed a counterfeit upon his throne, so that he at length repented. He said: 'Forgive me, Lord, and bestow upon me such power as shall belong to

none after me. You are the Bountiful Giver.'

We subdued the wind to him, so that it blew softly at his bidding wherever he directed it; and the devils, too, among whom were builders and divers and others bound with chains. 'All this We give (you),' We said. 'Bestow or withhold, without reckoning.' He shall be honoured (by Us) and shall have an excellent return (to Us).

**38.41** And tell of Our servant Ayyub. He called out to his Lord, (saying): 'Satan has afflicted me with sorrow and misfortune.'

(We said): 'Stamp your feet against the ground, and here is (in the gushing spring) a cool bath and drink.'

We restored to him his people and as many more with them: a blessing from Ourselves and an admonition to prudent men.

**38.44** (We said to him): 'Take a bunch of twigs and strike with it; do not break your oath.'<sup>1</sup> We found him full of patience. He was a good man, ever turning (to Us) in repentance.'

**38.45** And tell of Our servants Ibrahim, Ishaq, and Yaqub: men of might and vision whom We made pure with the pure thought of the Hereafter. They shall be with Us among the righteous whom We have chosen.

And of Ismail, Alyasa, and Dhul-Kifl, who were all just men.

This is but an admonition. The righteous shall return to a blessed retreat—the Gardens of Eden whose gates shall be open to them. Reclining there, they can call for abundant fruit and drink. And beside them will be companions (wives) of modest gaze and equal age.

This is what you are promised on the Day of Reckoning: Our gifts shall never fail.

**38.55** But doleful shall be the return of the transgressors. They shall burn in the fire of Hell, a dismal resting-place. Yes, let them taste it: a boiling and ice-cold draught, and similar pairs (representing extremes).

(We shall say to their leaders): 'This band shall be thrown in headlong with you. No welcome awaits them; they shall be promptly cast into the Fire.'

1. Job had sworn to give his wife a hundred blows. The oath was kept by giving her one blow with a bunch of one hundred twigs.

And they (the damned) will say (to their leaders): 'No welcome for you either! It was you who prepared this for us, an evil plight.'

**38.62** Then they will say: 'Lord, inflict on those who brought this fate upon us a twofold punishment in Hell.' And they will say: 'Why do we not see those whom we regarded as wicked men and whom we laughed to scorn? Or have our eyes missed them?'

**38.64** Truly that is just: the wrangling of the people of the Fire.

**38.65** Say: 'Truly I am a warner. There is no god but Allah, the One, the Almighty. He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them: the Illustrious, the Benignant One.'

Say: 'This is a fateful message: yet you give no heed to it. I had no knowledge of the exalted Chiefs when they dispute among themselves. It was revealed to me, only that I might warn you plainly.'

**38.71** Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I am creating man from clay. When I have fashioned him and breathed of My spirit into him, kneel down and prostrate yourselves before him.'

The angels all prostrated themselves except Satan, who was too proud, for he was an unbeliever.

'Satan,' said Allah, 'Why do you not bow to him whom My own hands have made? Are you too proud, or do you think you are high above (him)?'

**38.76** Satan replied: 'I am nobler than he. You created me from fire, but him from clay.'

'Begone, you are accursed!' said He. 'My curse shall remain on you until the Day of Reckoning.'

Satan replied: 'Reprieve me, Lord, till the Day of Resurrection.'

**38.80** Allah said: 'Reprieved you shall be till the Appointed Day.'

'I swear by Your glory,' said Satan, 'that I will seduce all men except your faithful servants.'

Allah replied: 'Learn the truth, then, and I speak nothing but the truth: I shall fill Hell with your offspring and the men who

follow you.'

Say: 'For this I demand of you no recompense. Nor do I pretend to be what I am not. This is an

**38.88** admonition to mankind; you shall before long know its truth.'

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**39.1** The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Mighty, the Wise One. We have revealed to you the Book in truth: therefore serve Allah offering sincere devotion.

To Allah alone is true worship due. As for those who choose other guardians besides Him, (saying): 'We serve them only that they may bring us nearer to Allah,' Allah Himself will judge between them concerning their differences. He does not guide the untruthful disbeliever.

Had it been His will to take a son, He would have chosen whom He pleased out of His own creation. But Allah forbid! He is Allah, the One, the Almighty.

**39.5** He created the heavens and the earth in truth. He causes the night to overlap the day and the day to overlap the night. He made the sun and the moon obedient to Him, each running for an appointed term. He is the Mighty, the Forgiving One.

He created you from a single being, then from that being He created its mate. He has given you eight of the cattle in pairs. He creates you in your mothers' wombs by stages in threefold darkness.

Such is Allah, your Lord. His is the Sovereignty. There is no god but Him. How, then, can you turn away from Him?

**39.7** If you render Him no thanks, know that Allah does not need you. Yet the ingratitude of His servants does not please Him. If you are thankful, your thanks will please Him.

No soul shall bear another's burden. To Allah you shall all return and He will declare to you what you have done. He knows your inmost thoughts.

**39.8** When harm is done to man, he prays to his Lord and turns to Him in repentance; yet no sooner does He bestow on him His favour than he forgets that for which he had prayed before and sets up equals to Him, in order to lead men away from His path. Say: 'Enjoy your unbelief awhile; you shall surely



**39.9** be consigned to Hell. Can he who passes his night in adoration, standing up or on his knees, who dreads the terrors of the life to come and hopes to earn the mercy of his Lord, (be compared to the unbeliever)? Are the wise and the ignorant equal?' Truly, none will take heed but men of understanding.

Say: 'My servants who believe, fear your Lord. Those who do good works in this life shall receive a good reward. Allah's earth is vast. Those that endure with fortitude shall be requited without measure.'

Say: 'I am bidden to serve Allah and to worship none besides Him. I am bidden to be the first of those who shall submit to Him.'

Say: 'I fear, if I disobey my Lord, the torment of a fateful day.'

**39.14** Say: 'It is Allah I serve in sincere devotion. As for yourselves, serve what you will besides Him.'

Say: 'They shall lose much, those who will forfeit their souls and all their kinsfolk on the Day of Resurrection. That will be the great loss indeed. They shall be covered with sheets of fire from above and from beneath. By this Allah puts fear into His servants' hearts.' Fear Me, then, My servants.

But let those rejoice who keep off from idol-worship and turn to Allah in repentance. Give good news to My servants, who listen to My Word and follow what is best in it. These are they whom Allah has guided. These are they who are endued with understanding.

**39.19** (Can you save) those who have rightly earned the decree of Punishment and can you rescue those doomed to burn in Hell? As for those who truly fear their Lord, they shall dwell in mansions above mansions beneath which are running streams. Such is Allah's promise: He will not fail His promise.

**39.21** Do you not see how Allah sends down water from the sky which penetrates the earth and gathers in springs beneath? He brings forth plants of various colours. They wither, they turn yellow, and then He turns them to chaff. Surely in this there is an admonition for men of understanding.

**39.22** Is he whose heart Allah has opened to Islam, thus

receiving light from his Lord, (like him who disbelieves)? But woe to those whose hearts are hardened against the remembrance of Allah! Truly, they are in the grossest error.

**39.23** Allah has now revealed the best of scriptures, a Book uniform and (yet) repeating pairs (of promises and threats and the like). The skins of those who fear their Lord tremble (for fear) of it; but then their skins and hearts soften to Allah's remembrance. Such is Allah's guidance: He bestows it on whom He will. But he whom Allah leaves in error shall have none to guide him.

Is he who shall guard himself with his own person against the torment of punishment on the Day of Judgement (to be compared to the true believer)? To the wrongdoers We shall say: 'Taste the punishment which you have earned.'

**39.25** Those who have gone before them also denied their apostles, so that Our scourge overtook them unawares. Allah disgraced them in this life, but the punishment of the life to come shall be more terrible, if they but knew (it).

We have given mankind in this Quran every kind of parable, so that they may take heed. It is in the Arabic tongue, a Quran free from all faults, that they may guard themselves against evil.

Allah sets forth this parable. There are two men: the one has many partners who are ever at odds among themselves; the other has one master. Are these two to be held alike? Praise be to Allah! But most of them have no knowledge.

You shall die. And they shall die. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you shall dispute in your Lord's presence with one another.

**39.32** Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah and denies the truth when it is declared to him? Is there not a home in Hell for the unbelievers?

**39.33** And he who brings the truth, and he who believes in it—they surely are the God-fearing. Their Lord will give them all that they desire. Thus shall the righteous be rewarded.

**39.35** Thus Allah will do away with their foulest deeds and reward them according to their noblest actions.

## THE COMPANIES

Is Allah not all-sufficient for His servant? Yet they threaten you with those (gods) besides Him: Truly, he whom Allah leaves in error has none to guide him. But he whom Allah guides, none can lead astray. Is not Allah Mighty, capable of retribution?

If you ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they will reply: 'Allah'. Say: 'Do you think then that, if Allah be pleased to afflict me, those you call upon besides Him could relieve my affliction; or that if He be pleased to show me mercy, they could withhold His mercy?'

Say: 'Allah is my all-sufficient patron. In Him let the faithful put their trust.'

39.39 Say: 'My people, do as best you can and so will I. You shall before long know who will receive a punishment of shame, and who will be overtaken by an everlasting punishment.'

We have revealed to you the Book in truth (for the instruction) of mankind. He that follows the right path shall follow it to his own advantage; and he that goes astray shall do so at his own peril. You are not their keeper.

39.42 Allah takes away men's souls upon their death, and those that do not die during their sleep. Those who are doomed He keeps with Him, and restores the others for a time ordained. Surely there are signs in this for thinking men.

Have they chosen others besides Allah to intercede for them? Say: 'What! Even though they have no power nor understanding?'

39.44 Say: 'Intercession is wholly in the hands of Allah. His is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. To Him you shall all be recalled.'

39.45 When Allah alone is named, the hearts of those who deny the Hereafter shrink with aversion; but when those besides Him are named, they are filled with joy.

Say: 'Lord, Creator of the heavens and the earth, who has knowledge of the visible and the invisible, You alone can judge the disputes of Your servants.'

If the wrongdoers had all the treasures of the earth and as much besides, they would gladly offer it on the Day of Resurrection to redeem themselves from the torment of the

scourge. For Allah will show them that with which they never reckoned. The evils of their deeds will become manifest to them, and what they scoffed at will encompass them.

When harm befalls man he calls upon Us; but when We vouchsafe him Our favour, he says: 'I have been given it merely because of God's knowledge.' By no means! It is but a test: yet most men do not know it.

Those before them said the same: but what they earned did not profit them; and the very evil of their deeds recoiled upon them.

The wrongdoers among these shall be overtaken by the evils of their deeds: nor shall they escape punishment.

**39.52** Do they not know that Allah gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases? Surely there are signs in this for true believers.

Say: 'O My servants, you who have sinned against your souls, do not despair of Allah's mercy, for He forgives all sins. He is the Forgiving One, the Merciful. Turn in repentance to your Lord and surrender yourselves to Him before His scourge overtakes you; for then you will not be helped. Follow the best of what is revealed to you from your Lord before His scourge overtakes you unawares, without warning; lest any soul should say: "Alas! I have disobeyed Allah and scoffed at His revelations." Or, "If Allah had guided me I would have been one of the righteous." Or, when it sees the punishment should say: "Could I but live again, I would lead a righteous life." For Allah

**39.59** will say: "My revelations had come to you, but you denied them. You were arrogant and one of the unbelievers."

**39.60** On the Day of Resurrection, you shall see those who uttered falsehoods about Allah with faces blackened. Is there not in Hell a home for the arrogant?

But Allah will deliver those who fear Him, for they have earned salvation. No harm shall touch them, nor shall they ever grieve.

Allah is the Creator of all things, and of all things He is the Guardian. His are the keys of the heavens and the earth. Those that deny His revelations shall assuredly be lost.

**39.64** Say: 'Would you bid me serve a god other than Allah, O ignorant men?'

It has already been revealed to you and those who have gone before you, that if you worshipped other gods besides Allah, your works would come to nothing and you would be among the losers. Therefore serve Allah and render thanks to Him.

They have not justly estimated the might of Allah. But on the Day of Resurrection, He will hold the entire earth in His grasp and fold up the heavens in His right hand. Glory be to Him! Exalted be He above the partners they set up with Him.

**39.68** The Trumpet shall be sounded and all who are in heaven and earth shall fall down fainting, except those that shall be spared by Allah. Then the Trumpet will sound again and they shall rise and gaze around them. The earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the Book will be laid open. The prophets and witnesses shall be brought in and all shall be judged with fairness: none shall be wronged. Every soul shall be paid back according to its deeds, for Allah knows of all their actions.

**39.71** In companies the unbelievers shall be led to Hell. When they draw near, its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say to them: 'Did there not come to you apostles of your own who proclaimed to you the revelations of your Lord and forewarned you of this day?'

'Yes,' they will answer. And thus the punishment which the unbelievers have been promised shall be fulfilled. It will be said to them: 'Enter the gates of Hell and stay therein for ever.' Evil is the dwelling-place of the arrogant.

**39.73** And those who fear their Lord shall be led in companies to Paradise. When they draw near, its gates will be opened, and its keepers will say to them: 'Peace be to you; you have been good men. Enter Paradise and dwell in it for ever.'

They will say: 'Praise be to Allah who has made good to us His promise and given us the earth to inherit that we may dwell in Paradise wherever we please.' Blessed is the reward of the righteous.

**39.75** You shall see the angels circling round the Throne, glorifying their Lord. They shall be judged with fairness, and all shall say: 'Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Creation!'

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**40.1** *Ha mim.* The revelation of this Book is from Allah, the Mighty One, the All-knowing, who forgives sin and accepts repentance. His punishment is stern, and He is Bountiful.

There is no god but Him. To Him is the final return.

**40.4** None but the unbelievers dispute the revelations of Allah. Do not be deceived by their fortunes in the land. Long before them the people of Nuh denied Our revelations, and so did the factions after them. Every nation strove to kill their apostle, seeking with false arguments to refute the truth; but when I smote them, how stern was My punishment! Thus the word of your Lord shall be fulfilled concerning the unbelievers: they are the people of Hell.

**40.7** Those who bear the Throne and those who stand around it give glory to their Lord and believe in Him. They implore forgiveness for the faithful (saying): 'Lord, You embrace all things in mercy and knowledge. Forgive those that repent and follow Your path. Shield them from the scourge of Hell. Admit them, Lord, to the gardens of Eden which You have promised them, together with all the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their descendants. You are the Almighty, the Wise One. Deliver them from all evil. He whom You will deliver from evil on that day will surely earn Your mercy. That is the supreme triumph.'

But to the unbelievers a voice will cry: 'Allah's abhorrence of you is greater than your hatred of yourselves. You were called to the Faith, but you denied it.'

**40.11** They shall say: 'Lord, twice You have made us die, and twice You have given us life. We now confess our sins. Is there no way out of this?'

**40.12** (They shall be answered): 'You have incurred this fate because when Allah was invoked alone, you disbelieved; but when you were bidden to serve other gods besides Him you believed in them. (Today) judgement rests with Allah, the Most

## THE FORGIVING ONE

### High, the Supreme One.'

It is He who reveals to you His signs and sends down for you sustenance from the sky. Yet none takes heed except he who turns to Him. Pray, then, to Allah with sincere devotion, however much the unbelievers dislike it.

Exalted is the Lord of the Throne. He lets the Spirit descend at His behest on those of His servants whom He chooses, that He may warn (them) of the day of meeting; the day when they shall rise up (from their graves) with nothing hidden from Allah. And to whom is the sovereignty on that day? To Allah, the One, the Mighty.

On that day every soul shall be paid back what it has earned. On that day none shall be wronged. Swift is Allah's reckoning.

**40.18** Forewarn them of the approaching day, when men's hearts will leap up to their throats and choke them; when the wrongdoers will have no friend, no intercessor who will be heard. Allah knows the furtive looks of the eyes and what the hearts conceal. He will judge men with fairness, but those whom they invoke besides Him can judge nothing at all. Allah hears and observes all men.

Have they never journeyed through the land and seen what was the end of those who have gone before them, nations far greater in prowess and in splendour? Allah scourged them for their sins, and they had none to protect them from Allah. That was because their apostles had come to them with clear revelations and they denied them. So Allah punished them. Mighty is Allah, and stern His retribution.

**40.23** We sent forth Musa with Our signs and with clear authority to Pharaoh, Haman, and Qarun. But they said: 'This man is a magician, a liar.'

**40.25** And when he brought them the truth from Ourselves, they said: 'Put to death the sons of those who uphold this faith with him, and spare their daughters.' Futile were the schemes of the unbelievers.

Pharaoh said: 'Leave me to kill Musa, then let him invoke his Lord! I fear that he will change your religion or cause mischief in the land.'

Musa said: 'I take refuge in my Lord and in your Lord

from every proud man who denies the Day of Reckoning.'

**40.28** But one of Pharaoh's kinsmen, who in secret was a true believer, said: 'Would you kill a man merely because he says: "My Lord is Allah?" He has brought you clear signs from your Lord. If he is lying, may his lie be on his head; but if he is speaking the truth, a part at least of what he threatens will smite you. Allah does not guide the lying transgressor. Yours is the dominion today, being the masters in the land. But who will save us from Allah's wrath when it falls upon us?'

Pharaoh said: 'I do not show you except what I see. Nor will I guide you except to the right path.'

**40.30** He who was a true believer said: 'I fear for you, my people, the like of that which overtook the factions: like the fate of the people of Nuh, Aad Thamoud, and those that came after them. Allah does not seek to wrong His servants.'

**40.32** 'And, my people, I fear for you the day when men will cry out to one another, when you will turn back and flee, with none to protect you from Allah. He whom Allah leaves in error shall find none to guide him. Long before this, Yusuf came to you with clear signs, but you never ceased to doubt them; and when he died you said: "Allah will never send another apostle after him." Thus Allah leaves in error the doubting transgressor. Those who dispute Allah's signs without any authority that has reached them, (their conduct) is greatly abhorred by Allah and by the faithful. Thus Allah seals up the heart of every arrogant tyrant.'

Pharaoh said to Haman: Build me a tower that I may reach the paths, the paths of heaven, that I may mount up to the god of Musa. I think that he is lying.'

Thus Pharaoh's foul deeds were made to seem fair to him, and he was turned away from the path. His plot led to nothing but to ruin.

**40.38** He who was a true believer said: 'Follow me, my people, that I may rightly guide you. O my people, the life of this world is nothing but a (passing) comfort, but the life to come is an everlasting mansion. Those that do evil shall be rewarded with like evil; but those that have faith and do good works, both men and women, shall enter the Gardens of Paradise and receive



## THE FORGIVING ONE

blessings without number.

'My people, how is it that I call you to salvation and you call me to the Fire? You bid me to deny Allah and to set up with Him partners of whom I know nothing; while I call you to the Almighty, the Forgiving One. Indeed, he to whom you call me can be invoked neither in this world nor in the next. We shall all return to Allah. The transgressors are the people of Hell.

'And you will remember what I say to you. To Allah I commend myself. He is cognizant of all His servants.'

**40.45** Allah delivered him from the evils which they planned, and a grievous scourge fell on Pharaoh's people. Before the Fire they shall be brought morning and evening, and when the Last Day comes, (a voice will cry): 'Let the people of Pharaoh be sternly punished!'

**40.47** And when they argue in Hell, the humble will say to the haughty: 'We have been your followers: will you now ward off from us a part of our punishment?' But those who were haughty will reply: 'All of us are now in Hell. Allah has judged His servants.'

**40.49** And those in the Fire will say to its keepers: 'Implore your Lord to relieve our torment for one day!'

They will say: 'But, did your apostles not come to you with undoubted signs?'

'Yes,' they will answer. And they will reply: 'Then pray.' But vain shall be the prayers of the unbelievers.

We shall help Our apostles and the true believers both in this world and on the day when the witnesses rise to testify. On that day no excuse will help the evil-doers. Our curse, and an evil home, await them.

**40.53** We gave Musa the guidance and the Book in inheritance to the Children of Israel: a guidance and an admonition to men of understanding. Therefore have patience; Allah's promise is true. Implore Him to forgive your sins, and celebrate His praise morning and evening.

Those who dispute the revelations of Allah without authority given to them, there is nothing in their hearts but ambitions which they shall never attain. Therefore seek refuge in Allah; He hears all and sees all.

**40.57** Surely the creation of heaven and earth is greater than the creation of man; yet most men do not know it.

The blind and the seeing are not alike, nor are those that have faith and do good works and the sinner. Yet you seldom think.

The Hour of Doom is sure to come: yet most men do not believe.

Your Lord has said: 'Call on Me and I will hear you. Those that disdain My service shall enter Hell disgraced.'

**40.61** It was Allah who made for you the night to rest in and the day to (give you) light. Allah is bountiful to men, yet most men do not give thanks.

Such is Allah your Lord, the Creator of all things. There is no god but Him. How then can you turn away from Him? Yet even thus the men who deny His revelations turn away from Him.

It is Allah who has given you the earth for a dwelling-place and the sky for a canopy. He has moulded your bodies and given you a comely shape and provided you with good things.

Such is Allah, your Lord. Blessed be Allah, Lord of the Creation.

**40.65** He is the Living One; there is no god but Him. Pray to Him, then, and worship none besides Him. Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

Say: 'I am forbidden to serve those whom you invoke besides Allah, now that clear proofs have been given me from my Lord. I am commanded to surrender myself to the Lord of the Worlds.'

**40.67** It was He who created you from dust, then from a life-germ, and then a clot of blood. He then brings you forth as a child, then (lets you) reach manhood, and then grow into old age—though some of you die young—so that you may reach an appointed term, and understand.

**40.68** It is He Who ordains life and death. If He decrees a thing, He need only say: 'Be,' and it is.

Do you not see how those who dispr:te the revelations of Allah turn away (from the right path)? Those who have denied the Book and the message with which We have sent Our

## THE FORGIVING ONE

apostles shall know: when with chains and shackles round their necks they shall be dragged through boiling water and burnt in the Fire.

It will then be said to them: 'Where are those whom you set up besides Allah?'

They reply: 'They have failed us. Indeed what we used to invoke before is nothing.' Thus God leaves the unbelievers in error (And it will be said):

**40.75** 'That is because you rejoiced on earth in things other than the truth, and led a wanton life. Enter the gates of Hell and stay therein for ever. Evil is the home of the arrogant.'

Therefore have patience: Allah's promise is true. Whether We let you witness a part of that with which We threaten them or cause you to die before it is fulfilled, to Us they shall all return.

**40.78** We have sent forth other apostles before you; of some, We have already told you the story, of others We have told you nothing. Yet it was not for any apostle to work a miracle except by Allah's leave. And when Allah's will is done, justice will be done and those who have denied His signs will come to grief.

**40.79** It is Allah who has provided you with cattle, that you may ride on some and eat of the flesh of others—many benefits you have from them—and that you may satisfy through them a desire in your hearts. On them and on ships you are carried.

He reveals to you His signs. Which of Allah's signs do you deny?

**40.82** Have they never journeyed through the land and seen what was the end of those who have gone before them? More numerous were they and far greater in prowess and in monuments (left behind); yet all their labours were of no use to them.

When their apostles brought them clear signs they exulted in such knowledge as they had; but (soon) the

**40.83** scourge at which they scoffed encompassed them. And when they saw Our punishment they said: 'We now believe in none but Allah. We deny those we used to associate with Him.'

**40.85** But the new faith they professed when they beheld Our

punishment was of no use to them.

That was how Allah dealt with the bygone generations.  
Lost were the unbelievers.

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**41.1** *Ha mim.* This is a revelation from the Compassionate, the Merciful: a Book the verses of which are well expounded, an Arabic Quran for men of understanding.

It is good news and a warning: Yet most of them turn away and give no heed. They say: 'Our hearts are shielded against that to which you call us. And in our ears there is deafness. And between us and you is a veil. Do (as you please) and so we will.'

**41.6** Say: 'I am no more than a man like yourselves. It is revealed to me that your God is one God. Therefore take the right path to Him and implore Him to forgive you. Woe to those who associate others with Him, who give no alms and disbelieve in the life to come. For those who believe and do good works, is an enduring reward.'

Say: 'Do you indeed disbelieve in Him who created the world in two days? And do you set up equals with Him? He is the Lord of the Worlds.'

**41.10** He set upon the earth firm mountains towering high above it. He pronounced His blessing upon it and in four days measured therein sustenance alike for those who ask. Then he turned to the sky, which was smoke, and to it and to the earth He said: Come both of you willingly, or unwillingly.'

'We do come willingly, they answered. In two days He ordered them seven heavens, and to each heaven He assigned its task. We decked the lowest with lamps and provided it with guard. Such is the decree of the Mighty One, the All-Knowing.

If they turn away, say: 'I have given you warning of a thunderbolt like that which overtook Thamoud and Aad. When their apostles come to them from before them and behind them, (saying): "Serve none but Allah." They answered: "Had it been Allah's will, He would have sent down angels. We reject your message."

**41.15** As for Aad, they behaved arrogantly in the land and

without right. 'Who is mightier than we?' they used to say. Could they not see that Allah, who had created them, was mightier than they? (Yet) they denied Our revelations.

**41.16** So, over a few ill-omened days, We let loose on them a howling gale, that they might taste the punishment of humiliation in this life; but more humiliating will be the punishment of the life to come. They will not be helped.

As for Thamoud, We offered them Our guidance, but they preferred blindness to guidance. Therefore the stunning punishment of humiliation seized them because of what they had earned; and We delivered the believers and those who feared Allah.

**41.19** On the day when Allah's opponents will be gathered together they will be driven into the Fire, so that when they reach it, their ears, their eyes and their very skins will testify to their deeds. 'Why did you speak against us?' they will say to their skins, and their skins will reply: 'Allah, who gives speech to all things, has made us speak. It was He who in the beginning created you, and to Him you shall all return. You did not hide yourselves, so that your eyes and ears and skins could not bear witness against you. Yet you thought that Allah did not know much of what you did. It is this illusion concerning your Lord that has ruined you, so that you are now among the lost.'

**41.24** If they have patience, the Fire shall still be their home: and if they seek pardon, they shall not be granted it.

We have assigned them companions, who make what is before them (in this world) and behind them (in the Hereafter) seem fair to them. Well have they deserved the fate which overtook generations of jinn and men who have gone before them. They shall assuredly be lost.

The unbelievers say: 'Give no heed to this Quran. Interrupt its reading with boing and laughter, so that you may gain the upper hand.'

We will sternly punish the unbelievers and pay them back for the worst of their deeds. That is the reward of Allah's enemies—the Fire. Therein is their immortal abode, because they have denied Our revelations.

**41.29** The unbelievers will say: 'Lord, show us the jinn and men

who led us astray. We will trample them under our feet so that they may be among the lowest.'

**41.30** Those who say: 'Our Lord is Allah,' and take the right path to Him, the angels will descend on them (saying): 'Let nothing alarm or grieve you. Rejoice in the Paradise you have been promised. We are your guardians in this world and in the next. You shall find there all that your souls desire and all that you can ask for: a rich provision from the Forgiving, the Merciful.'

And who speaks better than he who calls others to the service of Allah, does what is right, and say: 'I am one of the Muslims.'

**41.34** Good and evil deeds are not alike. Requite evil with good, and he, between whom and you is enmity, will become your dearest friend. But none will attain this save those who endure with fortitude and are truly fortunate.

And if a malicious attempt is made by the devil to tempt you, seek refuge in Allah. He hears all and knows all.

Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. But do not prostrate yourselves before the sun or the moon; rather prostrate yourselves before Allah, who created them both, if you would truly serve Him.

**41.38** If they are arrogant, let them remember that those who are in Allah's presence glorify Him day and night and are never wearied.

And among His signs is that you see the earth dry and barren: but when He sends down rain upon it, it stirs and swells. He who gives it life will restore the dead to life. Allah has power over all things.

Those who deny Our revelations are not hidden from Our view. Is he who is cast in the Fire better than the one who emerges safe on the Day of Resurrection? Do as you will, Allah is watching over all your actions.

Those who deny Our word when it is preached to them (shall be sternly punished). This is a mighty Book. Falsehood cannot get at it from before or behind. It is a revelation from a Wise and Glorious God.

**41.43** Nothing is said to you that has not been said to other

apostles before you. Your Lord is Forgiving, but stern in retribution.

**41.44** Had We revealed the Quran in a foreign tongue they would have said: 'If only its verses were expounded! Why in a foreign tongue, (when) the Prophet is Arabian?'

Say: 'To the true believers it is a guide and a healing balm. But those who believe not, there is deafness in their ears and blindness in their eyes. They are like men called from afar.'

We gave the Book to Musa, but there arose disputes concerning it. And had it not been for a word that had already gone forth from your Lord their differences would have been settled. But they are in a disquieting doubt.

He that does good does it for his own soul; and he that commits evil does so at his own peril. Your Lord is never unjust to His servants.

To Him is referred all knowledge of the Hour of Doom. No fruit comes forth from its sheath, no female conceives or is delivered, but with His knowledge.

On the day He will call mankind to Him (and say): 'Where are the partners (you set up) with me?', they will reply:

**41.48** 'We confess that none of us can bear witness.' Those they used to invoke will steal away from them, and they shall know that there is no escape.

Man never wearies of praying for good things. But when evil befalls him he loses hope and grows despondent. And if We give him a taste of some mercy from us after affliction, he is sure to say: 'This is my own. I do not think the Hour of Doom will ever come. And even if I return to my Lord, He will surely reward me well.' We shall tell the unbelievers what they did and visit upon them a stern chastisement.

When We show favour to man, he turns away and holds aloof; but when evil befalls him he is loud in prayer.

Say: 'Think: if this (Quran) is indeed from Allah and you deny it, who can err more than he who openly defies Him?'

**41.53** We will show them Our signs in all the regions of the earth and in their own souls, until they clearly see that this is the truth. Does it not suffice that your Lord is watching over all things?

**41.54** Yet they still doubt that they will ever meet their Lord. Surely Allah encompasses all things.



## Sura 42

"Al-Shura"

### THE COUNSEL

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**42.1** *Ha mim; ain sin qaf.* Thus Allah, the Mighty One, the Wise One, inspires you as He inspired others before you.

He is what the heavens and the earth contain. He is the Most High, the Supreme One.

The heavens well-nigh break apart from above as the angels sing the praise of their Lord and beg forgiveness for those on earth. Allah is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

**42.6** As for those who take other protectors besides Him, Allah Himself is watching over them. You are not a guardian over them.

Thus We have revealed to you an Arabic Quran, that you may warn the Mother City<sup>1</sup> and all around it; that you may forewarn them of the Day of Gathering which is sure to come: when some will be in Paradise, and some in Hell.

**42.8** Had it been Allah's Will, He could have made them all one nation. But Allah brings whom He will into His mercy; the wrongdoers have no friend and no helper.

**42.9** Or have they set up other guardians besides Him? Surely Allah alone is the Guardian. He brings back the dead to life and has power over all things.

In whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allah. Such is Allah, my Lord. In Him I have put my trust, and to Him I turn in repentance.

Creator of the heavens and the earth, He has given you wives from among yourselves and cattle, male and female. By this means he multiplies you. Nothing can be compared with Him. He alone hears all and sees all.

His are the keys of the heavens and the earth. He gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases. He has knowledge of all things.

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1. Makkah

**42.13** He has ordained for you the faith which He enjoined on Nuh and which We have revealed to you, and which We enjoined on Ibrahim, Musa and Isa, (saying): 'Observe this Faith and be not divided therein.' Hard for the polytheists is that to which you call them. Allah chooses to Himself whom He will, and guides to Himself those that repent.

**42.14** Yet they became divided only after knowledge had reached them, out of envy among themselves. And had it not been for a word that had already gone forth from your Lord; relieving them till an appointed term they would surely have been punished (in this life). Those who inherited the Book after them have their grave doubts too.

Therefore call (men to the true faith), the straight path as you are bidden. Do not follow their desires, but say: 'I believe in all the scriptures that Allah has revealed. I am commanded to exercise justice among you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. We have our own works and you have yours; let there be no argument between us. Allah will bring us all together, for to Him we shall return.'

As for those who argue about Allah after obedience has been rendered to Him, their arguments will have no weight with their Lord, and His wrath will fall upon them. They shall be sternly punished.

**42.17** It is Allah who has sent down the Book in truth, and the Balance. And how can you tell? The Hour of Doom may be fast approaching.

**42.18** Those who deny it seek to hurry it on; but the true believers dread its coming and know it is the truth. Indeed, those who doubt the Hour are far astray.

Benign is Allah towards His servants. He is bountiful to whom He will. He is the Invincible One, the Almighty.

Whoever seeks the tilth of the world to come, We will increase his tilth; and whoever desires the tilth of this world, We give him some of it; but in the Hereafter he shall have no share at all.

Have they partners who have made lawful to them in religion what Allah has not allowed? Had the decisive word not been pronounced already, their fate would surely have been

settled in this life. The wrongdoers shall endure a harrowing torment.

**42.22** You shall see the wrongdoers aghast at what they have earned, and it shall befall them. But those that have faith and do good works shall dwell in the meadows of gardens and receive from their Lord all that they desire. Surely this is the supreme boon.

This is what Allah announces to true believers who do good works. Say: 'For this I demand of you no recompense except love of relatives. He that does good deed We add to its goodness for him. Allah is Forgiving and Bountiful in His rewards.'

Do they say: 'He has framed a falsehood about Allah?' But if Allah pleased He could seal your heart. He will reduce falsehood to nothing and vindicate the truth by His words. He knows the secret thoughts of men.

He accepts the repentance of His servants and pardons their sins. He has knowledge of all your actions.

He hears the prayer of those who have faith and do good works, and gives them more of His bounty. But a woeful punishment awaits the unbelievers.

**42.27** If Allah were to enlarge the provision to His servants, they would tyrannize in the earth, He gives them what He will in due measure; He knows and observes His servants.

**42.28** It is He who sends down rain for them when they have lost all hope, and spreads abroad His blessings. He is the Glorious Guardian.

Among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the living things which He has dispersed over them. If He will, He can gather them all together.

If a misfortune befalls you, it is the fruit of your own labours. He forgives much.

On this earth you are not beyond (His) reach, nor do you have any protector or helper besides Allah.

**42.32** And among His signs are the ships which sail like mountains upon the ocean. If He will, He calms the wind down so that they lie motionless upon it—surely there are signs in this for steadfast men who render thanks—or causes them to founder

as a punishment for their misdeeds. Yet many are the sins that He forgives.

**42.35** Those who dispute Our revelations shall know that they have no escape.

That which you have been given is but the fleeting comfort of this life. Better and more enduring is that which Allah has for those who believe and put their trust in Him; who avoid gross sins and indecencies and, when angered, are willing to forgive; who obey their Lord, attend to their prayers, and conduct their affairs by mutual consent; who bestow in alms a part of that which We have given them and, when oppressed, seek to redress their wrongs.

**42.40** Let evil be rewarded with like evil. But he that forgives and seeks reconciliation shall be rewarded by Allah. He does not love the wrongdoers.

Those who avenge themselves when wronged incur no guilt. But great is the guilt of those who oppress their fellowmen and conduct themselves with wickedness and injustice. These shall be sternly punished.

To endure with fortitude and to forgive is an act of great resolution. He whom Allah leaves in error has none to protect him.

You will see the wrongdoers as they face the

**42.45** punishment say: 'Is there no way back?' You shall see them brought before it (the Fire) humbled by shame and looking upon it with a stealthy glance. The true believers will say: 'Great indeed is the loss of those who forfeited their souls and all their kindred on the Day of Resurrection.'

The wrongdoers shall suffer an everlasting punishment. They shall have no friends to help them besides Allah. He whom Allah leaves in error cannot find a way.

Hearken to your Lord before that day arrives which none can defer against the will of Allah. For on that day there shall be no refuge for you, nor shall you be able to deny (your sins).

**42.48** If they turn away, know that We have not sent you<sup>1</sup> to be their keeper. Your only duty is to warn them.

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1. Muhammad.

When We give a man a taste of (Our) mercy, he rejoices in it; but when through his own fault evil befalls him he is ungrateful.

To Allah belongs the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. He creates what He will. He gives daughters to whom He will and sons to whom He pleases. To some He gives both sons and daughters, and to others He gives none at all. Mighty is Allah and All-knowing.

It is not vouchsafed to any man that Allah should speak to him except by revelation, or from behind a veil or through a messenger sent and authorized by Him to reveal His will. He is Exalted and Wise.

And thus We have inspired you with a spirit of Our will when you knew nothing of faith or scripture, and made it a light whereby We guide those of Our

**42.53** servants whom We please. You shall surely guide them to the right path of Allah, to whom belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. Surely to Allah all things shall in the end return.

## Sura 43

"Al-Zukhruf"

ORNAMENTS OF GOLD

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**43.1** *Ha mim.* By the Book which makes plain (right and wrong), We have revealed the Quran in the Arabic tongue that you may understand. It is in the Mother Book with Us, sublime and full of wisdom. Should We ignore you by withholding Our Message because you are a transgressing people? How many a prophet did We send forth to the ancients: no prophet came to them but they scoffed at him. We utterly destroyed mightier (nations) than these.

And the story of the destruction (of the ancients) has been told. Yet, if you ask them<sup>1</sup> who created the heavens and the earth, they will surely answer: 'The Almighty, the All-knowing, created them.'

**43.10** (It is He) who has made the earth a resting-place for you and made in it routes for you that you may find your way; who sends down water from the sky in due measure and thereby quickens the dead land—even thus you shall be restored to life; who has created all living things in pairs and made for you the ships and beasts on which you ride, so that you mount upon their backs, and as you sit firm on them you may recall the goodness of your Lord and say: 'Glory to Him who has subjected these to us. But for Him we could never have accomplished this. To our Lord we shall all return.'

**43.15** Yet they assign to Him some of His servants! Surely man is monstrously ungrateful. Would Allah choose daughters from those He has created for Himself and choose sons for you?

Yet when the birth of one of those (daughters) they attribute to the Merciful is announced to one of them, his face darkens and he is filled with gloom. Would they ascribe to Allah females who adorn themselves with trinkets and are powerless in disputation?

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1. The Makkans

**43.19** They regard as females the angels who are Allah's servants. Did they witness their creation? Their claims shall be noted down and they shall be closely questioned.

They say: 'Had it been the will of the Merciful, we should never have worshipped them.' Surely of this they have no knowledge: they are lying.

Or have We given them a scripture before this, so that they should hold fast to it?

They say: 'We have found our fathers following a certain religion. And we are merely walking in their footsteps.'

**43.23** Thus, We never sent an apostle before you to warn a nation, but its wealthy said: 'We have found our fathers following a certain religion; we are merely walking in their footsteps.'

Each (apostle) said: 'What if I bring you a better guidance than that which you found your fathers following?' But they replied: 'We deny the message you have brought.' So We punished them. Consider the fate of those who disbelieved (Our warning).

**43.26** (Remember) Ibrahim, who said to his father and to his people: 'I am innocent of what you worship. (I worship) only Him who created me, for He will rightly guide me.' He made this an abiding precept among his descendants, so that they might turn (to none but Allah).

**43.29** Yes, I allowed these men and their fathers to live in comfort until there come to them the truth and an apostle making (things) clear. But now that the truth has come to them, they say: 'It is witchcraft. We do reject it.' They also say: 'Why was this Quran not revealed to some great man from the two towns?'<sup>1</sup>

Is it they who apportion your Lord's blessings? It is We who apportion to them their livelihoods in this world, exalting some in rank above others, so that the one may take the other into his service. Better is your Lord's mercy than all their hoarded treasures.

But for the fear that all mankind might have become one community (of unbelievers), We would have given those who deny the Lord of Mercy dwellings with silver roofs, and (silver) stairs on which to go up, and (silver) doors and couches to recline upon;

1. Makkah and Madinah.

and also ornaments of gold: for all these are but the fleeting comforts of this life. The life to come with your Lord is for the righteous.

**43.36** He that does not heed the warning of the Merciful shall have a devil for his companion. Devils turn men away from the right path, though they may think themselves rightly guided. And when finally he comes before Us, he shall say: 'Would that we were as far apart as the east is from the west.' Truly, evil is the companion.

But because you have done wrong, that others will share your punishment will not avail you on that day.

**43.40** Can you make the deaf hear, and guide the blind of those who are in manifest error? Even if We take you away, they shall be punished by Us. Or We shall show you that which We have promised them. For We have absolute power over them.

**43.43** Therefore hold fast to that which is revealed to you: you are on the right path. It is an admonition to you and to your people. You shall be questioned all.

Ask those of Our apostles whom We sent before you if We ever appointed gods to be worshipped besides the Merciful.

**43.46** We sent forth Musa with Our signs to Pharaoh and his nobles. He said: 'I am the apostle of the Lord of the Worlds.' But when he showed them Our signs they laughed at them: yet each fresh sign We revealed to them was mightier than the one that came before it. Therefore We let loose Our scourge upon them, so that they might return (to the right path).

'Magician,' they said, 'pray to your Lord for us in accordance to the promise He has made you. We accept your guidance.'

**43.50** But when We had relieved their affliction they broke their pledge.

Pharaoh made a proclamation to his people. 'My people,' said he, 'is the kingdom of Egypt not mine, and are these rivers which flow at my feet not mine also? Can you not see? Am I not better than this despicable wretch, who can scarcely make his meaning plain? Why have no bracelets of gold been given him,



or angels sent down with him?'

**43.54** Thus he incited his people. They obeyed him, for they were degenerate men. And when they provoked Us, We punished them and drowned them all, as a lesson and an example to those who succeeded them.

When Mariam's son is cited as an instance, your people laugh and say: 'Who is better, he or our gods?' They cite him to you only by way of disputation. Truly, they are a contentious nation.

**43.59** He was no more than a man whom We favoured and made an example to the Children of Israel. Had it been Our will We could have replaced you with angels to succeed you on the earth. He is a portent of the Hour of Doom. Have no doubt about its coming and follow Me. This is a right path: let the devil not mislead you, for he is your sworn enemy.

And when Isa came with clear signs, he said: 'I have come to you with wisdom and to make plain to you some of the things about which you differ. Fear Allah and follow me. Allah is my Lord and your Lord: therefore serve Him. That is the right path.'

**43.65** Yet the factions disagreed among themselves. But woe to those who did wrong from the chastisement of a grievous Day.

Are they waiting for the Hour of Doom to overtake them unawares, without warning? On that day friends shall become enemies one to another, except the God-fearing.

**43.68** But my servants, there is no fear for you this day, nor will you grieve—you who believed in Our signs and surrendered themselves. Enter Paradise, you and your spouses, in all delight. To them will be passed golden dishes and golden cups. There will be all that souls desire and all that eyes delight in. There you shall abide for ever.

Such is the Paradise you shall inherit, by virtue of your good deeds. You shall have therein abundant fruit.

But the evil-doers shall endure for ever the torment of Hell. Their punishment will never be lightened and they shall be speechless with despair. We did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves.

**43.77** 'Malek,'<sup>1</sup> they will call out, 'let your Lord put an end to us!' But he will answer: 'Here you shall remain!'

We have made known to you the truth, but most of you abhor the truth.

Or have settled on a plan (against you)?<sup>2</sup> It is We who settle (things). Do they think We cannot hear their secret talk and private converse? Yes! Our angels, who are at their side, record it all.

**43.81** Say: 'If the Lord of Mercy had a son, I would be the first to worship him.'

Exalted be the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the Throne, above their falsehoods! Let them blunder, let them play, until they face the day with which they are threatened.

It is He who is God in heaven and God on earth; He is the Wise One, the All-knowing. Blessed be He to

**43.85** whom belongs the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them! With Him is the knowledge of the Hour of Doom. To Him you shall all return.

Those whom they invoke besides Him have not the power to intercede for them. None can intercede for them save him who knows the truth and testifies to it.

Yet if you ask them who created them, they will promptly reply that it was Allah. How then can they turn away from Him?

(God also hears) his (the Prophet's) cry: 'Lord, these men are unbelievers.'

**43.89** Bear with them and wish them peace. They shall (before long) know.

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1. One of the keepers of Hell.  
2. Muhammad.

## Sura 44

"Al-Dukhan"

SMOKE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**44.1** *Ha mim:* We swear by the Book which makes plain (right and wrong) that We sent it down during a blessed night. We revealed it to warn mankind, on a night when every precept was made plain as a commandment from Ourselves. We sent it down as a blessing from your Lord, who hears all and knows all.

He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them, if you would be sure. There is no god but Him. He gives life and death. He is your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers. Yet they divert themselves with doubts.

**44.10** Wait for the day when the sky will pour down visible smoke, enveloping all men: this will be a dreadful scourge. Then they will say: 'Lord, lift up this scourge from us. We are now believers.' But how will they avail themselves of the Message when an undoubted prophet had come to them and they turned away from him, saying: 'A madman, taught (by others)!'

**44.15** Yet if We slightly relieve their affliction they will return (to unbelief). But on that day We will inflict on them the sternest punishment and exact retribution.

We tested Pharaoh's people long before that. A gracious apostle came to them, saying: 'Surrender to me servants of Allah. I am a truthful messenger. Do not hold yourselves above Allah. I bring you clear authority. I take refuge with my Lord and your Lord lest you stone me. And if you do not believe leave me alone.'

**44.22** Then he cried out to his Lord, saying: 'These are sinful men.'

(His Lord answered): 'Set forth with My servants by night, for you will be pursued. Then leave the sea behind calm. Surely they are a host (destined) to be drowned.'

**44.25** How many gardens, how many fountains, they left behind them! Cornfields, and noble palaces, and good things in which they took delight. Thus (it was). And We made other

people inherit (all) that. Neither heaven nor earth shed tears for them; nor were they reprieved. We saved the Children of Israel from a degrading scourge, from Pharaoh, who was a tyrant and a transgressor, and chose them knowingly above the nations. We showed them signs in which there was a clear trial.

**44.34** Yet the unbelievers say: 'We shall die but one death, nor shall we ever be restored to life. Bring back to us our fathers, if what you say be true.'

Who are better they or the people of Tubba<sup>1</sup> and those who came before them? We destroyed them all, for they too were wicked men.

It was not in sport that We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. We only created them in truth. But of this most men have no knowledge.

The Day of Judgement is the appointed time for all. On that day no man shall help his friend; none shall be helped save those on whom Allah will have mercy. He is the Mighty One, the Merciful.

**44.43** The fruit of the Zaqqum-tree shall be the sinner's food. Like dregs of oil, it shall simmer in his belly like scalding water. (A voice will cry): 'Seize him and drag him into the depth of Hell. Then pour out boiling water over his head, (saying): "Taste this, illustrious and honourable man! This is (the punishment) which you doubted."'

As for the righteous, they shall be in peace together amidst gardens and fountains, arrayed in rich silks and fine brocade. Yes, and We shall wed them to fair maidens with large lustrous eyes, Secure (against all ills), they shall call for every kind of fruit; and, having died once, they shall die no more. We will shield them from the scourge of Hell as a bounty from your Lord. That will be the supreme triumph.

We have revealed this to you in your own tongue so

**44.59** that they may take heed. Wait then; they (too) are waiting.

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1. The people of Himyar in South Arabia.

## Sura 45

"Al-Jathiya"

KNEELING

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**45.1** *Ha mim.* The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Mighty One, the All-knowing. Surely in the heavens and the earth there are signs for the faithful; in your own creation, and in the beasts that are scattered far and near, are signs for true believers; in the alternation of night and day, in the sustenance Allah sends down from heaven with which He revives the earth after its death, and in the marshalling of the winds, are signs for men of understanding.

Such are the revelations of Allah. We recite them to you in all truth. But in what revelations will they believe, after (they deny) Allah Himself (and all His signs)?

**45.8** Woe to the lying sinner! He hears the revelations of Allah recited to him and then, as though he never

**45.9** heard them, persists in scorn. Forewarn him of a woeful scourge. For those that deride our revelations when they have scarcely heard them is a shameful punishment.

Hell is behind them. Their gains shall not avail them, nor shall those protectors they take besides Allah. A dreadful punishment awaits them.

Such is (Our) guidance. Those who deny the revelations of their Lord shall suffer the torment of a hideous scourge.

It is Allah who has subdued to you the ocean so that ships may sail upon it at His bidding; so that you may seek His bounty and render thanks to Him.

**45.13** He has subjected to you what the heavens and the earth contain; all is from Him. Surely there are signs in this for thinking men.

Tell the believers to pardon those who do not look forward to the days of Allah, so that He may reward men according to their deeds. He that does what is right does it to his own advantage; and he that commits evil does so at his own peril. To your Lord you shall all return.

**45.16** We gave to the Children of Israel the Book wisdom and prophethood. We provided them with good things and exalted them above the nations. We gave them plain commandments: yet it was not till knowledge had been vouchsafed them that they disagreed among themselves from evil motives. On the Day of Resurrection your Lord Himself will judge their differences.

And now, We have set you on the right path. Follow it and do not yield to the desires of ignorant men; for they in no way can protect you from (the wrath) of Allah. The wrongdoers are patrons to each other; but the righteous have Allah Himself for their patron.

**45.20** These are clear proofs to men and a guidance and mercy for those who truly believe.

Do the evil-doers think that they are equal in Our sight to the believers who do good works, so that in life and death shall be alike? How ill they judge!

Allah created the heavens and the earth with (the aim of manifesting) the truth and to reward each soul according to its deeds. And they shall not be wronged.

**45.23** Do you see the man who makes his desire his god, the man whom Allah leaves in error, setting a seal upon his ears and heart and drawing a veil over his eyes? Who then can guide him after Allah (has withdrawn guidance)? Will you not take heed?

They say: 'There is this life and no other. We live and die; nothing but Time destroys us.' Surely of this they have no knowledge. They are merely guessing.

**45.25** And when Our clear revelations are recited to them, their only argument is: 'Bring back to us our fathers, if what you say be true!'

Say: 'It is Allah who gives you life and later causes you to die. It is He who will gather you all on the Day of Resurrection. Of this there is no doubt; yet most men do not know it.'

Allah's is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. On the day when the Hour of Doom arrives, those who have denied His revelations will assuredly be lost.

**45.28** You shall see all the nations on their knees. Each nation shall be summoned to its book (and a voice will say to them):

'You shall this day be rewarded for your deeds. This Record of Ours speaks with truth against you. We have recorded all your actions.'

As for those who have faith and do good works, their Lord will admit them into His mercy. That shall be a glorious triumph.

**45.31** To the unbelievers (a voice will say): 'Were My revelations not recited to you? Did you not scorn them and commit evil? When it was said to you: "Allah's promise is true: the Hour of Doom is sure to come," You replied: "We know nothing of the Hour of Doom. It is but a vain conjecture, nor are we convinced."

The evil of their deeds will manifest itself to them, and the scourge at which they scoffed will encompass them. We shall say: 'We will today forget you as you yourselves forgot that you would meet this day. Hell shall be your home and none will help you. That is because you scoffed at Allah's revelations and were deceived by your earthly life.'

On that day there shall be no way out for them; nor shall they be asked to make amends.

**45.36** Praise, then, be to Allah, the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of the Creation. Glory be His in heaven and earth. He is the Mighty One, the All-knowing.

## Sura 46

### AL-AHQAF

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**46.1** *Ha mim.* The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Mighty One, the Wise One. It was in truth that We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them; (We created them to last) for an appointed term. Yet the unbelievers give no heed to Our warning.

Say: 'Do you see those whom you invoke besides Allah? Show me what part of the earth they have created! Have they a share in the heavens? Bring me a scripture revealed before this or some other vestige of knowledge, if what you say be true.'

**46.5** Who is in greater error than he who invokes besides Allah those who will never hear him till the Day of Resurrection—who are, indeed, unconscious of his prayers? When mankind are gathered (upon the Judgement-day), those (whom they invoke) will become their enemies and will disown their worship.

**46.7** When Our clear revelations are recited to them, the unbelievers say of the truth: 'This is plain magic.'

Do they say: 'He has invented it himself?'

Say: 'If I have indeed invented it<sup>1</sup>, then there is nothing that you can do to protect me from (the wrath) of Allah. He well knows what you say about it. He is an all-sufficient witness between me and you. He is the Benignant One, the Merciful.'

**46.9** Say: 'I am no prodigy among the apostles; nor do I know what will be done with me or you. I follow only what is revealed to me, and my only duty is to give plain warning.'

Say: 'Think if this Quran is indeed from Allah and you reject it, and if a witness from the Children of Israel has vouched for the like and accepted Islam, while you yourselves deny it with scorn (how unjust you are). Truly, Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.'

**46.11** The unbelievers say of the faithful: 'Had it been any good they would not have believed in it before us.' And since they

1. The Quran.



reject its guidance they say: 'This is an ancient falsehood.'

**46.12** Yet before it there was the Book of Musa, a guide and a blessing to all men. This Book confirms it. It is revealed in the Arabic tongue to forewarn the wrongdoers and to give good news to the righteous.

Those who say: 'Our God is Allah,' and follow the straight path shall have nothing to fear or to regret. They shall for ever dwell in Paradise as a reward for what they did.

**46.15** We have enjoined man to show kindness to his parents. With much pain his mother bears him, and with much pain she brings him into the world. He is born and weaned in thirty months. When he grows to manhood and attains his fortieth year, let him say: 'Grant me, Lord, that I may give thanks for the favours You have bestowed on me and on my parents, and to do good works that will please You. Grant me good descendants. To You I turn and to You I surrender myself.'

**46.16** Such are those from whom We will accept their noblest works and whose misdeeds We shall overlook. (We shall include them) among the people of Paradise: true is the promise that has been given them.

But (you find one) who says to his parents: 'Fie on you! Do you threaten me with a resurrection when entire generations have passed away before me?' But they pray for Allah's help and say: 'Woe to you! Have faith. The promise of Allah is true.' He replies: 'This is but a fable of the ancients.' He shall justly deserve the fate of bygone nations of men and jinn: he shall assuredly be lost.

There are degrees for all, according to their deeds, so that Allah may duly requite them for their works. They shall not be wronged.

**46.20** On the day when the unbelievers are brought before the fire of Hell, (We shall say to them): 'You squandered away your precious things in your earthly life and took your fill of pleasure. An ignominious punishment shall be yours this day because you behaved with pride and without just cause on earth and committed evil.'

**46.21** Tell of Aad's brother who warned his people (in the

Valley of) Al-Ahqaf, and who has been preceded and succeeded by other apostles. (He said): 'Serve none but Allah. Beware of the torment of a fateful day.'

They replied: 'Have you come to turn us away from our own gods? Bring down that with which you threaten us, if what you say be true!'

He said: 'Allah alone has the knowledge. I am here to deliver to you my message. But I can see that you are ignorant men.'

**46.24** And when they saw it as a cloud heading for their valley they said: 'Here is a passing cloud that will bring us rain.'

'By no means!' (he replied). 'It is that which you have sought to hasten: a hurricane bringing a woeful scourge. It will destroy you all at the bidding of its Lord.'

And when morning came there was nothing to be seen besides their (ruined) dwellings. Thus We reward the wrongdoers.

**46.26** We had empowered them to do what we have empowered you<sup>1</sup> to do and given them ears, eyes and hearts. Yet nothing did their ears, their eyes, or their hearts avail them since they denied the revelations of Allah. The scourge at which they scoffed encompassed them.

We destroyed the towns around you, and made plain our revelations so that their people might return to the right path. Why did no help come forth from the gods they had set up besides Allah to bring them close to Him? Indeed, they utterly forsook them. Such were their lies and such their false inventions.

**46.29** (Tell) how We sent to you a band of jinn who, when they came and listened to the Quran, said to each other: 'Hush! Hush!' As soon as it was ended they betook themselves to their people and gave them warning. 'Our people,' they said, 'We have just been listening to a Book revealed since the time of Musa, confirming what came before it and directing to the

**46.31** truth and to a straight path. Our people, answer the call of Allah's summoner and believe in him! He will forgive you your sins and deliver you from a woeful punishment. Those who give no heed to Allah's summoner shall not be beyond reach on

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1. The Makkans.

earth, nor shall any one protect them besides Him. They are in gross error.'

Do they not see that Allah who created the heavens and the earth and was not wearied by their creation can restore the dead to life? Yes. He has power over all things.

On the day when the unbelievers are brought before the fire of Hell they shall be asked: 'Is this not real?' 'Yes, by the Lord,' they will answer. 'Then taste Our punishment,' (He will reply), 'for you were unbelievers.'

**46.35** Bear up then with patience, as did the steadfast apostles before you, and do not seek to hurry on (their doom). On the day when they behold the scourge with which they are threatened, their life on earth will seem to them no longer than an hour.

That is a warning. Shall any perish except the evil-doers?

## Sura 47

### MUHAMMAD

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**47.1** Allah will bring to nothing the deeds of those who disbelieve and debar others from His path. As for the faithful who do good works and believe in what is revealed to Muhammad—which is the truth from their Lord—He will forgive them their sins and improve their state.

**47.3** This is because the unbelievers follow falsehood, while the faithful follow the truth from their Lord. Thus Allah sets forth for mankind their examples.

Therefore, when you meet the unbelievers (in the battlefield) strike off their heads and, when you have killed many of them, bind (your captives) firmly. Then grant them their freedom or take ransom from them, until war shall lay down its burdens.

Thus (shall you do). Had Allah willed, He could Himself have punished them; but He has ordained it thus that He might test you, the one by the other.

As for those who are slain in the cause of Allah, He will not render their works vain. He will guide them and ennoble their state; He will admit them to the Paradise He has made known to them.

**47.7** (Believers), if you help Allah, He will help you and make you strong. But the unbelievers shall be consigned to perdition. He will bring their deeds to nothing. That is because they have opposed His revelations. So He will frustrate their works.

**47.10** Have they never journeyed through the land and seen what was the end of those who have gone before them? Allah destroyed them utterly. A similar fate awaits the unbelievers, because Allah is the protector of the faithful, and because the unbelievers have no protector.

Allah will admit those who believe and do good works to gardens watered by running streams. The unbelievers take their fill of pleasure and eat as the cattle eat: but Hell shall be their home.

## MUHAMMAD

How many a city mightier than your own city, which has cast you<sup>1</sup> out, have We destroyed and there was none to help them.

Can he who follows the guidance of his Lord be compared to him whose misdeeds are made to seem fair to him, and to those who follow their desires?

**47.15** This is a description of the Paradise which the righteous have been promised. There shall flow in it rivers of unpolluted water, and rivers of milk for ever fresh; river of delectable wine and rivers of clearest honey. They shall have therein of every fruit and receive forgiveness from their Lord. Is this like (the lot of those) who shall abide in Hell for ever and drink scalding water which will tear their bowels?

**47.16** Some of them indeed listen to you, but no sooner do they leave your presence than they ask those to whom knowledge has been given: "What did he say just now?" Such are the men whose hearts are sealed by Allah and who follow their own desires.

As for those who follow the right path, Allah will increase their guidance and bestow on them their righteousness.

Are they waiting but for the Hour of Doom to overtake them unawares? Its portents have already come. But how will they be warned when it overtakes them?

**47.20** Know that there is no god but Allah. Implore Him to forgive your sins and to forgive the true believers, men and women. Allah knows your busy haunts and resting-places.

The faithful say: 'If only a Chapter were revealed!' But when a forthright Chapter is revealed and war is mentioned in it, you see the infirm of heart looking towards you as though they were fainting away for fear of death. Yet obedience and courteous speech would become them more. Indeed, should the matter be decided upon, it would be better for them to be true to Allah.

**47.22** If you<sup>2</sup> turn away (from the faith) you would surely do evil in the land and violate the ties of kinship. Such are those on whom Allah has laid His curse, leaving them bereft of sight and hearing.

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1. Muhammad.

2. Muhammad.

Will they not ponder on the Quran? Are there locks upon their hearts?

**47.25** Those who turn back after Allah's guidance has been revealed to them, it is Satan who seduces and inspires them. That is because they say to those who abhor the word of Allah: 'We shall obey you in some matters.' Allah knows their secret talk.

**47.27** How (will it be) when the angels carry away their souls and strike them on their heads and backs?

That is because they follow what has incurred the wrath of Allah and abhor what pleases Him. He will surely bring their works to nothing.

Or-do those who have disease in their hearts think that Allah will not bring forth their malice? If We pleased, We could point them out to you and you would recognize them promptly by their marks. But you will surely know them from the tenor of their works. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.

We shall put you to the proof until We know those who strive and the resolute among you and test all that is said about you.

**47.37** Those who disbelieve and debar others from the path of Allah and oppose the Apostle after guidance has been shown to them shall in no way harm Allah. He will bring their works to nothing.

Believers, obey Allah and His apostle and never let your labours go in vain.

Those who disbelieve and debar others from Allah's path and in the end die unbelievers shall not be shown forgiveness by Allah. Therefore do not falter or sue for peace when you have gained the upper hand. Allah is on your side and will not grudge you the reward of your labours.

The life of this world is but a sport and a pastime. If you believe in Him and guard yourselves against evil, He will reward you, and will not ask for all your wealth. If He demanded all and strongly pressed you, you would grow niggardly and this would show your ill feelings.

**47.38** You are called upon to give in the cause of Allah. Some of you are niggardly; yet whoever is niggardly to this cause is

## MUHAMMAD

niggardly to himself. Indeed, Allah is rich, but you are poor. If you give no heed, He will replace you by others. And these will not be like you.

## Sura 48

"Al-Fath"

VICTORY

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**48.1** We have given you a glorious victory,<sup>1</sup> so that Allah may forgive your past and future sins, and perfect His favour to you; that He may guide you to the right path and bestow on you His mighty help.

It was He who sent down tranquility into the hearts of the faithful so that their faith might grow stronger. His are the forces of the heavens and the earth, Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

**48.5** (He has done this) so that He may also bring the believers, both men and women, into gardens watered by running streams, there to abide for ever; that He may forgive them their sins, which is in Allah's sight a great triumph, and that He may punish the hypocrites and the idolaters, men and women, who think evil thoughts concerning Allah. A turn of evil shall befall them, and Allah's wrath is on them. He has laid on them His curse and prepared for them the fire of Hell: an evil fate.

**48.7** Allah's are the forces of the heavens and the earth. Allah is Mighty and Wise.

We have sent you<sup>2</sup> forth as a witness and as a bearer of good news and warnings, so that you may have faith in Allah and His apostle and that you may assist Him, honour Him, and praise Him, morning and evening.

Those that swear fealty to you swear fealty to Allah Himself. The Hand of Allah is above their hands. He that breaks his oath breaks it at his own peril, but he that keeps his pledge to Allah shall be richly rewarded.

**48.11** The desert Arabs who stayed behind will say to you: 'We were occupied with our goods and families. Implore Allah to pardon us.' They will say with their tongues what they do not mean in their hearts.

Say: 'Who can intervene on your behalf with Allah if it is His will to do you harm or good? Allah is cognizant of all your

1. Refers to the conquests of Islam.
2. Muhammad.



actions.' Nay, you thought the Apostle and the believers would never return to their people; and this was made fair-seeming in your hearts. You harboured evil thoughts and thus incurred damnation.

But if any disbelieves in Allah and His apostle, We

**48.14** have prepared a blazing Fire for the disbelievers. Allah's is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. He pardons whom He will and punishes whom He pleases. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**48.15** When you set forth to take the spoils, those that stay behind will say: 'Let us follow you.'

They seek to change the word of Allah. Say: 'You shall not follow us. So Allah has said beforehand.'

They will reply: 'You are jealous of us.' But how little they understand!

Say to the desert Arabs who stayed behind: 'You shall be called upon (to face) a mighty nation; you will fight them unless they embrace Islam. If you prove obedient you shall receive a good reward from Allah. But if you turn away, as you have done before this, He will inflict on you a stern chastisement.'

**48.17** It shall be no offence for the blind, the lame, and the sick (to stay behind). He that obeys Allah and His Apostle shall be admitted to gardens watered by running streams; but he that turns away shall be sternly punished.

**48.18** Allah was well pleased with the faithful when they swore allegiance to you under the tree. He knew what was in their hearts. Therefore He sent down tranquillity upon them and rewarded them with a speedy victory and with the many spoils which they have taken. Mighty is Allah and Wise.

Allah has promised you rich booty which you will acquire, and thus He has given you this beforehand, and has protected you from your enemies, so that He may make it a sign to true believers and guide you along a straight path.

**48.21** And there are other spoils which were not within your power. Allah has power over all things.

If the unbelievers fought you, they would have been put to flight, and would have found none to protect or help them.

Such was the way of Allah in days gone by: and you shall find no change in Allah's way.

It was He who restrained their hands from you and your hands from them in the valley of Makkah after He had given you victory over them. Allah was watching over all your actions.

**48.25** Those were the ones who disbelieved and debarred you from the Sacred Mosque and prevented your offerings from reaching their destination. But for the fear that you might have trampled under foot believing men and women unknown to you, and thus incurred unwitting guilt on their account, (Allah would have commanded you to fight it out with them; but He ordained it thus) that He might bring whom He will into His mercy. Had the faithful stood apart from them, We would have sternly punished the unbelievers among them.

**48.26** And while bigotry—the bigotry of *Jahiliyya*—was holding its reign in the hearts of the unbelievers, Allah sent down His tranquility on His Apostle and the faithful and made the word of piety binding on them, for they were most worthy and deserving of it. Allah has knowledge of all things.

Allah has in all truth fulfilled His Apostle's vision. You shall certainly enter the Sacred Mosque in security if God wills, with hair cropped or shaven and without fear. He knew what you did not know; and what is more, He granted you a speedy victory.

It is He that has sent forth His Apostle with guidance and the true faith, so that He may exalt it above all religions. Allah is the All-sufficient Witness.

**48.29** Muhammad is Allah's Apostle. Those who are with him are hard on the unbelievers but merciful to one another. You see them bow and prostrate themselves, seeking the grace of Allah and His good will. Their marks are on their faces, the traces of their prostrations. Thus they are described in the Torah and in the Gospel: (they are) like the seed which puts forth its shoot and strengthens it, so that it rises stout and firm upon its stalk, delighting the sowers. Through them Allah seeks to enrage the unbelievers. God has promised those of them who will believe and do good works forgiveness and a rich reward.

*In the Name of Allah , the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**49.1** Believers do not be forward in the presence of Allah and His Apostle. Have fear of Allah : He hears all and knows all.

Believers, do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet, nor speak aloud when speaking to him as you do to one another, lest your labours should

**49.3** come to nothing, without your knowledge. Those who speak softly in the presence of Allah's Apostle are the men whose hearts Allah has tested for piety. They shall receive forgiveness and a rich reward.

Those who call out to you<sup>1</sup> whilst you are in your chambers, most of them lack understanding. If they had waited until you went out to them, it would have been better for them. But Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

Believers, if an evil-doer brings you a piece of news, inquire first into its truth, lest you should wrong others unwittingly and repent of what you have done.

**49.7** Know that Allah's apostle is among you. If he were to obey you in many matters, you would surely fall into distress. But Allah has endeared the Faith to you and beautified it in your hearts, making unbelief, wrongdoing, and disobedience abhorrent to you. Such are those who are rightly guided—a grace and favour from Allah. Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

If two parties of believers take up arms against each other, make peace between them. If either of them commits aggression against the other, fight against the aggressors till they submit to Allah's judgement. When they submit, make peace between them in equity and justice; Allah loves the equitable.

**49.10** The believers are brethren. Make peace among your brethren and fear Allah, so that you may be shown mercy.

Believers, let no man mock another man, who may

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1. Muhammad.

perhaps be better than himself. Let no woman mock another woman, who may perhaps be better than herself. Do not defame one another, nor call one another by nicknames. It is an evil thing to be called by a bad name after embracing the true faith. Those that do not repent are wrongdoers.

**49.12** Believers, avoid most of suspicion, for in some cases suspicion is a crime. Do not spy (on one another), nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Surely you would loathe it. Have fear of Allah. He is Forgiving and Merciful.

**49.13** Men, We have created you from a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another. The noblest of you in Allah's sight is the most righteous of you. Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

The Arabs of the desert declare: 'We believe.' Say: 'You do not.' Rather say: 'We profess Islam,' for faith has not yet found its way into your hearts. If you obey Allah and His Apostle, He will not diminish a thing from (the rewards) of your labours. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

The true believers are those who have faith in Allah and His Apostle and never doubt; and who fight for His cause with their wealth and persons. Such are the truthful ones.

Say: 'Would you tell Allah of your religion, when Allah knows what the heavens and the earth contain? He has knowledge of all things.'

They regard it as a favour to you that they embraced Islam. Say: 'In accepting Islam you have conferred on me no favour. It was Allah who bestowed a favour on you in guiding you to the true faith. Admit this, if you are men of truth. Allah knows all

**49.18** that is hidden in the heavens and the earth. He is watching over all your actions.'

## Sura 50

### QAF

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

#### **50.1 Qaf.** By the glorious Quran!

Nay, but they marvel that a prophet from among themselves has come to them. The unbelievers say: 'This is indeed a strange thing. When we are dead and turned to dust (shall we be restored to life)? Such a return is most improbable!'

We know all that the earth takes away of them, and We hold a book in which all things are written.

Yes, they denied the truth when it was preached to them, and now they are confused. Have they never observed the sky above them (and marked) how We built it up and furnished it with ornaments, leaving no crack (in its expanse)?

**50.7** We spread out the earth and set upon it immovable mountains. We brought forth in it all kinds of delectable plants—a lesson and an admonition to every penitent servant.

**50.9** We sent down blessed water from the sky with which We brought forth gardens and the harvest grain, and tall palm-trees laden with clusters of dates, a sustenance for men; thereby giving new life to some dead land. Such shall be the Resurrection.

**50.12** Long before these the people of Nuh and the people of Al-Rass denied the truth; and so did Thamoud and Aad, Pharaoh and the brethren of Lut, the dwellers of the Forest and the people of Tubba: all disbelieved their apostles and thus brought down upon themselves My threatened warning.

Were We worn out by the first creation? Yet they are in doubt about a new creation.

**50.16** We created man. We know the promptings of his soul, and are closer to him than (his) jugular vein.

When the two Keepers receive (him), the one seated on his right, the other on his left, each word he utters shall be noted down by a vigilant guardian.

And when the agony of death justly overtakes him, they

will say: 'This is the fate you have striven to avoid.' And the Trumpet shall be sounded. Such is the threatened day.

**50.21** Each soul shall come attended by one (angel) to drive, and another to bear witness. (One of them will say): 'Of this you have been heedless. But now we have removed your veil. Today your sight is keen.' And his comrade will say: 'My testimony is ready.'

**50.24** (Then a voice will cry): 'Cast into Hell every hardened unbeliever, every opponent of good works, and every doubting transgressor who has set up another god besides Allah. Hurl him into the terrible doom.'

His companion<sup>1</sup> will say: 'Lord, I did not mislead him. He was already gone far astray.'

Allah will say: 'Do not dispute in My presence. I gave you warning beforehand. My word cannot be changed, nor am I unjust to My servants.'

**50.30** On that day We shall ask Hell: 'Are you full?' And Hell will answer: 'Are there any more?'

**50.31** And not far thence Paradise shall be brought close to the righteous. (We shall say to them): 'Here is all that you were promised. It is for every penitent and faithful man who fears the Merciful, though He is unseen, and comes before Him with a contrite heart. Enter it in peace. This is the day of immortality.'

There they have all that they desire, and with Us is (yet) more.

**50.36** How many generations, far greater in prowess, have We destroyed before them! They searched the entire land: but could they find a refuge? Surely in this there is a lesson for every man who has a heart or gives an ear and is aware.

In six days We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them; nor were We ever touched by fatigue.

Bear then with what they say. Glorify your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. Praise Him in the night, and after prostrations.

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1. The devil chained to him.

**50.41** Listen on the day when the Crier will call from nearby; the day when men will hear the Cry in truth. On that day they will rise up from their graves.

It is We who ordain life and death. To Us all shall return.

On that day the earth will be rent asunder over them, (and they shall rush forth) in haste. That is the Gathering, which is easy for Us to do.

**50.45** We well know what they say. You shall not use force with them. Admonish with this Quran whoever fears My warning.

## Sura 51

### "Al-Dhariyat" THE SCATTERING WINDS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**51.1** By those (winds) that scatter (dust), and those bearing the load (of rain); and those (ships) gliding with ease; and by (the angels) who deal out blessings to all men; that which you are promised is true, and the Last Judgement shall surely come to pass!

By the heaven with its starry highways, you contradict yourselves! None but the perverse turn away (from the true faith). Woe to the liars who dwell in darkness and are heedless of the life to come.

**51.12** 'When will the Day of Judgement be?' they ask. On that day they shall be tried in the Fire, (and a voice will say to them): 'Taste your trial. This is what you have sought to hasten!'

The righteous shall dwell amidst gardens and fountains, and shall receive what their Lord will give them. For they were before doers of good. They used to sleep but little in the night-time, praying at dawn for Allah's pardon, and in their wealth was a due share to the beggar and to him who is too proud to beg.

**51.20** On earth there are signs for firm believers; and also in yourselves. Can you not see?

In heaven is your sustenance and that which you are promised. I swear by the Lord of heaven and earth that this is true, as true as you are speaking now!

Have you heard the story of Ibrahim's honoured guests?

They went in to him and said: 'Peace!' 'Peace!' he answered. (Then said to himself): 'Strangers!' He betook himself to his family and returned with a fatted calf. He set it before them, saying: 'Will you not eat?'

**51.28** He grew afraid of them, but they said: 'Have no fears,' and told him that he was to have a knowledgeable son.

**51.29** His wife came crying and beating her face. 'Surely I am a barren old woman,' she said.



'Such is the will of your Lord,' They replied. 'He is the Wise One the All-knowing.'

**51.31** 'Messengers,' said Ibrahim, 'What is your errand?'

They replied: 'We are sent forth to a wicked nation, so that we may bring down on them (a shower) of clay-stones marked by your Lord for the destruction of the sinful.'

We saved all the faithful in the town—We found in it but one household of true believers—and left therein a sign for those who fear Our woeful punishment.

**51.38** In Musa, too, (there was a sign). We sent him forth to Pharaoh with clear authority, but he turned his back, he and his nobles, saying: 'He is either a sorcerer or a madman.' So We seized him and his warriors and cast them into the sea. Indeed, he was an evil-doer.

And in (the fate of) Aad (there was another sign). We let loose on them a blighting wind which blew into dust all that it swept before it.

**51.43** And in (the people of) Thamoud (was another sign). They were told to take their ease awhile, but they disobeyed the command of their Lord. The thunderbolt struck them whilst they were looking on; they could not get up, nor could they save themselves.

**51.46** And before them (We destroyed) the people of Nuh. They too were impious men.

We built the heaven with Our might, giving it a vast expanse, and stretched the earth beneath it. Gracious is He who spread it out. And all things We made in pairs, so that you may give thought.

Therefore seek Allah. I am a warner to you from Him. Set up no other gods besides Allah. I am a warner to you from Him.

**51.52** Thus whenever an apostle came to those that flourished before them they cried: 'Sorcerer!' or 'Madman!' Have they handed down this (cry) from one generation to the next? Surely they are transgressors all.

Give no heed to them; you shall incur no blame. But preach. Preaching will help the believers.

I only created mankind and the jinn that they might worship Me. I demand no livelihood of them, nor do I ask that they should feed Me.

Allah alone is the Munificent Giver, the Mighty One, the Invincible. The lot of the wrongdoers is like the lot of their companions. Let them not challenge

51.60 Me to hurry it on. Woe then to the unbelievers from the day which they have been promised!

## Sura 52

"Al-Tur"

### THE MOUNT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

52.1 By the Mount<sup>1</sup> and by the Scripture penned on unrolled parchment; by the Visited House,<sup>2</sup> the lofty vault,<sup>3</sup> and the swelling sea, your Lord's punishment shall surely come to pass! No power shall ward it off.

On that day the heaven will shake and reel, and the mountains move and pass away. On that day woeful shall be the plight of those that deny the truth who now divert themselves with vain disputes.

52.13 On that day they shall be sternly shoved into the fire of Hell with violence, (and a voice will say to them): 'This is the fire which you denied. Is this magic, or do you not see? Burn in its flames. It is alike whether you are patient or impatient. You shall be rewarded according to your deeds.'

But in fair gardens the righteous shall dwell in bliss, rejoicing in what their Lord will give them. He will shield them from the scourge of Hell. (He will say): 'Eat and drink in joy because of your (good) deeds.'

52.20 They shall recline on couches ranged in rows. Two hours with large and lustrous eyes We shall wed them.

Those who believe and are followed in faith by their descendants, We cause their descendants to join them. And We deprive them of nothing of their work. Every individual is pledged for what he does.

52.22 We shall give them fruits and meat as they desire. They will pass from hand to hand a cup inspiring no idle talk, no sinful urge; and there shall wait on them young boys of their own as fair as hidden pearls. And they will converse with one another.

'When we were living among our kinsfolk,' they will say, 'we were troubled by many fears. But Allah has been gracious to us and has preserved us from the scourge of Hell. Truly we have prayed to Him. He is the Beneficent One, the Merciful.'

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1. Mount Sinae      2. The Ka'ba.      3. The Sky.

**52.29** Therefore, give warning. By the Grace of Allah, you are neither a soothsayer nor a madman.

Do they say: 'He is a poet: we are waiting for some misfortune to befall him'? Say: 'Wait if you will; I too am waiting.'

Does their reason prompt them to say this? Or is it merely that they are wicked men?

**52.33** Do they say: 'He has invented it<sup>1</sup> himself'? Indeed, they have no faith. Let them produce a scripture like it, if what they say be true!

Were they; created out of the void? Or were they their own creators?

Did they create the heavens and the earth? Surely they have no faith!

Do they hold the treasures of your Lord or have control over them?

**52.39** Have they a ladder by means of which they overhear Him? Let one of those who overhear bring a positive proof! Is He to have daughters and you sons?

Are you demanding payment of them, that they should fear to be weighed down with debts?

Have they knowledge of what is hidden, and so they write it down?

Or do they intend a plot? Those who disbelieve will be the victims of the plot.

**52.43** Have they a god other than Allah? Exalted be He above what they associate with Him.

If they saw a part of heaven falling down, they would still say: 'It is but a mass of clouds!'

Let them be, until they face the day when they shall stand dumbfounded; the day when their wiles will avail them nothing and none will help them.

**52.47** And besides this a punishment awaits the wrongdoers, though most of them do not know it.

Therefore await with patience the judgement of your Lord: We are watching over you. Glorify your

**52.49** Lord when you waken; in the night-time praise Him, and at the setting of the stars.

1. The Quran.

## Sura 53

### "Al-Najm"

### THE STAR

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**53.1** By the star when it sets, your companion<sup>1</sup> is neither in error, nor is he deceived!

He does not speak out of his own fancy. This is no other than an inspired revelation. He is taught by one who is mighty in power, and vigorous.<sup>2</sup>

**53.7** He stood on the uppermost horizon; then drawing near, he came down within two bows' length or even closer, and revealed to His servant that which he revealed.

His heart did not deny what he saw. How can you,<sup>3</sup> then, question what he sees?

He beheld him once again at the farthest lote-tree. Near it is the Garden of Abode.

**53.16** When that tree was covered with what covered it, his eyes did not wander, nor did they turn aside: for he saw some of his Lord's greatest signs.

Have you considered Al-Lat and Al-Uzzah, and, another, the third (goddess) Manat?<sup>4</sup> Is He to have daughters and you sons? This is indeed an unfair division!

They are but names which you invented, you and your fathers: Allah has sent down no authority for them. They follow vain conjectures and the whims of their own souls, although the guidance of their Lord has come to them.

**53.24** Is man to attain all that he desires? For to Allah belongs the Hereafter and the present life.

Numerous are the angels in the heavens; yet their intercession shall avail nothing until Allah gives leave to whom He accepts and chooses.

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1. Muhammad.

2. Gabriel.

3. The Unbelievers.

4. The three principal idols of the pagan Arabs who called them 'the daughters of Allah'.

**53.27** Those who disbelieve in the life to come call the angels by the names of females. Yet of this they have no knowledge: they follow mere conjecture, and conjecture avails nothing against truth.

Give no heed, then, to those who ignore Our warning and seek only the life of this world. This is the sum of their knowledge. Your Lord knows best who has strayed from His path, and who is rightly guided.

To God is what the heavens and the earth contain. He will requite the evil-doers according to their deeds, and bestow a good reward on those who do good works.

**53.32** (To) those who avoid the grossest sins and indecencies and commit only small offences, Allah is of vast forgiveness. He knew you well when He created you from earth and when you were embryos in your mothers' wombs. Do not pretend to purity; He knows best those who guard themselves against evil.

**53.33** Have you considered him who turns his back upon the faith, giving little at first then nothing at all? Has he knowledge of the unseen, and therefore can see? Has he not heard of what is preached in the books of Musa and Ibrahim, who fulfilled his duty: that no soul shall bear another's burden and that each man shall be judged by his own labours; that his labours shall be scrutinized and that he shall be justly requited for them; that all things shall in the end return to Allah; that it is Allah who moves to weeping and laughter and ordains life and death; that Allah created the sexes, the male and the female, from a drop of ejected semen, and will create all things anew; that it is He who gives wealth and contentment; that He is the Lord of Sirius;<sup>1</sup> that it was He who destroyed ancient Aad and Thamoud, sparing no one, and before them the people of Nuh who were more unjust and more tyrannical. The Mu'tafikah<sup>2</sup> He also ruined, so that there fell on them what fell on those.

Which then of your Lord's blessings would you deny? This is a warner like the warners of old. The coming (judgement) is near at hand; none but Allah can disclose its hour.

Do you marvel then at this revelation and laugh

1. The 'Dog-star, worshipped by the pagan Arabs.
2. The ruined cities where Lut's people lived.

**53.62** (lightheartedly) instead of weeping? Rather prostrate yourselves before Allah and worship Him.

## Sura 54

"Al-Qamar"

THE MOON

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**54.1** The Hour (of judgement) is drawing near, and the moon is cleft in two. Yet when they see a sign (the unbelievers) turn their backs and say: 'Strong magic!'

They deny the truth and follow their own fancies. But every matter will be settled.

There have come to them narratives, deterring and full of wisdom; but warnings are unavailing.

Let them be. On the day when the Crier summons them to a hard task, with downcast eyes they shall come out from their graves as if they were scattered locusts. The unbelievers will cry: 'This is indeed a hard day!'

Long before them the people of Nuh denied Our signs. They disbelieved Our servant and called him a madman. He was driven away. Then he invoked his Lord, (saying): 'I am overcome, Help me!'

**54.11** We opened the gates of heaven with pouring rain and caused the earth to burst with gushing springs, so that the waters met for a predestined end. We carried him in a vessel built with planks and nails, drifting on under Our eyes: a recompense for him who had been disbelieved.

We have left this as a sign: but will any take heed? How terrible was My punishment and warnings!

We have made the Quran easy to remember: but will any take heed?

**54.18** Aad, too, denied (their apostle). I warned them, and then how stern was My punishment and My warnings? On a day of unremitting woe, We let loose on them a howling wind which snatched them off as though they were trunks of uprooted palm-trees. I warned them, and then how stern was My punishment and My warnings?

**54.23** Thamoud, too, disbelieved Our warnings. They said: 'Are we to follow a man who stands alone among us? We would



surely then fall into error and madness. Did he alone among us receive this warning? He is indeed a foolish liar.'

**54.26** (To him We said): 'Tomorrow they shall know who is the foolish liar. We are sending to them a she-camel, that We may put them to the proof. Observe them closely and have patience. Tell them that the water is to be divided between (her and) them and that every share of the water should be attended.'

They called their friend, who took a knife and slew her. I warned them, and then how stern was My punishment and warnings! Then We sent against them one cry and they became like the dry twigs of the sheep-fold builder.

**54.32** We have made the Quran easy to remember: but will any take heed?

The people of Lut disbelieved Our warnings. We let loose on them a stone-charged whirlwind which destroyed them all, except the house of Lut, whom We saved at dawn through Our mercy. Thus We reward the thankful.

**54.36** Lut had warned them of Our punishment, but they disputed about the warnings. They demanded his guests of him. But We put out their sight (and said): 'Taste My punishment and My warnings.' And at daybreak a heavy scourge overtook them. 'Taste My punishment and My warnings!'

We have made the Quran easy to remember: but will any take heed?

**54.41** To Pharaoh's people also came the warnings. But they disbelieved all Our signs and We smote them with the scourge of the Mighty One, the All-powerful.

Are your unbelievers better men than these? Are you given immunity in the Scriptures?

**54.44** Or do they say: 'We are a victorious army?' Their army shall be routed and put to flight.

The Hour of Doom is their appointed time. And that Hour will be most grievous and bitter.

Yet the wrongdoers persist in error and madness. On the day when they are dragged into the Fire with faces downwards, (We shall say to them): 'Feel the touch of Hell!'

## AL-QAMAR

We have created all things according to a measure. We command but once: (Our will is done) in the twinkling of an eye.

And in the past We destroyed your fellows. Will you not take warning?

All their deeds are in their books: every action, small or great, is noted down. The righteous are in gardens

54.55 and rivers, honourably seated in the presence of a Mighty King.

## Sura 55

**"Al-Rahman"**

**THE BENEFICENT**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**55.1** He has taught the Quran.

He created man and taught him articulate speech.

The sun and the moon pursue their ordered course. The plants and the trees bow down in adoration.

**55.7** He raised the heaven on high and set the balance, that you might not transgress the balance. Give just weight and full measure.

**55.10** He laid the earth for His creatures. Therein are fruits and blossom-bearing palm, chaff-covered grain and scented herbs. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.14** He created man from dry clay like earthenware and the jinn from smokeless fire. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.17** The Lord of the two easts is He, and Lord of the two wests. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

He has let loose the two seas: they meet one another. Between them stands a barrier which they cannot overrun. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.21** Pearls and corals come from both. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

His are the ships that sail like mountains upon the ocean. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.26** All who live on earth are doomed to die. And the face of your Lord will abide for ever, in all its majesty and glory. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.29** All those in heaven and earth beseech Him. Every day He exercises His power. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.31** We shall surely find the time to judge you, O two armies. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Mankind and jinn, if you have power to penetrate the confines of heaven and earth, then penetrate them! But this you shall not do except with Our own authority. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.35** Flames of fire shall be lashed at you, and brass. There shall be none to help you. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

When the sky splits asunder and reddens like a rose

**55.37** or stained leather, which of your Lord's blessings would you deny? On that day neither man nor jinnee shall be asked about his sins. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

The wrongdoers shall be known by their marks;

**55.41** they shall be seized by their forelocks and their feet. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

This is the Hell which the sinners deny. They shall wander between fire and water fiercely seething. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

And for those that fear the majesty of their Lord

**55.46** there are two gardens. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny? (Gardens) with many branches. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Therein are two flowing springs. Which of your

**55.50** Lord's blessings would you deny?

Therein is every kind of fruit in pairs. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

They shall recline on couches lined with thick

**55.56** brocade, and within their reach will hang the fruits of both gardens. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Therein are maidens of modest gaze, whom neither man nor jinni will have touched before. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

As though they were rubies and corals. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Shall the reward of goodness be anything but

**55.60** good? Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

And beside these there shall be two other gardens. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny? Inclining to darkest green. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Therein are two gushing fountains. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.68** In them are fruits, palms and pomegranates. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

In them shall be chaste and fair ones. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.72** Dark-eyed virgins sheltered in their tents. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny? Neither man nor jinnee will have touched them before. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.76** They shall recline on green cushions and fine carpets. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

**55.78** Blessed be the Name of your Lord, the Lord of Majesty and glory!

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**56.1** When the Event comes—and no soul shall then deny its coming—some shall be abased and others exalted.

When the earth is shaken with a (violent) shock, and the mountains crumble away and scatter abroad into fine dust, you shall be divided into three multitudes: those on the right—(happy) shall be those to the right; those on the left—(wretched) shall be those on the left; and those to the fore shall be foremost. Such are they that shall be brought near to their Lord in the gardens of delight: a whole multitude from the men of old, but only a few from the later generations.

**56.15** (They shall recline) on jewelled couches face to face, and there shall wait on them immortal youths with bowls and ewers and a cup of purest drink that will neither pain their heads nor take away their reason; with fruits of their own choice and flesh of fowls that they desire. And theirs shall be houris with large and lustrous eyes, chaste as hidden pearls: a reward for their deeds.

There they shall hear no idle talk, no sinful speech, but only the greeting, 'Peace! Peace!'

Those on the right hand—(happy) shall be those on the right hand! They shall be among thornless lote-trees, clusters of talh, and spreading shade, amidst gushing waters and abundant fruits, unlimited and unforbidden. And (they shall sit) on raised thrones.

**56.35** We created the houris in a special way, and made them virgins, loving companions of the same age for those on the right hand: a multitude from the men of old, and a multitude from the later generations.

As for those on the left hand—(wretched shall be those on the left hand); they shall dwell amidst scorching winds and seething water: in the shade of pitch-black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing, For they have lived in comfort and persisted in the heinous sin, saying: 'When we are once dead and turned to dust and bones, shall we with all our forefathers, be restored to life?'

**56.49** Say: 'Those of old and those of later times shall be brought together on an appointed day. As for you sinners who deny the truth, you shall eat the fruit of the Zaqqum-tree and fill your bellies with it. You shall drink boiling water: yet you shall drink it as the thirsty camel drinks.'

Such shall be their fate on the Day of Reckoning.

**56.56** We created you: will you not believe?

Behold the semen you emit: did you create it, or did We?

It was We that ordained death among you. Nothing can hinder Us from replacing you by others like yourselves or transforming you into beings you know nothing of.

**56.62** You have surely known of the first creation. Why then do you not reflect? Consider the seeds you grow. Is it you that give them growth or-We? If We pleased We could turn your harvest into chaff, so that, filled with wonderment, (you would exclaim): 'We are laden with debts! Surely we are deprived.'

**56.68** Consider the water which you drink. Was it you that brought it down from the cloud or We? If We Pleased, We could make it salty. Why then do you not give thanks?

Observe the fire which you light. Is it you that create its wood, or We? We have made it a reminder for man, and a comfort for the wayfarer of the desert.

Praise then the name of your Lord, the Supreme One.

**56.78** I swear by the shelters of the stars—a mighty oath, if you but knew it—that this is a glorious Quran, (inscribed) in a hidden book which none may touch except the purified; a revelation from the Lord of all creatures.

Is it this scripture that you scorn? And have you made its denial your means of livelihood?

Why, then, when (man's soul) comes up to the throat while you are looking—and We are nearer to him than you, but you do not see—why then if you are not to give account, do you not restore it if you are truthful?

**56.88** Thus, if he is favoured, his lot will be repose and plenty and a garden of delights. If he is one of those on the right hand he will be greeted with, 'Peace be to you!' by those on the right hand.

But if he is an erring disbeliever (his lot) will be scalding water and he will burn in Hell.

**56.96** This is the indubitable truth. Praise then the name of your Lord, the Supreme One.



## Sura 57

"Al-Hadid"

IRON

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

57.1 All that is in heaven and earth glorify Allah. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

His is the sovereignty in the heavens and earth. He ordains life and death and has power over all things.

He is the first and the last, the visible and the unseen. He has knowledge of all things.

57.4 He created the heavens and the earth in six days and then mounted His throne. He knows all that goes into the earth and all that emerges from it, all that comes down from heaven and all that ascends to it. He is with you wherever you are. Allah is cognizant of all your actions.

His is the sovereignty in the heavens and the earth. To Him shall all things return. He causes the night to pass into the day and the day into the night. He has knowledge of what is in the hearts of men.

57.7 Have faith in Allah and His apostle and give in alms of that which He has made your inheritance; for whoever of you believes and gives in alms shall be richly rewarded.

And what cause have you not to believe in Allah, when the Apostle calls on you to have faith in your Lord, and He has made a covenant with you if you are true believers?

It is He who brings down clear revelations to His servant, so that He may lead you out of darkness into the light. Allah is Compassionate and Merciful to you.

57.10 And why should you not give in the cause of Allah, when He alone will inherit the heavens and the earth? Those of you that gave of their wealth before the victory and took part in the fighting are not equal (to those who gave and fought thereafter). Their degree is greater. Yet Allah has promised you all a good reward; He has knowledge of all your actions.

57.11 Who will give a generous loan to Allah? He will pay him

back twofold and he shall receive a rich reward.

The day will surely come when you shall see the true believers, men and women, with their light shining before them and in their right hands, (and a voice saying to them): 'Rejoice this day. You shall enter gardens watered by running streams in which you shall abide forever.' That is the supreme triumph.

On that day the hypocrites, both men and women, will say to the true believers: 'Wait for us that we may borrow some of your light.' But they will answer: 'Go back and seek some other light!'

A wall with a gate shall be set before them. Inside there shall be mercy, and out, to the fore, the scourge (of Hell). They will call out to them, saying: 'Were we not on your side?' 'Yes,' they will reply, 'but you tempted yourselves, you wavered, you doubted and were deceived by your own wishes until Allah's will was done and the Dissembler tricked you concerning Allah. Today no ransom shall be accepted from you or from the unbelievers. Hell shall be your home: you have justly earned it, a dismal end!'

**57.16** Is it not time for true believers to submit to Allah's warning and to the truth He has revealed, so that they may not be like those, who were given the Scriptures before this, whose days were prolonged but whose hearts were hardened? Many of them were evil-doers.

Know that Allah restores the earth to life after its death. We have made plain to you Our revelations that you may grow in wisdom.

Those that give alms, be they men or women, and those that give a generous loan to Allah, shall be repaid twofold. They shall receive a noble recompense.

Those who believe in Allah and His apostles are the truthful men who shall testify in their Lord's presence. They shall have their reward and their light. But those that disbelieve Our revelations and deny them are the heirs of Hell.

**57.20** Know that the life of this world is but a sport and a pastime, a show and an empty vaunt among you, a quest for greater riches and more children. It is like rain (which causes a plant to grow). The tillers rejoice in it, but then it withers and turns yellow soon becoming worthless stubble. In the life to come is a woeful punishment and also forgiveness from Allah and His pleasure. The life of this world is but a vain provision.

**57.21** Therefore vie (with one another) for the pardon of your Lord, and for a Paradise as vast as heaven and earth, prepared for those who believe in Allah and His apostles. Such is the grace of Allah: He bestows it on whom He will. His grace is infinite.

No misfortune can befall the earth, or your own persons, but is recorded in a book before We bring it into being. That is easy for Allah: so that you may not grieve for the good things you miss or be overjoyed at what you gain. Allah does not love the haughty, the vainglorious; nor those who, being niggardly themselves, enjoin others to be niggardly also. He that gives no heed (should know) that Allah is Self-sufficient and Worthy of praise.

**57.25** We have sent Our apostles with clear signs and brought down with them scriptures and the scales of justice, so that men might deal with fairness. We have sent down iron, with its mighty strength and diverse uses for mankind, so that Allah may know those who support Him, though unseen, and support His apostles. Powerful is Allah, and Mighty.

We sent forth Nuh and Ibrahim, and bestowed on their offspring prophethood and the Scriptures. Some were rightly guided, but many were evil-doers. After them We sent other apostles, and after those Isa the son of Mariam. We gave him the Gospel and put compassion and mercy in the hearts of his followers. As for the monasticism which they invented themselves—for we did not prescribe it for them—seeking thereby to please Allah, they did not observe it faithfully. We rewarded only those who were true believers; for many of them were evil-doers.

**57.28** Believers, have fear of Allah and put your trust in His apostles. He will grant you a double share of His mercy. He will give you a light to walk in, and will forgive you: Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**57.29** Let the People of the book know that they have no control over the gifts of Allah; that these gifts are in His hands alone, and that He vouchsafes them to whom He will. Allah's bounty is infinite.

## Sura 58

"Al-Mujadala"

SHE WHO PLEADED

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**58.1** Allah has heard the words of her<sup>1</sup> who pleaded with you concerning her husband and made her plaint to Allah. Allah has heard the arguments of both of you. He hears all and observes all.

Those of you who divorce their wives by zihar<sup>2</sup> should know that they are not their mothers. Their mothers are those only who gave birth to them. The words they utter are unjust and false: but Allah is Pardoning, Forgiving.

Those that divorce their wives by zihar and afterwards retract their words shall free a slave before they touch each other again. This you are enjoined to

**58.4** do: Allah is cognizant of all your actions. He that does not have (a slave) shall fast two successive months before they touch one another. If he cannot do this, he shall feed sixty of the poor. This is enjoined on you so that you may have faith in Allah and His Apostle. Such are the limits set by Allah. A grievous punishment awaits the unbelievers.

Those who oppose Allah and His Apostle shall be brought low as have been those before them. We have sent down clear revelations. A shameful punishment awaits the unbelievers.

**58.6** On the day when Allah restores them all to life He will inform them of their actions. Allah has recorded

**58.7** it, although they have forgotten it. Allah is witness to all things.

Are you not aware that Allah knows what the heavens and the earth contain? There is no secret counsel between three but He is the fourth of them; nor between five but He is the sixth of them; nor between fewer or more but He is with them wherever they are. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, He will inform them of their doings. Allah has knowledge of all things.

1. Khawla daughter of 'Tha 'laba.

2. Divorce by the formula: 'Be to me as my mother's back.'

## SHE WHO PLEADED

**58.8** Do you not see those who were forbidden secret counsels, then they return to that which they are forbidden and hold secret counsels for iniquity and hostility and disobedience of the Messenger? When they come to you they salute you in words with which Allah does not greet you and ask themselves : 'Why does Allah not punish us for what we say?' Hell is scourge enough for them: they shall burn in its flames, a wretched fate.

**58.9** Believers, when you converse in private do not speak with wickedness and enmity and disobedience towards the Apostle, but with justice and with piety. Have fear of Allah, before whom you shall be brought together.

Secret counsels are the work of the devil, who thereby seeks to annoy the faithful. Yet he can harm them not at all, except by Allah's leave. In Allah let the faithful put their trust.

Believers, make room in your assemblies when you are bidden to do so: Allah will make room for you. Again, rise up when you are told to rise: Allah will raise to high ranks those that have faith and knowledge among you. He is cognizant of all your actions.

**58.12** Believers, when you consult the Apostle, give alms before such consultation, That is best and purest for you. But if you lack the means, know that Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

Do you hesitate to offer alms before your consultations with him? If you do not—and Allah will pardon your offence—then recite your prayers and pay the alms—tax and show obedience to Allah and His Apostle. Allah is cognizant of all your actions.

**58.14** Do you see those that have befriended a people<sup>1</sup> who have incurred Allah's wrath? They belong neither to you nor to them. They knowingly swear to falsehoods. Allah has prepared for them a grievous

**58.15** scourge. Evil indeed is that which they have done.

They use their faith as a disguise and thus debar others from the path of Allah. A shameful scourge awaits them.

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1. The Jews.

## AL-MUJADALA

Neither their wealth nor their children shall in the least protect them from Allah. They are the people of the Fire, and there they shall abide for ever.

**58.18** On the day when Allah restores them all to life, they will swear to Him as they now swear to you, thinking that their oaths will help them. Surely they are liars.

The Devil has gained possession of them and caused them to forget Allah's warning. They are the Devil's party; and the Devil's party shall assuredly be lost.

Those who oppose Allah and His Apostle shall be brought low. Allah has decreed: 'I will surely triumph, Myself and My apostles.' Powerful is Allah, and Mighty.

**58.22** You shall find no believers in Allah and the Last Day on friendly terms with those who oppose Allah and His Apostle, even though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers, or their kindred. Allah has written the faith in their very hearts and strengthened them with a spirit of His own. He will admit them to gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell for ever. Allah is well pleased with them and they with Him. They are the party of Allah: and Allah's party shall surely triumph.

## Sura 59

"Al-Hashr"

EXILE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**59.1** All that is in heaven and earth glorifies Allah. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

It was He that drove the unbelievers among the People of the Book out of their dwellings into the first exile.<sup>1</sup> You did not think that they would go; and they, for their part, fancied that their strongholds would protect them from Allah. But Allah overtook them whence they did not expect it, casting such terror into their hearts that their dwellings were destroyed by their own hands as well as by those of the faithful. Learn (from their examples) you that have eyes.

**59.3** Had Allah not decreed evacuation for them, He would have surely punished them in this world. But in the world to come they shall be punished in the Fire, because they have set themselves against Allah and His Apostle; and he that sets himself against Allah should know that Allah is stern in retribution.

Whatever palm-tree you cut down or leave standing upon its roots, it is by Allah's leave, so that He might humiliate the evil-doers. As for those spoils of theirs which Allah has assigned to His Apostle, you spurred neither horse nor camel against them: but Allah gives His apostles authority over whom He will. He has power over all things.

**59.6** The spoils taken from the town-dwellers and assigned by Allah to His Apostle belong to Allah, the Apostle and his kinsfolk, the orphans, the poor and the wayfarers, so that they shall not become the property of the rich among you. Whatever the Apostle gives you, accept it; and whatever he forbids you, forbear from it. Have fear of Allah; He is stern in retribution.

(A share of the spoils shall also fall) to the poor muhajirs<sup>2</sup> who have been driven from their homes and possessions; who seek Allah's grace and bounty and support Allah and His Apostle. These are the true believers.

1. Refers to the Jews of Banu al-Nadir.

2. Those who emigrated with Muhammad to Madinah.

**59.9** Those, before them, who had homes in the City<sup>1</sup> and embraced the Faith before them love those who have sought refuge with them; they entertain no desire in their hearts for what they are given, but rather prefer them above themselves, though they are in want. Those that preserve themselves from their own greed shall surely prosper.

Those that came after them say: 'Forgive us, our Lord, and forgive our brothers who embraced the Faith before us. Do not put in our hearts any malice towards the faithful. Lord, You are Compassionate and Merciful.'

**59.11** Have you not seen the hypocrites? They say to their fellow-unbelievers among the People of the Book: 'If they drive you out, we will go with you. We will never obey any one against you. If you are attacked we will certainly help you.'

**59.12** Allah bears witness that they are lying. If they are driven out they will not go with them, nor, if they are attacked, will they help them. Indeed, if they go to their help, they will turn their backs in flight and then they shall not be helped.

Their dread of you is more intense in their hearts than their fear of Allah: so devoid are they of understanding.

They will never fight against you in a body except in fortified cities and from behind high walls. Great is their valour among themselves; you think of them as one hand, yet their hearts are divided. That is because they are surely lacking in judgement.

**59.15** Like those<sup>2</sup> who were but recently punished before them, they tasted the fruit of their own deeds: a grievous scourge awaits them.

They (their allies) may be compared to the devil, who, when he has ordered man to disbelieve and man has done his bidding, says to him: 'I here and now disown you. I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.' They shall both end in the Fire and remain therein for ever. Thus are the wrongdoers rewarded.

**59.18** Believers, have fear of Allah. Let every soul look to what

1. Madinah.

2. The Jews of the tribe of Qainuqa.



it offers for the morrow. Fear Allah, for He is cognizant of all your actions.

Do not act like those who have forgotten Allah so that He has caused them to forget themselves. Such men are evil-doer:

The dwellers of Paradise and the people of the Fire shall not be held alike. The dwellers of Paradise alone shall be triumphant.

Had We brought down this Quran upon a mountain, you would have seen it humble itself and crack for fear of Allah.

Such are the parables we set forth to men, so that they may give thought.

He is Allah, besides whom there is no other god. He knows the visible and the unseen. He is the Compassionate, the Merciful.

**59.23** He is Allah, besides whom there is no other god. He is the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One, the Giver of Peace, the Keeper of Faith; the Guardian, the Mighty One the All-powerful, the Most High! Exalted be He above the partners they ascribe to Him.

**59.24** He is Allah, the Creator, the Originator, the Modeller His are the most gracious names. All that is in heaven and earth glorifies Him. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

## Sura 60

### "Al-Mumtahana" SHE WHO IS TESTED

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**60.1** Believers, do not make friends with those who are enemies of Mine and yours, showing them kindness when they have denied the truth that has been revealed to you and driven the Apostle and yourselves out of your city because you believe in Allah, your Lord.

If it was indeed to fight for My cause, and out of a desire to please Me that you left your city, how can you be friendly to them in secret? I well know all that you hide and all that you reveal. Whoever of you does this will stray from the right path.

**60.2** If they gain ascendancy over you, they will plainly show themselves your enemies, and stretch out their hands and tongues towards you with evil. They long to see you unbelievers.

On the Day of Resurrection neither your kinsfolk nor your children shall avail you. Allah will judge between you. He is cognizant of all your actions.

**60.4** You have a good example in Ibrahim and those who followed him. They said to their people: 'We are clear of you and that which you worship besides Allah. We renounce you: enmity and hate shall reign between us until you believe in Allah only—except Ibrahim's saying to his father: "I shall implore Allah to forgive you, although I have no power to save you from His punishment." 'Lord, in You we have put our trust; do not make us a trial for the unbelievers. Forgive us, our Lord; You are the Mighty, the Wise One.'

Truly, in those men there is a good example for you (and ) for him who puts his hopes in Allah and in the Last Day. He that gives no heed to you, Allah alone is Self-sufficient and Worthy of praise.

**60.7** It may well be that Allah will put good will between you and those with whom you have hitherto been at odds. Allah is Mighty. He is Forgiving and Merciful.

Allah does not forbid you to be kind and equitable to

those who have neither made war on your religion nor driven you from your homes. Allah loves the equitable. But He forbids you to make friends with those who have fought against you on account of your religion and driven you from your homes or abetted others to do so. Those who make friends with them are wrongdoers.

**60.10** Believers, when believing women seek refuge with you, test them. Allah best knows their faith. If you find them true believers do not return them to the infidels; they are not lawful to the infidels, nor are the infidels lawful to them. But hand back to the unbelievers what they have spent. Nor is it an offence for you to marry such women, provided you give them their dowries. Do not hold on to the ties of marriage with unbelieving women: demand what you have spent and let them ask for what they have spent. Such is the law which Allah lays down among you. Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

**60.11** If any of your wives go over to the unbelievers and you subsequently have your turn, pay those, whose wives have fled the equivalent of the dowries they have given them. Fear Allah, in whom you believe.

**60.12** O Prophet, if believing women come to you and pledge themselves to associate in worship nothing with Allah, to commit neither theft, nor adultery, nor child-murder, to utter no monstrous falsehoods (concerning the fatherhood of their children), and to disobey you in nothing just, accept their allegiance and implore Allah to forgive them. Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**60.13** O believers, do not make friends with those who have incurred the wrath of Allah. Such men despair of the life to come, just as the unbelievers despair of the buried dead.

## Sura 61

"Al-Saff"

### BATTLE ARRAY

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**61.1** All that is in heaven and earth glorifies Allah. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

Believers, why do you say what you never do? It is most odious in Allah's sight that you should say that which you do not do.

**61.5** Allah loves those who fight for His cause in ranks as if they were a solid cemented edifice.

And remember Musa, who said to his people: 'Why do you seek to harm me, my people, when you know that I am sent to you by Allah?' And when they went astray Allah let their very hearts go astray. He does not guide the evil-doers.

And remember Isa, who said to the Children of Israel: 'I am sent forth to you by Allah to confirm the Torah already revealed and to give news of an apostle that will come after me whose name is Ahmad.'<sup>1</sup> Yet when he came to them with clear signs, they said: 'This is plain magic.'

**61.7** And who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood about Allah when called to Islam? Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

They seek to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths; but Allah will perfect His light, much as the unbelievers may dislike it.

It is He who has sent His Apostle with guidance and the Faith of Truth, so that He may exalt it above all religions, much as the pagans may dislike it.

**61.10** O believers! Shall I point out to you a bargain that will save you from a woeful scourge? Have faith in Allah and His Apostle and fight for His cause with your wealth and your persons. That would be best for you, if you but knew it.

He will forgive you your sins and admit you to gardens watered by running streams; He will lodge you in pleasant

1. Muhammad.

mansions in the Gardens of Eden. That is the supreme triumph.

And (He will bestow upon you) other blessings which you desire: help from Allah and a speedy victory. Proclaim the good tidings to the faithful.

**61.14** O believers, be Allah's helpers. When Isa the son of Mariam said to the disciples: 'Who will come with me to the help of Allah?' they replied: 'We are Allah's helpers.'

Some of the Children of Israel believed in him while others did not. We aided the believers against their enemies and they triumphed over them.

## Sura 62

### "Al-Jumu'a" FRIDAY, OR THE DAY OF CONGREGATION

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**62.1** All that is in heaven and earth glorifies Allah, the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One, the Almighty, the All-knowing.

It is He who has sent forth among the unlettered an apostle of their own to recite to them His revelations, to purify them, and to instruct them in the Scriptures and wisdom, though they have hitherto been in gross error, together with others of their own kin who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

Such is the grace of Allah: He bestows it on whom He will. His grace is infinite.

**62.5** Those to whom the burden of the Torah was entrusted and yet refused to bear it are like a donkey laden with books. Wretched is the example of those who deny Allah's revelations. Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

**62.6** Say: 'O you who are Jews, if you claim that of all men you alone are Allah's friends, then invoke death if you are truthful!' But, because of what their hands have done, they will never wish for death. Allah knows the wrongdoers.

Say: 'The death from which you shrink is sure to overtake you. Then you shall be sent back to Him who knows the visible and the unseen, and He will declare to you all that you have done.'

O believers, when you are summoned to Friday prayers hasten to the remembrance of Allah and cease your trading. That would be best for you, if you but knew it. Then when the prayers are ended, disperse and go in quest of Allah's bounty. Remember Allah often, so that you may prosper.

**62.11** Yet when they see some merchandise or merriment, they flock to it eagerly, leaving you standing all alone.

Say: 'That which Allah has in store is far better than merchandise or merriment. Allah is the Most Munificent Giver.'

"Al-Munafiqun" THE HYPOCRITES

*In the Name of Allah, The Compassionate, the Merciful*

**63.1** When the hypocrites come to you they say: 'We bear witness that you are Allah's Apostle.' Allah knows that you are indeed His Apostle, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are lying!

They use their faith as a disguise and debar others from the path of Allah. Evil is what they do.

That is because they believed and then renounced their faith: their hearts are sealed, so that they are devoid of understanding.

When you see them their figures please you, and when they speak you listen to what they say. Yet they are like propped-up beams of timber. Every shout they hear they take to be against them. They are the enemy. Guard yourself against them. Allah confound them! How perverse they are!

**63.5** When it is said to them: 'Come, Allah's Apostle will beg forgiveness for you,' they turn their heads and you see them go away in arrogance.

**63.6** It is alike to them whether or not you ask forgiveness for them: Allah will not forgive them. He does not guide the evil-doers.

It is they who say: 'Spend nothing on those that follow Allah's Apostle until they have deserted him.' Allah's are the treasures of heaven and earth: but this the hypocrites cannot understand.

They say: 'If we return to Madinah, the strong will soon drive out the weak.' But strength belongs to Allah and His Apostle and the faithful: yet the hypocrites do not know it.

**63.9** Believers, let neither your riches nor your children beguile you of Allah's remembrance. Those that do this shall have much to lose.

Give, then, of that with which We have provided you before death befalls any of you and he should say: 'Relieve me, my Lord, awhile that I may give in charity and be among the righteous.'

**63.11** But Allah reprieves no soul when its term expires. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.



## Sura 64

### "Al-Taghabun" MUTUAL LOSS AND GAIN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**64.1** All that is in heaven and earth glorifies Allah. His is the sovereignty, and His the praise. He has power over all things.

It was He who created you. And some of you are unbelievers, while others have faith. He is cognizant of all your actions.

**64.3** He created the heavens and the earth in truth and He shaped you and gave you good shapes. To Him you shall all return.

He knows what the heavens and the earth contain, and knows all that you hide and all that you reveal. He knows what is in your hearts.

**64.5** Have you not heard of those who disbelieved before you? They tasted the fruit of their unbelief, and a grievous punishment is yet in store for them. That is because, when their apostles brought them clear signs, they said: 'Shall men be our guides?' They denied the truth and gave no heed. But Allah was in no need of them: He is Self-sufficient and Glorious.

**64.7** The unbelievers think that they will not be raised from the dead. Say: 'By the Lord, you shall assuredly be raised to life! Then you shall be told of all that you have done. That is easy enough for Allah.'

Believe then in Allah and His Apostle and in the light which We have revealed. Allah has knowledge of all your actions.

**64.9** The day on which He will assemble you, the day on which you shall all be gathered—that shall be a day of mutual loss and gain. Those who believe in Allah and do what is right shall be forgiven their sins and admitted to gardens watered by running streams, where they shall dwell for ever. That is the supreme triumph. But those who disbelieve Our revelations and deny them shall be the people of the Fire and shall abide therein for ever. Evil shall be their fate.

No misfortune befalls except by Allah's will. He who believes in Allah, Allah guides his heart. Allah has knowledge of all things.

**64.12** Obey Allah and obey the Apostle. If you give no heed to him, know that Our Apostle's duty is no more than to make plain his message.

**64.13** Allah—there is no god but Him. In Allah let the faithful put their trust.

Believers, you have an enemy in your wives and children: beware of them. But if you overlook their offences and forgive and pardon them, then know that Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.

**64.15** Your wealth and children are but a temptation. Allah's reward is great. Therefore fear Him with all your hearts, and be attentive, obedient and charitable. Give in charity for the benefit of your souls.

Those who are saved from their own greed will surely prosper. If you give a generous loan to Allah He will pay you back twofold and will forgive you. Rewarding is He, and Benignant.

**64.18** He has knowledge of the visible and the unseen. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

## Sura 65

### "Al-Talaq"

### DIVORCE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**65.1** O Prophet, if you (believers) divorce your wives, divorce them at (the end) of their waiting period. Compute their waiting period and have fear of Allah, your Lord. Do not expel them from their homes or let them go away unless they commit a proven immorality. Such are the bounds set by Allah; he that transgresses Allah's bounds wrongs his own soul. You never know; after that Allah may bring to pass some new event.

**65.2** When they have reached their prescribed time, either keep them honourably or part with them honourably. Call to witness two honest men among you and give your testimony before Allah. Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day is exhorted to do this. He who fears Allah, Allah will give him a means of salvation and provide for him whence he does not reckon: Allah is sufficient for the man who puts his trust in Him. He will surely bring about what He decrees. He has set a measure for all things.

**65.4** If you are in doubt concerning those of your wives who have ceased menstruating, know that their waiting period is three months. And let the same be the waiting period of those who have not yet menstruated. As for pregnant women, their term shall be the time they deliver their burden. Allah will ease the hardship of the man who fears Him.

Such is the commandment which Allah has revealed to you. He who fears Allah shall be forgiven his sins and richly rewarded.

**65.6** Lodge them in your own homes, according to your means. Do not harass them so as to make life intolerable for them. If they are with child, maintain them until they deliver their burden; and if, after that, they give suck to their children, give them their pay and consult together in all reasonableness. But if you cannot bear with each other, let other women suckle for you.

**65.7** Let the rich man spend according to his wealth and the

## DIVORCE

poor man according to what Allah has given him. Allah does not charge a man more than He has given him; He will bring ease after hardship.

How many a town has rebelled against the commandments of their Lord and His apostles! Stern was Our reckoning with them, and grievous Our punishment. They tasted the fruit of their misdeeds;

**65.10** and the fruit of their misdeeds was ruin. Allah has prepared a woeful scourge for them. Have fear of Allah, you men of understanding, who have believed.

Allah has now sent down to you a Reminder: an apostle proclaiming to you the revelations of Allah in all plainness, so that he may lead the faithful who do good works from darkness to the light. He who believes in Allah and does good works shall be admitted to gardens watered by running streams where he shall dwell for ever. Allah has made for him a generous provision.

**65.12** It is Allah who has created seven heavens, and earths as many. His commandment descends through them, so that you may know that Allah has power over all things and that He has knowledge of all things.

## Sura 66

### "Al-Tahrim"

### PROHIBITION

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**66.1** O Prophet, why do you prohibit that which Allah has made lawful to you. Do you seek to please your wives?<sup>1</sup> Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. Allah has given you absolution from such oaths. Allah is your master. He is the Wise One, the All-knowing.

When the Prophet confided a secret to one of his wives; and when she disclosed it and Allah informed him of this, he made known one part of it and said nothing about the other. And when he had acquainted her with it, she said: 'Who told you this?' He replied: 'The Wise One, the All-knowing, told me.'

**66.4** If you two<sup>2</sup> turn to Allah in repentance—for your hearts were inclined (to the prohibition)—you shall be pardoned; but if you back up each other against him, know that Allah is his protector, and Gabriel, and the righteous among the faithful. The angels too are his helpers.

It may well be that, if he divorces you, his Lord will give him in your place better wives than yourselves, submissive to Allah and full of faith, devout, penitent, obedient, and given to fasting; both formerly married and virgins.

O believers, guard yourselves and guard your kindred against the Fire which has fuel of men and stones, whose keepers are fierce and mighty angels who never disobey Allah's command and promptly do His bidding. They will say to the unbelievers: 'Make no excuses for yourselves this day. You shall be rewarded according to your deeds.'

**66.8** O believers, turn to Allah in true repentance. Your Lord may forgive you your sins and admit you to gardens watered by running streams, on a day when the Prophet and those who believe with him will suffer no disgrace at the hands of Allah. Their light will shine in front of them and on their right, and they will say: 'Lord, perfect our light for us and forgive us. You have power over all things.'

1. Reference here is either to the Prophet's promise not to eat honey or to his promise to separate from the Coptic Maria.

2. Hafsa and Aisha.

## PROHIBITION

**66.9** Prophet, make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal sternly with them. Hell shall be their home, evil their fate.

Allah has given as example to the unbelievers the wife of Nuh and the wife of Lut. They were married to two of Our righteous servants, but they deceived them. Their husbands availed them nothing against Allah. The angels said to them: 'Enter the Fire, together with those that shall enter it.'

But to the faithful Allah has given as example Pharaoh's wife, who said: 'Lord, build me a house with You in Paradise and deliver me from Pharaoh and his misdeeds. Deliver me from a wicked nation.'

**66.12** And Allah has given as example Mariam, Imran's daughter, who preserved her chastity and into whose womb We breathed of Our spirit; who put her trust in the words of her Lord and His scriptures and was truly devout.

## Sura 67

"Al-Mulk"

### SOVEREIGNTY

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**67.1** Blessed be He in Whose hands is all sovereignty: He has power over all things.

He created life and death that He might put you to the test and find out which of you acquitted himself best. He is the Mighty, the Forgiving One.

He created seven heavens, one above the other. Do you see any fault in the work of the Merciful? Turn up your eyes: can you detect any rift?

**67.4** Then look once more and yet again: your eyes will in the end grow dim and weary.

We have adorned the lowest heaven with lamps, missiles for pelting devils. We have prepared a scourge of flames for these, and the scourge of Hell for unbelievers: an evil fate!

When they are flung into it they shall hear it roaring and seething as though bursting with rage. And every time a multitude is thrown therein, its keepers will say to them: 'Did not one come to warn you?' 'Yes,' they will reply, 'but we rejected him and said: "Allah has revealed nothing: you are in grave error."' And they will say: 'If only we listened and understood, we should not now be among the people of Hell.'

**67.11** Thus they shall confess their sin. Far from Allah's mercy are the people of Hell.

But those that fear their Lord, although they cannot see Him, shall be forgiven and richly rewarded.

Whether you speak in secret or aloud, He knows what is in your hearts. Shall He who has created all things not know? He is Gracious and All-knowing.

It is He who has subdued the earth to you. Walk about its regions and eat of His provisions. To Him all shall return (at the Resurrection).

**67.16** Are you confident that He who is in heaven will not cause the earth to cave in beneath you and (cause you) to be

swallowed by it as it shakes?

Are you confident that He who is in heaven will not let loose on you a sandy whirlwind? You shall before long know how (terrible) was My warning.

Those who have gone before you also denied their apostles: but how terrible was My rejection!

**67.17** Do they not see the birds above their heads, spreading their wings and closing them? None save the Merciful sustains them. He observes all things.

Who is it that will defend you like an entire army, if not the Merciful? Truly, the unbelievers are in error.

Who will provide for you if He withholds His sustenance? Yet they persist in arrogance and in rebellion.

Who is more rightly guided, he that goes grovelling on his face, or he that walks upright upon a straight path?

Say: 'It is He who has created you and given you ears and eyes and hearts. Yet you are seldom thankful.'

**67.24** Say: 'It was He who multiplies you on the earth, and before Him you shall all be assembled.'

They ask: 'When will this promise be (fulfilled), if what you say be true?'

Say: 'Allah alone has knowledge of that. My mission is but to warn you plainly.'

But when they see it drawing near, the faces of the unbelievers will turn black with gloom and a voice will say: 'This is the doom which you have challenged.'

Say: 'Think: whether Allah destroys me and all my followers or has mercy upon us, who will protect the unbelievers from the woeful scourge?'

Say: 'He is the Lord of Mercy. In Him we believe and in Him we put our trust. You shall soon know who is in grave error.'

**67.30** Say: 'Think: if all the water that you have were to sink down into the earth, who would give you running water in its place?'



## Sura 68

### "Al-Qalam"

### THE PEN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**68.1** Nun. By the Pen and what they write. By the grace of your Lord, you are not mad. An unfailing recompense awaits you. Surely you

**68.5** have a Sublime Character. You shall (before long) see—as they will see—which of you is mad.

Your Lord knows best those who stray from His path, and those who are rightly guided. Give no heed to the disbelievers: they wish you were pliant, so that they would be pliant. Nor yield to the wretch of many oaths, the mischief-making slanderer, the opponent of good, the wicked transgressor, the bully who is besides this of doubtful birth. Though he has wealth and children, when Our revelations are recited to him, he says: 'They are but fables of the ancients.' On the nose We will brand him!

**68.17** We have tried them as We tried the owners of the orchard who had sworn that they would pluck its fruit next morning, without adding any reservations (such as: if it be God's will). A visitant from Allah came down upon it while they slept, and in the morning it was as black as midnight.

At daybreak they called out to one another, saying: 'Hurry to your orchard, if you would pick its fruit.' And off they went, whispering to one another: 'No beggar shall set foot in it today.'

Thus they went out, fixed in their resolve. But when they saw it they cried: 'We have been wrong. We are utterly ruined.'

**68.28** The most upright among them said: 'Did I not bid you praise Allah?'

'Glory to our Lord,' they answered. 'We have assuredly done wrong.' And they began to blame one another.

**68.31** 'Woe to us!' they cried. 'We have been great transgressors. We hope our Lord will give us a better orchard in its place. To our Lord we turn.'

Such was their punishment. But the punishment of the

life to come is more terrible, if they but knew it.

**68.34** Surely the righteous have gardens of bliss with their Lord. Are We to deal with the true believers as We deal with the wrongdoers? What has come over you? How do you judge?

Have you a scripture in which you learn that you will have whatever you choose? Or have We sworn a covenant with you—a covenant binding till the Day of Resurrection—that you shall have what you yourselves demand. Ask if any of them will vouch for that!

**68.41** Or have they associate—gods? Let them produce these gods, if what they say be true! On the day when the dread event takes place and they are bidden to prostrate themselves, they will not be able. They shall have their eyes cast down and shall be utterly humbled; for they were already bidden to prostrate themselves when they were safe.

Therefore leave to Me those that deny this revelation. We will lead them step by step (to their ruin) in ways beyond their knowledge. I shall bear long with them: My stratagem is sure.

**68.46** Are you demanding pay of them, so that they are burdened with debt?

Or have they knowledge of what is hidden and can write it down?

Wait, then, for the judgement of your Lord and do not act like him who was swallowed by the whale when he called out to Allah in despair. Had his Lord not bestowed on him His grace, he would have been cast down in the open to be blamed. But his Lord chose him and made of him a righteous man.

When they hear Our revelations, the unbelievers almost devour you with their eyes, 'He is surely possessed,' they say.

**68.52** But it is nothing less than a warning to all men.

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**69.1** The Truth; and what is the Truth? What would make you realize what the Truth is?

Thamoud and Aad denied the stunning Calamity. By a deafening shout was Thamoud destroyed, and Aad by a howling, violent gale which He let loose on them for seven nights and eight successive days: you might have seen them lying dead as though they had been hollow trunks of palm-trees. Can you see any of them still alive?

**69.9** Pharaoh, and those before him, and the ruined towns, also committed sin and disobeyed their Lord's apostle. With a terrible scourge He smote them.

When the Flood rose high We carried you in floating Ark, making it a warning, so that all attentive ears might heed it.

When the Trumpet sounds a single blast; when the earth with all its mountains is lifted up and with one mighty crash is shattered into dust—on that day the Dread Event will come to pass.

**69.16** The sky will be rent asunder; so that day it will be frail. The angels will stand on all its sides. And eight (of them) will carry the throne of your Lord above them. On that day you shall be displayed before Him, and no secret of yours will remain hidden.

He who is given his book in his right hand will say: 'Ah here! Read my book. I knew that I should come to my account.' His shall be a blissful state in a lofty garden, with clusters of fruit within reach. (We shall say to him): 'Eat and drink to your heart's content because of what you did in days gone by.'

**69.25** But he who is given his book in his left hand will say: 'Would that my book were not given me! Would that I knew nothing of my account! Would that my death had ended all! My wealth has availed me nothing and I am bereft of all my power.'

(We shall say): 'Lay hold of him and bind him. Burn him in the blazing Fire, then fasten him with a chain seventy cubits long. For he did not believe in Allah, the Most High, nor did he

## THE TRUTH

urge the feeding of the poor. Today he shall have no friend, nor will he have any food except filth which only sinners eat.'

**69.38** I swear by all that you can see, and all that is hidden from your view, that this is the utterance of a noble messenger. It is no poet's speech: scant is your faith! It is no sooth-sayer's divination: how little you reflect! It is a revelation from the Lord of all creatures.

**69.44** Had he invented lies concerning Us, We would have seized him by the right hand and cut off his heart's vein: not one of you could have protected him.

It is but an admonition to righteous men. We know that there are some among you who will deny it.

It is the despair of the unbelievers. It is the

**69.52** indubitable truth. Praise, then, the name of your Lord, the Almighty.

## Sura 70

"Al-Ma'arij"

### THE WAYS OF ASCENT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**70.1** A questioner called for chastisement to befall the unbelievers.

None can ward it off. (A chastisement) from the Lord of the Ways of Ascent, To Him the angels and the Spirit ascend in one day the measure of which is fifty thousand years.

Therefore conduct yourself with becoming patience.

**70.7** They think (the Day of Judgement) is far off; but We see it near at hand.

On that day the heavens shall become like molten brass, and the mountains like wool. No friend will ask a friend (a question) though they are put in sight of each other. To redeem himself from the torment of that day the sinner will gladly sacrifice his children, his wife, his brother, the kinsfolk who gave him shelter, and all the people of the earth, if then this might deliver him.

**70.15** By no means. It is a flaming Fire. It drags (them) down by (their) scalps; and it shall call him who turned his back (on the true faith) and amassed riches and covetously hoarded them.

Indeed, man was created impatient. When evil befalls him he is despondent; but blessed with good fortune he grows niggardly.

**70.22** Not so the worshippers who are steadfast in prayer; who set aside a due portion of their goods for the needy and the dispossessed; who truly believe in the Day of Reckoning and dread the punishment of their Lord, for none is secure from the punishment of their Lord; who restrain their carnal desire save for their wives and slave-girls, for these are lawful to them; he who lusts after other than these is a transgressor; who keep their trusts and promises and bear true witness; and who attend to their prayers with promptitude. These shall be laden with honours and shall dwell in fair gardens.

But what has befallen the unbelievers, that they scramble

before you in multitudes from left and right?

**70.38** Does ever one of them seek to enter a garden of delight?  
By no means. For We have created them of what they know.

**70.40** I swear by the Lord of the East and the West that We have the power to destroy them and replace them by others better than them: nothing can hinder Us from so doing. So leave them to amuse themselves and blunder about in their folly until they face the day with which they are threatened; the day when they shall rush from their graves, like men rallying to a

**70.44** standard, with downcast eyes and countenances distorted with shame.

Such is the day with which they are threatened.

## Sura 71

"Nuh"

NOAH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**71.1** We sent forth Nuh to his people, saying: 'Give warning to your people before a woeful scourge overtakes them.'

He said: 'My people, I come to warn you plainly. Serve Allah and fear Him, and obey me. He will forgive you your sins and respite you till an appointed time. When Allah's time arrives none shall put it back. Would that you understood this!'

**71.5** 'Lord,' said Nuh, 'day and night I have called my people, but my call has only added to their aversion.'

**71.7** Each time I call on them to seek your pardon, they thrust their fingers in their ears and draw their cloaks over their heads, persisting in sin and bearing themselves with insolent pride. I called out loud to them, and appealed to them in public and in private. "Seek forgiveness of your Lord," I said. "He is ever ready to forgive you. He sends down for you abundant water from the sky and bestows upon you wealth and children. He provides you with gardens and rivers. Why do you deny the greatness of Allah when He has made

**71.15** you in stages? Can you not see how He created the seven heavens one above the other, placing in them the moon as a light and the sun as a lantern? Allah has brought you forth from the earth like a plant, and to the earth He will restore you. Then He will bring you back afresh. He has made the earth a vast expanse for you, so that you may walk in its spacious paths."

**71.21** Nuh said: 'Lord, my people have disobeyed me and followed those whose wealth and offspring only hastened their perdition. They have devised an outrageous plot, and said: "Do not renounce your gods. Do not forsake Wadd or Sowa' or Yaghuth or Ya'uq or Nasr." They have led numerous men astray. You surely drive the wrongdoers to further error.'

## NOAH

**71.25** And because of their sins they were overwhelmed by the Flood and cast into the Fire. They found none to help them besides Allah.

**71.26** And Nuh said: 'Lord, do not leave a single unbeliever in the land. If You spare them they will mislead Your servants and beget none but sinners and unbelievers. Forgive me, Lord, and forgive my parents and every true believer who seeks refuge in my house. Forgive all the faithful, men and women, and hasten the destruction of the wrongdoers.'



## Sura 72

"Al-Jinn"

THE JINN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**72.1** Say: 'It is revealed to me that a party of jinn listened to (Allah's revelations) and said: "We have heard a wondrous Quran giving guidance to the right path. We believed in it and shall henceforth serve none besides Our Lord. He—exalted be the glory of our Lord—has taken no wife, nor has He begotten any children. The ignorant among us have uttered a wanton falsehood against Allah, although we had supposed no man or jinnee could tell of Him what is untrue."

Some men have sought the help of the jinn, but they misled them into further error. Like you they thought that Allah could never raise the dead.

(The jinn also said): "We made our way to high heaven and found it filled with mighty wardens and

**72.9** fiery comets. We sat eavesdropping, but eavesdroppers find flaming darts in wait for them. We cannot tell if this bodes evil to those on earth or whether their Lord intends to guide them.

"Some of us are righteous, while others are not; we follow different ways. We know we cannot escape on earth from Allah, nor can we elude His grasp by flight. When we heard His guidance we believed in Him: he that believes in his Lord shall never be wronged or harmed.

"Among us there are some who have surrendered themselves to Allah, and some who are wrongdoers. Those that surrender themselves to Allah, follow the right path; but those that do wrong shall become the fuel of Hell."

**72.16** If they<sup>1</sup> follow the right path We vouchsafe them abundant rain, and thereby put them to the proof. He who gives no heed to his Lord's warning shall be sternly punished.

The places of worship are built for Allah's worship; invoke in them no other (god) besides Him. When His servant<sup>2</sup> rose to pray to Him, they pressed round him in multitudes.

1. The Makkans.
2. Muhammad.

Say: 'I will pray to my Lord and associate none with Him.'

**72.21** Say: 'I have no control over any good or evil that befalls you.'

Say: 'None can protect me from Allah, nor can I find any refuge besides Him. (My mission is) only to make known His messages; those that disobey Allah and His Apostle shall abide forever in the fire of Hell.'

**72.24** When they behold the scourge with which they are threatened they shall know which side had the less powerful protector and which was fewer in numbers.

Say: 'I cannot tell whether the scourge with which you are threatened is imminent, or whether my Lord will set for it a far-off day. He alone has knowledge of what is hidden: His secrets He reveals to none, except to the apostles whom He elects. He sends down guardians who walk before them and behind them, '

**72.28** that He may know if they have indeed delivered His messages. He has knowledge of all their actions and keeps count of all things.'

## Sura 73

### "Al-Muzzammil" THE MANTLED ONE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**73.1** O you<sup>1</sup> who are wrapped up in your mantle, rise (to pray) by night except a little: half the night, or a little less or a little more; and with measured tone recite the Quran. We are about to address to you words of great gravity. Verily the rising by night is (the time) when impression is strongest and speech more certain. You have by day prolonged occupations (with work).

**73.8** Remember the name of your Lord and dedicate yourself to Him utterly. He is the Lord of the East and the West: there is no god but Him. Accept Him for your Protector.

Bear patiently with what they<sup>2</sup> say and leave their company with dignity. Leave to Me those that deny the truth, those that enjoy the comforts of this life; bear with them yet a little while. We have (in store for them) heavy fetters and a blazing fire, choking food

**73.14** and a harrowing torment. (This shall be their lot) on the day when the earth shakes with all its mountains, and the mountains crumble into heaps of shifting sand.

We have sent forth to you an apostle to testify against you, just as We sent one to Pharaoh before you. Pharaoh disobeyed Our messenger. So that We smote him with a dreadful scourge.

If you disbelieve, how will you escape the day that will make your children grey haired, (the day) on which the heaven will split apart? Allah's promise shall be fulfilled.

This is but an admonition. Let him who will, take the (right) path to his Lord.

**73.20** Your Lord knows that you<sup>3</sup> sometimes keep vigil nearly two-thirds of the night and sometimes half or one-third of it, and so does a party of those with you. Allah measures the night and the day. He knows that you cannot count it, and turns to you mercifully. Recite from the Quran as much as is easy (for you);

1. Muhammad. 2. The unbelievers. 3. Muhammad.

## THE MANTLED ONE

He knows that among you there are sick men and others travelling the road in quest of Allah's bounty; and yet others fighting for His cause. Recite from it, then, as much as is easy (for you). Attend to your prayers, pay the alms-tax, and give Allah a generous loan. Whatever good you do you shall surely find it with Allah, ennobled and richly rewarded by Him. Implore Allah to forgive you; He is Forgiving, Merciful.

## Sura 74

### "Al-Muddaththir" THE CLOAKED ONE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**74.1** You<sup>1</sup> who are wrapped up in your vestment, arise and give warning.

Magnify your Lord, cleanse your garments, and keep away from all pollution.

Bestow no favours expecting gain. Be patient for your Lord's sake.

When the Trumpet sounds, that shall be a day of distress and far from easy for the unbelievers. Leave Me alone with him whom I created and endowed with vast riches and thriving children. I have made his progress smooth and easy: yet he hopes that I give him more. By no means! Surely he has been inimical to Our revelations. I will lay on him a mounting torment.

**74.19** He pondered, and he schemed. Confound him, how he schemed! Confound him, how he schemed!

Then he looked around him, frowning and leering; then he turned away in scornful pride and said: 'This is no more than borrowed magic. It is nothing but the word of a mortal.

I will surely cast him into the fire of Hell. Would that you knew what the fire of Hell is like! It leaves nothing, it spares no one; it burns the skins of men. It is guarded by nineteen (keepers).

**74.31** We have appointed none but angels to guard the Fire, and made their number a subject for dispute among the unbelievers, so that those to whom the Scriptures were given may be convinced and the true believers strengthened in their faith; that those to whom the scriptures were given, and the true believers, may have no doubts; and that those in whose hearts there is disease, together with the disbelievers, may say: 'What could Allah mean by this?' Thus Allah leaves in error whom He will and guides whom He pleases. None knows the warriors of your Lord but Himself. This is no more than an admonition to mankind.

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1. Muhammad.

## THE CLOAKED ONE

**74.32** Nay, by the moon! By the receding night and the forthcoming dawn, it is one of the greatest misfortunes, a warning to all men; alike to those of you that would like to march on and those that would like to remain behind.

Each soul is held in pledge for what it earns, except those of the right hand. These will in their gardens ask the sinners: 'What has brought you into Hell?' They will reply: 'We never prayed or fed the hungry. We engaged in vain disputes and denied the Day of Reckoning till the inevitable (death) overtook us.'

No intercessor's plea shall avail them. Why then do they turn away from this reminder, like frightened asses fleeing from a lion?

Indeed, each one of them demands a scrip (of his own) to be unrolled (before him). No, verily they have no fear of the Hereafter.

No, this is an admonition. Let him who will, take

**74.56** heed. But none takes heed except by the will of Allah. He is the Lord of Goodness and Forgiveness.

## Sura 75

### "Al-Qiyama" THE RESURRECTION

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**75.1** I swear by the Day of Resurrection, and by the self-reproaching soul!

Does man think We shall never put his bones together again? Indeed, We can remould his very fingers!

Yet man would ever deny what is to come. 'When will this be,' he asks, 'this Day of Resurrection?'

But when the sight of mortals is confounded and the moon eclipsed; when sun and moon are brought together—on that day man will ask: Whither shall I flee?'

**75.11** No, there shall be no place of refuge. For on that day all shall return to your Lord.

On that day man shall be informed of all that he has done first and last. He shall be a witness against himself, even though he were to offer excuses.

**75.16** Do not move your tongue (with the revelation) so that you may hasten (committing) it (to memory). We Ourselves shall see to its collection and recital. When We read it, follow its words attentively; We shall Ourselves explain its meaning.

Yet you (men) love this fleeting life and are heedless of the life to come.

**75.24** On that day there shall be fresh faces, looking towards their Lord. And on that day there shall be mournful faces, knowing that a great calamity will be inflicted on them.

**75.26** But when (man's soul) reaches the throat and it is said: 'Is there a magician to save him?' and when he knows it is the final parting and the pangs of death assail him—on that day to your Lord he shall be driven.

(In this life) he neither believed nor prayed; he denied the truth and turned away; and he went to his kinsfolk elated with pride.

## THE RESURRECTION

**75.34** Well have you deserved (this doom); well have you deserved it. Well have you deserved it: too well have you deserved it!

**75.36** Does man think that he will be left aimless? Was he not a drop of ejected semen? Then he became a clot of blood; then Allah created and moulded him and

**75.40** made of him the pair of male and female. Is He then not able to raise the dead to life?



**"Ad-Dahr"**

**Sura 76**

or

**"Al-Insan"**

**MAN**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**76.1** Surely there came over man a period of time when he was nothing that mattered. We have created man from sperm mixed (with ovum) to put him to proof. So we have endowed him with sight and hearing. We have shown him the right path, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.

**76.4** For the unbelievers We have prepared chains and fetters and a blazing Fire. But the righteous shall drink of a cup tempered with Camphor—a fountain from which the servants of Allah will refresh themselves and make it gush forth abundantly; they who keep their vows and dread the far-spread terrors of the Day (of Judgement); who, though they hold it dear, give sustenance to the poor man, the orphan, and the captive, (saying): 'We feed you for Allah's sake only; we seek of you neither recompense nor thanks: for we fear from Him a day of anguish and of woe.'

**76.11** So Allah will deliver them from the evil of that day and make their faces shine with joy. He will reward them for their steadfastness with a Paradise and robes of silk. Reclining there upon soft couches, they shall feel neither the scorching heat nor the biting cold. Trees will spread their shade around them, and fruits will hang in clusters over them.

**76.15** They shall be served with silver dishes, and beakers as large as goblets; silver goblets which they themselves shall measure: and they shall be given to drink from cups brimful with ginger-flavoured water from a Fount called Salsabil. They shall be attended by youths never aging, who, to the beholder's eyes, will seem like sprinkled pearls. When you gaze upon that scene you will behold blessings and a glorious kingdom.

**76.21** They shall be arrayed in garments of fine green silk and rich brocade, and adorned with bracelets of silver. Their Lord will give them a pure beverage to drink.

**76.22** Thus you shall be rewarded; your high endeavours are gratifying to Allah.

**76.23** We have revealed to you the Quran by gradual revelation; therefore await with patience the judgement of your Lord and do not yield to the sinner and the unbelieving. Remember the name of your Lord morning and evening; in the night—time worship Him; praise Him all night long.

**76.28** Those love this fleeting life too well, and thus leave behind them a heavy day. We created them, and endowed their limbs and joints with strength; but if We please We can replace them by others.

**76.29** This is indeed an admonition. Let him that will, take the right path to his Lord. Yet you cannot will, except by the will of Allah. Allah is Wise and All-knowing.

**76.31** He is merciful to whom He will: but for the wrong—doers He has prepared a grievous punishment.

### Sura 77

#### "Al-Mursalat" THOSE THAT ARE SENT FORTH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**77.1** By the gales, sent forth in swift succession; by the raging tempests and the rain—spreading winds; by your Lord's revelations, discerning good from evil and admonishing by plea or warning: that which you have been promised (of threats) shall befall.

**77.8** When the stars are blotted out; and when the sky is rent asunder and the mountains crumble into dust; when Allah's apostles are brought together on the appointed day—when will all this be? Upon the Day of Judgement!

Would that you knew what the Day of Judgement is! Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Did We not destroy the men of old and cause others to follow them? Thus shall We deal with the guilty.

**77.19** Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Did We not create you from an unworthy fluid, which We kept in a safe receptacle for an appointed time? All this We did; how excellent is Our work!

Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Have We not made the earth draw together the living and the dead? Have We not placed high mountains upon it and given you fresh water for your drink?

**77.28** Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Begone to that (torment) which you used to deny! Depart into the shadow that will rise high in three columns, giving neither shade nor shelter from the flames and throwing up sparks as huge as towers, as bright as yellow camels!

Woe on that day to the disbelievers! On that day they shall not speak, nor shall it be open to them to make pleas.

Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Such is the Day of Judgement. We will assemble you all, together with past generations. If then you are cunning, try your spite against Me!

**77.40** Woe on that day to the disbelievers! The righteous shall dwell amidst cool shades and fountains and feed on such fruits as they desire. (We shall say to them): 'Eat and drink, and may every joy attend you! This is the reward of your labours.' Thus We shall reward the righteous.

Woe on that day to the disbelievers! Eat and enjoy yourselves awhile. You are wicked men.

Woe on that day to the disbelievers! When they are bidden to kneel down, they do not kneel.

**77.50** Woe on that day to the disbelievers! In what revelations after this will they believe?

## Sura 78

"Al-Naba"

THE TIDINGS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**78.1** About what are they asking? About the fateful tidings—the theme of their disputes.

But they shall know (the truth); before long they shall

## THE TIDINGS

know it.

Did We not spread the earth like a bed and raise the mountains like pegs?

And (have We not) created you in pairs and gave you rest in sleep? We made the night a mantle, and

**78.12** ordained the day for work. We built above you seven mighty heavens and placed in them a shining lamp. We sent down abundant water from the clouds, bringing

**78.15** forth grain and varied plants, and gardens thick with foliage.

Fixed is the Day of Judgement. On that day the Trumpet shall be sounded and you shall come in multitudes. The gates of heaven shall swing open and the mountains shall pass away and become like vapour.

Hell will lie in ambush, a home for the transgressors. There they shall abide long ages; there they shall taste neither refreshment nor any drink, save boiling water and decaying filth: a fitting recompense.

**78.27** They did not fear Our reckoning and roundly denied Our revelations. But We have recorded all their doings in a book. We shall say: 'Taste this: you shall have nothing but mounting torment!'

As for the righteous, they shall surely triumph. Theirs shall be gardens and vineyards, and high-bosomed maidens of equal age for companions, and a cup full (to the brim).

**78.35** There they shall hear no idle talk or any falsehood. It is a recompense of your Lord- a gift that will suffice them: from the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them; the Merciful, with whom no one can speak.

On that day, when the Spirit and the angels stand up in their ranks, they shall not speak; except him who shall receive the sanction of the Merciful and declare what is right.

That day is sure to come. Let him who will, seek a

**78.40** way back to his Lord. We have forewarned you of an imminent scourge: the day when man will look upon his works and the unbeliever will cry: 'Would that I were dust?'

## Sura 79

"Al-Nazi'at"

### THE SNATCHERS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**79.1** By those (angels) who violently snatch away (men's souls), and those who gently draw them out; by those who glide along (at God's bidding) and those who speed headlong; by those who regulate the affair! On the day when the Trumpet sounds its first blast followed by the second, men's hearts that day shall tremble with their eyes downcast.

**79.10** They say: 'Shall we indeed be restored to (our) first state even after we are rotten bones?'

They say: 'That would then be a vain return.' But with one single cry, they shall be awakened.

Have you heard the story of Musa?

His Lord called out to him in the sacred valley of Towa, saying: 'Go to Pharaoh: he has transgressed all bounds; and say: "Will you reform yourself? I will guide you to your Lord, so that you may have fear of Him."

**79.20** He (Musa) showed him the mighty sign, but he denied and disobeyed. Then he turned away seeking (to do mischief). He summoned all his (men) and made to them a proclamation. 'I am your supreme Lord,' he said.

Allah smote him with the scourge of the life to come and this life. Surely in this there is a lesson for the God-fearing.

**79.27** Are you harder to create than the heaven which He has built? He raised it high and fashioned it, giving darkness to its night and brought out its light.

And the earth He extended after that; and then drew from it water and pastures. And the mountains He fixed—a provision for you and your cattle.

**79.34** But when the great disaster comes—the day when man will call to mind his labours and when Hell is brought in sight (of all)—those who transgressed and chose this present life will find themselves in Hell; but those who feared to stand before their

Lord and curbed their souls' desires shall dwell in Paradise.

They question you about the Hour of Doom: 'When shall it be?' But how are you to know? Your Lord alone knows when it will come. You are but a warner for those who fear it.

**79.46** On the day when they behold it, it will be as if they had tarried only a single evening or the morning following it.

### Sura 80

"Abasa"

HE FROWNED

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**80.1** He<sup>1</sup> frowned and turned away when the blind man came towards him.

How can you<sup>1</sup> tell? He might purify himself. He might be mindful and the Reminder might profit him.

But to him who is wealthy you do attend; although the fault would both be yours if he remained uncleansed. Yet to him who came to you with zeal and awe, you gave no heed.

**80.11** Nay, this is an admonition; let him who will, bear it in mind. It is set down on honoured pages, purified and exalted, by the hands of devout and gracious scribes.

**80.17** Confound man! How ungrateful he is.

From what did Allah create him? From a little life-germ He created him and proportioned him. He makes his path smooth, then causes him to die and stows him in a grave. He will surely bring him back to life if He pleases. Yet he declines to do His bidding.

**80.24** Let man reflect on the food he eats; how We pour down the rain in torrents and cleave the earth asunder; how We bring forth the corn, the grapes, and the fresh vegetation; the olive and the palm, the thickets, the fruit-trees and the green pasture, for you and for your cattle to delight in.

But when the deafening cry comes, on that day each man will forsake his brother, his mother and his father, his wife

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1. Muhammad.

and his children: for each one of them will on that day have enough concern of his own.

On that day there shall be beaming faces, smiling and joyful, And on that day there shall be faces

80.42 covered with dust and veiled with darkness. These shall (be the faces of) the wicked and the unbelieving.

## Sura 81

"Al-Takwir"

### THE FOLDING UP

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**81.1** When the sun<sup>\*</sup> is folded up; when the stars fall down and the mountains are blown away; when camels big with their young are left untended and the wild beasts are brought together; when the seas are burning and men's souls are reunited (with their bodies); when the infant girl,<sup>1</sup> buried alive, is

**81.10** asked for what crime she was slain; when the records of men's deeds are laid open and heaven is stripped bare; when Hell burns fiercely and Paradise is brought near: then each soul shall know what it has done.

**81.15** I swear by the turning planets and by the stars that rise and set; by the night as it falls and the morning as it breathes: surely this is the word of a gracious and mighty messenger, held in honour by the Lord of the Throne, obeyed and faithful.

**81.22** No, your companion is not mad. He saw him on the clear horizon. He does not withhold the unseen; nor is this the utterance of an accursed devil.

Whither then are you going?

This is naught but an admonition to all men: to

**81.29** those among you that have the will to be upright. Yet you cannot will, except by the will of Allah, Lord of the Creation.

## Sura 82

"Al-Infitar"

### THE CLEAVING

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**82.1** When the sky is cleft asunder; when the stars are scattered, and the oceans are rolled together; when the graves

1. A reference to the practice of burning infant girls alive in Pre-Islamic Arabia.



are overturned; each soul shall know what it has done and what it has failed to do.

**82.5** O man! What evil has enticed you away from your gracious Lord who created you, gave you an upright form, and well-proportioned you? In whatever shape He willed He could have surely moulded you.

**82.9** No, you deny the Last Judgement. Yet there are guardians watching over you, noble recorders who know of all what you do.

**82.13** The righteous surely shall dwell in Bliss: But the wicked surely shall burn in Hell; they shall enter it on the Day of Judgement. They shall not escape it.

**82.17** Would that you knew what the Day of Judgement is! Oh, would that you knew what the Day of

**82.19** Judgement is! It is the day when every soul can do nothing for another and Allah will then reign supreme.

### Sura 83

#### "Al-Mutaffifin" DEALING IN FRAUD

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**83.1** Woe to those that deal in fraud, who, when others measure for them, exact in full, but when they measure or weigh for others, defraud them!

Do they not think that they will be raised to life upon a fateful day, the day when all mankind will stand before the Lord of the Worlds?

Truly, the record of the sinners is in *Sijjin*. Would that you know what *Sijjin* is! It is a sealed book.

Woe on that day to the disbelievers who deny the Last Judgement! None denies it except every aggressive sinner. When Our revelations are recited to him, he says: 'Fables of the ancients!'

No! Their own deeds have cast a veil over their hearts.

No! On that day they shall be debarred from their Lord.

They shall burn in Hell, and it will be said to them: 'This is the scourge that you denied!'

**83.18** But the record of the righteous shall be in *Illiyyin*. Would that you know what *Illiyyin* is! It is a sealed book, seen only by those who are closest to Allah.

The righteous shall surely dwell in bliss. Reclining upon soft couches they will look around them: and in their faces you shall mark the glow of joy. They shall be given to drink of a pure wine, securely sealed, whose very dregs are musk; for this let all men emulously strive; a wine tempered with *Tasnim*, a spring at which the favoured will refresh themselves.

The evil-doers used to scoff at the faithful and wink at one another as they pass by them. When they return to their own folk they speak of them with jests and when they see them they say: 'These are erring men!' Yet they were not sent to be their guardians.

But on that day the faithful will mock the unbelievers as they recline upon their couches and gaze around them.

**83.36** Shall (not) the unbelievers be rewarded according to their deeds?

#### Sura 84

#### "Al-Inshiqaq" THE RENDING ASUNDER

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**84.1** When the sky is rent asunder, obeying its Lord as it must do; when the earth is expanded and casts out all that is within it and becomes empty, obeying its Lord as it must do; (then) O man, strive hard towards your Lord until you meet Him.

**84.7** He that is given his book in his right hand shall have a lenient reckoning and go back rejoicing to his people. But he that is given his book from behind his back shall call down destruction on himself and burn in the fire of Hell; for he lived without a care among his people and thought he would never return (to Allah). Yes he would. Verily his Lord was ever watching over him.

## THE RENDING ASUNDER

**84.16** I swear by the glow of sunset; by the night and all that it brings together; by the moon, in its full perfection: that you shall march onwards from state to state.

Why then do they not have faith, or kneel in prayer when the Quran is read to them?

**84.22** The unbelievers deny it; but Allah knows best the falsehoods they believe in.

**84.25** Therefore proclaim to all a woeful doom, save those who embrace the true faith and do good works; for theirs is an unfailing recompense.

## Sura 85

"Al-Buruj"

### THE CONSTELLATIONS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**85.1** By the heaven with its constellations! By the Promised Day! By the witness and the witnessed!

**85.4** Cursed be the people of the trench—the (trench with) fire fed with fuel; those who sat around it watching the believers whom they were torturing. And they had nothing against them save that they believed in Allah, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy, Sovereign of the heavens and earth. And Allah is the Witness of all things.

**85.10** Those who persecuted the believing men and women and never repented shall suffer the scourge of Hell and the torture of burning.

**85.11** Those who believe and do good works, theirs will be gardens wherein rivers flow. That is the greatest triumph.

Surely the vengeance of your Lord is severe. It is He who creates and restores (His creation). And He is Forgiving and Loving. His is the Glorious Throne. And He does what He wishes.

**85.17** Have you not heard the story of the warriors of Pharaoh and of Thamoud? Yet the unbelievers deny it.

Allah surrounds them all. Indeed this is a glorious

**85.22** Quran, in a guarded tablet.

## Sura 86

"Al-Tariq"

### THE NIGHTLY VISITANT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**86.1** By the heaven, and by the nightly visitant!

Would that you knew what the nightly visitant is! It is the star of piercing brightness.

## THE NIGHTLY VISITANT

**86.4** For every soul there is a guardian watching over it. Let man reflect from what he is created: He is created from ejected fluid that issues from between the loins and the ribs.

**86.8** Surely He has power to bring him back to life, on the day when men's consciences are searched. Helpless he shall be, with no supporter.

**86.11** By the heaven with its rain, and by the earth, ever bursting with new growth; this is a conclusive utterance, no flippant jest.

**86.17** They scheme a scheme, and I, too, scheme a scheme. Therefore bear with the unbelievers, and let them be alone for a while.

### Sura 87

"Al-A'la"

THE MOST HIGH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**87.1** Praise the Name of your Lord, the Most High, who has created all things and well proportioned them; who has ordained (their) destinies and guided (them); who brings forth the green pasture, then turns it to withered grass.

**87.5** We shall make you recite (Our revelations), so that you shall not forget any of them, except what Allah pleases. He has knowledge of all that is manifest, and all that is hidden.

We shall guide you to the smoothest path. Therefore give warning, if warning will avail them. He

**87.11** that fears Allah will heed it, but the wicked sinner will avoid it. He shall be cast into the great Fire where he shall neither die nor live. Happy shall be the man who purifies himself, who remembers the name of his Lord and prays to Him.

Yet you prefer this life, although the life to come is better and more lasting.

**87.19** All this is written in earlier scriptures; the scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa.

## Sura 88

### "Al-Ghashiya" THE OVERWHELMING EVENT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**88.1** Have you heard of the overwhelming Event? On that day there shall be downcast faces, broken and worn out, burnt by a scorching fire, drinking from a seething fountain. Their only food shall be bitter thorns, which will neither sustain nor satisfy hunger.

On that day (there shall be) radiant faces, of men well-pleased with their labours, in a lofty garden. There they shall hear no idle talk. A gushing fountain shall be there, and raised soft couches with goblets; silken cushions ranged in order and rich carpets spread out.

Do they not reflect on the camels, how they were

**88.19** created? The heaven, how it was raised up? The mountains, how they were set down? The earth, how it was levelled flat?

Therefore give warning. Your duty is *only* to warn them: you are not their keeper. As for those that turn their backs and disbelieve Allah will inflict on them the supreme chastisement. To Us they shall return, and

**88.26** We will bring them to account.

## Sura 89

### "Al-Fajr"

### THE DAWN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**89.1** By the Dawn and Ten Nights,<sup>1</sup> by that which is Even, and that which is Odd; by the night, when it comes!

Is there not in this a mighty oath for a man of sense?

**89.6** Have you not heard how your Lord dealt with Aad? (The people) of the many-columned city of Iram, whose like has never been built in the whole land?

And with Thamoud, who hewed out their dwellings

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1. Of the month of Dhul – Hijja

## THE DAWN

among the rocks of the valley?

And with Pharaoh, who impaled his victims upon the stake?

**89.11** They had transgressed in the land and multiplied corruption in it. Therefore your Lord let loose on them the scourge of His punishment; for He observes all.

**89.15** As for man, when his Lord tests him by exalting him and bestowing favours on him, he says: 'My Lord is bountiful to me.' But when He tests him by restricting his subsistence, he says: 'My Lord humiliates me.'

**89.17** No! But you show no kindness to the orphan, nor do you urge one another to feed the poor. Greedily you lay your hands on the inheritance of the weak, and you love riches with all your hearts.

No! But when the earth is crushed to fine dust, and your Lord comes down with the angels, in their ranks, and Hell is brought near—on that day man will remember his deeds. But what will memory avail him?

**89.24** He will say: 'Would that I had done good works in my lifetime!' But on that day none will punish as He will punish, nor will any bind with chains like His.

O serene soul! Return to your Lord joyful, and

**89.30** pleasing in His sight. Join My servants and enter My Paradise.

### Sura 90

"Al-Balad"

THE CITY

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**90.1** I swear by this city, and you are free from obligation in it; And (I swear) by the begetter, and all whom he begot: We created man into toil and strife.

Does he think that none has power over him? He will (boastfully) say: 'I have wasted vast wealth.' Does he think that none observes him?

**90.8** Have We not given him two eyes, a tongue, and two lips, and shown him the two highways (of good and evil)? Yet he would not scale the height.

Would that you knew what the Height is! It is the freeing of a bondsman; the feeding, in the day of famine, of an orphaned relation or a needy man in distress; to be one of those who believe, enjoin patience and enjoin mercy.

Those who do this shall stand on the right hand; but those who deny Our revelations shall stand on the

**90.20** left, with Hell-fire close above them.



## Sura 91

"Al-Shams"

THE SUN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**91.1** By the sun and his rising brightness; by the moon, which rises after him; by the day, which reveals his splendour; by the night, which veils him!

**91.5** By the heaven and Him that built it; by the earth and Him that spread it; by the soul and Him that moulded it and inspired it with (knowledge of) sin and piety: blessed shall be the man who has kept it pure, and ruined he that has corrupted it!

**91.10** Thamoud rejected (their Apostle) in their rebellious pride when the most wicked of them broke forth. Allah's Apostle said to them: 'This is Allah's she-camel. Let her drink.'

They disbelieved him, and slaughtered her. So their Lord destroyed them for their sins and rased their city

**91.15** to the ground. He did not fear the consequences.

## Sura 92

"Al-Layl"

THE NIGHT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**92.1** By the night, when it lets fall its darkness, and by the day when it brightens. And by the creating of the male and female, your endeavours have different ends!

**92.5** For him that gives (in charity) and guards himself (by obeying Allah) and believes in goodness, We shall smooth the path of salvation; but for him that neither gives nor seeks Allah's reward, and disbelieves in goodness, We shall smooth the path of affliction. When he breathes his last, his riches will not avail him.

**92.13** It is for Us to give guidance. Ours is the life of this world and the life to come. I warn you, then, of the blazing fire, in

## THE NIGHT

which none shall burn save the hardened sinner, who denies the truth and gives no

**92.18** heed. But kept away from it will be the more righteous who gives in alms but not in return for any favour done to him, and who also does good only for

**92.21** the sake of the reward of God, Most High. Verily, he will be content.

### Sura 93

"Al-Duha"

### DAYLIGHT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**93.1** By the light of day, and by the night when it falls, your Lord has not forsaken you, nor does He abhor you.

The life to come holds a richer prize for you than this present life. Surely your Lord will give you what will please you.

**93.6** Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter?  
Did He not find you wandering and guide you?  
Did He not find you poor and enrich you?  
Therefore do not oppress the orphan, nor drive

**93.11** away the beggar. But proclaim the bounty of your Lord.

### Sura 94

"Al-Inshirah"

### COMFORT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**94.1** Have We not lifted up and expanded your heart and relieved you of the burden which weighed down your back?

Have We not given you high renown? Every hardship is followed by ease. Every hardship is followed by ease.

**94.8** When you have finished resume your toil, and seek your Lord with all fervour.

## Sura 95

"Al-Tin"

THE FIG

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

95.1 By the Fig, and by the Olive!

By Mount Sinai, and this inviolate city.<sup>1</sup>

We created man with the most noble image and in the end We shall reduce him to the lowest of the low: except the believers who do good works, for theirs shall be a recompense never to be cut off.

95.7 What, then, can after this make you deny the Last Judgement?

95.8 Is Allah not the best of judges?

## Sura 96

"Al-'Alaq"

THE CLOT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

96.1 Read in the name of your Lord who created, created man from clots of congealed blood.

Read! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One, who taught by the pen, taught man what he did not know.

Indeed, man transgresses in thinking himself self-sufficient. Verily to your Lord is the return.

96.9 Have you seen the man who forbids a servant when he prays. Have you seen if he follows the right guidance or enjoins piety?

Think: if he denies the truth and gives no heed, does he not know that Allah observes all things?

Let him desist, or We will drag him by the forelock, his lying, sinful forelock.

---

1. Makkah.

96.18 Then let him call his helpmates. We, in Our turn, will call the angels of punishment.

96.19 No, never obey him! Prostrate yourself and come nearer.

**Sura 97**

**"Al-Qadr" THE NIGHT OF GLORY**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

97.1 We revealed this (Quran) on the Night of Qadr. Would that you knew what the Night of Qadr is like!

Better is the Night of Qadr than a thousand months. On that night the angels and the Spirit by their Lord's leave come down with all His decrees.

97.5 (That night is) peace, till the break of dawn.

**Sura 98**

**"Al-Bayyina" THE CLEAR PROOF**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

98.1 The unbelievers among the People of the Book and the pagans would not desist (from unbelief) until the Clear Proof was given them: an apostle from Allah reading purified pages containing correct decrees.

Nor did the People of the Book disagree among themselves until the Clear Proof was given them. Yet they were enjoined to serve Allah offering him sincere devotion, to attend to their prayers and to pay the alms-tax. That, surely, is the true faith.

The unbelievers among the People of the Book and the pagans shall burn for ever in the fire of Hell. They are the vilest of all creatures.

98.8 But those that embrace the faith and do good works are the noblest of all creatures. Allah will reward them with the Gardens of Eden, gardens watered by running streams, where

they shall dwell for ever.

Allah is well pleased with them and they with Him. Thus shall the God-fearing be rewarded.

#### Sura 99

#### "Al-Zalzala" THE EARTHQUAKE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**99.1** When the earth is shaken in her last convulsion; when the earth brings forth its burdens and man asks 'What may this mean?' On that day it will proclaim its tidings, for your Lord will have inspired it.

**99.4** On that day mankind will come in broken bands to be shown their labours. Whoever does an atom's weight

**99.8** of good shall see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil shall see it also.

#### Sura 100

#### "Al-'Adiyat" THE WAR STEEDS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**100.1** By the snorting runners, which strike fire with their hoofs, and which attack at dawn, and thereby raise dust, and split the gathering (enemy). Surely man is ungrateful to his Lord. To this he himself shall bear witness.

**100.8** And truly on account of his love of wealth he is niggardly. Is he not aware that when those in the graves are raised and what is in the breasts is laid

**100.11** open, their Lord on that day will be Knowing?

## THE DISASTER

### Sura 101

"Al-Qari'a"

### THE DISASTER

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**101.1** The Disaster! What is the Disaster?

Would that you knew what the Disaster is!

On that day men shall become like scattered moths and the mountains like tufts of carded wool.

Then he whose scales are heavy shall dwell in bliss; but he whose scales are light, the Abyss shall be his home.

If only you knew what this is like!

**101.11** It is a scorching fire.

### Sura 102

"Al-Takathur"

### WORLDLY GAIN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**102.1** You are distracted by worldly gain until you visit the graves.

But no, you shall know. Again no, you shall know.

Indeed, if you knew the truth with certainty, you would see the fire of Hell: you would see it with your very eyes.

**102.8** On that day, you shall be questioned about the pleasures (you indulged in).

### Sura 103

"Al-'Asr"

### TIME

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**103.1-3** By time, man is in loss, except those who believe and do good works and exhort one another to truth and to patience.

Sura 104

"Al-Humaza"

THE SLANDERER

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

104.1 Woe to every backbiting slanderer who amasses wealth and counts it, thinking his wealth will render him immortal!

By no means! They shall be flung to the Destroying Flame.

Would that you knew what the Destroying Flame is like!

It is Allah's own kindled fire, which will rise up to the hearts of men. It will close upon them from every

104.9 side, in towering columns.

Sura 105

"Al-Fil"

THE ELEPHANT

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

105.1 Have you not considered how Allah dealt with the Masters of the Elephant?<sup>1</sup>

Did He not foil their strategem and send against them flocks of birds which pelted them with claystones, so that they became like plants cropped by

105.5 cattle?

Sura 106

"Quraysh"

QURAYSH

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

106.1 For the protection of Quraysh: their protection in their summer and winter journeyings.

---

1. The allusion is to the expedition of Abraha against Makkah. It took place in the year in which Muhammad was born.

## ACTS OF KINDNESS

106.4 Therefore let them worship the Lord of this House who fed them in the days of famine and shielded them from all perils.

### Sura 107

"Al-Ma'un"

#### ACTS OF KINDNESS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

107.1 Have you thought of him that denies the Last Judgement? It is he who turns away the orphan and does not urge others to feed the poor.

Woe to those who pray but are unmindful of their prayer; who make a show (of piety) and give no alms

107.7 to the destitute.

### Sura 108

"Al-Kawthar"

#### ABUNDANCE

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

108.1 We have given you<sup>1</sup> abundance. Pray to your

108.3 Lord and sacrifice to Him. He that hates you shall remain childless.

### Sura 109

"Al-Kafirun"

#### THE UNBELIEVERS

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

109.1 Say: 'Unbelievers, I do not worship what you worship, nor do you worship what I worship. I shall never worship what you worship, nor will you ever worship what I worship. You have your own

109.6 religion, and I have mine.'

---

1. Muhammad.



**Sura 110**

**"Al-Nasr"**

**HELP**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**110.1** When Allah's help and victory come, and you see men embrace His religion in multitudes,

**110.3** celebrate the praise of your Lord and seek His pardon. He is ever disposed to mercy.

**Sura 111**

**"Al-Lahab"**

**THE FLAME**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**111.1** May the hands of Abu-Lahab perish! May he himself perish!

Nothing shall his wealth and gains avail him.

**111.5** He shall be burnt in a flaming fire, and his wife, laden with faggots, shall have a rope of fibre round her neck!

**Sura 112**

**"Al-Ikhlās"**

**UNITY**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**112.1** Say: 'Allah is One, the Eternal God. He begot

**112.4** none, nor was He begotten. None is equal to Him.'

**Sura 113**

**"Al-Falaq"**

**DAYBREAK**

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**113.1** Say: 'I seek refuge in the Lord of the Daybreak from the

## MEN

mischief of His creation, from the mischief of the night when she spreads her darkness; from the mischief of witches blowing on knots; and from the mischief of the envier when he`

113.5 envies.

### Sura 114

“Al-Nas”

MEN

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

114.1 Say: 'I seek refuge in the Lord of men, the King of men, the God of men, from the slinking prompter who whispers in the

114.6 hearts of men; both jinn and men.'

*In the Name of Allah,  
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

This translation of the meaning of the noble Quran is not just another translation. It meets a pressing and longfelt need among non- Arabic speaking Muslims, and non-Muslims as well, for an English translation rendered as accurately as possible into modern English and approved by Muslim religious authorities.

It was to meet this need that Dar Al-Choura charged Dr. Mahmud Zayid of the American University of Beirut with the checking and revising of the Penguin Classics translation by N.J. Dawood. Dr. Zayid did this with the assistance of a committee of scholars among whom were professors Umar Farrukh, Majid Fakhri and Mr. Ali Aqil. On completion of the work, the resulting version was submitted for approval to both the Supreme Muslim Sunni and Shii Councils in the Republic of Lebanon. Approval was secured and documented as per their certificates attached.

It is hoped that the reader will find this translation both easily understandable and useful for the entire mankind.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
In the Name of  
Allah, the Compassionate,  
the Merciful

DAR AL-IFTA

دار الإفتاء

DAR AL-CHOURA  
BEIRUT

Peace be upon you!

With reference to your letter No. 335/34 dated 28/5/1980 concerning the printing of the translation into English of the meaning of the Quran, submitted by DAR AL-CHOURA.

We inform you that having got the above-mentioned translation checked by our special committee we give permission for its publication and circulation.

With our best wishes!

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF  
THE AFFAIRES RELATING

BEIRUT 15/7/1401 A.H  
29/5/1980



TO IFTA  
*Mouatly*  
BE-HOUSAIN QUIWATLY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of  
Allah, the Compassionate,  
the Merciful

*The Supreme Shii Council  
The Republic of Lebanon  
Beirut*

المجلس الأعلى  
للشريعة الإسلامية  
بجمهورية  
لبنان  
بيروت

*DAR AL-CHOURA  
BEIRUT*

*Peace be upon you !*

*With reference to your translation of the meaning  
of the Quran into English.*

*We inform you that, having examined it, we  
strongly recommend it to the readers and approve its  
printing and circulation.*

*BEIRUT. 6/8/1400 A.H.  
19/6/1980*

*for The Supreme Shii Council*



**ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

**OF**

**THE HOLY QURAN**

**Assisted by a Committee  
Of Muslim Scholars**

**APPROVED BY**

*The Supreme Sunni and Shii Councils of the  
Republic of Lebanon*

**DAR AL-CHOURA OF LEBANON**

have been gracious enough to accord their permission for the printing of this translation of Holy Quran for both Muslims and non-Muslims and for spreading the message of Almighty God for the benefit of entire mankind.

**REQUEST**

It is essential for every Muslim to recite the Holy Quran which is in Arabic language.

**WITHOUT ANY COST**

For conveying reward of virtue for all followers of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Date of Issue August, 1996

