THE QUR'AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF

QXP

(Fourth Edition)

Shabbir Ahmed, M.D., Florida

Editor: Iftikhar Ahmad, Ph.D, North Carolina
Chief Adviser: Arif Shamim, Karachi
Project Director (Online): Raquib Hassan, Australia

Contents

Contents **ii**

Acknowledgement **vii**

Preface **ix**
The First Dilemma x
The Second Dilemma xii
Now The Third Dilemma xii
The Bewilderment xii
A Project Done In Full Public View xiii

Introduction **xv**
Glossary - Some Terminology xvi
Prophets named in the Qur'an xxii

1 Al-Fatihah - The Opening **1**

2 Al-Baqarah - The Cow **5**

3 Aal-e-´Imran - The Family Of Imran **87**

4 An-Nisaa - The Women **129**

5 Al Maaedah - The Heavenly System Of Sustenance **171**

6 Al-An´aam - The Cattle **203**

7 Al-A´raaf - The Heights Of Discernment **237**

8 Al-Anfal - The Spoils Of War **277**

9 At-Taubah - The Repentance **293**

10 Yunus - Jonah **323**

11 Hud - Hud **345**

12 Yusuf - Joseph **367**

13 Ar-Ra´d - The Thunder **389**

14 Ibraheem - Abraham **399**

15 Al-Hijr - The Valley Of Rocks **411**

16 An-Nahl - The Bee **423**

17 Al-Asra - The Night Journey **447**

18 Al-Kahf - The Cave **467**

19 Maryam - Mary **487**

20 Ta-Ha - The Ideal Prophet **501**

21 Al-Anbiya - The Prophets **521**

22 Al-Hajj - The Annual Convention (Pilgrimage) **539**

23 Al-Mu´minoon - The Believers **555**

24 An-Noor - The Light **571**

25 Al-Furqan - The Criterion **587**

26 Ash-Shu´ara - The Poets **599**

27 An-Naml - The Valley Of An-Naml **623**

28 Al-Qasas - The Narration **639**

29 Al-´Ankaboot - The Spider **657**

30 Ar-Room - The Romans **671**

31 Luqman - Locomon **683**

32 As-Sajdah - Adoration **691**

33 Al-Ahzab - The Confederates **697**

34 Saba - Sheba **713**

35 Al-Faatir - The Originator **725**

36 Ya-Seen - O Human Being! **735**

37 As-Saffaat - Soldiers In Ranks **747**

38 Saad - Full Of Truth **765**

39 Az-Zumar - The Communities **777**

40 Al-Mu´min - The Believer **793**

41 Fussilat - A Book Clearly Spelled Out **809**

42 Ash-Shura - Mutual Consultation **821**

43 Az-Zukhruf - Ornaments Of Gold **833**

44 Ad-Dukhaan - The Smoke **847**

45 Al-Jaathia - Kneeling Down **855**

46 Al-Ahqaaf - The Sand-Dunes **863**

47 Muhammad - Muhammad **871**

48 Al-Fath - Victory **879**

49 Al-Hujurat - The Private Apartments **887**

50 Qaaf - Qaaf **893**

51 Az-Zaariyat - Those Who Spread The Divine Word 899

52 At-Toor - Mount Sinai 907

53 An-Najm - The Star 913

54 Al-Qamar - The Full Moon 921

55 Ar-Rahman - The Beneficent 927

56 Al-Waaqi´ah - The Inevitable Episode 937

57 Al-Hadeed - Iron 947

58 Al-Mujadilah - The Pleading 955

59 AL-Hashr - The Gathering 961

60 Al-Mumtahinah - The Lady Under Oath 967

61 As-Saff - The Rank 971

62 Al-Jumu´ah - The Congregation 975

63 Al-Munaafiqoon - The Hypocrites 979

64 At-Taghaabun - The Ultimate Loss And Gain 983

65 At-Talaq - Divorce 987

66 At-Tahreem - Prohibition 991

67 Al-Mulk - The Supreme Kingdom 995

68 Al-Qalam - The Pen 1001

69 Al-Haaqqah - The Inevitable Reality 1007

70 Al-Ma´aarij - The Stairways Of Ascent 1013

71 Nooh - Noah 1019

72 Al-Jinn - The Unseen Beings 1023

73 Al-Muzammil - The Great Caravan Leader 1029

74 Al-Muddaththir - Founder Of The Benevolent Order 1033

75 Al-Qiyamah - The Resurrection 1041

76 Ad-Dahr - The Time 1047

77 Al-Mursalaat - The Messages Sent Forth 1053

78 An-Naba - The News 1059

79 An-Nazi´aat - Those Who Dive 1065

80 ´Abasa - Someone Frowned 1071

81 At-Takweer - The Folding Up 1077

82 Al-Infitaar - The Shattering 1081

83 At-Tatfeef - Dealing In Fraud **1085**

84 Al-Inshiqaaq - The Sundering **1091**

85 Al-Burooj - The Great Constellations **1095**

86 At-Taariq - The Brightest Star **1099**

87 Al-A´la - The Most High **1103**

88 Al-Ghaashiyah - The Great Covering **1107**

89 Al-Fajr - The Daybreak **1111**

90 Al-Balad - The Town **1115**

91 Ash-Shams - The Sun **1119**

92 Al-Lail - The Night **1121**

93 Ad-Duha - The Daylight **1125**

94 Ash-Sharh - The Expansion **1127**

95 At-Teen - The Fig **1129**

96 Al-´Alaq - The Zygote **1131**

97 Al-Qadr - The Majesty **1135**

98 Al-Bayyinah - The Clear Evidence **1137**

99 Az-Zilzal - The Quake **1139**

100 Al-´Aadiyat - The Gallopers **1141**

101 Al-Qaari´ah - The Catastrophe **1143**

102 At-Takaathur - The Relentless Greed **1145**

103 Al-´Asr - Time That Flies **1147**

104 Al-Humazah - The Slanderer **1149**

105 Al-Feel - The Elephant **1151**

106 Quraish - The Tribe Of Quraish **1153**

107 Al-Maa´oon - The Spring Of Sustenance **1155**

108 Al-Kauthar - The Abundant Good **1157**

109 Al-Kaafiroon - Those Who Deny The Truth **1159**

110 An-Nasr - The Help **1161**

111 Al-Lahab - The Flame **1163**

112 Al-Ikhlas - The Pure Monotheism **1165**

113 Al-Falaq - The Rising Dawn **1167**

114 An-Naas - Mankind **1169**

Self-actualization and Human Destiny **1171**

Paradise And Hellfire **1173**
Paradise 1173
Hellfire 1173

Acknowledgement

Respected readers, Peace and blessings to you!

Respected readers, Peace and blessings to you! I must express my sincere gratitude to Arif Shamim of Karachi. God has gifted him with a most exceptional command over "Tasreef-il-Ayaat", that is, connecting with due reference various Qur'anic verses on related subjects, and thus showing the Glorious Book in its Big Picture. He is a gentleman with profound knowledge of the Arabic linguistics, Islamic theology and history. He has reviewed the entire script, and given me some extremely useful input.

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad of North Carolina is a highly educated and very widely read gentleman. He is an accomplished writer and editor of many books. He is an outstanding Islamic and scientific scholar in his own right. His expertise in many areas of science has contributed significantly to the modern exposition of many Qur'anic verses and concepts.

I will remain profoundly grateful to my honorable brother in Islam, Hossein Kowsari of California, for carefully reviewing QXPiii. He had very kindly edited the entire document and given numerous ideas and precious suggestions. His ideas and suggestions have been so valuable and convincing that most of them have been incorporated into the QXPiv text almost in their entirety, after due reflection. Without these brothers' precious advice, editing and input, we would have missed much of the quality of this rendition. May God reward them in both lives!

Finally, I must take the responsibility. All that is good and correct in QXPiv (The Qur'an As It Explains Itself, fourth edition) derives from the grace of God. Any errors or faults belong to this life-long student, and for that, he sincerely seeks the protection of forgiveness from his Sustainer. We will remain open to comments and suggestions for the next edition.
Sincerely,
Shabbir Ahmed, M.D.

Preface

The author of the Qur'an is none but Almighty God. Before the reader is an English rendition of the Glorious Book by Shabbir Ahmed (1947 to ?) an ordinary servant of God.

The work, although close to translation, is more of an understanding from within the Qur'an itself. This Divine Writ calls itself An-Noor (the Light) and light needs no extrinsic sources to show itself. Therefore, I have based my presentation on two principles:

1. Focusing on the language in which the Qur'an was revealed.
2. Making use of Tasreef, that is, how the Qur'an repeats its messages from very diverse vantage points.

A diligent study of the Book using Tasreef helps us look at the Qur'an in its Big Picture, and this method gives us a phenomenal advantage toward its understanding.

I have rendered the terms and linguistics of the Qur'an using the Quraish (Quresh) dialect of Makkah since it is the Arabic dialect in which the Qur'an was revealed to the exalted Muhammad bin Abdullah, the Final Prophet, Messenger and Apostle of God. [570-632 CE]

> 19:97 And only to this end We have made this (Qur'an) easy to understand in your own tongue (O Prophet). That you might convey thereby glad news to the righteous and warn people given to futile disputation.

Being a young member of the Saudi royal medical staff, I had the good fortune of learning the Quraish dialect in the 1970s under the auspices of King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz and King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. I was blessed with the opportunity to learn Islamic theology in the University of Madinah after having learnt the subject under the guidance of the celebrated names of Qari Baqaullah and 'Maulana' Ehtishamul Haq Thanwi in Karachi during my college days in the 1960s. In addition, the opportunity to socialize with the Bedouins was certainly a great advantage since even today they frequently speak the Quraish dialect. Learning the dialect, by no means, amounts to absorbing the Saudi theology.

Some of the well-known western scholars who learned Arabic by socializing with the Bedouins:

- In the 1810s - The Swiss Muslim traveler-explorer, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt (Sheikh Ibrahim bin Abdullah 1784-1817).
- 1850s - The British Muslim Sir Richard F. Burton (1821-1890), adventurer-explorer-soldier-writer, famous for the first ever English translation of "The Arabian Nights".
- 1860s - The German non-Muslim scholar-traveler-explorer, Heinrich von Maltzan (1826-1874). Unfortunately, upon his return from Arabia, much furor was raised by his fellow men and the dejected von Maltzan went to Italy and committed suicide by throwing himself from the Tower of Pisa!
- 1920s - The Austrian Muslim Leopold Weiss (Muhammad Asad 1900-1992), traveler-explorer, journalist-author, exponent of the Qur'an.
- 1960s - The French, not widely announced, Muslim surgeon-scholar-author, Maurice Bucaille. (1920-?)

The first ever commentaries of the Qur'an were written in the third and fourth centuries after the exalted Messenger during the Abbasid Dynasty when Zoroastrian influence held sway in Islamic politics, society and even in the Arabic literature. The commentators of the Qur'an, historians, Muhadditheen (the Hadith/Tradition collectors) and Fuqaha ('Islamic' Jurists) overwhelmingly originated from among the non-Arab Persians.

The late Allama Ahmad Amin Al-Masri sums up the resulting chaos in his excellent work Fajril Islam:

> "Very certainly, the reader will agree with me that the Persian literature gave an entirely alien complexion to the Arabic linguistics."

Many celebrated thinkers and authors in the Islamic world strongly agree with the Egyptian scholar on this score. We need not go into details since the point will become sufficiently clear soon, when we cite some examples.

How was mankind robbed of God's Final revelation? He Himself extols this revelation, "And this grace of your Lord is better than all the treasures that they may amass." [10:57-58,16:53, 16:71, 43:32]

By robbing I mean giving alien, erroneous and misleading meanings and concepts to the original matchless, powerful and glorious Qur'anic terms. Here is how it happened:

The First Dilemma

While the language of the Qur'an remained untouched, its words and terms were made to lose the splendor they so beautifully conveyed in the original, revealed Arabic. So much so, that the Qur'anic terms were dressed up with the erroneous philosophies prevalent in the once Zoroastrian culture of Persia, and they became widely accepted even among the Arabs!

This staggering tragedy explains why, how and where, even the Arabic speaking people lose their touch with the Qur'an! The Book describes this staggering tragedy very clearly,

> 25:30 And the Messenger will say, "O My Lord! These are my people, the ones who had disabled this Qur'an making it of no account." [They had immobilized it like villagers who bind a cow by tying her front foot to her horn. Mahjoor = A cow thus immobilized]

This ill treatment of the Divine message and the subsequent filling of the void with conjecture is THE cause of the Muslim downfall on a Global scale.

Any nation that holds on to this Divine Writ in letter and spirit can build a Paradise on earth. The early Islamic history is a great testimonial to this claim, but we will explore this point a little further.

How, then, do the others continue to make progress? Naturally, a very important question arises here. In the last several centuries, the West and many other non-Muslim countries have been making spellbinding advances in education, science and technology and in their governmental systems without the Qur'an! The short answer is that they have been using well their faculties of reason and intellectual inquiry.

Another very significant factor has been quietly playing its role in this regard. The Qur'an has been, perceptibly and imperceptibly, making a Universal impact on human civilization during the last fourteen centuries. The celebrated French surgeon, thinker and historian, Robert Briffault (1876-1978) has very convincingly elaborated this fact in his remarkable work, "The Making of Humanity."

But Muslims, after disabling the Divine revelation, have also allowed their intellect to paralyze. They have fallen easy prey to the utterly senseless dogmas fabricated centuries after the exalted Prophet and his noble companions.

However, the rule stands for all that the Last revelation of God economizes human effort (Sir Allama Iqbal). It can give them eminence they have never imagined before, scientific and moral achievements side by side, in a short span of time without having to go through the prolonged ordeal of learning through trial and error. And thus, they can adopt a progressive system of life that embraces all that is good, promoting the well-being of humanity, while avoiding all that is evil and harmful. Furthermore, this Revealed System of Life is fully sustainable and durable.

How Does The Current Arabic Rob The Qur'an?

44:58 Certainly, (O Prophet) We have made this Qur'an easy in your tongue, in order that they may take it to heart.

69:40 This is the revealed Word in the dialect of a noble Messenger.

81:19 This is the revealed Word in the dialect of a noble Messenger. [44:58, 69:40]

It is of paramount importance to know that the mentioned dialect is not extinct. It is very much alive and well in the Pre-Islamic and 'Para-Islamic' poetry and well preserved in some good dictionaries such as Tajil 'Uroos, Lisanil 'Arab, Qamoos, Lane's Lexicon, Al-Mufridaat Fi Ghareebil Qur'an and Lughaatil Qur'an. The first of these practically embraces the next two and the last one is from Arabic to Urdu. Edward Lane's Lexicon is primarily based on Tajil 'Uroos. The role of the desert nomads, especially in the Empty Quarter, has already been mentioned.

I will keep this discourse brief since nothing is more convincing than citing relevant examples. Plenty of such examples are given throughout the rendition for the reader to see for himself how the Ajami (Non-Arab, and more specifically, non-Qur'anic) concepts rob the Qur'anic terms of their clarity, power and grandeur.

Herein are given only a few of those examples:

- ***Taqwa*** is usually translated as: Righteousness, goodness, avoiding evil, God-consciousness, warding off evil, piety, fearing God, doing good etc.

  Now a non-Muslim, or even a bright Muslim youngster may ask, "Well, the Qur'an in the very beginning claims that it is a guidance for the righteous, the God-conscious, he who wards off evil, the pious, he who fears God, one who does good works. But, why should such people need any guidance?"

  The answer lies in the Quraish dialect that describes Taqwa as walking in security, like someone who strolls through a garden but watches his garment against getting entangled in bushes and thorns. All of a sudden the verse now makes beautiful sense, that the Qur'an is a Guide to those who wish to journey through life in honor and security.

- ***Manyyasha*** is almost invariably translated as 'whatever God wills.' Since this term appears in the Qur'an very frequently, its wrong translation lays down the foundation of 'Fatalism' in Islam. Such erroneous translations can only convey abject messages and results like this: 'God honors whomever He wills and humiliates whomever He wills.' Or, 'God sends astray whomever He wills and guides whomever He wills.' An intelligent reader has every right to ask, "Why then did God reveal His message in the first place?"

  The original Qur'anic meaning of Manyyasha is, 'according to His laws'. God has appointed laws for success vs failure, and for guidance vs straying. [And these laws are given in the Qur'an. See 4:88]

- Such terms as ***Sayyeh, Ithm, Zanb, Fisq, 'Udwaan*** and the like are all blanketed together as the vague term 'SIN'. I have let the Qur'an explain the true meanings of each term repeatedly in the text, at times in parentheses.

- ***Zulm*** has almost always been given a very vague meaning, 'wrongdoing'. But the Qur'anic concept of Zulm is extremely clear and appealing: To displace something from its rightful place – to harm one's own self – violation of human rights – oppression – relegating the truth – to hurt anyone. These meanings become crystal clear in their context in every single related verse.

- ***Hasanah, Khair, Saalehat, 'Amal-e-Saaleh, Birr*** etc are all blanketed together as the vague 'good deeds'. The correct Qur'anic meanings I have incorporated in the text at the relevant places.

- In addition, the true Qur'anic understanding of terms such as Adam, Angels, Satan, Jinn, Salaat, Zakaat, Saum, Hajj, The Unseen, The Occult Phenomena, Belief, Kufr, Resurrection, The Law of Requital, Duniya, The Hereafter, Haraam, Halaal, Jihad, Islam, Iman, and many more will repeatedly be found in the text just as the Qur'an explains them.

  A brief Glossary has been included in the Introduction of QXPiv.

The Second Dilemma

It occurred when the commentators of the Qur'an, centuries after its revelation, tried to connect every verse with a certain historical event, calling the process Shaan-e-Nuzool (Circumstances of a revelation.) Here the words and terms of the Qur'an were given tailor-made meanings to fit the supposed story, with total disregard to their original vibrant meanings, concepts and messages.

This deplorable practice only serves to bind the verses of the Timeless Qur'an to some supposed incidents and chain the Word of God in another set of shackles!

A very significant Islamic jurist, Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (d. 241 AH) in those early times saw the chaos and raised a very strong voice against this awful practice, "Three kinds of books are absolutely unfounded, Maghaazi, Malaahem and Tafseer" - (The exalted Prophet's battles, his dreams, and expositions of the Qur'an done by ancient scholars). [Ref: Tazkarah-til-Maudhua'at by Ash-Shaikh Muhammad Tahir Al-Makki and Maudhu'aat-e-Kabeer by Mulla Ali Qari]

Worst of all, and inevitably so, this conjecture of Shaan-e-Nuzool was attributed to the exalted Prophet and his noble companions. This led people into believing that this was how they (the Prophet and his companions) used to understand the Qur'an! So, the foundation of an Islamic decline was laid down and mankind was robbed of the Supreme Gift of guidance bestowed upon them by the Creator!

Now The Third Dilemma

The later generations of translators and commentators have uncritically followed the men of old and this tendency has been consistently taking its noxious toll. They have been thinking of the Ajami Arabic as the known Language of the Qur'an. By Ajami Arabic I mean applying the Zoro-Persian or any alien concepts to the Arabic words and terms of the Qur'an.

Please recall that this deplorable practice of "Shaan-e-Nuzool" was given legitimacy during the Abbasid Dynasty to the extent that the alien, empty and erroneous concepts given to the Qur'anic terms became widely known and well accepted. The Mighty Word of God, the great Equalizer of humanity, threatened the personal interests of the elite, whereas a 'disabled' Qur'an very well suited the ulterior motives of the Royalty, the Elite and the Islamic priesthood. A formidable coalition of this 'eternally' sinister TRIO thus made inroads into Islam and supported each other toward a common goal, that is, exploitation and enrichment at the expense of the masses who, in turn, violated one another's, and particularly women's rights.

The later commentators whether Arabs or non-Arabs, have since looked at the Qur'an with the tinted glasses of the earlier Mufassireen (commentators or exponents.) This dilemma has only helped perpetuate the pathetic state of mental slavery of the "Islamic" world to this day.

The Bewilderment

Muslims, then, keep wondering: What went wrong? What has happened to us? How can we stand up? Which way should we go? What brought upon us the current, in fact, the last many centuries of global humiliation? Is a Renaissance possible? If yes, how is it possible?

The answer is one word, Al-Qur'an, in its true meanings as the companions of the Prophet understood and strove to apply it and, thereupon, success embraced their feet at every step and in every walk of life.

Respected reader! Right before you is my sincere effort to break free of those "time-honored" shackles of mental slavery, and to breathe in some fresh air – (QXP) The Qur'an As It Explains Itself.

A Project Done In Full Public View

"The Qur'an As It Explains Itself", with its first edition completed in April 2003, is the first ever rendition of the Qur'an into any language that has been done in full public view. From the very first letter in Dec 2001, it had been made available on the Internet. This proved to be a great blessing. Some great scholars of the Qur'an and of the Arabic linguistics, helped me to make this exposition as clear as possible.

Respectfully, here is the fourth edition, and God willing, I hope to continue working for another improved edition.
THANKS!
Shabbir Ahmed, M.D.
Florida
July 2007

Introduction

QXP is a Tasreef-based understanding of the Qur'an presented in contemporary English that is easy enough even for teen-agers. It is not a literal translation.

Tasreef is the Qur'anic process where verses in one part of the Qur'an explain or provide deeper understanding of the verses in other parts of the Book. Concisely, it means looking at the Qur'an in its Big Picture. The Qur'an, thus, lets us look at its terms and concepts from very diverse vantage points. This is how special care has been taken to explain every verse from within the Qur'an itself.

The respected reader should expect to find "The Qur'an As It Explains Itself" different from the prevalent translations and explanations because of the use of Tasreef and the Quraish dialect, and for rejecting extrinsic sources.

I have purposely refrained from explaining the Qur'an through extrinsic sources such as Hadith and a very questionable History. Hadith means the supposed sayings of the exalted Prophet collected through hearsay centuries after him. Using these two 'sources' for translating or explaining the Qur'an in the distant and recent past has only served to confound the Word of God with manmade traditions and it takes away the profound glory of the Divine message.

Hadith

In QXP, relevant historical accounts have been given only sparingly for the interested reader and they have no bearing on the Pristine Divine message.

The following three principles applied in this rendition are derived from the Qur'an itself:

1. The Qur'an explains itself. [6:115, 10:37, 75:17-19]
2. It repeats its verses from diverse angles for clear understanding. [17:41, 17:89, 18:54, and quite a few other verses]
3. It has been revealed in the Plain Arabic of its times. [12:2, 19:97, 20:113, 39:28, 44:58]

The Prophet (S), who was born and raised in Makkah (Mecca), belonged to the prominent Quraish tribe. Since the Makkans were the first audience, the Qur'an was revealed in their dialect.

> 19:97 And only to this end We have made this (Qur'an) easy to understand in your own tongue (O Prophet). That you might convey thereby glad news to the righteous and warn people given to futile disputation.

> 44:58 Certainly, (O Prophet) We have made this Qur'an easy in your tongue, in order that they may take it to heart. [69:40]

Surah means a fence and thus it implies a Chapter that encircles some ayahs (verses). There are 114 Chapters *(Surahs)* in the Qur'an with just over 6,200 verses in all. By volume, the Qur'an is a much smaller Book than the Bible.

Notes: The reader should not expect the Qur'an to follow a historical time-line as the Bible does. It presents its guidance in an apparently random manner, but a close examination reveals a definite arrangement of the messages as we go along. As usual, the Surah and verse numbers in this rendition are kept simple. 2:101 will mean Surah 2 verse 101 and so on.

About the use of parentheses ( ) and brackets [ ] ... Whenever the reader finds a sentence that is not seen in the original Arabic verse, it will be representing another verse found elsewhere in the Qur'an and, where appropriate, the proper reference will be given right there. In this effort, no meanings will be imported from outside of the Qur'an.

A conscious effort will be made to keep the brackets after the verses whenever possible. Historical notes, author's comments and linguistic explanations too will be given in brackets or parentheses.

The use of (S) after the name of Prophet Muhammad should be read as 'Our salutes to him'.

The verse numbering in different copies of the Qur'an may vary by one. For example, 6:142 may be 6:143 and vice versa in different publications. Rarely, the reader may have to check one verse before and one after the given reference, which in itself is a good practice to get the context. But, leading publishers of the Qur'an must unify the numbering of the verses.

Glossary - Some Terminology

It will help the reader to become familiar with some important terminology frequently used in the Qur'an, right in the beginning.

- ***Deen*** = The System of Life = The Divinely Prescribed Way of Life = In a loose sense, 'religion', a ritualistic Way of Life = Any system of life = 'Religion' even with a capital R may scarcely come close in meaning to the term Deen.
- ***Salaat*** = To follow closely, like a runners-up (Musalli) follows the winning horse (Saabiq) = To follow Divine Commands closely.
- ***Aqimussallat*** = Establish the System that facilitates the following of Divine Commands.
- ***Zakaat*** = The Just Economic Order where everyone works according to one's capacity and is compensated according to the needs. People spend on others or give to the Central Authority (Islamic government) whatever is surplus (2:219). And they do so whenever they earn any income (6:141). The System of Zakaat is managed by the Central Authority that ensures the development of the individuals and the society. The 2.5 percent annual mandatory charity is a non-Qur'anic concept that trivializes the comprehensive Qur'anic System of Zakaat.
- ***Sadaqaat*** = Charity or alms is meant only for the interim period whenever and wherever the Divinely Prescribed System of Life is not yet in place.
- ***Allah wa Rasool*** = For Central Authority, the Qur'an uses the terms Allah and Rasool (3:32, 4:59). After the exalted Messenger, it is obligatory upon the believers to elect their leadership through a consultative process in a manner suitable for the times.
- ***Tilawah*** = Reciting and studying with reflection.
- ***Awliya*** = Protecting friends = Allies = Masters.
- ***Maula*** = The True Master = Lord Supreme. The extremely common practice of calling a religious leader as Maulana (Our Master) is a frank, deplorable form of Shirk (associating others with God). But the clergy take pride in it! Many verses in the Qur'an tell us that there is no Maulana but God (2:286, 9:51, 10:30, 34:31). It is amazing to note that the Muslim clergy write Maulana with their names, and with their own hands.
- ***'Ibadah*** = Obeying God by serving His creation = Worship? - Applies in the sense of 'worship' to idols only.
- ***Israaf*** = Wasting resources or one's own 'self' = Crossing limits = Moving away from moderation = Committing excesses in any aspect of life including Religion = Defying Moral Values given in the Qur'an = Using intoxicants that waste the human 'self'.
- ***Ma'siah*** = Rebelling against God and the rightly guided Central Authority = Disobeying the law = Disruptive behavior = Disobeying the Word of God and the Messenger as embodied in the Qur'an.
- ***Ifk*** = Backbiting = Evil scheming = Defaming = Undue criticism = Fault finding = Slander = Presenting the 'heard' as 'seen' = Alarmist behavior.
- ***Zann*** = False assumptions about people = Condemnation without investigation = Slander = Falling for superstitions = Belittling the truth = Following conjecture = Staying out of touch with reality.

- ***Jurm*** = Stealing the fruit of others' labor = Violating human rights = Being guilty of living subhuman life = Witnessing for falsehood = Depriving others from their rights = Devouring others' possessions = Not giving share where it is due.

- ***Takabbur*** = False pride = Arrogance = Self-glorification = Holding others in contempt = Refusing to learn and unlearn = Insisting on blind following = Refusing to admit fault = Being forward before the Divine message = Mocking the truth = Deeming to 'know it all' = Considering material goods higher than moral virtue.

- ***Ghill*** = Harboring malice in the heart = Failing to forgive people = Looking forward to take revenge = Plotting to hurt physically, financially or emotionally = Being hateful = Opposition for the sake of opposition = Incriminating others for personal grudge.

- ***Ghadhab*** = Anger. Letting loose virulent emotions = Succumbing to desires = Yelling at people = Intimidating the weak = Losing self-control = Impulsive attitude.

- ***Bukhl*** = Stinginess = Hoarding = Withholding own wealth and person from serving humanity = Apathy toward the needy = Being greedy.

- ***Laghw*** = Wasting precious time = Idle talk = Meaningless assemblies = Conspiring = Senseless play and pastime.

- ***Sadd*** = Barring oneself or others from the path of God = Putting forward human thoughts above the Divine revelation = Hindering immigration from the domain of evil = Antagonizing the Word of God = Presenting falsehood as truth = Misleading people with conjecture = Hindering the way to the Divinely ordained System of Life.

- ***Jadal*** = Disputation = Argument for the sake of argument = Opposing Divine revelation = Confusing human thought = Confounding the truth with rhetoric.

- ***Jinn*** = Something hidden, rarely seen. So, after using Tasreef, Al-Jinn = The nomads. Jannah from the same root means a garden hidden in foliage. When the Jinns or nomads move to dwell in towns and become civilized, they are referred to as Ins.

- ***Ins*** = Urbanites = Humans including the nomads.

- ***Faasiqoon*** (singular, Faasiq) = Those who drift away = Who slip out of discipline = Those who cross the bounds of what is right = Fruit whose seed slips out = One who transgresses Divine laws and thus becomes vulnerable to desire and extrinsic challenge.

- ***Fisq*** = Drifting away from the commands or from discipline = 'Sin' = Disregarding moral values.

- ***Zanb*** = Tail = Trailing behind = 'Sin'.

- ***Sharr*** = Harming others or one's own self. Hurting the good potential in others. Injuring people by any means. Harming the society. Bad conduct = 'Evil' = 'Sin'.

- ***Sayyeh*** = Harming others = Disrupting people's lives = Treating them unfairly = Destabilizing the lives of others = Failing to fulfill their rights = Injustice = Iniquity = Deceiving in business or other dealings = Falling short in discharging duties = Favoritism = 'Sin'.

- ***'Amal Su*** = Any action that disrupts the lives of others = 'Sin'

- ***'Amal Saaleh*** = An act of social welfare = Helping others = Increasing the societal potential = Fulfilling needs = 'Good work'.

- ***Saalehaat*** = Actions that increase the capabilities of a person or the society = Setting things right = Helping others.

- ***Saaliheen*** = The righteous ones = Those who actualize their own 'self' = Who increase human potential = Who set things right = They help others = Create balance in the society = Fulfill others' needs = The capable = Those of admirable faculties = Healthy.

- ***Birr*** = Works that lead to exponential growth of the 'self' = Creating room for advancement of all = 'Good'.

- ***Abraar*** = Those who create room for others = Those who create opportunities for others to make progress.
- ***Khair*** = A deed or act that endows a person and others with true inner happiness = 'Good'.
- ***Hasanah*** = Creating balance = Any benevolent action = 'Good'.
- ***Muhsineen*** = Doers of good = Benefactors of humanity = Those who create balance in the society.
- ***Tasbeeh from Sabah*** = Swim with long strides = Strive hard = Apply oneself to a mission = The non-Qur'anic 'Rosary beads'.
- ***Nafs*** = 'Self' = 'I', 'Ego', 'Personality', 'I-amness', 'Me'.
- ***Imaan*** = Belief = Conviction = Acceptance = Acknowledgement = Embracing the truth.
- ***Haraj*** = Difficulty = Burden = Doubt = Hardship = Blame = Tightness in chest.
- ***Kufr*** = Denial or rejection of the truth = Concealing the truth = Ingratitude = Choosing to live in the darkness of ignorance = Hiding or covering something = Closing eyes to the light of truth = Stubborn denial of the truth = Concealing the truth = Knowingly oppose the truth = Uncritical adherence to ancestral views = Trying to be with the majority without discernment.
- ***Kafir*** = One given to Kufr = One who adamantly denies or opposes the truth = Commonly translated as 'infidel' = Derivatively and positively, a farmer who hides the seed under the soil (57:20). Therefore, Kufr or Kafir does not apply to the unaware, anyone to whom the message has not been conveyed or reached.
- ***Mushrik*** = Idolater = Pagan = Anyone who ascribes divinity to other than the One True God = Who associates partners with Him = Who prefers manmade tenets = Who worships idols in any form such as statues, own desire, forces in Nature, any of God's creation = One who uncritically follows what others do = A blind follower = One who considers men as authorities instead of the Divine revelation = Anyone who makes lists of Halaal (permissible) and Haraam (forbidden) from outside the Qur'an = One who believes in clergy against the Divine revelation = Who adores saints, political or religious leaders in lieu of God = Who bows or prostrates physically or mentally before any creation = Who promotes themes, dogmas and tenets contrary to the Qur'an.
- ***Shirk*** = The act of being a Mushrik = Associating others with God = Accepting human authorities parallel to Divine revelation = Sectarianism = Idol worship in any form = Being content with manmade systems = Worshiping graves, saints, ancestors or one's own desire = Blind following or accepting religious information without discernment = Failing to use the Divine Word as the Criterion.
- ***Taqwa*** = Seeking to journey through life in security = Protect oneself from disintegration of the personality = Journeying in security = Being careful = Getting empowered against evil = Avoid overstepping the laws = Exercising caution = Preserving the 'self' against deterioration = Good conduct = Building character = Live a life upright = Fear the consequences of violating Divine Commands = Observing = Being mindful of the Creator = Remaining conscious of the Divinely ordained Values = Taking precaution = Being watchful against error.
- ***Muttaqeen*** = Those who walk on a secure path = Those who seek to journey through life in security = Those who live a life upright = Those watchful against error = The observant.
- ***Mukazzibeen*** = Rejecters of the truth = Those who verbally accept but practically deny the truth = Those who deny the truth = Who live by conjecture instead of the unalterable Divine laws.
- ***Zulm*** = Replace good with evil = Relegating the truth = Transgression = Oppression = Violation of human rights = Injustice = Wrongdoing = Displacing something from its rightful place = Oppression = Hurting others or one's own 'self' = Doing wrong to God's creatures and environment = Enslaving bodies and minds.
- ***Zaalimeen, Zaalimoon*** = Oppressors = Those who hurt themselves or others = Who displace something from its rightful place = Who relegate the truth = Violators of human rights = Those who prefer to live in the darkness of ignorance = Unjust = Commonly translated as wrongdoers.

- ***Aadam*** = Adam = Man. His wife = Woman. Udma = Ability to live together as a community. Aadam from Udma thus, indicates humankind. The word 'Eve' or Hawwa is not mentioned in the Qur'an. She is described with dignity as Mer'a-til-Aadam = Adam's Zaujah = Wife, Consort, Mate of Adam = Mrs. Adam.
- ***Sajdah*** = Prostration = Complete submission = Willful obedience = Utter humility = Adoration = Utmost commitment to Divine cause = Humbling one's own self.
- ***Rukoo'*** (Bowing) and Sajdah (Prostration) are not confined to the ritualistic physical motions. They convey a more sublime message of being humble and submitting to God's commands.
- ***Khauf*** = Fear from without. Huzn = Intrinsic depression or grief = Unhappiness = Regret.
- ***Khushoo'*** = Being humbly compliant = Sincerely committed = Being devoted to a noble cause.
- ***Sabr*** = Patience = Facing adversity with courage = Steadfastness = Resolve = Perseverance in hardship as well as ease.
- ***A'raaf*** = The Heights = Heights of intellect = Stature of those endowed with faculty of discernment = The high degrees of those who are better able to distinguish between right and wrong. Singular, 'Urf = The most elevated part of anything = Easily discernible.
- ***Shi'ra = Sha'oor*** = Intellect. Shi'ra is also the Arabic name of the brightest star Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. It was widely worshiped in ancient Middle East. (53:49)
- ***Shafa'ah*** = Stand up as witness to the truth = Intercession = Clearing a falsehood assigned to someone = Defending the truthful.
- ***Shukr*** = Thankfulness = Gratitude in word and action = Bring Divine bounties to the most fruitful use = Efforts becoming fruitful = Sharing one's wealth and resources with fellow humans = Opposite of Kufr (ingratitude) when the context demands it.
- ***Hudan*** = Hidayah = Guidance = Right guidance = A lighted road = Journey with prominent landmarks = A sincere gift = A high rock of identification in the sea = Lighthouse = A fixed sign in the desert.
- ***Zall*** = Shade.
- ***Ghamam*** = Clouds. Shade of grace = Being shaded with clouds in the desert is a blessing, therefore, grace.
- ***Manna-wus-Salwa*** = God's sustenance that reaches all members of the community equitably. Literally, it also means delicious fruit (Manna) and fowl or quail meat (Salwa).
- ***Tayyab*** = Decent and clean = Of one's liking = Not forbidden in the Qur'an = Good for mind and body = Pleasant.
- ***Rijz*** = Weak, shaky legs = Loss of determination and resolve = Losing individual and collective strength = Becoming lazy = Replacing action with word.
- ***Rijs*** = Unclean = Disapproved = Contaminated = Foul = A barrier to moral development.
- ***'Asa*** = Staff = Force = Conviction = Support = A united community holding on to a mission as the five fingers hold on to a cane.
- ***Ihsan*** = An act of balance = Restoring symmetry and beauty = Social and individual equity = Selfless service = An act of equity.
- ***Yateem*** = Orphan = Who is left alone in the society = Lonely = Without immediate family = Helpless = Derivatively, a widow.
- ***Miskeen*** = The needy poor = One with no means to earn livelihood = The disabled = One whose life has stalled for any reason = Jobless = Bankrupt of finances = One whose running business has stalled.

- ***Ibn-is-Sabeel*** = The needy wayfarer, son of the street, the homeless, the one who travels for assistance, one who seeks asylum against persecution.
- ***La'nah*** = Curse = Deprivation of God's grace = God's rejection = Condemnation = Losing citizenship of the Islamic State = To be downgraded = Abasement = Lasting humiliation
- ***Qat'a yadd*** = Cutting off the ability. For the so-called cutting of hand, please see 12:31. Yadd = Hand = Ability = Power.
- ***Ithm*** = Any action that depletes individual or communal energy = Actions that deplete individual and collective potential = Harming human lives = Lewd behavior = Discouraging productive work = Causing fear or grief by any means = Indulgence in pursuit of pleasure.
- ***'Udwaan*** and its derivatives = Wedge = Creating distance between hearts = Discord = Crossing the bounds of law = Committing excesses = Deeds beyond decency = Transgressing moral values. Creating wedges of discord between people = Causing dissension = Spreading disorder and corruption = Promoting racial, sectarian and nationalistic hatred.
- ***'Adu*** and its derivatives = Enemy = Wedge = Opponent = Causing remoteness = Divider = Bearer of grudge.
- ***Duniya*** = This world = Immediate gains = Short term benefits = Short-sightedness = Disregarding the Law of Cause and Effect = Forsaking the Future.
- ***Aakhirah*** = Hereafter = Life to come = Eternity = Long term = Far-sightedness = Future = Logical outcome = Tomorrow as built on today.
- ***'Uqba*** = The Life to come = Ultimate destination = The End = Hereafter.
- ***Maseer*** = Destination = Journey's end = Homecoming.
- ***Ghadhab*** = Opposite of blessing = Bitter consequences of misdeeds = Logical results of defying Divine laws = Physical and mental destitution for defying God = Suffering loss = Incorrectly translated as anger or wrath in relation to God.
- ***Ya ayyuhallazeena aamanu*** is generally, but inaccurately, translated as "O You who believe!", "O Believers!", "O You of faith! O faithfuls!" etc. Firstly, aamanu is a verb. Secondly, attaining belief must be an act consciously undertaken after due reflection and with free will. 'Passive' faith such as claiming to be a 'believer by birth' has no merit in the Sight of God. See 4:136, 12:108. Also, choosing to believe in truth is a great blessing of God. So, my rendition: O You who have chosen to be graced with belief!
- ***Qadeer or Qaadir*** = The Law-Giver = Supreme Controller = Able to do all things = Powerful = Almighty = One Who sets due measure for all things and events.
- ***Shayi*** = Thing = Derived meaning, event.
- ***Qaul*** = Utterance = Thought = Assertion = Tenet = Attitude = Expression.
- ***Hubb*** = Love = Full support = Having a common mission. Loving the Almighty = Following His commands = Loving His creation = Benefiting others. God's love = His blessings in both lives.
- ***Ghafarah*** = Helmet and armor = Protection = Preservation against deterioration = Forgiveness.
- ***Wakeel*** = Advocate, guardian, warder, warden, defender, custodian, responsible for the outcome.
- ***'Ilm*** = Knowledge = Science.
- ***Yasha*** in reference to God = Through His laws = Common mistranslation, 'as He pleases'.
- ***Bahl*** = To leave alone = Let someone hold on to his views = Let others do as they will = Erroneous, but common non-Qur'anic term from Bahl, Mubahila = A contest of mutual cursing!
- ***Taair*** = Omen = Destiny = Registration of deeds = Fleet-footed horse = Bird.

- ***'Azaab*** = Torment = Chastisement = Punishment = Suffering, as a natural consequence of transgressions according to the Law of Cause and Effect.
- ***Ma'roof*** = Virtue = Kindness = All that is good = Declared Ma'roof by the Qur'an.
- ***Munkar*** = Vice = Evil = All that is wrong = Declared Munkar by the Qur'an.
- ***Shuhada*** = Witnesses = Derivatively, those who uphold the truth even with their lives and those slain in the cause of God = Commonly translated as martyrs.
- ***Azwaaj*** = Spouses, Zaujah is wife and Zauj means husband.
- ***Hoor*** = Houri = Modest, intelligent companions, male or female. Unfortunately, this word has been almost invariably translated as 'gorgeous women with big eyes'. Hoor applies to men and women both. The male gender is Ahwar and the female is Hawra. Again, Hoor = Men and women of vision who are modest and delightful companions.
- ***Khiyaam*** = Blessed shady environment, instead of the literal 'tents or pavilions'.
- ***Shaqq*** and derivatives = To split = Fall apart = Schism = Fall into disputes = Opposition = Oppose one another = Splitting of personality = Break apart the unity = Enmity.
- ***Haml*** = Pregnancy = Accept = Bear = Interestingly also the opposite meaning: Betraying the trust (33:72).
- ***Haraam*** = The above can compare well with Haraam = Forbidden = And the opposite, Sacred. A good example in English is the word CLIP meaning cutting as well as joining.
- ***Halaal*** = Permissible.
- ***Jibt*** = Baseless mysteries, magic, future-telling, astrology, clairvoyance, evil eye, good and bad omens, 'occult' sciences, amulets, interpretation of dreams and prophecies (except by a Prophet), palm-reading, soothsaying, superstitions of all kind, demon or jinn-possession of people, exorcism, blowing verses and senseless words on people or in food and drink, counting names on rosaries.
- ***Taaghoot*** = Those who, in rebellion to the One True God, claim to have Divine powers or try to portray themselves as His representatives, Sufis, mystics, deceptive priesthood, clergy, tyrants = Those who try to play god.
- ***Tagha*** = Rebellion. Idols of stones cannot rebel, therefore, they cannot be Taaghoot.
- ***Bayyinaat*** = Clear evidences.
- ***Lillah*** = For God = For the sake of God = In the cause of God = Belonging to God = Being subservient to Him = Working to fulfill the Divine Plan.
- ***Saabir*** = Steadfast = Persevering = Determined = Patient in ease and adversity.
- ***Qisaas*** = The duty of tracing an offender for just recompense.
- ***Baheema-tul-An'aam*** = The herbivorous cattle = Plant-eating quadrupeds = Livestock.
- ***Azlaam*** = Divining arrows = The conjecture of foretelling the future = Raffle = Lottery = Clairvoyance = Dividing things or time for one another through randomly picking up slips of paper.
- ***Fasaad*** = Bloody crimes = Spreading corruption in the land = Creating disorder.
- ***Waseelah*** = Seeking earnestly = Applying the mind and heart to reach a noble goal. Zikr = Reflection = Remembrance = Observation = Reminder = Commemoration = Raise in degrees = Celebrate = Magnify = Give eminence = Taking to heart = Keeping in mind.

Prophets named in the Qur'an

Nooh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Ismail (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Ya'qoob (Jacob), Yusuf (Joseph), Musa (Moses), Haroon (Aaron), Daud (David), Sulaiman (Solomon), Zakariya (Zacharias), Yahya (John the Baptist), 'Isa (Jesus), Elias (Elijah), Yunus (Jonah), Lut (Lot), Ayub (Job), Al-Yasa' (Elisha), Zal-Kifl (Ezekiel), Idris (Enoch), Sho'aib (Jethro), Hud, Saleh, Muhammad. [The last three are not named in the current Bible. Prophet Zechariah of the Old Testament belonged to previous generations, and he was, thus, a different person from Prophet Zakariya of the Qur'an (Zacharias of the New Testament). He was the father of John the Baptist (Yahya). 18 prophets are named in succession from 6:84 onward] Let us begin with the Name of God.

Chapter 1

Al-Fatihah - The Opening

The first Surah of the Qur´an is a petition the Almighty has taught us. It teaches us to seek His guidance and support as we pledge to live by His laws. It has been termed, ´The Key´ to the Book, and in fact, the title ´Al-Fatihah´ carries that meaning. God, in His Infinite mercy, instantly responds in the next Surah, "Here is the Book of guidance" (you asked for).

أَعُوذُبِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

I most humbly seek shelter with God against the promptings of all evil sources including my own ego. [Shayitaan = Satan = The straying Ego = Selfish desires = Desire that rebels against the higher controls of sound judgment = Emotions that overpower Permanent Moral Values = Intrinsic or extrinsic evil prompting = Negative peer pressure = Violent emotions = Self-glorification = Anything distant from goodness and progress = False pride = A rumor monger = Fiery temperament = Slanderer = A hinderer of good = He who spreads corruption and disorder on earth = Anyone who impels others into violating Divine Commands = A hinderer of good = Bad companionship = One who deceives or charms people into violating Divine laws = Any being or influence that alienates humans from the Creator = One who distances itself from Divine grace. 2:14, 4:38, 4:60, 4:83, 4:119, 5:90-91, 6:43, 6:143, 7:200, 17:26-27, 22:3-4, 25:28-29, 31:21, 67:5. In Hebrew, Satan = Adversary = One who plots against another]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Ultimate Source of Instant Beneficence and Eternal Mercy Who encompasses the entire Universe, nourishing and taking care of all things for becoming what they are meant to be; just as a mother´s womb nourishes the embryo to completion without any returns. [Rahm in Rahman and Raheem encompasses all the meanings rendered. Before the next Surahs, BISMILLAH will be given a brief translation: With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness]

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **1:1**

All praise is due to God, the Sustainer/Cherisher/Lord of the Universe and everything therein. [The marvels and the profound harmony in the Universe is a living witness that its Sustainer is truly Worthy of all praise. All praiseworthy beings and wonderful things derive their magnificence from Him. Being awe-struck by

any of His creation to the exclusion of His realization is nothing but shortsightedness. All human achievements find their ultimate Source in Him since He is the exclusive Provider of all mental and physical resources. [3:189-190, 9:112, 35:27-28]

الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ **1:2**

The Source of Instant Beneficence and Eternal mercy Who encompasses the entire Universe, nourishing and taking care of all things for what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo to completion without any returns.

مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ **1:3**

(He is) the Absolute Owner of the Day when all creation shall have completed their journey of existence, action and evolution to the Ultimate Just outcome. [And He is the Supreme Appointer of the System of Life that mankind may live by in order to attain success in both lives. All decisions in this System will be made according to Divine Commands given in this Book. And this System will most certainly prevail over all manmade systems in this world. The Divine law of Just Recompense is gradually taking mankind to the Day of Final Judgment in His Court to account for all they did with their gift of life. This is a Day the advent of which is beyond any doubt. 3:189-190, 9:32-33, 17:111, 43:84, 82:18-19. Deen = The Divinely Prescribed System of Life. Yaum-id-Deen = The Day of Judgment = The Time of Ultimate Just Outcome = The Day of Resurrection = When the Divine System rules the earth as it rules the Universe]

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ **1:4**

(Realizing these facts), we obey You alone and we ask You alone to help us (as we obey You). [Such will be the ones to establish the Divinely Prescribed System of Life on earth. Iyyak = You alone. 'Abd and Ibadah, roots for Na'bud = Obedience = Service = Serving God by serving his creation. Usually, but erroneously translated exclusively as worship. 3:78, 5:44-48, 12:40]

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ **1:5**

(So,) Guide us to the straight path (that leads us to real success by providing us with faculties that listen and not just hear, observe and not just see, analyze and not follow blindly). [17:36]

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ **1:6**

The path of those upon whom You have bestowed blessings (as a natural consequence of obeying the commands. 2:47, 31:20).

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ **1:7**

They were not of those who earned Your wrath (the naturally bitter consequences of misdeeds), nor of those who lost their direction. [2:61, 7:152, 29:69, 37:69-71, 45:23, 61:5. Ghadhab of Maghdhoob = Wrath = Anger = Being seized by Divine laws due to misdeeds. The term can be taken only figuratively when used in

relation to God since He, unlike human tyrants, is not an emotional King and His Rule is the Rule of law. 3:6, 8:53, 13:11]

Chapter 2

Al-Baqarah - The Cow

This is the 2nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 286 verses. The cow is merely one of the many quadrupeds made useful and subservient to mankind. The title of a Chapter or Surah of the Qur´an is important mainly for reference purposes. Therefore, we find most Surahs dealing with very diverse concepts completely unrelated to their titles. One major exception is Surah 12 Yousuf that describes the inspiring story of Prophet Yousuf (Joseph son of Jacob). But even that continues to give us very diverse concepts and guiding principles to reflect upon. Also, in the last several short Surahs of the Qur´an the title usually becomes the main center of discussion. Proper understanding of this most detailed Surah Al-Baqarah will enable the reader to become familiar with the basic concepts and the true meanings of the Qur´anic terminology according to the Quraish dialect. The semantics and nuances of the language of revelation are not only interesting but mandatory for accurate understanding. Like the QXP in its entirety, my humble rendition of this Surah is not a literal translation, but an understanding from the Big Picture of the Qur´an without compromising the literary meanings.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **2:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, knows and understands your needs.)

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ **2:2**

(Here is the guidance you asked for.) This is a Book whereof there is absolutely no doubt concerning its authority and authenticity. And it leaves no doubts lingering in a seeking mind. It is a Guide for those who wish to journey through life in honor and security.[Rayib includes the meanings given in the first three lines. This Divine Writ, Al-Qur'an, is a Monograph that, when studied with an open mind, humility and sincerity, finds its own way from the mind to the heart. You will soon notice, as you proceed, that this scripture leaves no lingering doubts in a sincere, seeking mind. If you remember that this is a Book of guidance and treat it as such, the glittering reality will dawn upon you that this is a beacon of light! It is a Guide for all those who wish to journey through life in honor and security - Recorded on parchment by honorable scribes appointed by the Messenger. 52:2-3, 80:11-16. The Almighty Himself guarantees the truth of this revelation, its explanation and its preservation. It is absolutely free of contradictions. Al-Qur'an = The Lecture or Monograph that finds its own way to sincere hearts, becoming Az-Zikr = The Reminder. 4:82, 10:37, 15:9, 29:48-49, 32:2, 52:2-3, 75:17-19, 80:11-16]

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **2:3**

Those who (wish to journey through life in honor and security), believe in the Unseen. (They recognize the Law of Cause and Effect although the stages may not always be obvious to them) and establish the Divinely Prescribed System of Life, keeping open for others the resources that We have granted them. [Divine System = A noble society in which Permanent Moral Values rule the hearts and minds of men and women. There are neither masters nor subjects in such a system, since therein prevails the Rule of law. 2:177, 22:41, 94:7-8. Al-Ghayeb = The Unseen: The likeness of a seed that is beneath the soil hidden from a farmer's view. Yet the farmer believes that given proper environment and care the seed will sprout. 9:119, 57:20, 89:27-30. Salaat = To follow closely, like a runners-up (Musalli) follows the winning horse (Saabiq) = Follow God's commands closely. Aqimus-sallat = Establish the System that facilitates the following of Divine Commands. Zakaat = The Just Economic Order where everyone works according to one's capacity and is compensated according to the needs. People spend on others or give to the Central Authority (Islamic government) whatever is surplus (2:219). And they do so whenever they earn any income (6:141). The System of Zakaat is managed by the Central Authority that ensures the development of the individuals and the society. The 2.5 percent annual mandatory charity is a non-Qur'anic concept that trivializes the comprehensive Qur'anic System of Zakaat. Also, the problems of Fiqh (minor but confusing and contradictory jurisprudential details about what and who are exempt and what and who are not exempt etc,) make the manmade Zakaat an absolute impossibility. For example, a man with an ounce of gold should not pay Zakaat, but a poor man with 52.5 ounces of silver, the value of which is less than 10% of the former instance, must pay! No wonder, God warns us not make His verses a laughing stock. The Central Authority can vary this percentage according to the changing times and needs of the society. Charity or Sadaqaat are meant only for the interim period whenever the Divinely Prescribed System of Life is not yet in place. For Central Authority, the Qur'an uses the terms Allah and Rasool (3:32). After the exalted Rasool (Messenger), it is obligatory upon the believers to elect their leadership through a consultative process in a manner suitable for the times. The basic difference between the western democracy and the Islamic government: Any legislation can pass with the majority approval in the manmade constitutional democracy. But no law can pass contradicting the Qur'an in a truly Islamic State. That is one reason why the Qur'an generally gives us the basic Rules with details to be decided by people with mutual consultation according to changing times. 42:38. For God's Right = Divinely ordained right of the poor, see 6:141, 11:64, 55:10]

Zakat

Basic rules in Quran

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ **2:4**

And those who choose to believe in what has been revealed to you (O Messenger) and in the (truth in) what was revealed before your times. And they have conviction in the Law of Requital, and, therefore, in the life Hereafter. [Similar were the blessed people who believed in and followed the previous scriptures. Men and women of understanding use their faculty of reasoning and understand that human intellect is not boundless. It can tell people what is, but it cannot tell what ought to be. The human intellect is also affected by emotional, cultural and environmental conditions. Furthermore, direct revelation from the Creator economizes human effort and saves them time on trial and error. They also realize that life is no vain sport. It has a sublime purpose and keeps evolving like everything else in the Cosmos. So, the death of the human body is only a transition to a higher

Death is a transition to....

form of life for the human 'self'. Thus, they have conviction in the Hereafter. This can be likened to the birth of a baby who leaves the mother's womb and moves on to a new and higher level of existence. Anyone failing to understand the Eternity of the Nafs ('Self' -commonly termed as 'Soul'), bars himself from seeing life in its totality and, therefore, toils through this life without a higher objective. 2:185, 6:73, 7:52-53, 7:157-158, 10:4, 21:10, 21:24, 40:11, 45:4-5, 67:2. "Confirming the truth in what they have" points to human touch in the Bible even before Prophet Muhammad's times. See verses 2:75, 2:78-79, 2:101, 3:70-71, 3:78, 3:186-187, 5:13, 5:41, 6:91, 9:31]

أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **2:5**

They are the ones who walk on a path lighted by their Lord, and they are the ones whose crops of effort will flourish and they will truly prosper. [Muflihoon from Fallaah = Farmer who ploughs the earth for seeding and gets an abundant crop in return. Huda minr-Rabb = The Lord's light = This Qur'an to which one must turn with an open mind. Those who approach it without clearing their minds of pre-conceived notions will fail to "touch" this Book. For, that frame of mind defies reason and logic. 4:88, 5:15, 23:1-11, 24:35, 31:2-5, 42:5, 56:79]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أَأَنذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **2:6**

Remember that those who have chosen denial in advance, it is all the same to them whether you apprise them (of the consequences of their actions) or apprise them not. They will refuse to acknowledge the truth. [2:89-109, 6:26, 27:14, 35:42-43, 36:70, 41:26, 47:32]

خَتَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِمْ وَعَلَىٰ أَبْصَارِهِمْ غِشَاوَةٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **2:7**

God (His Law of Cause and Effect) has sealed their hearts and their hearing, and on their sight there is a veil. And theirs will be a tremendous suffering. [Khatm or Taba' from God, seal on the hearts, is a natural consequence of one's deeds. Blind following, adamancy, being unjust due to selfish interests and arrogance render the human perception and reasoning unreceptive to Divine revelation. Thus, one loses sensitivity and the ability to perceive reality. It is easy to see how damaging this fall from the high stature of humanity can be, a tremendous suffering that is built-in as the logical consequence of such attitude. 4:88, 17:46, 18:57, 40:35, 45:23, 83:14]

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَا هُم بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **2:8**

And of mankind there are those who claim, "We believe in God and the Last Day", while they are not believers. [Their actions that speak louder than words, contradict their claim. 4:136, 49:15]

يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَمَا يَخْدَعُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ **2:9**

They wish to deceive God and those who have attained belief. But they deceive none but themselves and do not realize it! [Since reason is a faculty that has to be exercised and they have forsaken it, they are little aware of what opportunity of personal development they are missing. They live in a state of denial]

فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ **2:10**

(This negative attitude) is a disease in their hearts, and God (His law) increases their disease. And for them is painful suffering, for, they lie to themselves. [Their attitude reinforces itself according to the Law of Cause and Effect. The conflict between one's word and action amounts to self-deception that has its own dire consequences]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ **2:11**

When it is said to them, "Do not cause disruption in the land", they assert, "We are but reformers, setting things right."

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِن لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ **2:12**

Nay, it is they who are the disrupters. But they fail to use reason. [They bring forth a common argument that they are acting in good faith and in accordance with their 'conscience'. But conscience is only the "internalized society", a mental reflection of the values prevalent in a given environment. Therefore, it can never be a substitute for Divine revelation (Wahi). 3:20, 5:79, 9:67, 24:21]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا كَمَا آمَنَ النَّاسُ قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ كَمَا آمَنَ السُّفَهَاءُ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ السُّفَهَاءُ وَلَكِن لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ **2:13**

And when it is said to them, "Acknowledge the truth as people have acknowledged", they retort, "Shall we accept what the foolish accept?" Nay, it is they who are foolish. But they do not know. [Imaan = Belief = Conviction = Acceptance = Acknowledgement = Embracing the truth]

وَإِذَا لَقُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا إِلَىٰ شَيَاطِينِهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُسْتَهْزِئُونَ **2:14**

And when they meet those who have chosen to believe, they say, "We have attained belief." But when they go away to their shayaateen (devilish comrades), they say, "We are with you. We were only mocking."

اللَّهُ يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِهِمْ وَيَمُدُّهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **2:15**

God will return their mockery to them, and leave them to wander in their arrogance, blindly stumbling to and fro.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرَوُا الضَّلَالَةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ فَمَا رَبِحَت تِّجَارَتُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ **2:16**

They have bought straying at the expense of guidance. But their trade will go bankrupt because they have not set their caravan in the right direction. [Muhtadi = Guided = He who journeys in the right direction]

مَثَلُهُمْ كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي اسْتَوْقَدَ نَارًا فَلَمَّا أَضَاءَتْ مَا حَوْلَهُ ذَهَبَ اللَّهُ بِنُورِهِمْ وَتَرَكَهُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ **2:17**

Their example is that of a person who lights up a fire without adequate fuel. As soon as brightness surrounds them, the fuel is consumed and God (His law) takes away their light leaving them in the dark where they cannot see. [The pursuit of instant gains only grants them a fleeting satisfaction since they have forfeited the long-term goal]

صُمٌّ بُكْمٌ عُمْيٌ فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ **2:18**

Deaf, dumb and blind of reason! They will not return to journey in the right direction (unless they use their perceptual and conceptual faculties. 8:22, 16:76, 17:36).

أَوْ كَصَيِّبٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فِيهِ ظُلُمَاتٌ وَرَعْدٌ وَبَرْقٌ يَجْعَلُونَ أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِم مِّنَ الصَّوَاعِقِ حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ وَاللَّهُ مُحِيطٌ بِالْكَافِرِينَ **2:19**

Another example is that of a rainstorm from the sky with darkness, thunder and lightning. They plug their ears with their fingers for fear of death. And God encompasses the deniers. [Plugging the ears will not make the storm disappear since denial is no solution to any problem. His changeless laws are implemented in the Universe without any exceptions and none can escape them. 7:183, 14:8, 29:54, 30:24]

يَكَادُ الْبَرْقُ يَخْطَفُ أَبْصَارَهُمْ كُلَّمَا أَضَاءَ لَهُم مَّشَوْا فِيهِ وَإِذَا أَظْلَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ قَامُوا وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَذَهَبَ بِسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَارِهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **2:20**

The lightning almost snatches away their sight and vision. They walk a few steps, in a stop and go fashion. When the light helps them, they walk therein. And when darkness prevails on them, they stand still. And if God willed, He could take away their faculties of hearing and seeing. For God is Able to do all things. [Absaarahum = Their sight = Their vision = Their sight and insight. Those who defy reason, eventually lose their perceptual and conceptual faculties. God is the Powerful Designer of His laws and He has supreme control over all things. He has prescribed laws for every thing and event in the Universe. And He does not infringe upon these laws even though He is Able to do so. 2:201, 6:96, 7:182, 10:5, 11:15, 13:8, 14:16-18, 17:18-21, 25:2, 29:54, 30:24, 36:38, 42:20, 54:49, 65:3, 79:36, 87:3. Those who reject the Divine messages and rely solely on their intellect do not realize that revelation is to the human intellect what sunlight is to the human eye. It takes them out of darkness into light. 2:257]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ **2:21**

Serve God alone

O Mankind! Serve your Lord (by serving His creation). He is the One Who has created you and those before your times, so that you may journey through life secure against error. [7:172]

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَندَادًا وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **2:22**

Do not equate others to God

He Who has made the earth habitable for you, and the sky over it like a canopy, and brought down rain from therein so that fruits of His bounty may spring forth for you as abundant provision. When you understand this simple fact, (do not insult your intelligence and) do not equate others with God. [The high atmosphere serves as a protecting canopy against meteorites and keeps balance in the gases and temperature. 2:164]

وَإِن كُنتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّن مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **2:23**

Can you produce the Quran

(For the real skeptic, here is a reason-friendly offer.) If you are still in doubt concerning what We have revealed to Our servant (Muhammad), call and set up (a committee, commission, organization, association of the highest order) all your helpers besides God, and then produce just one Surah like this, if you are truthful. [Bring some chapters of comparable merit that even come close to it in magnificence, eloquence, grandeur and wisdom 10:38, 11:13, 17:88. The use of 'We' and 'I' ... God uses for Himself the first person singular 'I' as well as the plural 'We'. The Qur'an being the most eloquent Book on earth has its own unique charisma and style. Slight reflection even on a translation strikes us with the beauty and variety of its usage of semantics. 'We' in relation to God indicates His Supreme Royalty, whereas 'I' gives us some idea of how close the King of kings is to us. King Cyrus of Persia calls himself 'We' in 18:87 and that is just one example. But about God, "There is none like unto Him." 112:4. Likewise, the use of the

masculine gender for God in all scriptures is meant to be in conformity with our social fabric and ease of expression. For third person singular, almost all languages in the world use the male gender except when referring to a specific female]

فَإِن لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَلَن تَفْعَلُوا فَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ **2:24**

And if you fail to do it - and fail you will - yet remain haughty and scornful, then guard yourselves against the fire that has been readied for those who oppose the truth, and its fuel is the masses and their stonehearted leaders alike. [This fire is generated in and engulfs the hearts 2:74, 9:110, 66:6, 104:6-7. Hajar = Stone = Rock = A stone-hearted person = Elite leadership = An apparently tough, prominent man = The hard or high segment of a hill]

وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ كُلَّمَا رُزِقُوا مِنْهَا مِن ثَمَرَةٍ رِّزْقًا قَالُوا هَٰذَا الَّذِي رُزِقْنَا مِن قَبْلُ وَأُتُوا بِهِ مُتَشَابِهًا وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **2:25**

Convey the happy news to those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and have done acts of service to humanity. For them will be a most pleasant reward, Paradise in both lives. (Try to understand it in the current human vocabulary.) - Plush Gardens with streams flowing underneath! When they are provided with the delicious fruit of their deeds, they will say, "This is what we were provided before." They had tasted some of the reward in this world. They will be given sustenance that will recall their past. These men and women will have pure companions therein, an everlasting happy family life. [This Paradise is not given away as charity. It has to be built in this life and then inherited. It has been described in the Qur'an allegorically and it is not confined to one particular place. It encompasses the entire Universe and is a logical consequence of living upright and contributing to the well-being of humanity. 3:133, 13:35, 14:24, 24:55, 32:17, 39:74, 47:15, 57:21, 76:5-6, 76:17]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي أَن يَضْرِبَ مَثَلًا مَّا بَعُوضَةً فَمَا فَوْقَهَا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَيَقُولُونَ مَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِهَٰذَا مَثَلًا يُضِلُّ بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَيَهْدِي بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَمَا يُضِلُّ بِهِ إِلَّا الْفَاسِقِينَ **2:26**

God does not shy away from citing any kind of allegory, even of a mosquito or beyond. Those who attain belief by way of reason appreciate the allegories and know that therein is contained some teaching of the truth from their Lord. But those who have chosen to disbelieve, try to ridicule, saying, "What could God mean to teach

by this similitude?" Thus He (His law of guidance) lets go astray many and shows the lighted road to many. But He never lets go astray any but those who drift away from reason. [Men and women of reason know that abstract phenomena are frequently best understood in the form of examples, metaphors and allegories. Faasiqoon (singular, Faasiq) = Those who drift away = Who slip out of discipline = Those who cross the bounds of what is right = Fruit whose seed slips out = Egg yolk that drops out of its shell = One who transgresses Divine laws and thus becomes vulnerable to desires and extrinsic challenge. 3:81-82, 5:3, 5:47, 5:108, 6:121, 7:102, 9:24, 9:80, 24:4, 24:55, 59:19]

Metaphors and allegories are used

الَّذِينَ يَنقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَن يُوصَلَ وَيُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **2:27**

(Just as there is One Creator, likewise mankind is but one Community.) Those who break this ratified Bond of God and cut asunder the unity of mankind that God has commanded them to uphold, and thus lay the foundation of chaos on earth, those will be the losers in the long run. [9:33-34, 9:111, 10:19, 13:20-24, 31:28, 83:6, 114:1]

One community

كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **2:28**

Think! How can you disbelieve in God knowing that He is the One Who gave you life when you were lifeless? Then He will cause you to die and bring you back to life again. And then, all of you will return to Him. [37:58, 40:11, 44:56, 76:1]

Death,life, death,life

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُم مَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَسَوَّاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **2:29**

He is the One Who has created for you whatever is on earth - all of it. And He has applied His Design to the sky and fashioned it in several ascending heights. He is the Supreme Knower of what all things are destined to be. [The subject of seven ascending heights is still under scientific investigation, but many astrophysicists already believe in it. 11:7, 53:31, 57:1-2. Saba' indicates seven or several. Thinking of the earth's atmosphere, it contains seven layers: The Troposphere, Stratosphere, Ozone Layer, Mesosphere, Thermosphere, Ionosphere and the Exosphere. This has been only discovered in the last century. The Qur'an repeatedly emphasizes the importance of scientific observation and intellectual inquiry. 3:191, 7:185, 17:36, 88:17-21]

Earths atmosphere consists of 7 layers

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَن يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **2:30**

(Now is related to you the creation of Adam or mankind, in allegorical terms; when God decided to create humans who would be given free will, and supremacy on earth.) Your Lord announced His Plan to the angels, "I am about to place on earth a new creation that will have supremacy over it." They exclaimed, "Will you place on it such creation as will cause disorder therein and shed blood! - Whereas we strive to manifest Your glory (in the Universe)!" He answered, "I know what you do not know." [God had programmed the angels (God's forces in nature) with specific tasks that express the Divine will. He created humans through the process of evolution and granted them the ability to make free choices. They may choose to follow Divine Guidance or deviate from it (33:72). The "angels" were not even remotely aware of any will other than God's. The Qur'an metaphorically portrays the immense responsibility given to humans in the story of Adam. Free will may be likened to the breathing into humans from the Divine Energy. The angels wondered if a clash of wills would not result in chaos and bloody disorder on earth, while the angelic role had always been that of striving to manifest the Impeccable glory of their Lord and absolute submission to His commands. (15:28-29, 16:49-50). Tasbeeh from Sabah = Swim with long strides = Strive hard = Apply oneself to a mission. and Aaron (Haroon) did Tasbeeh - strove hard against Pharaoh 20:33. Human Evolution ... 6:2, 7:189, 15:26-27, 22:5, 23:12-13, 25:54, 32:7-9, 35:11, 37:11, 71:17]

Tasbeeh

وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **2:31**

And God endowed mankind with the capacity to attain knowledge. Then He showed the angels certain things and said to them, "Tell me if you have the capacity of learning about these, if you are truthful (and better qualified to have supremacy on the planet earth)." ['Allam-al-Aadam-al-Asma = He endowed humankind with the capacity to attain knowledge]

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ **2:32**

They humbly said, "Glorified are You, High above all! We only know what you have taught us (the tasks assigned to us). Most certainly, You, are all Knower, all Wise."

قَالَ يَا آدَمُ أَنبِئْهُم بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ فَلَمَّا أَنبَأَهُم بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُل لَّكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ **2:33**

Then He said, "O Adam! Show them some of your capacity to attain knowledge." And when Adam informed them of his ability to learn, He said to the angels, "Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of the highs and the lows? And I know what is manifested by your efforts and the potentials that lie dormant within you."

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ **2:34**

And when We said to the angels, "Humble yourselves and be subservient to Adam-mankind, they instantly complied humbling themselves except Iblees (Satan). He refused through self-glorification, and so became a rejecter of the Divine Command. [Thus, God endowed mankind with the ability to harness the forces in Nature through science. There is, however, an internal domain He has designed within humans, the Nafs or 'Self'. Call it 'I', 'Self', 'Ego', 'Personality', 'Iamness', 'Me'. This has been placed for the humans to exercise free will and achieve personal growth or self-actualization. But this 'self' is vulnerable to the evil prompting of its own intrinsic selfish desire or that of extrinsic sources. In that situation the 'self' rebels against the higher controls of human judgment, and more importantly, against the revealed Moral Values. This rebellious state of the 'self' has the ability to rationalize its desire and emotions through the intellect. And this rebellious state of the 'Ego' is Satan or Iblees. It was this Iblees that refused to humble itself to the higher human controls of judgment and Divine Commands. Incidentally, the Qur'an nowhere mentions a human 'soul', 'spirit' or 'spirituality'. Iblees = Deprivation = Hopelessness = Frustration = Desperation and regret = Rebellious state of the human 'self' that drifts away from the Divine Commands, but wishes to escape personal responsibility by blaming God for its own misdeeds. See 7:16. Sajdah = Prostration = Complete submission = Willful obedience = Utter humility = Adoration = Utmost commitment to Divine Cause = Humbling one's own self]

Sajda Yield

وَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَكُلَا مِنْهَا رَغَدًا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَٰذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ **2:35**

We told the early humans, Adam and his wife (men and women), "O Mankind! Reside in this land which is Paradise and partake the fruit thereof as you please. But do not go near this branching Tree (of Selfishness). Or, you will become of the wrongdoers." [If you branch off into casts, sects, and rivalry, you shall replace your Paradise with Hell. 2:213, 4:65 10:19, 20:117-118. Zulm = To displace something from its rightful place = Replace good with evil = Relegate the truth = Transgression = Oppression = Violation of human rights = Wrongdoing]

Tree of selfishness

فَأَزَلَّهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ عَنْهَا فَأَخْرَجَهُمَا مِمَّا كَانَا فِيهِ وَقُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **2:36**

Devil tricked Adam

But Satan caused them both (men as well as women) to stumble therein and got them out of the happy state they were in. And so We said, "Degraded you have become with wedges of discord among yourselves! There shall be for you habitation and livelihood on earth for a while." [Their straying egos and selfish desires had clashed and led them into dividing among themselves for the pursuit of self-interest. Humanity fell from the height of felicity into contention and rivalry. The plentiful provision of the land that used to be open for all became a matter of private ownership and hoarding. They have since been living in a state of

continuous toil, turmoil and strife]

فَتَلَقَّىٰ آدَمُ مِن رَّبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **2:37**

(The solution to this catastrophe was beyond human redress.) Then Adam received Words of guidance from his Lord and He accepted his repentance. Certainly, He is the Acceptor of repentance, the Most Merciful. [Adam = Aadam = Man. His wife = Woman. Udma = Ability to live together as a community. Aadam from Udma thus, indicates humankind. The word "Eve" or Hawwa is not mentioned in the Qur'an. She is described with dignity as Mer'a-til-Aadam = Adam's Zaujah = Wife, Consort, Mate of Adam = Mrs. Adam. The Qur'an adopts the beautiful method of either gently correcting or ignoring the errors in other scriptures. It does not repeat the Biblical fallacy of 'Eve' having been created from Adam's rib. She also repented and God treated both of them equally. 7:23-24. Again, Adam and his wife mean humankind, male and female. Taubah = Repentance = Returning to the right path = Realizing one's fault and taking corrective action. 4:17, 4:18, 5:39, 3:89, 6:54, 16:119, 24:5, 27:71]

Eve is not mentioned in the Quran

قُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُم مِّنِّي هُدًى فَمَن تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **2:38**

We said, "For now, all of you are degraded to a lower level of existence, out of this state of felicity (Paradise). But, when guidance comes to you from Me, those who will follow My guidance, on them shall be no fear from without, nor shall they have any grief from within." [Note here the multiple plural 'all of you' confirming that Adam and his wife are allegorical terms for the humankind. Incidentally, the word 'Eve' is nowhere mentioned in the Qur'an, once again Adam denoting humankind. Khauf = Fear from without. Huzn = Intrinsic depression or grief = Unhappiness = Regret]

No Eve in Quran

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **2:39**

But those who reject Our messages or deny them in practice, such will be the rightful dwellers of the fire. They will abide therein.

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتِيَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَوْفُوا بِعَهْدِي أُوفِ بِعَهْدِكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ فَارْهَبُونِ **2:40**

(One example is that of the Israelites.) O Children of Israel! Remember My blessings that I bestowed upon you (when you were following My commandments). Fulfill your promise to Me and I will fulfill My promise to you. And fear none but Me. [Fear the consequences of violating Divine Commands. 2:47, 2:83-85, 2:122, 3:61, 5:12-13, 5:70, 9:111, 45:16]

وَآمِنُوا بِمَا أَنزَلْتُ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا مَعَكُمْ وَلَا تَكُونُوا أَوَّلَ كَافِرٍ بِهِ وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِآيَاتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا وَإِيَّايَ فَاتَّقُونِ **2:41**

And grace yourselves with belief in what I have revealed now confirming (the truth) in what you already have. Be not the first among those who will conceal the truth therein, and trade not My revelations for petty gains. Rather, be mindful of Me. ['Confirming the truth in' (2:101). Petty gains = The false dogma of being the 'chosen ones' which is consistently rejected by the Qur'an. The only criterion of honor in the Sight of God is character (2:80-81, 10:69-70, 29:23, 49:13). Kufr = Opposing the truth = Denying the truth = Concealing the truth = Ingratitude = Rejection of truth = Choosing to live in darkness = Hiding or covering something = Closing eyes to light. Kaafir = One given to Kufr = One who adamantly denies the truth = One who opposes the truth = Commonly translated as 'infidel' = Derivatively and positively, a farmer who hides the seed under the soil (57:20). Therefore, Kufr or Kafir does not apply to the unaware, anyone to whom the message has not been conveyed or reached yet. Taqwa = Seeking to journey through life in security = Protect oneself from disintegration of the personality = Journeying in security = Being careful and observant = Getting empowered against evil = Avoid overstepping the laws = Exercising caution = Preserving oneself against deterioration = Good conduct = Building character = Live upright = Fear the consequences of violating Divine Commands = Being mindful of the Creator = Remaining conscious of the Divinely ordained Values = Taking precaution = Being watchful against error]

Good character is honourable

Kufr

وَلَا تَلْبِسُوا الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُوا الْحَقَّ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **2:42**

Don't obscure truth

Do not confound the truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth while you are well aware of it. [2:159, 3:71]

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ **2:43**

Strive to establish the Divine System, and to set up the Just Economic Order in the society. And bow with others who bow to these commands.

أَتَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبِرِّ وَتَنسَوْنَ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ تَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **2:44**

Do you exhort people to make room for everyone's welfare and progress in the society, while you disregard practicing what you preach? And all the while you study the scripture! Will you not, then, use your sense? [Using sense will tell that failing to practice what one preaches is but lying to one's 'self' 2:10. Birr = Making room for everyone's welfare and progress in the society = Exponential growth of the 'self'. 2:177]

Use your sense

وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ وَإِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ **2:45**

If you wish to strengthen your own 'self' and promote the well-being of the society, then be patient and resolute in establishing the Divinely ordained System of Life. It is

hard except for those who are humbly committed to a noble cause, [2:153, 70:17-27, 90:10-18. You have become used to thriving on the fruit of others' toil, such as devouring usury, and, therefore, economic equity and social equality strike at your selfish interests. 2:275. Khushoo' = Being humbly compliant = Sincerely committed = Being devoted to a noble cause. Sabr = Patience = Facing adversity with courage = Steadfastness = Resolve = Determination in the face of affluence or adversity]

الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُم مُّلَاقُو رَبِّهِمْ وَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ **2:46**

Those who realize that they are to meet their Lord and that they are to return to Him. [Meeting the Lord also indicates facing His Law of Requital. Returning to Him signifies being subject to His law. It also denotes following His commands, and of course, it alludes to the life Hereafter]

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتِيَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَنِّي فَضَّلْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **2:47**

(Once again) O Children of Israel! Remember the blessings I bestowed upon you and how I gave you distinction among the nations [of the times when you were faithful to commands. 2:122]

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا لَّا تَجْزِي نَفْسٌ عَن نَّفْسٍ شَيْئًا وَلَا يُقْبَلُ مِنْهَا شَفَاعَةٌ وَلَا يُؤْخَذُ مِنْهَا عَدْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ **2:48**

Intercession

And beware of the Day (when all actions will encounter absolute justice, and contrary to your thinking), no person will avail another in the least. And neither intercession will be accepted, nor shall compensation be taken from anyone. And they will not be helped. [6:164] [Shafa'ah = Stand up as witness to the truth = Intercession = Clearing a falsehood assigned to someone. 2:123, 6:50-51, 6:70, 32:4, 39:44, 40:17-18, 10:3, 19:87. Not even the Messengers of God are exempt from the Divine Law of Recompense. 6:15, 10:15, 39:13, 72:20-21]

وَإِذْ نَجَّيْنَاكُم مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَسُومُونَكُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ يُذَبِّحُونَ أَبْنَاءَكُمْ وَيَسْتَحْيُونَ نِسَاءَكُمْ وَفِي ذَٰلِكُم بَلَاءٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَظِيمٌ **2:49**

Also remember when We saved you from Pharaoh's people. They persecuted you by assigning hard tasks and with a dreadful torment. They slaughtered your sons and let your women live (for slavery and shameful acts). That was a great tribulation, a test from your Lord Supreme. [In addition to killing the newborn boys, as a matter of state policy, Pharaoh humiliated the strong and left the vulnerable for slavery and shameful acts. Abna = Sons = Strong ones. Nisaa = Females = Women = Weak ones. Yastahyoon carries the connotation of 'letting live' as well as 'in shame'. This is what a tyrannical system does. 27:34, 28:4-5, 40:25. Exodus 1:15-22]

Pharaoh

وَإِذْ فَرَقْنَا بِكُمُ الْبَحْرَ فَأَنجَيْنَاكُمْ وَأَغْرَقْنَا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَأَنتُمْ تَنظُرُونَ **2:50**

And recall when We parted the sea and rescued you and drowned the people of Pharaoh right before your eyes. [When you faithfully followed Moses, We rescued you through a safe passage in the Red Sea. You crossed over through the Sea of Reeds at low tide, as if it were parted. This Exodus brought you to the safety of Sinai from the persecution in Egypt. 7:138, 10:90, 20:77, 26:63, 44:24]

Did the sea part?

وَإِذْ وَاعَدْنَا مُوسَىٰ أَرْبَعِينَ لَيْلَةً ثُمَّ اتَّخَذْتُمُ الْعِجْلَ مِن بَعْدِهِ وَأَنتُمْ ظَالِمُونَ **2:51**

(Instead of being grateful, you did something bizarre.) While We summoned Moses for forty nights to reveal Our commandments, you took to worshiping the (golden) calf in his absence. You became once again those who hurt themselves. [7:142. Zulm = Displace something from its rightful place = Relegating the truth = Hurting someone or one's own self = Violation of human rights = Live in darkness = Oppression = Diminishing the due measure = Replace good with evil = Relegate the truth = Transgression = Oppression = Violation of human rights = Wrongdoing. See 2:35. Was not the calf an object of worship of the Egyptians, your recent masters? You demonstrated that physical emancipation did not equate psychological emancipation]

ثُمَّ عَفَوْنَا عَنكُم مِّن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **2:52**

Then, even after that, We pardoned you and gave you another chance to show gratitude. [2:56] [Shukr = Thankfulness = Gratitude in word and action = Bring Divine bounties to the most fruitful use = Sharing one's wealth and resources with fellow humans = Opposite of Kufr when the context demands it, ingratitude]

وَإِذْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَالْفُرْقَانَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ **2:53**

Book given to Moses

And We gave Moses the scripture and (thus) the Criterion (between right and wrong) so that you might be guided right. [Hudan = Hidayah = Guidance = Right guidance = A lighted road = Journey with prominent landmarks = A sincere gift = A high rock of identification in the sea = Lighthouse = A fixed sign in the desert]

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ يَا قَوْمِ إِنَّكُمْ ظَلَمْتُمْ أَنفُسَكُم بِاتِّخَاذِكُمُ الْعِجْلَ فَتُوبُوا إِلَىٰ بَارِئِكُمْ فَاقْتُلُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ عِندَ بَارِئِكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **2:54**

When Moses returned, he said to his people, "O my people! You have hurt your own 'self' by worshiping the calf. So, turn in repentance to your Maker and kill your

ego (rebellious mentality). This will be best for you in the Sight of your Maker." Thereupon He turned toward you accepting your repentance. He is the Acceptor of repentance, the Merciful. [7:148-156, 12:53. Baari = The Maker = Initiator = Originator = The Original Designer. Unfortunately, blindly following the account of Exodus (to say in all humility, correctly described in QXP 32:26-28), most ancient and modern commentators of the Qur'an, including Maududi of the 20th century, stumble on this verse as well. They maintain that the Israelites in a matter of hours killed one another randomly up to 70,000 men! Others claim that only the culprits were killed! All this confusion arises for giving literal meaning to Qatl and for blindly following some Biblical accounts and fabricated Hadith. This is all the more amazing since the same verse is showing Pardon from God to the Israelites for their worshiping of the calf. Qatl = Subdue = Bring low = Humiliate = Make humble = Killing the inflated or rebellious Ego = Qatl also means murder, slaying, fighting, but in different contexts]

Exodus

وَإِذْ قُلْتُمْ يَا مُوسَىٰ لَن نُّؤْمِنَ لَكَ حَتَّىٰ نَرَى اللَّهَ جَهْرَةً فَأَخَذَتْكُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ وَأَنتُمْ تَنظُرُونَ **2:55**

And recall when you said, "O Moses! We will not believe in you unless we see God face to face!" Thereupon thunder struck you as you were looking on. [Your minds were still programmed with the primitive ways of the "Age of Worship" when humans could only appreciate the tangible. At that level of intellect, humans come to fear natural phenomena. Thus, when you saw the lightning thunder you almost fell dead in fright. 7:155]

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَاكُم مِّن بَعْدِ مَوْتِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **2:56**

Then We revived you, and raised you from a dead to a living nation so that you might show gratitude (by following the Divine Commands.)

وَظَلَّلْنَا عَلَيْكُمُ الْغَمَامَ وَأَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَنَّ وَالسَّلْوَىٰ كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَمَا ظَلَمُونَا وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **2:57**

And We shaded you with Our grace and We bestowed upon you Our bounties in abundance, saying, "Partake of the decent things We have provided you." And they did not harm Us; but they had certainly harmed their own 'self'. [Zall = Shade. Ghamam = Clouds. Being shaded with clouds in the desert is a blessing, hence my rendition as grace. Manna-wus-Salwa = God's sustenance that reaches all members of the community equitably. Literally, it also means delicious fruit (Manna) and fowl or quail meat (Salwa). Tayyab = Decent and clean = Of one's liking = Not forbidden in the Qur'an = Good for mind and body = Pleasant]

Manna wus Salwa

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا ادْخُلُوا هَٰذِهِ الْقَرْيَةَ فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمْ رَغَدًا وَادْخُلُوا الْبَابَ سُجَّدًا وَقُولُوا حِطَّةٌ نَّغْفِرْ لَكُمْ خَطَايَاكُمْ وَسَنَزِيدُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **2:58**

Then We commanded you, “Enter this town and enjoy the provisions therein, partake as you desire. But enter the gate with heart-felt humility, saying, “Hittatun.” (O Our Lord! Pardon our misdeeds as we mend our ways). And We shall forgive you your faults and amply reward the doers of good.” [‘This town’ = Can’aan = The land of Palestine. See 5:21, 7:161]

فَبَدَّلَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا قَوْلًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فَأَنزَلْنَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رِجْزًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ **2:59**

Wicked altered sayings

But, the transgressors altered the meaning of the word they had been given, and changed their attitude of humility and perseverance. So, We brought down upon the transgressors consequences from the sky for, they repeatedly drifted away from the commandments. [Rijz = Weak, shaky legs = Loss of determination and resolve = Losing individual and collective strength = Becoming lazy = Replacing action with word. 7:134-135, 7:162, 29:34. Fisq = Drifting away from the commands or from discipline = ‘Sin’ = Disregarding moral values. Divinely determined consequences = Divine Law of Requital. You became shaky in your resolve losing discipline and courage, therefore, the Promised Land became forbidden to you for forty years. 2:61, 3:21, 5:22-26]

وَإِذِ اسْتَسْقَىٰ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ فَقُلْنَا اضْرِب بِّعَصَاكَ الْحَجَرَ فَانفَجَرَتْ مِنْهُ اثْنَتَا عَشْرَةَ عَيْنًا قَدْ عَلِمَ كُلُّ أُنَاسٍ مَّشْرَبَهُمْ كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا مِن رِّزْقِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْثَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ **2:60**

(Remember the times when you were in the Sinai desert) and Moses asked for water for his people. We said, “Strike the rock with your staff.” And there gushed out twelve springs so that each tribe found its respective source of fresh cool water. Moses said, “Enjoy God’s provision, but desist from becoming mischievous.” [Mischief = Creating disruption and chaos in the land for selfish gains. ‘Asa = Staff = Force = Conviction = Support = A united community holding on to a mission as the five fingers hold on to a cane. Moses was guided to rocks under which were hidden twelve springs of water ready to gush forth. With the strength of his conviction and with the help of his companions, Moses unclogged those springs. 7:160]

Twelve springs

وَإِذْ قُلْتُمْ يَا مُوسَىٰ لَن نَّصْبِرَ عَلَىٰ طَعَامٍ وَاحِدٍ فَادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ يُخْرِجْ لَنَا مِمَّا تُنبِتُ الْأَرْضُ مِن بَقْلِهَا وَقِثَّائِهَا وَفُومِهَا وَعَدَسِهَا وَبَصَلِهَا قَالَ أَتَسْتَبْدِلُونَ الَّذِي هُوَ أَدْنَىٰ بِالَّذِي هُوَ خَيْرٌ اهْبِطُوا مِصْرًا فَإِنَّ لَكُم مَّا سَأَلْتُمْ وَضُرِبَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الذِّلَّةُ وَالْمَسْكَنَةُ وَبَاءُوا بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا **2:61**

يَكْفُرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَيَقْتُلُونَ النَّبِيِّينَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوا وَّكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ

(At one stage you demanded Moses to provide you with a great variety of edibles, although you were living in the Sinai desert.) You said, "O Moses! We are weary of the same kind of food, so ask your Lord on our behalf to bring forth for us plant food such as herbs, cucumbers, garlic, lentils and onions." He said, "Would you exchange something superior for something inferior? (Return to slavery for petty desires instead of achieving higher goals?) Go back in shame to Egypt and you will get what you demand." So, humiliation and misery were stamped upon them and they had to face God's requital. That was because they kept rejecting God's messages. And they persisted in opposing and even killing some Prophets against all right. They did all this, because they chose to rebel and went on transgressing.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالنَّصَارَىٰ وَالصَّابِئِينَ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **2:62**

Muslim by birth carries no weight . All who acknowledge will have salvation

(That was a glimpse of the past.) Those who believe (in the Qur'an and call themselves Muslims), and those who are Jews, and Christians and the Sabians; whoever truly believes in God and the Last Day and does works that benefit humanity, their reward is with their Lord. For them shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. [Note: The author of this rendition is not aware of any instance in the Qur'an where the use of Tasreef, that is, looking at the related verses, is more crucial than in the understanding of this verse. Some great commentators have misinterpreted this verse for missing related verses such as these: * Those who attain belief and call themselves Muslims and those who are Jews, and the Sabians, and Christians - whoever believes in God and the Last Day, and does works that benefit humanity, for them shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. [5:69] * It is inconceivable that the opponents of the truth, whether they are the People of the Book, or the idolaters, could get out of error until the clear proof, Al-Qur'an, comes to them. [98:1-3] * The non-Israelite Prophet liberates the People of the Book from the shackles of their manmade dogmas and brings them from darkness to light. [7:157] * They say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be rightly guided." Say, "Nay, we follow the way of Abraham (Ibrahim), the upright. He associated no partner with the One True God." [2:135] * O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Say, "We believe in God and the revelation that has been conveyed to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael (Ismail), Isaac (Ishaq), Jacob (Ya'qoob), as well as the tribal Israelite Prophets - and in what was given to Moses (Musa) and Jesus ('Isa) and to other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them since all of them were one in purpose and they got their guidance from the One True God. And for Him, we are Muslims." [2:136] Thus, if they come to believe as you believe, then they are rightly guided. But if they turn away, they will be falling into opposition and God will be Sufficient for you against them. He is the Hearer, the Knower. [2:137] [O You who have chosen to be graced with belief = O You who acknowledge the Qur'an. Reflecting on the above verses makes it clear that the belief in God and the Last Day must be in accordance with the Qur'an. Verses 2:62 and 5:69 emphasize that mere giving of a name to one's religion or creed carries no importance. Sabians = Once a

small Monotheistic community that started merging with their environment. In the Judeo-Christian milieu they preferred to announce themselves as 'Followers of John the Baptist'. They sometimes claimed to follow a way between Judaism and Christianity. In Persia, they subscribed to many views of Zoroastrianism. In Arabia, they joined hands with the 'nature-worshipers' or 'Star-worshipers'. Mostly living in Arabia, Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Persia, they modified their beliefs most suited to their environment. In some ways, their attitude resembled the modern Agnostics]

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَكُمْ وَرَفَعْنَا فَوْقَكُمُ الطُّورَ خُذُوا مَا آتَيْنَاكُم بِقُوَّةٍ وَاذْكُرُوا مَا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ **2:63**

(O Children of Israel) We accepted your solemn pledge, letting Mount Sinai tower above you as witness, and saying, "Hold fast onto what We have given you, and take to heart what is therein, so that you may live upright."

ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُم مِّن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ فَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَكُنتُم مِّنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **2:64**

Then, even after that, you turned away. And were it not for the bounty of God upon you and His grace, you would have been undone.

وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْتُمُ الَّذِينَ اعْتَدَوْا مِنكُمْ فِي السَّبْتِ فَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ كُونُوا قِرَدَةً خَاسِئِينَ **2:65**

Metaphor

You are well aware of those among you who broke the Sabbath, whereupon We said to them, "Be you held in contempt like apes!" [For social and ecological reasons and to inculcate the sanctity of the law in your hearts, We had commanded you to desist from fishing or working on Saturdays and to strengthen your social ties rather than going after business on that day (4:154, 7:163-167, 16:124). Persistent indiscipline is more befitting of an apish, rather than human mentality. 4:47, 4:154, 5:60. Note: Strangely enough, some ancient, and even modern commentators like Maududi, maintain that they were physically transformed into apes!]

فَجَعَلْنَاهَا نَكَالًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهَا وَمَا خَلْفَهَا وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ **2:66**

We made this degradation a lesson for them in their times, and for the future generations, We made it a source of enlightenment that should soften the hearts of those who seek to live upright. [Wa'z = Admonition that softens the hearts]

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَن تَذْبَحُوا بَقَرَةً قَالُوا أَتَتَّخِذُنَا هُزُوًا قَالَ أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ **2:67**

And remember, Moses said to his people, "Indeed, God commands you to sacrifice a cow." They said, "Do you mock us?" He replied, "I seek shelter with God from

being among the ignorant who mock people." [Slaughter a cow to get rid of the Pharaoh's pagan inclinations you carry in your hearts. That is what prompted you to worship the golden calf. 2:54, 7:152]

قَالُوا ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ يُبَيِّن لَّنَا مَا هِيَ قَالَ إِنَّهُ يَقُولُ إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ لَّا فَارِضٌ وَلَا بِكْرٌ عَوَانٌ بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ فَافْعَلُوا مَا تُؤْمَرُونَ **2:68**

(Now, they started making excuses.) They said, "Ask your Lord on our behalf to enlighten us as to what kind of a cow she is." He answered, "Indeed, He says that she is a cow neither too old nor too young. She is between the two conditions. Do, then, as commanded."

قَالُوا ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ يُبَيِّن لَّنَا مَا لَوْنُهَا قَالَ إِنَّهُ يَقُولُ إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ صَفْرَاءُ فَاقِعٌ لَّوْنُهَا تَسُرُّ النَّاظِرِينَ **2:69**

(Then) they said, "Ask for us your Lord that He enlighten us as to what color she is." He answered, "He says that she is a yellow cow. Bright is her color, pleasing to beholders."

قَالُوا ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ يُبَيِّن لَّنَا مَا هِيَ إِنَّ الْبَقَرَ تَشَابَهَ عَلَيْنَا وَإِنَّا إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَمُهْتَدُونَ **2:70**

(Again) they said, "Call upon your Lord that He make it clear to us what exactly she is. To us all cows are much alike. If God so wills, we shall be rightly guided."

قَالَ إِنَّهُ يَقُولُ إِنَّهَا بَقَرَةٌ لَّا ذَلُولٌ تُثِيرُ الْأَرْضَ وَلَا تَسْقِي الْحَرْثَ مُسَلَّمَةٌ لَّا شِيَةَ فِيهَا قَالُوا الْآنَ جِئْتَ بِالْحَقِّ فَذَبَحُوهَا وَمَا كَادُوا يَفْعَلُونَ **2:71**

He answered, "Indeed, He says it is to be a cow that has not toiled in tilling the land nor in watering the crops and it is whole and healthy, unblemished." They said, "Finally, you bring out a concrete description!" So they sacrificed her, although they would rather not have done it. [They still adored cow-worship and the golden calf. 2:93, 5:101]

وَإِذْ قَتَلْتُمْ نَفْسًا فَادَّارَأْتُمْ فِيهَا وَاللَّهُ مُخْرِجٌ مَّا كُنتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ **2:72**

Recall! A person was slain and you were casting blame on each other. So God brought forth what you were hiding.

فَقُلْنَا اضْرِبُوهُ بِبَعْضِهَا كَذَٰلِكَ يُحْيِي اللَّهُ الْمَوْتَىٰ وَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **2:73**

We said, “Connect the pieces of evidence that each one of you has (and the case will be resolved). This is how God gives life to the dead. And He expounds His messages for you to use your common sense. [There is life for you in the law of Just Recompense. A law that deters murder and, thus, saves lives, in fact, gives you life 2:179. Another explanation: The Mosaic law, according to the Bible, ordains the sacrifice of a cow in cases of unsolved murder. The elders of the town wash their hands and say: “Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it.” The community is then absolved of the collective responsibility (Deuteronomy 21:1-9). In this particular instance the mystery was solved and the murderer was identified]

ثُمَّ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُكُم مِّن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ فَهِيَ كَالْحِجَارَةِ أَوْ أَشَدُّ قَسْوَةً وَإِنَّ مِنَ الْحِجَارَةِ لَمَا يَتَفَجَّرُ مِنْهُ الْأَنْهَارُ وَإِنَّ مِنْهَا لَمَا يَشَّقَّقُ فَيَخْرُجُ مِنْهُ الْمَاءُ وَإِنَّ مِنْهَا لَمَا يَهْبِطُ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **2:74**

Then, even after that, you persisted in defiance so much so that your hearts became hardened as rocks, impermeable to reason or even worse. For, there are rocks out of which streams gush forth, and there are rocks that split asunder so that streams flow from them. And yet there are rocks that become soft in awe of God. God is not unaware of what you do. [Rocks may become soft according to Divine laws in nature. They are more compliant than the hearts that defy reason]

أَفَتَطْمَعُونَ أَن يُؤْمِنُوا لَكُمْ وَقَدْ كَانَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُحَرِّفُونَهُ مِن بَعْدِ مَا عَقَلُوهُ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **2:75**

Altered God 's words

Do you still hope that they will join your ranks in faith? A party among them used to listen to the Word of God in the Torah, then, distorted its words and true meanings, after they had understood it. And they knew full well what they were doing!

وَإِذَا لَقُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَا بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ قَالُوا أَتُحَدِّثُونَهُم بِمَا فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لِيُحَاجُّوكُم بِهِ عِندَ رَبِّكُمْ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **2:76**

And when they meet with those who have attained belief, they say, “We have attained belief.” But when they meet each other in private, they say, “Would you inform them (the Muslims) of what God has disclosed to you? Therewith they may engage you in argument before your Lord. Will you not, then, use your sense?” [‘What God has disclosed to you’ = “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brethren - him you shall heed — I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” Deuteronomy 18:15-18]

? Prophet

أَوَلَا يَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ 2:77

Do they not realize that God knows what they conceal and what they reveal?

وَمِنْهُمْ أُمِّيُّونَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا أَمَانِيَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ 2:78

Ummi?

Among them are unlettered people who do not know the scripture, but learn their wishful beliefs through hearsay. They depend on nothing but conjecture. [They go to their clergy saying, "What do we know of religion? So, you tell us." 2:79, 9:31]

فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَكْتُبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَٰذَا مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا فَوَيْلٌ لَّهُم مِّمَّا كَتَبَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَّهُم مِّمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ 2:79

Then, lost are those (their scholars) who write the scripture with their own hands and then claim, "This is from God." They traffic it for petty gains. And loss is to them for what they write, and for the illicit profits they make thereby." [In the name of religion, they exploit the masses, feeling unduly proud as they peddle the false notion of them being "the chosen ones". Furthermore, they extort money from the ignorant]

Prophets quote

وَقَالُوا لَن تَمَسَّنَا النَّارُ إِلَّا أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَةً قُلْ أَتَّخَذْتُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ عَهْدًا فَلَن يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ عَهْدَهُ أَمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 2:80

Yet they say, "The fire will not touch us but for a few numbered days." Say, "Have you received a promise from God? - For, God never breaks His promise. Or is it that you say things about God that you have no knowledge of?"

بَلَىٰ مَن كَسَبَ سَيِّئَةً وَأَحَاطَتْ بِهِ خَطِيئَتُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ 2:81

Nay, but those who disrupt the lives of others, and their crimes surround them, are the rightful dwellers of the fire. Therein they will abide.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ 2:82

Reformation leads to paradise

And those who choose to be graced with belief, and do acts of benevolence; those are the rightful dwellers of Paradise. Therein they will abide.

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَقُولُوا لِلنَّاسِ حُسْنًا وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنكُمْ وَأَنتُم مُّعْرِضُونَ **2:83**

(God never promised unconditional favors to any nation, the Children of Israel being no exception.) And remember when We took a Covenant from the Children of Israel, * "Serve none but God, * Be generous to your parents, * And to family and relatives, * To orphans, widows, and those left without any means of support to make progress in the society, * To those who have suffered loss of income, the disabled, the needy, and the poor, * Speak to people kindly, * And treat them nicely, * Help establish the Divinely ordained System of Life (Salaat) * And set up the Economic Order of Zakaat." Then, after that, you slid back, except a few of you. And you turn away from these commandments even now. [Salaat = To follow closely, like a runners-up (Musalli) follows the winning horse (Saabiq) = Follow God's commands closely. Aqimussallat = Establish the System that facilitates the following of Divine Commands. 2:3. Zakaat = Divinely ordained Economic Order in which people work according to their capacity and get compensated according to their needs. It is the System in which all members of the society flourish and, with their basic needs having been met, they are able to rise up on the ladder of self-actualization. The cornerstone of this Economic Order: The God-given natural resources and wealth are the common property of all, and every individual willfully leaves for the welfare of others whatever is over and above his needs. The Central Authority will be responsible for administering and maintaining the Economic Order of Zakaat. 2:219, 22:41, 27:12, 53:39]Unfortunately, under the influence of fabricated Hadith, most commentators of the Qur'an confuse Zakaat with Sadaqaat. The latter means voluntary charity. See verse 9:60. It describes eight categories of the recipients of charity and not of Zakaat. With the solitary exception of Allama G.A. Parwez, to my knowledge, all commentators fail to notice the word Sadaqaat and somehow 'misread' the word Zakaat which is not there in that verse. So powerful is the influence of blind following! The current 2.5% giving of one's wealth and the complex and contradictory details of Fiqh associated with it find no authority in the Qur'an. One example is the flagrant disparity between the compulsory 'charity or poor-due' to be paid by a rich man who possesses gold versus a poor man who possesses some silver. The poor will pay charity on less than one tenth of what the wealthy has! Ihsan = An act of balance = Restoring symmetry and beauty = Social and individual equity = Selfless service = An act of equity. Yateem = Orphan = Who is left alone in the society = Lonely = Without immediate family = Helpless = Derivatively, a widow. Miskeen = The needy poor = One with no means to earn livelihood = The disabled = One whose life has stalled for any reason = Jobless = Truly bankrupt of finances = One whose running business has stalled. 17:23, 29:8, 46:15, 4:36, 6:151, 2:177, 2:215, 17:26]

Salat for Jews

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَكُمْ لَا تَسْفِكُونَ دِمَاءَكُمْ وَلَا تُخْرِجُونَ أَنفُسَكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ ثُمَّ أَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَنتُمْ تَشْهَدُونَ **2:84**

And watch out! We accepted your solemn pledge that you would desist from mutual

bloodshed, and from evicting your own people from your townships. This is what you agreed to and you were witnesses to it.

ثُمَّ أَنتُمْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ تَقْتُلُونَ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَتُخْرِجُونَ فَرِيقًا مِّنكُم مِّن دِيَارِهِمْ تَظَاهَرُونَ عَلَيْهِم بِالْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَإِن يَأْتُوكُمْ أُسَارَىٰ تُفَادُوهُمْ وَهُوَ مُحَرَّمٌ عَلَيْكُمْ إِخْرَاجُهُمْ أَفَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِبَعْضِ الْكِتَابِ وَتَكْفُرُونَ بِبَعْضٍ فَمَا جَزَاءُ مَن يَفْعَلُ ذَٰلِكَ مِنكُمْ إِلَّا خِزْيٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ أَشَدِّ الْعَذَابِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **2:85**

Yet it is you who subdue and slay your own people, and evict a weak faction among you from their homes. And you support one another in hurting the community and sowing the seeds of discord. And when these homeless people get enslaved by others and are brought to you, you ransom them, whereas it was unlawful for you to evict them in the first place. What! Do you wish to accept one part of the scripture and reject the other? Think then, what the reward of such wrongdoing must be - nothing but disgrace in the life of this world, and on the Day of Resurrection the most grievous chastisement. God is not unaware of what you do. [The verse is referring to the Jewish community of Madinah (Medina), but as is always the case in the Qur'an, the commands have a wide historical applicability; in this case, to oppressive societies anywhere anytime. Ithm = Any action that depletes individual or communal energy. 'Udwaan and its derivatives = Wedge = Creating distance between hearts = Discord = Crossing the bounds of law = Committing excesses = Deeds beyond decency = Transgressing moral values]

Do you reject parts of the scripture

All included

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرَوُا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا بِالْآخِرَةِ فَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ **2:86**

These are the ones who buy instant gratification in exchange for Eternity. The logical consequence of this trade is relentless suffering in a state of utter helplessness. [Numerous verses underscore the point that the Law of Cause and Effect has no room for making amends in the Hereafter, therefore, the helplessness. Duniya = This world = Immediate gains = Short term benefits = Short-sightedness = Disregarding the Law of Cause and Effect = Forsaking the Future. Aakhirah = Hereafter = Life to come = Eternity = Long term = Far-sightedness = Future = Logical outcome = Tomorrow as built on today]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَقَفَّيْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِ بِالرُّسُلِ وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ أَفَكُلَّمَا جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ بِمَا لَا تَهْوَىٰ أَنفُسُكُمُ اسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ فَفَرِيقًا **2:87**

Moses came with the book,than Jesus and messengers

كَذَّبْتُمْ وَفَرِيقًا تَقْتُلُونَ

We gave the scripture to Moses, and after him We sent a succession of Messengers. And We gave Jesus, son of Mary (Mariam), clear evidence of the truth and We strengthened him with Gabriel (Jibraeel). Yet, is it not the case that whenever a Messenger came to you with messages that did not conform to your desires, you resorted to self-glorification? And some of them you called impostors, and others you killed or tried to subdue. [Also, you attempted to strike a deal with the Messengers to alter the revelations. 10:15, 11:113, 17:74, 68:9. Roohul Qudus = Gabriel 2:87, 2;253, 5:110, 16:2, 16:102, 26:193, 42:52]

وَقَالُوا قُلُوبُنَا غُلْفٌ بَل لَّعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَقَلِيلًا مَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ **2:88**

And they say, "Our hearts are bags of knowledge." Nay, but God has deprived them of His grace for their persistent rejection of the truth. Therefore, only a few of them will choose to believe. [2:6. La'nah = Curse = Deprivation of God's grace = God's rejection = Condemnation = Losing citizenship of the Islamic State = To be downgraded = Abasement = Lasting humiliation]

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ كِتَابٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ وَكَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ يَسْتَفْتِحُونَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم مَّا عَرَفُوا كَفَرُوا بِهِ فَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ **2:89**

Whenever revelation from God is delivered to them, confirming (the truth in) what they have, they flatly deny it! Yet, before that, they had been praying for winning the hearts of those who denied all Divine revelation. And now that a message has come to them that they very well recognize, they deny it and conceal (what they know). God's condemnation is the due of all those who turn ungrateful. [Kufr = Rejecting, denying, opposing, or concealing the truth = Ingratitude. 2:101, 2:41, 7:157]

بِئْسَمَا اشْتَرَوْا بِهِ أَنفُسَهُمْ أَن يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ بَغْيًا أَن يُنَزِّلَ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ فَبَاءُوا بِغَضَبٍ عَلَىٰ غَضَبٍ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ **2:90**

Awful is the price for which they sell their own 'self'. They reject what God has revealed, complaining grudgingly as to why God should bestow His bounty of revelation to whomever He may elect among His servants! Thus, (for their bias) they have experienced wrath upon wrath (bitter consequences of their misdeeds). And for all those who oppose the truth, the logical consequence is a humiliating suffering. [Ghadhab = Opposite of blessing = Bitter consequences = Logical results of defying Divine laws = Physical and mental destitution for defying God = Suffering loss = Incorrectly translated as anger or wrath in relation to God. See 1:7, 2:61. Grudgingly: They cannot get over the fact that God has elected a non-Israelite Prophet. 2:97, 2:100-101, 2:142, 5:18, 7:157]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ آمِنُوا بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا نُؤْمِنُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَيَكْفُرُونَ بِمَا وَرَاءَهُ وَهُوَ الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ قُلْ فَلِمَ تَقْتُلُونَ أَنبِيَاءَ اللَّهِ مِن قَبْلُ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **2:91**

When it is said to them, "Believe in what God has revealed", they say, "We only accept what has been sent to us." And they reject all besides that, even though it is the truth confirming what they possess. Say, "(If you claim to believe in the scripture that you have), then why did you oppose and even slay the Prophets of God before, if you were believers?" [2:101. For Qatl, see 2:54]

Claim belief

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكُم مُّوسَىٰ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ثُمَّ اتَّخَذْتُمُ الْعِجْلَ مِن بَعْدِهِ وَأَنتُمْ ظَالِمُونَ **2:92**

Worshipped the cow

Moses came to you with all evidence of the truth, yet you worshiped the golden calf in his absence! You did, thus, exchange the Right with the Wrong and hurt yourselves.

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَكُمْ وَرَفَعْنَا فَوْقَكُمُ الطُّورَ خُذُوا مَا آتَيْنَاكُم بِقُوَّةٍ وَاسْمَعُوا قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَعَصَيْنَا وَأُشْرِبُوا فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْعِجْلَ بِكُفْرِهِمْ قُلْ بِئْسَمَا يَأْمُرُكُم بِهِ إِيمَانُكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **2:93**

Recall again that We accepted your solemn pledge, with Mount Sinai towering above you, as witness, "Hold fast to what We have given you, and listen with your hearts!" They (your elite) said, "We hear and we disobey." (The desire to worship a tangible deity was so intense in them that) their hearts were infused with the love of the golden calf. This led them to persistently refuse to acknowledge the truth. Say, "Evil is what your faith enjoins on you if you have any faith at all." [It teaches you to go back to the primitive ways of worshiping tangible objects!]

Love for the golden calf

قُلْ إِن كَانَتْ لَكُمُ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ عِندَ اللَّهِ خَالِصَةً مِّن دُونِ النَّاسِ فَتَمَنَّوُا الْمَوْتَ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **2:94**

Prophets quote

Say, "If the Eternal Abode with God is especially reserved for you to the exclusion of the rest of mankind, then show your readiness for death, if you are truthful." [2:80, 2:211-112, 5:18, 11:7, 67:2. Live an open life in the society instead of your secluded enclaves. 33:26, 59:2. A nation that knows not how to die, knows not how to live]

Show readiness for death

وَلَن يَتَمَنَّوْهُ أَبَدًا بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ **2:95**

But they will never show their readiness for it due to the deeds their hands have sent forth. God is well Aware of the wrongdoers. [See Zulm in 2:35 and in Preface]

وَلَتَجِدَنَّهُمْ أَحْرَصَ النَّاسِ عَلَىٰ حَيَاةٍ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا يَوَدُّ أَحَدُهُمْ لَوْ يُعَمَّرُ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمُزَحْزِحِهِ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ أَن يُعَمَّرَ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ **2:96**

Of all mankind, you will find them the most ardently desirous of a long life; even more than the idolaters. Every one of them would love to live a thousand years. Yet, the grant of longevity will not save him from the dire consequences of his transgressions. God is Seer of all that they do.

قُلْ مَن كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِّجِبْرِيلَ فَإِنَّهُ نَزَّلَهُ عَلَىٰ قَلْبِكَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **2:97**

Gabriel relates Gods Message

(They are displeased with Gabriel for bringing revelation to a gentile Prophet. 2:90.) Gentile prophet
Say (O Prophet), "Who could possibly bear a grudge against Gabriel when he has revealed (the Qur'an) upon your heart by God's leave, confirming what was revealed before it. And it (the Qur'an) is a beacon of light and glad tiding for all those who accept it. [2:101]

مَن كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِّلَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَدُوٌّ لِّلْكَافِرِينَ **2:98**

Whoever bears a grudge against God, His angels, His Messengers, and Gabriel and Michael, must know that God opposes the deniers of truth. [2:87, 16:2, 16:102, 26:193, 42:52. The Divine law intervenes between obstinate rejection and true Success. 'Adu and its derivatives = Enemy = Wedge = Opponent = Causing remoteness = Divider = Bearer of grudge. It must be noted that the Qur'anic terminology carries various shades of meanings according to the context, and whether the terms are referring to humans or to the Creator]

وَلَقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ وَمَا يَكْفُرُ بِهَا إِلَّا الْفَاسِقُونَ **2:99**

Verses are clear

We have revealed to you clear verses, and none will deny them but those who drift away from reason.

أَوَكُلَّمَا عَاهَدُوا عَهْدًا نَّبَذَهُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُم بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **2:100**

(This reflects in their daily lives.) Is it not so that whenever they make a pledge with others, a party among them breaks it (and others feel liberated from their collective responsibility)? Nay, most of them choose to disbelieve.

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ نَبَذَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِهِمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **2:101**

And now that a Messenger has come to them from God confirming the truth in what they have, a party among those who were given the scripture before, cast the Book of God (the Bible) behind their backs as though they are unaware of what it says (concerning the advent of Prophet Muhammad). [Note 'the truth in'. Musaddiq = That which confirms the truth. 7:157, 61:6. A glimpse of what the Bible says about the advent of Prophet Muhammad (S): Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me [Moses]; unto him ye shall hearken; 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. Gospel of John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:Farqleet (Arabic) = Paracletos (Greek) = The Comforter = Periclytos (Greek) = The praised One = Mawhamana (Aramaic) = The praised One = Muhammad (Arabic)]

Bible

Prophet in the bible

Followed the devil

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُو الشَّيَاطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكِ سُلَيْمَانَ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَٰكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هَارُوتَ وَمَارُوتَ وَمَا يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّىٰ يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ وَمَا هُم بِضَارِّينَ بِهِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنفَعُهُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمُوا لَمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلَاقٍ وَلَبِئْسَ مَا شَرَوْا بِهِ أَنفُسَهُمْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **2:102**

(They had followed conjecture in the past as well.) Some satanic people spread a rumor in the Kingdom of Solomon (Sulaiman). Solomon never disbelieved in the Divine laws, but the satanic people did. They fabricated a story that two angels Haaroot and Maaroot had descended in Babylon and taught magic to some people; and that they used to warn people, "We are only a temptation, therefore be not oblivious to the rational Divine laws." The rumor further stated that people learned magic from both of them and learned how to create discord between a

man and his wife. They could harm none against the Divine laws. And what they try to learn only harms them and does not profit them. They ought to know that any person indulging in this trade (the so-called occult sciences) will be a loser in the long run, and shall have no portion in the Hereafter. Evil is the price for which they sell their humanity, if they remember to make good use of their intellect. [The entire story of Haaroot Maaroot was a fabricated rumor. Magic, amulets, ghoul, demon-possession, exorcism, witchcraft, evil eye, fortune telling, astrology, palm reading, clairvoyance, knowledge of the future, Voodoo, are nothing but conjecture. These things can neither harm nor benefit anyone since nothing happens in the Universe contrary to the immutable Divine laws in nature. However, superstitions can harm people by becoming self-fulfilling prophecies. 3:123-127, 6:73, 7:54, 45:22]

Fortune tellers etc

Emulates

Superstition is harmful

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَمَثُوبَةٌ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لَّوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **2:103**

Reward given to those who acknowledge

If they had believed (in the immutability of the Divine laws) and remained mindful (of this fact), the reward for their actions would have been far better from God's Presence. This is so because they would have, then, used this knowledge. [Divine laws never change 33:62, 35:43, 48:23, and you will never find even a slight turn in them 17:77]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقُولُوا رَاعِنَا وَقُولُوا انظُرْنَا وَاسْمَعُوا وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **2:104**

Edip, don't follow blindly

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never say to the Prophet, "Raaina - listen to us." Instead, say, "Unzurna!" (Grant us attention). And then listen intently. There is a painful consequence for the rejecters of Divine Commands. [Ya ayyuhallazeena aamanu is generally, but inaccurately, translated as "O You who believe!", "O Believers!", "O You of faith! O Faithful!" etc. - Firstly, aamanu is a verb. Secondly, attaining to belief must be an act consciously undertaken after due reflection and with free will. 'Passive' faith such as claiming to be a 'believer by birth' has no merit in the Sight of God. See 4:136, 12:108. Also, choosing to believe in truth is a great blessing of God. So, my rendition: O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Ra'ina with a slight twist of the tongue and in very similar Hebrew words has derogatory meanings to it, e.g. "Be our shepherd", "O Our proud one!", "May deafness befall you." Some Jews resorted to these kinds of insults to the Prophet (4:46). The Lesson is this: Be not ambiguous and speak words straight to the point. 33:70]

Don't be ambiguous

مَّا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَلَا الْمُشْرِكِينَ أَن يُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّنْ خَيْرٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَخْتَصُّ بِرَحْمَتِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ **2:105**

Neither the deniers from among the People of the Book nor the idolaters love that any good thing should be bestowed upon you from your Lord. But God chooses for His grace (of revelation) whom He wills. God is the (non-discriminating) Lord of Infinite bounty. [3:70-71, 16:30]

مَا نَنسَخْ مِنْ آيَةٍ أَوْ نُنسِهَا نَأْتِ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْهَا أَوْ مِثْلِهَا أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **2:106**

Any message of aforetime that We revoke or cause to be lost to history, We replace it with a better or similar one. Do you not know that God is the Supreme Controller of all things and events? [Some of the People of the Book question why a new revelation was necessary. The evolution of human civilization has now come to a point where the Final Message for all mankind can be given, widely distributed, implemented and preserved forever. So, the Qur'an is now the perfected Message for all mankind at all times; its exact preservation being guaranteed by none but the Almighty Himself. 5:48, 6:115-116, 15:9, 16:101, 22:52]

No Abrogation

أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **2:107**

Do you not know that to God belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth? And (if you defy His commands you will find that) you have no patron or helper besides God. [He is fully Cognizant of your needs, and knows the messages and timings of His revelations]

أَمْ تُرِيدُونَ أَن تَسْأَلُوا رَسُولَكُمْ كَمَا سُئِلَ مُوسَىٰ مِن قَبْلُ وَمَن يَتَبَدَّلِ الْكُفْرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ **2:108**

Would you demand of your Messenger what was demanded of Moses in the past? But whoever chooses the darkness of Ignorance instead of the light of faith has already strayed from the right way. [2:67-71. Instead of reflecting on the evidence of the truth, the people of Moses demanded him to bring God face to face! 4:153. And they kept asking him vain questions 5:101, and kept making excuses. 5:24]

وَدَّ كَثِيرٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَوْ يَرُدُّونَكُم مِّن بَعْدِ إِيمَانِكُمْ كُفَّارًا حَسَدًا مِّنْ عِندِ أَنفُسِهِم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْحَقُّ فَاعْفُوا وَاصْفَحُوا حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **2:109**

Out of envy, many among the People of the Book wish to make you revert back to denying the truth after you have attained belief; even though the truth has become clear to them. Pardon them, bear with them, and leave them with their ways until God issues His decision. God has power over all things, and all events take place within the framework of His laws. [Qadeer = Appointer of laws = Supreme Controller = Able to do all things = Powerful = Almighty. 5:13, 15:85, 73:10, 74:11. Shayi = Thing = Derived meaning, event. Ethnic and nationalistic prejudices give rise to envy. 2:111, 5:18]

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُم مِّنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِندَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **2:110**

Salat Follow closely

So, establish the Divine System, and set up the Economic Order of Zakaat in the society. Whatever good you send forth for yourselves you will find it with God. Remember, God is Seer of all that you do. [2:3. Inn = Surely, Indeed, Note, Remember, Certainly, Recall, Verily, Ponder]

وَقَالُوا لَن يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَن كَانَ هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَىٰ تِلْكَ أَمَانِيُّهُمْ قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **2:111**

Eternal salvation is not exclusive to a race or sect

And they claim, "None will enter Paradise unless he is a Jew or a Christian." This is nothing but their wishful thinking. Say, "Bring your proof if you are truthful." [2:135. Burhan = Clear proof = Firm evidence = Indomitable argument = Strong logic]

بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ عِندَ رَبِّهِ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **2:112**

Nay, whoever submits his whole being to God, and he is a doer of good to humanity, his reward is with his Lord. Then, no fear shall come upon them nor shall they grieve. [2:62, 7:180-181, 41:40. They have fulfilled the purpose of life that is, to serve the Creator by serving His creation, thereby developing their personalities in this life, and thus, attaining true immortality with further progress in the life to come]

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ لَيْسَتِ النَّصَارَىٰ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ وَقَالَتِ النَّصَارَىٰ لَيْسَتِ الْيَهُودُ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ وَهُمْ يَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ كَذَٰلِكَ قَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ مِثْلَ قَوْلِهِمْ فَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **2:113**

Also, the Jews assert that the Christians have no basis, and the Christians assert that the Jews have no basis. Yet, both groups read the scripture! Such is the behavior of those who have no knowledge (or scripture). God will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that wherein they differ. [Qaul = Utterance = Thought = Assertion = Tenet = Attitude = Expression. Mankind holding divergent views will acknowledge the Divine truth in this world as well. 9:33-34, 11:118-119, 41:53, 48:28, 61:9]

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن مَّنَعَ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ أَن يُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ وَسَعَىٰ فِي خَرَابِهَا أُولَٰئِكَ مَا كَانَ لَهُمْ أَن يَدْخُلُوهَا إِلَّا **2:114**

خَائِفِينَ لَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا خِزْيٌ وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

Who could be a greater transgressor than those who bar the celebrating of God's Name from His houses of submission and strive for ruining the System? They have no right to be part thereof except in awe and humility. (Otherwise) theirs is humiliation in this world and for them is a tremendous suffering in the Hereafter. [9:17-19, 9:107, 72:18. Masajid = Mosques = Administration centers of the Divine System = Collective submission and consultation on how best to follow the Divine Commands = Centers that the Islamic government will establish to implement the Qur'anic Order in the society and manage social welfare. These are Centers where people have open access to their office bearers, where government decrees are announced and every member of the society can voice one's opinion without fear. Masjid = Singular, Mosque = Sincere collective submission = Centers of Divine System. 7:29]

Masjid

وَلِلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ فَأَيْنَمَا تُوَلُّوا فَثَمَّ وَجْهُ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:115**

God is every where

Unto God belongs the East and the West. Wherever you go, whichever way you turn, there is God's Countenance (Presence, and you remain in His Dominion). God is Infinite, Knowing. [3:95. The benevolent Divinely Prescribed System of Life should be followed everywhere on earth. In the interim, any community may follow it]

وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحَانَهُ بَل لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ كُلٌّ لَّهُ قَانِتُونَ **2:116**

But they say, "God has begotten a son!" Glorified is He! Never! Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and earth. All things and beings in the Universe are subservient to Him. [He needs no helpers, associates or offspring to manifest His Magnificence, and there is none like unto Him. 112: 1-4]

بَدِيعُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ **2:117**

The Originator of the heavens and earth: when He wills a thing to be, He but says to it "Be" - and it is.[Qaul = Saying = Thought. Badee' = Initiator = Originator = One Who creates from nothing = The Impeccable Creator]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ لَوْلَا يُكَلِّمُنَا اللَّهُ أَوْ تَأْتِينَا آيَةٌ كَذَٰلِكَ قَالَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّثْلَ قَوْلِهِمْ تَشَابَهَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ قَدْ بَيَّنَّا الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ **2:118**

Only those who fail to explore the realm of knowledge say, "Why does God not speak to us directly, nor is a miracle shown to us?" Even thus, as they now speak, spoke those who lived before their times. Their ways of thinking, their hearts and minds are all alike (untouched by the passage of time). We have made clear all the Signs for those who wish to attain conviction [by exploring the internal evidence in these revelations and in the Universe. 2:108, 2:256, 18:29, 42:51, 76:3]

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَا تُسْأَلُ عَنْ أَصْحَابِ الْجَحِيمِ **2:119**

We have sent you (O Prophet) with the Decisive Truth, as a bearer of glad tidings and as a warner. But you will not be questioned about the companions of the blazing fire. [13:40. Jaheem = Blazing fire = Insurmountable Barrier to the development of the human 'self' = Figuratively, Hell. The human 'self' can make progress only by believing in the Divine System and accordingly helping God's creation. Please see the author's note at the end of this rendition for an understanding of Self-actualization, Afterlife, Paradise and Hellfire]

وَلَن تَرْضَىٰ عَنكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَىٰ وَلَئِنِ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُم بَعْدَ الَّذِي جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **2:120**

Prophets quote

Yet, never will the Jews be pleased with you, nor will the Christians, unless you follow their form of religion. Say, "God's Guidance is the only true guidance." And if you follow their wishes and errant views after all the knowledge that has come to you, then you will find no ally or helper from God. [7:3, 10:109, 13:37. It is not a matter of my religion or your religion. Al-Qur'an is the updated, unadulterated message from the same Creator Who revealed the previous scriptures]

Quran

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَتْلُونَهُ حَقَّ تِلَاوَتِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **2:121**

Those to whom We have given the Book, they do full justice to its reading. They fulfill the right of studying it as it should be studied. They are the ones who truly believe in it. As for those who disbelieve, it is those who are the losers (of a great treasure. 10:58). [What a great laurel on the first recipients of the Book, the Sahaba Kiraam! The latter read it without understanding, merely for 'pleasing God' or themselves, instead of reflecting on it. Tilawah = Reciting and studying with reflection]

Study the Quran

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتِيَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَنِّي فَضَّلْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **2:122**

(The Israelites can easily relate to what has just been said. 62:5.) O Children of Israel! Remember My blessings I graced you with and how I gave you distinction over

all others (of the times when you followed the commandments).

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا لَّا تَجْزِي نَفْسٌ عَن نَّفْسٍ شَيْئًا وَلَا يُقْبَلُ مِنْهَا عَدْلٌ وَلَا تَنفَعُهَا شَفَاعَةٌ وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ **2:123**

No intercession

Remain conscious of a Day when no human being will avail another, no ransom will be taken from any of them, nor will intercession profit anyone, and none will be helped. [Absolute justice is about to prevail in the State of Madinah, then in this world, and ultimately in the Hereafter. 2:48, 6:164-165]

وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا قَالَ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِي قَالَ لَا يَنَالُ عَهْدِي الظَّالِمِينَ **2:124**

And remember when his Lord had Abraham go through trying circumstances with His commands, and he fulfilled them. Then He said, "I have appointed you an exemplary leader for all mankind." He asked, "And of my offspring (will there be exemplary leaders as well)?" He replied, "My Covenant does not include the wrongdoers." [Being the offspring of a great man avails none. Trying circumstances: Abraham stood up to the formidable challenge of a mighty priesthood, rampant idolatry and the tyrannical autocracy of King Nimrod Shaddad in Ur, Mesopotamia. Imam = Plumb line that ensures the verticality of a wall = An outstanding leader]

وَإِذْ جَعَلْنَا الْبَيْتَ مَثَابَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَمْنًا وَاتَّخِذُوا مِن مَّقَامِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مُصَلًّى وَعَهِدْنَا إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ أَن طَهِّرَا بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْعَاكِفِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُودِ **2:125**

Remember, We appointed the House a means to achieve unity among all mankind, and thus, a source of peace and security. So,attain the stature of Abraham recalling his firm stand (for Monotheism) and closely follow the Divine Commands. We did take a Covenant from Abraham and Ishmael, "Keep My House clean of all falsehood for those who rally around it and those who strive hard for the noble objectives and those who submit in humility to the Divine Commands." [Al-Bait = The House = Ka'bah = The Symbolic House of God in Makkah = The meeting point for all mankind = The Source of peace, security and unity for all humanity. 2:142-143, 3:96, 5:97, 14:35, 22:25. Musalla = The ways to obey God. Maqam-e-Ibrahim = The stature of Abraham = The stand he took. Taifa = Those who might be diverse in color and geography but united in Ideology. Taaif = Watchman = Custodian = One who stands guard. Taifeen = Caretakers of humanity = Guardians of human rights. 'Akafa = To prevent schism and discord = Set things right. 'Aakifeen = Those who strive for a noble objective = Those who prevent divisions = Who set things right. Ishmael resided permanently in Makkah, while his father kept traveling between Hagar (Haajirah) in Makkah and Sarah in Can'aan (Palestine). Ishmael married a woman from the Qahtani Tribe of Jurham and became the ancestor of Musta Ribah (Arabianized tribes

Symbolic house
Meeting place
Focal point

Importance of Abraham

or the early Arabs). So the Arabs are, interestingly, descendants of a Hebrew father, Ishmael and a Qahtani Jurham mother from the Arabian Peninsula. They had twelve sons in their long and happy married life. The Qahtanis are still abundantly found in Arabia. They were a wandering tribe in Southern Arabia who had settled in Makkah before Ishmael, because of the (contrary to popular legend) pre-existing well of Zam-Zam. The "Wilderness of Beer-Sheba" of Genesis 21:14, embraces the Southern Palestine, and Hijaz (the mid-western Arabia). Therefore, the Bible and the Qur'an are in agreement concerning where Ishmael and his mother Hagar had settled after moving from Can'aan. Here is a glimpse of history about Hagar and Ishmael as found in the Bible. Genesis 17:20 - As for Ishmael, I have heard you (O Abraham); behold, I will bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. Genesis 21:17 - And God heard the voice of the lad (Ishmael); and the angel of God called to Hagar from the Heights, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand; for I will make him a great nation. Genesis 21:20 - And God was with the lad, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran (Faran, Makkah).This history also explains why the Qur'an repeatedly asserts that the Arabs had not received any scripture before the Qur'an. The Arabs, being the descendants of Ishmael, could only become a community long after Ishmael had passed on and when his progeny had multiplied with time. Note: The Valley was a barren land, but Abraham settled his family in the town of Makkah, near the soon to be built Ka'bah. So, contrary to popular legends, Abraham never left his family in the isolation of a desert]

Abraham left his wife in Mecca

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَٰذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُم بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ قَالَ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَأُمَتِّعُهُ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ أَضْطَرُّهُ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ النَّارِ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **2:126**

And Abraham prayed, "My Lord! Make this land a haven of peace and security, and provide its residents with plentiful sustenance; those who believe in God and the Last Day." He answered, "I will also provide for those who disbelieve and let them enjoy for a short while, then I will commit them to the suffering of the fire, a miserable destiny!" [14:37, 17:18-20, 22:25, 95:3]

وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **2:127**

Abraham and Ishmael build the Kaba

As Abraham raised the foundations of the House together with Ishmael, they prayed earnestly, "Our Lord! Accept this (our service) from us. You are the Hearer, Knower."

رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُّسْلِمَةً لَّكَ وَأَرِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **2:128**

"Our Lord! Make us submissive to You and of our descendants let there be a community

submissive to You. Show us the best ways to serve You and enable us to make amends. You are the Absolver of imperfections, the Merciful. [2:186, 2:286]

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **2:129**

"Our Lord! Raise from among them a Messenger who will convey Your messages to them and instruct them in the scripture (by personal example) and the wisdom (behind each command). And also teach them how to grow in goodness. You are Almighty, the Wise." [Tazkiah from Zaku = Development of the 'self' = Personal development = Self-actualization. This teaching will not be mere lecturing, but it will entail establishment of Deen (the Divinely Prescribed System of Life) in the individuals and in the society. Such a Benevolent society in turn helps the individual to grow in goodness and attain self-actualization. 2:231, 17:39, 33:34, 57:25]

Next Prophet

وَمَن يَرْغَبُ عَن مِّلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَن سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ وَلَقَدِ اصْطَفَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **2:130**

Who would abandon the Creed of Abraham except the one who ridicules his own 'self' with folly? We elected him in this world for (his outstanding qualities stated in this Book). And in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of the righteous. [As-Saaliheen = The righteous ones = Those who perfect their personalities = Increase human potential = Who set things right = They help others = Create balance in the society = Fulfill others' needs. 16:120-122]

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ أَسْلِمْ قَالَ أَسْلَمْتُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **2:131**

When his Lord said to him, "Submit (your will) to Me!" He said, "I submit to the Lord of the Worlds."

وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ **2:132**

This very legacy Abraham left to his children, and so did Jacob, saying, "O My children! Indeed, God has chosen for you the Way of Life. Therefore, let not death overtake you except that you are submitters (Muslim)." [Deen = The Divinely Prescribed System of Life = Al-Islam. It has more to do with the collective life of humans and the science of sociology. It concerns itself with people living in this world collectively in peace according to a Code of permanent values that ensures success in both lives. Religion (Mazhab) is more of a generic term signifying a creed involving certain rites and rituals and seeking individual salvation. Islam being a Collective System of Life is, in fact, a challenge to religion]

Submitters

أَمْ كُنتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن بَعْدِي قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَٰهَكَ وَإِلَٰهَ آبَائِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ **2:133**

وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِلَٰهًا وَاحِدًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

Were you present when death approached Jacob; and he asked his children, "Whom will you serve after me?" They answered, "We will serve your God, the God of your forefathers, Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac - the One God. And to Him we surrender ourselves."

تِلْكَ أُمَّةٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَلَكُم مَّا كَسَبْتُمْ وَلَا تُسْأَلُونَ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **2:134**

You earn what you reap

That was a community that has passed on. Theirs is what they earned, and yours is what you earn. And you will not be asked about what they did. [The dogmas of the "Chosen People", "Original Sin" and "Blood Atonement" were invented by the followers of these Prophets. But the Divine law stresses individual responsibility. Every person is accountable only for one's own actions. 6:164, 39:7, 53:38- 39]

? Chosen people

وَقَالُوا كُونُوا هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَىٰ تَهْتَدُوا قُلْ بَلْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **2:135**

Follow creed of Abraham

They say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be guided." Say, "Nay! Ours is the Creed of Abraham the upright. He turned away from all that is false, and he was not an idolater in any sense." [And he was neither a Jew nor a Christian (3:67). Mushrik = Idolater = Pagan = Anyone who ascribes divinity to other than the One True God = Who associates partners with Him = Who prefers manmade tenets = Who worships idols in any form such as statues, own desires, forces in Nature, any of God's creation = One who uncritically follows what others do = A blind follower = One who considers men as authorities instead of the Divine revelation = Anyone who makes lists of Halaal (permissible) and Haraam (forbidden) from outside the Qur'an = One who believes in clergy against the Divine revelation = Who adores saints, political or religious leaders = Who bows or prostrates physically or mentally before a creation = Who promotes books, dogmas and tenets contrary to the Qur'an. Shirk = The act of being a Mushrik]

Adoring leaders

قُولُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ **2:136**

Acknowledge all Prophets

Prophets quote

(O You who have chosen to believe) Say, "We believe in God, and the revelation that has been given to us, and (the surviving truth) in what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, as well as the Tribal Israelite Prophets and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to all Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them (since all of them were one in purpose and they got their guidance from the One True God). And for Him, we are Muslims." [About my interpolation 'the surviving truth', see 2:79, 2:101. Asbaat = The Prophets raised among the twelve Israelite Tribes, frequently called the Patriarchs. 'No

distinction' = All of them were commissioned by God and they were one in purpose, although their times and places varied. They were given the message emphasizing the social needs of their respective nations. Humanity is now able to receive the Final revelation that embraces all truth and sorts out the human touch in the previous scriptures. (See 2:75, 2:78-79, 2:101, 3:70-71, 3:78, 3:186-187, 5:13, 5:41, 6:91, 9:31). 'No distinction' also indicates that we do not deny some and accept some of the Prophets named in the Qur'an. A misconception recently trying to hold grounds should probably be addressed here: It is God alone Who is Impeccable and there is none like unto Him. And no two human beings are identical in every respect. The apostles of God were made to excel one another concerning their specific duties relevant to the times and places of their advent. "We have caused some of them to excel others." (2:253). "But, We caused some Prophets to excel the others." (17:55). However, they were all one in purpose, so we make no distinction among them on that account, and we do not accept some and deny some of them]

Prophets duty at their time

فَإِنْ آمَنُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا آمَنتُم بِهِ فَقَدِ اهْتَدَوا وَّإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا هُمْ فِي شِقَاقٍ فَسَيَكْفِيكَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **2:137**

So if they come to believe as you believe, then they will be rightly guided. But if they turn away, then they are in opposition (to the message of the aforementioned Prophets). However, God will suffice you, for, He is Hearer, Knower.

صِبْغَةَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ صِبْغَةً وَنَحْنُ لَهُ عَابِدُونَ **2:138**

Hue of God! And who can give a better hue (to life) than God? And it is He alone Whom we serve. [Hue of God = We take our hue from God. Nearest to God are those who have adopted His Sibghah = Hue or Color = His attributes in the human capacity. (2:138, 83:28). That means adopting the Divine Attributes in our limited human capacity such as: kindness - empathy - creativity - mercy - forgiveness - turning to people in love and affection - (attaining) wisdom - kindness - effort - concealment of sins - justice - bounteousness - generosity - greatness - love - glory - dignity - insight - and all other goodness and beauty are attributes of God. Knowledge (learning) - compassion - clemency - taking care - peacefulness - remaining aware - sense of duty - determination - honesty - protecting others - generosity - unity - self-control - leniency - approachability - appreciation - moral strength - patience - showing light - guiding - independence - truthfulness - maintenance of people and things - keeping pledges - resolve - benefiting others - beautiful designing - providing - listening - observing - being worthy of trust - nobility of character - giving - and sense of responsibility. Interestingly, people can make a self-assessment by this spectrum as to where they stand on the ascending ladder of (Tazkiah) self-actualization or personal development]

قُلْ أَتُحَاجُّونَنَا فِي اللَّهِ وَهُوَ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ وَلَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُخْلِصُونَ **2:139**

God belongs to all Prophets quote

Say (to the People of the Book), "Do you argue with us concerning God? But He is our Lord as well as your Lord. We are responsible for our deeds and you are responsible for your deeds. And to Him alone we are devoted." [The criterion of honor in the Sight of God is character, and not race, color, nationality, religion or genealogy. Some people think that God is only interested in the Children of Israel when He is the Lord of all humanity. And some think that God begot a

son and sacrificed him to forgive their sins. But it is the Law of Requital that is operative in the entire Universe. So, there is no such thing as "Original Sin". Every human being is born with a clean slate and is accountable only for one's own doings. 1:1, 2:111, 2:123, 2:135, 2:211, 17:70, 49:13, 53:38-39, 114:1]

أَمْ تَقُولُونَ إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطَ كَانُوا هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَىٰ قُلْ أَأَنتُمْ أَعْلَمُ أَمِ اللَّهُ وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن كَتَمَ شَهَادَةً عِندَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **2:140**

Prophets quote

And you claim that Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribal Israelite Prophets were 'Jews' or 'Christians'! Say, "Do you know better than God?" Ah, who could be more unjust than those who conceal the testimony they have from God? But God is not unaware of what you do. [Amazingly, the Qur'an is alluding to a historical fact that was unanimously accepted from research done centuries later! Scholars of the Bible know that the concept of 'Jewry' came into being long after the Patriarchs and after Moses. Likewise, the term and the doctrine of 'Christianity' were unknown during the life of Jesus]

تِلْكَ أُمَّةٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَلَكُم مَّا كَسَبْتُمْ وَلَا تُسْأَلُونَ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **2:141**

They were a community that has passed on. Theirs is what they earned, and yours is what you earn. And you will not be asked about what they did.

Juz 2

سَيَقُولُ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَا وَلَّاهُمْ عَن قِبْلَتِهِمُ الَّتِي كَانُوا عَلَيْهَا قُل لِّلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **2:142**

Prophets quote
Everything belongs to God

Those of little understanding among people say, "What has turned them from Jerusalem, the Qiblah that the Jews used to follow? Say, "To God belongs East and West. He guides to the straight path whoever wills (to be guided)." ['They' = Jews. Qiblah = Center of devotion = Symbol of uniform Ideology = Center for the unity of mankind = Deen = System of Life. The Children of Israel have considered Jerusalem as their Center of devotion but the Jews always believed in a tribal god and, hence, a tribal center. But God is the Lord of all humanity. He makes no distinction between Jews and Gentiles. And the Qur'an invites all mankind to become one community. His Final message is not confined to a particular tribe, nation or group of people. Ka'bah erected by Abraham, the first ever House of monotheism, has always been the Qiblah for all humanity. 2:213, 3:96, 4:170, 6:91-92, 7:158, 10:19, 12:104, 21:107, 22:49, 34:28, 38:87, 57:25, 114:1]

Quran is not confined to one group

وَكَذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِّتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ **2:143**
وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الْقِبْلَةَ الَّتِي
كُنتَ عَلَيْهَا إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَ مَن يَتَّبِعُ الرَّسُولَ مِمَّن يَنقَلِبُ عَلَىٰ
عَقِبَيْهِ وَإِن كَانَتْ لَكَبِيرَةً إِلَّا عَلَى الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمَا
كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُضِيعَ إِيمَانَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Thus We have made you a justly balanced community that you might be witnesses over the peoples, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves. We have appointed the Direction that you have always adopted (O Messenger) in order to distinguish him who follows the Messenger, from him who turns about on his heels. In fact, this adoption of Ka'bah as the Qiblah has been difficult except for those who follow God's Guidance. It is never God's purpose to let your faith go to waste. God is compassionate and merciful to all people. [Ummah = Community = A Community based on Divine Ideology. 'Turns about on his heels' = Goes back to his old ways = Succumbs to traditional beliefs. 2:142, 4:88, 29:25]

God is kind to all

قَدْ نَرَىٰ تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَاهَا **2:144**
فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُمْ فَوَلُّوا
وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ
الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ

We have seen your eagerness (O Messenger), therefore, We will certainly make you control and administer the Qiblah that is dear to you (for its Sublime objective). Keep your purpose focused on the Masjid of Security, and all of you believers, wherever you are, keep your purpose focused toward it. Those who have been given the scripture before know that this (revelation) is the truth from their Lord. God is not unaware of what they do. [The verse is not commanding people to turn their faces, as usually misunderstood. See 2:177. Wajh = Face = Countenance = Whole being = Purpose. Qiblah = Direction = Center of devotion = Masjid of Security = Source of peace and security for all humanity = The Symbol of a uniform Ideology = Symbol of pure Monotheism = Source of the unity of mankind. Ka'bah has been the Center of devotion for all humanity ever since it was erected by Prophets Abraham and Ishmael. 2:142, 2:213, 3:96, 4:170, 6:91-92, 7:158, 10:19, 12:104, 21:107, 22:49, 34:28, 38:87, 57:25, 114:1]

Focal point

وَلَئِنْ أَتَيْتَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ بِكُلِّ آيَةٍ مَّا تَبِعُوا قِبْلَتَكَ وَمَا **2:145**
أَنتَ بِتَابِعٍ قِبْلَتَهُمْ وَمَا بَعْضُهُم بِتَابِعٍ قِبْلَةَ بَعْضٍ وَلَئِنِ
اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ إِنَّكَ إِذًا

لَّمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

Even if you were to place all evidence (in these verses) together before the People of the Book, they would not follow your Qiblah, and neither may you follow their Qiblah, nor will they even follow each other's Qiblah. If you followed their errant views after the knowledge has come to you, you will be among the misdirected. [Qiblah = Direction = Focal Point = It is the tangible but symbolic structure for unity of mankind. People honor the temples of their choice. They will recognize the Ka'bah as their own Qiblah when evolution of human civilization brings them to the right conclusion. 2:158, 3:97, 4:170, 6:84-91, 22:23-28. Zaalimeen = Oppressors = Those who hurt themselves or others = Those who choose to do wrong = Who displace something from its rightful place = Who relegate the truth = Violators of human rights = Misdirected = Those who prefer to live in the darkness of ignorance = Commonly translated as wrongdoers]

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّ فَرِيقًا مِّنْهُمْ لَيَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **2:146**

Those to whom We gave the scripture before, recognize this (revelation) as they recognize their own children but, most certainly, some of them (their scholars) conceal the truth which they themselves know. [The advent of Prophet Muhammad from the Ishmaelite descendants of Abraham has been foretold in the Bible. Genesis 21:13-18. Gospel of John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7. See QXP 2:125. Historically, the Gospel of Saint Barnabas, which was accepted and widely read in the churches, had 'Muhammad' in the exact Arabic form. But Pope Gelasius banned that Gospel in 496 CE for finding the Arabic name distasteful. It was only in the 16th century when the Italian translation of Barnabas was discovered in Vienna, Austria. But, obviously, translations can never be as reliable as the original text]

Advent of Muhammad in bible

الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ **2:147**

Don't doubt the truth

This (Qur'an) is the truth from your Lord, so never be of those who waver.

وَلِكُلٍّ وِجْهَةٌ هُوَ مُوَلِّيهَا فَاسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ أَيْنَ مَا تَكُونُوا يَأْتِ بِكُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **2:148**

Rituals

(Mere rituals carry no importance even though people pursue their self-appointed interests.) Each one has a goal toward which he turns. Then strive together toward all that is good. Whatever stand you take, God will bring you all together. Indeed, God is Able to do all things. [Innallaha 'ala kulli shayin Qadeer = God is Able to do all things = He is the All Powerful Appointer of His laws = He has assigned due proportion for all things and events. 2:177, 57:20, 83:19-28, 102:1-2. Shayi = Thing = Derived meaning, event. The real objective for you is to compete with one another in human welfare and develop your innate capacities. God will bring you together under the banner of One Ideology, and ultimately gather all of you on the Day of Resurrection]

وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ
وَإِنَّهُ لَلْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **2:149**

From wherever you start forth (whichever way you proceed, and whatever you are preoccupied with), keep yourself focused on the Masjid-il-Haraam (the Sacred Masjid, the Ultimate Center for the unity of all mankind.) This is the truth from your Lord. God is not unaware of what you do (with your life).

Only one restricted sanctuary

وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ
وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ
عَلَيْكُمْ حُجَّةٌ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ
وَاخْشَوْنِي وَلِأُتِمَّ نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ **2:150**

Again, regardless of wherever you are and whichever way you are proceeding, you must keep yourself focused on the Masjid-il-Haraam (the Center for all humanity). If you abide by (this command) it will leave no grounds for people to dispute against you except the unjust fault-finders among them. Do not be intimidated by them, but stand in awe of Me so that I may perfect My grace upon you, and that you may be rightly guided. [2:6, 5:2-3. The blessed results of Unity in diversity will become a living witness to their objections]

كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِيكُمْ رَسُولًا مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِنَا وَيُزَكِّيكُمْ
وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا
تَعْلَمُونَ **2:151**

To this end, We have sent among you a Messenger of your own, conveying to you Our revelations and helping you grow in goodness. And he empowers you with the knowledge of the Book and wisdom, and thus, he teaches you what you knew not.

فَاذْكُرُونِي أَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِي وَلَا تَكْفُرُونِ **2:152**

Therefore, raise My Name and I shall raise your name giving you eminence! Be grateful to Me, and deny Me not! [2:177, 2:186, 2:220, 15:49, 21:10, 21:23-24, 23:70, 38:24, 43:44. Azkurni = Remember Me = Raise My Name. Azkurkum = I will remember you = I will give you eminence. Shukr = Being grateful in word and action = Sharing Divine bounties with others = Opposite of Kufr whenever Kufr denotes concealing = Returning more than receiving = Holding a benefactor in high esteem. Note that lack of Shukr or gratitude in the Qur'anic sense is Kufr, denying the Giver! Tazkiah = Growth of the 'self' = Self-actualization]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ **2:153**

Salat

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Seek help by patiently following the Divine Commands. Certainly, God is with the steadfast. [Salaat = Following God's commands closely 2:3. Wa in the middle of this verse merges with Salaat as indicated by 'God being with the steadfast', without mentioning Salaat in the end]

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَن يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ وَلَكِن لَّا تَشْعُرُونَ **2:154**

Death

(True believers are steadfast in self-defense. 2:190.) Do not say of those who are slain in God's cause, "They are dead!" Nay, they are living, but you do not perceive. [Death is like a prolonged state of sleep until the Resurrection Day (36:52). However, those who lay their lives in the cause of God, themselves, undergo an emergent evolution, and instantly find themselves in a state of bliss of the Next Life. And they get honorable provision from their Sustainer. 3:169]

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُم بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ **2:155**

(Adversity is a great barometer of the strength of personality.) We will cause you to go through such tribulations as fear, hunger, and loss of wealth, person, and fruit of your labor, so that you may test your mettle. Therefore, give glad tidings to those who remain unwavering in their resolve.

الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُم مُّصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ **2:156**

When a calamity befalls them, they do not waver. Rather, they say in word and attitude, "To God we belong, dedicated to His cause, and every step of ours will advance in the direction shown by Him." [9:59]

أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ **2:157**

Such are they on whom are their Lord's blessings and grace. And it is those who have been rightly guided. [33:43, 33:56]

إِنَّ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِن شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ فَمَنْ حَجَّ الْبَيْتَ أَوِ اعْتَمَرَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِ أَن يَطَّوَّفَ بِهِمَا وَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَاكِرٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:158**

Indeed, (Mount) As-Safa and (Mount) Al-Marwah are among the Symbols of God. So, there is no blame on a pilgrim or a visitor to go around them. If anyone volunteers to do acts of welfare, then most certainly, God is Appreciative, Knower. [Abraham and Ishmael worked in the region of Mount Safa and Mount Marwah in Makkah, building the Ka'bah. There is nothing wrong in honoring such historical relics (2:177, 22:28). God has appointed the Ka'bah as the focal point for all humanity. And that is the real purpose behind the annual Hajj convention and, when announced by the Islamic Central Authority, the 'Umrah conferences. 2:148, 2:196, 3:96, 22:27-28. Khair = Good things = Acts of benevolence = Community welfare = Peace and security = Betterment in both lives = Selfless service]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنزَلْنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالْهُدَىٰ مِن بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّاهُ لِلنَّاسِ فِي الْكِتَابِ أُولَٰئِكَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّاعِنُونَ **2:159**

Indeed, those who conceal anything of the evidence and the guidance that We have revealed after We have made it clear to mankind through this Book; such are the ones whom God will condemn and whom all who have discernment will condemn. [God has defined the objectives of the Hajj in this Book 22:28. Those who conceal the sublime purpose of these assemblies by making them senseless rituals, deprive humanity of a phenomenal blessing. La'nah = Condemnation = Rejection = Curse = Deprivation from grace. Laa'inoon = Those endowed with the sense of distinguishing right from wrong, and thus able to condemn. Related non-Qur'anic word, 'Al-la'een' = Scare-crow repelling the birds]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَأَصْلَحُوا وَبَيَّنُوا فَأُولَٰئِكَ أَتُوبُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنَا التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **2:160**

Except those who repent and reform and openly proclaim (the truth that they were hiding). To them I turn - for, I am the Acceptor of repentance, Most Merciful. [Taubah = Repentance = Turning to God = Returning to the right path. Salah = Corrective action = Reform = Making amends]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ **2:161**

But, those who reject faith and die as rejecters, upon them is God's condemnation, and of the angels, and of all mankind. [Condemnation of God = Deprivation of His grace. Condemnation of angels = Harm incurred for violating universal laws. Condemnation of mankind = Suffering at the hands of other nations]

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَلَا هُمْ يُنظَرُونَ **2:162**

In this state shall they abide. Their penalty will not be lightened for them, nor will they be given a break.

وَإِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ الرَّحِيمُ **2:163**

Remember, your God is One God. There is no god but He, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
[It is only His laws that are operative in the entire Universe, and any nations falling in conflict with His laws will suffer ultimate self-destruction. 1:1-2, 6:45. Al-Ilah = God = The Sovereign = The One Worthy of service, obedience and worship = The Supreme Master. Ilah = Refers to the One True God = It also indicates a false god, depending upon the context]

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَالْفُلْكِ الَّتِي تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِمَا يَنفَعُ النَّاسَ وَمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِن مَّاءٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَاحِ وَالسَّحَابِ الْمُسَخَّرِ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **2:164**

(God never ordains blind faith.) Indeed, there are ample signs in the creation of the heavens and earth, the alternation of the night and the day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of mankind, the water that God sends down from the heights, thereby giving life to the land after it had been lifeless, in dispersing a great variety of creatures therein, in the currents of winds and the clouds made subservient between the high atmosphere and the earth. All these are clear signs for those who use their intellect. [Einstein correctly pointed out, "The Universe is too organized to be the result of an accident." See 6:73. Sama = Sky = Heaven = Atmosphere = Canopy = Height. 35:27-28]

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَندَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِّلَّهِ وَلَوْ يَرَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِذْ يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ أَنَّ الْقُوَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعَذَابِ **2:165**

Yet, among mankind there are those who choose others as equals to God. They love them as they should love God. But the believers are staunch in their love for God. Oh, if the transgressors could see themselves when they face the doom - They would then realize that all power belongs to God alone and that God is Stern in punishment. [3:30-31, 7:3. In the Qur'an, reverence or love of God invariably denotes obeying His commands. Hubb = Love = Adoring by obeying = To revere by following commands. Nidd = False god = One who tries to play god. Example: Pharaoh tried to equal God 43:51. Andaad = Those who play god = Political tyrants = Religious leaders who issue edicts contrary to the Divine revelation. God being stern in punishment means His Law of Requital favoring none]

Are we equating Jesus, Muhammad to God

إِذْ تَبَرَّأَ الَّذِينَ اتُّبِعُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا وَرَأَوُا الْعَذَابَ وَتَقَطَّعَتْ بِهِمُ الْأَسْبَابُ **2:166**

Then those who were followed (the political and religious leaders) will renounce their followers, as soon as they see the impending doom, and all their mutual bonds will be rent asunder.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا لَوْ أَنَّ لَنَا كَرَّةً فَنَتَبَرَّأَ مِنْهُمْ كَمَا تَبَرَّءُوا مِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ يُرِيهِمُ اللَّهُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ حَسَرَاتٍ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَا هُم بِخَارِجِينَ مِنَ النَّارِ **2:167**

The followers will say, "If a return were possible for us, we would renounce them as they have renounced us." Thus will God let them experience their own deeds as anguish; but they will not emerge from the fire of Regret.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **2:168**

(Declaring things permissible or forbidden is trying to 'rival' God.) O Mankind! Partake and enjoy the lawful and decent things of the earth, and do not follow the footsteps of the Satan. Indeed, he is an open enemy to you. [Satan, the rebellious desires, and satanic people lead people into transgressing. Mubeen = Open = Obvious = Known = Sure 7:22]

Halal

إِنَّمَا يَأْمُرُكُم بِالسُّوءِ وَالْفَحْشَاءِ وَأَن تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **2:169**

He teaches you to create inequities in the society, lewdness and stinginess amounting to shame, and that you should say about God what you do not know. [Fahasha = Lewdness = Stinginess to the point of shame = Indecent acts. The satans in the society set up rules contrary to the Divine revelation. They make their own lists of permissible and forbidden and teach people that accumulation of wealth is perfectly alright. Nay, spend on God's servants all that is beyond your needs. 2:21-22, 2:219, 41:10]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوَلَوْ كَانَ آبَاؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ **2:170**

When it is said to them, "Follow what God has revealed", they say, "Nay! We will follow the ways of our ancestors." What! Even though their ancestors (and the ancient Imams) were lacking in understanding and were not rightly guided?[5:104, 10:78, 11:62, 11:87, 21:53, 34:43, 38:7, 43:23. Hudan and derivatives = Prominent =

Following forefathers not Quran

Bright = Lighted = Clearly visible = Leading = Guidance = Lighthouse = A well-lit road = A landmark of identification in the desert or sea]

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا كَمَثَلِ الَّذِي يَنْعِقُ بِمَا لَا يَسْمَعُ إِلَّا دُعَاءً وَنِدَاءً صُمٌّ بُكْمٌ عُمْيٌ فَهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ **2:171**

Blind followers

The likeness of such blind followers is that (of a herd of sheep) which hear the shepherd's call, but hear in it nothing more than a sound and a shout. Deaf, dumb, blind, for they do not use their reason. [This is subhuman level of existence 7:179. 'Unq = Shepherd's call. Shepherd here pertains to religious leaders who have learned some meaningless words or tenets, and a herd of sheep is the masses that blindly follow them. Kufr embraces blind following in addition to denying, opposing, or concealing the truth. Perceptual senses alone cannot distinguish human beings from the rest of the Animal Kingdom. It is the intellectual analysis that sets them apart]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ **2:172**

Eat what God approved

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Enjoy the clean, decent and aesthetically pleasing things that We have provided for all of you. And render thanks to God if it is Him that you serve. [2:168]

إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةَ وَالدَّمَ وَلَحْمَ الْخِنزِيرِ وَمَا أُهِلَّ بِهِ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ فَمَنِ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **2:173**

Can't be eaten

He has forbidden you: dead meat (carrion), blood, swine-flesh, and anything (not just meat) that has been dedicated to other than God (be it a person, an idol or a tomb 5:3). But if one is forced by necessity, neither intending disobedience, nor exceeding, it will not be a violation that hurts his own 'self'. Indeed, God is Forgiving, Merciful. [6:121, 6:145. Ithm = A violation that drags down the 'self' = An act that hurts the human 'self' = Anything that makes it difficult to rise up = An impediment to activity = Any action that depletes individual or communal energy. Ghafarah = Helmet and armor. Forgiveness involves protection from the detrimental effects of faults]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَشْتَرُونَ بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ مَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ إِلَّا النَّارَ وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **2:174**

Those who conceal the Book of God, and barter it away for a trifling gain, they eat into their bellies nothing but fire. God will not even address them on the Day

Making lawful and unlawful

of Resurrection, nor will He make their own 'self' grow. Theirs will be an awful suffering. [Those who conceal the Book = The ones who start making their own lists of the lawful and unlawful, and thus, usurp the Divine Right of law-making. Also note that this verse clearly mentions the ongoing growth and evolution of the 'self' in the Hereafter. Tazkiah from Zaku = Growth = Purity from vice = Development of the 'self' = Self-actualization]

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرَوُا الضَّلَالَةَ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَالْعَذَابَ بِالْمَغْفِرَةِ فَمَا أَصْبَرَهُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ **2:175**

It is those who take error in exchange for guidance, and torment in exchange for the protection of forgiveness. How steadfast are they in their pursuit of the fire!

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ نَزَّلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِي الْكِتَابِ لَفِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ **2:176**

Truth is in the Quran

This is so, because God has revealed the Book in absolute truth; therein is no contradiction. Obviously, those who set their own views against the Book, split deeply into sects and fall into mutual disputes. [4:82, 25:30. Shaqq and derivatives = To split = Fall apart = Schism = Fall into disputes = Opposition = Oppose one another = Splitting of personality = Break apart the unity = Enmity]

No contradiction

Start

لَّيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَن تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَٰكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ **2:177**

(One consequence of this schism is their pre-occupation with rituals, with each sect leaving the revelation aside and taking delight in its own set of dogmas they call religion. 30:32.) Righteousness and exponential development of the 'self' depends not on whether you turn your faces to East or West. But righteousness is that: (2:177, 2:285, 4:136 give us the Five Articles of Faith)* One has conviction in God, * And the Last Day, * And the Angels, * And the Book, * And the Prophets. * And that he gives of his cherished wealth to: * Family and relatives, * Orphans, * Widows, * Those left helpless in the society, * And those whose hard-earned income fails to meet their basic needs, * Those whose running businesses have stalled, * The ones who have lost their jobs, * Whose life has stalled for any reason, * The disabled, * The needy wayfarer, son of the street, the homeless,

This is piety

the one who travels to you for assistance, * Those who ask for help, and * Those whose necks are burdened with any kind of bondage, oppression, crushing debts and extreme hardship of labor.* (And righteous are) those who strive to establish the institution of Salaat, (2:3. 2:53)* And help set up the Economic System of Zakaat. * They are true to their pledge whenever they make one. * And they remain steadfast in physical or emotional distress and in times of peril. It is those who have proven themselves to be true, and it is those who are living upright. [2:4, 3:91-92. Yateem, Miskeen, Ibn-is-Sabeel, Fir-Riqaab, carry all the meanings rendered above. Please also note that the Qur'an has named above the well-known five "Articles of faith." But belief in Taqdeer = Predetermined destiny, has been interjected in the fabricated Ajami accounts as the sixth article of faith by 'Imams', making Muslims fatalistic in their thought and behavior. The Qur'an nowhere mentions Taqdeer or the predestined fates of individuals. Qadar or Taqdeer always denote the law, the due measure of all things appointed by God. And man determines his own destiny by following or defying those laws]

Five articles of faith

Taqdeer

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِصَاصُ فِي الْقَتْلَى الْحُرُّ بِالْحُرِّ وَالْعَبْدُ بِالْعَبْدِ وَالْأُنثَىٰ بِالْأُنثَىٰ فَمَنْ عُفِيَ لَهُ مِنْ أَخِيهِ شَيْءٌ فَاتِّبَاعٌ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَأَدَاءٌ إِلَيْهِ بِإِحْسَانٍ ذَٰلِكَ تَخْفِيفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ فَمَنِ اعْتَدَىٰ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَلَهُ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **2:178**

Equal punishment
No death penalty

(Security of life is the cornerstone of a civilized society.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! The law of Just Recompense (Qisaas) has been prescribed for you in dealing with murder. If a free person has committed murder, that free person will face the law. If a servant has committed murder, that servant will face the law. And if a woman has committed murder, that woman will face the law. If the victim's kin pardons the guilty, the murderer must be appreciative and pay an equitable compensation to the kin in handsome gratitude. This pardon is a concession and mercy from your Lord. Whoever, after this, trespasses this law will have an awful doom in the Court of God. [Equitable compensation takes into account the financial situation of the accused. See 4:92-93, 5:32, 17:33, 42:40. Color, creed, race, status or gender of the victim or the offender will have no bearing before the Justice System]

وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقِصَاصِ حَيَاةٌ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ **2:179**

There is life for you in the law of Just Recompense, O You who use your intellect! This is so that you may live in security. [So, Qisaas is a deterrent and not revenge]

Not revenge

كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذَا حَضَرَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ إِن تَرَكَ خَيْرًا الْوَصِيَّةُ لِلْوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ حَقًّا عَلَى الْمُتَّقِينَ **2:180**

Regarding proper dispensation of property, it is prescribed for you, before death approaches any of you, and he is leaving behind much wealth, that he set up a will

Will

for parents and family in a decent, equitable manner. This is a binding duty on the upright. [Any oversight or leftover from the will shall be distributed according to portions Divinely assigned in 4:11-12. Please remember that most Muslims forget this point, and some 'authorities' even revoke 2:180! How can a father will to impart equal portions to two of his sons when one of them might be righteous and needy, and the other one wicked and prodigal? 'When death approaches any of you' carries the reminder that it is always close and unpredictable. At the same time, it takes into account the final assets of a person]

فَمَن بَدَّلَهُ بَعْدَمَا سَمِعَهُ فَإِنَّمَا إِثْمُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُبَدِّلُونَهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:181**

No abrogation

If anyone tampers with a will after hearing it, the guilt befalls those responsible for altering it. Certainly, God is Hearer, Knower. [A will shall be attested by two trustworthy witnesses. 5:106]

فَمَنْ خَافَ مِن مُّوصٍ جَنَفًا أَوْ إِثْمًا فَأَصْلَحَ بَيْنَهُمْ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **2:182**

(The one who makes a will, the testator, is likely to make errors.) So, if anyone, who has heard the will, fears some bias or diminishing of a due right, and then makes a mutually acceptable correction between the concerned parties, he will not be harming himself. Indeed, God is Absolver of imperfections, Source of all beneficence. [Ithm = A violation that drags down human potential or harms the 'self']

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ **2:183**

(Creating an ideal society requires discipline and self-restraint among the individuals.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! A Collective Exercise of Self-restraint is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you get empowered against evil. [I have translated Saum as 'Abstinence' and 'self-restraint' instead of the common 'fasting' since it involves more than fasting, such as abstaining from intimate husband-wife relationship. Saum also means Self-control = Collective Exercise of Self-restraint by the Society = A conscious and emphatic collective effort to desist from common vices such as impatience, anger, unfair criticism, envy, impolite conversation or conduct, etc. Taqwa = Journeying in security = Being careful = Getting empowered against evil = To avoid overstepping the Laws = Exercising caution = Strengthening one's 'self' = Preserving the 'self' against deterioration = Good conduct. Muttaqeen = Those endowed with Taqwa]

Saum
Taqwa

أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ **2:184**

فَمَن تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Just for a fixed number of days. But if any of you is sick or is on a journey, he may make up the same number of days later. For those who can go through Abstinence only with hardship, there is an alternative: the feeding of an indigent. Any additional charity will bring additional reward. However, if you knew better, going through the training program of Abstinence is good for you.

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **2:185**

The month of Ramadhan has been chosen for this collective training since this is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed, a guidance for mankind, clearly explaining the 'why' of every Rule. And it is the Criterion of right and wrong. Whoever finds this month (while he is well and not traveling) should participate in the program of Abstinence. But if any of you is sick or on a journey, let him practice Abstinence for the same number of days later. God desires for you ease and He does not desire hardship for you. The postponement is to enable you to complete the period. The objective of this training is to establish the Supremacy of God on earth for, He has shown you a well-lighted road, and for you to show gratitude. [The entire Qur'an was revealed upon the Prophet's heart ('downloaded') in Ramadhan of 610 CE in the order as we see today. Thereafter, it was conveyed to people in stages. The concepts therein are not defunct theories and empty hypotheses. It has a Permanent Universal Code of Values and laws. The yearly training of Abstinence in this month connects the message with intensive reflection and study. Note: The Qur'an does not forbid menstruating women from praying or participating in the program of Abstinence. However, a menstruating woman may be considered unwell. The only thing forbidden by the Qur'an during menstruation is intimate husband-wife relationship. In addition, a pregnant woman may be exempted from fasting to avoid dehydration of the fetus who has not even witnessed Ramadhan. Shukr does not mean just verbal thanks. It involves showing gratitude in practice by sharing the God-given bounties with others. It also denotes fulfillment of all noble effort. 2:87-97, 2:185 2:222, 2:233, 7:189, 9:32-33, 14:1, 16:2, 17:85-86, 26:193, 31:14, 42:52, 44:1-4, 46:15, 53:13, 70:4, 81:17-19, 97:1. It is interesting to recall Lord's Prayer in the Bible about Supremacy of God on earth. Luke 11:2 ... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth]

Quran revealed at once

Lords Prayer

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ 2:186

Allah guides us

(This training program has nothing to do with asceticism. The mystics think that self-denial will bring them close to God.) So, when My servants ask you about Me, surely, I am Near. I respond to the prayer of the suppliant when he calls unto Me. Let them also listen to My call, and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright. [God's response = A sincere caller will be shown the right direction = And Al-Qur'an has answers to all their questions. 3:193-195, 7:56, 8:24, 32:15-16, 40:60, 42:25-26]

????
??

أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ لَيْلَةَ الصِّيَامِ الرَّفَثُ إِلَىٰ نِسَائِكُمْ هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَّهُنَّ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ أَنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ تَخْتَانُونَ أَنفُسَكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَفَا عَنكُمْ فَالْآنَ بَاشِرُوهُنَّ وَابْتَغُوا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمُ الْخَيْطُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الْخَيْطِ الْأَسْوَدِ مِنَ الْفَجْرِ ثُمَّ أَتِمُّوا الصِّيَامَ إِلَى اللَّيْلِ وَلَا تُبَاشِرُوهُنَّ وَأَنتُمْ عَاكِفُونَ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَقْرَبُوهَا كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ آيَاتِهِ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ 2:187

(Abstinence is only for the daytime.) It has been made lawful for you to go to your wives on the night of the Abstinence. They are your garments and you are their garments - close to each other, source of mutual comfort, complementing each other, trustworthy and keepers of privacy, reason for decor, and redressers of faults. God knows that you would have deprived yourselves, feeling guilty, and so He turns to you and pardons you. So, now you may have intimate relations with them and, besides, seek all good that God has ordained for you. You may freely eat and drink until you can discern the white streak of light against the black streak of night at daybreak. Then complete the Abstinence with disciplined eating and drinking until sunset. Do not have intimate relations with them while on special assignments in the Centers of the Divine System. These are the bounds set by God - so come not near violating them. Thus God explains His commands to mankind clearly, so that they understand and remain observant. [I'tikaaf = Special task = To be deputed = Extra duty = Unique assignment. 'Aakifoon = Those on I'tikaaf. Unfortunately, under the Ajami (alien) influences, the concept given to I'tikaaf has reduced this Sublime Ordinance to ten days of ascetic and ritualistic isolation in a mosque in the third part of Ramadhan. Obviously, this invented practice violates the Qur'anic injunctions against monasticism and human rights. (57:27). Libaas = Garment = Raiment embraces all the meanings rendered]

Fajr

I'tikaaf

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **2:188**

Be honest in business

(When you abstain from the permissible during the annual training period, you empower yourselves to easily refrain from the forbidden.) So, knowingly, do not devour the wealth and property of one another in a wrongful manner, nor bribe the officials or the judges to deprive others of their rightful belongings. This kind of behavior drags down your own humanity and harms the collective welfare of the society. [Ithm carries all the meanings given in the last sentence]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَهِلَّةِ قُلْ هِيَ مَوَاقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ وَالْحَجِّ وَلَيْسَ الْبِرُّ بِأَن تَأْتُوا الْبُيُوتَ مِن ظُهُورِهَا وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنِ اتَّقَىٰ وَأْتُوا الْبُيُوتَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِهَا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **2:189**

(Self-control is a life-long commitment extending beyond the month of Ramadhan.) They ask you (O Messenger) about the phases of the Moon. Say, "They are to help mankind determine certain seasons such as Hajj." But know that righteousness can never be achieved by entering the System through the back door of ritualism. Only he who lives an upright life attains it. Enter the Divinely ordained Way of Life straightforward as you must enter houses through their gates. Live an upright life being mindful of God so that you may reap a rich harvest. [2:138, 2:177, 2:208. There is no such thing as a part-time Muslim]

Be righteous

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ **2:190**

(All mankind should agree upon and mark their calendars for four months of peacetime, the 12th lunar month of Pilgrimage to the third month. However, following of the Divine System of Life will meet with harsh opposition.) So, fight in the cause of God those who wage war against you, but do not commit aggression. God does not love aggressors. [2:194, 2:217, 4:91, 9:5, 9:36, 22:39, 60:8. Four months (2:194) of no wars in the world will train people toward achieving restraint and permanent peace for all. Mu'tadeen = Transgressors = Aggressors = Those who cross limits]

وَاقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ ثَقِفْتُمُوهُمْ وَأَخْرِجُوهُم مِّنْ حَيْثُ أَخْرَجُوكُمْ وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَشَدُّ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ وَلَا تُقَاتِلُوهُمْ عِندَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ حَتَّىٰ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِيهِ فَإِن قَاتَلُوكُمْ فَاقْتُلُوهُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ **2:191**

Subdue them regardless of their tribal affiliations, and drive them out of where they drove you out. For, persecution, (terror, torture, oppression) is a crime more grievous than killing. Do not fight against them near the Masjid of Security (a haven of amnesty) unless they attack you therein. But if they attack you there, then you shall fight against them. Such is the recompense for those who reject (the Standard of Peace). [Haith = Wherever = Whenever. Thaqif = Find out = Come to know. So, fight them regardless of your knowledge of their socio-geographic origins. The Masjid of Security in Makkah must be a safe Sanctuary, a model of amnesty, and a Meeting point for all mankind. 2:125, 2:144-148, 3:96, 5:2, 5:97, 9:18, 22:25-28, 48:25. Qatl = Kill = Bring low = Subdue = Fight = Attack = Slay = Strike = Defend]

فَإِنِ انتَهَوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **2:192**

And if they desist, then, remember that God is Forgiving, Eternal Source of mercy. [People should take their 'hue' from God, and thus, they must be forgiving and compassionate. 2:138]

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّىٰ لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انتَهَوْا **2:193**
فَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ

So, fight them only until there is no more harassment, and Religion may be adopted for the sake of God alone. And if they desist, then let there be no hostility except against those who replace peace with aggression. [No compulsion or coercion in religion 2:256. Lillah = For the sake of God alone. Zulm = Displace something from its rightful place = Replace good with evil = Oppression = Relegation of the truth = Exploitation = Violation of human rights = Doing wrong to oneself or others = Choosing to do wrong]

الشَّهْرُ الْحَرَامُ بِالشَّهْرِ الْحَرَامِ وَالْحُرُمَاتُ قِصَاصٌ فَمَنِ **2:194**
اعْتَدَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاعْتَدُوا عَلَيْهِ بِمِثْلِ مَا اعْتَدَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ

You may fight during the Months of Peace and Security if you are attacked, for, a violation of sanctity will activate the law of Just retribution. So, the one who attacks you should expect retaliation in a like manner. Be mindful of God, and know that God is with those who live upright. [Temporary cessation of hostilities provides a cooling off period and it can avert war. History and Tafseers (expositions of the Qur'an) report the four Months of Peacetime as the first, the seventh, the eleventh and the twelfth month of the Lunar Calendar. However, the Qur'an being the Ultimate authority specifies them differently. The four Months of Security begin with the Month of Pilgrimage, Zil-Hajjah, the 12th Lunar Month. 9:5, 9:36]

وَأَنفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ **2:195**
وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Be kind

(Defense of the Divine Order calls for sacrifice of wealth and person.) So, keep open your resources in the cause of God, and let not your own hands throw you into destruction. Be beneficent! Indeed, God loves the doers of good. [You might throw yourselves into destruction by withholding contributions to this noble cause]

وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ فَإِنْ أُحْصِرْتُمْ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ وَلَا تَحْلِقُوا رُءُوسَكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَبْلُغَ الْهَدْيُ مَحِلَّهُ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ بِهِ أَذًى مِّن رَّأْسِهِ فَفِدْيَةٌ مِّن صِيَامٍ أَوْ صَدَقَةٍ أَوْ نُسُكٍ فَإِذَا أَمِنتُمْ فَمَن تَمَتَّعَ بِالْعُمْرَةِ إِلَى الْحَجِّ فَمَا اسْتَيْسَرَ مِنَ الْهَدْيِ فَمَن لَّمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ فِي الْحَجِّ وَسَبْعَةٍ إِذَا رَجَعْتُمْ تِلْكَ عَشَرَةٌ كَامِلَةٌ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَن لَّمْ يَكُنْ أَهْلُهُ حَاضِرِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **2:196**

(Peace cannot defend itself. Mankind have to guard it.) Therefore, observe the Hajj and 'Umrah Convention for God. If you are stranded, send in gifts that the congregation would utilize. Do not consider that by doing so you have relieved yourself of duty. Be with them at heart until the gifts have reached their destination. If someone is sick or has other compelling burdens preventing him from sending any contribution, then Abstinence for a few days at convenience, or an act of charity or fulfilling someone's need shall be in order. If a person is present at the Convention but cannot afford to contribute, he should exercise Abstinence for a total number of ten days, three days there and seven days after coming home. This is for him whose people do not live in the vicinity of the Convention. Be mindful of God, remembering the noble objective. And know that God (His law) is Strict in grasping. [Hajj is the annual Convention in a specified time while 'Umrah is a visit to the Masjid of Makkah any time during the year. Both have a sublime objective as the Qur'an explains, although Muslims have reduced them into mere rituals similar to the Days of Ignorance. There is no mention of kissing the black-stone in Ka'bah, any "holiness" about the Zam Zam water, or that of throwing rocks at the three pillars signifying Satan. See footnote to Surah 105. The Noble Objective of the Pilgrimage is to arrange regular and intermittent international conferences in Makkah. Delegates from all over the world would get together there and devise ways to make the world a better place to live. Halqirras = Relief of burden = Idiom for relief - 'Imams' Jurjani, Hasan Basari, Shehristani]

Haj
Umrah

Satanic rituals

الْحَجُّ أَشْهُرٌ مَّعْلُومَاتٌ فَمَن فَرَضَ فِيهِنَّ الْحَجَّ فَلَا رَفَثَ وَلَا فُسُوقَ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِي الْحَجِّ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمْهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي **2:197**

4 months of haj
Be kind, don't argue

الْأَلْبَابِ

The Convention shall take place in the months appointed for it and made well known to all. Whoever participates in the Convention shall refrain from indecency, slipping out of discipline and argumentation throughout Hajj. And whatever you accomplish for the good of mankind, God will acknowledge it. So make ample provision, yet the best provision is your good conduct. Be mindful of Me, O Men and women of understanding! [Sexual intimacy, breach of discipline and argumentation would hamper mutual consultation in a focused, amicable environment. Ample provision is not meant only to avoid asking for help, but rather being able to help others. The Central Authority, any time in the Divinely ordained four Months of Peacetime should decide upon and announce the exact dates of Hajj. The current practice of "performing" the ritualistic pilgrimage only in Zilhajjah, the 12th lunar month, finds no authority in the Qur'an. 2:194, 9:1-6. Ulil albaab =Those who possess understanding, is obviously a common gender]

لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَن تَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَإِذَا أَفَضْتُم مِّنْ عَرَفَاتٍ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ عِندَ الْمَشْعَرِ الْحَرَامِ وَاذْكُرُوهُ كَمَا هَدَاكُمْ وَإِن كُنتُم مِّن قَبْلِهِ لَمِنَ الضَّالِّينَ **2:198**

(The Hajj Convention is not an assembly of monks.) There is no blame on you if you seek the bounty of your Lord by trading. Returning in groups from where you got introduced to one another (Arafat), let your experience be a conscious and ever-lasting monument to peace in your lives. Take God's messages to heart, and remember Him in the way He has directed you. Before this you were wandering to and fro.

ثُمَّ أَفِيضُوا مِنْ حَيْثُ أَفَاضَ النَّاسُ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **2:199**

(When the Convention is over) let the Congregation return to their hometowns without much delay. (Implement what you have learned and) seek from God security and protection for mankind through this Program. Indeed, God is the Provider of protection, Absolver of imperfections, ever Merciful.

فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُم مَّنَاسِكَكُمْ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ آبَاءَكُمْ أَوْ أَشَدَّ ذِكْرًا فَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلَاقٍ **2:200**

When you have completed your duties, then, remain conscious of God with a stronger commitment than you used to display for your ancestors and their ways. Among the people is he who says, "Our Lord! Give to us in this world." But he, who looks only for instant gains disregarding the long term, has no portion in the Hereafter.

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ 2:201

And of them is he who says, "Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter. And save us from the torment of fire." [He does not forsake the Hereafter for this world, and this world for the Hereafter. 28:77]

Dua

أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا وَاللَّهُ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ 2:202

It is they for whom is a decent portion: what they have themselves earned. God is Swift in reckoning. [Actions get their imprints stamped upon the human 'self' in this very life]

وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَن تَعَجَّلَ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ وَمَن تَأَخَّرَ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ لِمَنِ اتَّقَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ 2:203

Haj

Constantly remember God in the counted number of days (of the Convention). Then if someone's departure were hastened by a couple of days, there would be nothing detrimental. And if someone's departure were delayed by a couple of days, there would be no detriment either. This is for him who wishes to live upright. Be mindful of God, and know that all of you together are stepping toward the ultimate destination with God.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يُعْجِبُكَ قَوْلُهُ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيُشْهِدُ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا فِي قَلْبِهِ وَهُوَ أَلَدُّ الْخِصَامِ 2:204

(About delegating political authority, remember that) among mankind there is he whose chatter on worldly affairs dazzles you, and he keeps swearing by God about what is in his heart. And he is exceedingly skillful in contending for his viewpoint. [2:8-12]

وَإِذَا تَوَلَّىٰ سَعَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَسَادَ 2:205

God does not like corruption

But as soon as he attains political power he goes all out spreading corruption on earth. His authority results in destruction of creation, the produce of land, and labor, and the damage he does affects generations, whereas God does not love corruption and disorder.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُ اتَّقِ اللَّهَ أَخَذَتْهُ الْعِزَّةُ بِالْإِثْمِ فَحَسْبُهُ جَهَنَّمُ وَلَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ 2:206

When it is said to him, “Be mindful of God”, his false pride plunges him further down in inhumanity. Well, sufficient will be Hell for him; what a cradle of despondence!

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْرِي نَفْسَهُ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ رَءُوفٌ بِالْعِبَادِ **2:207**

God Is Kind

And of mankind is he who dedicates himself to achieve the goals ordained by God. God is Compassionate to His servants (showing them both ways, to success and to failure). [3:4, 39:23, 91:8]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **2:208**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Enter all of you collectively into the Prescribed System of Life that guarantees peace and security. And do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is an open enemy to you. [Satan, the selfish desires, alienates man from the Creator and divides humanity. Mubeen = Open = Clear]

فَإِن زَلَلْتُم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْكُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **2:209**

And if you backslide after all evidence of the truth has come to you, then know that God is Almighty, Wise. [He uses His Might with wisdom and His laws remain undefeated]

هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَن يَأْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظُلَلٍ مِّنَ الْغَمَامِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَقُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **2:210**

If we saw God, there would be no test

Are they waiting for God to come to them in canopies of clouds with the angels; and then make Judgment? But all affairs are directed to God for judgment according to His law. [They even have distorted belief about God moving up and down and of Divine Judgment. His Rule is the Rule of law]

سَلْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ كَمْ آتَيْنَاهُم مِّنْ آيَةٍ بَيِّنَةٍ وَمَن يُبَدِّلْ نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **2:211**

Ask the Children of Israel how many a clear message We gave them! They flourished as long as they valued this blessing - but if any nation alters this blessing of God after it has reached them. Remember, God is Strict in retribution.

زُيِّنَ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَيَسْخَرُونَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا فَوْقَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَاللَّهُ يَرْزُقُ مَن يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **2:212**

Alluring is the life of this world to those who reject the truth, and they mock those who believe (in Permanent Moral Values.) But those who live upright will be above them in ranks on the Day of Resurrection. Nevertheless, God grants sustenance without stint according to His laws. [He is the Sustainer of all mankind 114:1]

كَانَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَأَنزَلَ مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِيمَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ فِيهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوهُ مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ فَهَدَى اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِهِ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **2:213**

One nation
Free will

Mankind were one single community (but selfishness divided them). So, God sent Prophets as bearers of good news and warnings. He sent down with them the scripture in absolute truth that it might judge between people wherein they differed. But again, out of mutual rivalry, they divided themselves after all evidence of the Right had come to them! So, God shows the lighted road to those who would acknowledge the truth and thus resolve their disputes. And God guides to the straight road him who wills to be guided. [Satan, the selfish desires, had rent asunder the unity of mankind. 2:36, 10:19. Using the perceptual and conceptual faculties in all humility help people achieve guidance, while selfishness, arrogance and blind following lead them astray. 2:170, 4:88, 6:56, 7:173, 7:179, 17:36, 27:80-81, 30:22, 37:113, 40:34-35, 41:17, 56:79]

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَن تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِكُم مَّثَلُ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِن قَبْلِكُم مَّسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَّاءُ وَزُلْزِلُوا حَتَّىٰ يَقُولَ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ مَتَىٰ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ أَلَا إِنَّ نَصْرَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ **2:214**

Or, do you expect to enter the Garden (or regain your lost Paradise) without facing challenges as came to those who passed before you? Hardship and adversity befell them, and so shaken were they that the Messenger and the believers with him, cried, "When will the help of God come?" But, (once the revolution gets going) God's help is near. [3:141, 9:16, 29:2, 33:10. Unity of mankind will not

be easy to attain. The differences and prejudices of race, ethnicity, color, creed, wealth and nationalism will always be the barriers to surmount]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنفِقُونَ قُلْ مَا أَنفَقْتُم مِّنْ خَيْرٍ فَلِلْوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ **2:215**

Who to spend on

(A crucial step toward the establishment of this Zakaat Order will be the equitable distribution of wealth.) They ask you, (O Messenger) what they should give. Say, "What you give shall go to parents, relatives, orphans, widows, and those who are left helpless or feel left out in the society, the poor, those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs, those whose lives have stalled for any reason, and the disabled, the needy wayfarer, and the homeless son of the street." And whatever good you do, most certainly, God is well Aware of it.

كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِتَالُ وَهُوَ كُرْهٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَن تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَن تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **2:216**

Fighting in self-defense is ordained for you, even though it is hateful to you. But it may happen that you hate a thing that is good for you, and it may happen that you love a thing that is bad for you. God knows and you know not. [2:190-193, 22:39]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الشَّهْرِ الْحَرَامِ قِتَالٍ فِيهِ قُلْ قِتَالٌ فِيهِ كَبِيرٌ وَصَدٌّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَكُفْرٌ بِهِ وَالْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَإِخْرَاجُ أَهْلِهِ مِنْهُ أَكْبَرُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَكْبَرُ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ وَلَا يَزَالُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَرُدُّوكُمْ عَن دِينِكُمْ إِنِ اسْتَطَاعُوا وَمَن يَرْتَدِدْ مِنكُمْ عَن دِينِهِ فَيَمُتْ وَهُوَ كَافِرٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **2:217**

No fighting in the sacred months

They ask you about fighting in any Month of Security. Say, "Fighting in the prescribed Months of Security is a great transgression. (2:194). However, repelling men from the way of God, and rejecting His command of peace in those Months and turning people away from the Masjid of Security and the Prescribed Way of Life, and evicting its people from there, are greater offenses in the Sight of God. Persecution is a crime far greater than killing." They will not cease from fighting

against you until they make you revert from your Way of Life, if they can. He among you who goes back from his Deen and dies in disbelief these are the ones whose works are rendered vain in this world and the Hereafter. These are the companions of fire, to abide therein. [Human personality is not static. It either progresses or retrogresses. Hell and Paradise are the logical consequences of the degree of development of the 'self'. 5:54, 91:8]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ يَرْجُونَ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **2:218**

Indeed, those who attain belief and those who forsake the domain of evil and strive in the cause of God, it is those who can rightfully hope for the grace of God. God is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful. [He looks at your effort and not the results. 2:132, 53:32, 53:39-40]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِن نَّفْعِهِمَا وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنفِقُونَ قُلِ الْعَفْوَ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَفَكَّرُونَ **2:219**

Intoxicants

(Certain things that hinder humans from attaining the aforementioned noble objective are now mentioned.) They ask you (O Messenger) concerning alcohol, intoxicants, games of chance, gambling and money earned without labor. Say, "There is great detriment in these things as well as some benefits for mankind. But the detriment of them is much greater than the benefit of them. They drag down the individual and collective social potential." And they ask you what they should give. Say, "All that is surplus." Thus God makes His messages plain for you, that you may reflect,

فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْيَتَامَىٰ قُلْ إِصْلَاحٌ لَّهُمْ خَيْرٌ وَإِن تُخَالِطُوهُمْ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْمُفْسِدَ مِنَ الْمُصْلِحِ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَأَعْنَتَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **2:220**

In this world and the Hereafter. And they ask you about the orphaned children. Say, "A progressive upbringing is best for them, that they get educated and learn skills, finally becoming independent members of the society. If you mix your belongings and property with theirs, or if they live with you, treat them well as family members." God knows well the wrongdoer from the righteous. Had God so willed, He might not have granted such benevolent guidance, but then you would have carried the burdens of ignorance. Indeed, God is Mighty, Wise, and He uses His authority in His Infinite wisdom. [5:91, 33:5][Islah from its root SLH carries all the meanings rendered above as a part of 'long term betterment']

Prophets quote

وَلَا تَنكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكَاتِ حَتَّىٰ يُؤْمِنَّ وَلَأَمَةٌ مُّؤْمِنَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّن مُّشْرِكَةٍ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَتْكُمْ وَلَا تُنكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَتَّىٰ يُؤْمِنُوا وَلَعَبْدٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ خَيْرٌ مِّن مُّشْرِكٍ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَكُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَالْمَغْفِرَةِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيُبَيِّنُ آيَاتِهِ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **2:221**

Marriage

Applies to both man and women

(Establishment of an ideal social system begins with the family. For a successful family life, uniformity of purpose is crucial. Therefore, (O believing men!) Do not wed Mushrikas till they acknowledge the truth. A believing maid of God is better than a Mushrikah even though she may seem attractive to you. And do not establish marital bonds with Mushriks till they acknowledge the truth. A believing servant of God is better than a Mushrik even though he may enchant you. They invite to the fire, while God invites to Paradise and a well-preserved life by His Leave. He expounds His messages for mankind to ponder and take them to heart. [Mushrik = Idol worshiper or idolater = One who ascribes partners to God = Who ascribes divinity besides Him = Who associates others with Him = Who invents or acknowledges authorities parallel to Him = Sets up idols in any form = Who side-lines Divine revelation in favor of manmade books or themes = Who worships his desires = Hero worshiper = A sectarian = Whoever hopes for any dead humans or saints to help him = Ancestor worshiper = Who ascribes children to God = A believer in intercession by angels or humans = Who seeks Divine Guidance outside the Final revelation = A subscriber or claimant to mysticism or clairvoyance = Who believes in created beings having Divine Powers = Accepts ultimate law-givers other than God = Prostrates before tyrants or "holy" men. Mushrikah = A Mushrik woman. Shirk 17:111, 25:2, 18:26, 40:12, 18:38, 18:42, 18:110, 24:55, 10:18, 30:31-32, 10:66, 6:14, 6:40-41, 9:31]

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْمَحِيضِ قُلْ هُوَ أَذًى فَاعْتَزِلُوا النِّسَاءَ فِي الْمَحِيضِ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوهُنَّ حَتَّىٰ يَطْهُرْنَ فَإِذَا تَطَهَّرْنَ فَأْتُوهُنَّ مِنْ حَيْثُ أَمَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ **2:222**

Prophets quote

They ask you about menstruation. Say, "It is an inconvenience. So keep away from intimacy with women during menstruation and approach them not until they are rid of it. Once they are rid of it, you may approach them (your wives) for intimate relations in the manner designed for you by God. Indeed, God loves those who turn to Him for guidance and He loves those who stay clear of false dogmas." [See 2:223. Mutatahhireen = Mutahharoon = Those who are clean = Clean of mind 56:79. 'manner designed by God' = Ways of God in Nature 2:282, 5:4, 96:5]

نِسَاؤُكُمْ حَرْثٌ لَّكُمْ فَأْتُوا حَرْثَكُمْ أَنَّىٰ شِئْتُمْ وَقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُم مُّلَاقُوهُ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 2:223

Idiom

Remember that women in the society are the guardians of your future generations, just as a garden keeps the seeds and turns them into flowering plants. So, whenever you meet with women socially, treat them with respect, keeping the aforementioned principle in mind. This conduct will go a long way to insure the betterment of the future generations. Send forth good today for the sake of tomorrow. Be mindful of God and know that you will, one day, face Him. O Messenger! Give good news to the believers. [Nisaa = Women, not wives]

وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا اللَّهَ عُرْضَةً لِّأَيْمَانِكُمْ أَن تَبَرُّوا وَتَتَّقُوا وَتُصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ 2:224

Oath in Gods name

Let not your senseless oaths in the name of God deter you from doing good to others, from being mindful of the Divine laws, and from making peace between people. God is Hearer, Knower.

لَّا يُؤَاخِذُكُمُ اللَّهُ بِاللَّغْوِ فِي أَيْمَانِكُمْ وَلَٰكِن يُؤَاخِذُكُم بِمَا كَسَبَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ 2:225

God will not take you to task for your senseless swearing. He holds you responsible for your intentional doings. God is Forgiving, Clement. [Therefore, a marriage will not be dissolved for senseless utterances of the husband or the wife]

لِّلَّذِينَ يُؤْلُونَ مِن نِّسَائِهِمْ تَرَبُّصُ أَرْبَعَةِ أَشْهُرٍ فَإِن فَاءُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 2:226

Men who take an oath that they will not approach their wives shall have four months of grace. And if they go back on their oath during these four months, God is Forgiving, Merciful. [They must rethink their decision during this grace period and circumstances might change. Similar rules apply for women, since they have equal rights and obligations, and since no man is permitted to forcibly keep his wife in wedlock against her will as stated later in the Book. 2:228, 4:19, 4:21, 4:34, 7:189]

Divorce

وَإِنْ عَزَمُوا الطَّلَاقَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ 2:227

If they decide upon divorce let them remember that God is Hearer, Knower. [They must bear in mind that since marriage is a Solemn Covenant 4:21, divorce can take place only in accordance with this Book of law]

وَالْمُطَلَّقَاتُ يَتَرَبَّصْنَ بِأَنفُسِهِنَّ ثَلَاثَةَ قُرُوءٍ وَلَا يَحِلُّ لَهُنَّ أَن **2:228**
يَكْتُمْنَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ فِي أَرْحَامِهِنَّ إِن كُنَّ يُؤْمِنَّ بِاللَّهِ
وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَبُعُولَتُهُنَّ أَحَقُّ بِرَدِّهِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ إِنْ أَرَادُوا
إِصْلَاحًا وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلِلرِّجَالِ
عَلَيْهِنَّ دَرَجَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

Divorce

After divorce, women shall wait three menstruations before remarriage. They shall not conceal pregnancy if they believe in God and in the Last Day. In case of pregnancy, their waiting period shall be until delivery (65:4.). And during this period their husbands would do better to take them back if both of them desire reconciliation. The husband and the wife have the right to reconcile during this waiting period of the wife. Women, in all equity, have rights similar to men. But men have one advantage over them (men have no waiting period for remarriage). God is Almighty, Wise.[There is no waiting period for a woman who is divorced before intimate relations with her husband (33:49). And it is three months if they do not habitually menstruate (65:4). Men do not have a waiting period for remarriage for obvious physiological reasons. And this is where men have an advantage over women. 2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1, 65:1-4]

الطَّلَاقُ مَرَّتَانِ فَإِمْسَاكٌ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ تَسْرِيحٌ بِإِحْسَانٍ وَلَا **2:229**
يَحِلُّ لَكُمْ أَن تَأْخُذُوا مِمَّا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ شَيْئًا إِلَّا أَن يَخَافَا
أَلَّا يُقِيمَا حُدُودَ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا يُقِيمَا حُدُودَ اللَّهِ فَلَا
جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا فِيمَا افْتَدَتْ بِهِ تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَا
تَعْتَدُوهَا وَمَن يَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَ اللَّهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

(The whole period of divorce i.e. three menstruations, three months, or until delivery can be taken back twice.) In a given couple's lifetime, a divorce is permissible twice. Then the divorced woman must be retained in honor or released in kindness. She shall be allowed to live in the same home amicably, or leave it amicably. At or after divorce, it is not lawful for you to take back anything of what you have ever given to her. However, if both of you fear that you might (in waves of emotion) transgress the bounds set by God, there shall be no blame on either of you for what the wife willingly gives back, whatever she chooses. These are the limits set by God; transgress them not. Whoever transgresses the bounds set by God, such are the wrongdoers.

فَإِن طَلَّقَهَا فَلَا تَحِلُّ لَهُ مِن بَعْدُ حَتَّىٰ تَنكِحَ زَوْجًا غَيْرَهُ فَإِن **2:230**
طَلَّقَهَا فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا أَن يَتَرَاجَعَا إِن ظَنَّا أَن يُقِيمَا

حُدُودَ اللَّهِ وَتِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ يُبَيِّنُهَا لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ

DIVORCE

If a man divorces his wife irrevocably, it will be unlawful for him to remarry her. However, if the woman marries another man and he divorces her, in that case there is no blame on either of them to re-unite provided they think that they can observe the limits set by God. These limits have been made clear for people who use this knowledge. [Irrevocably = Divorce on a third different time during their entire marital life. Note: "either of them to reunite" can only refer to the original couple. There is no room in the Qur'an for the so-called 'Halaalah', a shameful, manmade custom where a divorced woman is made to spend an intimate night with another man under wedlock with a preplanned divorce in the morning! It should better be called 'Haraamah']

وَإِذَا طَلَّقْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَبَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ سَرِّحُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَلَا تُمْسِكُوهُنَّ ضِرَارًا لِّتَعْتَدُوا وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ فَقَدْ ظَلَمَ نَفْسَهُ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا آيَاتِ اللَّهِ هُزُوًا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَا أَنزَلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ يَعِظُكُم بِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **2:231**

When you have divorced women, and they have completed their waiting period, then retain them in kindness or release them in kindness. (You shall allow them to live in the same home amicably, or let them leave amicably.) Do not force them to stay against their will, as revenge. Anyone who does this wrongs his own 'self'. Do not make the revelations of God a laughing stock. Remember God's blessings upon you and the Book and wisdom He has sent down to you in order to enlighten you. Be mindful of God's commands and know that God is Knower of all things.

وَإِذَا طَلَّقْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَبَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ أَن يَنكِحْنَ أَزْوَاجَهُنَّ إِذَا تَرَاضَوْا بَيْنَهُم بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ذَٰلِكَ يُوعَظُ بِهِ مَن كَانَ مِنكُمْ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَزْكَىٰ لَكُمْ وَأَطْهَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **2:232**

And when you have divorced women, and they are approaching their waiting period, people in the society shall not place difficulties if they wish to remarry their former husbands in a decent manner (not secretly). And do not place difficulties if the woman decides to marry a different husband upon mutual agreement. This instruction is for all among you who believe in God and the Last Day. Following the commands helps you develop your own 'self' and stay clear of vice. God

You can remarry your husband

knows, you know not. [Fabalghna ajalahunna = The divorced women are about to complete their term of waiting period - according to the context and Tasreef]

وَالْوَالِدَاتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَن يُتِمَّ الرَّضَاعَةَ وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ لَا تُكَلَّفُ نَفْسٌ إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا لَا تُضَارَّ وَالِدَةٌ بِوَلَدِهَا وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ لَّهُ بِوَلَدِهِ وَعَلَى الْوَارِثِ مِثْلُ ذَٰلِكَ فَإِنْ أَرَادَا فِصَالًا عَن تَرَاضٍ مِّنْهُمَا وَتَشَاوُرٍ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا وَإِنْ أَرَدتُّمْ أَن تَسْتَرْضِعُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذَا سَلَّمْتُم مَّا آتَيْتُم بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **2:233**

If the (divorced) mothers wish to nurse their infants, the father shall provide for the mother's sustenance and clothing equitably up to two years of nursing. No human being shall be burdened with more than he or she is well able to bear. No mother shall be made to suffer because of her child, nor shall a father be made to suffer because of his child. If the father dies, his heir shall assume these responsibilities. If both parents decide with mutual consent, there shall be nothing wrong in entrusting your children to foster-mothers. There shall be nothing wrong if you ensure, in a fair manner, the safety of the child you are handing over. Be mindful of God and know that God is Seer of all that you do.

وَالَّذِينَ يُتَوَفَّوْنَ مِنكُمْ وَيَذَرُونَ أَزْوَاجًا يَتَرَبَّصْنَ بِأَنفُسِهِنَّ أَرْبَعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ وَعَشْرًا فَإِذَا بَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِيمَا فَعَلْنَ فِي أَنفُسِهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **2:234**

Those among you who die and leave wives behind, they shall wait four months and ten days before they remarry. Once they fulfill their interim, the society commits nothing wrong by letting them make their own decisions about their future including remarriage. God is Aware of what you do.

Widows

وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِيمَا عَرَّضْتُم بِهِ مِنْ خِطْبَةِ النِّسَاءِ أَوْ أَكْنَنتُمْ فِي أَنفُسِكُمْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ أَنَّكُمْ سَتَذْكُرُونَهُنَّ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تُوَاعِدُوهُنَّ سِرًّا إِلَّا أَن تَقُولُوا قَوْلًا مَّعْرُوفًا وَلَا تَعْزِمُوا عُقْدَةَ **2:235**

Interim period

النِّكَاحِ حَتَّىٰ يَبْلُغَ الْكِتَابُ أَجَلَهُ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا
فِي أَنفُسِكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

You do nothing wrong in announcing your engagement to (widowed or divorced) women or keeping it to yourselves. God knows that the community will think about them. But, never make a secret pledge or contract with them. Speak with them honorably and in recognized words. Do not tie the wedding knot nor sign the marital contract until the waiting period has ended. Know that God understands human psyche, and what is in your hearts. Take heed of Him and know that God is Forgiving, Clement.

Iddat for remarrying

لَّا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِن طَلَّقْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ مَا لَمْ تَمَسُّوهُنَّ أَوْ **2:236**
تَفْرِضُوا لَهُنَّ فَرِيضَةً وَمَتِّعُوهُنَّ عَلَى الْمُوسِعِ قَدَرُهُ وَعَلَى
الْمُقْتِرِ قَدَرُهُ مَتَاعًا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ حَقًّا عَلَى الْمُحْسِنِينَ

There is no blame on you if you nullify the marriage before you have intimately touched the women with whom you have signed the marital contract, and before you have fixed the marital gift. This would be an unexpected situation involving emotional trauma. Therefore, show compassion by giving her as generous a gift as you can afford. This would be an act of equity and it is a binding duty on all those who wish to be counted among the benefactors of humanity.

وَإِن طَلَّقْتُمُوهُنَّ مِن قَبْلِ أَن تَمَسُّوهُنَّ وَقَدْ فَرَضْتُمْ لَهُنَّ **2:237**
فَرِيضَةً فَنِصْفُ مَا فَرَضْتُمْ إِلَّا أَن يَعْفُونَ أَوْ يَعْفُوَ الَّذِي
بِيَدِهِ عُقْدَةُ النِّكَاحِ وَأَن تَعْفُوا أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَنسَوُا
الْفَضْلَ بَيْنَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

And if unexpected circumstances lead you to divorce women before you have intimately touched them, but after the marital gift has been fixed, give them half the amount unless they volunteer to forgo it. If the move for divorce originates purely from you, let her have the whole portion. If you men forgo it, it is closer to righteousness. O People! Never forget kindness among yourselves. This command is from God Whose Law of Requital ever monitors your actions and the motives behind them.

حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَىٰ وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ **2:238**

Guard your duties pertaining to the family life (221-237) and the central duty of remaining vigilant in obeying Divine commands. [‘Salaat-il-wusta’ is not ‘Asr]

Wusta prayer

فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ فَرِجَالًا أَوْ رُكْبَانًا فَإِذَا أَمِنتُمْ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَمَا عَلَّمَكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ **2:239**

Shorten Salat?

Whether fear threatens you from without, or you are strolling, riding, relaxing in peace, remember God as He has taught you (the right and wrong) what you did not know. [3:3, 3:190-191, 4:103]

وَالَّذِينَ يُتَوَفَّوْنَ مِنكُمْ وَيَذَرُونَ أَزْوَاجًا وَصِيَّةً لِّأَزْوَاجِهِم مَّتَاعًا إِلَى الْحَوْلِ غَيْرَ إِخْرَاجٍ فَإِنْ خَرَجْنَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي مَا فَعَلْنَ فِي أَنفُسِهِنَّ مِن مَّعْرُوفٍ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **2:240**

Widow

Men must testify in a written, legal will that, after their death, their widows will receive one year's maintenance without their being obliged to leave the house. But, if they leave on their own accord, there is nothing wrong in letting them do whatever they wish to do with their own lives in a lawful manner. God is Almighty, the Wise (and He grants this permission).

وَلِلْمُطَلَّقَاتِ مَتَاعٌ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ حَقًّا عَلَى الْمُتَّقِينَ **2:241**

The widowed and divorced women must be provided for in kindness and equity. This is a duty for those who seek to live upright. [65:6-7]

كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **2:242**

Thus, God makes His revelations clear for you. Now, it is up to you to use your intellect.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ خَرَجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِمْ وَهُمْ أُلُوفٌ حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ فَقَالَ لَهُمُ اللَّهُ مُوتُوا ثُمَّ أَحْيَاهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ **2:243**

(The Ideal Society that you must strive to establish shall have sound socio-economic fabric and Rule of law. That would enable you to thwart aggression from any quarters.) You would not then, behave cowardly like those who were thousands in numbers, but when challenged by the enemy, they ran in droves leaving their homes behind. They feared death. Then they realized that the Divine law of mortality is inescapable, hence the fear of death is vain. Soon, they stood up on their feet and defeated the enemy. They lived again. God's Guidance is a bounty to mankind but most people do not appreciate this fact.

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:244**

Fight for peace, self defence

Fight in the cause of God, and know that God is Hearer, Knower. [Fight only in self-defense, and against oppression since God does not love aggressors. 2:190-194]

مَّن ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضَاعِفَهُ لَهُ أَضْعَافًا كَثِيرَةً وَاللَّهُ يَقْبِضُ وَيَبْسُطُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **2:245**

God multiplies good deeds

Who shall come forward and give a beautiful loan to God that He shall multiply manifolds? The Divine Order in the society will pay you handsome dividends. Add to this, the tremendous reward in the Hereafter. The wealth of nations and individuals is not exempt from the laws of God. Every step of the way you are returning to Him.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الْمَلَإِ مِن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِن بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ إِذْ قَالُوا لِنَبِيٍّ لَّهُمُ ابْعَثْ لَنَا مَلِكًا نُّقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ قَالَ هَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِن كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِتَالُ أَلَّا تُقَاتِلُوا قَالُوا وَمَا لَنَا أَلَّا نُقَاتِلَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْ أُخْرِجْنَا مِن دِيَارِنَا وَأَبْنَائِنَا فَلَمَّا كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقِتَالُ تَوَلَّوْا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ **2:246**

(Sustained commitment to the Divine Order with wealth and person is not an easy undertaking.) After the times of Moses, some leaders of the Israelites promised their Prophet (Samuel), "If you appoint a king for us, we will fight in the cause of God." The Prophet said, "Is it your intention to refrain from fighting if it was decreed to you?" They said, "Why should we not fight in the cause of God when we have been driven out of our homes with our children?" Yet when fighting was ordained for them, they turned away all but a few. God is Aware of the wrongdoers.

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا قَالُوا أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ عَلَيْنَا وَنَحْنُ أَحَقُّ بِالْمُلْكِ مِنْهُ وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ سَعَةً مِّنَ الْمَالِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَزَادَهُ بَسْطَةً فِي الْعِلْمِ وَالْجِسْمِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤْتِي مُلْكَهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:247**

Saul

Their Prophet (Samuel) said, "God has appointed Taloot (Saul) as your king." They objected, "How can he have kingship over us when we are more worthy of kingship than he; he is not even rich?" The Prophet said, "God has chosen him over

you, and has blessed him with wisdom and stature. God bestows His kingship according to His laws. He is Infinite, Knower."

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ آيَةَ مُلْكِهِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ التَّابُوتُ فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَبَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **2:248**

Their Prophet said, "The sign of his kingdom is that the he will restore the Ark of the Covenant and inner peace endowed by your Lord - And also the relics preserved by natural laws as a heritage left by the House of Moses and the House of Aaron. This will be a convincing sign for the believers among you." [Saul would regain their glory lost after the times of Moses and Aaron]

فَلَمَّا فَصَلَ طَالُوتُ بِالْجُنُودِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مُبْتَلِيكُم بِنَهَرٍ فَمَن شَرِبَ مِنْهُ فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَمَن لَّمْ يَطْعَمْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي إِلَّا مَنِ اغْتَرَفَ غُرْفَةً بِيَدِهِ فَشَرِبُوا مِنْهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَهُ هُوَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ قَالُوا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا الْيَوْمَ بِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالَ الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُم مُّلَاقُو اللَّهِ كَم مِّن فِئَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئَةً كَثِيرَةً بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ **2:249**

(The commander) Saul then marched along with his soldiers to face the armies of Jaloot (Goliath) and said, "Watch out! God will let you test yourselves by a stream." In order to create discipline among his soldiers and to test their resolve, Saul commanded them, "He who will drink of it will not be of me, while he who will refrain from drinking it, except a sip out of a hand, will be of me. But except a few of them, they all drank of it. When he and the believers with him crossed the stream, the others complained, "This day we cannot cope with Goliath and his armies." But those who were convinced that they have to meet God (those who were marching forward in the cause of God) said, "How often, by God's leave, has a small force overwhelmed a big army! God is with the steadfast." ?

وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ **2:250**

When they advanced to meet Goliath and his forces, they said, "Our Lord! Bestow on us steadfastness, make our steps firm and help us against people who oppose the truth."

فَهَزَمُوهُم بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُودُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُم بِبَعْضٍ لَّفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **2:251**

Then they routed them by God's leave, as David (Daud, who was an officer of Saul) slew Goliath. And God gave him the kingdom and sound judgment and taught him what He willed. If God had not repelled some people by means of others, the earth would have been filled with bloody crimes. But God is the Lord of kindness to the worlds. [12:22, 22:39, 28:14]

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **2:252**

These are God's revelations that We recite to you in absolute truth. And you (O Muhammad) are certainly one of the Messengers.

تِلْكَ الرُّسُلُ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ مِّنْهُم مَّن كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَهُمْ دَرَجَاتٍ وَآتَيْنَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَيَّدْنَاهُ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا اقْتَتَلَ الَّذِينَ مِن بَعْدِهِم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَلَٰكِنِ اخْتَلَفُوا فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ آمَنَ وَمِنْهُم مَّن كَفَرَ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا اقْتَتَلُوا وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ **2:253**

Jesus

(All Messengers were one in purpose. They were assigned different strategies suitable to their times, locations and people.) We caused some of those Messengers to excel others. God spoke to some of them. Others He raised in degrees of high honor. Jesus son of Mary was one of those Messengers whom We gave clear signs of truth and helped him with Noble revelation. If God had so willed, the later generations would not have fought among themselves after clear evidence of the truth had come to them. But they chose to differ, some believed and others disbelieved. Yet, if God had so willed, they would not have fought each other. But God does everything according to His laws. [All Messengers were one in purpose 2:136, 2:285. God did not create human beings like programmed robots. He endowed men and women with free will, and never ordained compulsion in religion (2:256). God makes His laws in the World of command as He wills, and implements them in the World of Creation 7:54. And He never changes His laws. 6:15, 6:34, 7:54, 10:64, 17:77, 30:30, 33:62, 35:43, 48:23. Roohul Qudus = The Noble revelation = Gabriel 2:87, 5:110, 16:102]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاكُم مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَّا بَيْعٌ فِيهِ وَلَا خُلَّةٌ وَلَا شَفَاعَةٌ وَالْكَافِرُونَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ **2:254**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Use Our Provision to satisfy the needs of fellow human beings and for the betterment of the society. Do that before the day comes when no bargaining, friendship or intercession shall be of any avail. Those who reject such sensible admonition, do grave injustice to themselves.

Intercession

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَن ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِندَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ **2:255**

Ayat ul Kursi

(These directions, tidings and warnings come from God) the One True God, there is no god but He, the Living, the Originator of life, the Self-Subsisting Sustainer of all creation. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtakes Him. All that exists in the highs and the lows, in the heavens and earth, belongs to Him alone. Who can intercede in His Court except by His Leave, and then, only in accordance with His laws? He knows what lies open before humans and what is hidden from them. His knowledge transcends time and space. No one can encompass a trace of His knowledge but through His laws. The Throne of His Supreme Control extends over the highs and the lows. No fatigue touches Him as He benevolently guards His Dominion and creation. He is the Glorious, the Supreme. [Verse 2:255, commonly known as Ayat-al-Kursi (Verse of the Throne), is greatly revered by many Muslims for its grandeur, eloquence and blessing. Shafa'ah = Commonly translated as Intercession = To stand up as witness = Give evidence = Vindicate the truth. 2:48, 2:123, 4:85, 6:51, 6:70, 10:3, 19:87, 20:109, 21:28, 32:4, 34:23, 39:44, 43:86, 74:48]

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَد تَّبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:256**

No compulsion

(Although this message has been sent down by the Almighty) there is absolutely no compulsion or coercion in Religion. The right direction has been made distinct from error. So, whoever rejects false gods (such as the clergy, human 'authorities') and attains conviction in God, has grasped the Unbreakable Support. God is Hearer, Knower. [No compulsion in matters of religion - This Rule shall have no exceptions since Right has been distinguished from Wrong. 2:148, 2:193, 2:256, 4:88, 5:48, 6:104, 6:107-108, 7:177-178, 10:99, 12:108, 18:29, 22:39-40, 27:80-81, 39:41, 56:79, 73:19. At-Taaghoot = Those who, in rebellion to the One True God,

claim to have Divine powers or try to portray themselves as His representatives = Sufis, mystics, priesthood, clergy, tyrants. Tagha = Rebellion. Idols of stones cannot rebel and therefore, they cannot be At-Taaghoot]

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُم مِّنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **2:257**

God is the Protecting Friend of those who choose to have conviction in Him and His laws. He brings them out of darkness into Light (through the Qur'an). And those who reject the truth, their patrons are false authorities (idols, religious leaders and satanic humans). They bring them from light to darkness. As a consequence, they have chosen fire to be their companion. They will abide therein.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِي حَاجَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي رَبِّهِ أَنْ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ إِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّيَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ قَالَ أَنَا أُحْيِي وَأُمِيتُ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْتِي بِالشَّمْسِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ فَأْتِ بِهَا مِنَ الْمَغْرِبِ فَبُهِتَ الَّذِي كَفَرَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **2:258**

Abraham

Think of the one who adamantly argued with Abraham about his Lord because God had given him power. Abraham said to him, "My Lord is He Who gives life and causes death." He answered, "I give life and cause death." Abraham said, "God makes the sun rise from the East; make it rise from the West." Thereupon the rejecter of the truth remained dumbfounded. And God does not guide people who choose to do wrong. [Nimrod Shaddad, King of Babylon, Abraham's contemporary and staunch enemy, used to proclaim divinity. Being a tyrant he could impose or cancel death penalty. That is what he means by giving life and causing death]

أَوْ كَالَّذِي مَرَّ عَلَىٰ قَرْيَةٍ وَهِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَىٰ عُرُوشِهَا قَالَ أَنَّىٰ يُحْيِي هَٰذِهِ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا فَأَمَاتَهُ اللَّهُ مِائَةَ عَامٍ ثُمَّ بَعَثَهُ قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتَ قَالَ لَبِثْتُ يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ قَالَ بَل لَّبِثْتَ مِائَةَ عَامٍ فَانظُرْ إِلَىٰ طَعَامِكَ وَشَرَابِكَ لَمْ يَتَسَنَّهْ وَانظُرْ إِلَىٰ حِمَارِكَ وَلِنَجْعَلَكَ آيَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَانظُرْ إِلَى الْعِظَامِ كَيْفَ **2:259**

نُنشِزُهَا ثُمَّ نَكْسُوهَا لَحْمًا فَلَمَّا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ قَالَ أَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

(Later on, came another king in the dynasty of Nimrods, his name, Nebuchadnezzar, 630-562 BC. He invaded Jerusalem, oppressed Israelites and enslaved them. One hundred years of tribulation passed before King Cyrus of Persia liberated them and reinstated them back in Jerusalem. This history bears a lesson for posterity.)The similitude of this history is that someone passes by the ruins of a town and wonders if that town could ever come back to life again, and God causes him to die for a hundred years and then revives him. He thinks it was only a matter of a day or a part of it. He even finds his food, drink, and donkey standing beside him. God creates you in the wombs of your mothers, in bone and flesh. And when the matter became clear to him, he said, "I know now that God is Able to do all things. God is the all Powerful Designer of His laws and He does all things in the Universe in duly appointed measure." [13:18, 25:2, 65:3, 54:49]

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ أَرِنِي كَيْفَ تُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ قَالَ أَوَلَمْ تُؤْمِن قَالَ بَلَىٰ وَلَٰكِن لِّيَطْمَئِنَّ قَلْبِي قَالَ فَخُذْ أَرْبَعَةً مِّنَ الطَّيْرِ فَصُرْهُنَّ إِلَيْكَ ثُمَّ اجْعَلْ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ جَبَلٍ مِّنْهُنَّ جُزْءًا ثُمَّ ادْعُهُنَّ يَأْتِينَكَ سَعْيًا وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **2:260**

Abraham talks to God

Abraham wanted to understand the law of Revival of nations. God asked him if he believed that it were possible. Abraham said he believed but that he wanted a practical example to educate his heart and mind. God told him to take four birds and train them in a kind manner, and then to leave them far apart on separate hilltops. And then call them; they will come in quickly. Then know that God is Exalted in Power, Wise. [At one call of Abraham, those birds came flying back to him. This is how mankind can be brought to the Word of God with decent advice and training, giving them a new life]

مَّثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنبَتَتْ سَبْعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنبُلَةٍ مِّائَةُ حَبَّةٍ وَاللَّهُ يُضَاعِفُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:261**

(In training their people, all Messengers of God advised them that) spending wealth in the cause of God is like sowing a seed that brings numerous shoots, each shoot with a hundred grains. This is how God's Law of Recompense rewards men and women. God is Infinite, Knower.

الَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ لَا يُتْبِعُونَ مَا أَنفَقُوا مَنًّا وَلَا أَذًى لَّهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ **2:262**

وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

Those who spend their wealth in the cause of God and afterward do not follow their giving with reminders of their generosity or injure the feelings of the recipients; their reward is with their Lord. No fear shall be on them, nor shall they grieve. [17:26, 30:38. The society will return their generosity in this life as well]

قَوْلٌ مَّعْرُوفٌ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّن صَدَقَةٍ يَتْبَعُهَا أَذًى وَاللَّهُ غَنِيٌّ حَلِيمٌ **2:263**

Kind words and respect is better than charity

Kind words and respecting people's honor is better than charity after which their dignity is injured. God, the Rich, the Clement, provides everyone without return or obligation.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُبْطِلُوا صَدَقَاتِكُم بِالْمَنِّ وَالْأَذَىٰ كَالَّذِي يُنفِقُ مَالَهُ رِئَاءَ النَّاسِ وَلَا يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَمَثَلُهُ كَمَثَلِ صَفْوَانٍ عَلَيْهِ تُرَابٌ فَأَصَابَهُ وَابِلٌ فَتَرَكَهُ صَلْدًا لَّا يَقْدِرُونَ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ **2:264**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not cancel your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injuring the self-respect of the recipients; like those who spend their wealth for show-off. This kind of behavior contradicts the true belief in God and His Law of Recompense. Charity has been ordained to help individuals and not to hurt them and God has promised you manifold reward (93:10). But, a seed would not grow on a dusty rock, upon which rain falls and washes it clean. Such will not receive any reward for their doings. God does not guide those who deny such realities.

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمُ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَتَثْبِيتًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ كَمَثَلِ جَنَّةٍ بِرَبْوَةٍ أَصَابَهَا وَابِلٌ فَآتَتْ أُكُلَهَا ضِعْفَيْنِ فَإِن لَّمْ يُصِبْهَا وَابِلٌ فَطَلٌّ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **2:265**

The likeness of those who spend their wealth sincerely seeking God's approval and to strengthen their own 'self', is the likeness of a lofty garden with springs. When rain strikes it, it doubles its yield, and if there is no rainfall, the sprinkles are sufficient. God is ever Watcher of what you do. [They have achieved self-actualization and made themselves truly worthy of immortality (20:76). A 'self' that has not been developed by giving to community in wealth or labor, merely survives. Immortality is not a spontaneous gift from God; men and women are candidates for it (91:9-10). When people create their own Paradise it is ever-blooming, rain or shine. 13:33, 14:17, 43:77, 69:27]

أَيَوَدُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن تَكُونَ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ مِّن نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ لَهُ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ وَأَصَابَهُ الْكِبَرُ وَلَهُ ذُرِّيَّةٌ ضُعَفَاءُ فَأَصَابَهَا إِعْصَارٌ فِيهِ نَارٌ فَاحْتَرَقَتْ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَفَكَّرُونَ **2:266**

Would any of you wish that he had a nice, bountiful garden of dates and vineyards with streams flowing underneath it, but while age catches up with him and he has feeble offspring; a fiery tornado suddenly strikes and consumes it? This is how God makes plain His revelations to you so that you may reflect. [Your contribution to the society ensures you the Garden which neither a tornado, nor a hurricane can take away from you. 15:48]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنفِقُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ وَمِمَّا أَخْرَجْنَا لَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا تَيَمَّمُوا الْخَبِيثَ مِنْهُ تُنفِقُونَ وَلَسْتُم بِآخِذِيهِ إِلَّا أَن تُغْمِضُوا فِيهِ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ **2:267**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Spend on others the good things you have honorably earned with hard work, whether it is from the product of industry or from the produce of the earth. Do not give away something that you would not like to receive except with closed eyes. Know that God, the Rich, Owner of praise, provides you indiscriminately and without return.

الشَّيْطَانُ يَعِدُكُمُ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُم بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَاللَّهُ يَعِدُكُم مَّغْفِرَةً مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلًا وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ **2:268**

Satan, your selfish desires, scares you with poverty; that if you spend on others, you might become destitute. It teaches you stinginess to the extent of shame. God, the All-Embracing, Knower promises you the protection of Forgiveness from Himself, and abundant bounty. [And, In the Divine Order, the society would return to more than one spends on it]

يُؤْتِي الْحِكْمَةَ مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَن يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ **2:269**

He bestows wisdom to whom He wills (according to His laws 12:22, 28:14). And whoever is granted wisdom has truly been granted a great wealth. And only people of understanding remain mindful of what they learn. [Making good use of their faculties helps people attain wisdom. 17:36]

وَمَا أَنفَقْتُم مِّن نَّفَقَةٍ أَوْ نَذَرْتُم مِّن نَّذْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنصَارٍ **2:270**

Whatever you spend on others or whatever pledge to spend you make, God knows it. Those who violate human rights by withholding charity shall have none to help them. [Chaos in the society hurts all]

إِن تُبْدُوا الصَّدَقَاتِ فَنِعِمَّا هِيَ وَإِن تُخْفُوهَا وَتُؤْتُوهَا الْفُقَرَاءَ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَيُكَفِّرُ عَنكُم مِّن سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **2:271**

If you disclose your charities, it is well, but if you give in secret to the needy, it will be better for you. This kind of giving has the power of erasing the imprints of your ill deeds on your own 'self'. This law has been decreed by God Who knows the effects of your actions on your own 'self'.

لَّيْسَ عَلَيْكَ هُدَاهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَا تُنفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلِأَنفُسِكُمْ وَمَا تُنفِقُونَ إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ اللَّهِ وَمَا تُنفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يُوَفَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ **2:272**

You are not responsible for others

Your responsibility (O Messenger) is only to show them the right way (and not to make them walk it). He has established Rules for attaining guidance. (O People) Whatever good you give benefits your own 'self' when you spend for the sake of God. Any charity you give will be repaid to you, without the least injustice. [God's laws for guidance: 2:2, 2:26, 4:88, 5:46, 7:52, 13:27, 14:27, 20:123, 27:2, 28:50, 31:3, 39:3, 40:34, 40:74]

لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الَّذِينَ أُحْصِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ضَرْبًا فِي الْأَرْضِ يَحْسَبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُ أَغْنِيَاءَ مِنَ التَّعَفُّفِ تَعْرِفُهُم بِسِيمَاهُمْ لَا يَسْأَلُونَ النَّاسَ إِلْحَافًا وَمَا تُنفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ **2:273**

And give to the needy who are suffering in the cause of God and cannot emigrate and to those who are unable to go about the earth in search of livelihood. One, who is unaware of their condition, might think they are free from want, because they abstain from begging. But you can recognize them by certain signs though they do not beg insistently. Whatever good thing you spend on them, God is Aware of it.

الَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُم بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **2:274**

Those who spend their wealth on the needy, by night and by day, secretly or publicly, have their reward with their Sustainer. They shall have nothing to fear or regret.

الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ الرِّبَا لَا يَقُومُونَ إِلَّا كَمَا يَقُومُ الَّذِي يَتَخَبَّطُهُ الشَّيْطَانُ مِنَ الْمَسِّ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا الْبَيْعُ مِثْلُ الرِّبَا وَأَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْبَيْعَ وَحَرَّمَ الرِّبَا فَمَن جَاءَهُ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ فَانتَهَىٰ فَلَهُ مَا سَلَفَ وَأَمْرُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَنْ عَادَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **2:275**

On the contrary, those who eat Riba (usury), in greed of money, run around like someone who has been bitten by a snake. They claim that trade is like usury. But God has permitted trade and forbidden usury. One to whom the clear Admonition has come from his Sustainer, must abstain from taking usury forthwith. What he has taken in the past, he may keep and his judgment rests with God. As for him who returns to usury, such are the dwellers of the fire wherein they shall abide. [Ash-shayitaanu-min-al-muss = Satan by his touch = Snake by its bite. Satan has been described as serpent in many texts. One who has taken usury in the past, it is better for him to return the interest he has earned, but the law shall not force him to do so. Trade is the return on labor that is permissible, while usury is the return on money and therefore, forbidden. 30:39, 53:39]

يَمْحَقُ اللَّهُ الرِّبَا وَيُرْبِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ أَثِيمٍ **2:276**

God blights usury and blesses charitable deeds with prosperity. God does not love those who defy His laws and drag down the potential of the human society. [Mankind will eventually realize that the interest based economic system will have to be replaced with an equitable System. God's laws of Economics will erase usury and nurture welfare. When numerous people in a society thrive on RIBA income, the society will automatically become fragile because the RIBA takers are not working or contributing to the society while the exploited masses are becoming poorer and poorer]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ لَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **2:277**

Salat

Those who believe in God's laws, do works beneficial to the society and strive to establish the Divine System and the Economic Order of Zakaat, have their reward with their Lord. They will have nothing to fear and no reason to be despondent. [The government is responsible for setting up the Economic Order of Zakaat]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ مِنَ الرِّبَا إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **2:278**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of the Divine laws and give up what remains of your demand for usury, if you are really believers.

فَإِن لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا فَأْذَنُوا بِحَرْبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَإِن تُبْتُمْ فَلَكُمْ رُءُوسُ أَمْوَالِكُمْ لَا تَظْلِمُونَ وَلَا تُظْلَمُونَ **2:279**

And if you do not, then be warned of war with God and His Messenger. But, if you mend your ways, simply take back your capital without interest. Inflict not injustice and you will not incur injustice.

وَإِن كَانَ ذُو عُسْرَةٍ فَنَظِرَةٌ إِلَىٰ مَيْسَرَةٍ وَأَن تَصَدَّقُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **2:280**

If a debtor is in difficult circumstances, let there be postponement to a time of ease. And if you give up the loan entirely as charity, it is better for you if you only knew.

وَاتَّقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **2:281**

You earn what you reap

And be mindful of the Day when you will be returned to God and every 'self' will be paid what it has earned, and they will not be wronged.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا تَدَايَنتُم بِدَيْنٍ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَاكْتُبُوهُ وَلْيَكْتُب بَّيْنَكُمْ كَاتِبٌ بِالْعَدْلِ وَلَا يَأْبَ كَاتِبٌ أَن يَكْتُبَ كَمَا عَلَّمَهُ اللَّهُ فَلْيَكْتُبْ وَلْيُمْلِلِ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِ الْحَقُّ وَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ رَبَّهُ وَلَا يَبْخَسْ مِنْهُ شَيْئًا فَإِن كَانَ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِ الْحَقُّ سَفِيهًا أَوْ ضَعِيفًا أَوْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَن يُمِلَّ هُوَ فَلْيُمْلِلْ وَلِيُّهُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَاسْتَشْهِدُوا شَهِيدَيْنِ مِن رِّجَالِكُمْ **2:282**

فَإِن لَّمْ يَكُونَا رَجُلَيْنِ فَرَجُلٌ وَامْرَأَتَانِ مِمَّن تَرْضَوْنَ مِنَ
الشُّهَدَاءِ أَن تَضِلَّ إِحْدَاهُمَا فَتُذَكِّرَ إِحْدَاهُمَا الْأُخْرَىٰ وَلَا
يَأْبَ الشُّهَدَاءُ إِذَا مَا دُعُوا وَلَا تَسْأَمُوا أَن تَكْتُبُوهُ صَغِيرًا
أَوْ كَبِيرًا إِلَىٰ أَجَلِهِ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَقْسَطُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَأَقْوَمُ لِلشَّهَادَةِ
وَأَدْنَىٰ أَلَّا تَرْتَابُوا إِلَّا أَن تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً حَاضِرَةً تُدِيرُونَهَا
بَيْنَكُمْ فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَلَّا تَكْتُبُوهَا وَأَشْهِدُوا إِذَا
تَبَايَعْتُمْ وَلَا يُضَارَّ كَاتِبٌ وَلَا شَهِيدٌ وَإِن تَفْعَلُوا فَإِنَّهُ فُسُوقٌ
بِكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

Witnesses for loans

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you transact a loan for any period, you shall write it down. An impartial scribe shall do the writing. No scribe shall decline to perform this duty, and write as God has taught him. The debtor, or in case he or she is incompetent, his representative shall dictate the document honestly and be mindful of his Lord, and diminish not the amount. There shall be two witnesses to the transaction from among your men. If two men are not available, then let there be one man and two women, all of them you satisfactorily consider competent as witnesses - so that even if the witnessing woman gets distracted (for example, by her baby), the accompanying woman may support and remind her. All witnesses should be such that their testimony is acceptable to all. It is the obligation of the witnesses to testify when called upon to do so. Do not tire of writing the details, no matter how long, including the time of repayment. This is equitable in the Sight of God, assures better witnessing, and eliminates any doubts you may have. When it is actual merchandise that you transfer among yourselves from hand to hand, there is nothing wrong for you if you write it not, but have it witnessed. The scribe and the witnesses must be held harmless for their services. If you harm them, it would be wickedness on your part. If you follow God's commands He will increase you in knowledge. These are the Injunctions of God Who is the Knower of all things; intentions, events and actions. [The second woman will not be a witness in the court of law. She is there only to support the first woman if she gets distracted, for example, by her baby. Tardhaun from Radha = Those you are satisfied with = Of your just choice = In the context: You shall choose competent men and women as witnesses. Dhall = To get distracted = Losing focus = Attention getting diverted = Mind getting preoccupied with other thoughts = Losing direction = Straying. Zakkar from Zikr = Advise = Support = Remind = Confirm = Strengthen = Remember]

وَإِن كُنتُمْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ وَلَمْ تَجِدُوا كَاتِبًا فَرِهَانٌ مَّقْبُوضَةٌ فَإِنْ **2:283**
أَمِنَ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا فَلْيُؤَدِّ الَّذِي اؤْتُمِنَ أَمَانَتَهُ وَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ
رَبَّهُ وَلَا تَكْتُمُوا الشَّهَادَةَ وَمَن يَكْتُمْهَا فَإِنَّهُ آثِمٌ قَلْبُهُ وَاللَّهُ

بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ

If you are traveling and a scribe is not available, a collateral of some value may serve the purpose, or a bond shall be posted to guarantee repayment. If one is trusted in this manner, he shall return the collateral or the bond when due, and be mindful of God, his Lord. Do not withhold any testimony by concealing what you have witnessed. Anyone who withholds a testimony will be harming his own 'self', loading his heart with a dragging violation. God is Aware of all you do.

لِّلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِن تُبْدُوا مَا فِي أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوْ تُخْفُوهُ يُحَاسِبْكُم بِهِ اللَّهُ فَيَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **2:284**

To God belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. Whether you reveal what is in your mind or conceal it, God will bring you to account for it. He forgives and punishes according to his laws. God has Power over all things and events and He has appointed due measure for everything. [He has appointed laws of forgiveness and retribution. 3:31, 8:29, 33:70-71, 57:28, 61:11-12, 64:17, 71:3. Wallahu 'ala kulli shaiyin Qadeer = God has Power over all things and events = God has appointed due measure for everything = God is Able to do all things. Shayi = Thing = Derived meaning, event]

آمَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِن رَّبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّن رُّسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ **2:285**

All messengers are equal

The Messenger has full conviction in what is revealed to him from his Lord and so do the believers. Each one of them believes in God, His angels, His Books and His Messengers. (They say), "We make no distinction between any of His Messengers." And they say, "We hear and we obey, so grant us the protection of forgiveness, our Lord. The final destination of all journeys is unto You." [No distinction since all of them were sent by the same Creator and they were one in purpose. 2:253, 17:55]

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا اكْتَسَبَتْ رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِن نَّسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ **2:286**

God does not burden any person but to afford him an opportunity to develop his potentials. For every person is the good that he earns and against him is only what he deserves. (Pray), "Our Lord! Take us not to task if we forget or miss the mark. Our Lord! Do not place on us a burden like what You placed on those before us. Our Lord! Do not place a burden on us that is beyond our strength to bear. Blot out our misdeeds, grant us the protection of forgiveness, and bestow grace upon us. You are our Lord Supreme, so help us against people who oppose the truth." [9:51, 10:30. Calling religious leaders as 'Maulana' (Our Master) is a very common but deplorable form of Shirk, associating others with God]

Chapter 3

Aal-e-´Imran - The Family Of Imran

The honored Messengers of God, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad were descendants of the Patriarch, Abraham. Prophet Jacob, the grandson of Abraham was also called Israel. Jews are known as Israelites in reference to Jacob. ´Imran (Amram) is the name of the father of Moses and Aaron, and also of a branch among Israelites. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born in the family of ´Imran.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **3:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, states that),

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ **3:2**

God, there is no god but He, the Living, the Self-Subsistent Sustainer of the Universe proclaims that:

نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنزَلَ التَّوْرَاةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ **3:3**

He is the One Who has sent down this Book to you (O Messenger) in absolute truth, confirming the authentic in what He has revealed before. He is the One Who revealed the Torah and the Gospel. [The Qur'an confirms only the Divine origination of the Bible, but it strongly points to the extensive human touch in the Old & New Testaments. Check the following verses: 2:75, 2:78-79, 2:101, 3:70-71, 3:78, 3:186-187, 5:13, 5:41, 6:91, 9:31]

Quran is truth

مِن قَبْلُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَنزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ **3:4**

He has bestowed guidance upon mankind before, and now He has sent the Final Criterion between right and wrong. Those who reject the revelations of God, theirs will be a strict retribution. God Almighty's Law of Cause and Effect carries all things and actions to their logical outcome.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَخْفَىٰ عَلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ 3:5

Nothing on earth and nothing in the Sky is hidden from God.

هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَوِّرُكُمْ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ 3:6

Shahada

He is the One Who shapes you in the wombs according to His laws. There is no god but He. He is the Almighty, the Wise. [He uses His Might with wisdom, and His Rule is the Rule of law]

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُّحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخَرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ وَابْتِغَاءَ تَأْوِيلِهِ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِهِ كُلٌّ مِّنْ عِندِ رَبِّنَا وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ 3:7

Multiple meanings

(The Book He has sent down, bears an important Principle.) He is the One Who has revealed to you (O Prophet) the scripture. In it some verses are literal, while some verses are allegorical. The verses that pertain to Permanent Values have been presented literally. These verses, Muhkamat, are the essence of the Divine law. But abstract phenomena, some historical events, and the World of the Unseen are described in similes, metaphors and allegories (Mutashaabihaat) for your understanding. But those who are given to crookedness in their hearts pursue the allegories and try to give them literal meanings, thus creating dissension of thought. None encompasses their final meaning (of such as the Essence of God, His Throne, His Hand, His Book of Decrees, the exact mode of revelation on the heart of the Messengers, the Eternity) but God. Those who are well founded in knowledge understand why the allegories have been used and they keep learning from them. They proclaim the belief that the entire Book is from their Lord. As the human knowledge evolves, more and more allegories will unfold their literal meaning. But only the men and women of understanding will bear this fact in mind. [Every verse of the Qur'an is Muhkam, absolute truth. The context enables us to understand which ones are to be taken literally and which ones are to be taken allegorically. Each verse in the Book complements another. 11:1, 39:23, 41:53, 47:20, 74:31]

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْوَهَّابُ 3:8

They say, "Our Lord! Let not our hearts waver, now that You have guided us, and bestow upon us grace from Your Presence. You are the Grantor of decent things." Dua

رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ جَامِعُ النَّاسِ لِيَوْمٍ لَّا رَيْبَ فِيهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ 3:9

"Our Lord! You will gather all mankind together on a Day about the advent of which there is no doubt. God never fails in His promise."

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَن تُغْنِيَ عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمْ وَقُودُ النَّارِ 3:10

Those who reject the truth, neither their wealth nor their children will avail them against God (and His laws). They will be fuel for the fire.

كَدَأْبِ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ 3:11

Like Pharaoh's people and the ones before them, these people reject Our revelations, and so God will seize them for their trailing behind in humanity. God's Law of Requital is strong in pursuing and grasping.

قُل لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَتُغْلَبُونَ وَتُحْشَرُونَ إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ 3:12

Prophets quote

(O Messenger) say to the rejecters, "Soon you will be overwhelmed and then you will be gathered together to Hell, a miserable bed to lie on."

قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فِي فِئَتَيْنِ الْتَقَتَا فِئَةٌ تُقَاتِلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأُخْرَىٰ كَافِرَةٌ يَرَوْنَهُم مِّثْلَيْهِمْ رَأْيَ الْعَيْنِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤَيِّدُ بِنَصْرِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّأُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ 3:13

(Only recently at Badr) there was a sign for you in the two armies that met in combat. One was fighting in the cause of God, the other denying Him. With their own eyes the two armies saw each other as twice their number. But God strengthens people with His support according to His laws. This must be a lesson for people

of vision for all times. [The believers in their motivation saw the manifold enemy just twice their own numbers, while the deniers saw the smaller opponents twice the size they actually were. God helps those who help themselves]

زُيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَٰلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ عِندَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَآبِ **3:14**

For soldiers during war

Beautiful seem to people the joys that come from women and children, heaps of gold and silver, branded horses, cattle and well-tilled land. These are comforts of the life of the world. But with God is a more excellent abode. [Believers in the Divine laws see this comfort as the means to a higher Goal — Service — Self-actualization — Paradise]

قُلْ أَؤُنَبِّئُكُم بِخَيْرٍ مِّن ذَٰلِكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ **3:15**

Say (O Messenger), "Shall I inform you of something better than these, with which the upright will be rewarded by their Lord? - Gardens with flowing streams beneath, where they will live forever with spouses of spotless character and the blissful approval of God. God is Seer of His servants."

الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ **3:16**

Those who say, "Our Lord! We have chosen to be graced with belief. So, protect us from trailing behind in doing good and save us from the agony of the fire of regret."

الصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْمُنفِقِينَ وَالْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ بِالْأَسْحَارِ **3:17**

They are proactively steadfast, truthful in word and action, ever submitting to the commandments, keeping their wealth open for the society, and guarding themselves early against any forthcoming challenge.

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **3:18**

Shahada

God Himself witnesses that there is no god but He and so do the angels, men and women of science, and those who uphold equity. There is no god but He, the Almighty,

the Wise. [21:22. ‘Ilm = Knowledge = Science. Qaaim-am-bil-qist = Those who take the right stand = Those who uphold justice and equity]

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِندَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ **3:19**

Islam

Remember that the System of Life approved by God is only Islam (Submission). Those who were given the scripture dissented from it through mutual rivalry and envy, after knowledge had come to them. If anyone rejects God’s revelations, then God is Swift in reckoning. [‘Ind-Allah = In the Sight of God = Approved by God = Before God. Deen = The System of Life = The Divinely Prescribed Way of Life = In a loose sense, ‘religion’, a ritualistic Way of Life = ‘Religion’ even with a capital R may scarcely come close in meaning to the term Deen. Al-Islam = Submission to God = Submission to Divine will = Universal Peace achieved by submission to the One True God. 6:87]

Prophets quote

فَإِنْ حَاجُّوكَ فَقُلْ أَسْلَمْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّهِ وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِ وَقُل لِّلَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَالْأُمِّيِّينَ أَأَسْلَمْتُمْ فَإِنْ أَسْلَمُوا فَقَدِ اهْتَدَوا وَّإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلَاغُ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ **3:20**

Ummi
Deliver message only **

If they argue with you (O Messenger), tell them, “I have submitted to God; I and those who follow me.” Say to the People of the Scripture, and to those who have no Scripture, “Would you submit (to God)?” If they submit, then they have been guided but if they turn away, then your duty is only to convey the message. God is Seer of His servants.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَيَقْتُلُونَ النَّبِيِّينَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ وَيَقْتُلُونَ الَّذِينَ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْقِسْطِ مِنَ النَّاسِ فَبَشِّرْهُم بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **3:21**

Those who reject the message of God, and wrongfully kill the Prophets or their Mission by mixing truth with falsehood, and kill or harm the advocates of justice in the society; promise them grievous retribution.

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **3:22**

They are the people whose (good) deeds shall be nullified in this world and in the Hereafter, and they will have no helpers at all.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا نَصِيبًا مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَىٰ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ يَتَوَلَّىٰ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَهُم مُّعْرِضُونَ **3:23**

Have you noticed those who were given guidance through the previous scriptures? When they are invited to uphold this Book of God, to judge their disputes and apply it in their lives, a party among them declines and turns away.

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لَن تَمَسَّنَا النَّارُ إِلَّا أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ وَغَرَّهُمْ فِي دِينِهِم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **3:24**

This is because they say that the fire will not touch them but only for a few days. See, how what they used to invent has deceived them in their own religion.

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا جَمَعْنَاهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ لَّا رَيْبَ فِيهِ وَوُفِّيَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **3:25**

How will they feel on the Day when We will gather them, the Day about the advent of which there is no doubt? Then, every person will be paid in full for what he or she has earned. No injustice will be done to anyone.

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَالِكَ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَن تَشَاءُ وَتَنزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّن تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَن تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَن تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **3:26**

Prophets quote

Say, "O God! Owner of all Dominion! You give power to nations according to Your laws and You strip off power from nations according to Your laws. You have established laws for attaining honor and facing humiliation. All good emanates from Your Hand. Certainly, You have Power over all things." [God has appointed due measure for all things in the Universe, and therefore, His Rule is the Rule of law]

تُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَتُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَتُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَتَرْزُقُ مَن تَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **3:27**

[We witness Your laws in action throughout the Universe] "You merge the night into the day and merge the day into the night. You bring forth the living from the dead and bring forth the dead from the living, and through Your laws, You provide all according to Your laws and beyond measure." Say in salat

لَّا يَتَّخِذِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ فَلَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَن تَتَّقُوا مِنْهُمْ تُقَاةً وَيُحَذِّرُكُمُ اللَّهُ نَفْسَهُ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ **3:28**

(Those who reject the laws of such an Omnipotent Creator, will not support the Divine Ideology.) Let not the believers take non-believers for their allies instead of (their fellow) believers. If anyone does that, he will have nothing to do with God. So, guard yourselves against them vigilantly. God reminds you of His Requital. To God is the ultimate destination. [Illa = Not 'except'. Here it denotes the connecting 'and', 'so'. Al-Maseer = Ultimate destination = Journey's end]

قُلْ إِن تُخْفُوا مَا فِي صُدُورِكُمْ أَوْ تُبْدُوهُ يَعْلَمْهُ اللَّهُ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **3:29**

Prophets quote

Say, "Whether you hide your strategy or reveal it, God is fully Aware thereof." And He knows all things and events in the heavens and all things and events on earth. God is all-Powerful and He has endowed everything with the potential to become what it is meant to be.

يَوْمَ تَجِدُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ مُّحْضَرًا وَمَا عَمِلَتْ مِن سُوءٍ تَوَدُّ لَوْ أَنَّ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَهُ أَمَدًا بَعِيدًا وَيُحَذِّرُكُمُ اللَّهُ نَفْسَهُ وَاللَّهُ رَءُوفٌ بِالْعِبَادِ **3:30**

On the Day of Reckoning every 'self' will confront all its doings, good and evil. Every 'self' would wish there may be a gulf of distance between it and that evil. God cautions you in advance, for He is Compassionate to His servants.

قُلْ إِن كُنتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **3:31**

Present tense

Say, (O Messenger) "If you love God, follow me. Then God will love you and protect you from trailing behind in humanity. God is Forgiving, Merciful." [Hubb = Love = Full support = Having a common objective. Loving God = Following His commands = Serving His creation = Benefiting others. God's love = His blessings in both lives. Zanb = Tail = Trailing behind. Ghafarah = Helmet and armor = Protection against deterioration = Forgiveness]

قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ **3:32**

Obey God and messenger Equals obey the revelation

Say, (O Messenger) "Obey God and the Messenger. But if they turn away, then, God does not love the rejecters." [Obeying the Messenger = Obeying God's revelations to him = Obeying the Islamic Central Authority. 4:59]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ آدَمَ وَنُوحًا وَآلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَآلَ عِمْرَانَ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ 3:33

(The Qur'an is the Final Perfected guidance for all humanity. But God has elected Messengers before to convey His messages.) Indeed, God did choose Adam and Noah (Nooh), and the family of Abraham and the family of Imran above all people (of their times). [Adam = Aadam = The human ancestor = The first Homo sapiens = Allegorically, Adami, the first humans = Mankind = Possibly a prominent early human = Perhaps a Prophet, but the chain of Prophets begins with Noah. See 4:163, 6:80-85]

ذُرِّيَّةً بَعْضُهَا مِن بَعْضٍ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ 3:34

In one lineage. God is the Hearer, Knower of all things and events.[Muhammad belongs to the same progeny of Abraham through Ishmael, and Jesus belongs to it through the family of 'Imran. Now is related the truth about Jesus son of Mary. History has made fiction of these two great servants of God]

إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 3:35

The wife of 'Imran prayed, "My Lord! I have dedicated the baby in my belly to You entirely (for the service of the temple). So accept from me. You are the Hearer, Knower."

فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعَتْ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنثَىٰ وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ 3:36

When she delivered she said, "My Lord! I have delivered a female." God knew best what she delivered; the male is not the same as the female. "I have named her Mary. I request Your protection for her and for her descendants from the rejected Satan." [The male she had prayed for could have not been like the outstanding daughter she was granted. This female would have a role that no male could have, in breaking the shackles of asceticism. As a 'holy' custom, a nun would either remain single, or rarely, would be allowed to marry one of the monks]

فَتَقَبَّلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِندَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ 3:37

يَا مَرْيَمُ أَنَّىٰ لَكِ هَٰذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَن يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Her Lord accepted her graciously. (Mary was dedicated to the temple) and He made her grow in purity and elegance, a gracious upbringing, under the guardianship of Zacharias (Zakariya). Whenever he entered the chamber of Mary, he found that she had food. (Knowingly) he asked, "O Mary! Where does this food come from?" She said, "It is from God." God provides according to His laws, beyond reckoning. [Zakariya was a Prophet of God and a distant uncle of Mary. 'It is from God' ... Visitors to the sanctuary serve the saints. Many of them bring gifts when their vows are fulfilled. Yasha in reference to God = Through His laws = Common mistranslation, 'as He pleases'. Bighayiri hisaab = Beyond reckoning = Without account = Humans cannot reckon God's Power of sustaining and providing the entire Universe. The last sentence of the verse cannot be a quote from Mary, as generally suggested, since she would not lecture a Prophet of God]

هُنَالِكَ دَعَا زَكَرِيَّا رَبَّهُ قَالَ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِن لَّدُنكَ ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ **3:38**

This was when Zakariya prayed to his Lord, "My Lord! Bestow upon me from Your Presence the gift of goodly offspring. You are the Hearer of prayer."

فَنَادَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي الْمِحْرَابِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكَ بِيَحْيَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَسَيِّدًا وَحَصُورًا وَنَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **3:39**

While he was still praying in the chamber, angels announced to him, "God gives you the good news of a son, Yahya (John the Baptist) who would reiterate the Word of God, be a disciplined leader and a Prophet among those who set things right."

قَالَ رَبِّ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَقَدْ بَلَغَنِيَ الْكِبَرُ وَامْرَأَتِي عَاقِرٌ قَالَ كَذَٰلِكَ اللَّهُ يَفْعَلُ مَا يَشَاءُ **3:40**

Zakariya prayed to God, but then wondered, "My Lord! How could I have a son when old age has overtaken me already and my wife is barren?" He said, "So it will be, God does everything according to His laws." [The infertility in his wife was cured. 21:90]

قَالَ رَبِّ اجْعَل لِّي آيَةً قَالَ آيَتُكَ أَلَّا تُكَلِّمَ النَّاسَ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ إِلَّا رَمْزًا وَاذْكُر رَّبَّكَ كَثِيرًا وَسَبِّحْ بِالْعَشِيِّ وَالْإِبْكَارِ **3:41**

Thankful, Zakariya asked, "My Lord! Give a message to me." He said, "The message to you is that you shall not speak to people for three days (and nights), except

Glorify at dusk and dawn

by signs. Remember your Lord much and keep striving in His cause night and day." [19:10. Abstaining from speech would save the elderly couple from the embarrassing curiosity of people]

وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاكِ وَطَهَّرَكِ وَاصْطَفَاكِ عَلَىٰ نِسَاءِ الْعَالَمِينَ 3:42

(Mary kept a spotless character as she grew up.) Angels told her, "God has chosen you, given you a spotless character and given you distinction among the women of your times." [She guarded her chastity and built a strong moral character in very adverse circumstances. Many monks and devotees of temples used to harbor evil intentions against nuns. She was the first revolutionary feminine voice against the manmade institution of monasticism]

يَا مَرْيَمُ اقْنُتِي لِرَبِّكِ وَاسْجُدِي وَارْكَعِي مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ 3:43

Mary knelt

(Angels said to her), "Gather courage (quit monasticism), submit to the commands of your Lord and bow with those who bow to commands (Join your family for leading a normal life bowing to the design that God has ordained for mankind.)

ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهِ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا كُنتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يُلْقُونَ أَقْلَامَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ يَكْفُلُ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا كُنتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ 3:44

(O Messenger) We are revealing to you these events of the unseen history (so that you may dispel conjecture). You were not present with them when they threw their pens (casting lots) which of them should take charge of Mary (after Zakariya). And you were not present with them when they quarreled about it.

إِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَا مَرْيَمُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجِيهًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ 3:45

Angels said, "O Mary! God gives you the good news through a word from Him. His name would be Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, held in honor in this world and among the ones close (to Me) in the Hereafter.

Jesus

وَيُكَلِّمُ النَّاسَ فِي الْمَهْدِ وَكَهْلًا وَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ 3:46

He will speak to people while very young and in ripe old age with his faculties well intact." [Saaliheen, see Glossary]

قَالَتْ رَبِّ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لِي وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ يَمْسَسْنِي بَشَرٌ قَالَ كَذَٰلِكِ اللَّهُ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ 3:47

Mary exclaimed! "O My Lord, How shall I have a son when no man has (intimately) touched me?" He said, "Just as God creates everyone according to His laws (3:40). When God decrees a matter, it starts happening." [In the repressive society Mary had to keep her wedding confidential in the family]

وَيُعَلِّمُهُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَالتَّوْرَاةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ 3:48

"And God will teach him the scripture and the wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel."

وَرَسُولًا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنِّي قَدْ جِئْتُكُم بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ أَنِّي أَخْلُقُ لَكُم مِّنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ فَأَنفُخُ فِيهِ فَيَكُونُ طَيْرًا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَأُبْرِئُ الْأَكْمَهَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ وَأُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَأُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا تَأْكُلُونَ وَمَا تَدَّخِرُونَ فِي بُيُوتِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 3:49

And He will be a Messenger to the Children of Israel. He will say to them, "I come to you with revelation from your Lord. If you follow me, I will raise you from dust to the heights of glory by the command of God (7:176). The blind among you will begin to see the truth. Those of you who are spotted with sin, I will heal them, and I shall grant real life to those who are just dragging on without purpose; all by God's leave, according to His laws. I am here to establish justice and equity. I shall see to it how much you hoard in your houses and how much you spend on the community. My teachings are sufficient signs for you to believe."

وَمُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَاةِ وَلِأُحِلَّ لَكُم بَعْضَ الَّذِي حُرِّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَجِئْتُكُم بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ 3:50

"I confirm the truth in the Torah before me, and make permissible to you some of what was forbidden. I have come with your Lord's revelation. Be mindful of His commands and obey me." [The Qur'an describes denial as a 'disease', calls the deniers 'deaf, dumb and blind' in 2:18, 'diseased of the heart' in 2:10 and 'dead' in 27:80. That is why the revelation, which is the truth, is called a 'healing' in 41:44. Taair = Omen = Destiny = Registration of deeds = Fleet-footed horse = Bird. 2:260, 5:110, 6:38, 7:131, 17:13, 27:16, 24:41, 27:47]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ 3:51

Jesus is also a servant of God

"God is my Lord and your Lord, so obey Him. That is the straight path."

فَلَمَّا أَحَسَّ عِيسَىٰ مِنْهُمُ الْكُفْرَ قَالَ مَنْ أَنصَارِي إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ نَحْنُ أَنصَارُ اللَّهِ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَاشْهَدْ بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ **3:52**

(This is what the angels had told Mary. Then Jesus was commissioned to Prophethood.) As he sensed their rejection, he called out, "Who are my supporters towards God?" The disciples said, "We are God's supporters, we believe in God, so bear witness that we are submitters (Muslims)."

رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا بِمَا أَنزَلْتَ وَاتَّبَعْنَا الرَّسُولَ فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ **3:53**

They said, "Our Lord! We believe in what You have revealed and we follow the Messenger. So make us live as the living witnesses to the truth."

وَمَكَرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ **3:54**

They (the opponents) made some plans, but so did God. God is the most Virtuous of planners. [They schemed to arrest and crucify Jesus but God assured him]

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَىٰ إِنِّي مُتَوَفِّيكَ وَرَافِعُكَ إِلَيَّ وَمُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَجَاعِلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ **3:55**

God terminated Jesus

God said, "O Jesus! I will cause you to die of natural causes, I will exalt you in My Sight and will clear you of the slander of the disbelievers. And I will cause those who truly follow you to dominate those who reject, until the Day of Resurrection. Eventually, all of you will return to Me. Then I will judge among you about that wherein you used to differ." [Wafaat = Dying of natural causes. Rafa' = Exalt = Raising in honor. Ilayya = To me = allegorically, in My Sight]

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَأُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **3:56**

Those who disregard faith (in God's laws of nature), I shall cause them to suffer in this world and in the Hereafter. Nor will they have any helpers.

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَيُوَفِّيهِمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ **3:57**

And those who choose to believe and work for the betterment of the society, He will pay their wages in full. But God does not love the violators of human rights. [Zaalim = Oppressor = Violator of human rights = Wrongdoer = One who relegates the truth = One who displaces something from its rightful place = Unjust = One who chooses to do wrong]

ذَٰلِكَ نَتْلُوهُ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ 3:58

(O Messenger) these are the messages We convey to you, as the reminder full of wisdom. [Az-Zikr = The reminder = The Book that can give you eminence = The message worth taking to hearts]

إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِندَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ خَلَقَهُ مِن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ 3:59

Jesus and Adam similar births

With God, the example of Jesus is that of Adam (other humans) who were initially created from dust and then evolved through different stages of life (22:5, 30:20). He created him (the human) beginning from inorganic matter, then He said to him, "Be! And he is." [The process of procreation goes on - "IS". Kun fayakoon = The moment God decrees a thing, it starts happening]

الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ 3:60

(O Messenger) this is the truth from your Lord, so do not be of those who argue in this matter.

فَمَنْ حَاجَّكَ فِيهِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ فَقُلْ تَعَالَوْا نَدْعُ أَبْنَاءَنَا وَأَبْنَاءَكُمْ وَنِسَاءَنَا وَنِسَاءَكُمْ وَأَنفُسَنَا وَأَنفُسَكُمْ ثُمَّ نَبْتَهِلْ فَنَجْعَل لَّعْنَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَاذِبِينَ 3:61

Prophets quote

If anyone argues with you concerning him, after the knowledge has come to you, then say, "Come! Let us call upon our children, and your children, and our women and your women, and our people and your people to leave one another alone, knowing that God's condemnation is upon the liars." [Bahl = To leave alone = Let someone hold on to his views = Let others do as they will = Erroneously, but commonly, Mubahila = A contest of mutual cursing! This verse has been subjected to much conjecture through 'Shan-e-Nuzool' (the circumstances of a revelation.) Some exponents assert that the exalted Prophet is being told here to run a cursing contest with some Christians from Najran in Southern Arabia!]

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَهُوَ الْقَصَصُ الْحَقُّ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَٰهٍ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ 3:62

This is the true account (of Jesus). There is no god but God. And God is Almighty, the Wise.

فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِالْمُفْسِدِينَ 3:63

But if they turn away (from the truth), then God is Aware of the corrupters.

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ 3:64

Say, "O People of the Book! Let us come to a mutual agreement, that we shall serve none but God. That neither shall we ascribe divinity to anyone beside Him, nor shall we take others for our lords beside God." And if they turn away, then say, "Bear witness that it is we who have surrendered ourselves to Him."

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تُحَاجُّونَ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمَا أُنزِلَتِ التَّوْرَاةُ وَالْإِنجِيلُ إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ 3:65

O People of the Book! Why do you argue about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed until after him? Do you not use your intelligence?

هَا أَنتُمْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ حَاجَجْتُمْ فِيمَا لَكُم بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلِمَ تُحَاجُّونَ فِيمَا لَيْسَ لَكُم بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 3:66

You argued (with Moses and Jesus) in matters of which you had knowledge. Why do you dispute in matters that you know nothing about? Indeed, God knows and you know not.

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَٰكِن كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ 3:67

Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was an upright man who had surrendered to God. He never ascribed divinity to anyone beside the One True God.

إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ لَلَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ وَهَٰذَا النَّبِيُّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 3:68

People most worthy of Abraham are those who followed him, and this Prophet and those who believe with him. God is the Protecting Friend of the true believers.

وَدَّت طَّائِفَةٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَوْ يُضِلُّونَكُمْ وَمَا يُضِلُّونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ 3:69

A party among the People of the Book wish to lead you astray. But, by doing so, they shall only lead themselves astray without knowing it.

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَأَنتُمْ تَشْهَدُونَ 3:70

O People of the Book! Why do you deny the truth of God's messages to which you yourselves bear witness? [Was not the scripture revealed to you foretelling the advent of this Prophet?]

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَلْبِسُونَ الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ 3:71

O People of the Book! Why do you cloak the truth with falsehood, and conceal the truth that you are so well aware of?

وَقَالَت طَّائِفَةٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ آمِنُوا بِالَّذِي أُنزِلَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَجْهَ النَّهَارِ وَاكْفُرُوا آخِرَهُ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ 3:72

A party among the People of the Book say to one another, "Declare belief in what has been revealed to the believers in the early hours of the day, and go back to your word of disbelief in the later hours so that they (the believers) might waver to return (to their old ways)."

وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِلَّا لِمَن تَبِعَ دِينَكُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ الْهُدَىٰ هُدَى اللَّهِ أَن يُؤْتَىٰ أَحَدٌ مِّثْلَ مَا أُوتِيتُمْ أَوْ يُحَاجُّوكُمْ عِندَ رَبِّكُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ الْفَضْلَ بِيَدِ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ 3:73

"And do not acknowledge anyone except he who follows your own religion." Say, (O Messenger) "Behold! God's Guidance is the True guidance. You (People of the Book) find it hard to believe that revelation could be sent to anyone else, like what has been sent to you. Or, do they wish to argue with you (believers) in the Presence of your Lord? Say, "All grace is in God's Hand. He bestows it according to His laws. God is Infinite, Knowing." [He has now chosen a non-Israelite Prophet for His grace of revelation. 7:157. Manyyasha = In accordance with His laws = Per His due measure. Erroneously translated as 'Whom He wills'. An error like this turns the dynamic Islam into a fatalistic religion. 3:26, 4:88, 10:25, 74:31]

يَخْتَصُّ بِرَحْمَتِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ 3:74

He elects for His grace whom He wills according to His laws. God is the Lord of Infinite bounty (and He knows the proper time, place and person for His revelation.)

وَمِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مَنْ إِن تَأْمَنْهُ بِقِنطَارٍ يُؤَدِّهِ إِلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ إِن تَأْمَنْهُ بِدِينَارٍ لَّا يُؤَدِّهِ إِلَيْكَ إِلَّا مَا دُمْتَ عَلَيْهِ قَائِمًا ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لَيْسَ عَلَيْنَا فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ سَبِيلٌ وَيَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **3:75**

Ummi, Gentile

Among the People of the Scripture, there is one you can trust with a heap of gold, and he will readily return it to you. And among them there is one who, if you trust him with a single gold coin, he will not repay you unless you keep after him. This is because they (believe and) say, "We owe no way (of honesty) to the Gentiles." Thus they speak lies about God, and they very well know it.

بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِعَهْدِهِ وَاتَّقَىٰ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ **3:76**

Indeed, those who fulfill their obligations, and seek to live upright, God loves such righteous.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَشْتَرُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَأَيْمَانِهِمْ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَا خَلَاقَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا يَنظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **3:77**

Those who trade away the Divine value of keeping pledge and their oaths for petty gains, will have no portion in the Hereafter. God shall neither speak to them nor look at them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He make their own 'self' grow. So, for them is a torment of suffering. (Mere survival without progress is a torment in itself.)

وَإِنَّ مِنْهُمْ لَفَرِيقًا يَلْوُونَ أَلْسِنَتَهُم بِالْكِتَابِ لِتَحْسَبُوهُ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمَا هُوَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَقُولُونَ هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَمَا هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَيَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **3:78**

Among them is a group who distort the scripture, to make you think that what they relate is a part of the scripture, when it is not from the scripture. And they assert that it is from God, when it is not from God. Thus, they tell lies concerning God, and they are well aware of it. [2:101]

Hadith is
not from the Quran

مَا كَانَ لِبَشَرٍ أَن يُؤْتِيَهُ اللَّهُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ ثُمَّ يَقُولَ لِلنَّاسِ كُونُوا عِبَادًا لِّي مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَٰكِن كُونُوا رَبَّانِيِّينَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تُعَلِّمُونَ الْكِتَابَ وَبِمَا كُنتُمْ تَدْرُسُونَ **3:79**

Never would a human being, whom God has blessed with the scripture, wisdom and prophetic office, thereafter say to people, "Be servants of me instead of God." Rather, he would say, "Become true devotees of the Lord since you learn and teach the Book and study it as it should be studied."

Study the Quran

وَلَا يَأْمُرَكُمْ أَن تَتَّخِذُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ أَرْبَابًا أَيَأْمُرُكُم بِالْكُفْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ **3:80**

Are we Idolizing the Prophet

Nor would he instruct you to take angels and the Prophets for lords and patrons. What! Would he ever enjoin upon you unbelief after you have surrendered to God?

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْتُكُم مِّن كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنصُرُنَّهُ قَالَ أَأَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي قَالُوا أَقْرَرْنَا قَالَ فَاشْهَدُوا وَأَنَا مَعَكُم مِّنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ **3:81**

Remember! God took a solemn promise from all Prophets (and through them with their respective nations that they would welcome each of the next Messengers in the process of Divine revelations and support him.) God said to the Prophets, "Now! I give you the Book and wisdom. Afterward there shall come a Messenger confirming (the truth in) what you have. You must, then, acknowledge him and help him. Do you accept and agree to hold on to this pledge of Mine?" They said, "We do agree." He said, "Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses." [This was the promise with their nations. The personal covenant made with each Messenger is mentioned in 33:7. See 2:101 & 3:78 for 'the truth in']

فَمَن تَوَلَّىٰ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ **3:82**

(People of the Book must uphold this pledge while the Prophet is in their midst.) Whoever, after this, turns away, it is those who have drifted away from the right path.

أَفَغَيْرَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبْغُونَ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ **3:83**

What! Do they seek other than the Prescribed way (Deen) of God, when to Him submit all beings in the heavens and earth, either by free will or by their innate nature and programming, and to Him they will be returned - and to Him they go back as their Originating Source. [All things in the Universe surrender to God, either by free will as the believers do, or through their innate nature such as animals, trees, stars, seasons etc. Even the deniers of the truth live by Divine laws in their physical lives]

قُلْ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَالنَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ **3:84**

All prophets are equal

Declare, "We believe in God and what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and their descendant Prophets, and what was given from their Lord to Moses, Jesus and the other Prophets. We make no distinction among any of them. And we submit to Him alone." [All Prophets were one in purpose. 2:253, 17:55]

وَمَن يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَن يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **3:85**

Regardless of name, one who surrenders to God is a Muslim

Whoever seeks as a Way of Life other than Islam (Submission) to God, it will never be accepted from him, and in the Eternal Life, he will be among those who have lost their investments completely. [This is because the Deen (Religion) of the entire Universe is Submission]

كَيْفَ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ قَوْمًا كَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِيمَانِهِمْ وَشَهِدُوا أَنَّ الرَّسُولَ حَقٌّ وَجَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **3:86**

How would God guide a people who go back to their old ways of disbelief after experiencing the blessings of faith, and after witnessing that the Messenger is true, as he made the clear evidence a living truth. God does not show the lighted road to those who choose to do wrong, and thus, hurt their own 'self'. [Zaalimeen = Oppressors = Those who hurt themselves or others = Who displace something from its rightful place = Who relegate the truth = Those who choose to do wrong = Violators of human rights = Misdirected = Those who prefer to live in the darkness of ignorance = Commonly translated as wrongdoers. This verse 3:86 very much applies to today's Muslims. The Prophet (S) established the Divine System in the State of Madinah]

أُولَٰئِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ أَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ لَعْنَةَ اللَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ **3:87**

Such are the people whose logical recompense is God's rejection, and that of the universal laws, and of humanity at large. [Rejecters of the Divine laws trail behind in the community of nations]

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَلَا هُمْ يُنظَرُونَ **3:88**

They will abide in this state. Their torment will neither be diminished, nor will they be given further respite.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ وَأَصْلَحُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **3:89**

Except those who practically repent by ceasing their transgressions, start journeying in the right direction and, thus, take corrective action. God is Absolver of faults, Nourisher of the Universe. [The terms Taubah, Ghafoor and Raheem have been translated according to the Quraish lexicon]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِيمَانِهِمْ ثُمَّ ازْدَادُوا كُفْرًا لَّن تُقْبَلَ تَوْبَتُهُمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الضَّالُّونَ **3:90**

As for those who reject faith after choosing to believe, and then, go on adding to their defiance of faith, their repentance will not be accepted. For, it is those who have chosen the wrong direction. [4:18]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ فَلَن يُقْبَلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِم مِّلْءُ الْأَرْضِ ذَهَبًا وَلَوِ افْتَدَىٰ بِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **3:91**

Those who reject the truth and prefer to journey through life in the darkness of ignorance, and die as deniers, thereafter, not even the entire gold of the earth could ever be their ransom. It is they for whom is reserved a grievous torment and for them will be no helpers. [We have already seen that 'Azaab = Torment = Chastisement = Punishment = Suffering, is a natural consequence of transgressions according to the Law of Cause and Effect. God does not punish people out of rage like human tyrants and kings. Reward and punishment are built-in results of one's own deeds. So, no helpers either]

لَن تَنَالُوا الْبِرَّ حَتَّىٰ تُنفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ وَمَا تُنفِقُوا مِن شَيْءٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ **3:92**

You will never attain exponential growth of the 'self' unless you open up for others the possessions you cherish. And whatever you spend, God is well Aware of it. [God, the Knower of your own 'self', reminds that Paradise is for those who attain self-actualization by giving. 92:18]

كُلُّ الطَّعَامِ كَانَ حِلًّا لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِلَّا مَا حَرَّمَ إِسْرَائِيلُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن تُنَزَّلَ التَّوْرَاةُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِالتَّوْرَاةِ فَاتْلُوهَا إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **3:93**

Prophets quote

All means of physical sustenance were abundantly available to the Children of Israel, except what Israel as a community had deprived themselves (due to their transgressions) - before the Torah was revealed. Say, "Bring the Torah and study it if you are truthful." [Hillan = Halaal = Permissible = Abundantly available. Israel = A title of Jacob = Figuratively here, the Israelites]

فَمَنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ **3:94**

Then, whoever invents a lie concerning God, after this (clear evidence), it is those who will be unjust.

قُلْ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ فَاتَّبِعُوا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **3:95**

Prophets quote

Say, "God has declared the truth. Follow, then, the Creed of Abraham, the upright who shunned all falsehood. He was not of those who choose authorities besides God."

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **3:96**

Bakka, Mecca

He erected the First House (Sanctuary) appointed for all mankind, at the blessed Bakkah. It is to serve as a beacon of light for all humanity (in order to regain their lost unity). [2:125. Bakkah came to be known as Makkah later. In the ancient Arabic dialect b was interchangeable with m]

فِيهِ آيَاتٌ بَيِّنَاتٌ مَّقَامُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمَن دَخَلَهُ كَانَ آمِنًا وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ **3:97**

Therein are clear messages (to achieve that coveted goal and recall) how Abraham once took his stand (against all divisions of humanity and was granted the leadership

of all mankind 2:124-125). Those who enter the System symbolized thereby shall find inner peace and external security. Pilgrimage to this House is a duty all mankind owe to God, those who have the circumstantial means to undertake the visit. One who denies this command should know that God is Absolutely Independent of all His creation. [Pilgrimage = Joining the Hajj Convention. Mankind can realize the blessings of unity by rallying around this Divinely appointed Center. 22:25-28. The idolaters are forbidden only to 'ya'mur' or administer the Masjid for obvious ideological reasons. 9:17-18]

All believers welcome to Mecca

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ عَلَىٰ مَا تَعْمَلُونَ **3:98**

Prophets quote

Say, "O People of the Book! Why do you reject God's messages when God Himself is Witness to all that you do?"

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ تَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَأَنتُمْ شُهَدَاءُ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **3:99**

Prophets quote

Say, "O People of the Book! Why do you bar from the path of God, him who chooses to believe? - Seeking to make it crooked, even though you are witnesses (to the truth)." But God is not unaware of whatever you do.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تُطِيعُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ يَرُدُّوكُم بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ كَافِرِينَ **3:100**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you were to heed a group of those who have been given the scripture before, they might turn you back to the darkness of ignorance after you have chosen to acknowledge the truth. [The very act of heeding or obeying others against the messages of God is an indication that such people have not understood the beauty in these messages]

وَكَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ وَأَنتُمْ تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ وَفِيكُمْ رَسُولُهُ وَمَن يَعْتَصِم بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ هُدِيَ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **3:101**

How could you choose the darkness of ignorance when God's messages are being conveyed to you and His Messenger is in your midst (implementing these messages in the society)? Whoever holds fast to God (dismissing all other 'authorities'), is already guided onto a straight path. [3:144]

Present tense

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ **3:102**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Live a life upright being mindful of God in a manner befitting to Him. Let not death overtake you but that you are Muslims.

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُم بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنقَذَكُم مِّنْهَا كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ **3:103**

Be united

You must hold fast, all of you together, to the Bond of God and be not divided into sects. (The Bond or Rope of God is the Qur'an which is an Unbreakable Support 2:256.) Remember God's favor upon you when you were enemies and, almost overnight, He brought mutual affection in your hearts. Thus, you became brothers and sisters by His grace. And recall that you were on the brink of the pit of fire, and He saved you from it. (Various tribes used to attack one another, and personal enmity plagued them.) This is how effectively God has made His messages clear for you to journey on the lighted road. [6:165, 30:31-32, Huda = Guidance = Walk the right path = Travel on a lighted road]

وَلْتَكُن مِّنكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **3:104**

Let there be a community among you that invites to all that is good, advocating virtue and deterring vice. They are the truly successful. [Verses 2:143, 3:110 and 22:78 assign this duty to the entire Muslim community. Ma'roof = Virtue = Kindness = All that is good = Declared Ma'roof by the Qur'an. Munkar = Vice = Evil = All that is wrong = Declared Munkar by the Qur'an. 2:143, 3:109, 23:1, 61:2-3]

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **3:105**

See 6:159
Don't make sects

Do not be like those who became divided and disputed after all evidence of the truth had come to them. For, they have incurred a tremendous suffering.[Sectarianism, schism and division stand in the way of unity of all mankind. Bayyinaat = Clear evidences. 6:159-160, 30:32, 42:43]

يَوْمَ تَبْيَضُّ وُجُوهٌ وَتَسْوَدُّ وُجُوهٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ اسْوَدَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ أَكَفَرْتُم بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ **3:106**

The Day (will come) when some faces will shine with joy and some faces will be portraits of gloom. (The former are those who hold on to the Bond of God, and the latter are those who get lost in sectarianism.) Those who will be portraits of gloom, will be told, "Ah, did you, (by falling to sectarianism) elect disbelief after attaining faith? Taste then, the punishment for your disbelief.

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ابْيَضَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ فَفِي رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **3:107**

And those whose faces shine, in the grace of God, they shall abide forever. [11:118-119]

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَمَا اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ظُلْمًا لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **3:108**

(The Rules given in these revelations determine the Rise and Fall of nations.) These are God's messages. We convey them to you in absolute truth, for, God wills no injustice to any of the creation.

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **3:109**

(His Rules are operative in the entire Universe.) Unto God belongs all that is in the Highs and all that is in the Lows, and all things are constantly working to fulfill the Divine Plan, moving and evolving toward what they are meant to be. All affairs turn to God (in order that the incredible discipline in the Universe be maintained.) [Lillah = For God = For the sake of God = In the cause of God = Belonging to God = Being subservient to Him = Working to fulfill the Divine Plan]

كُنتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُم مِّنْهُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ **3:110**

***

Refers to all the people

(Since you have been empowered by the Qur'an), you are the best suited Community that has been raised up for the good of mankind. You shall enjoin the Right and discourage the Wrong, since you have conviction in God. Now if the People of the Scripture had attained this kind of belief, it would have been for their own good. Some of them do embrace belief, while most of them continue to drift away. [The believers accept the Qur'an as the Criterion of right and wrong (3:4). It educates people on the Permanent Moral Value System and distinguishes clearly what the otherwise vague terms of 'right' and 'wrong', and 'good' and 'evil' would mean]

لَن يَضُرُّوكُمْ إِلَّا أَذًى وَإِن يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ يُوَلُّوكُمُ الْأَدْبَارَ ثُمَّ لَا يُنصَرُونَ **3:111**

But they will do you no harm except for a trifling inconvenience. And if they fight against you, they will turn their backs to you and then, they will find no helpers.

ضُرِبَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الذِّلَّةُ أَيْنَ مَا ثُقِفُوا إِلَّا بِحَبْلٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَحَبْلٍ مِّنَ النَّاسِ وَبَاءُوا بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَضُرِبَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَسْكَنَةُ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَيَقْتُلُونَ الْأَنبِيَاءَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوا وَّكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ **3:112**

Humiliation will be branded on them wherever they might be, unless they grasp a bond with God or the patronage of humanity. They have earned God's condemnation, and are committed to an abject state of misery. This is because they have been rejecting God's messages and have been opposing the Prophets, even slaying some of them against all right. All this, because they disobeyed, rebelled, and exceeded the bounds of what is right.

لَيْسُوا سَوَاءً مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ يَتْلُونَ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ **3:113**

Voluntary salat

They are not all alike. Among the People of the Scripture there are those who take a firm stand for the right cause, reflect on the revelations of God all night long and submit in adoration.

يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَيُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **3:114**

They believe in God (as the One True God), and in the Last Day. They advocate virtue by example, and close the doors to vice by example, and try to lead in acts of collective good. Such are the ones who enrich the society, increase the human potential and thus, rectify their own 'self'. [Saaliheen embraces all three meanings given in the last sentence]

وَمَا يَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلَن يُكْفَرُوهُ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالْمُتَّقِينَ **3:115**

Of the good they do, nothing will be rejected from them. God is Aware of those who live a life upright. [Muttaqeen = Those who walk on a secure path = Those who seek to journey through life in security = The observant = Those who live upright. See Taqwa 2:41]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَن تُغْنِيَ عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **3:116**

Indeed, those who reject the truth and thus choose to live in the darkness of ignorance, neither their wealth nor their children will avail them in the least against (the

inevitable consequences of violating the laws of) God. They are the dwellers of the fire, abiding therein. [Reward and punishment are built-in as the logical consequence of actions e.g. disuse of muscles causes them to atrophy. God does not punish people like human tyrants, out of rage or vengeance 3:182, 4:111, 20:15, 7:147, 27:90]

مَثَلُ مَا يُنفِقُونَ فِي هَٰذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَثَلِ رِيحٍ فِيهَا صِرٌّ أَصَابَتْ حَرْثَ قَوْمٍ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَأَهْلَكَتْهُ وَمَا ظَلَمَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَٰكِنْ أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **3:117**

The example of what they spend on the life of this world is that of an icy wind which destroys the harvest of people who have wronged themselves. God is not unjust to them, but it is they who wrong their own 'self'.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا بِطَانَةً مِّن دُونِكُمْ لَا يَأْلُونَكُمْ خَبَالًا وَدُّوا مَا عَنِتُّمْ قَدْ بَدَتِ الْبَغْضَاءُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَمَا تُخْفِي صُدُورُهُمْ أَكْبَرُ قَدْ بَيَّنَّا لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **3:118**

(Qur'anic Ideology will always be the basis of an Islamic state.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take as confidant intimates any but your own people. The rejecters leave no stone unturned in order to disrupt the harmony in your social fabric, and love to see you in distress. Their malice has already become manifest by their utterances, and what their hearts conceal is far greater yet. We have made plain the revelations for you so that you may use your intellect.

هَا أَنتُمْ أُولَاءِ تُحِبُّونَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِبُّونَكُمْ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْكِتَابِ كُلِّهِ وَإِذَا لَقُوكُمْ قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَوْا عَضُّوا عَلَيْكُمُ الْأَنَامِلَ مِنَ الْغَيْظِ قُلْ مُوتُوا بِغَيْظِكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **3:119**

Ah! You are those who love them, but they do not love you, although you acknowledge all the revelation (including the Bible). When they meet you they say, "We believe (as you believe)." But in their privacy, they bite their fingers in rage against you. Say, "Perish in your rage. God is fully Aware of what is hidden in the hearts."

إِن تَمْسَسْكُمْ حَسَنَةٌ تَسُؤْهُمْ وَإِن تُصِبْكُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَفْرَحُوا بِهَا وَإِن تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا لَا يَضُرُّكُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ مُحِيطٌ **3:120**

If you are blessed with good fortune, it grieves them, and if a calamity befalls you, they rejoice in it. But if you persevere and be on guard, their plotting cannot harm you at all. For, God encompasses whatever they may contrive. [Taqwa = Living upright = Being observant = Seeking to journey through life in security = Be on guard. 2:41]

Taqwa

وَإِذْ غَدَوْتَ مِنْ أَهْلِكَ تُبَوِّئُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مَقَاعِدَ لِلْقِتَالِ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **3:121**

(And recall O Prophet, the day of the Uhud Battle), when you left your household early in the morning to deploy the believers in battle positions. God is Hearer, Knower. [Knowing this, you remembered to use your faculties of listening and observing]

إِذْ هَمَّت طَّائِفَتَانِ مِنكُمْ أَن تَفْشَلَا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّهُمَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **3:122**

When two of your units were about to lose heart, God was Patron of them both. God it is, then, in Whom the believers must put their trust. [3:151-152]

وَلَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِبَدْرٍ وَأَنتُمْ أَذِلَّةٌ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **3:123**

God had granted you help and the victory at Badr, although you were utterly disadvantaged (few and ill-equipped 8:9). Therefore, guard yourselves according to God's laws so that your efforts bring results, such that you have cause to be grateful in word and action.

إِذْ تَقُولُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَلَن يَكْفِيَكُمْ أَن يُمِدَّكُمْ رَبُّكُم بِثَلَاثَةِ آلَافٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُنزَلِينَ **3:124**

Remember when you said to the believers, "Is it not sufficient for you that your Lord should help you with three thousand angels, sent down to your hearts?" [Fearlessness, determination, inner calm, and courage are the angels God sends down upon those who strive in His cause. 8:9-12, 41:30. Taking such verses literally, leads us to wrongly conclude the utter feebleness of 'angels' - the Battle of Badr was fought between 313 Muslims and about 1,000 opponents]

بَلَىٰ إِن تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا وَيَأْتُوكُم مِّن فَوْرِهِمْ هَٰذَا يُمْدِدْكُمْ رَبُّكُم بِخَمْسَةِ آلَافٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُسَوِّمِينَ **3:125**

If you take a firm stand and be on guard, and the enemy launches on you a sudden attack, your Lord will aid you with five thousand angels, specialized. [Musawwimeen = Clearly marked = Those given a clear assignment = Branded horses = Destined to succeed = Special forces = Specialized. Once again, the term refers to invincible determination]

وَمَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بُشْرَىٰ لَكُمْ وَلِتَطْمَئِنَّ قُلُوبُكُم بِهِ وَمَا النَّصْرُ إِلَّا مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ **3:126**

God made this but an allegory to give you glad tiding, and to comfort your hearts, since there is no victory contrary to the laws of God, the Almighty, the Wise.

لِيَقْطَعَ طَرَفًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْ يَكْبِتَهُمْ فَيَنقَلِبُوا خَائِبِينَ **3:127**

This is how He cuts off a flank of the rejecters, and abases them so that they turn back utterly dejected. [Yaqta' = He cut off = Sets apart = Sets aside. 'Aw' in this case more appropriately indicates 'and']

لَيْسَ لَكَ مِنَ الْأَمْرِ شَيْءٌ أَوْ يَتُوبَ عَلَيْهِمْ أَوْ يُعَذِّبَهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ ظَالِمُونَ **3:128**

It is not your personal concern (O Messenger) whether He accepts their repentance or punishes them because they have been unjust aggressors. [The matter will be decided according to law. Zaalimoon = Oppressors = Violators of human rights = Those who commit unjust aggression = Who displace right with wrong = Those who relegate the truth = Those who choose to do wrong]

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **3:129**

(Their case will be decided by Divine law, since) all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth belongs to God and working His Plan. He (His law) forgives him that deserves to be forgiven, and chastises him that deserves to be chastised. God is Absolver of faults, Merciful. [8:42. Individuals and nations get to choose which law applies to them. Yasha carries the connotations of 'will', 'deserve', 'choose', 'due measure' and 'law']

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا الرِّبَا أَضْعَافًا مُّضَاعَفَةً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **3:130**

(The battle was about repelling aggression. The prime duty is to maintain a benevolent, equitable society to which usury is a big detriment. Usury is the return on money while trade is the return on labor. Usury or interest appears ever-increasing, but God blights usury and nourishes the acts of caring 2:275-279). O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Devour not other people's money by way of usury which is compounded over and over again. Live upright as ordained by God in order to attain true prosperity of the society.

وَاتَّقُوا النَّارَ الَّتِي أُعِدَّتْ لِلْكَافِرِينَ **3:131**

So, (by avoiding the interest-based economy in your society), guard yourselves against the fire that has been readied for the rejecters (those who run systems contrary to Divine laws). [Kaafireen (disbelievers) in this context, reveals another shade of meaning that is clearly defined in 5:44, "Whoever does not judge and rule according to what God has revealed, such are the disbelievers."]

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ **3:132**

And obey God and the Messenger (the Central Authority). That is how you will achieve the development of your own 'self'. A benevolent society helps you grow like a mother's womb nourishes the embryo. [Turhamoon from Rahm or womb = 'You may find mercy', carries the meanings rendered in the last two sentences]

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **3:133**

Move forward eagerly to the tranquil security that comes from your Lord, and to the Paradise that transcends spatial boundaries, encompassing the heavens and earth. It has already been prepared for those who live upright, [Paradise is not confined to the skies. Like Hell, it begins right here in this world]

الَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **3:134**

And for those who, in ease and in adversity, keep their resources open for others. They divert and sublimate their anger and potentially virulent emotions to creative energy, becoming a source of tranquility and comfort to others. They pardon people gracefully. God loves the benefactors of humanity.

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَن يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **3:135**

Conduct of the good

Such men and women quickly correct any wrong or indecency that has occurred from them, by remembering the commands of God, and thus, protect themselves from trailing behind in humanity. And who can absolve imperfections but God? And they know well enough to refrain from persisting in whatever (wrong or indecency) had occurred from them.

أُولَٰئِكَ جَزَاؤُهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَجَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ **3:136**

These are the ones whose reward from their Lord is their protection against the detrimental effects of their errors, and magnificent Gardens with streams flowing beneath, therein to abide. How excellent a reward for the sincere workers!

قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ سُنَنٌ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ 3:137

Many ways of life have passed away before your time. Travel, then, in the land and see the end of nations that denied the truth. [Mukazzibeen = Those who deny the truth in practice but not verbally = Those who deny the truth = Who live by conjecture instead of the unalterable Divine laws]

هَٰذَا بَيَانٌ لِّلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَمَوْعِظَةٌ لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ 3:138

This Qur'an is a declaration for the entire mankind, and a beacon of light and a beautiful instruction for those who seek to journey through life in honor and security.

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَنتُمُ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 3:139

Do not ever, then, lose heart, and do not grieve, for you are bound to prevail if you are truly believers. [4:141]

إِن يَمْسَسْكُمْ قَرْحٌ فَقَدْ مَسَّ الْقَوْمَ قَرْحٌ مِّثْلُهُ وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَيَتَّخِذَ مِنكُمْ شُهَدَاءَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ 3:140

If a wound afflicts you, a similar wound has afflicted the other community. Such are the days of fluctuating fortunes that We rotate among mankind. God thus makes known (and distinguishes through perseverance) the believers, and takes among you witnesses (as truth personified). God does not love the oppressors. [Shuhada = Witnesses = Those who uphold the truth = Those who uphold the truth even with their lives]

وَلِيُمَحِّصَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَيَمْحَقَ الْكَافِرِينَ 3:141

This is how God enables the true believers to emerge stronger after every challenge and causes the rejecters of Divine laws to wither away.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَن تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ وَلَمَّا يَعْلَمِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا مِنكُمْ وَيَعْلَمَ الصَّابِرِينَ 3:142

Do you think that you would enter Paradise without God distinguishing those among you who strive, and without distinguishing the steadfast? [2:214]

وَلَقَدْ كُنتُمْ تَمَنَّوْنَ الْمَوْتَ مِن قَبْلِ أَن تَلْقَوْهُ فَقَدْ رَأَيْتُمُوهُ وَأَنتُمْ تَنظُرُونَ 3:143

You longed for death (in the cause of God) before you faced it. And now you have seen it with your own eyes. [A life of honor in this world belongs to those who have conquered the fear of death, and death is the gateway to eternal life. 2:94, 2:243]

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِن مَّاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَن يَنقَلِبْ عَلَىٰ عَقِبَيْهِ فَلَن يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ **3:144**

Muhammad was a messenger just like the others

Muhammad is only a Messenger. The Messengers before him have passed on. So, if he died or were slain, would you turn about on your heels? But anyone who turns about his heels, would not, in the least, harm God. And God will soon reward those who remain appreciative (for the guidance). [The System the Prophet has established is to become a beacon of light for all humanity. The believers will reap the fruit of the Benevolent System here and, then, get rewarded in the Hereafter. 3:101, 3:185, 35:10]

Become unbelievers

وَمَا كَانَ لِنَفْسٍ أَن تَمُوتَ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ كِتَابًا مُّؤَجَّلًا وَمَن يُرِدْ ثَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَن يُرِدْ ثَوَابَ الْآخِرَةِ نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَسَنَجْزِي الشَّاكِرِينَ **3:145**

No one dies except by God's leave, at a term appointed by His laws. Whoever seeks the rewards of this world, We give him thereof, and whoever seeks the returns of the Hereafter, We shall grant him thereof. We will soon reward those who are appreciative (for serving Him). [Being appreciative (Shaakir) is not confined to verbal proclamations. It involves sharing Divine bounties with the society and individuals. The Qur'an shows humans the way to success in both worlds. 3:148, 17:18-20, 24:55, 28:77]

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن نَّبِيٍّ قَاتَلَ مَعَهُ رِبِّيُّونَ كَثِيرٌ فَمَا وَهَنُوا لِمَا أَصَابَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَمَا ضَعُفُوا وَمَا اسْتَكَانُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الصَّابِرِينَ **3:146**

Many a Prophet fought, - and with them numerous devotees of their Lord, without wavering under adversity, in the cause of God, nor did they hesitate or become discouraged. Know that God loves those who are determined to achieve a noble objective. [Wa = And = Since = Witness = Or = For = Then = As a continuum, it may be understood as 'know', 'remember'. Saabir = Steadfast = Persevering = Determined = Patient in ease and adversity]

وَمَا كَانَ قَوْلَهُمْ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ **3:147**

Dua

Their resolve was their utterance, “Our Lord! Protect us from trailing behind in our mission and from wasting our efforts. Make us firm in our stand, and help us against people who oppose the truth.”

فَآتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ ثَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا وَحُسْنَ ثَوَابِ الْآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **3:148**

So, God gave them excellent returns in this world; and better are the returns of the Hereafter. Remember that God loves the benefactors of humanity.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تُطِيعُوا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَرُدُّوكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ فَتَنقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ **3:149**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you heed the rejecters of the Divine System, they will make you turn back on your heels, and you will turn back to your own loss. Become unbelievers

بَلِ اللَّهُ مَوْلَاكُمْ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ النَّاصِرِينَ **3:150**

Maula

Remember, only God is your Maula (Master), and He is the Best of helpers.

سَنُلْقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ بِمَا أَشْرَكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَمَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ وَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الظَّالِمِينَ **3:151**

(True belief removes fear and grief 2:38.) We shall cause dread in the hearts of those who defy the Divine laws since they choose masters besides God. For this, He has revealed no authority, and granted power to none contrary to His laws. Fire is their resting place, and miserable is the ultimate home of those who hurt their own ‘self’ by relegating the truth. [The last line defines Zaalimeen in the context]

وَلَقَدْ صَدَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ إِذْ تَحُسُّونَهُم بِإِذْنِهِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فَشِلْتُمْ وَتَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ وَعَصَيْتُم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا أَرَاكُم مَّا تُحِبُّونَ مِنكُم مَّن يُرِيدُ الدُّنْيَا وَمِنكُم مَّن يُرِيدُ الْآخِرَةَ ثُمَّ صَرَفَكُمْ عَنْهُمْ لِيَبْتَلِيَكُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَفَا عَنكُمْ وَاللَّهُ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **3:152**

Battle of Uhud

Indeed, God fulfilled His promise to you when you routed them by following His law - until you wavered and disputed among yourselves about the situation, and disobeyed after He had shown you what you so much loved. (You were winning the battle of Uhud,) but then some of you (were distracted by the spoils of war and) desired the world, while others rightly kept in focus the lasting success in

the Hereafter. He then disengaged you from defeating them to let you go through trying circumstances. But He absolved your imperfections (as you realized your fault and stood firm again). God is full of bounty for the true believers.

إِذْ تُصْعِدُونَ وَلَا تَلْوُونَ عَلَىٰ أَحَدٍ وَالرَّسُولُ يَدْعُوكُمْ فِي أُخْرَاكُمْ فَأَثَابَكُمْ غَمًّا بِغَمٍّ لِّكَيْلَا تَحْزَنُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَاتَكُمْ وَلَا مَا أَصَابَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ 3:153

Recall when you rushed after the spoils, caring for none, and the Messenger, in your rear, was calling out to you. So He caused you to suffer grief upon grief to teach you a lesson. Grieve not over what you lose, nor over a calamity that befalls you. God is well Aware of all you do.

ثُمَّ أَنزَلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّن بَعْدِ الْغَمِّ أَمَنَةً نُّعَاسًا يَغْشَىٰ طَائِفَةً مِّنكُمْ وَطَائِفَةٌ قَدْ أَهَمَّتْهُمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ يَظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ ظَنَّ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَقُولُونَ هَل لَّنَا مِنَ الْأَمْرِ مِن شَيْءٍ قُلْ إِنَّ الْأَمْرَ كُلَّهُ لِلَّهِ يُخْفُونَ فِي أَنفُسِهِم مَّا لَا يُبْدُونَ لَكَ يَقُولُونَ لَوْ كَانَ لَنَا مِنَ الْأَمْرِ شَيْءٌ مَّا قُتِلْنَا هَاهُنَا قُل لَّوْ كُنتُمْ فِي بُيُوتِكُمْ لَبَرَزَ الَّذِينَ كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَتْلُ إِلَىٰ مَضَاجِعِهِمْ وَلِيَبْتَلِيَ اللَّهُ مَا فِي صُدُورِكُمْ وَلِيُمَحِّصَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ 3:154

After the setback, He sent down upon you calm that pacified some of you - Whereas another group was unduly anxious within themselves, holding wrong assumptions about God, the assumptions of ignorance. (They were hypocrites worried for their lives.) They said, "Do we have any control?" Tell them, "All control belongs to, and derives from, God." You can control events only within the framework of His laws. These (hypocrites) concealed within themselves what they did not reveal to you. They said, "If we had nothing to do with this battle we would not have been harmed." Say, "Had you stayed in your homes, those destined to be killed would have crawled themselves to the circumstance of death." God thus lets you test your real convictions so that you emerge stronger after every challenge deep down in your hearts. God is Aware of your psyche and what is deep down in the hearts.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَلَّوْا مِنكُمْ يَوْمَ الْتَقَى الْجَمْعَانِ إِنَّمَا اسْتَزَلَّهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ بِبَعْضِ مَا كَسَبُوا وَلَقَدْ عَفَا اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ 3:155

غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

Those of you, who turned back on that day when the two armies clashed, it was their selfish desires that caused them to backslide. This happened because of some errors they had done. Now God has pardoned them (since their good outweighed their shortcomings). Indeed, God is Absolver of imperfections, Most Clement.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَقَالُوا لِإِخْوَانِهِمْ إِذَا ضَرَبُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَوْ كَانُوا غُزًّى لَّوْ كَانُوا عِندَنَا مَا مَاتُوا وَمَا قُتِلُوا لِيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ ذَٰلِكَ حَسْرَةً فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **3:156**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not be like disbelievers who (regretfully) say of their brethren who went forth or fought in the battle, "If they had stayed (home) with us, they would not have died nor been killed. God creates anguish in the hearts for this kind of attitude. For, it is God Who gives life and causes death, and God is Seer of your actions. [Fear of death takes away "life" out of life]

وَلَئِن قُتِلْتُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَوْ مُتُّمْ لَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَحْمَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ **3:157**

And if you are slain, or die, in the way of God, then a life protected against deterioration (through God's maghfirah) and His grace are better than whatever they could amass. [Maghfirah = Usually translated as forgiveness = Protection against deterioration. Notice the third person used in the end, pointing to all treasures that any humans, believers or unbelievers, may amass]

وَلَئِن مُّتُّمْ أَوْ قُتِلْتُمْ لَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **3:158**

For, whether you die or are slain, life goes on to its destination. To God you will be gathered, and every step of yours is heading toward Him.

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ **3:159**

Muhammad was a kind person

It is God's mercy that you (O Messenger) are lenient and compassionate with people. For, if you were harsh and stern of heart, they would have broken away from you. So, pardon them, arrange for their security, and consult with them in matters

of public interest. Then, once you have taken a decision, put your trust in God. God loves those who do their best and then put their trust in Him.

إِن يَنصُرْكُمُ اللَّهُ فَلَا غَالِبَ لَكُمْ وَإِن يَخْذُلْكُمْ فَمَن ذَا الَّذِي يَنصُرُكُم مِّن بَعْدِهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **3:160**

Remember, when God helps you, none can overcome you. But if He forsakes you (for your forsaking Him), who is there to help you thereafter? In God, then, let the believers put their trust. [He is Trustworthy since He never changes His laws]

وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيٍّ أَن يَغُلَّ وَمَن يَغْلُلْ يَأْتِ بِمَا غَلَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **3:161**

It is inconceivable that a Prophet could ever act dishonestly. Anyone who acts dishonestly will have to account for it on the Day of Resurrection. Then every 'self' will be paid in full what it has earned, and they will not face any injustice.

أَفَمَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ كَمَن بَاءَ بِسَخَطٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَمَأْوَاهُ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **3:162**

Is one who seeks the approval of God the same as one who earned God's disapproval, and whose resting place is Hell? What a miserable destination?

هُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ **3:163**

They have different ranks in the Sight of God, for, God is Seer of what they do. [Conduct is the sole determining factor for ranks with God. 6:132, 49:13, 84:19]

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **3:164**

God has done a great favor to the believers that He has sent a Messenger from among themselves, who conveys to them His messages (and establishes the System) enabling them to grow in humanity, and imparts to them the law and the wisdom behind it. Before, they were in manifest error.

أَوَلَمَّا أَصَابَتْكُم مُّصِيبَةٌ قَدْ أَصَبْتُم مِّثْلَيْهَا قُلْتُمْ أَنَّىٰ هَٰذَا قُلْ هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ أَنفُسِكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **3:165**

What! When a single calamity inflicts you, (that you have suffered a setback at Uhud), although you inflicted twice as much on the enemy (at Badr), you say, "How did this happen?" Say (O Messenger), "This is from yourselves." God has appointed due measure for all things and events. [3:152]

وَمَا أَصَابَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْتَقَى الْجَمْعَانِ فَبِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **3:166**

That which befell you when the two armies clashed, was according to God's laws that He might let the believers know their strength and weakness,

وَلِيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ نَافَقُوا وَقِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا قَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَوِ ادْفَعُوا قَالُوا لَوْ نَعْلَمُ قِتَالًا لَّاتَّبَعْنَاكُمْ هُمْ لِلْكُفْرِ يَوْمَئِذٍ أَقْرَبُ مِنْهُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ يَقُولُونَ بِأَفْوَاهِهِم مَّا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَكْتُمُونَ **3:167**

And that He might mark out those afflicted with hypocrisy. They had been told, "Come! Fight in the cause of God, or at least defend (the city)." They answered, "If we knew that confrontation was forthcoming, we would have joined you." On that day they were closer to disbelief than belief, uttering with their mouths that was not in their hearts. But God was best Aware of what they were trying to conceal.

الَّذِينَ قَالُوا لِإِخْوَانِهِمْ وَقَعَدُوا لَوْ أَطَاعُونَا مَا قُتِلُوا قُلْ فَادْرَءُوا عَنْ أَنفُسِكُمُ الْمَوْتَ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **3:168**

Those who sat at home said of their brethren, "If they had listened to us they would not have been slain." Say (O Messenger), "Then avert death from yourselves if you are truthful."

Prophets quote

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ **3:169**

Pleasant journey to paradise

Think not of those, who are slain in the cause of God, as dead. Nay, they are living! And by their Lord they are well provided for. [2:154, 3:156]

فَرِحِينَ بِمَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ وَيَسْتَبْشِرُونَ بِالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَلْحَقُوا بِهِم مِّنْ خَلْفِهِمْ أَلَّا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **3:170**

They are happy in the bounty that God has given them - and pleased for those left behind, who have not yet joined them - that upon them shall be no fear, nor anything to regret.

يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ بِنِعْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَفَضْلٍ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 3:171

They rejoice because of the favor from God and the bounty. For, God never fails to reward those who have conviction in His laws.

الَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْقَرْحُ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا مِنْهُمْ وَاتَّقَوْا أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ 3:172

For those who respond to God and the Messenger even after harm has struck them - and continue to work for the betterment of humanity and live upright, is a tremendous reward. [8:24]

الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ 3:173

When people warn them, “Indeed, a host has assembled against you - so fear them!” But this only strengthens their faith. And they say, “God suffices for us and how Excellent a Guardian He is!”

فَانقَلَبُوا بِنِعْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَفَضْلٍ لَّمْ يَمْسَسْهُمْ سُوءٌ وَاتَّبَعُوا رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَظِيمٍ 3:174

So, they return with God’s blessings and bounty, and no harm touches them in either case. They seek God’s approval, and God is the Lord of Great bounty.

إِنَّمَا ذَٰلِكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ يُخَوِّفُ أَوْلِيَاءَهُ فَلَا تَخَافُوهُمْ وَخَافُونِ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 3:175

It is only Satan, that would instill into you fear of his allies. So, do not fear them, but fear Me, if you are indeed believers! [Satan’s allies = Selfish desires in different guises = Satanic people]

وَلَا يَحْزُنكَ الَّذِينَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْكُفْرِ إِنَّهُمْ لَن يَضُرُّوا اللَّهَ شَيْئًا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَلَّا يَجْعَلَ لَهُمْ حَظًّا فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ 3:176

And do not be saddened by those who rush to rejection. For, they cannot harm God at all. God wishes for them no share in the Hereafter. And for them is an awful doom.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اشْتَرَوُا الْكُفْرَ بِالْإِيمَانِ لَن يَضُرُّوا اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **3:177**

Those who purchase disbelief at the price of faith, do not harm God in the least. And for them is a painful doom.

وَلَا يَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّمَا نُمْلِي لَهُمْ خَيْرٌ لِّأَنفُسِهِمْ إِنَّمَا نُمْلِي لَهُمْ لِيَزْدَادُوا إِثْمًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ **3:178**

Let not the rejecters imagine that We give them respite for their own good. We give them time so that they increasingly exhaust their energies and potentials, to the extent that they incur a humiliating suffering in the end. [People and nations that mend their behavior in the period of respite, avert this pitiable consequence]

مَّا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَذَرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلَىٰ مَا أَنتُمْ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّىٰ يَمِيزَ الْخَبِيثَ مِنَ الطَّيِّبِ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُطْلِعَكُمْ عَلَى الْغَيْبِ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْتَبِي مِن رُّسُلِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَإِن تُؤْمِنُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَلَكُمْ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ **3:179**

Only God knows the future

God will not leave the believers as you are, until He distinguishes what is evil from what is good. But God will not let you know the secrets of the Unseen. God chooses His Messengers to receive knowledge of the Unseen as He wills. So, believe in God and His Messengers. If you believe and do right, yours will be a great reward. [The believers will stand out not only in their convictions but also in their decent manners of life and the hypocrites will no longer remain hidden. 47:29-30, 72:26-27]

Unseen

وَلَا يَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَبْخَلُونَ بِمَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ هُوَ خَيْرًا لَّهُم بَلْ هُوَ شَرٌّ لَّهُمْ سَيُطَوَّقُونَ مَا بَخِلُوا بِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلِلَّهِ مِيرَاثُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **3:180**

Let not those, who withhold the gifts that God has bestowed upon them of His bounty think that this is good for them. Nay, it is bad for them. It will be tied to their necks as shackles on the Day of Resurrection. To God belongs the heritage of the heavens and earth. God is Aware of all you do. [He bestows His provision to humanity for equitable distribution to all. 55:10]

لَّقَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ فَقِيرٌ وَنَحْنُ أَغْنِيَاءُ سَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَالُوا وَقَتْلَهُمُ الْأَنبِيَاءَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ وَنَقُولُ ذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ 3:181

God has heard the utterance of those who said, "God is poor whereas we are rich." We will record what they say, just as their slaying of the Prophets against all right. And We shall say, "Taste the torment of burning." [Most of the first followers of all Messengers have been the poor. 11:27]

ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَيْسَ بِظَلَّامٍ لِّلْعَبِيدِ 3:182

This is for what your own hands have sent forth. God is never a tyrant over His servants. [8:51]

الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَهِدَ إِلَيْنَا أَلَّا نُؤْمِنَ لِرَسُولٍ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَنَا بِقُرْبَانٍ تَأْكُلُهُ النَّارُ قُلْ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِي بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَبِالَّذِي قُلْتُمْ فَلِمَ قَتَلْتُمُوهُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ 3:183

Prophets quote ****

It is they (the Children of Israel) who assert, "God has taken a promise from us that we should not believe in any Messenger unless he shows us an offering consumed by fire." Say, "Messengers before me came to you with self-evident truth, and what you describe (as a burnt offering). Why, then, did you slay them, if you are truthful?" [I Thessalonians ii, 15 / Mathew xxiii, 37. Burnt offering = Animal sacrifice that a fire from the sky would consume]

فَإِن كَذَّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كُذِّبَ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ جَاءُوا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُنِيرِ 3:184

Psalms

Messengers denied

If they deny you (O Messenger), so were denied Messengers before you when they came with clear evidence of the truth, and with books of Divine wisdom, and the light giving revelation.

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَن زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ 3:185

(You may get some passing delight in denial, but) every living being is bound to taste death. And you will receive your recompense in full on the Day of Resurrection. Then whoever is drawn away from the fire, and gets admitted to the Garden, will

have gained supreme triumph. (He who considers it the end in itself should know that for him) the life of this world is nothing but an enjoyment of self-deception. [The real success entails striving for both worlds. 2:201, 10:63-64, 14:27, 28:77]

لَتُبْلَوُنَّ فِي أَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنفُسِكُمْ وَلَتَسْمَعُنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَذًى كَثِيرًا وَإِن تَصْبِرُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ **3:186**

You will certainly go through changes of fortune in your wealth and persons. And you will hear much that is hurtful from those who were given the scripture before you, and from the idolaters and those who wish to impose manmade systems. But if you remain steadfast and continue to live upright, this will strengthen your resolve. [2:155]

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَتُبَيِّنُنَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَكْتُمُونَهُ فَنَبَذُوهُ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِهِمْ وَاشْتَرَوْا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا فَبِئْسَ مَا يَشْتَرُونَ **3:187**

God accepted a solemn pledge from those who had received the scripture, “Make it clearly known to people, and never conceal it!” But they flung it behind their backs, and traded it away for a little gain. How evil was the bargain they made! [2:16]

لَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْرَحُونَ بِمَا أَتَوا وَّيُحِبُّونَ أَن يُحْمَدُوا بِمَا لَمْ يَفْعَلُوا فَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّهُم بِمَفَازَةٍ مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **3:188**

Do not think that those who exult in their works, and love to be praised for what they have not done - Never think that they can escape chastisement. For, grievous suffering does await them.

وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **3:189**

Unto God belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth. And God, having Power over all things and events, has appointed laws in due measure. [10:4, 34:3-4, 53:31]

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ **3:190**

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men and women who use their intellect.

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَٰذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ 3:191

Cosmology, astronomy

[Such men and women of understanding keep reflecting upon how God's laws operate in the Universe] Standing, sitting, and reclining, they reflect upon the wonders of creation in the skies and earth, saying, "Our Lord! You have not created all this without purpose. Glory to You! Save us, then, from (being negligent in attaining knowledge and thus from) the doom of the fire." [When humans harness the forces in Nature and use them for the common good of all, they move away from Hell, rightfully hoping to achieve Paradise in both lives. 13:17, 45:13-14]

رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ مَن تُدْخِلِ النَّارَ فَقَدْ أَخْزَيْتَهُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنصَارٍ 3:192

(Reflecting on the Universe and upon their own role on the Planet, such people work for the betterment of humanity 13:17. They say), "Our Lord! Any individuals and nations whom You admit into the fire, You have brought them low (for failing to harness the forces in Nature)." There are no helpers for those who choose to do wrong, and thus, hurt themselves. [Zaalimeen translated according to the context]

رَّبَّنَا إِنَّنَا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ 3:193

Dua

"Our Lord! We have heard the call of one calling to faith, "Believe in your Lord!" So we have chosen to believe. Our Lord! Protect us from trailing behind in humanity, blot out from us our faults, and let our end be in the company of those who have helped others to make progress in the society." [2:186. Abraar = Those who create opportunities for others to make progress]

رَبَّنَا وَآتِنَا مَا وَعَدتَّنَا عَلَىٰ رُسُلِكَ وَلَا تُخْزِنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ 3:194

"And our Lord! Grant us what You have promised to us through Your Messengers. And save us from humiliation on the Day of Resurrection. You never break the promise." [24:55]

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِّنكُم مِّن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنثَىٰ بَعْضُكُم مِّن بَعْضٍ فَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَأُخْرِجُوا 3:195

مِن دِيَارِهِمْ وَأُوذُوا فِي سَبِيلِي وَقَاتَلُوا وَقُتِلُوا لَأُكَفِّرَنَّ
عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَأُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ ثَوَابًا مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عِندَهُ حُسْنُ الثَّوَابِ

Thus their Lord accepts and answers their prayer, "Indeed, I never let the work of any worker, male or female, go to waste. You are members of one another. So, those who emigrate, and are driven from their homelands, and suffer harm in My cause, and fight, and are slain, I shall certainly blot out their faults, erasing the imprints of their misdeeds on their 'self'. I will admit them into Gardens with streams flowing beneath - a handsome return from God's Presence. For, with God is the fairest return of actions. [2:186]

لَا يَغُرَّنَّكَ تَقَلُّبُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ **3:196**

Let not the thump and thud, and decorum of the opponents of the Divine System, in townships, impress you.

مَتَاعٌ قَلِيلٌ ثُمَّ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ **3:197**

It is but a brief enjoyment. Eventually, Hell is their resting place, and how uncomfortable a bed it is to lie on! [Wrong systems take away inner peace, and collapse to a life of Hell in both worlds]

لَكِنِ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ **3:198**
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا نُزُلًا مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَمَا عِندَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لِّلْأَبْرَارِ

But those who remain mindful of their Lord, for them are Gardens with streams flowing beneath, therein to abide - a Gift of Welcome from their Lord. For, with God is the best reward for those who have grown in humanity and eased the way for others.

وَإِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَمَن يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَمَا **3:199**
أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ خَاشِعِينَ لِلَّهِ لَا يَشْتَرُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا
أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ

Among the People of the Book are some who believe in God, and in what is revealed to you, and in what was revealed to them. They humble themselves before God, and do not trade away God's revelations for a trifling gain. Their reward is with their Lord. God is Swift in taking account. [3:113-114]

Righteous Jews and Christians

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اصْبِرُوا وَصَابِرُوا وَرَابِطُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **3:200**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Persevere in patience and constancy, outdo others in steadfastness, and remain united, strengthening each other. And be mindful of God, so that you may prosper.

Chapter 4

An-Nisaa - The Women

This is the 4th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 176 verses. In general, Nisaa means women in the society unless the description involves husbands, when it would mean wives. Azwaaj means spouses, Zaujah is wife and Zauj means husband. Zauj also refers to either of the spouses - a companion for life. The context will define the exact connotation of these terms on each occasion. The Qur´an is the foremost guardian of women´s rights. Sir Iqbal once commented that if he were an atheist, he would have thought that the Qur´an was the authorship of a group of intelligent women! Respected readers of QXP (The Qur´an As It Explains Itself) might have already noticed that any discussion whether a particular Surah was revealed in Makkah or in Madinah is completely unnecessary and irrelevant to the message of the Qur´an. The same observation applies to the conjecture of Shaan-e-Nuzool (the circumstances of any particular revelation). These futile exercises cause disputes among commentators, confuse the reader, and take up everyone´s time in a "vain sport". More noxiously, this deplorable practice tends to bind the verses of the Glorious and Timeless Book to events that are supposed to have happened. While confirming the ongoing evolution in the entire Universe, the Qur´an does not support every facet of Darwin´s Theory.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ **4:1**
وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا
اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

[The development of human personality can be easier achieved in a benevolent society (9:111, 16:71, 43:32, 59:9). In that situation, the individual and the society complement each other (14:34). At the outset, it is imperative to know that all people have a common origin] O Mankind! You have a common origin. Your Lord began the creation of life at the unicellular level. There was one life cell that divided into two, male and female (6:99). (Evolution took place, as has been alluded to in this Book 16:8, 20:50, 21:30, 22:45, 30:20, 31:28, 51:49). Eventually, numerous men and women came into existence on the earth. Since all of you have this common origin, you must consider all mankind as one community (10:19, 57:25). Your first step in that direction is to strengthen your family relations. Be careful of your duty to God in Whose Name you expect rights from one another. God ever watches over you.

وَآتُوا الْيَتَامَىٰ أَمْوَالَهُمْ وَلَا تَتَبَدَّلُوا الْخَبِيثَ بِالطَّيِّبِ وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَمْوَالِكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ حُوبًا كَبِيرًا 4:2

Orphans in the community are like your family members (33:5). Be vigilant in guarding their rights (4:127). Protect their property honestly, and give it to them when they have come of age. Do not exchange their valuables with your worthless items, nor consume their property by combining it with yours; doing such would be a grave offense.

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُقْسِطُوا فِي الْيَتَامَىٰ فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُم مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَىٰ وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَلَّا تَعُولُوا 4:3

When polygamy is allowed

If you fear that you (the society) shall not be able to do justice with the orphans, (as may happen in times of war and political turbulence, the government shall announce a state of Emergency), then, in order to accommodate widows and orphans, men of sound finances and character shall be encouraged to marry among these widows with mutual choice; two, three, and four (4:127). But, if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly, then, you must not take additional wives, and may continue with what you already have (4:129). This will be more suitable to prevent you from doing injustice and face financial hardship. [Second marriage during peace time is a frank violation of the Qur'an - note 'If you fear' in the beginning]

وَآتُوا النِّسَاءَ صَدُقَاتِهِنَّ نِحْلَةً فَإِن طِبْنَ لَكُمْ عَن شَيْءٍ مِّنْهُ نَفْسًا فَكُلُوهُ هَنِيئًا مَّرِيئًا 4:4

Upon marriage, give women their marital gifts, a generous portion of your property, unless they forgo it voluntarily. In that case you are welcome to accept it as rightfully yours.

وَلَا تُؤْتُوا السُّفَهَاءَ أَمْوَالَكُمُ الَّتِي جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ قِيَامًا وَارْزُقُوهُمْ فِيهَا وَاكْسُوهُمْ وَقُولُوا لَهُمْ قَوْلًا مَّعْرُوفًا 4:5

Do not let the immature orphans manage their property that God has entrusted with you as guardians, until they are able to make sound financial decisions. Feed and clothe them decently, take care of all their needs, interact with them kindly and speak to them in a decent, recognized manner.

وَابْتَلُوا الْيَتَامَىٰ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغُوا النِّكَاحَ فَإِنْ آنَسْتُم مِّنْهُمْ رُشْدًا فَادْفَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ أَمْوَالَهُمْ وَلَا تَأْكُلُوهَا إِسْرَافًا وَبِدَارًا أَن 4:6

يَكْبَرُوا وَمَن كَانَ غَنِيًّا فَلْيَسْتَعْفِفْ وَمَن كَانَ فَقِيرًا فَلْيَأْكُلْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ فَإِذَا دَفَعْتُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فَأَشْهِدُوا عَلَيْهِمْ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ حَسِيبًا

Train and educate the orphans well. When they reach the age of marriage, and attain sound judgment, release their property to them. The marriageable age shall mean attainment of physical and mental maturity when one can express free consent and make a solemn, legal contract (4:21). Do not consume their property, nor hastily spend it fearing that they will come of age. If the guardian is well off, let him claim no compensation for the management of the property. But, if he is poor he may have a just and reasonable compensation. When you are releasing the property to the orphans be sure to take witnesses. Remember that God is Competent in taking account.

Marriageable age

لِّلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ مِمَّا قَلَّ مِنْهُ أَوْ كَثُرَ نَصِيبًا مَّفْرُوضًا 4:7

Men get a share of what the parents and near relatives leave behind. Women get a share of what the parents and near relatives leave behind. Whether the inheritance is small or large, these shares have been ordained as a duty. [4:12]

وَإِذَا حَضَرَ الْقِسْمَةَ أُولُو الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينُ فَارْزُقُوهُم مِّنْهُ وَقُولُوا لَهُمْ قَوْلًا مَّعْرُوفًا 4:8

If at the time of distribution of the inheritance, relatives, orphans, and the needy are present, give them from it and treat them kindly.

وَلْيَخْشَ الَّذِينَ لَوْ تَرَكُوا مِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّةً ضِعَافًا خَافُوا عَلَيْهِمْ فَلْيَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْيَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا 4:9

(The distribution of inheritance must be done responsibly. Treat others, as you would like to be treated.) The disposers of inheritance must fear as they would fear injustice done to their own children if left behind. So, be mindful of God and speak clearly and straight to the point.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ الْيَتَامَىٰ ظُلْمًا إِنَّمَا يَأْكُلُونَ فِي بُطُونِهِمْ نَارًا وَسَيَصْلَوْنَ سَعِيرًا 4:10

Those who unjustly consume the wealth of orphans, are filling their bellies with fire and will be exposed to burning Flame.

يُوصِيكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي أَوْلَادِكُمْ لِلذَّكَرِ مِثْلُ حَظِّ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ فَإِن كُنَّ نِسَاءً فَوْقَ اثْنَتَيْنِ فَلَهُنَّ ثُلُثَا مَا تَرَكَ وَإِن كَانَتْ وَاحِدَةً فَلَهَا النِّصْفُ وَلِأَبَوَيْهِ لِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا السُّدُسُ مِمَّا تَرَكَ إِن كَانَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ فَإِن لَّمْ يَكُن لَّهُ وَلَدٌ وَوَرِثَهُ أَبَوَاهُ فَلِأُمِّهِ الثُّلُثُ فَإِن كَانَ لَهُ إِخْوَةٌ فَلِأُمِّهِ السُّدُسُ مِن بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ يُوصِي بِهَا أَوْ دَيْنٍ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ لَا تَدْرُونَ أَيُّهُمْ أَقْرَبُ لَكُمْ نَفْعًا فَرِيضَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا 4:11

Preparing a will is a duty ordained (2:180-183). God decrees a will for the benefit of your children. (Since the sons have the responsibility to take care of the family, and daughters will be cared for by their husbands, or if unmarried, by other males in the family), sons get twice the share of daughters. - If two or more daughters are the only inheritors, they get two-thirds. - If only one daughter is left, she gets one-half. - If the deceased has left any children, then parents get one-sixth each. - If there are no children, and parents are the only heirs, the mother gets a third and the father gets two-thirds, since the male has the fiscal responsibility of the family. - If the deceased has left brothers or sisters, the mother gets one-sixth and the father gets one third. Remember, this distribution shall take place after fulfilling the will of the deceased and after paying off all debts. As for your parents and your children, you know not which of them is more deserving of benefit from you. Such is the Ordinance from God. God is Knower, Wise.

وَلَكُمْ نِصْفُ مَا تَرَكَ أَزْوَاجُكُمْ إِن لَّمْ يَكُن لَّهُنَّ وَلَدٌ فَإِن كَانَ لَهُنَّ وَلَدٌ فَلَكُمُ الرُّبُعُ مِمَّا تَرَكْنَ مِن بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ يُوصِينَ بِهَا أَوْ دَيْنٍ وَلَهُنَّ الرُّبُعُ مِمَّا تَرَكْتُمْ إِن لَّمْ يَكُن لَّكُمْ وَلَدٌ فَإِن كَانَ لَكُمْ وَلَدٌ فَلَهُنَّ الثُّمُنُ مِمَّا تَرَكْتُم مِّن بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ تُوصُونَ بِهَا أَوْ دَيْنٍ وَإِن كَانَ رَجُلٌ يُورَثُ كَلَالَةً أَوِ امْرَأَةٌ وَلَهُ أَخٌ أَوْ أُخْتٌ فَلِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا السُّدُسُ فَإِن كَانُوا أَكْثَرَ مِن ذَٰلِكَ فَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ فِي الثُّلُثِ مِن بَعْدِ وَصِيَّةٍ يُوصَىٰ بِهَا أَوْ دَيْنٍ غَيْرَ مُضَارٍّ وَصِيَّةً مِّنَ 4:12

اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَلِيمٌ

(Additionally) - If a couple had no children, the husband gets half of what the wife leaves behind. - If they had children, the husband gets one-fourth. - If they had no children, then the wives get one-fourth of what the husband leaves behind. - If they had children then the wife gets one-eighth. - If a man or a woman, whose inheritance is in question, was a loner, in the sense of leaving behind no ascendants or descendants, but leaves behind a sister and a brother, each of them gets one-sixth of the inheritance. If there are more than two siblings, they equally share one-third of the inheritance. The above applies after fully satisfying the will, and after paying off all debts, so that no one's rights are infringed upon. This is the will decreed by God Who is Knower, Clement. [Please see 2:219, 2:180, 2:240, 4:8. For a deceased who has no ascendants or descendants, see further 4:176]

تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **4:13**

[Protection of life, honor and property is the springboard of a vibrant social order. It is the pre-requisite for freedom, equality and character building to the point of self-actualization 4:24, 5:32, 13:24, 17:32, 38:52, 69:21, 89:27] God has drawn boundaries of law to help you safeguard this crucial pre-requisite. Those who obey God and His Messengers will be admitted to the Garden with rivers flowing beneath (all the aesthetic elegance that the human mind could ever imagine). That is the Supreme Success. [Those who refrain from overstepping these Boundaries are the ones who have obeyed the Divine System established by the Messenger]

وَمَن يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ **4:14**

Conversely, those who disobey God and His Messenger by going against the Divine System established by the Messenger, trespass the Boundaries of the Divine law and they will be admitted into an everlasting fire of humiliation and regret.

وَاللَّاتِي يَأْتِينَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مِن نِّسَائِكُمْ فَاسْتَشْهِدُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ أَرْبَعَةً مِّنكُمْ فَإِن شَهِدُوا فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ فِي الْبُيُوتِ حَتَّىٰ يَتَوَفَّاهُنَّ الْمَوْتُ أَوْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ لَهُنَّ سَبِيلًا **4:15**

(Protection of honor and chastity for men and women, both, is the cornerstone of a virtuous society. 17:32, 4:24.) If any woman or a group of women spread sexual immorality or lewdness in the society, it is required that the appropriate court take four reliable witnesses. If their testimony corroborates with other evidence (12:26), confine them to their houses (since immorality is as contagious as good conduct). This confinement would be for an indefinite period, unless such women seek the way of God (such as repentance and reform or that the singles among them get honorably married). [Maut, literally death, has been translated as indefinite period in agreement with Jurjani and Raghib]

وَاللَّذَانِ يَأْتِيَانِهَا مِنكُمْ فَآذُوهُمَا فَإِن تَابَا وَأَصْلَحَا فَأَعْرِضُوا عَنْهُمَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ تَوَّابًا رَّحِيمًا 4:16

If the two of you spread such immorality or lewdness in the society, punish both of them (as determined by the appropriate court of law). But if they repent and mend their ways, leave them alone. God is the Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

إِنَّمَا التَّوْبَةُ عَلَى اللَّهِ لِلَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السُّوءَ بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ يَتُوبُونَ مِن قَرِيبٍ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَتُوبُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا 4:17

God graciously accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance, and then return quickly to the right conduct. God blesses them with mercy. He is the Knower, the Wise.

وَلَيْسَتِ التَّوْبَةُ لِلَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا حَضَرَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ إِنِّي تُبْتُ الْآنَ وَلَا الَّذِينَ يَمُوتُونَ وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ أُولَٰئِكَ أَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا 4:18

The forgiveness is not for those who commit transgressions until death comes to one of them, and then he says, "I repent now." (They have no time to make amends.) Nor is the forgiveness for those who die as rejecters of truth. We have prepared an awful suffering for them.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكُمْ أَن تَرِثُوا النِّسَاءَ كَرْهًا وَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ لِتَذْهَبُوا بِبَعْضِ مَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ إِلَّا أَن يَأْتِينَ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُّبَيِّنَةٍ وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ فَإِن كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَىٰ أَن تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا 4:19

Treat *** women well

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! It is not lawful for you to force women into marrying or holding on to them in marriage against their will. Pressuring women to remain in wedlock by threatening to take away the marital gift is forbidden. A wife could forfeit the right to the marital gift only if she has indulged in clear lewdness. You shall treat your wives nicely. Even if you dislike them, it may happen that God has placed much good in what you have failed to realize.

Marriage

وَإِنْ أَرَدتُّمُ اسْتِبْدَالَ زَوْجٍ مَّكَانَ زَوْجٍ وَآتَيْتُمْ إِحْدَاهُنَّ قِنطَارًا فَلَا تَأْخُذُوا مِنْهُ شَيْئًا أَتَأْخُذُونَهُ بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا 4:20

If you wish to marry another wife in place of your present wife, and you have given her a great deal, you shall not take back anything. Would you take it back by way of slander, a transgression that will drag down your own 'self'?

وَكَيْفَ تَأْخُذُونَهُ وَقَدْ أَفْضَىٰ بَعْضُكُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَأَخَذْنَ مِنكُم مِّيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا 4:21

And how could you take the marital gift back from her after you have lived intimately with each other and after she has taken from you a very solemn pledge of the marital contract?

وَلَا تَنكِحُوا مَا نَكَحَ آبَاؤُكُم مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ سَلَفَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً وَمَقْتًا وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا 4:22

Do not marry women whom your fathers ever married except what has already happened. Doing such was certainly a shameful and abominable custom.

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ أُمَّهَاتُكُمْ وَبَنَاتُكُمْ وَأَخَوَاتُكُمْ وَعَمَّاتُكُمْ وَخَالَاتُكُمْ وَبَنَاتُ الْأَخِ وَبَنَاتُ الْأُخْتِ وَأُمَّهَاتُكُمُ اللَّاتِي أَرْضَعْنَكُمْ وَأَخَوَاتُكُم مِّنَ الرَّضَاعَةِ وَأُمَّهَاتُ نِسَائِكُمْ وَرَبَائِبُكُمُ اللَّاتِي فِي حُجُورِكُم مِّن نِّسَائِكُمُ اللَّاتِي دَخَلْتُم بِهِنَّ فَإِن لَّمْ تَكُونُوا دَخَلْتُم بِهِنَّ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَحَلَائِلُ أَبْنَائِكُمُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ أَصْلَابِكُمْ وَأَن تَجْمَعُوا بَيْنَ الْأُخْتَيْنِ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ سَلَفَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا 4:23

The following women are prohibited for you in marriage: Your mothers, daughters, sisters, father's sisters, mother's sisters, brother's daughters, sister's daughters, foster-mothers who have ever nursed you, foster-sisters, your wives' mothers, your step-daughters, unless you have divorced their mother without being intimate with her. Also forbidden are women who have ever been the wives of your sons. You are not allowed to keep two sisters in wedlock at one time except what has already happened in the past. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ إِلَّا مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأُحِلَّ لَكُم مَّا وَرَاءَ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَن تَبْتَغُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُم مُّحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ فَمَا اسْتَمْتَعْتُم بِهِ مِنْهُنَّ فَآتُوهُنَّ 4:24

أُجُورَهُنَّ فَرِيضَةً وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِيمَا تَرَاضَيْتُم بِهِ مِن
بَعْدِ الْفَرِيضَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

Also forbidden to you are women who are already married, except those women who have sought asylum with you against their disbelieving husbands at war with you (60:10). This is God's Ordinance binding upon you. All other categories are permitted for you in marriage, with mutual consent, as confirmed by giving her a generous marital gift or dowry. You shall seek them in honest wedlock and let marriage be a fortress of chastity for the husband and wife. You shall maintain morality and go not near adultery (17:32). You like to marry women for a better quality of life, so give them their portions as a duty. And there is nothing wrong in adjusting the sum with mutual agreement after the duty has been done. These laws are given to you by God, the Knower, the Wise.

وَمَن لَّمْ يَسْتَطِعْ مِنكُمْ طَوْلًا أَن يَنكِحَ الْمُحْصَنَاتِ **4:25**
الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَمِن مَّا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُم مِّن فَتَيَاتِكُمُ
الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِإِيمَانِكُم بَعْضُكُم مِّن بَعْضٍ
فَانكِحُوهُنَّ بِإِذْنِ أَهْلِهِنَّ وَآتُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ
مُحْصَنَاتٍ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحَاتٍ وَلَا مُتَّخِذَاتِ أَخْدَانٍ فَإِذَا
أُحْصِنَّ فَإِنْ أَتَيْنَ بِفَاحِشَةٍ فَعَلَيْهِنَّ نِصْفُ مَا عَلَى
الْمُحْصَنَاتِ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ الْعَنَتَ مِنكُمْ
وَأَن تَصْبِرُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

(As the Qur'an is being revealed to you O Messenger, the emancipation of the slaves, male and female, is steadily taking place.) A man among you who cannot find a free believing woman willing to marry him, should have no hesitation in asking the hand of a believing maiden from her guardian. God knows your beliefs and reiterates that all human beings are equal in the Sight of God (17:70). Pay them a generous marital gift in kindness. They shall maintain moral behavior, by not committing adultery, or having secret relations. Since their upbringing has been deficient in the environment of slavery, their punishment will be half that of the free women, if they commit indecency after marriage. The permission to marry a bonded woman is for him who fears he might commit sin. The better recourse is freeing her first from bondage. Men and women must be patient and exercise self-control while waiting to get married. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَيَهْدِيَكُمْ سُنَنَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَيَتُوبَ **4:26**
عَلَيْكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

God will explain to you and guide you by the examples of those who were before you, and turn to you (in mercy). God is Knower, Wise.

وَاللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَن يَتُوبَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَيُرِيدُ الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الشَّهَوَاتِ أَن تَمِيلُوا مَيْلًا عَظِيمًا 4:27

God turns to you in kindness, while those who follow their desires want that you drift far astray.

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَن يُخَفِّفَ عَنكُمْ وَخُلِقَ الْإِنسَانُ ضَعِيفًا 4:28

God wishes to lighten your burdens (with His guidance). For, the human being has been created weak. [7:17, 25:28-29]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ إِلَّا أَن تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً عَن تَرَاضٍ مِّنكُمْ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا 4:29

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not consume one another's wealth wrongfully, not even by way of trade based on mutual agreement. Do not destroy one another, and thus do not destroy your own 'self'. Certainly, God has been Merciful to you." [So you must be merciful to others. 2:275, 53:39. Illa in this verse means 'not even' and not 'except'. 2:188, 26:181]

وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ عُدْوَانًا وَظُلْمًا فَسَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِ نَارًا وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا 4:30

Whoever does that through aggression and injustice, We shall soon cast him into the fire. And that is easy for God.

إِن تَجْتَنِبُوا كَبَائِرَ مَا تُنْهَوْنَ عَنْهُ نُكَفِّرْ عَنكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَنُدْخِلْكُم مُّدْخَلًا كَرِيمًا 4:31

If you refrain from the great transgressions that you have been forbidden to do, We shall remit your misdeeds and admit you through a gate of honor (in this world and in the Hereafter).

وَلَا تَتَمَنَّوْا مَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بِهِ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ لِّلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا اكْتَسَبُوا وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا اكْتَسَبْنَ وَاسْأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِن فَضْلِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا 4:32

Men and women have fair share

Do not covet the bounties (and qualities) that God has bestowed more abundantly on some of you than on others. Men shall have a portion from what they earn, and women shall have a portion from what they earn. Therefore, seek out of God's bounty (to the best of your abilities). God is Witness to everything. [4:34, 28:77]

وَلِكُلٍّ جَعَلْنَا مَوَالِيَ مِمَّا تَرَكَ الْوَالِدَانِ وَالْأَقْرَبُونَ وَالَّذِينَ عَقَدَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ فَآتُوهُمْ نَصِيبَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدًا **4:33**

For each of you, We have designated shares in the property left by the parents and the relatives. And be sure to assign a share to those who are yours, or related to you, by marriage. God is Witness over all things and events. [4:11-12-176]

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ فَالصَّالِحَاتُ قَانِتَاتٌ حَافِظَاتٌ لِّلْغَيْبِ بِمَا حَفِظَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّاتِي تَخَافُونَ نُشُوزَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ وَاهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاضْرِبُوهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَطَعْنَكُمْ فَلَا تَبْغُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ سَبِيلًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيًّا كَبِيرًا **4:34**

Don't beat women

Men are the protectors and supporters of women. They shall take full care of women with what they spend of their wealth. God has made men to excel in some areas and women to excel in some areas. Men should ensure that women are able to stand at their feet in the society. So, righteous women are obedient to God's Ordinances and guard the moral values even in privacy, the values that God has commanded to be guarded. If you experience ill-treatment from them, apprise them of possible consequences. Next, leave them in their resting places, and refer them to the appropriate authority (or arbiters). If they pay heed to you, do not seek a way against them. God is Most High, Great. [Qawwam = Protector = Maintainer = One who helps others to stand at their feet. Nushooz = Ill-treatment = Rebellion = To stand up (2:259, 58:11) = To stand up against virtue = Mental abuse = Domestic violence = To rebel against the permanent moral values. Wa'az = Admonishment = To apprise of consequences (2:231, 3:66). Dharb = Example (13:17, 16:74, 36:13) = To stop or prevent (8:11, 43:5) = Referring to arbiters (4:35) = To give examples (4:34, 13:17, 16:74, 36:13, 43:58) = To withdraw (43:5)]

وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ شِقَاقَ بَيْنِهِمَا فَابْعَثُوا حَكَمًا مِّنْ أَهْلِهِ وَحَكَمًا مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا إِن يُرِيدَا إِصْلَاحًا يُوَفِّقِ اللَّهُ بَيْنَهُمَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا خَبِيرًا **4:35**

(Families and communities must adopt a proactive approach regarding a husband and a wife in discord.) If you fear a breach between the two of them (husband and

wife), appoint two arbiters, one from his family and one from her family. If they decide to reconcile, God will help them get together. Surely, God is Knower, Aware. [2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4]

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنبِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَن كَانَ مُخْتَالًا فَخُورًا **4:36**

Obey God and associate no partner with Him. Treat kindly your parents, relatives, the orphans and those who have been left alone in the society. Take care of the needy, the disabled, those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their needs, those whose businesses have stalled, and those who have lost their jobs. You shall treat kindly your related neighbors, and unrelated neighbors, companions by your side in public gatherings, or public transportation. Be generous to the needy wayfarer, the homeless son of the street, and the one who reaches you in a destitute condition. Be nice to people who work under your supervision. God does not love those who are proud, the boastful.

الَّذِينَ يَبْخَلُونَ وَيَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبُخْلِ وَيَكْتُمُونَ مَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا **4:37**

Those who are stingy and advise others to be stingy, and hide what God has given them of His bounty, for such ungrateful disbelievers We have prepared a humiliating punishment.

وَالَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ رِئَاءَ النَّاسِ وَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَن يَكُنِ الشَّيْطَانُ لَهُ قَرِينًا فَسَاءَ قَرِينًا **4:38**

They give wealth to charity only to show off, and do not believe in God and the Last Day. Such people have taken Satan, their selfish desires, as their intimate companion. What a terrible companion it is!

وَمَاذَا عَلَيْهِمْ لَوْ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَنفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِهِمْ عَلِيمًا **4:39**

What do they have to fear if they believe in God and the Last Day and spend of what God has given them? God is ever Aware of them.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِن تَكُ حَسَنَةً يُضَاعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِن لَّدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا **4:40**

God wrongs not anyone even the weight of an atom; and He multiplies a good deed, and from His Own Presence grants a great reward.

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا جِئْنَا مِن كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ بِشَهِيدٍ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ عَلَىٰ هَٰؤُلَاءِ شَهِيدًا 4:41

How will it be with them when (on the Resurrection Day) We bring from every community a witness (their Prophet 10:47), and We bring you (O Messenger), a witness among these people (your contemporaries)? [2:143]

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَعَصَوُا الرَّسُولَ لَوْ تُسَوَّىٰ بِهِمُ الْأَرْضُ وَلَا يَكْتُمُونَ اللَّهَ حَدِيثًا 4:42

On that Day, those who denied the truth and paid no heed to the Messenger will wish that they were level with the ground. But not a single utterance or event could they hide from God.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْرَبُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنتُمْ سُكَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَعْلَمُوا مَا تَقُولُونَ وَلَا جُنُبًا إِلَّا عَابِرِي سَبِيلٍ حَتَّىٰ تَغْتَسِلُوا وَإِن كُنتُم مَّرْضَىٰ أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ أَوْ جَاءَ أَحَدٌ مِّنكُم مِّنَ الْغَائِطِ أَوْ لَامَسْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَلَمْ تَجِدُوا مَاءً فَتَيَمَّمُوا صَعِيدًا طَيِّبًا فَامْسَحُوا بِوُجُوهِكُمْ وَأَيْدِيكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَفُوًّا غَفُورًا 4:43

(Those who attain belief shall promptly establish the Divine System in the community, and the Masjid would assume the role of the community center. The believers will assemble in the Masjid for prayer, and to address social welfare and community action). O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Join not the Salaat congregation if your mind is beclouded for any reason, until you understand what you utter, else you might say senseless words that disturb the assembly. Physical cleanliness contributes to moral purity. So, take a bath after ceremonial impurity (post-coital state) If you are traveling, or are ill, or coming from the privy, and cannot find water, take a little clean sand or earth and lightly rub your faces and hands, before entering the Masjid. (This will help you prepare psychologically for the assembly 5:6). God pardons and absolves your imperfections.

Wudu

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا نَصِيبًا مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ يَشْتَرُونَ الضَّلَالَةَ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَن تَضِلُّوا السَّبِيلَ 4:44

Have you noted those who were given a portion of the scripture but they purchased error for petty gains. (They fell for manmade books). They desire that you do

Hadith

Taking words out of context

the same and thus stray from the right path.

وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِأَعْدَائِكُمْ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَلِيًّا وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ نَصِيرًا 4:45

God knows your enemies. (He shows you the way to protect and help yourselves.) As such, God is Sufficient as a Protecting Friend and God is Sufficient as a Helper.

مِّنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ عَن مَّوَاضِعِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ 4:46
سَمِعْنَا وَعَصَيْنَا وَاسْمَعْ غَيْرَ مُسْمَعٍ وَرَاعِنَا لَيًّا بِأَلْسِنَتِهِمْ
وَطَعْنًا فِي الدِّينِ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَاسْمَعْ
وَانظُرْنَا لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ وَأَقْوَمَ وَلَٰكِن لَّعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِكُفْرِهِمْ
فَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

Don't be ambiguous
Be direct

Some of those who are Jews, distort words to give a different meaning. They say, “We hear and we disobey,” and ”Your words are falling on deaf ears,” and “Be our shepherd,” and they twist their tongues to mock the Deen. It would have been better and more upright for them to say, “We hear and we obey,” and “We hear you,” and “Please watch over us and guide us.” Instead, they have incurred deprivation from the grace of God due to their denial of the truth. Few of them will embrace belief.

See 2:104

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ آمِنُوا بِمَا نَزَّلْنَا مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا مَعَكُم 4:47
مِّن قَبْلِ أَن نَّطْمِسَ وُجُوهًا فَنَرُدَّهَا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِهَا أَوْ نَلْعَنَهُمْ
كَمَا لَعَنَّا أَصْحَابَ السَّبْتِ وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ مَفْعُولًا

O You to whom the scripture was given! Reflect and believe in what We have revealed, that confirms the truth that you already possess, lest We efface your hopes and bring them to an end, just as We rejected those people who broke the Sabbath. The commandment of God is always executed.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ 4:48
وَمَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ افْتَرَىٰ إِثْمًا عَظِيمًا

God does not forgive that divinity be ascribed to other than Him. But He may forgive anything else, to whom He wills. Whoever associates partners with God, has thus, devised a tremendous drag on his own person. [Ithm = A dragging violation. Shirk = Ascribing divinity to other than God, associating partners to Him. Included in this category of committing Shirk are those who worship their own desires (45:23), those who indulge in human worship and in sectarianism (30:31, 42:21), those who follow manmade books in lieu of the Book of God (6:122, 6:137), and those who claim or believe in revelation after the Qur’an, in

Leaders, prophets
? Hadith

any form, including claims of attaining Divine knowledge through mystical experience (6:62, 7:173, 7:191). And those who uphold Trinity (4:171, 5:72-73), those who claim that God has a son, and those who follow their religious leaders (9:31). Such people fall from the high station of humanity. Worshiping any entity other than God, sinks the human 'self' down to subhuman levels (22:31). But even most of those who claim belief (and call themselves Muslims), indulge in Shirk. (12:106)]

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُزَكُّونَ أَنفُسَهُم بَلِ اللَّهُ يُزَكِّي مَن يَشَاءُ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ فَتِيلًا **4:49**

Have you not seen those who claim that they have purified their souls? Purification or development of the 'self' can only be achieved according to the laws of God, by service of humanity and not through rituals or mysticism. In the Court of God, men and women shall find full recompense for their doings without the least injustice. [2:177, 13:17]

انظُرْ كَيْفَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ إِثْمًا مُّبِينًا **4:50**

See, how the claimants to spiritual purity deceive people by inventing lies against God. That is sufficient to flagrantly drag them down in humanity.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا نَصِيبًا مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْجِبْتِ وَالطَّاغُوتِ وَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هَٰؤُلَاءِ أَهْدَىٰ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا سَبِيلًا **4:51**

Are you not aware of those who, after receiving their share of the Book, believe in JIBT (occult sciences, baseless mysteries, magic, future-telling, astrology, clairvoyance, evil eye, good and bad omens, amulets, dreams and prophecies, palm-reading, soothsaying, superstitions of all kind, jinn or demon-possession of people, exorcism, blowing verses and senseless words on people or in food and drink, counting names on rosaries). And they believe in Taaghoot (the evil humans who try to play god with their tyranny or with their religious exploitation as priests and monks, Mullahs and Sufis of any religion)? And then they claim that they, the deniers (of the Qur'an) are better guided than the believers in the Book!

?

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَمَن يَلْعَنِ اللَّهُ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُ نَصِيرًا **4:52**

It is those whom God has rejected, and there is no one to help him whom God rejects.

أَمْ لَهُمْ نَصِيبٌ مِّنَ الْمُلْكِ فَإِذًا لَّا يُؤْتُونَ النَّاسَ نَقِيرًا **4:53**

Do the people who make claims of divination and clairvoyance have a share in the Divine Kingdom? But if they did, they would not give humanity the speck on a date-stone. [4:124, 15:13]

أَمْ يَحْسُدُونَ النَّاسَ عَلَىٰ مَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ فَقَدْ آتَيْنَا آلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَآتَيْنَاهُم مُّلْكًا عَظِيمًا 4:54

What Scripture was given to Abraham

Or do they envy other people whom God has given of His bounty? (But, God does not favor any nation arbitrarily. He is the Lord of all humanity. 114:1). We gave the Children of Abraham the scripture, the law and wisdom, and We gave them a great kingdom.

فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ آمَنَ بِهِ وَمِنْهُم مَّن صَدَّ عَنْهُ وَكَفَىٰ بِجَهَنَّمَ سَعِيرًا 4:55

Some of the Children of Abraham have attained belief in the Prophet while others turn away from him. And enough is Hell for a burning fire.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَوْفَ نُصْلِيهِمْ نَارًا كُلَّمَا نَضِجَتْ جُلُودُهُم بَدَّلْنَاهُمْ جُلُودًا غَيْرَهَا لِيَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا 4:56

Allegory

Those who are rejecting Our revelations and opposing the establishment of the Divine System, will soon burn in the agony of defeat. If they come with renewed preparation they will taste further chastisement. God is Almighty, Wise.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَنُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا لَّهُمْ فِيهَا أَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَنُدْخِلُهُمْ ظِلًّا ظَلِيلًا 4:57

Those who attain belief and translate their belief into action by helping people, thus creating balance in the society, We shall soon admit them into the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. They will dwell therein forever. For them are virtuous companions, and We shall make them enter the pleasing shadows of Our grace.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَن تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَن تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُم بِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا 4:58

***

Appoint qualified people

God commands you to entrust your offices to those who are capable, competent and sincere. They shall rule and judge equitably. Give your trusts to whom they belong. The Enlightenment from God is a blessing for you. He is Hearer, Seer of all that transpires in the Universe and in your society.

Obey messengers and elected leaders

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا **4:59**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey God and obey the Messenger, the Central Authority of the Divine System, and those whom the System has appointed as office-bearers. If you have a dispute concerning any matter, refer it to the Central Authority. If you truly believe in God and the Last Day, this is the best approach for you, and more seemly in the end.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ يُرِيدُونَ أَن يَتَحَاكَمُوا إِلَى الطَّاغُوتِ وَقَدْ أُمِرُوا أَن يَكْفُرُوا بِهِ وَيُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَن يُضِلَّهُمْ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا **4:60**

Have you thought of those who claim that they believe in what has been revealed to you (O Prophet), as well as in what was revealed before you? Yet, they resort to Taaghoot (priests and monks of any religion) for judgment in their differences. They had been commanded to reject them but their rebellious desires mislead them far astray.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَإِلَى الرَّسُولِ رَأَيْتَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنكَ صُدُودًا **4:61**

When they are told, "Come to what God has revealed and come to the Messenger", you see the hypocrites shunning you completely.

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُم مُّصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ جَاءُوكَ يَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَدْنَا إِلَّا إِحْسَانًا وَتَوْفِيقًا **4:62**

They feel ashamed when wrong decisions and judgments hurt them for their own doings. Then they come to you (O Messenger), swearing that they went to others with good and noble intentions.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَعِظْهُمْ وَقُل لَّهُمْ فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ قَوْلًا بَلِيغًا **4:63**

God knows what is in their hearts. Ignore their attitude, enlighten them and speak to them in plain terms with full understanding of their viewpoints.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا لِيُطَاعَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ إِذ ظَّلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ جَاءُوكَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا اللَّهَ وَاسْتَغْفَرَ لَهُمُ الرَّسُولُ لَوَجَدُوا اللَّهَ تَوَّابًا رَّحِيمًا 4:64

Obey the messenger

We have sent no Messenger but that he should be obeyed in accordance with God's will. If they come to you (O Messenger) when they have wronged themselves, and ask God for the protection of forgiveness and the Messenger prays for their forgiveness, they will find God Acceptor of repentance, Merciful. [The Messengers were not sent with empty hypotheses, but to show people how to establish an equitable society in which people flourish individually and collectively. They attain personal development and become worthy of immortal life in the Paradise 89:29. If anyone transgresses His laws, he or she must come to the Central Authority of the Divine System to make amends by restoring human rights. Sitting back at home and praying in hiding would not help (9:102-105, 20:82, 5:10). The Messenger had inculcated such moral order in the hearts and in the society where one became the watcher over one's own 'self' (8:74-75, 9:100, 48:29, 58:4, 59:8-9). There is plenty of room for making amends, and for mercy in the Divine System]

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا 4:65

By your Lord, they do not really believe unless they make you (O Messenger) a judge in all their disagreements, then find no hesitation in their hearts in accepting your judgment, and submit with full submission.

وَلَوْ أَنَّا كَتَبْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ أَنِ اقْتُلُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ أَوِ اخْرُجُوا مِن دِيَارِكُم مَّا فَعَلُوهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ فَعَلُوا مَا يُوعَظُونَ بِهِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ تَثْبِيتًا 4:66

And if We had ordered them, "Offer your lives or leave your homelands", a few of them would have done it - although, if they did as they were told, it would have been for their own good and further strengthened them in faith.

وَإِذًا لَّآتَيْنَاهُم مِّن لَّدُنَّا أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا 4:67

And then, We would give them from Our Presence an immense reward.

وَلَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيمًا 4:68

And would direct them straight to the path of Paradise.

وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَٰئِكَ رَفِيقًا 4:69

Righteous in paradise eternally

Whoever obeys God and the Messenger, belongs with those blessed by God: the Prophets, the first supporters of the truth, the martyrs, and those who helped humanity. Ah! How beautiful is their company!

ذَٰلِكَ الْفَضْلُ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ عَلِيمًا 4:70

Such is the bounty from God. And sufficient it is that God knows all.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا خُذُوا حِذْرَكُمْ فَانفِرُوا ثُبَاتٍ أَوِ انفِرُوا جَمِيعًا 4:71

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be fully prepared against danger. You shall remain alert to meet aggression. Take your precautions then mobilize in groups or all together as determined by your commander.

وَإِنَّ مِنكُمْ لَمَن لَّيُبَطِّئَنَّ فَإِنْ أَصَابَتْكُم مُّصِيبَةٌ قَالَ قَدْ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيَّ إِذْ لَمْ أَكُن مَّعَهُمْ شَهِيدًا 4:72

Among you there is he who would rather lag behind. If a setback occurs he would say, “Thank God! I was not present among them.”

وَلَئِنْ أَصَابَكُمْ فَضْلٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لَيَقُولَنَّ كَأَن لَّمْ تَكُن بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُ مَوَدَّةٌ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنتُ مَعَهُمْ فَأَفُوزَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا 4:73

But if you attain the blessing of victory from God, he says, as if the love between you and him was beyond question, “Oh! I wish I had been with them and could be a part of such a great victory.”

فَلْيُقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يَشْرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا بِالْآخِرَةِ وَمَن يُقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيُقْتَلْ أَوْ يَغْلِبْ فَسَوْفَ نُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا 4:74

Let them fight in God’s cause, all those who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoever fights in God’s cause, be he slain or be he victorious, We shall soon give him an immense reward.

(Defend against aggressive parties not religion)

See 4:76

وَمَا لَكُمْ لَا تُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْ هَٰذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ الظَّالِمِ أَهْلُهَا وَاجْعَل لَّنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ وَلِيًّا وَاجْعَل لَّنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ نَصِيرًا **4:75**

What has happened to you that you do not fight in the cause of God? Defenseless men, women, and children are being oppressed and crying, "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors, and raise for us protectors and helpers." [God does not fight in person, nor does He send His armies or angels in physical form. 22:39]

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ الطَّاغُوتِ فَقَاتِلُوا أَوْلِيَاءَ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّ كَيْدَ الشَّيْطَانِ كَانَ ضَعِيفًا **4:76**

Those who believe fight in the cause of God (against persecution or in self-defense ... benign aggression). But the unbelievers fight in the cause of Taaghoot (tyrannical, aggressive forces ... malignant aggression). So fight against those friends of the devil. The devil's strategy is ever weak. [Taaghoot = False gods = Tyrants = Oppressors = Deceptive clergy = Oppressive systems = Those who play god]

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ قِيلَ لَهُمْ كُفُّوا أَيْدِيَكُمْ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ فَلَمَّا كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقِتَالُ إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَخْشَوْنَ النَّاسَ كَخَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ أَوْ أَشَدَّ خَشْيَةً وَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا لِمَ كَتَبْتَ عَلَيْنَا الْقِتَالَ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ قُلْ مَتَاعُ الدُّنْيَا قَلِيلٌ وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِّمَنِ اتَّقَىٰ وَلَا تُظْلَمُونَ فَتِيلًا **4:77**

Salat

Have you seen those who had been told, "Hold back your hands from warfare, establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order?" But as soon as the command came to fight, some of them feared men as they should have feared God, or even more. They say, "Our Lord! Why have You ordained fighting for us? If only You had granted us a delay for a little while!" Say, "Brief is the enjoyment of this world, whereas the life to come is the best for the righteous. None of you shall be wronged even by as much as a date-thread."

أَيْنَمَا تَكُونُوا يُدْرِككُّمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشَيَّدَةٍ وَإِن تُصِبْهُمْ حَسَنَةٌ يَقُولُوا هَٰذِهِ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَإِن تُصِبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَقُولُوا هَٰذِهِ مِنْ عِندِكَ قُلْ كُلٌّ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ فَمَالِ هَٰؤُلَاءِ الْقَوْمِ لَا يَكَادُونَ يَفْقَهُونَ حَدِيثًا **4:78**

Death will find you

Wherever you may be, death will find you, even if you live in fortified castles. When something good happens to them, they say, "It is from God." And when affliction befalls them they say to each other, "This is from you O fellow-man!" Tell them, "All things happen according to God's laws." What is amiss with these people, they do not understand a thing?

مَّا أَصَابَكَ مِنْ حَسَنَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَا أَصَابَكَ مِن سَيِّئَةٍ فَمِن نَّفْسِكَ وَأَرْسَلْنَاكَ لِلنَّاسِ رَسُولًا وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا **4:79**

Bad is from your self ***

God never creates evil. Things and events have good and evil aspects. When you act according to the law of God the results are pleasant, and when you act against the law the results are unpleasant (42:30). So whatever good happens to you is from God, and whatever evil happens to you is from yourself. We have sent you as a Messenger to mankind and God is Sufficient as Witness.

مَّن يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَن تَوَلَّىٰ فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا **4:80**

Obeying messenger is obeying God (Quran)

Whoever obeys the Messenger, obeys God. But if any turn away, We have not sent you as a watcher over them. [5:44]

وَيَقُولُونَ طَاعَةٌ فَإِذَا بَرَزُوا مِنْ عِندِكَ بَيَّتَ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ غَيْرَ الَّذِي تَقُولُ وَاللَّهُ يَكْتُبُ مَا يُبَيِّتُونَ فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا **4:81**

They express verbal allegiance, "Obedience!" But when they go away from you a party of them spends the night in planning other than what you tell them. God records what they plan by night. But, ignore them and put your trust in God. For God is enough as Trustee. [6:106]

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا **4:82**

No contradiction

Will they not then, try to understand this Qur'an? If it were from other than God they would have found in it much contradiction and inconsistencies.

وَإِذَا جَاءَهُمْ أَمْرٌ مِّنَ الْأَمْنِ أَوِ الْخَوْفِ أَذَاعُوا بِهِ وَلَوْ رَدُّوهُ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ وَإِلَىٰ أُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْهُمْ لَعَلِمَهُ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَنبِطُونَهُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَاتَّبَعْتُمُ الشَّيْطَانَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا 4:83

The Book of God provides easy and practical social guidance. There are people who spread rumors pertaining to safety or fear. Those who hear rumors shall refer the matter concerning public safety and threat, to the Messenger and the government officials. Those who endeavor to gain intelligence will know what to do with it. Had it not been for the bounty of God and His mercy, most of you would still be following the satanic elements.

فَقَاتِلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا تُكَلَّفُ إِلَّا نَفْسَكَ وَحَرِّضِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَكُفَّ بَأْسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَاللَّهُ أَشَدُّ بَأْسًا وَأَشَدُّ تَنكِيلًا 4:84

(O Messenger) fight in the way of God. You are responsible only for yourself. Inspire the believers (to conquer all fear). God may well curb the might of the unbelievers (who are bent upon destroying the System). For God is the Strongest in Might, and Strongest in the ability to deter. [2:151]

مَّن يَشْفَعْ شَفَاعَةً حَسَنَةً يَكُن لَّهُ نَصِيبٌ مِّنْهَا وَمَن يَشْفَعْ شَفَاعَةً سَيِّئَةً يَكُن لَّهُ كِفْلٌ مِّنْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّقِيتًا 4:85

Intercession- to do good on earth

Whoever rallies to a cause that benefits people shall have a share in its blessings, and whoever rallies to a cause that creates injustice, shall be answerable for his part in it. God is Watcher over everything.

وَإِذَا حُيِّيتُم بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَسِيبًا 4:86

Return better greeting

(Good deeds that contribute to the well being of the society begin with kindness. 2:177). When you are greeted with a greeting, respond with a better greeting or with similar regards. God reckons all things. [Anyone who contributes towards peace and betterment of life, do better or as much for him]

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَيَجْمَعَنَّكُمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ وَمَنْ أَصْدَقُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حَدِيثًا 4:87

Shahada

God! There is no god but He. He will summon all of you on the Day of Resurrection about the advent of which there is no doubt. Who can tell you a more reliable Hadith (saying) than God?

Hadith

فَمَا لَكُمْ فِي الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِئَتَيْنِ وَاللَّهُ أَرْكَسَهُم بِمَا كَسَبُوا أَتُرِيدُونَ أَن تَهْدُوا مَنْ أَضَلَّ اللَّهُ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُ سَبِيلًا 4:88

Then, how could you be of two minds about the hypocrites, seeing that God has disowned them because of their own guilt? Can you guide anyone against God's law? Do you seek to find a way of enlightenment for those who violate God's laws of guidance? [The law: Using the faculties of perception and reasoning, keeping an open mind - and freedom from prejudice, arrogance, and blind following will help people to recognize the truth. Freedom of religion: 2:148, 2:193, 2:256, 4:88, 5:48, 6:104, 6:107-108, 7:177-178, 10:99, 12:108, 18:29, 22:39-40, 27:80-81, 39:41, 56:79, 73:19]

Gods law

وَدُّوا لَوْ تَكْفُرُونَ كَمَا كَفَرُوا فَتَكُونُونَ سَوَاءً فَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ حَتَّىٰ يُهَاجِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَخُذُوهُمْ وَاقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ وَجَدتُّمُوهُمْ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا 4:89

Don't harm apostates 89-91

They (these hypocrites) wish that you reject faith as they have rejected it, and thus become same as them. So, do not consider them friends unless they practically demonstrate that they have changed, and move along with you in the way of God. But if they turn back, resuming their behavior of being with you in word, and against you in action, (they are more dangerous than your open enemies). Then subdue them regardless of which group they belong to, and choose no friend or helper from among them.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ يَصِلُونَ إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُم مِّيثَاقٌ أَوْ جَاءُوكُمْ حَصِرَتْ صُدُورُهُمْ أَن يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ أَوْ يُقَاتِلُوا قَوْمَهُمْ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَسَلَّطَهُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ فَلَقَاتَلُوكُمْ فَإِنِ اعْتَزَلُوكُمْ فَلَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ وَأَلْقَوْا إِلَيْكُمُ السَّلَمَ فَمَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ سَبِيلًا 4:90

Do not fight the hypocrites who join a people with whom you have signed a peace treaty. And do not fight those who come to you wishing not to fight you or their believing relatives. Had God willed they could have fought you. Therefore, if they leave you alone, and offer you peace, God has opened no way for you but the way of peace. [Your prime duty remains the establishment and defense of the Divine Order in which there is no room for revenge. 24:22]

Don't take revenge

سَتَجِدُونَ آخَرِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَن يَأْمَنُوكُمْ وَيَأْمَنُوا قَوْمَهُمْ كُلَّ مَا رُدُّوا إِلَى الْفِتْنَةِ أُرْكِسُوا فِيهَا فَإِن لَّمْ يَعْتَزِلُوكُمْ وَيُلْقُوا إِلَيْكُمُ السَّلَمَ وَيَكُفُّوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ فَخُذُوهُمْ وَاقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ ثَقِفْتُمُوهُمْ وَأُولَٰئِكُمْ جَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانًا مُّبِينًا **4:91**

You will find others who desire peace for their people and make peace with you. But at the slightest opportune moment they come to fight against you. If they neither leave you alone, nor offer peace, nor hold their hands, subdue them regardless of which group they belong to. In their case, God has given you a clear authority to fight.

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ أَن يَقْتُلَ مُؤْمِنًا إِلَّا خَطَأً وَمَن قَتَلَ مُؤْمِنًا خَطَأً فَتَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ وَدِيَةٌ مُّسَلَّمَةٌ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ إِلَّا أَن يَصَّدَّقُوا فَإِن كَانَ مِن قَوْمٍ عَدُوٍّ لَّكُمْ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَتَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ وَإِن كَانَ مِن قَوْمٍ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُم مِّيثَاقٌ فَدِيَةٌ مُّسَلَّمَةٌ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ وَتَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ فَمَن لَّمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ تَوْبَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا **4:92**

It is not conceivable that a believer will slay another believer unless it be by mistake. If one kills a believer by mistake, there is the duty of freeing a believing person from bondage; may it be slavery, extreme poverty, crushing debt or oppression. And pay compensation to the victim's family unless they forgo it by way of charity. In case the victim was a believer, and belonged to a tribe who are at war with you, free a believing person from bondage. If the victim was a believer, and belonged to a tribe with whom you have a peace treaty, you should pay the compensation to his family in addition to freeing a believing person from bondage. For those who find this settlement beyond their means, two consecutive months of Abstinence (from food, drink and sex during the daytime), as in the month of Ramadhan, are ordained by way of repentance from God. God is the Knower, the Wise. [2:183. The State will help if the violator is old, sick or poor. 4:64]

Don't kill 92,93

وَمَن يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُّتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ خَالِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعَنَهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُ عَذَابًا عَظِيمًا 4:93

Whoever slays a believer intentionally, his or her maximum punishment, considering the circumstances, is up to capital punishment (2:178, 5:32-33). His requital shall be Hell, therein to abide, and God will condemn him, and reject him and prepare for him awful suffering. [Unjust killing of any human being, regardless of color, creed, religion or sex is a grievous offense that is tantamount to slaying the entire humankind (5:32). So, the offender shall be punished accordingly. Intentional murder of any human being is also a crime against the State, therefore, the State would be responsible for tracing, and bringing the offender to justice. Qisaas = The duty of tracing an offender for just recompense]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا ضَرَبْتُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَتَبَيَّنُوا وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ أَلْقَىٰ إِلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامَ لَسْتَ مُؤْمِنًا تَبْتَغُونَ عَرَضَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا فَعِندَ اللَّهِ مَغَانِمُ كَثِيرَةٌ كَذَٰلِكَ كُنتُم مِّن قَبْلُ فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَتَبَيَّنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا 4:94

Don't judge

We were ignorant at once

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you go forth in the cause of God (to meet the armed challenge), use your discernment. And do not say, out of a desire for the fleeting gains of this worldly life, to anyone who offers you the greeting of peace, "You are not a believer." For with God are abundant gains. Remember, once you were ignorant, and you were weak like the disbelievers are now. God has been Gracious to you, so be gracious to His servants (9:128, 90:17). Use your discernment. God is always Aware of what you do.

لَّا يَسْتَوِي الْقَاعِدُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ غَيْرُ أُولِي الضَّرَرِ وَالْمُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ دَرَجَةً وَكُلًّا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحُسْنَىٰ وَفَضَّلَ اللَّهُ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ عَلَى الْقَاعِدِينَ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا 4:95

Those believers who sit back, except for a disability, are not equal in ranks to those who strive with their wealth and person in the cause of God. God has granted a grade higher to those who strive with their wealth and person than that granted those who remain passive. Although God has promised the ultimate good to all believers, yet God has exalted with immense reward those who strive, above the ones who sit back at home.

War?

دَرَجَاتٍ مِّنْهُ وَمَغْفِرَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا 4:96

The higher ranks come from Him, as well as forgiveness and grace. God is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنفُسِهِمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنتُمْ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةً فَتُهَاجِرُوا فِيهَا فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا **4:97**

Move away from bad situations

As for those who wrong their own 'self' by not striving until the angels (the laws of death) approach them, they are asked, "What kept you occupied?" They say, "We were weak and oppressed in the land." The angels say, "Was not the earth of God spacious enough for you to migrate?" As for such, their habitation will be Hell, a miserable destination.

إِلَّا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ حِيلَةً وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ سَبِيلًا **4:98**

Exempted are the feeble, whether men or women, and children who are unable to devise a plan and to find a way out.

فَأُولَٰئِكَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَعْفُوَ عَنْهُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَفُوًّا غَفُورًا **4:99**

God may forgive them (for their limitations). For, God pardons and forgives again and again.

وَمَن يُهَاجِرْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يَجِدْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُرَاغَمًا كَثِيرًا وَسَعَةً وَمَن يَخْرُجْ مِن بَيْتِهِ مُهَاجِرًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ يُدْرِكْهُ الْمَوْتُ فَقَدْ وَقَعَ أَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **4:100**

Anyone who emigrates in the cause of God, will find that God has placed refuge and abundance on earth. Whoever forsakes his home, as an immigrant to God and His Messenger, and death overtakes him, his reward is then incumbent upon God. God is ever Forgiving, Merciful (the Protector and Provider of guidance).

وَإِذَا ضَرَبْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَن تَقْصُرُوا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ إِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَن يَفْتِنَكُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنَّ الْكَافِرِينَ كَانُوا لَكُمْ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا **4:101**

Shorten Salat
101; 102

When you go forth on an expedition or travel and fear that the opponents may attack you, there is no blame on you if you prepare for immediate self-defense. Those who oppose the truth are an open enemy to you. [2:3]

وَإِذَا كُنتَ فِيهِمْ فَأَقَمْتَ لَهُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلْتَقُمْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُم **4:102**
مَّعَكَ وَلْيَأْخُذُوا أَسْلِحَتَهُمْ فَإِذَا سَجَدُوا فَلْيَكُونُوا مِن
وَرَائِكُمْ وَلْتَأْتِ طَائِفَةٌ أُخْرَىٰ لَمْ يُصَلُّوا فَلْيُصَلُّوا مَعَكَ
وَلْيَأْخُذُوا حِذْرَهُمْ وَأَسْلِحَتَهُمْ وَدَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ تَغْفُلُونَ
عَنْ أَسْلِحَتِكُمْ وَأَمْتِعَتِكُمْ فَيَمِيلُونَ عَلَيْكُم مَّيْلَةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا
جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِن كَانَ بِكُمْ أَذًى مِّن مَّطَرٍ أَوْ كُنتُم
مَّرْضَىٰ أَن تَضَعُوا أَسْلِحَتَكُمْ وَخُذُوا حِذْرَكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَعَدَّ
لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا

See salat in Quran Talk Video

When you (O Messenger) are with them on an expedition or travel, let some of them stand with you and take instructions keeping their arms in all precaution. After they submit to understand, let them fall to the rear and let another party come forth and keep their arms in all precaution while taking instructions. The opposing disbelievers want you to neglect your arms and other belongings so that they may attack you once and for all. There is no harm for you to lay aside your arms if rain impedes you or if you feel burdened. But take all possible precaution. God has readied a humiliating chastisement for opponents of the truth.

فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ **4:103**
جُنُوبِكُمْ فَإِذَا اطْمَأْنَنتُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ
عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

Commemorate God at all times

After you are done with the congregation, remain mindful of God - standing, sitting or lying down. When you feel secure once again, establish Salaat as usual. Salaat at the times appointed by the Central Authority is mandatory unto believers. [3:191, 'Mauqoota' = Times appointed by the Central Authority]

وَلَا تَهِنُوا فِي ابْتِغَاءِ الْقَوْمِ إِن تَكُونُوا تَأْلَمُونَ فَإِنَّهُمْ يَأْلَمُونَ **4:104**
كَمَا تَأْلَمُونَ وَتَرْجُونَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَرْجُونَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ
عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

Do not show weakness in pursuing the enemy. If you suffer hardship they too suffer hardship. But you have hope to receive God's reward that they cannot rightfully

hope. God is the Knower, the Wise.

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِتَحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِمَا أَرَاكَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَكُن لِّلْخَائِنِينَ خَصِيمًا **4:105**

Quran is truth

We have revealed the Book to you in absolute truth that you might judge between people according to what God has shown you (in this revelation). So, do not be an advocate for the treacherous.

وَاسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **4:106**

And seek forgiveness of God. (Pray to God that the betraying traitors mend their ways and thus become worthy of forgiveness.) For God is Forgiving, Merciful. [4:81]

وَلَا تُجَادِلْ عَنِ الَّذِينَ يَخْتَانُونَ أَنفُسَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَن كَانَ خَوَّانًا أَثِيمًا **4:107**

Don't argue with betrayers

(You may pray for their guidance but) do not plead on behalf of the people who have betrayed their own 'self'. God loves not one who drags down his own humanity by betraying his pledges, duties and trusts.

يَسْتَخْفُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ وَلَا يَسْتَخْفُونَ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَهُوَ مَعَهُمْ إِذْ يُبَيِّتُونَ مَا لَا يَرْضَىٰ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ مُحِيطًا **4:108**

They seek to hide from people and do not seek to hide from God! He is with them when they discuss and plot by night what He dislikes. And God encompasses with His knowledge all they do.

هَا أَنتُمْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ جَادَلْتُمْ عَنْهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا فَمَن يُجَادِلُ اللَّهَ عَنْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَم مَّن يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَكِيلًا **4:109**

You contend on their behalf in this world. But who will contend with God for them on the Resurrection Day? Or who will be their defender?

وَمَن يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **4:110**

Anyone who transgresses against his or her own 'self', then seeks God's forgiveness, will find God Forgiving, Merciful. [The way to achieve God's forgiveness (protection from the detriment of violations) is repentance (returning to the right path), taking corrective action (Islaah), and restoring human rights. 4:17, 11:114]

وَمَن يَكْسِبْ إِثْمًا فَإِنَّمَا يَكْسِبُهُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا 4:111

Whoever earns a violation against the Permanent Values, earns it against his own 'self'. God is the Knower, Wise. [He grants you knowledge and wisdom]

وَمَن يَكْسِبْ خَطِيئَةً أَوْ إِثْمًا ثُمَّ يَرْمِ بِهِ بَرِيئًا فَقَدِ احْتَمَلَ بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا 4:112

Blaming others is a sin

And whoever commits a fault or such violation, but throws the blame on the innocent, burdens himself with slander and a clear violation that drags down the 'self'.

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَهَمَّت طَّائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ أَن يُضِلُّوكَ وَمَا يُضِلُّونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَضُرُّونَكَ مِن شَيْءٍ وَأَنزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَكَ مَا لَمْ تَكُن تَعْلَمُ وَكَانَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ عَظِيمًا 4:113

Others misguide, Quran guides

But for the grace of God upon you (O Prophet), a party among them were bent upon diverting you, but they only misled themselves. They cannot hurt you at all. He has given you the Book and wisdom. He teaches you what you did not know. (Contrary to blind faith, the use of Reason empowers you with Conviction.) God's grace upon you is Infinite. [12:108]

لَّا خَيْرَ فِي كَثِيرٍ مِّن نَّجْوَاهُمْ إِلَّا مَنْ أَمَرَ بِصَدَقَةٍ أَوْ مَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ إِصْلَاحٍ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ فَسَوْفَ نُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا 4:114

There is no good in most of their secret meetings except if such meetings are intended towards acts of charity, virtue, and reconciliation between people. Whoever does this seeking God's approval, We shall soon bestow a great reward on him.

وَمَن يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصْلِهِ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا 4:115

Follow the message

One who opposes the Messenger, dissents and goes contrary to the way of the believers, after the guidance has been made plain to him, We shall let him continue in his chosen direction, and expose him to Hell, a miserable destination.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ **4:116**

Giving partners unforgivable sin

وَمَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا

God will not forgive Shirk (choosing 'authorities' besides Him), though He may forgive other transgressions according to His law of forgiveness. Whoever commits Shirk, has strayed far, far away. [4:48. Associating idols or human 'authorities with God in matters of obedience, subservience, worship and law-giving, is choosing parallel authorities (114:2-3). This is a folly that downgrades human 'self' to the extent that it bars it from rising to the higher levels of self-actualization (9:113). And the 'self' then faces an Insurmountable Barrier to evolution in both lives. 22:51, 79:39]

إِن يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ إِلَّا إِنَاثًا وَإِن يَدْعُونَ إِلَّا شَيْطَانًا مَّرِيدًا **4:117**

(Think how this attitude downgrades the human 'self'.) They even worship female gods besides Him. In fact, they call upon Satan, their selfish desires, that rebel against Permanent Values.

لَّعَنَهُ اللَّهُ وَقَالَ لَأَتَّخِذَنَّ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ نَصِيبًا مَّفْرُوضًا **4:118**

God did reject him. But he said, "Of your servants I will take my due share."[A great many people follow their own satans (45:23), and the clergy eats a portion from their wealth in the name of idols. That is Satan's share. 9:31, 9:34, 45:23]

وَلَأُضِلَّنَّهُمْ وَلَأُمَنِّيَنَّهُمْ وَلَآمُرَنَّهُمْ فَلَيُبَتِّكُنَّ آذَانَ الْأَنْعَامِ **4:119**

وَلَآمُرَنَّهُمْ فَلَيُغَيِّرُنَّ خَلْقَ اللَّهِ وَمَن يَتَّخِذِ الشَّيْطَانَ وَلِيًّا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ خَسِرَ خُسْرَانًا مُّبِينًا

(Satan, in allegorical terms, had said,) "I will mislead them and entice them." I will order them to slit the ears of cattle and disfigure the creation of God." Whoever forsakes God and takes Satan for a friend, has suffered a manifest loss. [According to Satan's promise, his representatives draw people away from the Qur'an and confound them with ritualism and superstitions such as magic, dreams, astrology, amulets, numerology, ghoul, exorcism, and vain beliefs. Marking cattle's ears, choosing red cows or black goats for specific sacrifices, are superstitions that the clergy propagates. They try to present the laws of God operative in the World of Creation in a distorted fashion. They assign miracles to living or dead "saints" ignoring the Law of Cause and Effect. 2:34-36, 4:51, 4:60, 7:11, 15:30-32, 17:62, 18:50, 20:116, 38:74]

Michal

يَعِدُهُمْ وَيُمَنِّيهِمْ وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا **4:120**

He makes them promises, and creates in them false hopes. But Satan's promises to them are nothing but deception. [Associating partners with God 4:51, 4:60, and ignoring the Qur'an in favor of human dogmas, drag the 'self' down to subhuman levels. Satan's deception: The agents of Satan create false hopes, dispensing

Paradise and Hell, and vain desires such as the 'seventy two' heavenly beauties, dispensing Paradise and Hell etc]

أُولَٰئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ عَنْهَا مَحِيصًا 4:121

These custodians of manmade dogmas and their followers will have their dwelling in Hell, and from it they will find no way to escape.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَنُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقًّا وَمَنْ أَصْدَقُ مِنَ اللَّهِ قِيلًا 4:122

Gods word is true

And We shall soon admit those who attain belief, and work to improve the lot of humanity, to the Gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will abide therein forever. This is the unwavering promise of God; and who can be truer in word than God?

لَّيْسَ بِأَمَانِيِّكُمْ وَلَا أَمَانِيِّ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مَن يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا يُجْزَ بِهِ وَلَا يَجِدْ لَهُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا 4:123

(The clergy have borrowed many of their dogmas from the previous nations.) But neither your wishful thinking, nor the wishful thinking of the People of the Book shall be of any avail. Whoever works disruption in the society, will have a befitting return. And he will find no protector or helper besides God. ['Amal Su = Any action that disrupts the lives of others]

وَمَن يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ مِن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ نَقِيرًا 4:124

Good work will be rewarded

And whoever fulfills the needs of the people, whether male or female, and is a believer, will enter Paradise. And not the least injustice will be done to them (not amounting to the 'speck on a date-stone' 4:53, 35:13.)

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ دِينًا مِّمَّنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ وَاتَّبَعَ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَاتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ خَلِيلًا 4:125

God chose Abraham as friend

Who has a better Deen (System of Life) than the one who submits completely to God, and thus becomes a benefactor of humanity? Such a person is, in fact, following the way of Abraham the Upright whom God chose for friend.

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطًا 4:126

Unto God belongs all that is in the Highs and all that is in the Lows, and God encompasses all things.

وَيَسْتَفْتُونَكَ فِي النِّسَاءِ قُلِ اللَّهُ يُفْتِيكُمْ فِيهِنَّ وَمَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الْكِتَابِ فِي يَتَامَى النِّسَاءِ اللَّاتِي لَا تُؤْتُونَهُنَّ مَا كُتِبَ لَهُنَّ وَتَرْغَبُونَ أَن تَنكِحُوهُنَّ وَالْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الْوِلْدَانِ وَأَن تَقُومُوا لِلْيَتَامَىٰ بِالْقِسْطِ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِهِ عَلِيمًا **4:127**

Treat orphans and women well

(It is imperative to realize that women are no less a part of the society. Moreover, they are the custodians of the future generations like a garden that bears flowery plants 2:223.) They ask you to enlighten them further about the laws concerning women (O Prophet). Say, "God Himself enlightens you about the laws concerning them, and the Book which has been recited to you conveys the decree. You shall restore the rights of the orphaned women to whom you do not give what is ordained (as their due marital gifts) when you wish to marry them. And God decrees about helpless children, and your duty to treat orphans in a most kind manner. And whatever good you may do, God is ever Aware." [You shall be especially kind to women who are widowed, orphaned, or left helpless for any reason. 2:83, 2:215, 2:240, 4:3, 8:41]

وَإِنِ امْرَأَةٌ خَافَتْ مِن بَعْلِهَا نُشُوزًا أَوْ إِعْرَاضًا فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا أَن يُصْلِحَا بَيْنَهُمَا صُلْحًا وَالصُّلْحُ خَيْرٌ وَأُحْضِرَتِ الْأَنفُسُ الشُّحَّ وَإِن تُحْسِنُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا **4:128**

Try reconciliation first

If a woman experiences ill-treatment from her husband or fears that he might turn away from her, there should be no hesitation in taking corrective action and resolving the matter between them amicably. Conciliation is best. Selfishness is ever present in human psyche. And if you take care to benefit each other and be mindful of God, certainly God is ever Aware of all you do. [God, the Cognizant shows you the best way. 2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4]

وَلَن تَسْتَطِيعُوا أَن تَعْدِلُوا بَيْنَ النِّسَاءِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتُمْ فَلَا تَمِيلُوا كُلَّ الْمَيْلِ فَتَذَرُوهَا كَالْمُعَلَّقَةِ وَإِن تُصْلِحُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **4:129**

[Men who have been permitted a second wife for post-war exigencies (4:3) must understand that] You will not be able to deal equally between your wives however much you wish. But do not turn altogether away from one, leaving her as if in suspense between having and not having a husband. Fulfill the rights of each one

of them and be mindful of God. Surely, God is ever Forgiving, Merciful. [Your effort is seen 53:40, and He is the Absolver of your imperfections]

وَإِن يَتَفَرَّقَا يُغْنِ اللَّهُ كُلًّا مِّن سَعَتِهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ وَاسِعًا حَكِيمًا **4:130**

If the couple separate, God will provide for each one of them from His Abundance. God is Infinite, Wise. [The Divinely ordained System is versatile enough to accommodate all circumstances]

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَقَدْ وَصَّيْنَا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَنِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَإِن تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَنِيًّا حَمِيدًا **4:131**

Unto God belongs all that is in the Highs and all that is in the Lows. We directed those who received the scripture before you, and We direct you to be mindful of God (so that your society operates as smoothly as the Universe is operating). And if you reject the truth, know that all things in the heavens and all things on earth belong to God. God is Absolutely Independent, Owner of praise.

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا **4:132**

God is enough

Unto God belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. God is Sufficient as Guardian (to carry through all affairs of the Universe).

إِن يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ وَيَأْتِ بِآخَرِينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ قَدِيرًا **4:133**

If He wills, He can cause you, O mankind, to disappear, and bring forth other beings (in your stead). For, God has the power to do this.

مَّن كَانَ يُرِيدُ ثَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا فَعِندَ اللَّهِ ثَوَابُ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا **4:134**

Whoever desires the reward of the world, let him know that with God is the reward of the world and the Hereafter. God is ever Hearer, Seer. [Obedience to His commands ensures success in both worlds]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ الْوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ إِن يَكُنْ غَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا **4:135**

Stand up for justice and truth

فَاللَّهُ أَوْلَىٰ بِهِمَا فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا الْهَوَىٰ أَن تَعْدِلُوا وَإِن تَلْوُوا أَوْ تُعْرِضُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Stand up firmly for justice, witnesses for God, even if it is against yourselves, your parents and your relatives, and whether the case is of a rich person or a poor person. God is nearer to them than you are. Do not follow your emotions lest you fall short of justice. If you distort your testimony or turn away (from this command, know that) God is Aware of all your actions.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ مِن قَبْلُ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا **4:136**

Acknowledge God, messengers and previous scriptures

O You who believe (and call yourselves Muslims!) Believe in God and His Messenger, and the Book He has revealed to His Messenger, and in (the existing truth in) the previous scripture. One who denies God, and His Angels, and His Books, and His Messengers, and the Last Day, has gone far astray. [Note the believers being called to belief! 2:8, 49:15. The wishful thinking of being Muslims or believers 'by birth' carries no weight in the Sight of God 2:62. See 2:101 and 3:78 for 'the previous scripture'. Belief to the point of Conviction can only be attained through reason and not as a birth right. 3:78, 5:48, 12:108. Angels = God's forces in nature. 2:30]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا ثُمَّ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا ثُمَّ ازْدَادُوا كُفْرًا لَّمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ لِيَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ وَلَا لِيَهْدِيَهُمْ سَبِيلًا **4:137**

Those who believe, then disbelieve and again believe, then disbelieve, and thus grow stubborn in denial of the truth, God will not forgive them, nor will He walk them on to the way. [Forgiveness = Protection = Shielding against the ill effects of misdeeds. Note that God has prescribed no worldly punishment for 'apostasy' since there is no compulsion in religion. 2:256]

بَشِّرِ الْمُنَافِقِينَ بِأَنَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **4:138**

Give the tiding to such hypocrites that grievous suffering awaits them.

الَّذِينَ يَتَّخِذُونَ الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَيَبْتَغُونَ عِندَهُمُ الْعِزَّةَ فَإِنَّ الْعِزَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا **4:139**

Those who ally themselves with the rejecters rather than the believers: Do they seek dignity among them? Nay, all dignity is with God. [Honor and dignity can be

attained only through Divine laws. 3:25, 35:10, 63:8]

وَقَدْ نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الْكِتَابِ أَنْ إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ يُكْفَرُ بِهَا وَيُسْتَهْزَأُ بِهَا فَلَا تَقْعُدُوا مَعَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَخُوضُوا فِي حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ إِنَّكُمْ إِذًا مِّثْلُهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَامِعُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْكَافِرِينَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ جَمِيعًا **4:140**

Don't kill when revelation is mocked

He has already revealed to you in the Book that, when you hear the revelations of God being rejected and ridiculed, sit not with them unless they engage in some other conversation. Otherwise you will bear similar guilt as they bear. God will gather hypocrites and rejecters together, all of them, into Hell. [4:63, 6:68]

الَّذِينَ يَتَرَبَّصُونَ بِكُمْ فَإِن كَانَ لَكُمْ فَتْحٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ قَالُوا أَلَمْ نَكُن مَّعَكُمْ وَإِن كَانَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ نَصِيبٌ قَالُوا أَلَمْ نَسْتَحْوِذْ عَلَيْكُمْ وَنَمْنَعْكُم مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَن يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ سَبِيلًا **4:141**

(The hypocrites adopt the opportunistic attitude.) They watch you and wait. If victory comes to you from God, they say, "Were we not with you?" And if the rejecters get a portion of success, they say, "Did we not side with you and protect you from the believers?" God will judge between you all on the Day of Resurrection. God will not give the rejecters (of the Qur'an) any way of success against the true believers.

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يُخَادِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَهُوَ خَادِعُهُمْ وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ قَامُوا كُسَالَىٰ يُرَاءُونَ النَّاسَ وَلَا يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **4:142**

The hypocrites seek to deceive God, but it is God's law that such people deceive themselves. When they stand up for prayers, they do so reluctantly and only to be seen by people, and rarely do they think of God. [2:69]

مُّذَبْذَبِينَ بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ لَا إِلَىٰ هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَلَا إِلَىٰ هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُ سَبِيلًا **4:143**

They waver in between, belonging neither to this group, nor to that group. Anyone whom God lets go astray, you will not find a way to guide him. [Laws of guidance 4:88]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَتُرِيدُونَ أَن تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ سُلْطَانًا مُّبِينًا 4:144

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take the rejecters for your allies instead of the believers. Do you wish to provide a clear proof to God against yourselves?

إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرْكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا 4:145

The hypocrites will abide in the lowest pit of the fire and you will find no helper for them,

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَأَصْلَحُوا وَاعْتَصَمُوا بِاللَّهِ وَأَخْلَصُوا دِينَهُمْ لِلَّهِ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَسَوْفَ يُؤْتِ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا 4:146

Except those who return to the right path, make amends, hold fast to God and devote their religion to God alone. These are with the believers, and God will soon bestow on the believers an immense reward.

مَّا يَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ بِعَذَابِكُمْ إِن شَكَرْتُمْ وَآمَنتُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ شَاكِرًا عَلِيمًا 4:147

Why should God cause you to suffer if you are grateful and attain belief? Nay, God is Responsive to gratitude, Knower.

لَّا يُحِبُّ اللَّهُ الْجَهْرَ بِالسُّوءِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ إِلَّا مَن ظُلِمَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ سَمِيعًا عَلِيمًا 4:148

Don't publicize negative events

God does not like any evil to be mentioned openly, unless it is by him who has been wronged. God is certainly all Hearer, all Knower.

إِن تُبْدُوا خَيْرًا أَوْ تُخْفُوهُ أَوْ تَعْفُوا عَن سُوءٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَفُوًّا قَدِيرًا 4:149

If you contribute to the society, whether openly or secretly, and pardon someone's fault, know that God is Pardoner, Powerful. He absolves your individual and societal imperfections, and He has appointed due measure for all things.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَن يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ نُؤْمِنُ بِبَعْضٍ وَنَكْفُرُ بِبَعْضٍ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَن يَتَّخِذُوا بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ سَبِيلًا 4:150

Acknowledge all messengers

Those who deny God and His Messengers, and seek to make distinction between God and His Messengers, and say, "We believe in some and reject some." And they wish to follow a path in between. [The first part of the verse refers to those who believe in God as the Creator, but not as the Law-Giver 29:61-63]

أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ حَقًّا وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا 4:151

Such are the real disbelievers. And for deniers of the truth We have readied a humiliating retribution.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَلَمْ يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ سَوْفَ يُؤْتِيهِمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا 4:152

And those who believe in God and His Messengers, in word and action, and understand that all Messengers were one in purpose, We shall soon give them their rewards. God is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

يَسْأَلُكَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ أَن تُنَزِّلَ عَلَيْهِمْ كِتَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَقَدْ سَأَلُوا مُوسَىٰ أَكْبَرَ مِن ذَٰلِكَ فَقَالُوا أَرِنَا اللَّهَ جَهْرَةً فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ بِظُلْمِهِمْ ثُمَّ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ فَعَفَوْنَا عَن ذَٰلِكَ وَآتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ سُلْطَانًا مُّبِينًا 4:153

(O Prophet) People of the Scripture ask you to bring a published book from the heaven. They made a greater demand to Moses when they said, "Show us God face to face." And their psyche was such that when a bolt of lightning struck around them, they fell in fear. They had chosen to do wrong. After that, they chose the calf for worship although they had seen the Manifest truth. Yet, We pardoned them and gave Moses evident authority (for their guidance). [2:55]

وَرَفَعْنَا فَوْقَهُمُ الطُّورَ بِمِيثَاقِهِمْ وَقُلْنَا لَهُمُ ادْخُلُوا الْبَابَ سُجَّدًا وَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ لَا تَعْدُوا فِي السَّبْتِ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُم مِّيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا 4:154

Then We made a Covenant with them at the raised Mount Sinai as a witness. We said to them, “Enter the gate of the town humbly (2:63).” And We said to them, “Do not violate the Sabbath.” Indeed We had made with them a Solemn Covenant.

فَبِمَا نَقْضِهِم مِّيثَاقَهُمْ وَكُفْرِهِم بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَقَتْلِهِمُ الْأَنبِيَاءَ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ وَقَوْلِهِمْ قُلُوبُنَا غُلْفٌ بَلْ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا بِكُفْرِهِمْ فَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **4:155**

They incurred condemnation for breaking their Covenant, rejecting God’s revelations, and killing the Prophets wrongfully. And for saying, “Our hearts are wrapped up; we have made up our minds.” Nay, God’s law sets the seal on their hearts because of their persistent denial. They lost their faculties of reasoning. So they do not acknowledge the truth, except a few.

وَبِكُفْرِهِمْ وَقَوْلِهِمْ عَلَىٰ مَرْيَمَ بُهْتَانًا عَظِيمًا **4:156**

And for their disbelief to the extent that they brought a terrible charge against Mary.

وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَٰكِن شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مَا لَهُم بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا **4:157**

Jesus 's soul was taken by God

And for claiming, “We killed the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, God’s Messenger.” They never killed him and never crucified him. But it appeared so to them and the matter remained dubious to them. Those who hold conflicting views on this issue are but confused. They have no real knowledge and they are following mere conjecture. Most certainly, they never killed him.

بَل رَّفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا **4:158**

Nay, God exalted him in His Sight. (They had plotted thinking that crucifixion was a death of curse. But God raised him in honor. See 3:55) God is Almighty, Wise.

وَإِن مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لَيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا **4:159**

Everyone among the People of the Book must believe before dying, in the truth just stated. Jesus will be a witness against them on the Day of Resurrection. [5:116-117. Neither was he crucified nor raised to the heavens. God is Omnipresent]

فَبِظُلْمٍ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ طَيِّبَاتٍ أُحِلَّتْ لَهُمْ وَبِصَدِّهِمْ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا **4:160**

Because of relegating the truth We forbade the Jews certain good things that were lawful for them before, and also because they hindered many from the way of God. [4:161. Zulm = Violation of human rights = Relegating the truth = Oppression = Wrongdoing]

وَأَخْذِهِمُ الرِّبَا وَقَدْ نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَأَكْلِهِمْ أَمْوَالَ النَّاسِ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ مِنْهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **4:161**

Their clergy made usury permissible although it was forbidden, and they devoured the wealth of people with falsification. We have readied for the rejecters grievous suffering.

لَّكِنِ الرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلِكَ وَالْمُقِيمِينَ الصَّلَاةَ وَالْمُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ أُولَٰئِكَ سَنُؤْتِيهِمْ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا **4:162**

Reward from God to all acknowledges

Believers

Among them (the Jews) there are those who are well founded in knowledge, and the believers have attained conviction in what has been revealed to you, and in what was revealed before you. They are supporters of the Divine System and of the Just Economic Order, believers in God and in the Last Day. We shall soon give them an immense reward. [Islam is for all humanity. Any prior affiliations are irrelevant. 2:62, 3:19, 4:125]

إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ نُوحٍ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ مِن بَعْدِهِ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَعِيسَىٰ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُونُسَ وَهَارُونَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَآتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ زَبُورًا **4:163**

We have sent you the revelation as We sent it to Noah and the Prophets after him. We sent revelations to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and his progeny (the Tribes), Jesus, Job (Ayub), Jonah (Yunus), Aaron, and Solomon; and to David We gave Zaboor. [Zaboor = The Psalms = A book of Divine wisdom]

Inspirations given to prophets and psalms to David

وَرُسُلًا قَدْ قَصَصْنَاهُمْ عَلَيْكَ مِن قَبْلُ وَرُسُلًا لَّمْ نَقْصُصْهُمْ عَلَيْكَ وَكَلَّمَ اللَّهُ مُوسَىٰ تَكْلِيمًا 4:164

God spoke directly to Moses

[We sent Our Messengers to all nations with a uniform Message] We have told you the stories of some in the Qur'an, of the others We have not. (However, all of them were assigned a Common Mission.) And God spoke directly to Moses.

رُّسُلًا مُّبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا 4:165

Messengers, bearers of good news

All Messengers gave good news, as well as warning, so that humans would not have an argument against God, after the Messengers conveyed to them the guidance. God is Almighty, Wise.

لَّٰكِنِ اللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ بِمَا أَنزَلَ إِلَيْكَ أَنزَلَهُ بِعِلْمِهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَشْهَدُونَ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا 4:166

God bears witness concerning what He has revealed to you. With His Own knowledge He has revealed it. (If you reflect on the Order in the Universe, you shall find that) the angels, the universal laws, also bear witness. Yet, God is Sufficient Witness.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ قَدْ ضَلُّوا ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا 4:167

Those who deny (such obvious truth) and hinder others from the way of God, they have certainly wandered far astray.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَظَلَمُوا لَمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ لِيَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ وَلَا لِيَهْدِيَهُمْ طَرِيقًا 4:168

Those who oppose the truth and violate human rights, God will never forgive them. And He will never show them a road,

إِلَّا طَرِيقَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا 4:169

Except the road of Hell, wherein they abide for ever. And that is ever easy for God. [Hindering people from truth is one of the worst violations of human rights]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمُ الرَّسُولُ بِالْحَقِّ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ فَآمِنُوا خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ وَإِن تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا **4:170**

O People! The Messenger has come to you with truth from your Lord. So if you believe, it is best for you. But if you disbelieve, still to God belongs whatever is in the heavens and earth. God is Knower, Wise. [Following His commands brings you in harmony with the Universe]

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ وَلَا تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ إِنَّمَا الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْقَاهَا إِلَىٰ مَرْيَمَ وَرُوحٌ مِّنْهُ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَلَا تَقُولُوا ثَلَاثَةٌ انتَهُوا خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ إِنَّمَا اللَّهُ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ سُبْحَانَهُ أَن يَكُونَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا **4:171**

Trinity

O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion. Say nothing about God except the truth. The Messiah Jesus son of Mary was a Messenger of God, the fulfillment of His Word to Mary, created according to the laws of creation and given free will from the Divine Energy (like all human beings 15:29, 32:7-9, 38:72). Believe in God and His Messengers, and say not: "Three". Cease! It is for your own good. God is but One God. Far removed it is from His Supreme Majesty that He should have a son. Everything in the Highs and everything in the Lows belongs to Him. God is enough as a Trustee (of the Universe). [2:255]

لَّن يَسْتَنكِفَ الْمَسِيحُ أَن يَكُونَ عَبْدًا لِّلَّهِ وَلَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ وَمَن يَسْتَنكِفْ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَيَسْتَكْبِرْ فَسَيَحْشُرُهُمْ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعًا **4:172**

Never was the Messiah too proud to serve God, nor the angels nearest to Him shy from obeying Him. Whoever shuns His service and is proud, He will assemble all to Him.

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَيُوَفِّيهِمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَيَزِيدُهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ اسْتَنكَفُوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فَيُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا وَلَا يَجِدُونَ لَهُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيًّا **4:173**

وَلَا نَصِيرًا

God will give rewards and add of His bounty on those who attain belief and contribute to the society. But His Law of Requital will dispense an awful doom to those who were scornful and proud. And they will find no one besides God to protect or help them.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُم بُرْهَانٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَأَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ نُورًا مُّبِينًا **4:174**

Truth comes from your Lord

O Mankind! There has come to you a Convincing proof from your Lord, and We have sent to you a profound beacon of light.

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَاعْتَصَمُوا بِهِ فَسَيُدْخِلُهُمْ فِي رَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَفَضْلٍ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَيْهِ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيمًا **4:175**

God will admit into His grace those who believe in Him and hold fast to His commands, and facilitate for them the straight road to Him.

يَسْتَفْتُونَكَ قُلِ اللَّهُ يُفْتِيكُمْ فِي الْكَلَالَةِ إِنِ امْرُؤٌ هَلَكَ لَيْسَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ وَلَهُ أُخْتٌ فَلَهَا نِصْفُ مَا تَرَكَ وَهُوَ يَرِثُهَا إِن لَّمْ يَكُن لَّهَا وَلَدٌ فَإِن كَانَتَا اثْنَتَيْنِ فَلَهُمَا الثُّلُثَانِ مِمَّا تَرَكَ وَإِن كَانُوا إِخْوَةً رِّجَالًا وَنِسَاءً فَلِلذَّكَرِ مِثْلُ حَظِّ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ أَن تَضِلُّوا وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **4:176**

They ask you about the inheritance of a person who is survived by neither ascendants nor descendants. If one dies and leaves no children, and he had a sister, she gets half the inheritance. If she dies first, he inherits from her if she left no children. If there were two sisters they get two-thirds of the inheritance, if there are sisters and brothers, the brother would get twice the share of the sister for reasons already explained (2:80, 4:11). God clarifies the laws so that you may not go astray. God is the Knower of all things.

Chapter 5

Al Maaedah - The Heavenly System Of Sustenance

The Heavenly System of Sustenance This is the fifth Surah of the Qur´an and it has 120 verses. Establishment of the Divine System ensures Divine bounties on everyone´s table spread. Important dietary laws are given in this Surah. All herbivorous quadrupeds are permissible for human consumption with the exceptions noted in 5:3 and 2:173. Intoxicants are strictly forbidden although the word Haraam has not been used for them since they do not belong to the category of food. Unjust killing of a single human being is like killing all mankind and saving one life is like saving all humanity. The Surah includes commands about gambling, games of chance, marriage, theft, ablution, hunting, making a will, and other diverse subjects. Prophet Abraham is the common patriarch of faith for Jews, Christians and Muslims. It states that God has perfected His System of Life and that the Qur´an is the comprehensive guide for all humanity.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ أُحِلَّتْ لَكُم بَهِيمَةُ الْأَنْعَامِ إِلَّا مَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ غَيْرَ مُحِلِّي الصَّيْدِ وَأَنتُمْ حُرُمٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ مَا يُرِيدُ **5:1**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Fulfill your pledges and obligations. Permitted for you for food are all plant-eating livestock with the exceptions named (5:3). God has ordained that all hunting is prohibited during Hajj. God ordains as He deems fit. [Baheema-tul-An'aam = The herbivorous cattle = Plant-eating quadrupeds = Livestock]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُحِلُّوا شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ وَلَا الشَّهْرَ الْحَرَامَ وَلَا الْهَدْيَ وَلَا الْقَلَائِدَ وَلَا آمِّينَ الْبَيْتَ الْحَرَامَ يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرِضْوَانًا وَإِذَا حَلَلْتُمْ فَاصْطَادُوا وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَآنُ قَوْمٍ أَن صَدُّوكُمْ عَنِ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ أَن تَعْتَدُوا **5:2**

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ
وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not violate the symbols set up by God, nor the Sacred Months (2:194), neither the gifts nor the camels for use as transport or slaughter, nor the garlands marking them, nor the people who proceed to the Sacred Sanctuary, Ka'bah, seeking God's blessings and approval. When you have completed the Hajj, you are free to hunt. Let not the hatred of a people lead you to transgression, because they prevented you from going to the Sacred Masjid (48:25). Help one another in acts of collective benefit and righteousness, and do not help one another in deeds that hurt humanity and in creating a wedge between people. Be mindful of God. His Law of Requital is strong in grasping.

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخِنزِيرِ وَمَا أُهِلَّ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ **5:3**
بِهِ وَالْمُنْخَنِقَةُ وَالْمَوْقُوذَةُ وَالْمُتَرَدِّيَةُ وَالنَّطِيحَةُ وَمَا أَكَلَ
السَّبُعُ إِلَّا مَا ذَكَّيْتُمْ وَمَا ذُبِحَ عَلَى النُّصُبِ وَأَن
تَسْتَقْسِمُوا بِالْأَزْلَامِ ذَٰلِكُمْ فِسْقٌ الْيَوْمَ يَئِسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
مِن دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ
دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ
دِينًا فَمَنِ اضْطُرَّ فِي مَخْمَصَةٍ غَيْرَ مُتَجَانِفٍ لِّإِثْمٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ
غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Dietary restrictions

Forbidden to you (for food) are: Carrion, blood, the flesh of swine, anything (not just meat) that has been dedicated to any other than God (such as an idol, grave or saint), any animal that has been strangled to death, or beaten to death, or killed by fall, or gored to death, or eaten by a wild animal unless you are able to slaughter it while it is still alive, and (also forbidden is) what is slaughtered on idolatrous altars (devotional stones or blocks in shrines considered sacred). And (you are forbidden) from dividing one another's portions through raffling, for these are deviations. This Day, I have perfected your 'Deen' (Law) for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you AI-Islam (Submission to God) as the System of Life. This Day, the rejecters of the truth have lost all hope of (making bargains in) your System of Life. But, do not fear them, but fear Me. This Day, I have perfected your religious law for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you Submission (Al-Islam) as the System of Life. If anyone is forced by dire necessity (to consume the forbidden), with no intention of transgression, (should remember that) God is Forgiving, Merciful. [Mayitah = Carrion = Dead meat = An animal that dies of itself. Azlaam = Dividing eating portions by placing or shooting arrows = In other contexts Azlaam also includes the conjecture of foretelling the future = Raffle = Lottery = Divining arrows = Clairvoyance = Dividing things or time for one another through randomly

picking up slips of paper. Deen = System of Life = The law. 2:173, 2:185, 2:219, 5:90]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا أُحِلَّ لَهُمْ قُلْ أُحِلَّ لَكُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتُ وَمَا عَلَّمْتُم **5:4**
مِّنَ الْجَوَارِحِ مُكَلِّبِينَ تُعَلِّمُونَهُنَّ مِمَّا عَلَّمَكُمُ اللَّهُ فَكُلُوا
مِمَّا أَمْسَكْنَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَاذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
Prophets quote
إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ Dog

They ask you (O Prophet) what foods are permissible. Tell them all good things of life are lawful to you. As for the hunting animals, the catch of your trained dogs and falcons, as God has taught you, is permissible. Mention God's name thereupon and be mindful of God. Indeed, God is swift to take account.

الْيَوْمَ أُحِلَّ لَكُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتُ وَطَعَامُ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حِلٌّ **5:5**
لَّكُمْ وَطَعَامُكُمْ حِلٌّ لَّهُمْ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ إِذَا
آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ وَلَا مُتَّخِذِي
أَخْدَانٍ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِالْإِيمَانِ فَقَدْ حَبِطَ عَمَلُهُ وَهُوَ فِي
You can eat from the people of the book الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

This Day, all good things of your choice are made lawful for you. The food of those who were given the Scripture is lawful for you and your food is lawful for them. And so are the virtuous, chaste women of the believers and the virtuous, chaste women of those who were given the Scripture before you (provided they do not associate anyone with God 2:221). But you must give them their marriage portions, wealth and property, and live with them in honor, not in fornication, nor as secret lovers. (It must be an honest wedlock 4:24.) Anyone who rejects belief, his work is vain and he will be among the losers in the Hereafter.[Muslim women are allowed to marry Muslim men only]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ **5:6**
وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى
الْكَعْبَيْنِ وَإِن كُنتُمْ جُنُبًا فَاطَّهَّرُوا وَإِن كُنتُم مَّرْضَىٰ أَوْ
عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ أَوْ جَاءَ أَحَدٌ مِّنكُم مِّنَ الْغَائِطِ أَوْ لَامَسْتُمُ
النِّسَاءَ فَلَمْ تَجِدُوا مَاءً فَتَيَمَّمُوا صَعِيدًا طَيِّبًا فَامْسَحُوا

بِوُجُوهِكُمْ وَأَيْدِيكُم مِّنْهُ مَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيَجْعَلَ عَلَيْكُم مِّنْ حَرَجٍ وَلَٰكِن يُرِيدُ لِيُطَهِّرَكُمْ وَلِيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

Wudu

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you congregate for Salaat, wash your faces and your forearms, hands to the elbows. Lightly rub your heads and your feet to the ankles. If you are in the post-coital state with your spouses, bathe your whole body. But, if you are ill or traveling, or coming from the privy, or are in the post-coital state and find no water, then observe dry ablution by touching clean dry soil (or a clean, soft substance) and lightly rub your faces and hands. God does not wish to place any difficulty upon you, but to make you (psychologically) clean and to perfect His blessings upon you, that you may be grateful. [4:43. Wudhu = Ablution will help prepare mentally for congregational prayer. Tayammum = Dry ablution]

وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمِيثَاقَهُ الَّذِي وَاثَقَكُم بِهِ إِذْ قُلْتُمْ سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **5:7**

Remember God's blessing (guidance) upon you and His Covenant binding upon you when you said, "We hear and we obey." Be mindful of God. God is fully Aware of what is in the hearts. [1:4-5]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَآنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **5:8**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be upholders of justice for the sake of God as witnesses to the truth. Let not the hatred of any people move you away from justice. Deal justly. That is closer to being upright. Be mindful of your duty to God. God is fully Aware of what you do.

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ **5:9**

Forgiveness for good deeds

God promises the protection of forgiveness and a great reward to those who attain belief and do works that fulfill the needs of people and increase the well being of society.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ **5:10**

Yet, there are those who oppose Our revelations openly, or deny them in practice. They are the companions of the Insurmountable Barrier. ['Selves' that fail to develop, are unfit to move up to the higher levels of existence, so they merely survive instead of achieving true immortality. 69:27]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ هَمَّ قَوْمٌ أَن يَبْسُطُوا إِلَيْكُمْ أَيْدِيَهُمْ فَكَفَّ أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَنكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **5:11**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember the blessing of God. There were people who had aggressive designs against you but He withheld their hands from you. (Due preparation against danger is a strong deterrent 4:71, 8:60). Remain mindful of God and in God let believers put their trust.

وَلَقَدْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَبَعَثْنَا مِنْهُمُ اثْنَيْ عَشَرَ نَقِيبًا وَقَالَ اللَّهُ إِنِّي مَعَكُمْ لَئِنْ أَقَمْتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَيْتُمُ الزَّكَاةَ وَآمَنتُم بِرُسُلِي وَعَزَّرْتُمُوهُمْ وَأَقْرَضْتُمُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا لَّأُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَلَأُدْخِلَنَّكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ فَمَن كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ مِنكُمْ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ **5:12**

Indeed God made a Covenant with the Children of Israel. We appointed twelve leaders among them. God said to them, "I am with you so long as you follow the Divine Commands, spend your wealth for the community, believe in My Messengers, assist them, and give a beautiful loan to God (that is paid back to you manifold in both lives 2:261). I will absolve your imperfections, help you create balance in the society and admit you to Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. But, whoever among you disbelieves after this, will go astray from the right path."

فَبِمَا نَقْضِهِم مِّيثَاقَهُمْ لَعَنَّاهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَا قُلُوبَهُمْ قَاسِيَةً يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ عَن مَّوَاضِعِهِ وَنَسُوا حَظًّا مِّمَّا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ وَلَا تَزَالُ تَطَّلِعُ عَلَىٰ خَائِنَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاصْفَحْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **5:13**

When they broke their promise, We rejected them and Our law caused their hearts to harden. So, now they change words from their context and ignore a good part of the message, forgetting what they were told to bear in mind. (O Prophet) you will not cease to discover betrayal from all but a few of them. Pardon them and forbear. Indeed, God loves those who serve humanity.

وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصَارَىٰ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَهُمْ فَنَسُوا حَظًّا مِّمَّا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ فَأَغْرَيْنَا بَيْنَهُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَسَوْفَ يُنَبِّئُهُمُ اللَّهُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ **5:14**

We also made a Covenant with those who say, "We are Christians." But they ignored a good part of the message that was sent to them and forgot what they were told to bear in mind. As a result, Our law has caused enmity and hatred among them till the Resurrection Day, when God will inform them of what they contrived, (Rivalry based upon Sectarianism and Nationalism, a natural consequence of deviating from the True message, whether people call themselves Jews, Christians or Muslims.)

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولُنَا يُبَيِّنُ لَكُمْ كَثِيرًا مِّمَّا كُنتُمْ تُخْفُونَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَعْفُو عَن كَثِيرٍ قَدْ جَاءَكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُّبِينٌ **5:15**

O People of the Book! Now has come to you Our Messenger, to make clear to you much of what you have been concealing of the Bible (even from yourselves). He ignores much of the irrelevant accounts and pardons much of your misdeeds. Now has come to you from God a beacon of light and a clear Book.

يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **5:16**

Through this Book God guides to the path of Peace, those who seek His approval. He brings them out of darkness into the light of His grace, and guides them to the straight path.

لَّقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قُلْ فَمَن يَمْلِكُ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا إِنْ أَرَادَ أَن يُهْلِكَ الْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَأُمَّهُ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **5:17**

They have certainly denied the truth who say, "God is the Messiah, son of Mary." Say, "Who could oppose God if He willed to annihilate the Messiah son of Mary, and his mother and everyone on earth, all of them?" God's is the Dominion of the

heavens and earth and all that is between them. He creates all things according to His laws. And God has Power over all things and events.

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ نَحْنُ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ وَأَحِبَّاؤُهُ قُلْ فَلِمَ يُعَذِّبُكُم بِذُنُوبِكُم بَلْ أَنتُم بَشَرٌ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ **5:18**

Jews and Christians say, "We are God's children and his loved ones". Ask them "Why does He, then, take you to task for your transgressions?" Nay, you are but human beings of His creating. He forgives and punishes according to His laws. The Dominion of the heavens and earth and all that is in between them, belongs to God. To Him is the Final destination of all.

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولُنَا يُبَيِّنُ لَكُمْ عَلَىٰ فَتْرَةٍ مِّنَ الرُّسُلِ أَن تَقُولُوا مَا جَاءَنَا مِن بَشِيرٍ وَلَا نَذِيرٍ فَقَدْ جَاءَكُم بَشِيرٌ وَنَذِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **5:19**

Messenger has come after absence as a reminder

O People of the Scripture! Our Messenger has come to you, to make the truth clear, after an interval without Messengers. Lest you say, "No Messengers came to us to give good news and to warn." Now has come to you the giver of glad tiding and warning. God has Power over all things and events.

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ يَا قَوْمِ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَعَلَ فِيكُمْ أَنبِيَاءَ وَجَعَلَكُم مُّلُوكًا وَآتَاكُم مَّا لَمْ يُؤْتِ أَحَدًا مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ **5:20**

Moses told his people, "Remember God's blessings that He raised Prophets among you and made you your own masters. And He gave you what He had not given to any other people.

يَا قَوْمِ ادْخُلُوا الْأَرْضَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الَّتِي كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَرْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِكُمْ فَتَنقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ **5:21**

O My people! Enter the Sacred Land that God has decreed for you, as long as you hold fast to His laws. But, if you turn back in flight, you will be overthrown to your own ruin." [Sacred Land = Can'aan = Syria-Palestine, 2:125, 6:137, 12:58, 12:94, 21:71, 23:50, 26:59, 29:26, 30:3, 44:3, Introduction to Surahs: 12, 14, 19]

قَالُوا يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنَّ فِيهَا قَوْمًا جَبَّارِينَ وَإِنَّا لَن نَّدْخُلَهَا حَتَّىٰ يَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا فَإِن يَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا فَإِنَّا دَاخِلُونَ 5:22

They said to Moses, "In this land there are ferocious people. Never shall we enter it until they leave. If they leave, then we will enter."

قَالَ رَجُلَانِ مِنَ الَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمَا ادْخُلُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الْبَابَ فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُمُوهُ فَإِنَّكُمْ غَالِبُونَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَتَوَكَّلُوا إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 5:23

Then two men who feared violating God's command, and whom God had blessed, said, "Enter the gate daringly, and you will be in command of the situation and will be victorious. Put your trust in God if you are believers." [The two men were Joshua and Caleb. Bible; Numbers 14: 6-30]

قَالُوا يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنَّا لَن نَّدْخُلَهَا أَبَدًا مَّا دَامُوا فِيهَا فَاذْهَبْ أَنتَ وَرَبُّكَ فَقَاتِلَا إِنَّا هَاهُنَا قَاعِدُونَ 5:24

They said, "O Moses! We shall never enter the land while they are in it. You and your Lord should go and fight, while we sit here."

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لَا أَمْلِكُ إِلَّا نَفْسِي وَأَخِي فَافْرُقْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ الْقَوْمِ الْفَاسِقِينَ 5:25

Moses said, "My Lord! I have power only over myself and my brother, allow us to part ways from those who keep drifting away from the commands."

قَالَ فَإِنَّهَا مُحَرَّمَةٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً يَتِيهُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَلَا تَأْسَ عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْفَاسِقِينَ 5:26

Their Lord said, "This land will be forbidden for them for forty years. They will wander on earth, bewildered. So grieve not over these people who keep drifting away from the right path." [Among mankind there always have been those who submit, and those who transgress. The Children of Israel enjoyed great Divine blessings, but for their repeated transgressions they were chastised (2:259, 17:5-6), and God's bounty of Prophethood, in His Infinite wisdom, moved away from the Children of Israel to the Children of Ishmael, among whom was raised Muhammad, the Final Prophet/Messenger of God. The dire opposition of Jews and Christians to the Final Messenger is alluded to in the following verses, in reference to the famous story of the two brothers, Abel (Haabeel) and Cain (Qaabeel)]

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ بِالْحَقِّ إِذْ قَرَّبَا قُرْبَانًا فَتُقُبِّلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمَا وَلَمْ يُتَقَبَّلْ مِنَ الْآخَرِ قَالَ لَأَقْتُلَنَّكَ قَالَ إِنَّمَا يَتَقَبَّلُ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ **5:27**

Cain and Abel

27-29

(O Messenger) tell them the true story of the two descendants of Adam. Each of them made an offering. (And they thought that) it was accepted from one of them, but not from the other. The latter said, "Be sure, I will kill you." The former said, "God accepts the sacrifice of the righteous." [Every action of the righteous is readily accepted]

لَئِن بَسَطتَ إِلَيَّ يَدَكَ لِتَقْتُلَنِي مَا أَنَا بِبَاسِطٍ يَدِيَ إِلَيْكَ لِأَقْتُلَكَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ **5:28**

"If you extend your hand to kill me, it is not for me to extend my hand to kill you. I do fear God, the Lord of the Worlds."

إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَن تَبُوءَ بِإِثْمِي وَإِثْمِكَ فَتَكُونَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الظَّالِمِينَ **5:29**

"I would rather have you carry two violations, mine as well as yours. For, you will be among the dwellers of the fire. That is the reward for the wrongdoers." [Two violations or sins: First, of slaying me, and second, of slaying the person in you. 5:30]

فَطَوَّعَتْ لَهُ نَفْسُهُ قَتْلَ أَخِيهِ فَقَتَلَهُ فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **5:30**

His ego led him into killing his brother. He killed him and became a loser.

فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ غُرَابًا يَبْحَثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُرِيَهُ كَيْفَ يُوَارِي سَوْءَةَ أَخِيهِ قَالَ يَا وَيْلَتَا أَعَجَزْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِثْلَ هَٰذَا الْغُرَابِ فَأُوَارِيَ سَوْءَةَ أَخِي فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ النَّادِمِينَ **5:31**

God then sent a raven scratching up the soil, to show him that he might have concealed and ignored the imperfections of his brother. He said, "Oh, I failed even to be like this raven to conceal my brother's imperfections, (and hide his naked body)!" Then he became full of regrets. [Sauaat = Imperfections, faults. Uwaari sauaat = Literally, hide the naked body. 7:20-22]

مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَٰلِكَ كَتَبْنَا عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مَن قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ثُمَّ إِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُم بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ لَمُسْرِفُونَ **5:32**

Don't kill

On that account, We decreed to the Children of Israel (the Eternal Moral Ordinance for all humanity 2:178) that whoever kills a human being, unless it be for murder or bloody crimes on the earth, it would be as if he killed all mankind. And whoever saves the life of one human being it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. Our Messengers came to them with evident truth, yet, even after this, many of them continue to commit excesses in the land. [Only a court of law will make decisions. No one would take the law in own hand]

إِنَّمَا جَزَاءُ الَّذِينَ يُحَارِبُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا أَن يُقَتَّلُوا أَوْ يُصَلَّبُوا أَوْ تُقَطَّعَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ أَوْ يُنفَوْا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ ذَٰلِكَ لَهُمْ خِزْيٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **5:33**

The just punishment for those who wage war against God and His Messenger and endeavor to commit bloody crimes on earth, is that they be killed or crucified, or have their hands and feet severed on alternate sides, or to be banished from the land. Such is their disgrace in this world, and an awful suffering awaits them in the Hereafter. [Fasaad = Bloody crimes = Spreading corruption in the land = Creating disorder. 'God and His Messenger' ... None can physically fight against God, and the Messenger was a mortal man. So, God and the Messenger denote the Central Authority of the Islamic State. Waging war against God and the Messenger would mean rebellion against the Islamic State. 'Severing the hands and feet' may also be understood as cutting of their ability to create Fasaad. See 5:38 & 12:31. 'Banishing from the land' indicates exile or imprisonment for life. If they present to the authorities before getting arrested, they could be pardoned. 4:64]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا مِن قَبْلِ أَن تَقْدِرُوا عَلَيْهِمْ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **5:34**

Unless the corruptors repent before you become more powerful than they are. Know that God is Forgiving, Merciful. [Peace will prevail when the righteous become more powerful than the guilty]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ 5:35

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of God and seek earnestly to come closer to Him by obeying His commands, and strive hard in His cause so that you may truly prosper. [Waseelah = Seeking earnestly = Applying the mind and heart to reach a noble goal. Verses 2:186 and 17:57 are many of the verses that negate the erroneous concept of "Waseelah" denoting some saints, sages or even Prophets interceding on behalf of people]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ أَنَّ لَهُم مَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ لِيَفْتَدُوا بِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَا تُقُبِّلَ مِنْهُمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ 5:36

(Those who reject this Revelation, exclude themselves from taking part in the establishment of the Ideal Society.) If the rejecters possessed everything on earth and twice as much, and offered it as ransom to spare them from the retribution on the Day of Resurrection, it would not be accepted from them. For them is a painful doom.

يُرِيدُونَ أَن يَخْرُجُوا مِنَ النَّارِ وَمَا هُم بِخَارِجِينَ مِنْهَا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ 5:37

They will wish to come out of the fire, but they will not be able to come out of it. Theirs will be a lasting punishment.

وَالسَّارِقُ وَالسَّارِقَةُ فَاقْطَعُوا أَيْدِيَهُمَا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَسَبَا نَكَالًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ 5:38

(Theft is a crime that steals away the sense of security from a society.) A habitual thief, male or female both, must have their ability (to steal) cut off. This is the reward for their doings, and a deterrent from God. God is Mighty, Wise.[Saariq = Habitual thief. Nakala = Deterrent. For Qat'a yadd, the so-called cutting of hand, please see 12:31 about Egyptian women 'cutting their hands'. Yadd = Hand = Ability = Power. 'God's hand' at many places in the Qur'an, of course, denotes His Power and authority. So, consider all circumstances with wisdom, and take measures to prevent this crime in the society. See 5:39 for repentance and making amends. If the hand is cut off, where is the room for mercy? Qur'anic laws are much more rational than Biblical injunctions. Here is the reference from Mathew Chapter 18, verses 8-9, The New King James Version. "And if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire." Can anyone pluck out his own

From Bible

Don't chop hands off, forgiveness
See biblical event

eye? It appears that Muslim translators of the Qur'an rendered Qat'a literally under Biblical influence]

فَمَن تَابَ مِن بَعْدِ ظُلْمِهِ وَأَصْلَحَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَتُوبُ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **5:39**

Whoever repents after the crime and makes amends, God grants him pardon. God is Forgiving, Merciful. [If the hand is cut off, what about making amends, pardon and mercy?]

أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **5:40**

Do you not know that God's is the Dominion of the heavens and earth? He is the law-giving authority. He punishes and forgives according to His Law of Requital. God has Control over all things and He has appointed due measure for all things.

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ لَا يَحْزُنكَ الَّذِينَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْكُفْرِ مِنَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَلَمْ تُؤْمِن قُلُوبُهُمْ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ هَادُوا سَمَّاعُونَ لِلْكَذِبِ سَمَّاعُونَ لِقَوْمٍ آخَرِينَ لَمْ يَأْتُوكَ يُحَرِّفُونَ الْكَلِمَ مِن بَعْدِ مَوَاضِعِهِ يَقُولُونَ إِنْ أُوتِيتُمْ هَٰذَا فَخُذُوهُ وَإِن لَّمْ تُؤْتَوْهُ فَاحْذَرُوا وَمَن يُرِدِ اللَّهُ فِتْنَتَهُ فَلَن تَمْلِكَ لَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَن يُطَهِّرَ قُلُوبَهُمْ لَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا خِزْيٌ وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **5:41**

O Messenger! Let not those grieve you who run to disbelief, saying, "We believe," with their mouths, while their hearts have no faith. And grieve not about those Jews who listen for the sake of fabricating lies. They listen and go to their people who have never met with you. Then they distort the words out of context and tell others to accept only a part and reject a part. If God intends trial for anyone, you have no authority in the least for him against God. God does not purify the hearts of such people. For them there is disgrace in this world and an awful punishment in the Hereafter.

سَمَّاعُونَ لِلْكَذِبِ أَكَّالُونَ لِلسُّحْتِ فَإِن جَاءُوكَ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُمْ أَوْ أَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَإِن تُعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ فَلَن يَضُرُّوكَ **5:42**

شَيْئًا وَإِنْ حَكَمْتَ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِالْقِسْطِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

They are upholders of falsehood and they make wealth by unfair means. They are bribed into spying. If they come to you asking to judge among them, the choice to accept or reject their request is yours. You have the right to disclaim jurisdiction since they have not yet accepted the Qur'an and they have the Torah. If you disclaim jurisdiction they cannot harm you at all. However, if you decide to judge among them, do so equitably. God loves the equitable.

وَكَيْفَ يُحَكِّمُونَكَ وَعِندَهُمُ التَّوْرَاةُ فِيهَا حُكْمُ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يَتَوَلَّوْنَ مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ وَمَا أُولَٰئِكَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ **5:43**

Why do they ask you to act as a judge among them when they have the Torah, containing God's law and they disregard it? They are not believers.

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَا التَّوْرَاةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالرَّبَّانِيُّونَ وَالْأَحْبَارُ بِمَا اسْتُحْفِظُوا مِن كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا عَلَيْهِ شُهَدَاءَ فَلَا تَخْشَوُا النَّاسَ وَاخْشَوْنِ وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِآيَاتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا وَمَن لَّمْ يَحْكُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ **5:44**

Revere God not humans

We did send down the Torah containing guidance and a light. By it the Prophets who always sincerely submitted to God, judged the Jews. And the rabbis and the priests judged according to God's scripture as they were commanded to observe. To them was entrusted the protection of God's Book, and they were witnesses to it. So, fear not people, but fear Me and do not trade away My revelations for petty gains. Whoever does not judge and does not rule according to what God has revealed, such are the disbelievers.

وَكَتَبْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ فِيهَا أَنَّ النَّفْسَ بِالنَّفْسِ وَالْعَيْنَ بِالْعَيْنِ وَالْأَنفَ بِالْأَنفِ وَالْأُذُنَ بِالْأُذُنِ وَالسِّنَّ بِالسِّنِّ وَالْجُرُوحَ قِصَاصٌ فَمَن تَصَدَّقَ بِهِ فَهُوَ كَفَّارَةٌ لَّهُ وَمَن لَّمْ يَحْكُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ **5:45**

For them (Jews), We had decreed in the Torah: Life for life, eye for eye, nose for nose, ear for ear, tooth for tooth, and equal injury for injury (Exodus 21:23). But If one shall forgo retaliation by way of charity, it shall absolve his or her imperfections.

Not punishing is a better choice

Whoever does not judge or rule according to what God has Revealed, such are the wrongdoers." [See 5:41. That was a time-bound Mosaic law specific to the Israelites. The Final revelation of God, the Qur'an has updated laws for all humanity for all Times. Incidentally, Exodus in the Bible, as seen today, does not leave room for forgiveness on the subject]

وَقَفَّيْنَا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم بِعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَاةِ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْإِنجِيلَ فِيهِ هُدًى وَنُورٌ وَمُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ التَّوْرَاةِ وَهُدًى وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ 5:46

And after them We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming the (remaining truth in) what was revealed before him. We gave him the Gospel in which there was guidance and a light, and it confirmed the (truth in) what was revealed before it in the Torah, a guidance and admonition to those who wished to live upright. [2:101, 3:78]

وَلْيَحْكُمْ أَهْلُ الْإِنجِيلِ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ وَمَن لَّمْ يَحْكُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ 5:47

Let the People of the Gospel judge by what God has revealed therein. Those who fail to judge and rule according to God's revelation, are drifters from the right path.

وَأَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمُهَيْمِنًا عَلَيْهِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ عَمَّا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ لِكُلٍّ جَعَلْنَا مِنكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَٰكِن لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ فَاسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ 5:48

Prophet to follow Quran

(O Messenger) We have sent to you this Divine Writ, setting forth the truth. It confirms the remaining truth in the earlier scriptures since it is a Watcher over them. So, judge between them by what God has revealed, and do not follow their desires diverging from the truth that has come to you. For each community among you We have appointed certain rites and a traced-out way. If God had willed, He could have made you all one single community. But He decided to let you test yourselves by what (potentials) He has granted you. So, outdo one another in doing good to the society. To God you will all return, and He will then make you understand wherein you differed. [2:101, 2:148, 3:78, 21:92-93, 23:52. Muhaimin = Watcher. Shari'ah = Rites = Usual, diverse trends of a community. Minhaaj = A traced-out way = A set of laws]

وَأَنِ احْكُم بَيْنَهُم بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَاحْذَرْهُمْ أَن يَفْتِنُوكَ عَن بَعْضِ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَن يُصِيبَهُم بِبَعْضِ ذُنُوبِهِمْ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ لَفَاسِقُونَ **5:49**

Rule according to Quran

So judge between them by what God has revealed. And do not follow their vain desires. Beware of them, lest they divert you from some of what God has revealed to you. If they turn away from the truth, be assured that God has decided to chastise them for some of their crimes. A great many people drift away from the right path.

أَفَحُكْمَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَبْغُونَ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ **5:50**

Do they seek judgment of the Days of Ignorance? But who can give better judgment than God, for a people who have attained conviction in the truth?

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ أَوْلِيَاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّهُم مِّنكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **5:51**

Religious conflict only

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! (Since they deny the Final Revelation that is the Constitution of your state,) do not take the Jews and Christians as your allies. They are allies of one another. He among you who takes them for allies is one of them. God does not guide those who choose to do wrong. [This verse points to taking allies on a national scale, and not to individual friends. See 60:7-9]

فَتَرَى الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ يُسَارِعُونَ فِيهِمْ يَقُولُونَ نَخْشَىٰ أَن تُصِيبَنَا دَائِرَةٌ فَعَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَأْتِيَ بِالْفَتْحِ أَوْ أَمْرٍ مِّنْ عِندِهِ فَيُصْبِحُوا عَلَىٰ مَا أَسَرُّوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ نَادِمِينَ **5:52**

You will see those who harbor doubt in their hearts running to them saying, “We fear that a change of fortune may befall us.” But, God will bring you victory, or His command will come to pass and they will regret what they harbored in their hearts.

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَهَٰؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ إِنَّهُمْ لَمَعَكُمْ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَأَصْبَحُوا خَاسِرِينَ 5:53

The believers will then wonder: "Are these the same people who swore by God that they were with the believers?" Eventually, all their deeds will go to waste and they will be great losers.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَن يَرْتَدَّ مِنكُمْ عَن دِينِهِ فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِي اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ يُحِبُّهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَهُ أَذِلَّةٍ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَعِزَّةٍ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ يُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَخَافُونَ لَوْمَةَ لَائِمٍ ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ 5:54

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If any of you reverts from his faith, soon God will bring forth people whom He will love and they will love Him. They will be kind to the believers, and stern with the rejecters. They will strive in the cause of God without fear of any blame of a fault-finder. Such is the bounty of God that He bestows according to His laws. God is All Encompassing, All Knower.

إِنَّمَا وَلِيُّكُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُمْ رَاكِعُونَ 5:55

Your real friends and protectors are God, His Messenger and those believers who establish the Divine System, set up the equitable Economic Order and humble themselves before God's commands.

وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَإِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ 5:56

Those who ally themselves with God and His Messenger and the believers, belong in the party of God. Absolutely, they are the victorious.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَكُمْ هُزُوًا وَلَعِبًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَالْكُفَّارَ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 5:57

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take for allies, some of the people who were given the scripture before you, and the rejecters who mock and ridicule your Religion. Be mindful of God if you are true believers.

وَإِذَا نَادَيْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ اتَّخَذُوهَا هُزُوًا وَلَعِبًا ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَعْقِلُونَ **5:58**

When you call to prayer, they mock it and make a jest of it, simply because they are a people who do not use reason. [They do not know that the call with its clearest Mission Statement is unique in the world and speaks volumes of the conviction behind it]

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ هَلْ تَنقِمُونَ مِنَّا إِلَّا أَنْ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلُ وَأَنَّ أَكْثَرَكُمْ فَاسِقُونَ **5:59**

Say, "O People of the Scripture! Do you not blame us just because we believe in God, and what is revealed to us and what was revealed before? And because most of you are drifting away from the Right Direction?"

قُلْ هَلْ أُنَبِّئُكُم بِشَرٍّ مِّن ذَٰلِكَ مَثُوبَةً عِندَ اللَّهِ مَن لَّعَنَهُ اللَّهُ وَغَضِبَ عَلَيْهِ وَجَعَلَ مِنْهُمُ الْقِرَدَةَ وَالْخَنَازِيرَ وَعَبَدَ الطَّاغُوتَ أُولَٰئِكَ شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَأَضَلُّ عَن سَوَاءِ السَّبِيلِ **5:60**

Say, "Shall I point out to you something much worse for retribution with God? Worse is the case of those whom God has rejected, and His requital hits them. And remember those whom God's law relegated from the honorable stature of humanity and they started behaving like apes and swine. And they fell into becoming the slaves of Taaghoot (tyrants and the priesthood of any religion). Such are in worse plight, and farther astray than the mockers." [2:65, 4:51]

وَإِذَا جَاءُوكُمْ قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَقَد دَّخَلُوا بِالْكُفْرِ وَهُمْ قَدْ خَرَجُوا بِهِ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْتُمُونَ **5:61**

When they come to you O believers, they say, "We believe". In fact they come in disbelief and depart in disbelief. God knows best what they conceal.

وَتَرَىٰ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُمْ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَأَكْلِهِمُ السُّحْتَ لَبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **5:62**

You will see many of them race towards actions that drag down the human potential, create division in the society and they earn wealth through illicit means. Indeed condemnable is what they do.

لَوْلَا يَنْهَاهُمُ الرَّبَّانِيُّونَ وَالْأَحْبَارُ عَن قَوْلِهِمُ الْإِثْمَ وَأَكْلِهِمُ السُّحْتَ لَبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ 5:63

Why do not the rabbis and the priests forbid them from their down-grading assertions and illicit earnings? Indeed condemnable is what they manufacture. (A great many religious leaders, rabbis, priests, monks, Mullahs, yogis, and mystics devour the wealth of people deceptively, and hinder them from the way of God 9:34).

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ يَدُ اللَّهِ مَغْلُولَةٌ غُلَّتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَلُعِنُوا بِمَا قَالُوا بَلْ يَدَاهُ مَبْسُوطَتَانِ يُنفِقُ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ وَلَيَزِيدَنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُم مَّا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ طُغْيَانًا وَكُفْرًا وَأَلْقَيْنَا بَيْنَهُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ كُلَّمَا أَوْقَدُوا نَارًا لِّلْحَرْبِ أَطْفَأَهَا اللَّهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ 5:64

(The Divine System wants people to contribute to the society.) The Jews say, "God's hand is tied down." It is their hands that are tied down and they are condemned for saying so. Nay, His hands are wide open and He showers His bounties according to His laws. What your Lord reveals to you (O Prophet) is certain to increase many of them in transgression and rejection of the truth. Consequently, We have placed enmity and malice among them until the Day of Resurrection. God has already put down the flames of war that they repeatedly ignited. But they strive to create corruption and disorder in the land, although God does not love those who create corruption and disorder. [22:40. The Qur'an increases many people in their opposition since it is a great equalizer of humanity]

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَكَفَّرْنَا عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَأَدْخَلْنَاهُمْ جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ 5:65

If the People of the Scripture would believe in the Qur'an and be mindful of the Divine laws, We would remit their sins from them and admit them into the Gardens of bliss.

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ أَقَامُوا التَّوْرَاةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِم مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ لَأَكَلُوا مِن فَوْقِهِمْ وَمِن تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِهِم مِّنْهُمْ أُمَّةٌ مُّقْتَصِدَةٌ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ سَاءَ مَا يَعْمَلُونَ 5:66

Pious people of the book

If they had observed the Torah and the Gospel, and all that was sent down upon them by their Lord, they would have received the blessings of the heavens and earth.

Among them there are people who are moderate, but a great many of them follow a course that is evil. [Literally, min fauqihim wa min tahti arjulihim = From above them and from underneath their feet'. Akl = Food = Eating = Partaking = Blessings]

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ وَإِن لَّمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ **5:67**

Deliver message only

O Messenger! Make known all that your Lord has revealed to you. If you do not do it, then you have not fulfilled your duty of conveying His message at all. God will protect you from people. Remember that God does not step in to guide those who refuse to acknowledge the truth.

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَسْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ حَتَّىٰ تُقِيمُوا التَّوْرَاةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلَيَزِيدَنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُم مَّا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ طُغْيَانًا وَكُفْرًا فَلَا تَأْسَ عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ **5:68**

Say, "O People of the Scripture! You have no valid ground for your beliefs unless you uphold the Torah and the Gospel and all that has been revealed to you from your Lord." (The truth in them has been incorporated into the Final revelation). Yet all that has been revealed to you (O Prophet), by your Lord is bound to make many of them more stubborn in their arrogance and denial. But grieve not for the disbelieving folk.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالصَّابِئُونَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **5:69**

Good people of the book will attain heaven

Those who attain belief (and call themselves Muslims) and those who are Jews, and the Agnostics, and Christians; whoever believes in God and the Last Day, and does acts of welfare, for them shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. [Those who attain belief (and call themselves Muslims), and those who are Jews, and Christians and the agnostics, whoever believes in God and the Last Day and helps people, shall have their reward with their Sustainer. For them there shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. (2:62). Note: Dear reader, I am not aware of any instance in the Qur'an where the use of Tasreef, the Big Picture could be more crucial than in the understanding of these verses, 2:62, 5:69. Respectfully speaking, some great commentators have misinterpreted this verse for not looking at other related verses. Please read on the Tasreef. It is inconceivable that those who oppose the truth, whether they are the People of the Book or the idolaters, could get out of error until the clear

proof Al-Qur'an comes to them. (98:1-3) —- The non-Israelite Prophet liberates the People of the Book from the shackles of their manmade dogmas and brings them from darkness to light ——. (7:157) They say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be rightly guided." Say, "Nay, we follow the religion of Abraham, the upright. He associated no one with the One True God." And Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian. (2:135) O you who believe, say, "We believe in God and the revelation that has been conveyed to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob as well as the tribal Israelite Prophets; and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them since all of them were one in purpose and they got their guidance from the One True God. And for Him, we are Muslims." (2:136)So, if they come to believe in the way you believe, they will be rightly guided. But if they turn away, they will be falling into opposition and God will be Sufficient for you against them. He is the Hearer, Knower of all things and events. 2:137]

لَقَدْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ رُسُلًا كُلَّمَا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ بِمَا لَا تَهْوَىٰ أَنفُسُهُمْ فَرِيقًا كَذَّبُوا وَفَرِيقًا يَقْتُلُونَ **5:70**

We took a Covenant with the Children of Israel (to follow the commandments) and sent Messengers to them. Whenever We sent a Messenger to them with what they disliked, some of these they rejected, and some they killed.

وَحَسِبُوا أَلَّا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ فَعَمُوا وَصَمُّوا ثُمَّ تَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ ثُمَّ عَمُوا وَصَمُّوا كَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ **5:71**

They thought there would be no trial, so they became blind and deaf (to reason). Yet God turned to them, but again many of them (faltered and) became blind and deaf. But God is Seer of all they did.

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنصَارٍ **5:72**

Rejecters of the truth certainly are those who proclaim that God is Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah himself taught them, "O Children of Israel! You shall worship God, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever associates deities with God, for such God has forbidden Paradise and their abode is the fire. For those who choose to do wrong, there will be no helpers.

لَّقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَٰهٍ إِلَّا إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ وَإِن لَّمْ يَنتَهُوا عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَيَمَسَّنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ 5:73

Trinity

And certainly they disbelieve who say that God is one of three (in a Trinity) when there is no god whatsoever but the One God. Unless they desist from saying what they say, grievous suffering is bound to befall such of them who oppose the truth.

أَفَلَا يَتُوبُونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَهُ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 5:74

Will they not rather turn to God and seek His forgiveness? For God is Forgiving, Merciful.

مَّا الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ وَأُمُّهُ صِدِّيقَةٌ كَانَا يَأْكُلَانِ الطَّعَامَ انظُرْ كَيْفَ نُبَيِّنُ لَهُمُ الْآيَاتِ ثُمَّ انظُرْ أَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ 5:75

The Messiah, son of Mary, was no other than a Messenger, like other Messengers before him who passed on. And his mother was a woman of truth. Both of them were human beings who had to eat food (like all other mortals). See how clearly We explain Our verses for them, and note how they still deviate!

قُلْ أَتَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَمْلِكُ لَكُمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا وَاللَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 5:76

Say, "Would you worship in place of God what possesses no power of harm or benefit to you?" God is the One Who is the Hearer, the Knower.

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا أَهْوَاءَ قَوْمٍ قَدْ ضَلُّوا مِن قَبْلُ وَأَضَلُّوا كَثِيرًا وَضَلُّوا عَن سَوَاءِ السَّبِيلِ 5:77

Say, "O People of the Book! Do not overstep the bounds of truth in your religious beliefs. And do not follow the errant views of people who have gone astray long before, and led a great many others astray, and those who are still straying from the Even way.

لُعِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَىٰ لِسَانِ دَاوُودَ وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوا وَّكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ 5:78

Jesus and David curse the unappreciative

Those Children of Israel who were bent upon opposing the truth have already been condemned by the tongue of David and of Jesus, son of Mary. This is so because they rebelled and persisted in overstepping the bounds of what is right.

كَانُوا لَا يَتَنَاهَوْنَ عَن مُّنكَرٍ فَعَلُوهُ لَبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ 5:79

They did not restrain one another from violating the Permanent Values. Evil was what they used to do.

تَرَىٰ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتَوَلَّوْنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَبِئْسَ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لَهُمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ أَن سَخِطَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَفِي الْعَذَابِ هُمْ خَالِدُونَ 5:80

Even now you see many of them allying themselves with the rejecters. Evil indeed is what they send forth for their own 'self'. God is displeased with them, and they will abide in the doom.

وَلَوْ كَانُوا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالنَّبِيِّ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مَا اتَّخَذُوهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَٰكِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ 5:81

If they had believed in God and the Prophet, and what is revealed to him, they (the People of the Scripture) would not ally themselves with the rejecters. But a great many of them are drifting away from the truth.

لَتَجِدَنَّ أَشَدَّ النَّاسِ عَدَاوَةً لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الْيَهُودَ وَالَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُم مَّوَدَّةً لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا نَصَارَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ مِنْهُمْ قِسِّيسِينَ وَرُهْبَانًا وَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ 5:82

Nazaren- Supporters

(O Prophet) you will find the most vehement of mankind in hostility to the believers to be the Jews and the idolaters. Closer in affection to the believers you will find those who say, "We are Christians." That is because among them there are priests and monks and because they are not given to arrogance.

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ تَرَىٰ أَعْيُنَهُمْ تَفِيضُ مِنَ الدَّمْعِ مِمَّا عَرَفُوا مِنَ الْحَقِّ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ 5:83

When they hear and understand what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflow with tears because they recognize the truth in it. They say, "Our Lord! We choose to believe, so write us down with those who bear witness to the truth." [Sama' = Hear = Hear and understand]

وَمَا لَنَا لَا نُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَنَطْمَعُ أَن يُدْخِلَنَا رَبُّنَا مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الصَّالِحِينَ 5:84

"How could we not believe in God and the truth that has come to us? We so fervently desire for our Sustainer to admit us to the company of the righteous?"

فَأَثَابَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِمَا قَالُوا جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ 5:85

For their saying this, God rewarded them with Gardens, with rivers flowing underneath, to abide therein. Such is the recompense of the doers of good. [Muhsineen = Doers of good = Benefactors of humanity = Those who create balance in the society]

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ 5:86

Whereas those who oppose the truth and deny Our revelations, are companions of the Insurmountable Barrier. [Their own 'self' face Jaheem, a great hindrance to self-actualization = Blazing fire]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُحَرِّمُوا طَيِّبَاتِ مَا أَحَلَّ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ 5:87

Don't make things unlawful

87-88

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not deprive yourselves of the good things of life that God has made lawful to you. But commit no excesses. God does not love those who exceed the limits. [Self-mortification by ascetics, monks and mystics is not the way to 'purify' the 'soul']

وَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنتُم بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ 5:88

Thus, partake of the lawful, good things that God grants you as sustenance. And be conscious of God, in Whom you are believers.

لَا يُؤَاخِذُكُمُ اللَّهُ بِاللَّغْوِ فِي أَيْمَانِكُمْ وَلَٰكِن يُؤَاخِذُكُم بِمَا عَقَّدتُّمُ الْأَيْمَانَ فَكَفَّارَتُهُ إِطْعَامُ عَشَرَةِ مَسَاكِينَ مِنْ أَوْسَطِ مَا تُطْعِمُونَ أَهْلِيكُمْ أَوْ كِسْوَتُهُمْ أَوْ تَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ 5:89

فَمَن لَّمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ ذَٰلِكَ كَفَّارَةُ أَيْمَانِكُمْ إِذَا حَلَفْتُمْ وَاحْفَظُوا أَيْمَانَكُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

God will not call you to account for vain utterances of your oaths. He will hold you accountable for your deliberate and intentional oaths. If you violate such oaths, that would be a transgression against your own 'self'. If you do violate an oath, the expiation for that is: Feeding ten needy persons of what is standard for your own family, or clothing them - Or, freeing one human being from bondage, whether it is slavery, extreme poverty, heavy debt, or oppression. If you do not have the means to do so, then observe Abstinence (from food, drink, and sex) for three days, as in Ramadhan. This is the expiation of your (breaking of) intentional oaths. But be mindful of your oaths. God explains His messages, so that you may have reason to be grateful. [See Abstinence in 2:183]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **5:90**

? Idolizing Grave of prophet and Kaba

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Intoxicants and gambling and games of chance, sacrificing animals on stones (altars of idols) and forecasting the future by such means as arrows, raffles and omens (all) is an immoral handiwork of Satan. Refrain from it that you may prosper. [Handiwork of Satan, since these things are based on vain emotions at the cost of human intellect]

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَن يُوقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ فِي الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلَاةِ فَهَلْ أَنتُم مُّنتَهُونَ **5:91**

By means of intoxicants and games of chance Satan, your rebellious and selfish desires, incites you to enmity and hatred among you and hinders you from being conscious of God and following the Divine System. Will you not then abstain? [2:219]

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَاحْذَرُوا فَإِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا عَلَىٰ رَسُولِنَا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **5:92**

Messengers duty is to deliver

You shall obey God and obey the Messenger, the Divine System that the Messenger has established, and be careful in this regard. If you turn away, it will be to your own detriment. Know that the duty of Our Messenger is just to convey the message clearly.

لَيْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جُنَاحٌ فِيمَا طَعِمُوا إِذَا مَا اتَّقَوا وَّآمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ ثُمَّ اتَّقَوا وَّآمَنُوا ثُمَّ اتَّقَوا وَّأَحْسَنُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **5:93**

Those who have chosen to believe and do works beneficial to the society, bear no guilt for whatever they partake (of the lawful), as long as they live upright and continue to believe, and grow ever in righteousness, and continue with their good works benefiting others. Remember that God loves the benefactors of humanity. [Ta'm, beyond eating and drinking, includes enjoying God's bounties in all forms]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَيَبْلُوَنَّكُمُ اللَّهُ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الصَّيْدِ تَنَالُهُ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَرِمَاحُكُمْ لِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ مَن يَخَافُهُ بِالْغَيْبِ فَمَنِ اعْتَدَىٰ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَلَهُ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **5:94**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! During Hajj, God may let you test your belief in privacy with some game or someone else's wandering livestock within easy reach of your hands and your arrows. Refrain from hunting it. Whoever crosses the limits after this, will face an awful requital.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْتُلُوا الصَّيْدَ وَأَنتُمْ حُرُمٌ وَمَن قَتَلَهُ مِنكُم مُّتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاءٌ مِّثْلُ مَا قَتَلَ مِنَ النَّعَمِ يَحْكُمُ بِهِ ذَوَا عَدْلٍ مِّنكُمْ هَدْيًا بَالِغَ الْكَعْبَةِ أَوْ كَفَّارَةٌ طَعَامُ مَسَاكِينَ أَوْ عَدْلُ ذَٰلِكَ صِيَامًا لِّيَذُوقَ وَبَالَ أَمْرِهِ عَفَا اللَّهُ عَمَّا سَلَفَ وَمَنْ عَادَ فَيَنتَقِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ **5:95**

Kaba

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not kill animals of game while you are in the state of Pilgrimage. Whoever kills it intentionally must send a permissible domestic animal to the Ka'bah, as a gift for the needy. Two equitable persons will decide what domestic animal is equivalent to the game animal that was killed. They must ensure that the gift reaches the Ka'bah (for use by the needy pilgrims 22:28). Or for expiation, feed some poor at a cost equal to the cost of the animal. If someone has no means to do that, then Abstinence (for three days as in Ramadhan. (Three days of Abstinence from food, drink, and sex, would equal feeding ten indigents. 5:89). God has pardoned past violations. An appropriate court shall punish those who persist in violating this law. God is Almighty, Able to requite.

أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ صَيْدُ الْبَحْرِ وَطَعَامُهُ مَتَاعًا لَّكُمْ وَلِلسَّيَّارَةِ وَحُرِّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ صَيْدُ الْبَرِّ مَا دُمْتُمْ حُرُمًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **5:96**

Restricted months

Lawful to you is all water-game. This is decent provision for you and for those who are traveling (to Hajj) by sea. Do not pursue land-game during Pilgrimage. Be mindful of God to Whom you will be summoned. [Bahr = Sea = River = Any body of water]

جَعَلَ اللَّهُ الْكَعْبَةَ الْبَيْتَ الْحَرَامَ قِيَامًا لِّلنَّاسِ وَالشَّهْرَ الْحَرَامَ وَالْهَدْيَ وَالْقَلَائِدَ ذَٰلِكَ لِتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **5:97**

Kaba, only restricted sanctuary

? Mosque in Madina

God has appointed the Ka'bah, the Sacred House, a Standard for mankind to unite and stand at their feet, as also the Sacred Months, the gifts for pilgrims, and their identification marks, such as garlands. Remind yourselves that God knows whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth, and that God is Aware of all things and events. [2:194]

اعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **5:98**

Beware that God's Law of Requital is ever vigilant. God is Forgiving, Merciful. [So, He has shown you how to become worthy of His grace]

مَّا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا تَكْتُمُونَ **5:99**

Messengers duty is to deliver

The Messenger's duty is but to convey the message, and God knows what you declare and what you hide.

قُل لَّا يَسْتَوِي الْخَبِيثُ وَالطَّيِّبُ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَكَ كَثْرَةُ الْخَبِيثِ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **5:100**

Say, "The bad and the good are not same. Let not the abundance of evil dazzle you. O People of understanding! Be mindful of God if you wish to reap a rich harvest. [The bad or evil is what harms the collective good of humanity and drags the 'self' down 14:24-27. The right is right, and the wrong is wrong regardless of what the majority think. 2:243, 6:116-119, 11:17]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَسْأَلُوا عَنْ أَشْيَاءَ إِن تُبْدَ لَكُمْ تَسُؤْكُمْ وَإِن تَسْأَلُوا عَنْهَا حِينَ يُنَزَّلُ الْقُرْآنُ تُبْدَ لَكُمْ عَفَا اللَّهُ **5:101**

Everything is in the Quran
don't look elsewhere

عَنْهَا وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not ask unnecessary details of things (as the Israelites asked of Moses about the cow 2:68.) This attitude may bring unpleasant consequences for you. But if you ask them as the Qur'an is being revealed, the minor details of Ordinances might be given which will be hard for you to follow. God has pardoned you in this respect, for God is Forgiving, Clement. [The general rule has been given that all pure and good things are permissible to you. Your questions are very clearly answered in the Qur'an 5:15, 15:1, 22:40. The Qur'an is for all times, and while the basic laws and Principles remain immutable, minor details are intended to be flexible according to temporal and spatial requirements 11:1. This Day I have perfected your religious law for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you Al-Islam as the Way of Life. 5:3]

قَدْ سَأَلَهَا قَوْمٌ مِّن قَبْلِكُمْ ثُمَّ أَصْبَحُوا بِهَا كَافِرِينَ **5:102**

Some people before you asked such questions and then rejected the instructions. [2:68]

مَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مِن بَحِيرَةٍ وَلَا سَائِبَةٍ وَلَا وَصِيلَةٍ وَلَا حَامٍ **5:103**
وَلَٰكِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ

Superstition

God did not ordain that certain kinds of cattle and other livestock be marked out, assigned names, and set aside from human use or consumption. Disbelievers invented such superstitions and attributed them to God. Most of them do not use their intellect.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَإِلَى الرَّسُولِ قَالُوا **5:104**
حَسْبُنَا مَا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوَلَوْ كَانَ آبَاؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ

Beware of following parents

When it is said to them, "Come to what God has revealed and to His Messenger, they say, "Enough for us is what we found our parents doing." What! Even though their parents had no knowledge whatsoever and no guidance?

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَيْكُمْ أَنفُسَكُمْ لَا يَضُرُّكُم مَّن ضَلَّ إِذَا **5:105**
اهْتَدَيْتُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! You are responsible for yourselves. He who goes astray cannot harm you if you are rightly guided. All of you will return to God; and He will make you understand all that you were doing in life.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا شَهَادَةُ بَيْنِكُمْ إِذَا حَضَرَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ حِينَ الْوَصِيَّةِ اثْنَانِ ذَوَا عَدْلٍ مِّنكُمْ أَوْ آخَرَانِ مِنْ غَيْرِكُمْ إِنْ أَنتُمْ ضَرَبْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَأَصَابَتْكُم مُّصِيبَةُ الْمَوْتِ تَحْبِسُونَهُمَا مِن بَعْدِ الصَّلَاةِ فَيُقْسِمَانِ بِاللَّهِ إِنِ ارْتَبْتُمْ لَا نَشْتَرِي بِهِ ثَمَنًا وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ وَلَا نَكْتُمُ شَهَادَةَ اللَّهِ إِنَّا إِذًا لَّمِنَ الْآثِمِينَ **5:106**

Will

[Where necessary, even minor details of law have been given in the Qur'an] O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When death approaches you, two equitable persons among you should witness your will. If the pangs of death come upon you when you are traveling far from home, then two of others (equitable persons other than your own people, non-Muslims) may do the witnessing. After you have prayed, let the witnesses swear by God, "We shall not sell our word for any price, even if the beneficiary is our near relative, and we will not conceal what we have witnessed before God, or we will be among the violators of law."

فَإِنْ عُثِرَ عَلَىٰ أَنَّهُمَا اسْتَحَقَّا إِثْمًا فَآخَرَانِ يَقُومَانِ مَقَامَهُمَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَحَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَوْلَيَانِ فَيُقْسِمَانِ بِاللَّهِ لَشَهَادَتُنَا أَحَقُّ مِن شَهَادَتِهِمَا وَمَا اعْتَدَيْنَا إِنَّا إِذًا لَّمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ **5:107**

If it is ascertained that these two have been guilty of bias, then let two others take their place - nearest in kin from among those who claim a lawful right - and let them swear by God, "We affirm that our testimony is truer than the testimony of these two, and we have not trespassed beyond truth. If we did, we would be among the wrongdoers."

ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَن يَأْتُوا بِالشَّهَادَةِ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهَا أَوْ يَخَافُوا أَن تُرَدَّ أَيْمَانٌ بَعْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاسْمَعُوا وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **5:108**

This procedure will encourage an honest testimony to begin with. The first witnesses will be more likely to bear true witness fearing that after their oath, the oath of others might be taken. Be mindful of God and listen: God does not guide people who drift away from the truth.

يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُ اللَّهُ الرُّسُلَ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أُجِبْتُمْ قَالُوا لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ 5:109

Will Muhammad intercede

On the Day when God will assemble all Messengers and ask them, “What was the long term response to your teachings?” They will say, “We have no knowledge. You are the Knower of the Unseen.”

إِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ اذْكُرْ نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَتِكَ إِذْ أَيَّدتُّكَ بِرُوحِ الْقُدُسِ تُكَلِّمُ النَّاسَ فِي الْمَهْدِ وَكَهْلًا وَإِذْ عَلَّمْتُكَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَالتَّوْرَاةَ وَالْإِنجِيلَ وَإِذْ تَخْلُقُ مِنَ الطِّينِ كَهَيْئَةِ الطَّيْرِ بِإِذْنِي فَتَنفُخُ فِيهَا فَتَكُونُ طَيْرًا بِإِذْنِي وَتُبْرِئُ الْأَكْمَهَ وَالْأَبْرَصَ بِإِذْنِي وَإِذْ تُخْرِجُ الْمَوْتَىٰ بِإِذْنِي وَإِذْ كَفَفْتُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَنكَ إِذْ جِئْتَهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ 5:110

Jesus

Then God will say, “O Jesus, son of Mary! Recall My blessings upon you and your mother. I strengthened you with Sacred revelation, enabled you to speak eloquently to the people in childhood, and also at the advanced age. I gave you revelation and wisdom including the Torah and the Gospel. Recall that you told them that you would raise them from dust up into the heights of glory, by My leave. You made people see the truth otherwise given to blind following, by My leave. You healed the wounds of inequity on people, by My leave, and you gave a new meaning to life to those who were otherwise no better than dead, by My leave. Recall, how I prevented the Children of Israel from harming you when you came to them with all evidence of the truth. And those who were bent upon denying the truth said, “This is nothing but clear deception.” [3:45-48, 3:111, 4:157, 6:123. 7:176]

وَإِذْ أَوْحَيْتُ إِلَى الْحَوَارِيِّينَ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِي وَبِرَسُولِي قَالُوا آمَنَّا وَاشْهَدْ بِأَنَّنَا مُسْلِمُونَ 5:111

Recall, I told the disciples in the Gospel, “Believe in Me and in My Messenger. They said, “We believe, and be Witness that we are submitters.”

إِذْ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ هَلْ يَسْتَطِيعُ رَبُّكَ أَن يُنَزِّلَ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ قَالَ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِن كُنتُم 5:112

مُّؤْمِنِينَ

When the disciples said, “O Jesus, son of Mary! Is your Lord Able to send down for us a Table Spread with Divine sustenance? Jesus said, “Be mindful of God if you are believers.” [Establish the Divine Order on earth and that will ensure Divine provision in abundance and equity. 7:96]

قَالُوا نُرِيدُ أَن نَّأْكُلَ مِنْهَا وَتَطْمَئِنَّ قُلُوبُنَا وَنَعْلَمَ أَن قَدْ صَدَقْتَنَا وَنَكُونَ عَلَيْهَا مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ **5:113**

They said, “This is exactly what we want. So that we live with a contented heart and know that your System is truly workable. And that we may be witnesses for the future generations.”

قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا أَنزِلْ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ تَكُونُ لَنَا عِيدًا لِّأَوَّلِنَا وَآخِرِنَا وَآيَةً مِّنكَ وَارْزُقْنَا وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ **5:114**

Jesus son of Mary said, “O God, our Lord! Send forth for us the (strength to establish) the Divine System that ensures abundance of provision for all of us. Let there be a happy feast for the founders and the followers among us. And let this be a sign from You (that the Divine System guarantees prosperity for all). Provide sustenance for us, for You are the Best of providers.” [3:7]

قَالَ اللَّهُ إِنِّي مُنَزِّلُهَا عَلَيْكُمْ فَمَن يَكْفُرْ بَعْدُ مِنكُمْ فَإِنِّي أُعَذِّبُهُ عَذَابًا لَّا أُعَذِّبُهُ أَحَدًا مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ **5:115**

God said, “I will make abundance for you as long as you remain loyal to the System. But, for those who disbelieve afterward, I will punish them as I have never punished anyone else.”

وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ أَأَنتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّيَ إِلَٰهَيْنِ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقٍّ إِن كُنتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ **5:116**

On the Resurrection Day, God will say: O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say to mankind, “Worship me and my mother as gods besides God¿‘ He will respond, ”Be You Glorified! I could never say what was not my right. If I said such a thing, You

Jesus- I have no right to be God

would certainly know it. You know what is in my mind, and I do not know what is in Your mind. You are the Knower of what is beyond human perception."

مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ وَكُنتُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا مَّا دُمْتُ فِيهِمْ فَلَمَّا تَوَفَّيْتَنِي كُنتَ أَنتَ الرَّقِيبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنتَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ **5:117**

"Never did I say to them except what You commanded me to say, 'Worship and obey God my Lord and your Lord.' I was a witness to them as long as I lived among them. After You caused me to die, You were the Watcher over them and You are Witness over all things and events."

إِن تُعَذِّبْهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ عِبَادُكَ وَإِن تَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **5:118**

"If You punish them, they are Your servants, and if You forgive them, You alone are Almighty, Wise."

قَالَ اللَّهُ هَٰذَا يَوْمُ يَنفَعُ الصَّادِقِينَ صِدْقُهُمْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **5:119**

God will say, "This is a Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. For them are Gardens with rivers flowing beneath, wherein they will be immortal. God is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. This is the Greatest Triumph."

لِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا فِيهِنَّ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **5:120**

To God belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth and everything therein. He has Power over all things and events, and He has appointed due measure for all things.

Chapter 6

Al-An´aam - The Cattle

This is the 6th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 165 verses. The main distinction between humans and other creations on earth is that of intellect and, with it, the free will.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ الظُّلُمَاتِ وَالنُّورَ ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ يَعْدِلُونَ **6:1**

All praise in word and action belongs to God, Who created the heavens and earth, and appointed darkness and light. (All things in the Universe are witness to, and manifest His glory.) Yet those who reject the truth hold others as equal with their Sustainer.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن طِينٍ ثُمَّ قَضَىٰ أَجَلًا وَأَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى عِندَهُ ثُمَّ أَنتُمْ تَمْتَرُونَ **6:2**

He is the One Who created you from inorganic matter, and decreed a term for you, a term known to Him. It is determined according to His laws, for individuals (3:144, 56:60) and nations (7:34, 10:49, 13:38). Yet you keep doubting and arguing about Him.

وَهُوَ اللَّهُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ يَعْلَمُ سِرَّكُمْ وَجَهْرَكُمْ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَكْسِبُونَ **6:3**

He is God in the heavens as well as on earth. He knows all that you keep secret as well as all that you do openly.

وَمَا تَأْتِيهِم مِّنْ آيَةٍ مِّنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ **6:4**

Yet whenever a message from the revelations of their Sustainer came to them, they turned away from it.

فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا بِالْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِيهِمْ أَنبَاءُ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ 6:5

And so they are denying this truth as it has come to them. However, soon they will come to understand what they used to ridicule.

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّن قَرْنٍ مَّكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَا لَمْ نُمَكِّن لَّكُمْ وَأَرْسَلْنَا السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْهِم مِّدْرَارًا وَجَعَلْنَا الْأَنْهَارَ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهِمْ فَأَهْلَكْنَاهُم بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَأَنشَأْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ قَرْنًا آخَرِينَ 6:6

Do they not see how many a generation We (Our law) annihilated before them? We had established them on earth better than We have established you, and We shed on them abundant showers from the sky, and made the rivers flow beneath them. But, when they trailed behind in humanity, We (Our law) annihilated them and raised after them another generation.

وَلَوْ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ كِتَابًا فِي قِرْطَاسٍ فَلَمَسُوهُ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ لَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ 6:7

Even if We had sent down to you (O Prophet) a pre-printed book written on parchment, so that they could feel it with their hands, the rejecters would have said, “This is nothing but obvious magic!”

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ وَلَوْ أَنزَلْنَا مَلَكًا لَّقُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ ثُمَّ لَا يُنظَرُونَ 6:8

They ask, “Why is not an angel sent down to him (for them to see)?” Well, if We did send down an angel, the matter would be judged at once. And no further time would be granted them after that. [Angels to be seen are sent only when the period of respite is over. 16:33, 25:22]

وَلَوْ جَعَلْنَاهُ مَلَكًا لَّجَعَلْنَاهُ رَجُلًا وَلَلَبَسْنَا عَلَيْهِم مَّا يَلْبِسُونَ 6:9

Angels are not like humans

And even if We sent an angel, We would certainly have made him in the form of a man. And We (per our law) would have kept them just as confused as they are confused now. [It would not fulfill their demand of seeing an angel as a Messenger]

وَلَقَدِ اسْتُهْزِئَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ 6:10

Messengers before you have been mocked. But the very thing they used to mock surrounded them in the end, for their ridiculing.

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ انظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ **6:11**

Say, "Travel through the earth and notice the end of those who denied these laws." [Taking lessons from history as we travel in order to comprehend the laws of the Rise and Fall of nations]

قُل لِّمَن مَّا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قُل لِّلَّهِ كَتَبَ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ لَيَجْمَعَنَّكُمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **6:12**

(From history, let them turn their attention to the Universe.) Say, "To whom belongs all that is in the heavens and earth?" Say, "To God Who has prescribed for Himself mercy." (He nourishes the entire Universe as a mother's womb nourishes the fetus with no returns, while meeting its needs at all stages of development. He does not task individuals and nations to doom, without giving them a period of respite to mend their behavior.) He will assemble all individuals and nations on the Day when humanity stands on its feet, and ultimately on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. Only those who have destroyed their own 'self' will keep denying the truth.

وَلَهُ مَا سَكَنَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **6:13**

To Him belongs all that dwells in the night and the day. He is the Knower, the Hearer.

قُلْ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَتَّخِذُ وَلِيًّا فَاطِرِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ يُطْعِمُ وَلَا يُطْعَمُ قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **6:14**

Allah has no ally

Say, "Shall I take for my master anyone but God, the Originator of the heavens and earth? He it is Who provides nourishment to all and Himself needs none." Say, "I have been commanded to be the foremost among those who submit to God, and not to be of the idolaters."

قُلْ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **6:15**

I obey Allah only

Say, "I fear, if I disobey my Lord, the retribution of an awesome Day."

مَّن يُصْرَفْ عَنْهُ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَحِمَهُ وَذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْمُبِينُ **6:16**

Whoever is saved from retribution on that Day, has attained God's mercy, and that is the signal triumph.

وَإِن يَمْسَسْكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يَمْسَسْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ 6:17

Whatever adversity touches you for violating God's laws, the only way to redress it is to turn to His laws. And you attain all blessings by following His laws, for He is Able to do all things. He has appointed due measure for all things including harm and benefit.

وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ 6:18

He is Supreme over His servants, and He is the Wise, the Aware. [He uses his authority with wisdom and knowledge]

قُلْ أَيُّ شَيْءٍ أَكْبَرُ شَهَادَةً قُلِ اللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ 6:19

Accepting other authorities

وَأُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنُ لِأُنذِرَكُم بِهِ وَمَن بَلَغَ أَئِنَّكُمْ

???? لَتَشْهَدُونَ أَنَّ مَعَ اللَّهِ آلِهَةً أُخْرَىٰ قُل لَّا أَشْهَدُ قُلْ إِنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ وَإِنَّنِي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ

Say (O Messenger), "What could be the greatest witness?" Say, "God is Witness between me and you. This Qur'an has been revealed to me so that I may warn you as well as whomever it reaches. Do you bear witness that there are other deities besides God?" Say, "I bear no such witness." Say, "He is the One God. I disown what you associate with Him."

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمُ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 6:20

Those who have been given the scripture, recognize this (message) as they recognize their sons. Yet those who have squandered their own 'self' fail to accept such undeniable truth.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ 6:21

Don't deny Gods signs

Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who invents a lie against God and denies His revelations? Those who choose to do wrong, will not succeed.

وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ نَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا أَيْنَ شُرَكَاؤُكُمُ الَّذِينَ كُنتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ 6:22

On the Day We assemble them, We will ask the idolaters, “Where are now those partners of God that you conceived?”

ثُمَّ لَمْ تَكُن فِتْنَتُهُمْ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا وَاللَّهِ رَبِّنَا مَا كُنَّا مُشْرِكِينَ 6:23

They will hardly have a response, but they will swear,“ By God, our Lord, we were never idolaters.”

انظُرْ كَيْفَ كَذَبُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ 6:24

Imagine how they lie against themselves, and how their fabricated gods abandon them.

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَسْتَمِعُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَعَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً أَن يَفْقَهُوهُ وَفِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرًا وَإِن يَرَوْا كُلَّ آيَةٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوكَ يُجَادِلُونَكَ يَقُولُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ 6:25

Some of them pretend to listen to you, but We (Our laws) have already veiled their hearts from understanding and caused deafness in their ears. Blind followers fail to believe even when they see all kinds of proofs. When they come to argue with you, they say about the Qur’an, “These are stories of the bygones.”

وَهُمْ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنْهُ وَيَنْأَوْنَ عَنْهُ وَإِن يُهْلِكُونَ إِلَّا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ 6:26

They repel others from the Qur’an and deprive themselves of it. They hurt their own ‘self’ without even knowing it.

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ وُقِفُوا عَلَى النَّارِ فَقَالُوا يَا لَيْتَنَا نُرَدُّ وَلَا نُكَذِّبَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا وَنَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 6:27

If only you could see them when they face the fire! They would say then, “Woe to us. Oh, we wish we could go back. We would never then reject our Lord’s revelations, and would join the believers.”

بَلْ بَدَا لَهُم مَّا كَانُوا يُخْفُونَ مِن قَبْلُ وَلَوْ رُدُّوا لَعَادُوا لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ 6:28

Nay, it has now become clear to them what they used to conceal. And even if they were sent back, they would revert to doing what they were forbidden. Surely, they are liars.

وَقَالُوا إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَبْعُوثِينَ 6:29

There are people who think that the only life is the life of this world and that they will not be raised again.

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ وُقِفُوا عَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ قَالَ أَلَيْسَ هَٰذَا بِالْحَقِّ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّنَا قَالَ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ 6:30

But if only you could see when they stand before their Lord! He will ask, “Is not this real?” They will say “Yes, by our Lord!” God will then say, “Taste the requital for your rejection of the truth.”

قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِلِقَاءِ اللَّهِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَتْهُمُ السَّاعَةُ بَغْتَةً قَالُوا يَا حَسْرَتَنَا عَلَىٰ مَا فَرَّطْنَا فِيهَا وَهُمْ يَحْمِلُونَ أَوْزَارَهُمْ عَلَىٰ ظُهُورِهِمْ أَلَا سَاءَ مَا يَزِرُونَ 6:31

Losers are those who deny meeting with God, until the Hour suddenly comes upon them. Then they will say, “We deeply regret wasting our lives in this world!” They will bear their burdens on their backs. Evil are the burdens that they bear.

وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَلَلدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ 6:32

The life of this world is a play and a passing delight in comparison to the Eternal Life. The abode of the Hereafter is far better for those who live according to the Divine laws. Will you not use reason?

قَدْ نَعْلَمُ إِنَّهُ لَيَحْزُنُكَ الَّذِي يَقُولُونَ فَإِنَّهُمْ لَا يُكَذِّبُونَكَ وَلَٰكِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ 6:33

We know well how their talk grieves you (O Messenger). In truth they do not deny you. It is the revelations of God that the wicked deny.

وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَىٰ مَا كُذِّبُوا وَأُوذُوا حَتَّىٰ أَتَاهُمْ نَصْرُنَا وَلَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكَ مِن نَّبَإِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 6:34

Messengers before you were denied and opposed. They steadfastly faced persecution until Our help reached them. There is none to alter the decisions, laws and Words of God. Some history of the Messengers has already come to you and sets examples for you. [6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85, 48:23]

وَإِن كَانَ كَبُرَ عَلَيْكَ إِعْرَاضُهُمْ فَإِنِ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَن تَبْتَغِيَ نَفَقًا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَوْ سُلَّمًا فِي السَّمَاءِ فَتَأْتِيَهُم بِآيَةٍ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَمَعَهُمْ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ 6:35

If their rejection is hard on you, (remember they would still not believe) even if you were able to seek a tunnel in the ground or a ladder to the sky and bring them a miracle. If it were God's will, He could assemble them together to true guidance. So, do not be among those who are swayed by ignorance (about free will given to humans). [God wants His servants to reflect and make free choices. 2:256, 10:98-99, 12:108]

إِنَّمَا يَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَالْمَوْتَىٰ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ 6:36

Only those can accept the truth who hear and listen (with an open mind). As for the dead, God will raise them up, then they will be returned to Him (and He will make all of them understand). [2:260, 10:100. The living dead will only hear when they use their faculties]

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ عَلَىٰ أَن يُنَزِّلَ آيَةً وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 6:37

They say, "If only a miracle could come down to him from his Lord!" Say, "God has the Power to send down a miracle, but most of them do not use their knowledge." [He does not wish to stun the human intellect with supernatural phenomena. He wants people to reflect and use reason. 12:108]

وَمَا مِن دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أُمَمٌ أَمْثَالُكُم مَّا فَرَّطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِن شَيْءٍ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يُحْشَرُونَ 6:38

We are superior animals
Everything is in the Quran

(There are signs in the Universe to behold.) There is not an animal on the earth, nor a flying creature flying on two wings, but they are communities like you. We have omitted nothing in the Book (that was essential to be given through revelation.) Then to their Lord they will be gathered.

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا صُمٌّ وَبُكْمٌ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ مَن يَشَإِ اللَّهُ يُضْلِلْهُ وَمَن يَشَأْ يَجْعَلْهُ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ 6:39

Those who deny Our signs are deaf and dumb, in total darkness. Straying and guidance take place according to the Divine laws. [4:88]

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتَكُمْ إِنْ أَتَاكُمْ عَذَابُ اللَّهِ أَوْ أَتَتْكُمُ السَّاعَةُ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَدْعُونَ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **6:40**

Say, "Can you see yourselves calling upon other than God, if the Divine retribution comes upon you or the Hour? Would you then call upon other than God? (Answer that) if you are truthful."

بَلْ إِيَّاهُ تَدْعُونَ فَيَكْشِفُ مَا تَدْعُونَ إِلَيْهِ إِن شَاءَ وَتَنسَوْنَ مَا تُشْرِكُونَ **6:41**

Nay, you would call on Him alone, and He would remove the distress that caused you to call on Him, if He wills. And you would forget all that you associate with Him.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمَمٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِالْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَضَرَّعُونَ **6:42**

We sent Messengers to nations before you. (They compassionately advised their people that the Supreme law is operative on the earth, as it is in the Universe that is in the heavens and all that is on earth.) When those nations violated Our laws in their societies, they had to face the consequences. They should have become humble and taken corrective action right away.

فَلَوْلَا إِذْ جَاءَهُم بَأْسُنَا تَضَرَّعُوا وَلَٰكِن قَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **6:43**

But, instead of being humble when Our requital touched them, their selfish desires led their minds into rationalizing their actions. This is because their hearts had been hardened with arrogance and repeated rejection of the truth. [2:74, 5:13]

فَلَمَّا نَسُوا مَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ أَبْوَابَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فَرِحُوا بِمَا أُوتُوا أَخَذْنَاهُم بَغْتَةً فَإِذَا هُم مُّبْلِسُونَ **6:44**

When they forgot the reminder given to them, We opened for them the gates of all (good) things until just as they were enjoying Our gifts, suddenly We called them to account. Then, they were plunged in despair. [16:112]

فَقُطِعَ دَابِرُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **6:45**

When nations violated human rights with their unjust systems they were uprooted (6:6, 7:129). God replaced them with people who were not like them (10:14, 11:57). You can understand that all praise in word and action belongs to the Lord of the Worlds. [His Rule is the Rule of law 8:53, 13:11]

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ سَمْعَكُمْ وَأَبْصَارَكُمْ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِكُم مَّنْ إِلَٰهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُم بِهِ انظُرْ كَيْفَ نُصَرِّفُ الْآيَاتِ ثُمَّ هُمْ يَصْدِفُونَ 6:46

(The exploiters of the masses think that they are smarter, and therefore, they deserve to take advantage of people 28:76-82.) Say, "Will you think? If God took away your hearing and your sight and sealed up your hearts, which god other than God could restore them to you? Note how We explain the verses by various facets, and note how they still turn away.

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتَكُمْ إِنْ أَتَاكُمْ عَذَابُ اللَّهِ بَغْتَةً أَوْ جَهْرَةً هَلْ يُهْلَكُ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الظَّالِمُونَ 6:47

Tell them that the punishment according to the Law of Requital, sneaks up or suddenly hits nations that are transgressors (11:104). Would any people perish unless they are oppressors of the masses? [Nations are not annihilated unless they violate human rights. [11:117]

وَمَا نُرْسِلُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ فَمَنْ آمَنَ وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ 6:48

Messengers are warners

We have sent the Messengers only to give good news and to warn. Those who attain belief, mend their ways and work for social equity fulfilling the needs of others, will have nothing to fear nor will they have any regrets.

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَمَسُّهُمُ الْعَذَابُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ 6:49

But those who deny Our revelations, retribution will afflict them, for they keep drifting from the secure path. [Retribution is a logical and built-in consequence of their wrongdoing. [7:147, 91:9-10]

قُل لَّا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِندِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ إِنْ أَتَّبِعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ أَفَلَا تَتَفَكَّرُونَ 6:50

Say, (O Messenger), "I do not claim that I have the Treasures of God, nor do I have the knowledge of the Unseen, nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I follow what is revealed to me. (You blindly follow your ancestors.) Say, "Is the blind of the heart the same as the seer who uses reason? Would you not reflect?"

Only Allah knows the future
Follow Quran

وَأَنذِرْ بِهِ الَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ أَن يُحْشَرُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ لَيْسَ لَهُم مِّن دُونِهِ وَلِيٌّ وَلَا شَفِيعٌ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ 6:51

No intercessor

Give this warning to those who fear that they will be brought to judgment before their Lord. Except for Him, they will have no protector and no intercessor. (Counsel them) so that they may live upright.

وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ مَا عَلَيْكَ مِنْ حِسَابِهِم مِّن شَيْءٍ وَمَا مِنْ حِسَابِكَ عَلَيْهِم مِّن شَيْءٍ فَتَطْرُدَهُمْ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ 6:52

? Time of prayer

Do not send away those who call on their Lord morning and evening, seeking His Countenance (devoting themselves to Him alone). You are, by no means, accountable for them, and they are not accountable for you. (In spite of the demands of the rich and powerful leaders, you shall not turn away the sincere servants of God.) If you send them away, then you will be among the unjust.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ فَتَنَّا بَعْضَهُم بِبَعْضٍ لِّيَقُولُوا أَهَٰؤُلَاءِ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّن بَيْنِنَا أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِالشَّاكِرِينَ 6:53

God is aware of the grateful

Thus did We test some of them by means of others, so that they said, “Is it these that God has favored from among us?” But, does not God know best those who are appreciative?

وَإِذَا جَاءَكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِنَا فَقُلْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ أَنَّهُ مَنْ عَمِلَ مِنكُمْ سُوءًا بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِن بَعْدِهِ وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَنَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 6:54

God is merciful

When those who believe in Our revelations come to you, say, Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you! = Salutes to you!) Your Lord has decreed mercy upon Himself. Thus anyone among you who commits a bad deed out of ignorance, and then repents and makes amends should know that He is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ وَلِتَسْتَبِينَ سَبِيلُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ 6:55

We explain Our laws to distinguish (between minor, unintended violations and) the way of the criminals who steal the fruit of others’ labor.

قُلْ إِنِّي نُهِيتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ قُل لَّا أَتَّبِعُ أَهْوَاءَكُمْ قَدْ ضَلَلْتُ إِذًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ 6:56

Serve God Only, not others

Say, "I am forbidden to worship and obey whom you call upon other than God." Say, "I will not follow your vain desires. Otherwise, I will go astray and I will not be of the rightly guided."

قُلْ إِنِّي عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَكَذَّبْتُم بِهِ مَا عِندِي مَا تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ بِهِ إِنِ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ يَقُصُّ الْحَقَّ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الْفَاصِلِينَ 6:57

Say, "I have a manifest proof from my Lord that you deny. I do not control the retribution you challenge me to bring. Judgment belongs to none but God. And no one has the Ultimate Rule. He declares the truth and He is the Best of deciders."

قُل لَّوْ أَنَّ عِندِي مَا تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ بِهِ لَقُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِالظَّالِمِينَ 6:58

Say, "If the ultimate decision you are hastening for was up to me, the case would have been already decided. God is best Aware of the wrongdoers."

وَعِندَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِن وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا يَابِسٍ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ 6:59

God knows the Unseen
Do prophets know the Unseen

With Him are the keys of the Unseen. (None but He knows the subtle processes and their stages where actions culminate into their logical outcome.) He knows everything in the land and in the sea. Not even a leaf falls without His knowledge. Neither is there a grain in the dark depths of the soil, nor anything fresh or withered, that He knows not. But all is written in the Open Book of the Universe around you.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَتَوَفَّاكُم بِاللَّيْلِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا جَرَحْتُم بِالنَّهَارِ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُكُمْ فِيهِ لِيُقْضَىٰ أَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 6:60

He suspends your consciousness during sleep at night, and knows what you do by day, when awake. He resurrects you every morning until your life span is completed.

Death is, likewise, a temporary suspension of consciousness and afterward to Him is your return (39:42). Then, He will inform you of what you really accomplished.

وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ وَيُرْسِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ حَفَظَةً حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ تَوَفَّتْهُ رُسُلُنَا وَهُمْ لَا يُفَرِّطُونَ **6:61**

He is Supreme over His servants. His laws guard your life until the inescapable law of death approaches you. When death comes to one of you, Our couriers receive him without delay.

ثُمَّ رُدُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ مَوْلَاهُمُ الْحَقِّ أَلَا لَهُ الْحُكْمُ وَهُوَ أَسْرَعُ الْحَاسِبِينَ **6:62**

Then they are returned to God, their Rightful Master. His is the command and His is the judgment. And He is the Swiftest of those who take account.

قُلْ مَن يُنَجِّيكُم مِّن ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ تَدْعُونَهُ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً لَّئِنْ أَنجَانَا مِنْ هَٰذِهِ لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ **6:63**

Say, "Who saves you, in the darkness of the land and the sea, when you call upon Him humbly and quietly saying, "If He saves us this time, we will always be thankful?"

قُلِ اللَّهُ يُنَجِّيكُم مِّنْهَا وَمِن كُلِّ كَرْبٍ ثُمَّ أَنتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ **6:64**

Say, "It is God (Whose laws you trust never to change), Who protects you from different afflictions. Even then you attribute partners to Him!"

قُلْ هُوَ الْقَادِرُ عَلَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابًا مِّن فَوْقِكُمْ أَوْ مِن تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِكُمْ أَوْ يَلْبِسَكُمْ شِيَعًا وَيُذِيقَ بَعْضَكُم بَأْسَ بَعْضٍ انظُرْ كَيْفَ نُصَرِّفُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَفْقَهُونَ **6:65**

Say, "He is Able to send punishment upon you from above you or from beneath your feet, or to bewilder you with dissension and make you taste the tyranny of one another. (Violation of His laws can inflict you from the top in the form of tyrannical rule, or from the bottom in the form of popular rebellion. You could then divide into hateful parties, and taste smite of one another.) Note how We use Tasreef, explaining Our verses from various vantage points, that men and women may understand. [27:82]

وَكَذَّبَ بِهِ قَوْمُكَ وَهُوَ الْحَقُّ قُل لَّسْتُ عَلَيْكُم بِوَكِيلٍ **6:66**

Even then, (O Messenger) your people deny the truth. Tell them, "I have not been appointed a guardian over you."

لِّكُلِّ نَبَإٍ مُّسْتَقَرٌّ وَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ 6:67

Future will come to be known with time

Every tiding given in the Qur'an shall come to pass and you (mankind) will find out.

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ يَخُوضُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَخُوضُوا فِي حَدِيثٍ غَيْرِهِ وَإِمَّا يُنسِيَنَّكَ الشَّيْطَانُ فَلَا تَقْعُدْ بَعْدَ الذِّكْرَىٰ مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ 6:68

Turn away from those who mock your religion

When you see them engaged in vain discourse about Our verses, turn away from them unless they engage in a different subject. If Satan ever makes you forget (your mind gets engrossed in their discourse,) then as soon as you recollect, no longer sit in the company of the people who confound the truth with falsehood. [Zaalimeen = Those who relegate the truth from its rightful place = Those who choose to do wrong = In this verse, trying to displace or confound the truth with falsehood]

وَمَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ مِنْ حِسَابِهِم مِّن شَيْءٍ وَلَٰكِن ذِكْرَىٰ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ 6:69

Those who live upright bear no responsibility for them, except to remind them, that they may protect themselves against personal detriment. [See Taqwa, 2:41]

وَذَرِ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَهُمْ لَعِبًا وَلَهْوًا وَغَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَذَكِّرْ بِهِ أَن تُبْسَلَ نَفْسٌ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ لَيْسَ لَهَا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيٌّ وَلَا شَفِيعٌ وَإِن تَعْدِلْ كُلَّ عَدْلٍ لَّا يُؤْخَذْ مِنْهَا أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ أُبْسِلُوا بِمَا كَسَبُوا لَهُمْ شَرَابٌ مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ وَعَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ 6:70

Pray for your errors
No intercession

Leave to themselves those who take their religion as nothing but pastime, amusement, games of ritual, and social partying; their life revolving around quick gains of the worldly life. But follow up with reminders with the Qur'an on appropriate occasions. Remind people lest a 'self' be ruined for its own actions. No 'self' has a protecting friend, master or intercessor against the law of God even if it offered any conceivable ransom. Such is the end of those who land themselves into ruin with their own actions. For them is a draught of burning despair and a painful doom. They had kept denying the truth.

قُلْ أَنَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنفَعُنَا وَلَا يَضُرُّنَا وَنُرَدُّ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ كَالَّذِي اسْتَهْوَتْهُ الشَّيَاطِينُ فِي 6:71

Guidance comes from God

الْأَرْضِ حَيْرَانَ لَهُ أَصْحَابٌ يَدْعُونَهُ إِلَى الْهُدَى ائْتِنَا قُلْ
إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَىٰ وَأُمِرْنَا لِنُسْلِمَ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say, "Should we call unto those who can neither benefit nor harm us, and turn back on our heels after God has guided us right? In that situation we would be like one whom satans (his satanic comrades) have enticed and he is wandering bewildered on earth. His companions invite him to show him the way, but in vain. Say, "The Guidance of God is the true guidance, and we are commanded to submit to the Lord of the Worlds."

Salat

وَأَنْ أَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَهُوَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **6:72**

"And to establish the Divine System and live upright. He is the One to Whom you will be summoned."

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَيَوْمَ يَقُولُ كُن **6:73**
فَيَكُونُ قَوْلُهُ الْحَقُّ وَلَهُ الْمُلْكُ يَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ عَالِمُ
الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ

And He is the One Who has created the heavens and earth with a definite purpose. Whenever He says "Be!" it is. His Word is the truth. And His will be the Dominion on the Day the Trumpet (of Resurrection) is blown. Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, for, He is the Wise, the Aware. [3:191, 38:27]

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ آزَرَ أَتَتَّخِذُ أَصْنَامًا آلِهَةً إِنِّي أَرَاكَ **6:74**
وَقَوْمَكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

Remember when Abraham said to his father Azar (Terah), "How could you worship idols as gods? I see you and your people are in obvious error." [Azar is called Terah in the Bible and Zarah in Talmud]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُرِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلِيَكُونَ **6:75**
مِنَ الْمُوقِنِينَ

Allah guided Abraham

And to this end, We gave Abraham insight into the Mighty Dominion of the Universe so that he might attain firm conviction.

فَلَمَّا جَنَّ عَلَيْهِ اللَّيْلُ رَأَىٰ كَوْكَبًا قَالَ هَٰذَا رَبِّي فَلَمَّا أَفَلَ قَالَ **6:76**
لَا أُحِبُّ الْآفِلِينَ

(Some of his people were idolaters and others were nature-worshipers.) One night when it grew dark upon him he saw a planet (Venus). He said, “This is my Lord.” But when it set, he said, “I do not love things that fade away.”

فَلَمَّا رَأَى الْقَمَرَ بَازِغًا قَالَ هَٰذَا رَبِّي فَلَمَّا أَفَلَ قَالَ لَئِن لَّمْ يَهْدِنِي رَبِّي لَأَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الضَّالِّينَ 6:77

(Another night) when he saw the moon rising in splendor, he said, “This is my Lord.“ But when it set, he said, “Unless my Lord guides me, I will be of those who go astray.”

فَلَمَّا رَأَى الشَّمْسَ بَازِغَةً قَالَ هَٰذَا رَبِّي هَٰذَا أَكْبَرُ فَلَمَّا أَفَلَتْ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ 6:78

(In the morning) when he saw the sun rising in splendor, he said, “This is my Lord. This is greater!” But when it set, he said, “O My people! I am free from all your idolatry.” [Of course, Abraham knew that the celestial bodies were not gods. He is only preaching to his people by example]

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ 6:79

“I have focused firmly on Him Who initiated the heavens and earth. As an upright man turning away from all that is false, I will never be an idolater.”

وَحَاجَّهُ قَوْمُهُ قَالَ أَتُحَاجُّونِّي فِي اللَّهِ وَقَدْ هَدَانِ وَلَا أَخَافُ مَا تُشْرِكُونَ بِهِ إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ رَبِّي شَيْئًا وَسِعَ رَبِّي كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا أَفَلَا تَتَذَكَّرُونَ 6:80

Abraham is faithful

His people argued with him, but Abraham said, “Do you dispute with me about God when He has guided me? I do not fear those you associate with Him. Nothing can happen to me contrary to the laws of God. My Lord encompasses all things in His knowledge. Will you not then, reflect and use your intellect?” [Abraham taught his people to reflect and be rational]

وَكَيْفَ أَخَافُ مَا أَشْرَكْتُمْ وَلَا تَخَافُونَ أَنَّكُمْ أَشْرَكْتُم بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ عَلَيْكُمْ سُلْطَانًا فَأَيُّ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ أَحَقُّ بِالْأَمْنِ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ 6:81

He said, “Why should I fear what you set up beside Him, when you do not fear to set up besides God, deities for which He has sent no authority and are utterly powerless.

Think, which of the two sides among us deserves peace and security? Answer me if you have the answer." [3:150-151, 29:41, 33:39]

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُم بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُم مُّهْتَدُونَ 6:82

Acknowledge

Those who attain belief and do not confound their belief with falsehood, for them is inner peace and security. They are rightly guided. [Zulm = Wrong, in this verse, conveys falsehood and Shirk]

وَتِلْكَ حُجَّتُنَا آتَيْنَاهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ نَرْفَعُ دَرَجَاتٍ مَّن نَّشَاءُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ 6:83

This is the logic (examples of the star, the moon and the sun) that We taught Abraham against his people. We exalt people in ranks when they follow Our laws. Your Lord is Wise, All Knower.

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ كُلًّا هَدَيْنَا وَنُوحًا هَدَيْنَا مِن قَبْلُ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِهِ دَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُوسُفَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ 6:84

We gave him Isaac the son, and Jacob the grandson, and We guided them. Before Abraham, We guided Noah and from his descendants, We guided David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses, and Aaron. We thus reward the benefactors of humanity.

وَزَكَرِيَّا وَيَحْيَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَإِلْيَاسَ كُلٌّ مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ 6:85

Prophets were guided by God

And Zacharias, John the Baptist, Jesus and Elijah (Elias); all in the ranks of the righteous who fulfilled the needs of mankind.

وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَالْيَسَعَ وَيُونُسَ وَلُوطًا وَكُلًّا فَضَّلْنَا عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ 6:86

And Ishmael, Elisha (Al-Yasa'), Jonah (Yunus), and Lot (Lut). To all of them We gave distinction over people of their times.

وَمِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَإِخْوَانِهِمْ وَاجْتَبَيْنَاهُمْ وَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ 6:87

And We gave distinction to some of their ancestors, children and siblings and guided them to the straight path. [This verse also negates the myth of Virgin Birth, as Jesus is included among Prophets whose fathers were blessed. [Aaba = Fathers = Forefathers = Ancestors]

? Virgin Birth
Jesus had ancestors

ذَٰلِكَ هُدَى اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَلَوْ أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ 6:88

This is the Guidance of God. He guides His servants according to His laws (4:88). If they had associated others with God, their actions would have been vain.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ فَإِن يَكْفُرْ بِهَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ فَقَدْ وَكَّلْنَا بِهَا قَوْمًا لَّيْسُوا بِهَا بِكَافِرِينَ 6:89

Follow Quran and guidance not Sunna

They were the ones to whom We gave the scripture, Sound Judgment and Prophethood. Now, if these people reject these truths, We have entrusted these truths to people who will not refuse to acknowledge them.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهُدَاهُمُ اقْتَدِهْ قُل لَّا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرَىٰ لِلْعَالَمِينَ 6:90

Those were the ones guided by God, so follow their guidance. Say, (O Messenger), "I ask of you no wage for this. This (guidance in the Qur'an) is but a reminder to all nations."

وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ إِذْ قَالُوا مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ بَشَرٍ مِّن شَيْءٍ قُلْ مَنْ أَنزَلَ الْكِتَابَ الَّذِي جَاءَ بِهِ مُوسَىٰ نُورًا وَهُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ تَجْعَلُونَهُ قَرَاطِيسَ تُبْدُونَهَا وَتُخْفُونَ كَثِيرًا وَعُلِّمْتُم مَّا لَمْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنتُمْ وَلَا آبَاؤُكُمْ قُلِ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ ذَرْهُمْ فِي خَوْضِهِمْ يَلْعَبُونَ 6:91

Book is guidance

People do not value God as He must be valued when they say, "God has not revealed His message to any human being." Ask them, "Who then revealed the scripture which Moses brought, a light and guidance for people? Although you put it down on parchment which you show, but you conceal a lot. You were taught what neither you, nor your ancestors knew before." Say, "God (revealed it)." Then leave them to enjoy their vain talk.

وَهَٰذَا كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ مُّصَدِّقُ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَلِتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَىٰ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ 6:92

This book authenticates
what was sent before

And this Qur'an is the Blessed Book that We have sent down, confirming the (truth in) what was revealed before it, that you (O Prophet) may warn the Central Town, Makkah, and places around it. (From this Center, the message will fan out 6:90, 12:104, 2:101.) Those who believe in (the Law of Recompense and) the Hereafter, accept this Book as a comprehensive Guide. And they ensure that following the Divine Commands is facilitated in the society. [Wa hum 'ala salaatihim yuhaafizoon = They guard their prime commitment = They protect the Divine System that they have established. The common translation, "They guard their prayers," makes no sense here]

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ قَالَ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ وَلَمْ يُوحَ إِلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ وَمَن قَالَ سَأُنزِلُ مِثْلَ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُو أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرِجُوا أَنفُسَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ **6:93**

Who can be a greater wrongdoer than the one who fabricates a lie and attributes it to God, or claims receiving revelation while he has received none? Or someone who says, "I, too, can write the same as what God has revealed." If only you could see such transgressors at the time of death! The angels extend their power to them saying, "Bring out your egos. This day you will be awarded a punishment of disgrace for speaking lies concerning God, and for being too arrogant to accept His revelations." [Angels = God's forces in nature. Yadd = Hand = Powers = Abilities. 5:38]

وَلَقَدْ جِئْتُمُونَا فُرَادَىٰ كَمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَتَرَكْتُم مَّا خَوَّلْنَاكُمْ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِكُمْ وَمَا نَرَىٰ مَعَكُمْ شُفَعَاءَكُمُ الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ أَنَّهُمْ فِيكُمْ شُرَكَاءُ لَقَد تَّقَطَّعَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَضَلَّ عَنكُم مَّا كُنتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ **6:94**

Born and die alone
No intercession

Now you have come to Us, alone just as We created you individuals, the first time. You have left behind all your possessions. We do not see with you the intercessors you idolized. Now all ties among you have been cut off and your assumptions have failed you.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ فَالِقُ الْحَبِّ وَالنَّوَىٰ يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَمُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتِ مِنَ الْحَيِّ ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّىٰ تُؤْفَكُونَ **6:95**

God is the One Who causes the grains and the seeds to split and germinate. He produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living. Such is God. Where are you headed in bewilderment? [Similar are the laws that apply to individuals and nations. They must develop their inherent potentials in order to prosper]

فَالِقُ الْإِصْبَاحِ وَجَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ سَكَنًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ حُسْبَانًا ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ **6:96**

He is the Cleaver of the daybreak. He has appointed the night for stillness, (rest and tranquility) and the sun and the moon to run their well-calculated courses. They become means of calculating time for you (10:5). Such is the Design of the All-Powerful, the Knower.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ النُّجُومَ لِتَهْتَدُوا بِهَا فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **6:97**

He is the One Who has made the stars to guide you through the darkness of the land and the sea. (And they never fail to guide you 21:33, 36:40.) We have scattered Our signs throughout the Universe for people who use their knowledge.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنشَأَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ فَمُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمُسْتَوْدَعٌ قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَفْقَهُونَ **6:98**

And He is the One Who initiated you from a single life cell. Then in the process of evolution He appointed stages, from one station to the next destination. (Thus goes on the journey of life here and in the Hereafter.) Thus We explain Our messages for people who use their insight. [11:6]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ نَبَاتَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَأَخْرَجْنَا مِنْهُ خَضِرًا نُّخْرِجُ مِنْهُ حَبًّا مُّتَرَاكِبًا وَمِنَ النَّخْلِ مِن طَلْعِهَا قِنْوَانٌ دَانِيَةٌ وَجَنَّاتٍ مِّنْ أَعْنَابٍ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالرُّمَّانَ مُشْتَبِهًا وَغَيْرَ مُتَشَابِهٍ انظُرُوا إِلَىٰ ثَمَرِهِ إِذَا أَثْمَرَ وَيَنْعِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكُمْ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **6:99**

(He took care of your provision even before you were created.) He is the One Who sends down water from the heights. With it We produce vegetation of all kind; green multitudes, complex grains, palm trees, from their pollens spring pendant clusters, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranate; fruits that are similar and diverse. Look upon the fruit thereof and look upon its ripening. These are signs for those who reach conviction through reason.

وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ شُرَكَاءَ الْجِنَّ وَخَلَقَهُمْ وَخَرَقُوا لَهُ بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **6:100**

Yet, there are those who believe in the existence of invisible beings with Divine powers although He is the One Who created them. They even assign to Him sons and daughters, without any knowledge. Be He Glorified! He is Exalted far above all that they attribute to Him. [Jinn = Nomads = The mythical invisible creatures with occult powers. For details, see introduction to Surah 72, Al-Jinn]

بَدِيعُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لَهُ وَلَدٌ وَلَمْ تَكُن لَّهُ صَاحِبَةٌ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **6:101**

Wonderful Originator of the heavens and earth; how can He have a son when He never chose for Himself a mate? He creates all things (and does not procreate 112:3.) and He is the Profound Knower of all things and events. [So, how could Mary have a son without a mate? God never changes His laws operative in the universe. Amazingly, three of the four gospels mention Joseph the Carpenter as the father of Jesus]

ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَاعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ **6:102**

Such is God, your Sustainer. There is no god but He. No one is worthy of worship and obedience but He, the Creator of all things. So, obey Him! He is the Guardian of all and takes care of every thing.

لَّا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ **6:103**

God reaches all

No vision can grasp Him while He grasps all vision. He is Unfathomable, Aware.

قَدْ جَاءَكُم بَصَائِرُ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ فَمَنْ أَبْصَرَ فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ عَمِيَ فَعَلَيْهَا وَمَا أَنَا عَلَيْكُم بِحَفِيظٍ **6:104**

(You are not expected to know His Essence.) Say (O Prophet), "The manifest Enlightenment has come to you from your Lord. Whoever sees the truth, does so for his own good. And whoever turns blind, hurts himself. I am not your keeper or guardian."

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُصَرِّفُ الْآيَاتِ وَلِيَقُولُوا دَرَسْتَ وَلِنُبَيِّنَهُ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **6:105**

Thus We give many facets to Our verses so that they may admit that you (O Prophet) have taken all this to heart in the most excellent manner. And (through this method of Tasreef) We make it clear to people who use what they learn.

اتَّبِعْ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **6:106**

Follow one God
Inspiration

Follow what is revealed to you from your Lord. There is no god but He. And disregard those who associate others with Him. [21:20-22, 29:61-63]

وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَشْرَكُوا وَمَا جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْهِم بِوَكِيلٍ **6:107**

We could have created all people without free will and they would then not associate any partners with Him. (But guidance has been distinguished from straying 2:256.) And We have not appointed you as their guardian, nor are you responsible for them.

وَلَا تَسُبُّوا الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَيَسُبُّوا اللَّهَ عَدْوًا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ كَذَٰلِكَ زَيَّنَّا لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ عَمَلَهُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِم مَّرْجِعُهُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **6:108**

Don't insult those
who believe differently

(O Believers) Do not insult the idols they set up besides God. They might insult God in their ignorance and hurt themselves. To every community We have made their deeds seem fair. Then to their Lord is their return and He will explain to them exactly what they used to do.

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِن جَاءَتْهُمْ آيَةٌ لَّيُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهَا قُلْ إِنَّمَا الْآيَاتُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَمَا يُشْعِرُكُمْ أَنَّهَا إِذَا جَاءَتْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **6:109**

They swear by God that if a miracle comes to them, they would believe in it (the Book). Say, "All miracles are with God (if you reflect on the Universe). What can make you understand that even if a physical miracle came to them, they would find other excuses and still not believe?

وَنُقَلِّبُ أَفْئِدَتَهُمْ وَأَبْصَارَهُمْ كَمَا لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَنَذَرُهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **6:110**

Our law keeps their hearts and their eyes turned away from the truth. Since they have preemptively rejected it (the Qur'an), We let them wander blindly in their rebellious attitude.

وَلَوْ أَنَّنَا نَزَّلْنَا إِلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَكَلَّمَهُمُ الْمَوْتَىٰ وَحَشَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قُبُلًا مَّا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَجْهَلُونَ 6:111

Even if We caused the angels to descend to them, and the dead to speak to them, and lined up all the miracles before them, they would not believe. People can be guided only according to God's laws, but most of them choose the way of ignorance.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيَاطِينَ الْإِنسِ وَالْجِنِّ يُوحِي بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ زُخْرُفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ مَا فَعَلُوهُ فَذَرْهُمْ وَمَا يَفْتَرُونَ 6:112

* Hadith

Remember, We have appointed to every Prophet enemies. The rebellious among the urban and the rural populations rose in opposition, (since the message struck at their personal interests.) They plotted and inspired each other with fancy words. If your Lord willed, they would not do that. Disregard them and whatever they fabricate.

وَلِتَصْغَىٰ إِلَيْهِ أَفْئِدَةُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَلِيَرْضَوْهُ وَلِيَقْتَرِفُوا مَا هُم مُّقْتَرِفُونَ 6:113

Those who love quick gains and neglect the long-term benefits and the Hereafter, are parties to such fabrications. Let them delight in it and let them earn from it what they may.

أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْتَغِي حَكَمًا وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكِتَابَ مُفَصَّلًا وَالَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ مُنَزَّلٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ 6:114

God only judge
Quran is detailed
Don't doubt

Say, "Shall I seek for Judge and Ruler someone other than God? He is the One Who has revealed this Book, well expounded in detail for you." Those whom We have given the Book know that this is revealed in truth from your Lord. Be not among those who argue for the sake of argument.

وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا لَّا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 6:115

The word of your Lord is complete

Perfected is the Word of your Lord in truth and Justice. None can change His Words and His laws. And He is the Profound Hearer, the Knower. [6:34, 6:115, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85, 48:23]

وَإِن تُطِعْ أَكْثَرَ مَن فِي الْأَرْضِ يُضِلُّوكَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِن **6:116**

Followers of conjecture
Majority will lead you astray

يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ

(People will confront you with what the majority is doing.) Now if you pay heed to, or get intimidated by majority of those who live on earth, they will lead you astray from God's way. Most of the people follow nothing but conjecture and they only live by guesswork.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ مَن يَضِلُّ عَن سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ **6:117**

Only your Lord (shows the right path and) knows best those who stray and those who are rightly guided.

فَكُلُوا مِمَّا ذُكِرَ اسْمُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ إِن كُنتُم بِآيَاتِهِ مُؤْمِنِينَ **6:118**

So eat of what has been dedicated to the Name of God (remember to pronounce His name before eating anything), if you are believers in His revelations. [People wonder why different things have been made lawful or unlawful in the Qur'an. But what the majority thinks, shall never be the criterion 3:93]

وَمَا لَكُمْ أَلَّا تَأْكُلُوا مِمَّا ذُكِرَ اسْمُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ وَقَدْ فَصَّلَ لَكُم **6:119**
مَّا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِلَّا مَا اضْطُرِرْتُمْ إِلَيْهِ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا لَّيُضِلُّونَ
بِأَهْوَائِهِم بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُعْتَدِينَ

Halal

Why would you refuse to eat on which God's Name has been pronounced (i.e. it has been dedicated to Him alone)? He has explained to you in detail what is forbidden along with certain exception, when in dire need. Numerous of the clergy mislead people in this matter without knowledge, and with their personal opinions. Surely, your Lord, He is best Aware of those who transgress and go beyond limits. [5:3]

وَذَرُوا ظَاهِرَ الْإِثْمِ وَبَاطِنَهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْسِبُونَ الْإِثْمَ سَيُجْزَوْنَ **6:120**
بِمَا كَانُوا يَقْتَرِفُونَ

Do not commit, openly or secretly, any deed that hurts the development of your 'self'. Those who hurt their own 'self' will get due recompense for what they have earned. [Benefiting people is the way to self-actualization and hurting others harms one's own 'self'. The latter will live a subhuman existence and meet a befitting consequence. 13:17]

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا مِمَّا لَمْ يُذْكَرِ اسْمُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ وَإِنَّهُ لَفِسْقٌ وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَائِهِمْ لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ وَإِنْ أَطَعْتُمُوهُمْ إِنَّكُمْ لَمُشْرِكُونَ **6:121**

***

Do not eat anything (not just meat) on which God's name has not been mentioned, for that will be drifting away from what is right. Satanic people inspire their friends to dispute with you. If you were to obey them, you would be idolaters. [2:173, 5:3, 6:145. Fisq = Drifting away = Disobedience. Mentioning the name of God draws our attention to Him as the Almighty Provider and Sustainer. Mushrikoon = Idolaters = Pagans = Those who ascribe divinity besides God = Those who prefer human 'authorities' or clergy over revelation = Who 'worship' their own desires]

أَوَمَن كَانَ مَيْتًا فَأَحْيَيْنَاهُ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُ نُورًا يَمْشِي بِهِ فِي النَّاسِ كَمَن مَّثَلُهُ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ لَيْسَ بِخَارِجٍ مِّنْهَا كَذَٰلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **6:122**

(God's light revives the living dead and makes them walk honorably among mankind.) Is one who was living dead and We gave him life, and a light whereby he sees his way (honorably) among people, - Is he like one who is lost in total darkness out of which he cannot emerge? Thus it is: Goodly seems their own deeds to the deniers. [When people have their belief systems jumbled up, they lose the power to distinguish between the right and wrong]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ أَكَابِرَ مُجْرِمِيهَا لِيَمْكُرُوا فِيهَا وَمَا يَمْكُرُونَ إِلَّا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ **6:123**

This is how We allow the greatest ones in every community to become its greatest criminals, to weave their schemes. Yet it is only against themselves that they scheme without even knowing it.

وَإِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ آيَةٌ قَالُوا لَن نُّؤْمِنَ حَتَّىٰ نُؤْتَىٰ مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ رُسُلُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ سَيُصِيبُ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا صَغَارٌ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَعَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَمْكُرُونَ **6:124**

When a revelation reaches them, they say, "We will not believe until we directly receive (a revelation) like those received by God's Messengers." But, God knows best with whom to place His message. Such guilty will suffer humiliation before God, and a strict retribution for their evil scheming.

Following ancestors

فَمَن يُرِدِ اللَّهُ أَن يَهْدِيَهُ يَشْرَحْ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ وَمَن يُرِدْ أَن يُضِلَّهُ يَجْعَلْ صَدْرَهُ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي السَّمَاءِ كَذَٰلِكَ يَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ الرِّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 6:125

God guides whom He pleases

Whoever follows God's law of guidance, He expands his chest wide open to Submission. And whoever violates God's law of guidance, feels his chest tight and narrowed as if he were climbing to the sky. God appoints disgrace for those who continue to reject the truth.

وَهَٰذَا صِرَاطُ رَبِّكَ مُسْتَقِيمًا قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَذَّكَّرُونَ 6:126

Straight path

And this (Qur'an) is the path of your Lord, a straight path. We have detailed Our revelations for those who pay attention and take them to heart!

لَهُمْ دَارُ السَّلَامِ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ 6:127

For them is the wonderful Abode of Peace with their Sustainer. He will be their Protecting Friend because of what they used to do.

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ قَدِ اسْتَكْثَرْتُم مِّنَ الْإِنسِ وَقَالَ أَوْلِيَاؤُهُم مِّنَ الْإِنسِ رَبَّنَا اسْتَمْتَعَ بَعْضُنَا بِبَعْضٍ وَبَلَغْنَا أَجَلَنَا الَّذِي أَجَّلْتَ لَنَا قَالَ النَّارُ مَثْوَاكُمْ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ 6:128

The day will come when He gathers all of them and says, "O You nomads! You have seduced many of the urban." Their urbanite friends will say, "Our Lord! We enjoyed each other's company (and both used each other opportunistically as happens in a chaotic society) until we wasted a life span You had given us." He will say, "Fire is your home. Abide therein forever according to God's Design." (O Messenger) your Lord is Wise, Knower. [He has designed His laws in all wisdom and knowledge. God's Design = The Hell might have an end]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُوَلِّي بَعْضَ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضًا بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ 6:129

Thus We make the wrongdoers turn to, and befriend, each other because of what they earn. [The criminals of the same kind tend to hang around together]

يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا شَهِدْنَا 6:130

عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِنَا وَغَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَشَهِدُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ
أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ

God is forgiving for those who are unaware

O You, assembly of the nomads and the urbanites! Did not Messengers come to you from among yourselves, conveyed to you My messages and warned you of the meeting of this your Day? They will say, "We testify against ourselves." Pursuit of only the worldly life preoccupied their hearts and minds. They will bear witness against themselves that they disregarded the truth.

ذَٰلِكَ أَن لَّمْ يَكُن رَّبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلُهَا غَافِلُونَ **6:131**

And so it is that your Lord never destroys communities while their people are unaware of their wrongdoings.

وَلِكُلٍّ دَرَجَاتٌ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ **6:132**

The ranks of all individuals and nations are determined solely by their deeds, and your Lord is not unaware of what they do. [Calling yourselves 'believers' will not help. 2:8]

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ إِن يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفْ مِن **6:133**
بَعْدِكُم مَّا يَشَاءُ كَمَا أَنشَأَكُم مِّن ذُرِّيَّةِ قَوْمٍ آخَرِينَ

Your Lord is Absolutely Independent, Full of mercy. If it were His will, He could destroy you and replace you with whomever He wills, just as He produced you from the posterity of other creation. [Please see 'evolution' 22:5]

إِنَّ مَا تُوعَدُونَ لَآتٍ وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ **6:134**

That which you are promised will definitely come to pass, and you can never evade the Divine laws.

قُلْ يَا قَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنِّي عَامِلٌ فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **6:135**
مَن تَكُونُ لَهُ عَاقِبَةُ الدَّارِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ

Say, "O My people! Do your utmost and so will I. Soon, you will know to whom belongs the ultimate (success). Most certainly, the unjust will not prosper." ['Uqba = End = The final outcome = The ultimate destination = Life Hereafter. The last is probably not applicable here because of the context]

وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ مِمَّا ذَرَأَ مِنَ الْحَرْثِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ نَصِيبًا فَقَالُوا هَٰذَا **6:136**
لِلَّهِ بِزَعْمِهِمْ وَهَٰذَا لِشُرَكَائِنَا فَمَا كَانَ لِشُرَكَائِهِمْ فَلَا

يَصِلُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ فَهُوَ يَصِلُ إِلَىٰ شُرَكَائِهِمْ سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ

(How can they succeed when their beliefs and actions are wrong?) They set aside a portion of God's provision of crops and cattle and claim, "This is for God, and this is for our idols." But the share of their idols never reaches God, and the share of God does reach their idols. What an unjust decision they make! [Their priesthood devours both portions of their making, and the poor remain wanting. To God reaches what is spent on the needy. 6:141]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ زَيَّنَ لِكَثِيرٍ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ قَتْلَ أَوْلَادِهِمْ شُرَكَاؤُهُمْ لِيُرْدُوهُمْ وَلِيَلْبِسُوا عَلَيْهِمْ دِينَهُمْ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا فَعَلُوهُ فَذَرْهُمْ وَمَا يَفْتَرُونَ **6:137**

Their belief in idols makes pleasing even the slaying of their children to many idolaters. Such dogmas confuse them to total ruin. If God so willed (they would have followed Divine guidance and) they would not be doing all this. Leave them alone with their false imagery (until the Divine Revelation reaches their heart).[At the prompting of the clergy, mystics and monks, and in the name of their temples, idols, sanctuaries, and the dead "holy" men and women, the idolaters inflict great pain upon themselves and their families in the name of religion and to achieve 'salvation']

وَقَالُوا هَٰذِهِ أَنْعَامٌ وَحَرْثٌ حِجْرٌ لَّا يَطْعَمُهَا إِلَّا مَن نَّشَاءُ بِزَعْمِهِمْ وَأَنْعَامٌ حُرِّمَتْ ظُهُورُهَا وَأَنْعَامٌ لَّا يَذْكُرُونَ اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا افْتِرَاءً عَلَيْهِ سَيَجْزِيهِم بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **6:138**

And they say, "Such and such cattle and fruits of the field are sacred. No one shall eat of them except whom we permit." They also arbitrarily prohibit the riding of some animals. And there are cattle over which they do not pronounce the Name of God (but of someone else, to please people). Such are their fabrications in His Name. Soon He will reward them for their false imagery. [They claim that it has been dedicated to some saint. Are not such VIP favors very much alive in the modern day Jahilyah?]

وَقَالُوا مَا فِي بُطُونِ هَٰذِهِ الْأَنْعَامِ خَالِصَةٌ لِّذُكُورِنَا وَمُحَرَّمٌ عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَإِن يَكُن مَّيْتَةً فَهُمْ فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ سَيَجْزِيهِمْ وَصْفَهُمْ إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ **6:139**

(They display their bias toward women in weird ways.) They say, "What is in the bellies of these cattle is reserved for the males among us, and forbidden to our wives."

But if it is a stillbirth, they permit their wives to share it. He, the Wise, the Knower, will repay them for their innovations.

قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ قَتَلُوا أَوْلَادَهُمْ سَفَهًا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَحَرَّمُوا مَا رَزَقَهُمُ اللَّهُ افْتِرَاءً عَلَى اللَّهِ قَدْ ضَلُّوا وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ **6:140**

Lost are those who kill their children foolishly, and forbid what God has provided them as sustenance. And they attribute their innovations to God! Their straying is far from the way of the rightly guided. [They deprive their children to the point of starvation and death in the name of religious service, when under the instructions of the priesthood they abandon their families]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنشَأَ جَنَّاتٍ مَّعْرُوشَاتٍ وَغَيْرَ مَعْرُوشَاتٍ وَالنَّخْلَ وَالزَّرْعَ مُخْتَلِفًا أُكُلُهُ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالرُّمَّانَ مُتَشَابِهًا وَغَيْرَ مُتَشَابِهٍ كُلُوا مِن ثَمَرِهِ إِذَا أَثْمَرَ وَآتُوا حَقَّهُ يَوْمَ حَصَادِهِ وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ **6:141**

Zakat to be paid after harvest

He is the One Who creates bounties for you, such as gardens that are cultivated, greens that are wild, palm trees of various kinds, crops in diversity, olives and pomegranates, fruits that are similar and diverse. Enjoy them, but give Him His Right on the Day of the Harvest. And waste not the bounty of God. He does not love the wasteful. ['give Him His Right' = Give God His Right = Render to the poor what is their Divinely ordained right. Time to reflect on Zakaat and Sadaqaat: See 2:3, 2:219, 9:60, 11:64, 55:10]

وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ حَمُولَةً وَفَرْشًا كُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **6:142**

Among the quadrupeds some are for work and transportation and others for consumption, and their skins for bedding materials. Enjoy what God has provided you. And do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Satan (your selfish desires) is your open enemy.

ثَمَانِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ مِّنَ الضَّأْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَمِنَ الْمَعْزِ اثْنَيْنِ قُلْ آلذَّكَرَيْنِ حَرَّمَ أَمِ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْحَامُ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ نَبِّئُونِي بِعِلْمٍ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **6:143**

Take the example of eight quadrupeds: Two sheep, one male and one female, two goats, one male and one female. Say, "Is it the two males that He has forbidden, or the two females, or the calves in the wombs of the females? Tell me if you have true knowledge.

Clerics are making prohibitions

143-144

وَمِنَ الْإِبِلِ اثْنَيْنِ وَمِنَ الْبَقَرِ اثْنَيْنِ قُلْ آلذَّكَرَيْنِ حَرَّمَ أَمِ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمَّا اشْتَمَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْحَامُ الْأُنثَيَيْنِ أَمْ كُنتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ وَصَّاكُمُ اللَّهُ بِهَٰذَا فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا لِّيُضِلَّ النَّاسَ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **6:144**

Then two camels, one male and one female, two cows, one male and one female. Say, "Is it the two males that He has forbidden, or the two females, or the calves in the wombs of the two females? Were you witnesses when God made such prohibitions? Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who invents a lie and attributes it to God? They mislead people without knowledge. God does not guide those who choose to do wrong."

قُل لَّا أَجِدُ فِي مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ مُحَرَّمًا عَلَىٰ طَاعِمٍ يَطْعَمُهُ إِلَّا أَن يَكُونَ مَيْتَةً أَوْ دَمًا مَّسْفُوحًا أَوْ لَحْمَ خِنزِيرٍ فَإِنَّهُ رِجْسٌ أَوْ فِسْقًا أُهِلَّ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ فَمَنِ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **6:145**

Prohibitions

Say, "I do not find in the revelation given to me, any food that is prohibited for one who wishes to eat, except: Carrion (dead meat), or running blood, or the flesh of swine - for it is a barrier to moral development. Or, anything (not just meat) that, in defiance to commands, has been dedicated to other than God." If one is forced by dire need without being deliberate and without transgressing, your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful. [2:173, 5:3. Rijs = Unclean = Disapproved = Contaminated = Foul = A barrier to moral development. Science still needs to learn how pork can be a barrier to morality. Fisq = Deviation = Abomination = In defiance of Divine Commands = Disobedience of God = Drifting away from reason]

وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا كُلَّ ذِي ظُفُرٍ وَمِنَ الْبَقَرِ وَالْغَنَمِ حَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ شُحُومَهُمَا إِلَّا مَا حَمَلَتْ ظُهُورُهُمَا أَوِ الْحَوَايَا أَوْ مَا اخْتَلَطَ بِعَظْمٍ ذَٰلِكَ جَزَيْنَاهُم بِبَغْيِهِمْ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ **6:146**

Jewish prohibitions

For those who are Jewish, We had prohibited some edibles, such as animals with undivided hoof, the fat of the cow and the sheep, except what is attached to their backs or their intestines, or what is mixed-up in the bone. But that was only a

temporary retribution for their disobedience (4:160). We are absolutely True to Our Word.

فَإِن كَذَّبُوكَ فَقُل رَّبُّكُمْ ذُو رَحْمَةٍ وَاسِعَةٍ وَلَا يُرَدُّ بَأْسُهُ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **6:147**

If they accuse you of falsehood (O Prophet), tell them, "Your Lord is the Lord of Infinite mercy, but His requital will not be averted from the guilty."

سَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا أَشْرَكْنَا وَلَا آبَاؤُنَا وَلَا حَرَّمْنَا مِن شَيْءٍ كَذَٰلِكَ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ ذَاقُوا بَأْسَنَا قُلْ هَلْ عِندَكُم مِّنْ عِلْمٍ فَتُخْرِجُوهُ لَنَا إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا تَخْرُصُونَ **6:148**

Fabricating prohibitions

Those who associate others with God say, "Had God willed, we would not have practiced idolatry, nor would our ancestors, nor would we have prohibited anything." So did their ancestors argue falsely until they tasted Our requital. Say, "Do you have any evidence of knowledge (that the human being is created without free will 18:29, 76:3, 90:10)? If so, produce it before us. Nay, you follow nothing but conjecture and you only run after guess-work."

قُلْ فَلِلَّهِ الْحُجَّةُ الْبَالِغَةُ فَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **6:149**

Say, "The most powerful reasoning, the final evidence, is with God. If He willed, He could have made all of you innately guided" (like rest of the creation that spontaneously follows Divine laws). [16:49, 41:11]

قُلْ هَلُمَّ شُهَدَاءَكُمُ الَّذِينَ يَشْهَدُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ هَٰذَا فَإِن شَهِدُوا فَلَا تَشْهَدْ مَعَهُمْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَهُم بِرَبِّهِمْ يَعْدِلُونَ **6:150**

Say, "Come, bring forward your witnesses who can bear witness that God forbade all this. And if they bear witness falsely, do not bear witness with them. You shall not follow the opinions of those who deny Our revelations, nor of those who do not believe in the life to come, and consider others equal with their Lord. [Nine commandments ... Graven images of the Bible not mentioned]

قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُم مِّنْ إِمْلَاقٍ نَّحْنُ **6:151**

نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا
بَطَنَ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ذَٰلِكُمْ
وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

Gods command

Say, "Come, let me convey to you what your Sustainer has enjoined upon you as a sacred duty: i. Associate none with Him. ii. Honor your parents, treat them kindly and fulfill their needs. iii. Neither kill your children for fear of poverty nor deprive them of proper training and education. We provide for you and for them. (The Divine System will take care of your needs and their needs.) iv. Do not come near immodesty or indecent deeds, whether openly or secretly. v. Do not slay a life - life that God has made sacred - except in the course of justice. This He has commanded you so that you may use your intelligence." [17:31]

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ حَتَّىٰ يَبْلُغَ أَشُدَّهُ **6:152**
وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ لَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا
وُسْعَهَا وَإِذَا قُلْتُمْ فَاعْدِلُوا وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ وَبِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ
أَوْفُوا ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

God commands you further: vi. Do not approach the wealth of the orphan except to improve it until they come of age with full maturity of body and mind. vii. Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings. Uphold justice in all aspects of your life. Our commands are meant to widen your human potential. We do not assign any 'self' responsibility beyond its means. viii. And when you voice an opinion, be just, even if it is against a relative. ix. Fulfill your Covenant with God, the unwavering allegiance to the Divine System. This He commands for you to bear in mind. [1:4-5, 9:111]

وَأَنَّ هَٰذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ **6:153**
بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

Follow Quran, not Hadith

(Say) this is my straight path, (and I, Muhammad, walk this path and so do my companions 12:108). Follow it, then, and follow not other ways that take you away from His path. This He has ordained for you so that you live upright.

ثُمَّ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ تَمَامًا عَلَى الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ وَتَفْصِيلًا **6:154**
لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لَّعَلَّهُم بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ

We had given Moses the scripture complete for him who would do good to others. We gave him the scripture in detail as guidance and a mercy that they might believe in the meeting of their Lord (and in that all actions are duly recompensed.)

Follow Quran

وَهَٰذَا كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ 6:155

And now this Qur'an is the Blessed Book that We have revealed. So follow it and live upright so that you attain mercy (and your human potential is guaranteed development, like the fetus grows in the mother's womb.)

أَن تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أُنزِلَ الْكِتَابُ عَلَىٰ طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِن قَبْلِنَا وَإِن كُنَّا عَن دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَافِلِينَ 6:156

(Now the Qur'an has been given to you) lest you say, "The scripture was sent down to two groups (Jews and Christians) before our time, and we remained unaware of what they originally read." [2:79, 2:101, 3:78, 5:48]

أَوْ تَقُولُوا لَوْ أَنَّا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْكِتَابُ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمْ فَقَدْ جَاءَكُم بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَصَدَفَ عَنْهَا سَنَجْزِي الَّذِينَ يَصْدِفُونَ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْدِفُونَ 6:157

Or lest you say, "If a Divine scripture had come to us, we would have been better guided than they. Now has come to you a clear evidence of truth from your Lord. It is a beacon and mercy. Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who denies the revelations of God and turns away from them in disregard? Our Law of Requital will award those who turn away from Our revelations, an awful suffering for their disregard.

هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَن تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ رَبُّكَ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ بَعْضُ آيَاتِ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِي بَعْضُ آيَاتِ رَبِّكَ لَا يَنفَعُ نَفْسًا إِيمَانُهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ آمَنَتْ مِن قَبْلُ أَوْ كَسَبَتْ فِي إِيمَانِهَا خَيْرًا قُلِ انتَظِرُوا إِنَّا مُنتَظِرُونَ 6:158

Are they waiting for angels, your Lord, or some physical miracles to come to them from your Lord? On the Day one of such signs comes, no person will benefit from declaring belief if he did not believe before. Or who, while believing, did not do good works. (Belief has to be based on Reason and it must lead you to a productive life 12:108, 13:17.) Say, "Keep on waiting (for miracles or the doom), we too are waiting (for the results of our efforts.")

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا لَّسْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ 6:159

Sects

(There is only one straight path.) O Messenger! Those who break the unity of their Deen and become sects, you have nothing to do with them whatsoever. Their case will go to God and He will then tell them what they had accomplished.

مَن جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا وَمَن جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَلَا يُجْزَىٰ إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ 6:160

Blessings increase 10 fold for good deeds

Whoever brings a good deed will receive a tenfold reward. And whoever brings an ill deed will be requited for one. And they will not be wronged.

قُلْ إِنَّنِي هَدَانِي رَبِّي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ دِينًا قِيَمًا مِّلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ 6:161

Straight path

Say, "As for me, my Lord has guided me to a straight path, the perfect Deen (way) of Abraham, the upright, who was no idolater in any sense."

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 6:162

Dedicate everything to Allah, devotion

Say, "All my duties to the Divine System, the ways to discharge them, my living and my dying are for God alone, the Lord of the Worlds.

لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَٰلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ 6:163

He has no partner. This is what I have been commanded and I am the foremost of those who surrender to Him."

قُلْ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْغِي رَبًّا وَهُوَ رَبُّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَلَا تَكْسِبُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ إِلَّا عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُم مَّرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ 6:164

Say, "Shall I seek anyone other than God as a lord when He is the Sustainer of all things? No 'self' benefits but from its own works, and none bears the load of another. Then to your Lord is your return and He will make you understand wherein you differed.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 6:165

He is the One Who has made you the inheritors of the earth after other nations. He determines your ranks, some above others (according to His laws). He tries

you in what He has given you, for your Lord is Swift in grasping. Yet, He is Forgiving, Merciful. [10:14, 13:11. Nations determine their own condition and destiny according to the laws of Rise and Fall of Nations given in the Qur'an]

Chapter 7

Al-A´raaf - The Heights Of Discernment

This is the 7th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 206 verses. People with outstanding faculties of reasoning (Ma´rifah) are stationed at the heights of human dignity and achievement. The term A´raaf appears in this Surah in verses 46 and 48. ´Urf = The most elevated part of anything = Easily discernible. A´raaf = Plural, Heights. Derived meaning of A´raaf = The heights of intellect = Stature of those endowed with faculty of discernment = The high degrees of those who are better able to distinguish between right and wrong. Very commonly, A´raaf is thought of as a waiting room high up in the Heights where some people hope to be admitted into Paradise. Some exponents see it as ´Purgatory´ where humans are washed of their ´sins´. Another view is that A´raaf denotes the high points of a wall between Hell and Paradise. Unfortunately, the orthodox Muslim scholars have had a tendency to apply most of the Qur´anic verses to non-Muslims and to the Hereafter whenever possible. This attitude seems to stem from their erroneous belief that Muslims will easily enter Paradise just because they recite the Kalemah (There is no god but the One True God and Muhammad is His Messenger). A seeking mind can understand that the Qur´an is a Guide explaining how to best live in this world. That is the only way to success in the life Hereafter. Ritualistic utterances carry no weight before God. The people of discernment are a blessing to humanity right here in this world, and, therefore, this Surah applies to this life.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

المص **7:1**

A.L.M.S. Alif-Laam-Meem-Saad. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, Saadiq the True, states that),

كِتَابٌ أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ فَلَا يَكُن فِي صَدْرِكَ حَرَجٌ مِّنْهُ لِتُنذِرَ بِهِ وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **7:2**

This Book has been revealed to you (O Messenger), so you shall harbor no doubt about it in your heart - in order that with it you may warn (the erring). And it is a reminder for the believers. [Sadr = Chest = Breast = Heart. Haraj = Difficulty = Burden = Doubt = Hardship = Loss = Tightness in chest]

اتَّبِعُوا مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ **7:3**

You shall all follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord and follow no masters other than Him. How seldom do you keep this in mind! [Awliya = Protecting friends = Allies = Masters]

وَكَم مِّن قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا فَجَاءَهَا بَأْسُنَا بَيَاتًا أَوْ هُمْ قَائِلُونَ 7:4

(You will find ample documentation in history that when communities ignored Our Permanent Value System they met with destruction.) How many a community We (Our laws) have annihilated! Our requital visited them by night, or while they slept for their afternoon rest.

فَمَا كَانَ دَعْوَاهُمْ إِذْ جَاءَهُم بَأْسُنَا إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ 7:5

They had no plea when Our requital came to them, but they said, "We were unjust, and used to oppress the vulnerable."

فَلَنَسْأَلَنَّ الَّذِينَ أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَنَسْأَلَنَّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 7:6

We will certainly question those to whom Our Messengers were sent, and certainly We will question the Messengers.

فَلَنَقُصَّنَّ عَلَيْهِم بِعِلْمٍ وَمَا كُنَّا غَائِبِينَ 7:7

We shall recount the whole story for them, for We were never absent in Time and Place.

وَالْوَزْنُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ فَمَن ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ 7:8

The scales on that Day will be truly equitable. Those whose constructive deeds are heavy, will prosper.

وَمَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُم بِمَا كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَظْلِمُونَ 7:9

And those whose scales are light, will be the ones who have put their own 'self' in loss. This is because they used to replace Our revelations with manmade dogmas.

وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّاكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعَايِشَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ 7:10

(Take heed before the final scales are set.) We have placed you on earth and given you means for a fulfilling life. How seldom are you grateful! [Being grateful is not only verbal thanks. It involves sharing God's bounties with fellow humans and other creation. 16:114, 31:12]

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ ثُمَّ صَوَّرْنَاكُمْ ثُمَّ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ لَمْ يَكُن مِّنَ السَّاجِدِينَ **7:11**

We created you, then shaped you, then told the angels, "Be of service to Adam! And they agreed to be of service, all but Iblees (Satan). He was not of the subservient. [Take a panoramic view of your common origin. Life began as a single life cell from hydrated inorganic matter (23:13) We made you Adam (Homo sapiens, male and female). And We made the angels (the Universal forces) subservient to you. Satan or Iblees, your own rebellious desires, refused to submit to your higher controls of judgment]

قَالَ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَلَّا تَسْجُدَ إِذْ أَمَرْتُكَ قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِن نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ **7:12**

Satans ignorance

God said, "What stopped you from being subservient when I ordered you?" Iblees responded, "I am better than he. You created me from fire, and created him from clay." [Emotions are fiery in relation to sound judgment. The criterion of honor is not lineage, color, caste or nation. It is nothing but good conduct. 49:13]

قَالَ فَاهْبِطْ مِنْهَا فَمَا يَكُونُ لَكَ أَن تَتَكَبَّرَ فِيهَا فَاخْرُجْ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الصَّاغِرِينَ **7:13**

(Recall that many of the verses of the Qur'an are allegorical.) God said, "You are dismissed and degraded hence. It is not for you to be arrogant here. Go forth, then! You shall be among the humiliated."

قَالَ أَنظِرْنِي إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ **7:14**

He (Iblees) said, "Give me respite till the Day they are raised up."

قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ **7:15**

(The request was granted.) God said, "Be among those who are given respite."

قَالَ فَبِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأَقْعُدَنَّ لَهُمْ صِرَاطَكَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ **7:16**

Satan will mislead us

Iblees said, "Since You have willed that I go astray, I will lurk in ambush for them in Your straight path."

ثُمَّ لَآتِيَنَّهُم مِّن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَعَنْ أَيْمَانِهِمْ وَعَن شَمَائِلِهِمْ وَلَا تَجِدُ أَكْثَرَهُمْ شَاكِرِينَ **7:17**

"Then I will assault them openly and secretly, through their strengths and through their weaknesses. And You will not find most of them grateful (for the guidance)."

قَالَ اخْرُجْ مِنْهَا مَذْءُومًا مَّدْحُورًا لَّمَن تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ 7:18

He said, "Go forth from here, degraded and banished. Whoever follows you among them, I will fill Hell with you all." [Jahannam = Hell = Fire = Hebrew Gehenna = Destruction of the 'self' in this life and the Hereafter for succumbing to Satan, the selfish desires]

وَيَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ فَكُلَا مِنْ حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلَا تَقْرَبَا هَٰذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ 7:19

"O Adam! Dwell, you and your wife, in the Garden and eat from whatever you may wish; but do not approach this one tree, lest you become wrongdoers." [Contrary to the popular beliefs that the forbidden Tree was the tree of knowledge, fruit of this plant and that plant, or of sexual charms, it refers to humanity dividing itself like the branches of a tree. 2:35-36, 2:213, 20:120]

فَوَسْوَسَ لَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ لِيُبْدِيَ لَهُمَا مَا وُورِيَ عَنْهُمَا مِن سَوْآتِهِمَا وَقَالَ مَا نَهَاكُمَا رَبُّكُمَا عَنْ هَٰذِهِ الشَّجَرَةِ إِلَّا أَن تَكُونَا مَلَكَيْنِ أَوْ تَكُونَا مِنَ الْخَالِدِينَ 7:20

Satan misleads Adam and Eve

Then Satan deceived them in order to reveal their imperfections and fallibility to them. He said, "Your Lord forbade this tree lest you become angels or become immortals." [The selfish desires of humans prompted them to think about their own children rather than the collective good. That would, in a way, give them power and immortality]

وَقَاسَمَهُمَا إِنِّي لَكُمَا لَمِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ 7:21

And Satan swore to both, man and woman, "I am a sincere advisor to you."

فَدَلَّاهُمَا بِغُرُورٍ فَلَمَّا ذَاقَا الشَّجَرَةَ بَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوْآتُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا يَخْصِفَانِ عَلَيْهِمَا مِن وَرَقِ الْجَنَّةِ وَنَادَاهُمَا رَبُّهُمَا أَلَمْ أَنْهَكُمَا عَن تِلْكُمَا الشَّجَرَةِ وَأَقُل لَّكُمَا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمَا عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ 7:22

So by deceit Satan brought about their downfall. They tasted of the tree of discord and started to divide into branches. Soon their imperfections became obvious to them and they tried to conceal them with courteous behavior. Then came a reminder from their Lord, "Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you that Satan is your open enemy?" [Personal interests dominated their minds rather than the

collective good of all. Humanity began to fall into mutual contention. Leaf of Paradise = Righteous behavior]

قَالَا رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **7:23**

They said, "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. Unless You forgive us and have mercy on us, we will certainly be lost." [Men and women accepted responsibility acknowledging that they had free will, while Satan blamed God and ascribed his disobedience to the will of God. 7:16]

قَالَ اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **7:24**

You will be on earth till death

God said, "Be degraded with wedges of discord between one another. There will be for you an abode and sustenance for a while on earth." [Self interests of people had given rise to unjust marking of land and individual hoarding. Suppression of the weak had begun. God told them that they had fallen down from the high station of humanity. They had ignored the law that "Mankind is one community". From then on, they would live as tribes and nations, enemies to one another. 10:19, 49:13] God said, "Be degraded with wedges of discord between one another. There will be for you an abode and sustenance for a while on earth." [10:19, 49:13]

قَالَ فِيهَا تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ وَمِنْهَا تُخْرَجُونَ **7:25**

He said, "You shall live on earth and die there and be resurrected from there." [In the meantime they could regain their lost Paradise if they followed the Divine Commands. 2:213]

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ قَدْ أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُوَارِي سَوْآتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ **7:26**

Best garment is Taqwa

O Children of Adam! We have provided you with garments to cover your bodies as well as to adorn you. The best garment for you to wear, in addition, is good conduct. (Your character decorates you inside out.) These are the verses of God that they must take to heart.

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ لَا يَفْتِنَنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ كَمَا أَخْرَجَ أَبَوَيْكُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ يَنزِعُ عَنْهُمَا لِبَاسَهُمَا لِيُرِيَهُمَا سَوْآتِهِمَا إِنَّهُ يَرَاكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا الشَّيَاطِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **7:27**

O Children of Adam! Let not your selfish desires deceive you as it deceived your ancestors, caused them to lose their Paradise, and exposed their imperfections. A host of selfish and rebellious desires lurk within you. You can't even see them but these Satans see you and befriend those who do not believe.

وَإِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً قَالُوا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهَا آبَاءَنَا وَاللَّهُ أَمَرَنَا بِهَا قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَأْمُرُ بِالْفَحْشَاءِ أَتَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **7:28**

Are our forefathers always right

(As an example,) when people commit an indecency they say, "We found our forefathers doing it and God has enjoined it upon us." (Made it natural for us). Say (O Prophet), "God never enjoins indecency. Do you attribute to God that of which you have no knowledge?"

قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَقِيمُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ كَمَا بَدَأَكُمْ تَعُودُونَ **7:29**

Say (O Messenger), "My Lord enjoins justice and moderation and to stand devoted to Him alone in complete submission. Call unto Him, sincere in your faith in Him alone. He is the One Who brought you into being in the first place, and to Him you will return." (And this is how you can regain your lost Paradise in both worlds.)

فَرِيقًا هَدَىٰ وَفَرِيقًا حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الضَّلَالَةُ إِنَّهُمُ اتَّخَذُوا الشَّيَاطِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُم مُّهْتَدُونَ **7:30**

But there will be two parties among people. Some of them will live upright while others will go astray. They will ally with satanic people instead of God. (They will take their religious leadership as their masters instead of God) and think that they are rightly guided. [7:3, 22:13]

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ **7:31**

O Children of Adam! Adorn yourselves with nice attire remaining subservient to Divine Commands at every occasion of subservience. Enjoy God's bounties, but do not commit excesses. God does not love the wasters. [Masjid = All occasions of subservience to God. This encompasses the entire life of a Muslim]

قُلْ مَنْ حَرَّمَ زِينَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي أَخْرَجَ لِعِبَادِهِ وَالطَّيِّبَاتِ مِنَ الرِّزْقِ قُلْ هِيَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا خَالِصَةً يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كَذَٰلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **7:32**

Are men disallowed to wear silk

Say, "Who is there to forbid the beauty and aesthetic niceties that God has brought forth for His servants, and the good things of sustenance?" Say, "On the Day of Resurrection, these things will be only for those who chose to believe in Divine laws during the life of this world." Thus do We detail Our messages for people who make use of what they learn. [17:18-20, 20:117-123]

قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَأَن تُشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَأَن تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **7:33**

***

This is what us forbidden

Say, "My Lord forbids only: Indecent shameful deeds, open or secret, actions that hurt the 'self' and drag down the individual and collective human potential, unjust aggression, associating others with God (Shirk), for which He has sent down no authority, and that you say things about God that you do not know."

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ **7:34**

All nations and communities determine the terms of their Rise and Fall in accordance with these Divine laws. And these laws work with meticulous timing, without delay and without hastening.

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ إِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِي فَمَنِ اتَّقَىٰ وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **7:35**

The righteous will not grieve

O Children of Adam! (I had revealed in the early stages of human civilization that I will keep sending My guidance to you 2:213.) When Messengers of your own come to you narrating My messages, those who will live upright and mend their ways, will have nothing to fear or grieve.

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **7:36**

But those who reject Our revelations and scorn them, will dwell in the Hellfire to live therein, forever.

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ يَنَالُهُمْ نَصِيبُهُم مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُنَا يَتَوَفَّوْنَهُمْ قَالُوا أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالُوا ضَلُّوا عَنَّا وَشَهِدُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ **7:37**

Who can do a greater wrong than the one who invents lies about God, or belies His revelations? They get their due share according to the Law of Respite till Our couriers of death come to them saying, "Where are those on whom you called besides God?" They will respond, "They have left us hanging." Then they will testify against themselves that they had been disbelievers.

قَالَ ادْخُلُوا فِي أُمَمٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِكُم مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ فِي النَّارِ كُلَّمَا دَخَلَتْ أُمَّةٌ لَّعَنَتْ أُخْتَهَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا ادَّارَكُوا فِيهَا جَمِيعًا قَالَتْ أُخْرَاهُمْ لِأُولَاهُمْ رَبَّنَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ أَضَلُّونَا فَآتِهِمْ عَذَابًا ضِعْفًا مِّنَ النَّارِ قَالَ لِكُلٍّ ضِعْفٌ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تَعْلَمُونَ 7:38

God will command them to join the previous uncivilized and civilized communities into the fire. Every later group will blame the earlier one, "Our Lord! These are the ones who misled us; double their punishment." He will say, "Doubled for all": but this you do not know. [The first group violated the laws and misled others, and the second group was guilty of blind following and misleading their successors]

وَقَالَتْ أُولَاهُمْ لِأُخْرَاهُمْ فَمَا كَانَ لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا مِن فَضْلٍ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ 7:39

The first nation will say to the last, "You are not the least bit better than us. So taste the doom for what you earned."

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا عَنْهَا لَا تُفَتَّحُ لَهُمْ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَلَا يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّىٰ يَلِجَ الْجَمَلُ فِي سَمِّ الْخِيَاطِ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُجْرِمِينَ 7:40

Those who deny the Quran by following other sources

Those who deny Our messages, and scorn them, the gates of heaven will not be opened for them, and they will not enter the Garden until the camel goes through the eye of a needle. This is how We recompense the guilty. [Likewise nations that ignore the Divine laws in nature will utterly fail to establish a Paradise on earth. The parable of the camel and the needle conveys a perception, the impossibility of attaining success in defiance of these laws]

لَهُم مِّن جَهَنَّمَ مِهَادٌ وَمِن فَوْقِهِمْ غَوَاشٍ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الظَّالِمِينَ 7:41

Hell is their bed and their covering as well. This is how We recompense the guilty, those who steal the fruit of others' labor and thus violate human rights. [Nations that fail to build their own Paradise on earth only lurk on hellish ground. They have a ceiling of chaos above, keeping them from rising in the community of nations]

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ 7:42

But those who attain conviction in Divine laws and work to augment the individual and collective potential of humanity, will succeed in attaining Paradise of their own making (3:136). We never assign goals to people that are beyond their capacity. [The Paradise of people's own making will never be lost. It will be their heritage in the life to come. 2:25, 3:133, 55: 45-47]

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِم مِّنْ غِلٍّ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُ رَبِّنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَنُودُوا أَن تِلْكُمُ الْجَنَّةُ أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 7:43

[In earthly life, human beings conceal many negative feelings they might have toward others even though, apparently their mutual relations are cordial] We will remove all negative emotions from their hearts. There will be no such feelings amongst the dwellers of earthly and heavenly Paradise wherein streams will flow. (The blessings of such a Social Order will be everlasting!) They will say, "All praise is due to God Who has guided us to such a beautiful destination. Without God's Guidance we would never have reached this state of felicity. God's Messengers brought to us this truth." It will be proclaimed, "This is the Paradise you have inherited" (as a result of your own effort, therefore, you will not be expelled from it.)[These verses are as much applicable to this world as to the Hereafter. In this Ideal Society, justice, and therefore, mutual trust will prevail. Rivers of aesthetic beauties will flow and provision will be abundant. When the basic needs of individuals are secure, they will have the chance to move toward the higher levels of self-actualization. So, negative emotions and behavior such as jealousy, selfishness, contempt, rancor, revenge and deceit shall vanish from their hearts. They will praise God in word and action for His guidance, without which the bliss would not be possible. They will acknowledge that the Messengers of their Lord came with the absolute truth. They will hear echoes of welcome: This is your Paradise. You have built it and you shall inherit it never to be lost again]

وَنَادَىٰ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ أَصْحَابَ النَّارِ أَن قَدْ وَجَدْنَا مَا وَعَدَنَا رَبُّنَا حَقًّا فَهَلْ وَجَدتُّم مَّا وَعَدَ رَبُّكُمْ حَقًّا قَالُوا نَعَمْ فَأَذَّنَ مُؤَذِّنٌ بَيْنَهُمْ أَن لَّعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ 7:44

The dwellers of the Garden will call out to the dwellers of the fire, "We have found that what our Sustainer promised us has come true. Have you too, found that

what your Sustainer promised you has come true?" They will answer, "Yes!" Then from their midst a voice will proclaim, "God rejects the oppressors who wrongfully violated human rights."

الَّذِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ كَافِرُونَ 7:45

Those leaders astray

They hindered men and women from the path of God and tried to make it crooked, thus practically denying the Law of Requital and the life Hereafter.

وَبَيْنَهُمَا حِجَابٌ وَعَلَى الْأَعْرَافِ رِجَالٌ يَعْرِفُونَ كُلًّا بِسِيمَاهُمْ وَنَادَوْا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ أَن سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَمْ يَدْخُلُوهَا وَهُمْ يَطْمَعُونَ 7:46

Separation in ranks

Between the people of Paradise and Hell there will be a veil. On the Heights there will be people with insight who will recognize others by their looks. They will greet those who are hoping to enter the Garden but have not yet entered it, with "Peace!" [2:143, 4:41, 56:10-11] [A barrier of distinction will exist between the heavenly and the hellish societies. On the heights of wisdom and knowledge will be some sincere leaders. They will recognize the strengths and the weaknesses of communities. Striving for peace and security, they will show the way to establish the right system to people who will be craving for it]

وَإِذَا صُرِفَتْ أَبْصَارُهُمْ تِلْقَاءَ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ 7:47

When their eyes turn toward the dwellers of the hellish societies, they will say, "Our Lord! Do not place us with unjust people."

وَنَادَىٰ أَصْحَابُ الْأَعْرَافِ رِجَالًا يَعْرِفُونَهُم بِسِيمَاهُمْ قَالُوا مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنكُمْ جَمْعُكُمْ وَمَا كُنتُمْ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ 7:48

The people on the Heights will recognize another group by their appearance and say to them, "How did your multitude, the wealth you amassed and the things you took pride in, help you?" [In my opinion, the people of Heights will advise corrective action to be taken against the hoarding of wealth, population explosion, and self-glorification of nations. Jam'ukum = Your great numbers = Your multitude = Your hoardings = What you have amassed]

أَهَٰؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَقْسَمْتُمْ لَا يَنَالُهُمُ اللَّهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا أَنتُمْ تَحْزَنُونَ 7:49

And pointing to the dwellers of the Garden, they will say, "Are these not the people about whom you used to swear that God will never bestow His grace upon them?

They are entering the Garden where there will be no fear or grief." [They will make it clear that the Divine law favors no particular people. Obeying His laws brings His grace and bounties]

وَنَادَىٰ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ أَنْ أَفِيضُوا عَلَيْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ أَوْ مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَهُمَا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ 7:50

The dwellers of Hell will say to the dwellers of Paradise, "Give us something of the life-giving resources and the provisions bestowed on you by God." They will reply, "God has made these things forbidden to the rejecters of His laws." [The hellish societies will expect God's provisions to be granted to them as free-bees. They will be told that God's bounties can only be achieved by establishing the Right System]

الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَهُمْ لَهْوًا وَلَعِبًا وَغَرَّتْهُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فَالْيَوْمَ نَنسَاهُمْ كَمَا نَسُوا لِقَاءَ يَوْمِهِمْ هَٰذَا وَمَا كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ 7:51

Those who took their religion as mere amusement and ritual partying, were deceived by immediate gains of the worldly life (6:70). We will forget them as they forgot the meeting of this Day, and rejected Our revelations.

وَلَقَدْ جِئْنَاهُم بِكِتَابٍ فَصَّلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ 7:52

Quran is detailed

We have given them a Book of knowledge that explains the guidance in full detail. It is a mercy for those who accept it. (It has the Power to change hellish societies into Paradise on earth.)

هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا تَأْوِيلَهُ يَوْمَ يَأْتِي تَأْوِيلُهُ يَقُولُ الَّذِينَ نَسُوهُ مِن قَبْلُ قَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُ رَبِّنَا بِالْحَقِّ فَهَل لَّنَا مِن شُفَعَاءَ فَيَشْفَعُوا لَنَا أَوْ نُرَدُّ فَنَعْمَلَ غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ قَدْ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ 7:53

Are they waiting until the consequences stare them in the eyes? The Day the consequences appear, those who disregarded it will say, "The Messengers of our Lord did bring the truth. Are there any intercessors to intercede on our behalf? Or can we be returned so that we behave differently from our past?" They have put their own 'self' in loss and their own forgery fails them. [They will seek mediation for their mutual conflicts and long for starting from scratch. Since they have hurt

their own 'self', they have lost the power of judgment and they would need help. They have been dragging unworkable systems]

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يُغْشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ بِأَمْرِهِ أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ 7:54

Your Sustainer is God Who created the heavens and earth in six stages, and then established Himself on the Throne of His Almightiness. He draws the night over the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession. The sun, the moon and the stars are committed to serve by His command. Remember! To Him belongs the World of Creation, and to Him belongs the World of Command. Exalted is God, the Lord of the Worlds. [10:3, 13:2. Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, See 41:10]

ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ 7:55

(He has the power to revive dead nations.) Call on your Lord in humility and in private. He does not love those who forsake moderation.

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ 7:56

So, do not spread corruption on earth after it has been set in order. Call upon Him in fear and hope. God's mercy is close to the benefactors of humanity. [Fear the consequences of violating His commands and hope for His grace since His promise is always true]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَاحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَقَلَّتْ سَحَابًا ثِقَالًا سُقْنَاهُ لِبَلَدٍ مَّيِّتٍ فَأَنزَلْنَا بِهِ الْمَاءَ فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ كَذَٰلِكَ نُخْرِجُ الْمَوْتَىٰ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ 7:57

He is the One who sends pleasant winds bearing good news of the forthcoming rain of His blessings. When the winds carry the heavy clouds, We drive them to a land that is dead. The water then causes all kinds of fruit and vegetation to sprout. This is how We can revive dead people and nations. Herein is a sign for those who pay heed.

وَالْبَلَدُ الطَّيِّبُ يَخْرُجُ نَبَاتُهُ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ وَالَّذِي خَبُثَ لَا يَخْرُجُ إِلَّا نَكِدًا كَذَٰلِكَ نُصَرِّفُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَشْكُرُونَ 7:58

The land that has been well prepared springs up rich produce by the Leave of its Lord. The land that has not been well prepared only yields scant vegetation. (Similar is the situation of nations that wish to come back to life. They need reform at the grassroots level.) This is how We explain Our verses from various vantage points for those who are grateful to receive such clear guidance.

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ 7:59

[Now follows a brief resume of the previous Prophets and their nations for you to draw lessons] We sent Noah to his people. He said, "O My people! Serve God (by serving His creation). You have no other god beside Him. (If you do not reform) I fear for you the retribution of an awesome day."

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِن قَوْمِهِ إِنَّا لَنَرَاكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ 7:60

The chiefs of his people said, "We see you in manifest error."

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لَيْسَ بِي ضَلَالَةٌ وَلَٰكِنِّي رَسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 7:61

Noah said, "O My people! There is no error in me. I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

أُبَلِّغُكُمْ رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّي وَأَنصَحُ لَكُمْ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 7:62

I only convey to you the messages of my Lord. My advice to you is sincere and I know from God what you do not know.

أَوَعَجِبْتُمْ أَن جَاءَكُمْ ذِكْرٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنكُمْ لِيُنذِرَكُمْ وَلِتَتَّقُوا وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ 7:63

Why do you wonder that there has come to you a reminder from your Lord through a man from amongst you - to warn you, and to show you the secure path so that you may flourish in grace?"

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ فِي الْفُلْكِ وَأَغْرَقْنَا الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا عَمِينَ 7:64

But they denied him. So, We saved him and those with him in the ship, and drowned those who denied Our revelations. They were a people blind in arrogance. [A great flood was about to come as revealed to Noah. He and his followers built an Ark. They were with him in belief and in the ship, so they were saved]

وَإِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ 7:65

To the people of 'Aad, We sent their brother, Hud. He said, "O My people! Serve God by serving His creation. You have no god beside Him. Do you not seek to live upright?"

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ إِنَّا لَنَرَاكَ فِي سَفَاهَةٍ وَإِنَّا لَنَظُنُّكَ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ 7:66

The elite among his people who were disbelieving said, "Ah! We see that you are in folly, and we think that you are a liar."

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لَيْسَ بِي سَفَاهَةٌ وَلَٰكِنِّي رَسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 7:67

He said, "O My people! There is no folly in me. I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

أُبَلِّغُكُمْ رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّي وَأَنَا لَكُمْ نَاصِحٌ أَمِينٌ 7:68

I convey to you the messages of my Lord, and I am a sincere and trustworthy adviser to you.

أَوَعَجِبْتُمْ أَن جَاءَكُمْ ذِكْرٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنكُمْ لِيُنذِرَكُمْ وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ جَعَلَكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ مِن بَعْدِ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَزَادَكُمْ فِي الْخَلْقِ بَسْطَةً فَاذْكُرُوا آلَاءَ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ 7:69

Why do you wonder that there has come to you a reminder from your Lord through a man from amongst you, to warn you? Recall that He made you successors to Noah's people and gave you abundant power. Keep in mind God's authority and blessings that you may continue to prosper."

قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِنَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ وَحْدَهُ وَنَذَرَ مَا كَانَ يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ 7:70

They said, "Have you come to us that we serve God alone and give up what our forefathers worshiped? Bring upon us what you threaten us with, if you are truthful."

قَالَ قَدْ وَقَعَ عَلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ رِجْسٌ وَغَضَبٌ أَتُجَادِلُونَنِي 7:71
فِي أَسْمَاءٍ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُم مَّا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِن
سُلْطَانٍ فَانتَظِرُوا إِنِّي مَعَكُم مِّنَ الْمُنتَظِرِينَ

Who is this referred to Bukhari, ,Muslim etc

('Aad were a powerful community that had gone unjust. Since there is a Law of Respite for nations, they flourished and were unable to see the wrong thus far.) Hud said, "Your Lord's Requital is already hovering over you. Do you argue with me about certain names that you and your forefathers have fabricated, whereas God never authorized them. Then wait for the consequences, and I am also waiting." [53:23]

فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنَّا وَقَطَعْنَا دَابِرَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا 7:72
بِآيَاتِنَا وَمَا كَانُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ

[The People of 'Aad ruled a big empire in Arabia. However, they failed to heed the Prophet's warning. Then hurricane winds annihilated them 41:16] We saved him and those with him by mercy from Us, and cut the root of those who denied Our messages and would not believe.

وَإِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم 7:73
مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ قَدْ جَاءَتْكُم بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ هَٰذِهِ نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ
لَكُمْ آيَةً فَذَرُوهَا تَأْكُلْ فِي أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَمَسُّوهَا بِسُوءٍ
فَيَأْخُذَكُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

The people of Thamud were successors to 'Aad. To them We sent their brother, Saleh. He said, "O My people! Serve God. You have no other god but He. The clear truth has come to you from your Lord. This is the she-camel of God, a token for your obedience. So let her feed in God's earth and do not harm her lest painful torment seize you." [The feudal lords controlled land, crop, oases and water resources, and the weak were suffering. Saleh assigned a she-camel as a symbol of their reformation]

وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ جَعَلَكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ مِن بَعْدِ عَادٍ وَبَوَّأَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ 7:74
تَتَّخِذُونَ مِن سُهُولِهَا قُصُورًا وَتَنْحِتُونَ الْجِبَالَ بُيُوتًا
فَاذْكُرُوا آلَاءَ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَعْثَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ

Saleh said, "Remember how He made you inherit the land after 'Aad and established you therein. You build castles in the valleys and carve out homes in the mountains. So, remember God's bounties and do not spread corruption in the land."

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا لِمَنْ آمَنَ مِنْهُمْ أَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ صَالِحًا مُّرْسَلٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلَ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ 7:75

Their leaders said to the believers, "How do you know that Saleh is sent from his Lord?" They responded, "We believe in the message he has brought." [The bringer of such a Sublime message cannot be a liar]

قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا بِالَّذِي آمَنتُم بِهِ كَافِرُونَ 7:76

(The arrogant leaders and the feudal lords could see their personal interests getting hit, so they decided to reject the message.) The arrogant ones said to the believers, "We reject what you believe in."

فَعَقَرُوا النَّاقَةَ وَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقَالُوا يَا صَالِحُ ائْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 7:77

They killed the she-camel, rebelled against their Lord's command and challenged, "O Saleh! Bring the doom you threaten us with, if you are truly a Messenger."

فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ 7:78

(In their life of luxury, like other strong nations, they felt invincible.) The destruction came from under their feet. A powerful earthquake annihilated them, leaving them lifeless in their homes.

فَتَوَلَّىٰ عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لَقَدْ أَبْلَغْتُكُمْ رِسَالَةَ رَبِّي وَنَصَحْتُ لَكُمْ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تُحِبُّونَ النَّاصِحِينَ 7:79

Saleh was grieved that his people disregarded the message of his Lord. He moved away from the township saying to himself, "O My people! I gave my Lord's message to you, and advised you sincerely, but you never liked good advisers."

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُم بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ 7:80

Lot told them, "You commit such an abomination that no one in the worlds has done before you." [Hud, Saleh, and their respective followers, escaped destruction because they believed in the revelation and took appropriate precautions. The people of Prophet Lot lived by the Dead Sea in Sodom]

إِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّن دُونِ النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ 7:81

You approach men with lust in preference to women. Nay, but you are a people crossing all bounds."

وَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا أَخْرِجُوهُم مِّن قَرْيَتِكُمْ إِنَّهُمْ أُنَاسٌ يَتَطَهَّرُونَ 7:82

They said, "Drive them out of your town! These people want to be models of purity."

فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ كَانَتْ مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ 7:83

We saved him and his followers. But his wife who lagged behind in belief stayed with the crowd, and was destroyed.

وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِم مَّطَرًا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ 7:84

And We rained a rain upon them (a huge shower of stones). See now how grievous was the end of the guilty. [A huge volcano was about to erupt. The Prophet of God had advance knowledge and he moved out at the right time, along with his followers]

وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ قَدْ جَاءَتْكُم بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ 7:85

To Midyan, We sent Sho'aib (Jethro), their brother, to them (around 1300 BC). He said, "O My people! Obey God. There is none else worthy of obedience and law-giving. Now has come to you the clear evidence of truth from your Lord. Give just measure and weight and do not withhold from people the things that are rightfully theirs. And do no corruption (and crimes) in the land after it has been set in order. This will be best for you if you are believers. [The Nation of Midyan lived between Madinah and Damascus since around 2000 BC. They were the descendants of Prophet Abraham's son Midyan from his third wife Qatoora. Most of them were traders but they squandered justice and equity in business]

وَلَا تَقْعُدُوا بِكُلِّ صِرَاطٍ تُوعِدُونَ وَتَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِهِ وَتَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ كُنتُمْ قَلِيلًا 7:86

فَكَثَّرَكُمْ وَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

Lurk not on every road threatening travelers, and hindering from the path of God those who believe in Him, nor seek to make it crooked. Remember, when you were few and weak and how He multiplied and strengthened you. And see how (miserable) was the end of the corrupters.

وَإِن كَانَ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنكُمْ آمَنُوا بِالَّذِي أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ وَطَائِفَةٌ لَّمْ يُؤْمِنُوا فَاصْبِرُوا حَتَّىٰ يَحْكُمَ اللَّهُ بَيْنَنَا وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الْحَاكِمِينَ **7:87**

A group among you has believed in what I have been sent with and the other group has not believed. Then have patience (let the believers work their program of reform), until God judges between us. He is the Best of deciders.“

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ لَنُخْرِجَنَّكَ يَا شُعَيْبُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَكَ مِن قَرْيَتِنَا أَوْ لَتَعُودُنَّ فِي مِلَّتِنَا قَالَ أَوَلَوْ كُنَّا كَارِهِينَ **7:88**

The arrogant leaders of his community said, “O Sho’aib! We will certainly drive you and those who believe with you out of our town unless you return to our ways.” Sho’aib said, ”Why, even though we detest your ways?”

قَدِ افْتَرَيْنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا إِنْ عُدْنَا فِي مِلَّتِكُم بَعْدَ إِذْ نَجَّانَا اللَّهُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَكُونُ لَنَا أَن نَّعُودَ فِيهَا إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَسِعَ رَبُّنَا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا عَلَى اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا رَبَّنَا افْتَحْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ قَوْمِنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الْفَاتِحِينَ **7:89**

“We will be inventing a lie against God if we reverted to your religion after God has saved us from it. It is not for us to return to it against the will of God, our Lord. Our Lord comprehends all things in knowledge. In God do we put our trust. Our Lord! Decide with truth between us and our people. You are the Best of deciders.”

وَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ لَئِنِ اتَّبَعْتُمْ شُعَيْبًا إِنَّكُمْ إِذًا لَّخَاسِرُونَ **7:90**

But the disbelieving chiefs of his nation said, “O People! If you follow Sho’aib, then be sure, you will be ruined” (as you lose the big profits in trade).

فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ 7:91

A tremendous earthquake seized them and the morning found them dead in their homes, on the ground.

الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا شُعَيْبًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَغْنَوْا فِيهَا الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا شُعَيْبًا كَانُوا هُمُ الْخَاسِرِينَ 7:92

Those who denied Sho'aib became as though they had never lived there. Those who denied Sho'aib were the losers.

فَتَوَلَّىٰ عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لَقَدْ أَبْلَغْتُكُمْ رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّي وَنَصَحْتُ لَكُمْ فَكَيْفَ آسَىٰ عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ كَافِرِينَ 7:93

(The Prophet of God had been forewarned of the oncoming catastrophe and he moved out into the valley along with his followers.) As he was leaving, he said, "O My people! I delivered my Lord's messages to you and gave you sincere advice. How could I mourn for people who rejected the truth?"

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّبِيٍّ إِلَّا أَخَذْنَا أَهْلَهَا بِالْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَضَّرَّعُونَ 7:94

We sent no Prophet to a community without Our Law of Requital trying them with adversity and tribulation for their wrongdoings, so that they become humble.

ثُمَّ بَدَّلْنَا مَكَانَ السَّيِّئَةِ الْحَسَنَةَ حَتَّىٰ عَفَوا وَّقَالُوا قَدْ مَسَّ آبَاءَنَا الضَّرَّاءُ وَالسَّرَّاءُ فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ 7:95

Then We changed their plight for better until they became affluent. Then they said, "Even our forefathers were touched by suffering and affluence." We seized them all of a sudden when they least expected it. [They thought that hardships and prosperity were just a matter of chance. To them the requital appeared sudden, but unjust systems insidiously move toward disaster]

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَٰكِن كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ 7:96

If the people of the townships had believed in the Divine laws and run their system right, We would have opened for them blessings from the heaven and earth. But they denied and what they earned with their deeds seized them.

أَفَأَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَىٰ أَن يَأْتِيَهُم بَأْسُنَا بَيَاتًا وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ **7:97**

Can the people of any community ever feel secure that Our requital will not come upon them at night, while they are asleep?

أَوَأَمِنَ أَهْلُ الْقُرَىٰ أَن يَأْتِيَهُم بَأْسُنَا ضُحًى وَهُمْ يَلْعَبُونَ **7:98**

Or do the people of townships feel secure from the coming of Our requital upon them in the daytime while they play?

أَفَأَمِنُوا مَكْرَ اللَّهِ فَلَا يَأْمَنُ مَكْرَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **7:99**

Do they feel secure from the subtle progression of the Divine laws? Do they think that the Divine law grants them unconditional security? Only the losers feel secure from the subtle progression of God's Law of Requital.

أَوَلَمْ يَهْدِ لِلَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْأَرْضَ مِن بَعْدِ أَهْلِهَا أَن لَّوْ نَشَاءُ أَصَبْنَاهُم بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَنَطْبَعُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ **7:100**

Is it not a lesson for those who inherit the earth from previous generations that they could suffer similar consequences? Trailing behind in the community of nations is a tribulation in itself. And Our law can cause their intellectual and perceptual faculties to be sealed and blunted for their failings.

تِلْكَ الْقُرَىٰ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ أَنبَائِهَا وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا بِمَا كَذَّبُوا مِن قَبْلُ كَذَٰلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِ الْكَافِرِينَ **7:101**

Such were the communities whose historical accounts We relate to you (O Prophet). Their Messengers came to them with clear evidence of truth. But they rejected it, and then stuck to rejection. Or they denied the truth in blind following since their ancestors had denied it. This is how the rejecters cause God's law to seal their hearts to reason.

وَمَا وَجَدْنَا لِأَكْثَرِهِم مِّنْ عَهْدٍ وَإِن وَجَدْنَا أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَفَاسِقِينَ **7:102**

And in most of them We found no bond with their honored stature of humanity (17:70). And We found that most of them slipped away from the Permanent Values.

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِم مُّوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ فَظَلَمُوا بِهَا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **7:103**

[Here is another historical account. Moses was the next generation to Sho'aib, after the Midyans had risen and declined in the previous millennium] We sent Moses to Pharaoh and his chiefs with Our revelations and they degraded them. Now see the consequence for the corrupters.

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ يَا فِرْعَوْنُ إِنِّي رَسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **7:104**

Moses said, "O Pharaoh! I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

حَقِيقٌ عَلَىٰ أَن لَّا أَقُولَ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ قَدْ جِئْتُكُم بِبَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَأَرْسِلْ مَعِيَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **7:105**

It is incumbent upon me that I say about God nothing but the truth. I come to you with clear evidence of the truth from your Lord. So let the Children of Israel go with me."

قَالَ إِن كُنتَ جِئْتَ بِآيَةٍ فَأْتِ بِهَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **7:106**

Pharaoh said, "If you have come with clear evidence, produce it if you are of the truthful."

فَأَلْقَىٰ عَصَاهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ ثُعْبَانٌ مُّبِينٌ **7:107**

Moses presented his argument that he held fast, with vibrant confidence and logic.

وَنَزَعَ يَدَهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ بَيْضَاءُ لِلنَّاظِرِينَ **7:108**

The strength of his conviction shone bright to those present. [20:17-21]

قَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِن قَوْمِ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسَاحِرٌ عَلِيمٌ **7:109**

The chiefs of Pharaoh's nation said, "This is some knowing wizard!

يُرِيدُ أَن يُخْرِجَكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِكُمْ فَمَاذَا تَأْمُرُونَ **7:110**

It appears to us that Moses, after gaining some following, plans to throw you out of your land." Said Pharaoh, "Now, what do you advise?"

قَالُوا أَرْجِهْ وَأَخَاهُ وَأَرْسِلْ فِي الْمَدَائِنِ حَاشِرِينَ **7:111**

(After consulting) they said, "Put him and his brother off for a while and send to the cities men to summon.

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سَاحِرٍ عَلِيمٍ **7:112**

To bring all master debaters to your court." [Saahir from Sihr = Magician, liar, stunningly eloquent, smart poet, deceitful, trickster, cheater, defrauder, dodger, hoaxer, swindler]

وَجَاءَ السَّحَرَةُ فِرْعَوْنَ قَالُوا إِنَّ لَنَا لَأَجْرًا إِن كُنَّا نَحْنُ الْغَالِبِينَ **7:113**

The master debaters came to Pharaoh. They said, "Will there be reward for us if we are victors?"

قَالَ نَعَمْ وَإِنَّكُمْ لَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ **7:114**

He answered, "Yes, and you will be among those who are close to me."

قَالُوا يَا مُوسَىٰ إِمَّا أَن تُلْقِيَ وَإِمَّا أَن نَّكُونَ نَحْنُ الْمُلْقِينَ **7:115**

The debaters said, "O Moses! Either you begin or let us be the first to present our case."

قَالَ أَلْقُوا فَلَمَّا أَلْقَوْا سَحَرُوا أَعْيُنَ النَّاسِ وَاسْتَرْهَبُوهُمْ وَجَاءُوا بِسِحْرٍ عَظِيمٍ **7:116**

Moses asked them to begin. When they began they cast a spell on the people's eyes, and struck them with awe, and stunned the assembly with their spellbinding eloquence.

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَلْقِ عَصَاكَ فَإِذَا هِيَ تَلْقَفُ مَا يَأْفِكُونَ **7:117**

So, We inspired Moses, "Respond with conviction. And then see how it swallows their deceptive rhetoric." ['Asaa = Staff = Cane = Strength = Conviction = Authority = Power = Strong logic = Convincing argument]

فَوَقَعَ الْحَقُّ وَبَطَلَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **7:118**

The truth prevailed and their arguments were manifestly proven false.

فَغُلِبُوا هُنَالِكَ وَانقَلَبُوا صَاغِرِينَ **7:119**

Thus, they were defeated right there and humiliated.

وَأُلْقِيَ السَّحَرَةُ سَاجِدِينَ **7:120**

The debaters fell down prostrate.

قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 7:121

They were convinced and said, “We believe in the Lord of the Worlds.

رَبِّ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ 7:122

The Lord of Moses and Aaron.”

قَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ آمَنتُم بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ آذَنَ لَكُمْ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَمَكْرٌ مَّكَرْتُمُوهُ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ لِتُخْرِجُوا مِنْهَا أَهْلَهَا فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ 7:123

Pharaoh got annoyed, “You believe in Him before I give you permission! This is a political conspiracy you all have made up in the city, so that you get my subjects out on the streets in rebellion and topple the government. You will see the punishment very soon.

لَأُقَطِّعَنَّ أَيْدِيَكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ ثُمَّ لَأُصَلِّبَنَّكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ 7:124

I will immobilize you in handcuffs and fetters. Then I will crucify every one of you.“ [Cutting off the hands and feet on the alternate side refers to immobilizing a person, otherwise crucifixion would not be necessary. 20:71, 26:49, 38:12]

قَالُوا إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا مُنقَلِبُونَ 7:125

They responded, “We are determined to turn to our Lord.

وَمَا تَنقِمُ مِنَّا إِلَّا أَنْ آمَنَّا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا لَمَّا جَاءَتْنَا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَتَوَفَّنَا مُسْلِمِينَ 7:126

Do you take vengeance on us simply because we believed in the revelations of our Lord when they came to us? Our Lord! Bestow on us steadfastness and let us die as submitters.” [2:250]

وَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِن قَوْمِ فِرْعَوْنَ أَتَذَرُ مُوسَىٰ وَقَوْمَهُ لِيُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَيَذَرَكَ وَآلِهَتَكَ قَالَ سَنُقَتِّلُ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَنَسْتَحْيِي نِسَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّا فَوْقَهُمْ قَاهِرُونَ 7:127

The chiefs among Pharaoh’s people said, “Will you allow Moses and his people to create disorder in the land, and forsake your rule and your gods?” He said, ”We will slay their sons and spare their women. We are in power over them.”

قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ اسْتَعِينُوا بِاللَّهِ وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ يُورِثُهَا مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **7:128**

Moses assured his people, "Seek help in God and patiently persevere. Remember that the earth belongs to God. He grants it as a heritage to His servants according to His laws. And the ultimate end belongs to the upright." [21:105]

قَالُوا أُوذِينَا مِن قَبْلِ أَن تَأْتِيَنَا وَمِن بَعْدِ مَا جِئْتَنَا قَالَ عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ **7:129**

Fearing persecution they said, "We suffered before you came to us and after you have come to us." Moses said, "Your Lord will annihilate your enemy, and you will inherit the earth. Then He will see what kind of works you do."

وَلَقَدْ أَخَذْنَا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ بِالسِّنِينَ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ **7:130**

The unjust system of Pharaoh and his people began to waver (7:94). When Our requital struck them with famine, and scanty crop (they found themselves ill prepared for the relief efforts). They should have stopped to think.

فَإِذَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْحَسَنَةُ قَالُوا لَنَا هَٰذِهِ وَإِن تُصِبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَطَّيَّرُوا بِمُوسَىٰ وَمَن مَّعَهُ أَلَا إِنَّمَا طَائِرُهُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **7:131**

(Instead of reflecting and taking corrective action, they sought the easy way out.) All good that came along, they ascribed it to their own worthiness, and any affliction that struck them, they blamed it on the bad omen of Moses and his companions. Most people do not know that there is no such thing as a bad omen or a good omen. People determine their destiny according to God's laws. In that sense, then, omens are with God alone.

وَقَالُوا مَهْمَا تَأْتِنَا بِهِ مِنْ آيَةٍ لِّتَسْحَرَنَا بِهَا فَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **7:132**

They kept telling Moses, "Whatever the verses might say, whatever bad omens you could bring, or bewitch us with your logic, we will not believe in you." (And will not consider reformation).

فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الطُّوفَانَ وَالْجَرَادَ وَالْقُمَّلَ وَالضَّفَادِعَ وَالدَّمَ آيَاتٍ مُّفَصَّلَاتٍ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ **7:133**

Their System was too inefficient to fight off natural calamities, such as, floods, swarms of locusts, and diseases of crops, livestock and humans. These were open signs for them to wake up to reform, but Pharaoh and his chiefs were too arrogant to accept responsibility, and too involved in luxury to take action. They were guilty of misrule.

وَلَمَّا وَقَعَ عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّجْزُ قَالُوا يَا مُوسَى ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ بِمَا عَهِدَ عِندَكَ لَئِن كَشَفْتَ عَنَّا الرِّجْزَ لَنُؤْمِنَنَّ لَكَ وَلَنُرْسِلَنَّ مَعَكَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **7:134**

(The irrational Egyptians continued to remain sunken in superstition.) Whenever hardship struck, they turned to Moses for prayer stating that God had a pledge with him, and promising that they would believe and let the Children of Israel go with him. [They did not understand that the pledge of God with His Messengers was only that of obeying His commands and His blessings in return. It did not involve any supernatural phenomena such as miracles]

فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمُ الرِّجْزَ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ هُم بَالِغُوهُ إِذَا هُمْ يَنكُثُونَ **7:135**

When the hardship ran its course according to Our laws, they would break their promise with Moses.

فَانتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا عَنْهَا غَافِلِينَ **7:136**

So, We sent Our requital on them and drowned them in the sea, for they had been denying Our messages and remained heedless.

وَأَوْرَثْنَا الْقَوْمَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يُسْتَضْعَفُونَ مَشَارِقَ الْأَرْضِ وَمَغَارِبَهَا الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ الْحُسْنَىٰ عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَدَمَّرْنَا مَا كَانَ يَصْنَعُ فِرْعَوْنُ وَقَوْمُهُ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْرِشُونَ **7:137**

We made the oppressed people inherit the east and the west of the land that We had blessed with abundant provision. The commands of your Lord were fulfilled for the Children of Israel to reward them for their steadfastness. Pharaoh and his people eventually met destruction for violating Our laws. And We leveled to the

ground (the great works and fine buildings, temples, palaces, tombs, statues and stately) structures of all kinds that Pharaoh and his people had built with so much skill and pride. [The Children of Israel later inherited a sizeable and highly prosperous kingdom including Syria and Palestine under David and Solomon]

وَجَاوَزْنَا بِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْبَحْرَ فَأَتَوْا عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ يَعْكُفُونَ عَلَىٰ أَصْنَامٍ لَّهُمْ قَالُوا يَا مُوسَى اجْعَل لَّنَا إِلَٰهًا كَمَا لَهُمْ آلِهَةٌ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ **7:138**

After they crossed the sea (into Sinai 2:50-51), the Children of Israel passed by some people who were worshiping statues. They said, 'O Moses! Make a god for us, like the gods they have." Moses said, "You are a people who wish to lurk in darkness.

إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ مُتَبَّرٌ مَّا هُمْ فِيهِ وَبَاطِلٌ مَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **7:139**

What these idol worshipers are doing is senseless and vain.

قَالَ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْغِيكُمْ إِلَٰهًا وَهُوَ فَضَّلَكُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **7:140**

Shall I seek a god for you other than God, when He has blessed you more than the other existing nations¿'

وَإِذْ أَنجَيْنَاكُم مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَسُومُونَكُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ يُقَتِّلُونَ أَبْنَاءَكُمْ وَيَسْتَحْيُونَ نِسَاءَكُمْ وَفِي ذَٰلِكُم بَلَاءٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَظِيمٌ **7:141**

Also remember when We saved you from Pharaoh's people. They persecuted you (by assigning hard tasks and) with a dreadful torment. They slaughtered your sons and let your women live (for slavery and shameful acts). That was a great tribulation, a test from your Lord Supreme. [2:49, 28:4][In addition to killing the newborn boys, as a matter of state policy, Pharaoh humiliated the strong and left the vulnerable for slavery and shameful acts. Abna = Sons = Strong ones. Nisaa = Females = Women = Derivatively, the weak ones. Yastahyoon carries the connotation of 'letting live' as well as 'in shame'. A tyrannical system has little tolerance for men of courage. 27:34, 28:4-5, 40:25. Exodus 1:15-22]

وَوَاعَدْنَا مُوسَىٰ ثَلَاثِينَ لَيْلَةً وَأَتْمَمْنَاهَا بِعَشْرٍ فَتَمَّ مِيقَاتُ رَبِّهِ أَرْبَعِينَ لَيْلَةً وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِأَخِيهِ هَارُونَ اخْلُفْنِي فِي قَوْمِي وَأَصْلِحْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **7:142**

We summoned Moses for thirty nights and completed them by adding ten. Thus We completed the term with His Lord, forty nights. Before leaving for Mount Sinai,

Moses assigned his brother Aaron, as his deputy and told him to keep social order after him and not to be intimidated by trouble makers. [2:51]

وَلَمَّا جَاءَ مُوسَىٰ لِمِيقَاتِنَا وَكَلَّمَهُ رَبُّهُ قَالَ رَبِّ أَرِنِي أَنظُرْ إِلَيْكَ قَالَ لَن تَرَانِي وَلَٰكِنِ انظُرْ إِلَى الْجَبَلِ فَإِنِ اسْتَقَرَّ مَكَانَهُ فَسَوْفَ تَرَانِي فَلَمَّا تَجَلَّىٰ رَبُّهُ لِلْجَبَلِ جَعَلَهُ دَكًّا وَخَرَّ مُوسَىٰ صَعِقًا فَلَمَّا أَفَاقَ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **7:143**

When Moses arrived at the appointed time, and his Lord spoke to him, Moses said, "My Lord! Give me the power to better perceive You." His Lord said, "You will not perceive Me unless you look pensively at the mountain. If it remains firm in its place, then shall you perceive Me." (You will realize that even a single mountain is made of countless particles that were scattered as dust and it is your Lord Who has made it stand firm.) Thus did his Lord choose for the mountain to be a manifestation of His glory. Moses pictured the mountain as dust and was stunned! When he recovered his senses, he said, "Infinite are You in Your glory! I turn to you repentant and I am among the foremost believers." [The 7,359 feet high Mount Sinai is standing to this day. Therefore, contrary to popular literal translation of this verse, its understanding in allegorical terms is preferred. Also, a Prophet of God is least likely to make a demand to see God in physical form. See 2:55, 2:118, 7:155. Now let us suppose that it was some other mountain that had crumbled to dust. In that case, the place would most certainly have become the greatest historical relic of all times. As I have stated in preface to QXPi, the earliest Tafseers of the Qur'an were written centuries after the exalted Prophet. By then the Ajami (Zoroastrian-Persian, alien) politics and culture dominated the Islamic Empire centered in Baghdad. It is a hard fact of the historical dynamics that the rulers' political supremacy profoundly affects the culture and language of the entire nation. Just as an example, Khalifa Haroon Rasheed's mother Khaizran was a Zoroastrian (Parsi or Maggian), and so were his wives. Khaizran's son, the succeeding Khalifa Mamoon's wives were also Ajami. Even the Baramakah, the viziers of the Empire were Ajamis. So, the Zoroa-Persian concepts left a very heavy impact on the Arabic language, giving Ajami (alien) concepts even to the Qur'anic themes and terminology - So much so that they became Ma'roof (generally recognized and well-accepted). Let us see how our clergy handled this verse. They had the unchangeable Qur'an before them, but the concepts they adopted were foreign and pliable like wax. A Hadith was concocted in the name of the exalted Messenger. Here it is as related by a recent Mullah: "The Prophet, after reciting this verse (7:143), placed his thumb on the little finger and said that only this much of the light of God had touched the mountain. Therefore, only that much portion (the size of a little finger) of the mountain was affected." - Ma'arifil Qur'an, Mufti Aazam (the Chief Mufti) of Pakistan, 'Maulana' Mufti Muhammad Shafi; tafseer of 7:143 vol 4 - quoting Anas bin Malik from the ancient Tirmizi, Hanbal and Hakam. Whoever made up this Hadith forgot that the wrong Ajami translations talk of the whole mountain crumbling to dust!]

قَالَ يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي اصْطَفَيْتُكَ عَلَى النَّاسِ بِرِسَالَاتِي وَبِكَلَامِي فَخُذْ مَا آتَيْتُكَ وَكُن مِّنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ 7:144

God said, "O Moses! I have chosen you, out of all people, with My messages and by speaking to you. Therefore, take what I have given you and be among the grateful."

وَكَتَبْنَا لَهُ فِي الْأَلْوَاحِ مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْعِظَةً وَتَفْصِيلًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَخُذْهَا بِقُوَّةٍ وَأْمُرْ قَوْمَكَ يَأْخُذُوا بِأَحْسَنِهَا سَأُرِيكُمْ دَارَ الْفَاسِقِينَ 7:145

We ordained for him, in the Tablets of law, Enlightenment and clearly spelled out guidance. And told him, "Uphold these teachings strongly, and tell your people to uphold them. These are excellent teachings. I will soon let you and your people see (how blessed the end of compliance will be and) to which abode the drifters will be headed." [39:18]

سَأَصْرِفُ عَنْ آيَاتِيَ الَّذِينَ يَتَكَبَّرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَإِن يَرَوْا كُلَّ آيَةٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَا وَإِن يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الرُّشْدِ لَا يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا وَإِن يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الْغَيِّ يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا عَنْهَا غَافِلِينَ 7:146

Even if they went through the entire script, and saw clear evidence of the truth, their arrogance will keep them from believing. When they see the right guidance, they do not accept it, but they readily accept straying. This is because they choose to deny Our revelations and remain unaware of the wisdom in them. [The law stands that those who are arrogant without justification will turn away from Divine revelations. Takabbur bil-Haqq (rightful pride with gratitude to God) is different from Takabbur bighairil-Haqq (Pride against all right). God ascribes to Himself, the consequences according to His Law of Requital, such as, "God did it."]

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَلِقَاءِ الْآخِرَةِ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ هَلْ يُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ 7:147

Those who deny Our messages and the meeting of the Hereafter, their works are fruitless. Are they rewarded anything but what they deserved for their decisions? [Human beings should remember that every action has a consequence and it gets imprinted on the 'self'. While every tomorrow is the Aakhirah (after) of today, the final Judgment and Recompense for us rests with the life to come]

وَاتَّخَذَ قَوْمُ مُوسَىٰ مِن بَعْدِهِ مِنْ حُلِيِّهِمْ عِجْلًا جَسَدًا لَّهُ خُوَارٌ أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّهُ لَا يُكَلِّمُهُمْ وَلَا يَهْدِيهِمْ سَبِيلًا اتَّخَذُوهُ وَكَانُوا ظَالِمِينَ **7:148**

The people of Moses made up a calf out of their ornaments while Moses was at the Mount Sinai. They made it such that blowing into it produced a lowing sound. They did not even see that it could not talk to them or show them any path. Still they chose it as a god, and thus wronged their own 'self'.

وَلَمَّا سُقِطَ فِي أَيْدِيهِمْ وَرَأَوْا أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ ضَلُّوا قَالُوا لَئِن لَّمْ يَرْحَمْنَا رَبُّنَا وَيَغْفِرْ لَنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **7:149**

When they regretted their action and realized that they had gone astray, they said, "Unless our Lord have mercy on us and forgive us, we will be lost."

وَلَمَّا رَجَعَ مُوسَىٰ إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ غَضْبَانَ أَسِفًا قَالَ بِئْسَمَا خَلَفْتُمُونِي مِن بَعْدِي أَعَجِلْتُمْ أَمْرَ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَلْقَى الْأَلْوَاحَ وَأَخَذَ بِرَأْسِ أَخِيهِ يَجُرُّهُ إِلَيْهِ قَالَ ابْنَ أُمَّ إِنَّ الْقَوْمَ اسْتَضْعَفُونِي وَكَادُوا يَقْتُلُونَنِي فَلَا تُشْمِتْ بِيَ الْأَعْدَاءَ وَلَا تَجْعَلْنِي مَعَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **7:150**

Command is important not tablet

Moses returned to his people and was upset and grieved. He said, "You have chosen a terrible thing after me. Do you wish your Lord's requital to smite you soon? He put down the tablets of the commands among them and questioned his brother, Aaron, very strictly. Aaron explained, "O Son of my mother! These people treated me harshly and took my patience as weakness, and almost killed me. Let not my opponents rejoice, and do not count me among the wrongdoers." [20:86. Seizing the beard and head is indicative of interrogating harshly. Aaron had been extra patient with their idolatry to avoid division among them (20:94). Aaron, the Prophet of God, preferred Shirk over Sectarianism. This is how reprehensible sectarianism and division in religion is]

قَالَ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِأَخِي وَأَدْخِلْنَا فِي رَحْمَتِكَ وَأَنتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **7:151**

Moses said, "My Lord! Forgive me and my brother and admit us in Your grace. Of all the merciful ones, You are the Most Merciful."

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا الْعِجْلَ سَيَنَالُهُمْ غَضَبٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَذِلَّةٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُفْتَرِينَ 7:152

Those who chose the calf for worship, were seized by their Lord's Law of Requital, and faced humiliation in the life of this world. Thus do We recompense those who invent lies.

وَالَّذِينَ عَمِلُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ ثُمَّ تَابُوا مِن بَعْدِهَا وَآمَنُوا إِنَّ رَبَّكَ مِن بَعْدِهَا لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 7:153

Those who have done ill deeds, but then repent and attain belief, for them, afterward, God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَلَمَّا سَكَتَ عَن مُّوسَى الْغَضَبُ أَخَذَ الْأَلْوَاحَ وَفِي نُسْخَتِهَا هُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلَّذِينَ هُمْ لِرَبِّهِمْ يَرْهَبُونَ 7:154

When Moses calmed down, he picked up the tablets, on which was inscribed merciful guidance for those who fear violating the law of their Lord.

وَاخْتَارَ مُوسَىٰ قَوْمَهُ سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا لِّمِيقَاتِنَا فَلَمَّا أَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ قَالَ رَبِّ لَوْ شِئْتَ أَهْلَكْتَهُم مِّن قَبْلُ وَإِيَّايَ أَتُهْلِكُنَا بِمَا فَعَلَ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَّا إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا فِتْنَتُكَ تُضِلُّ بِهَا مَن تَشَاءُ وَتَهْدِي مَن تَشَاءُ أَنتَ وَلِيُّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الْغَافِرِينَ 7:155

Then, Moses selected seventy of his people for Our place of meeting. When they were seized with violent quaking, he said, "My Lord! You could have destroyed them and me long before, if You so willed. Would You destroy us for the actions of the foolish ones among us? This must be Your trial. By such trials, You let go astray those who will to go astray, and You guide those who will to be guided. You are our Protector. So, forgive us and grant us mercy. You are the Best of forgivers. [2:55]

وَاكْتُبْ لَنَا فِي هَٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ إِنَّا هُدْنَا إِلَيْكَ قَالَ عَذَابِي أُصِيبُ بِهِ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَسَأَكْتُبُهَا لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالَّذِينَ هُم 7:156

Zakat purification

بِآيَاتِنَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

Appoint for us the good in this world and in the Hereafter. We turn to You for guidance." (He answered), "My punishment is but through My law. But My mercy embraces all things. Yet, I (especially) appoint it for those who live upright and keep their wealth open for others and those who truly believe in Our messages." [Sha = Due measure = Divine law = Will. Taqwa = To live upright = Being mindful of God = Being observant = Being God-conscious = Seeking to journey through life in security. Nafaq = An open-ended tunnel = Shun hoarding = Leaving wealth open for others = Spend on others]

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا **7:157**
عِندَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُم بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ
عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ
وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ
فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ
مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

See Sam Gerrans
Is Muhammad referred to here in the bible

(Now the law has been revealed to Prophet Muhammad.) Follow the Messenger, the Prophet who is a non-Israelite, and who was unlettered before the revelation (29:48). They find him well described* in the Torah and the Gospel with them. He enjoins upon them the Right, and forbids them the Wrong. He declares lawful all good things, and declares unlawful only the unclean things. He relieves people from the burdens they carried. He breaks the shackles of mental and physical slavery that they used to carry, and brings them out from darkness to light (5:15-16, 65:11, 76:4). Those who believe in him, honor him, support him, and follow the light that has come with him, are the eternally successful. *[Deuteronomy: 18:15-18. Gospel of John: 14:16, 15:26, 16:7 Paracletos = Comforter, from original Greek Periclytos = The praised one. In Aramaic, Mawhamana = The praised one]

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا الَّذِي لَهُ **7:158**
مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ
فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ الَّذِي يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ
وَكَلِمَاتِهِ وَاتَّبِعُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

Ummi

Say, "O Mankind! I am God's Messenger to all of you (beyond temporal and geographical bounds.) The Messenger of Him to Whom belongs the Dominion of the heavens and earth. There is no god but He. He has absolute control over the fountain spring of life and over the laws of transition to death. So, believe in God and

His Messenger, the Prophet to whose people no scripture was given before, and who believes in God and in His Words. Follow him so that you may be rightly guided."

وَمِن قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ أُمَّةٌ يَهْدُونَ بِالْحَقِّ وَبِهِ يَعْدِلُونَ **7:159**

The people of Moses were given similar guidance and a section among them was guided and did justice in truth.

وَقَطَّعْنَاهُمُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ أَسْبَاطًا أُمَمًا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ إِذِ **7:160**
اسْتَسْقَاهُ قَوْمُهُ أَنِ اضْرِب بِّعَصَاكَ الْحَجَرَ فَانبَجَسَتْ مِنْهُ
اثْنَتَا عَشْرَةَ عَيْنًا قَدْ عَلِمَ كُلُّ أُنَاسٍ مَّشْرَبَهُمْ وَظَلَّلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ
الْغَمَامَ وَأَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَنَّ وَالسَّلْوَىٰ كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا
رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَمَا ظَلَمُونَا وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ

We set up twelve tribal communities among the Israelites (for effective administration). When his people asked for water, We revealed to Moses, "Strike the rock with your staff!" And twelve springs gushed forth from there. Each group knew its own place of water. We gave them the shade of clouds, and manna and quails, saying, "Eat of the good things We have provided you." (After a time, the corrupters in that wonderful society started dissenting.) They did not harm Us, but they did harm their own 'self'. [2:60, 3:7. Remember the times when they were in the Sinai desert and there was shortage of water. Moses asked for water for his people and God guided him to a rock under which were hidden twelve springs of water ready to gush forth. Moses, with the strength of his conviction and with the help of his companions, unclogged those springs and each of the twelve tribes found their respective source of fresh cool water. Moses had established the Divine System of life. God will open the blessings of the heavens and earth for any nation that accepts His laws and works for the collective good of humanity. Such abundance with equity is no less than a heavenly "Table spread" that ensures freedom from want for all, in the shadow of Divine grace. They enjoyed delicious bird meat and vegetation they had grown in the oasis of their own making. For Manna and Salwa, see Glossary in Introduction to QXP]

وَإِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمُ اسْكُنُوا هَٰذِهِ الْقَرْيَةَ وَكُلُوا مِنْهَا حَيْثُ شِئْتُمْ **7:161**
وَقُولُوا حِطَّةٌ وَادْخُلُوا الْبَابَ سُجَّدًا نَّغْفِرْ لَكُمْ خَطِيئَاتِكُمْ
سَنَزِيدُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

And remember it was said to them, "Dwell in this town (Palestine 5:21) and enjoy the provisions as you wish. Enter the gate humbly and say, 'Hittatun', 'Our Lord! Absolve our misdeeds as we mend our ways.' Then do what you say and We shall forgive you your misdeeds. We increase the reward for the doers of good." [2:58]

فَبَدَّلَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ قَوْلًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِجْزًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَظْلِمُونَ **7:162**

But, some of the wrongdoers began changing the Word of God that was taught to them, and displaced it with their own fabrications. (They became disobedient). So, We (Our law) caused them to weaken and waver, for they violated the commands. [Rijz = Weakness = Disease = Plague = Beri beri, a neurological weakness in the camel and in humans caused by Vit B1 deficiency (erroneously described under Ithm in QXPi). Rijam-min-Assama = Heavenly punishment resulting in moral and physical weakness. 2:59-61, 5:22-24, 7:134, 8:11, 29:34, 34:5]

وَاسْأَلْهُمْ عَنِ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ حَاضِرَةَ الْبَحْرِ إِذْ يَعْدُونَ فِي السَّبْتِ إِذْ تَأْتِيهِمْ حِيتَانُهُمْ يَوْمَ سَبْتِهِمْ شُرَّعًا وَيَوْمَ لَا يَسْبِتُونَ لَا تَأْتِيهِمْ كَذَٰلِكَ نَبْلُوهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ **7:163**

Ask the Israelites about the township (Elat) that was located by the sea, and they had violated the Sabbath. The big fish used to come on the surface in abundance on their day of Sabbath, feeling secure, and did not come up on other days. (But the community failed to persevere, and broke the Sabbath to get a good catch.) Thus We tested them to see for themselves how they drift away from discipline.

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ أُمَّةٌ مِّنْهُمْ لِمَ تَعِظُونَ قَوْمًا اللَّهُ مُهْلِكُهُمْ أَوْ مُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا قَالُوا مَعْذِرَةً إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ **7:164**

The kind-hearted among them kept reminding the violators. And others said, "Why do you preach a people whom God's requital is going to destroy or punish them with a severe torment?" The counselors said, "In order to be free of guilt before your Lord that we failed to advise - And in the hope that they live upright."

فَلَمَّا نَسُوا مَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ أَنجَيْنَا الَّذِينَ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ السُّوءِ وَأَخَذْنَا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا بِعَذَابٍ بَئِيسٍ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ **7:165**

When they disregarded the reminders, We saved the ones who admonished them, and punished those who transgressed and drifted away from the command.

فَلَمَّا عَتَوْا عَن مَّا نُهُوا عَنْهُ قُلْنَا لَهُمْ كُونُوا قِرَدَةً خَاسِئِينَ **7:166**

As they persisted with their rebellious behavior, Our law caused their disposition take a downward turn and they developed apish mentality. We told them, "Be the living symbols of humiliation."

Allegory

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكَ لَيَبْعَثَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَن يَسُومُهُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَسَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **7:167**

And remember, your Lord proclaimed that He would raise against them until the Day of Resurrection, people who will persecute them. Your Lord is Swift in retribution, yet any people who mend their ways, will find Him Forgiving, Merciful.

وَقَطَّعْنَاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُمَمًا مِّنْهُمُ الصَّالِحُونَ وَمِنْهُمْ دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ وَبَلَوْنَاهُم بِالْحَسَنَاتِ وَالسَّيِّئَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **7:168**

And We scattered them into different communities throughout the earth. Among them some are righteous, and some are opposite. Through the turns of history We have caused them to experience easy and difficult times, in order that they might return to Our laws.

فَخَلَفَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ وَرِثُوا الْكِتَابَ يَأْخُذُونَ عَرَضَ هَٰذَا الْأَدْنَىٰ وَيَقُولُونَ سَيُغْفَرُ لَنَا وَإِن يَأْتِهِمْ عَرَضٌ مِّثْلُهُ يَأْخُذُوهُ أَلَمْ يُؤْخَذْ عَلَيْهِم مِّيثَاقُ الْكِتَابِ أَن لَّا يَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ وَدَرَسُوا مَا فِيهِ وَالدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **7:169**

But, the succeeding generations that inherited the scripture, did no better. They became more materialistic, falling for instant gains. Yet, they insist, "We will be forgiven, and would not have to account for it." And they keep longing for material gains. Didn't they promise to uphold the scripture, and not to say about God but the truth? And they have studied the commands in it! The long-term benefit and the abode of the Hereafter are better for those who deal justly with people and live upright. Will you not use sense?

وَالَّذِينَ يُمَسِّكُونَ بِالْكِتَابِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّا لَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُصْلِحِينَ **7:170**

Adhere to the book

Those who hold fast to the Book of God, and establish the Divine System, We never squander the reward of those committed to social welfare.

وَإِذْ نَتَقْنَا الْجَبَلَ فَوْقَهُمْ كَأَنَّهُ ظُلَّةٌ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُ وَاقِعٌ بِهِمْ خُذُوا مَا آتَيْنَاكُم بِقُوَّةٍ وَاذْكُرُوا مَا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ **7:171**

They must recall that the Mount Sinai stands over them as a telling witness. The mountain could shake with a quake and fall to be level with them but the Divine Guidance is the unwavering truth (13:31). We said, "Hold firmly what We have given you and remember its teachings so that you live upright."

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِن بَنِي آدَمَ مِن ظُهُورِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ شَهِدْنَا أَن تَقُولُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّا كُنَّا عَنْ هَٰذَا غَافِلِينَ **7:172**

When your Lord brought forth generations in succession from the Children of Adam, and made them bear witness, "Am I not your Sustainer?" They said, "Yes, we bear witness." Thus you cannot say on the Resurrection Day, "We were not aware of this." [Min Zuhoorihim = From their posterity = In succession = Their seed = One generation following another. The uninterrupted survival of mankind is a telling witness for them that their is an Almighty Sustainer of the Universe]

أَوْ تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أَشْرَكَ آبَاؤُنَا مِن قَبْلُ وَكُنَّا ذُرِّيَّةً مِّن بَعْدِهِمْ أَفَتُهْلِكُنَا بِمَا فَعَلَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ **7:173**

Nor will any excuse avail them such as, "It was our forefathers who took false gods and we inherited their belief system. Will you punish us for what falsehood others practiced?" [You will not be questioned what others used to do. No one will bear the load of another. 2:134, 39:7]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **7:174**

We explain Our verses in detail so that people turn toward the Book.

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ الَّذِي آتَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا فَانسَلَخَ مِنْهَا فَأَتْبَعَهُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ **7:175**

And tell them what happened to him whom Our messages were conveyed but he cast them off. Thus Satan (his selfish desires) overpowered him until he became of those who lost their way.

وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَرَفَعْنَاهُ بِهَا وَلَٰكِنَّهُ أَخْلَدَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ فَمَثَلُهُ كَمَثَلِ الْكَلْبِ إِن تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْهِ يَلْهَثْ أَوْ تَتْرُكْهُ يَلْهَث ذَّٰلِكَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَاقْصُصِ الْقَصَصَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **7:176**

He could have raised himself in honor according to Our laws, but he clung to the earth and followed his own desires. Therefore his likeness is as the likeness of a dog. If you scold him, he pants, or if you leave him alone, he still pants. Such is the example of the nation that belies Our revelations. So, relate this narration that they may reflect. [If it had been Our will = If he chose Our laws of humiliation. God's revelation lightens your burdens while manmade dogmas place burdens on you. 7:157]

سَاءَ مَثَلًا الْقَوْمُ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَأَنفُسَهُمْ كَانُوا يَظْلِمُونَ **7:177**

Evil as an example are the people who reject Our verses, since they hurt their own 'self'.

مَن يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِي وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **7:178**

Whoever attains God's Guidance according to His laws is led right. And goes astray he who violates God's law of guidance. [4:88]

وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَّا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَٰئِكَ كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ **7:179**

Our law has committed to Hell numerous people, rural and urban; they are living a life of Hell. They have hearts that they use not to understand. They have eyes with which they see not, and ears with which they hear not. They are like cattle. Nay, they are even worse. Such are the people who have chosen to live through life in total darkness of ignorance.

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا وَذَرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **7:180**

All Names of God are the fairest names. You can invoke Him by any of them. Be mindful not to over-emphasize a single attribute of His. Leave the company of those who take one of His Attribute and run aside to dwell upon it. They will soon be awarded for their misdoings. [The Merciful God is also a Just God. God is not Love only, He dislikes the oppressors. 4:171, 17:110, 41:40]

Punish for what you do only

وَمِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا أُمَّةٌ يَهْدُونَ بِالْحَقِّ وَبِهِ يَعْدِلُونَ **7:181**

Among the communities We have created there have been those who guide with truth and establish justice with it.

وَالَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُم مِّنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 7:182

And those who deny Our revelations, Our Law of Recompense leads them in stages to the miserable destination they have no idea of.

وَأُمْلِي لَهُمْ إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ 7:183

I give them respite but My Law of Requital is designed to be strong.

أَوَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا مَا بِصَاحِبِهِم مِّن جِنَّةٍ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ 7:184

Has it never occurred to them that there is no madness whatsoever in their fellow-man? He has lived a whole life among you (10:16). He is only a plain warner.

أَوَلَمْ يَنظُرُوا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ مِن شَيْءٍ وَأَنْ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ قَدِ اقْتَرَبَ أَجَلُهُمْ فَبِأَيِّ حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَهُ يُؤْمِنُونَ 7:185

Hadith used negatively

Can they not see (and correlate what he tells them with) the Dominion of the heavens and earth and what God has created? Does it ever occur to them that the end of their own life may be near (hence the time to make the right decisions is not unlimited)? In what Hadith after this (Qur'an) are they going to believe then?

مَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَيَذَرُهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ 7:186

There is no guide for him who misleads himself by violating God's law of guidance. When he leaves the law, the law leaves him wandering in the wilderness of arrogant trespassing. [2:15]

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ السَّاعَةِ أَيَّانَ مُرْسَاهَا قُلْ إِنَّمَا عِلْمُهَا عِندَ رَبِّي لَا يُجَلِّيهَا لِوَقْتِهَا إِلَّا هُوَ ثَقُلَتْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا تَأْتِيكُمْ إِلَّا بَغْتَةً يَسْأَلُونَكَ كَأَنَّكَ حَفِيٌّ عَنْهَا قُلْ إِنَّمَا عِلْمُهَا عِندَ اللَّهِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 7:187

Messengers don't know the hour

(They even venture into predicting the end of the world.) They ask you (O Messenger), about the Hour, when the end of the world will come to pass. Say, "That knowledge is only with my Lord. He alone will manifest it at the appropriate time. Heavy it is in the heavens and earth. It will come upon you suddenly." They ask you as if you could gain insight into this mystery with persistent inquiry. Say, "The knowledge thereof is with God only. But most people do not know" (that even Messengers were not given the knowledge of the Unseen except when God willed).

قُل لَّا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ كُنتُ أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ لَاسْتَكْثَرْتُ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ وَمَا مَسَّنِيَ السُّوءُ إِنْ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **7:188**

Only Allah knows the hour

Say, "I do not even have the power to benefit myself or to avert harm from myself, contrary to the laws of God. If I had the knowledge of the Unseen, I would have amassed abundant fortune, and no adversity would have touched me. I am but a warner and a bearer of good news for those who have faith."

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَجَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا لِيَسْكُنَ إِلَيْهَا فَلَمَّا تَغَشَّاهَا حَمَلَتْ حَمْلًا خَفِيفًا فَمَرَّتْ بِهِ فَلَمَّا أَثْقَلَت دَّعَوَا اللَّهَ رَبَّهُمَا لَئِنْ آتَيْتَنَا صَالِحًا لَّنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ **7:189**

(The message encompasses life in its totality.) Recall that God created life from a single life cell, then made male and female cells, and then shaped you into human beings, males and females. He designed it such that man might incline with love towards the woman. When he gets intimate with her, she carries a light load that she can hardly notice. As she grows heavy with the child, they both implore God, their Lord, "If you grant us a healthy baby, we shall certainly be among the grateful."

فَلَمَّا آتَاهُمَا صَالِحًا جَعَلَا لَهُ شُرَكَاءَ فِيمَا آتَاهُمَا فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **7:190**

But as soon as He grants them a healthy baby, they begin to ascribe to others a share in the gift He has given them. Exalted is He, High above all that they associate with Him.

أَيُشْرِكُونَ مَا لَا يَخْلُقُ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ **7:191**

Do they ascribe to Him as partners things that can create nothing, but are themselves created?

وَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ لَهُمْ نَصْرًا وَلَا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَنصُرُونَ **7:192**

And they cannot help them, nor can they help themselves.

وَإِن تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَى الْهُدَىٰ لَا يَتَّبِعُوكُمْ سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْكُمْ أَدَعَوْتُمُوهُمْ أَمْ أَنتُمْ صَامِتُونَ **7:193**

When you invite them to the guidance, they do not follow you. Thus, it is the same for them whether you invite them, or remain silent.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ عِبَادٌ أَمْثَالُكُمْ فَادْعُوهُمْ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **7:194**

Those whom you call upon besides God, such as the mystics and saints, are people like you. Go ahead and call upon them, let them respond by helping you if you are true in your belief.

أَلَهُمْ أَرْجُلٌ يَمْشُونَ بِهَا أَمْ لَهُمْ أَيْدٍ يَبْطِشُونَ بِهَا أَمْ لَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا أَمْ لَهُمْ آذَانٌ يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا قُلِ ادْعُوا شُرَكَاءَكُمْ ثُمَّ كِيدُونِ فَلَا تُنظِرُونِ **7:195**

Only Allah can help you,not saints etc.

Do the idols have feet to walk, hands to hold, eyes to see and ears to hear? Tell the opponents of the message, "Call upon your idols and your so-called partners of God, contrive what you can, and give me no respite. [These human demigods have no foundation of truth to stand on, nor the power to avert requital, nor the faculties to confront Reason]

إِنَّ وَلِيِّيَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْكِتَابَ وَهُوَ يَتَوَلَّى الصَّالِحِينَ **7:196**

My Protecting Friend is God Who has revealed this Book, and He befriends the righteous."

وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَكُمْ وَلَا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَنصُرُونَ **7:197**

Whomever you call instead of Him, has no power to help you, nor can they help themselves.

وَإِن تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَى الْهُدَىٰ لَا يَسْمَعُوا وَتَرَاهُمْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَيْكَ وَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ **7:198**

When you invite them to the guidance, they do not hear. And you see them looking at you, but they do not see.

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ **7:199**

Resort to pardon, go ahead with your program of enjoining virtue and disregard those who choose to remain ignorant.

وَإِمَّا يَنزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **7:200**

Seek refuge in God's laws by staying alert to any covert actions of the satanic opponents. He is Hearer, Knower.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَائِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُوا فَإِذَا هُم مُّبْصِرُونَ **7:201**

Those who are mindful of God, stay alert to the covert actions of the hinderers and see them with an observant mind.

وَإِخْوَانُهُمْ يَمُدُّونَهُمْ فِي الْغَيِّ ثُمَّ لَا يُقْصِرُونَ **7:202**

The hinderers and their comrades plunge one another deeper into error, and cease not.

وَإِذَا لَمْ تَأْتِهِم بِآيَةٍ قَالُوا لَوْلَا اجْتَبَيْتَهَا قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَتَّبِعُ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ مِن رَّبِّي هَٰذَا بَصَائِرُ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **7:203**

When you do not produce a miracle that they demand, they say, "Why not ask God for it?" Say, "I simply follow and convey what is revealed to me from my Lord." These verses are the enlightening miracle from your Lord, the guidance and grace for those who accept them.

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ **7:204**

Listen when Quran is recited

When the Qur'an is read, listen to it with full attention, and listen to it silently, that you may receive mercy.

وَاذْكُر رَّبَّكَ فِي نَفْسِكَ تَضَرُّعًا وَخِيفَةً وَدُونَ الْجَهْرِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ وَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْغَافِلِينَ **7:205**

Remember your Sustainer within yourself humbly and in reverence, and without raising your voice, morning and evening. Be not among the negligent.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِندَ رَبِّكَ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ وَلَهُ يَسْجُدُونَ **7:206**

Those who are with your Lord (the truly devoted), are never too proud to serve Him. They strive to establish His glory on earth by adoring Him and submitting to His commands.

Chapter 8

Al-Anfal - The Spoils Of War

This is the 8th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 75 verses. One of the great Revolutions that the exalted Messenger brought about, along with the Qur´an, was to ban all raids and ambushes. The negative incentive of tribal battles used to be the achievement of spoils of war. The Divine decree forbade it and allowed to pick up arms only for self- defense and to remove tyranny. The spoils of war can only be legitimate when believers have engaged in the defense of the Divine Order.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَنفَالِ قُلِ الْأَنفَالُ لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **8:1**

They ask you (O Messenger) about the spoils of war. Say, "The spoils of war belong to God and the Messenger. Be mindful of God's commands and maintain the bonds of brotherhood among you. Obey God and the Messenger if you are believers. [God and the Messenger = The Central Authority. After the exalted Messenger, the Central Authority of the truly Islamic State will equitably allocate all funds at their disposal]

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ **8:2**

The true believers are those who feel a tremor in their hearts when God is mentioned. (They beat synchronously with the commands of God.) And when His revelations are conveyed to them, they find their faith strengthened. They do their best and then put their trust in their Lord.

الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **8:3**

They help establish the Divine System and keep the provision that We have given them, open for the good of humanity.

أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا لَّهُمْ دَرَجَاتٌ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ 8:4

These will have ranks with God

Such are the true believers. They have high ranks with their Lord and for them is the protection (against the detriment of their faults) and honorable provision. [Ghafarah = Helmet = Protection = Shielding = Forgiveness = Cover]

كَمَا أَخْرَجَكَ رَبُّكَ مِن بَيْتِكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّ فَرِيقًا مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لَكَارِهُونَ 8:5

(When the time came to defend the Ideological State of Madinah), your Lord commanded you (O Prophet) to go forth from your home with the conviction that the truth was on your side. And some of the believers were reluctant.

يُجَادِلُونَكَ فِي الْحَقِّ بَعْدَمَا تَبَيَّنَ كَأَنَّمَا يُسَاقُونَ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ وَهُمْ يَنظُرُونَ 8:6

(They argued whether to meet the aggressor outside Madinah at Badr, or wait.) And they disputed with you about it after the decision had been made manifest in mutual consultations, as if they were being driven to obvious death.

وَإِذْ يَعِدُكُمُ اللَّهُ إِحْدَى الطَّائِفَتَيْنِ أَنَّهَا لَكُمْ وَتَوَدُّونَ أَنَّ غَيْرَ ذَاتِ الشَّوْكَةِ تَكُونُ لَكُمْ وَيُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَن يُحِقَّ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَيَقْطَعَ دَابِرَ الْكَافِرِينَ 8:7

God promised you engagement and victory against one of the two groups. You preferred to face the weaker group, but God willed the truth to prevail according to His Words and soundly defeat the aggressive disbelievers.

لِيُحِقَّ الْحَقَّ وَيُبْطِلَ الْبَاطِلَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُجْرِمُونَ 8:8

(That was the first armed confrontation with the opponents; the believers were greatly outnumbered and ill equipped.) He has decreed that the truth shall triumph, and the falsehood shall vanish, even as the guilty detest it.

إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُم بِأَلْفٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرْدِفِينَ 8:9

You sought help from your Lord and He assured you, “I will help you with a thousand of the angels, rank upon rank.”

Angels as defenders

وَمَا جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بُشْرَىٰ وَلِتَطْمَئِنَّ بِهِ قُلُوبُكُمْ وَمَا النَّصْرُ إِلَّا مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **8:10**

Victory is from God only

God made this as good news and contentment to your hearts. And there is no help except from God. Certainly, God is Mighty, Wise. [These Divine Attributes should draw attention to organized force and sound planning]

إِذْ يُغَشِّيكُمُ النُّعَاسَ أَمَنَةً مِّنْهُ وَيُنَزِّلُ عَلَيْكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لِّيُطَهِّرَكُم بِهِ وَيُذْهِبَ عَنكُمْ رِجْزَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيَرْبِطَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ **8:11**

Remember He caused calmness to overtake you to give you inner peace from Himself. And He sent down from the sky water upon you, that He might refresh you, and remove from you the fear of Satan - And that He might, thus, strengthen your hearts and make firm your foothold. [Fear of Satan: Concern about the satanic act of the enemy as they had confiscated the water wells]

إِذْ يُوحِي رَبُّكَ إِلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ أَنِّي مَعَكُمْ فَثَبِّتُوا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا سَأُلْقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ فَاضْرِبُوا فَوْقَ الْأَعْنَاقِ وَاضْرِبُوا مِنْهُمْ كُلَّ بَنَانٍ **8:12**

Recall that your Lord inspired the angels, “I am with you. So make the believers stand firm. I will instill awe in the hearts of the unbelievers.” Then (O believers) launch a swift strike to disillusion their command and scatter their soldiers. [Fawq al-a’naaq and Kulla banan are exactly similar allegories as we find in 47:4. No commander, during active combat with swords and arrows, would order his soldiers to aim only for ‘above the necks’ and ‘at every one of their finger tips’. Would not that be a sure way to lose the battle?]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ شَاقُّوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَمَن يُشَاقِقِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **8:13**

That is because they opposed God and His Messenger. Whoever opposes God and His Messenger, then, God is Strict in grasping.

ذَٰلِكُمْ فَذُوقُوهُ وَأَنَّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابَ النَّارِ **8:14**

That is the punishment, so taste it. And there is the torment of fire for the rejecters.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا لَقِيتُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا زَحْفًا فَلَا تُوَلُّوهُمُ الْأَدْبَارَ **8:15**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never turn your backs when you meet the rejecters in battle.

وَمَن يُوَلِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ دُبُرَهُ إِلَّا مُتَحَرِّفًا لِّقِتَالٍ أَوْ مُتَحَيِّزًا إِلَىٰ فِئَةٍ فَقَدْ بَاءَ بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَمَأْوَاهُ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **8:16**

Anyone who turns back on that day, unless strategically or to join his own troops, incurs God's disapproval. His abode shall be Hell, a miserable destination.

فَلَمْ تَقْتُلُوهُمْ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ قَتَلَهُمْ وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ وَلِيُبْلِيَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْهُ بَلَاءً حَسَنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **8:17**

You did not subdue them, God did. You did not throw the arrows, God did. But He let the believers test themselves in a blessing from Him in disguise. God is Hearer, Knower. ['God did' = Being the Supreme Controller, God assigns to Himself all that happens in the Universe. Balaa-an-Hasana = Tribulation ending graciously = Blessing in disguise]

ذَٰلِكُمْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مُوهِنُ كَيْدِ الْكَافِرِينَ **8:18**

That was the case with you. And know that God is the One Who nullifies the artful schemes of the rejecters.

إِن تَسْتَفْتِحُوا فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمُ الْفَتْحُ وَإِن تَنتَهُوا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَإِن تَعُودُوا نَعُدْ وَلَن تُغْنِيَ عَنكُمْ فِئَتُكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَوْ كَثُرَتْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **8:19**

You sought victory and judgment (O Disbelievers)! Now victory and judgment have come to you. (If you reflect, the triumph of the truth is the victory for all, including yourselves.) If you refrain from aggression, it will be better for you. But, if you return, so shall We. Your armies will not avail you, no matter how numerous. God is with the believers.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ وَأَنتُمْ تَسْمَعُونَ **8:20**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey God and His Messenger. Listen to him when he speaks, without getting distracted.

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ **8:21**

Do not be like those who say that they hear, while they do not hear.

إِنَّ شَرَّ الدَّوَابِّ عِندَ اللَّهِ الصُّمُّ الْبُكْمُ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ **8:22**

God likes those who reason

The worst of created beings in the Sight of God are the deaf and the dumb, those who do not use their intellect. [2:18, 16:76]

وَلَوْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمْ خَيْرًا لَّأَسْمَعَهُمْ وَلَوْ أَسْمَعَهُمْ لَتَوَلَّوا وَّهُم مُّعْرِضُونَ **8:23**

If God had seen any good in them, He would have made them hear. But, even if He made them hear, they would have turned away. [The perceptual and conceptual faculties, both must be used for understanding and attaining guidance. 17:36]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **8:24**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Respond to God and the Messenger. He calls you to what gives you life. Know that God intervenes between man and his heart, and that to Him you will be gathered. [53:24. "Intervene" = His guidance can prevent people from acting on their evil desires and lead them to the right path]

وَاتَّقُوا فِتْنَةً لَّا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنكُمْ خَاصَّةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **8:25**

Beware of a tribulation that may not be limited to the wrongdoers among you! Know that God is strict in retribution. (There is a strong link between individual and collective good.)

وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ أَنتُمْ قَلِيلٌ مُّسْتَضْعَفُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ تَخَافُونَ أَن يَتَخَطَّفَكُمُ النَّاسُ فَآوَاكُمْ وَأَيَّدَكُم بِنَصْرِهِ وَرَزَقَكُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **8:26**

Recall when you were few and oppressed in the land (Makkah) and fearful that people may do away with you. He gave you shelter (in Madinah), strengthened you with His help and gave you decent provision. Be grateful in word and action.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَتَخُونُوا أَمَانَاتِكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ 8:27

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never betray God and His Messenger (the Central Authority), nor betray people who trust you, nor be lax in your duties knowingly.

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِندَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ 8:28

Know that your wealth and your children are a test for you, and that with God is immense reward. [Spend your wealth on fellow humans and provide good education and training to your children]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَجْعَل لَّكُمْ فُرْقَانًا وَيُكَفِّرْ عَنكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ 8:29

Gods favour

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you remain mindful of God, He will give you distinction among the community of nations and grant you clear discernment between right and wrong. He will absolve your imperfections and grant you the protection of forgiveness. God is of Infinite bounty.

وَإِذْ يَمْكُرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُثْبِتُوكَ أَوْ يَقْتُلُوكَ أَوْ يُخْرِجُوكَ وَيَمْكُرُونَ وَيَمْكُرُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ 8:30

Recall (O Messenger), when the rejecters were making schemes to restrain you (from conveying the Message), slay you, or expel you. That was their plan, but God's Law of Requital is designed to work in a way unfailing. God is the Best of planners.

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا قَالُوا قَدْ سَمِعْنَا لَوْ نَشَاءُ لَقُلْنَا مِثْلَ هَٰذَا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ 8:31

When Our messages are conveyed to them, they say, "We have heard. If we wish, we can speak like it. This is nothing but fables of the ancient."

وَإِذْ قَالُوا اللَّهُمَّ إِن كَانَ هَٰذَا هُوَ الْحَقَّ مِنْ عِندِكَ فَأَمْطِرْ عَلَيْنَا حِجَارَةً مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ أَوِ ائْتِنَا بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ 8:32

They further said, "O God! If this is the truth from You, then shower upon us rocks from the sky or bring on us a painful suffering."

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَأَنتَ فِيهِمْ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ **8:33**

But, God did not intend to punish them while you (O Messenger), were in their midst (in Makkah, still conveying the message). And He would not punish them while they might seek forgiveness.

وَمَا لَهُمْ أَلَّا يُعَذِّبَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَهُمْ يَصُدُّونَ عَنِ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَمَا كَانُوا أَوْلِيَاءَهُ إِنْ أَوْلِيَاؤُهُ إِلَّا الْمُتَّقُونَ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **8:34**

(Now, this is a new situation.) Have they not deserved God's requital when they are hindering His servants from the Sacred Masjid of Makkah, even though they are not its guardians? Its guardians can only be those who are mindful of God. Most of them do not even know how awesome this responsibility is.

وَمَا كَانَ صَلَاتُهُمْ عِندَ الْبَيْتِ إِلَّا مُكَاءً وَتَصْدِيَةً فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ **8:35**

What is their worship at the House (of God) but whistling and clapping? Therefore, it is said to them, "Taste of the retribution for your rejection of the truth." [House 2:125. Those who plunge in ritualistic worship, trail behind in action and invite suffering]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُنفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ لِيَصُدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَسَيُنفِقُونَهَا ثُمَّ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَةً ثُمَّ يُغْلَبُونَ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ يُحْشَرُونَ **8:36**

Those who oppose the truth, spend their riches to hinder people from the path of God. They will spend it, then it will become anguish for them, and they will be overcome. And the rejecters of the truth will be gathered to Hell.

لِيَمِيزَ اللَّهُ الْخَبِيثَ مِنَ الطَّيِّبِ وَيَجْعَلَ الْخَبِيثَ بَعْضَهُ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ فَيَرْكُمَهُ جَمِيعًا فَيَجْعَلَهُ فِي جَهَنَّمَ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **8:37**

God will distinguish the bad from the good, then pile the bad on top of one another and cast them together in the Hellfire. They are truly the losers. [The clans of rejecters will join hands to fight the believers, but the battleground will become Hell for them]

قُل لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِن يَنتَهُوا يُغْفَرْ لَهُم مَّا قَدْ سَلَفَ وَإِن يَعُودُوا فَقَدْ مَضَتْ سُنَّتُ الْأَوَّلِينَ 8:38

(O Prophet) tell the disbelievers that if they cease hostilities, all their past will be forgiven. But if they return, they will meet the example of the old nations.

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّىٰ لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلُّهُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انتَهَوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ 8:39

Fight and subdue those who persist in aggression until persecution is no more, and absolute freedom of religion is established. People must be able to adopt a religion only for God's approval, and as free choice (2:193, 12:108). If they cease from aggression, God is the Seer of their actions, and therefore you shall leave them alone.

وَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَوْلَاكُمْ نِعْمَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ 8:40

(Be magnanimous in treating them) knowing that if they returned to their previous ways, God is your Lord Supreme. And how excellent is this Lord Supreme, and how excellent is this Giver of help!

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا غَنِمْتُم مِّن شَيْءٍ فَأَنَّ لِلَّهِ خُمُسَهُ وَلِلرَّسُولِ وَلِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ إِن كُنتُمْ آمَنتُم بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا يَوْمَ الْفُرْقَانِ يَوْمَ الْتَقَى الْجَمْعَانِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ 8:41

1/5 was during war

(You ask about the distribution of the spoils of war when you fight aggression and attain victory.) Whatever you take as spoils of war, a fifth of that is for God and the Messenger (the State). (And the rest) is for the families (of the fallen soldiers), those left alone in the society, the widows, the ones whose income has stalled for any reason, and the needy wayfarer, the homeless son of the street. This (you will do) if you believe in God and in what We have revealed to Our servant when the two armies met (at Badr) on the Day of Distinction. God has appointed due measure for all things and events. [Families of the slain soldiers are included in context and also in Yatama, those left alone]

إِذْ أَنتُم بِالْعُدْوَةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُم بِالْعُدْوَةِ الْقُصْوَىٰ وَالرَّكْبُ أَسْفَلَ مِنكُمْ وَلَوْ تَوَاعَدتُّمْ لَاخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِي الْمِيعَادِ وَلَٰكِن لِّيَقْضِيَ اللَّهُ أَمْرًا كَانَ مَفْعُولًا لِّيَهْلِكَ مَنْ هَلَكَ عَن بَيِّنَةٍ وَيَحْيَىٰ 8:42

مَنْ حَيَّ عَن بَيِّنَةٍ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَسَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

Remember you were on this, (the Madinah) side of the Valley (of Badr), and they were on the farther (Makkah) side of the Valley. And the caravan of the Makkans was on lower ground than you (proceeding south along the low western coast, from Syria to Makkah). Had you attacked the caravan, it would not have accomplished God's will on a matter already decided, that those who died may die after a clear sign, and those who lived may live after a clear sign. He wanted you to have a decisive victory over the hostile army. God has decreed that the truth shall live and falsehood shall vanish. God is Hearer, Knower. [My interpolation of the locations can easily be discerned on a good map]

إِذْ يُرِيكَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي مَنَامِكَ قَلِيلًا وَلَوْ أَرَاكَهُمْ كَثِيرًا لَّفَشِلْتُمْ وَلَتَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ سَلَّمَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **8:43**

God made them few in your vision. Had He made them appear more numerous (and you got intimidated by their great numbers), you would have been discouraged. And you would have disputed among yourselves (whether fighting them at Badr was a good idea). But God saved you from faltering. He is fully Aware of what is in the hearts.

وَإِذْ يُرِيكُمُوهُمْ إِذِ الْتَقَيْتُمْ فِي أَعْيُنِكُمْ قَلِيلًا وَيُقَلِّلُكُمْ فِي أَعْيُنِهِمْ لِيَقْضِيَ اللَّهُ أَمْرًا كَانَ مَفْعُولًا وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **8:44**

When the two armies faced each other, He made them appear few in your eyes, and made you appear weak in their eyes (3:12). God willed that to be the Day of Distinction. All matters go back to God's laws as their source.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا لَقِيتُمْ فِئَةً فَاثْبُتُوا وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **8:45**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Whenever you meet an army, be firm and remember God much, that you may be successful. [8:10]

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ **8:46**

Follow messenger during war

Obey God and His Messenger (the Central Authority) and do not fall into disputation, lest you falter and lose your strength. Be steadfast, for certainly, God is with the steadfast.

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ خَرَجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِم بَطَرًا وَرِئَاءَ النَّاسِ وَيَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ مُحِيطٌ **8:47**

Do not be like the disbelievers who come out of their homes boastfully and to show off, although they come forth to hinder people from the path of God. And God encompasses all their doings.

وَإِذْ زَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ وَقَالَ لَا غَالِبَ لَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ مِنَ النَّاسِ وَإِنِّي جَارٌ لَّكُمْ فَلَمَّا تَرَاءَتِ الْفِئَتَانِ نَكَصَ عَلَىٰ عَقِبَيْهِ وَقَالَ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّنكُمْ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ مَا لَا تَرَوْنَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ وَاللَّهُ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **8:48**

God doesn't like betrayers

There was a group of Satanic conspirators, the hypocrites, who praised the disbelievers' actions, "You cannot be overcome by any people today, and we will be fighting along with you as allies." But as soon as the two armies came face to face, they turned back on their heels and fled, saying, "We disown you, we see what you do not. We are afraid of God Who has instilled faith in the hearts of the believers. God is Strict in grasping."

إِذْ يَقُولُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ غَرَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ دِينُهُمْ وَمَن يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **8:49**

The hypocrites, and those who harbor doubts in their hearts, taunted the believers, "Their religion has deluded them." But, whoever puts his trust in God, will find that God is Exalted in Might, Wise.

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ يَتَوَفَّى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ **8:50**

Only if you could perceive how the rejecters leave this world, as the angels put them to death. It is as if they were smiting their faces and backs, "Taste the doom of burning."

ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَيْسَ بِظَلَّامٍ لِّلْعَبِيدِ **8:51**

"It is the result of your deeds that you sent forth with your own hands. God is never a tyrant over His servants." [3:182]

كَدَأْبِ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ 8:52

(They were made aware of history but) they ended up like Pharaoh's people, and those before them. They rejected God's messages, and God (through His laws) seized them for trailing behind in humanity. God is Strong, Strict in grasping. [Zanb = Tail = Trailing behind = Sticking a slander behind someone's back]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَكُ مُغَيِّرًا نِّعْمَةً أَنْعَمَهَا عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ 8:53

Thus it is. God never changes a blessing that He has bestowed upon a nation until they first change themselves. God is the One Who is Hearer, Knower. [13:11]

كَدَأْبِ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَهْلَكْنَاهُم بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَأَغْرَقْنَا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَكُلٌّ كَانُوا ظَالِمِينَ 8:54

Pharaoh's people and those before them are examples. They denied the messages of their Lord. They trailed behind in humanity and We (Our law) annihilated them. Pharaoh's people were drowned. They had chosen to do wrong and used to violate human rights.

إِنَّ شَرَّ الدَّوَابِّ عِندَ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 8:55

The worst among creatures in God's Sight are those who oppose the truth. They show ingratitude by not using their God-given faculties and thus fail to believe. [Not using our God-given faculties and potentials is extreme ingratitude]

الَّذِينَ عَاهَدتَّ مِنْهُمْ ثُمَّ يَنقُضُونَ عَهْدَهُمْ فِي كُلِّ مَرَّةٍ وَهُمْ لَا يَتَّقُونَ 8:56

Those with whom you have made a peace treaty, and then at every opportunity they break their treaty, certainly violate the Divine laws.

فَإِمَّا تَثْقَفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْحَرْبِ فَشَرِّدْ بِهِم مَّنْ خَلْفَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ 8:57

When you encounter them in war, deal with them to set an example for those who come after them, that they may remember.

وَإِمَّا تَخَافَنَّ مِن قَوْمٍ خِيَانَةً فَانبِذْ إِلَيْهِمْ عَلَىٰ سَوَاءٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْخَائِنِينَ **8:58**

If you anticipate treachery and breach of treaty, then fairly return the treaty back to them. God does not love the treacherous.

وَلَا يَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا سَبَقُوا إِنَّهُمْ لَا يُعْجِزُونَ **8:59**

Let not the rejecters think that they can get away with their violations. They cannot escape the Law of Requital.

وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُم مَّا اسْتَطَعْتُم مِّن قُوَّةٍ وَمِن رِّبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهِبُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَآخَرِينَ مِن دُونِهِمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَهُمُ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ وَمَا تُنفِقُوا مِن شَيْءٍ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يُوَفَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ **8:60**

Make ready for them all the power you can muster, and all the equipment you can mobilize so that you may deter the enemies of God, and your enemies. And others beside them whom you know not, but God knows them. Whatever wealth and effort you spend on your defenses, will be your expenditure in the cause of God, and it will be repaid to you generously. And you shall not be wronged at all.

وَإِن جَنَحُوا لِلسَّلْمِ فَاجْنَحْ لَهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **8:61**

When they incline to peace, you shall incline to it, and trust in God. He is the Hearer, the Knower.

وَإِن يُرِيدُوا أَن يَخْدَعُوكَ فَإِنَّ حَسْبَكَ اللَّهُ هُوَ الَّذِي أَيَّدَكَ بِنَصْرِهِ وَبِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ **8:62**

And if they intend to deceive you, God will be Sufficient for you. He will strengthen you (O Messenger) with His support, and with the believers. [An offer of peace should not be rejected for undue suspicion]

وَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ لَوْ أَنفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مَّا أَلَّفْتَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَلَّفَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **8:63**

God has brought together the hearts of the believers. If you (O Messenger) had spent all that is on earth, you could not have produced that affection, but God has done it. (The Divine Ideology has unified the believers.) He is Exalted in might, Wise.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ حَسْبُكَ اللَّهُ وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **8:64**

O Prophet! God is Sufficient for you and for the believers who follow you.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ حَرِّضِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلَى الْقِتَالِ إِن يَكُن مِّنكُمْ عِشْرُونَ صَابِرُونَ يَغْلِبُوا مِائَتَيْنِ وَإِن يَكُن مِّنكُم مِّائَةٌ يَغْلِبُوا أَلْفًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ **8:65**

O Prophet! Inspire the believers (to conquer all fear of death) in times of war. If there be twenty of you who are patient in adversity, they shall overcome two hundred, and if there be one hundred of you, they shall overcome one thousand of the opponents of the truth. This is because the rejecters of the truth are people who cannot understand (the Eternal rewards that motivate the believers).

الْآنَ خَفَّفَ اللَّهُ عَنكُمْ وَعَلِمَ أَنَّ فِيكُمْ ضَعْفًا فَإِن يَكُن مِّنكُم مِّائَةٌ صَابِرَةٌ يَغْلِبُوا مِائَتَيْنِ وَإِن يَكُن مِّنكُمْ أَلْفٌ يَغْلِبُوا أَلْفَيْنِ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ **8:66**

For the time being, however, God has lightened your burden, for He knows that you are weak. And so, if there be one hundred of you who are steadfast in adversity, they should be able to overcome two hundred; and if there be one thousand of you, they should be able to overcome two thousand by God's leave. God is with those who are steadfast in adversity.

مَا كَانَ لِنَبِيٍّ أَن يَكُونَ لَهُ أَسْرَىٰ حَتَّىٰ يُثْخِنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ تُرِيدُونَ عَرَضَ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ يُرِيدُ الْآخِرَةَ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **8:67**

Slavery prohibited

It is beyond the dignity of a Prophet to hold any captives except during warfare in the region. You may desire the fleeting gains of this world, but God advocates the Hereafter. God is Almighty, Wise. (He knows your true welfare.) [The captives must be freed at the conclusion of hostilities by way of kindness, for ransom, or by exchange of prisoners of war. There is no other option. 47:4]

لَّوْلَا كِتَابٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ سَبَقَ لَمَسَّكُمْ فِيمَا أَخَذْتُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **8:68**

If God had not decreed upon Himself mercy, those of you who fell for temptation (of booty), would have faced a great retribution.

فَكُلُوا مِمَّا غَنِمْتُمْ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 8:69

[We have seen that you developed your character and established the Divine Order in the society. Then you had to fight off aggression] Now enjoy what you have won as lawful and good. Be mindful of God (His laws). Surely, God is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُل لِّمَن فِي أَيْدِيكُم مِّنَ الْأَسْرَىٰ إِن يَعْلَمِ اللَّهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ خَيْرًا يُؤْتِكُمْ خَيْرًا مِّمَّا أُخِذَ مِنكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 8:70

Treat prisoners well

O Prophet! Tell the captives of war who are in your hand, "If God sees any good in your hearts He will give you better than what has been taken from you, and He will forgive you. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَإِن يُرِيدُوا خِيَانَتَكَ فَقَدْ خَانُوا اللَّهَ مِن قَبْلُ فَأَمْكَنَ مِنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ 8:71

If they have treacherous designs against you, well, they have already betrayed God before this, and that is why He has given you power over them. God is Knower, Wise.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آوَوا وَّنَصَرُوا أُولَٰئِكَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يُهَاجِرُوا مَا لَكُم مِّن وَلَايَتِهِم مِّن شَيْءٍ حَتَّىٰ يُهَاجِرُوا وَإِنِ اسْتَنصَرُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ فَعَلَيْكُمُ النَّصْرُ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُم مِّيثَاقٌ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ 8:72

Those who believed, emigrated, and strove with their possessions and lives in the cause of God, as well as those who hosted them and supported them (in Madinah), are close protecting friends of one another. For those who believed but stayed back (in Makkah), you do not owe them support until they migrate. But if they seek your help as sisters and brothers in Divine Ideology, then it is your duty to help them except against a people with whom you have a treaty. God is Seer of all you do.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ إِلَّا تَفْعَلُوهُ تَكُن فِتْنَةٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ كَبِيرٌ 8:73

Those who reject the Divine message are protectors of one another. Unless you do this (help the immigrants and protect each other), there will be chaos in the land and great disorder.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آوَوا وَّنَصَرُوا أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ حَقًّا لَّهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ 8:74

Those who believed and emigrated, and strove in the cause of God, and those who hosted them and supported them, are True believers. For them is protection of forgiveness and honorable provision.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِن بَعْدُ وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا مَعَكُمْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مِنكُمْ وَأُولُو الْأَرْحَامِ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلَىٰ بِبَعْضٍ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ 8:75

And those who followed them in belief, and left their homes, and strove along with you, they are of you. Remember that blood relatives have certain special rights and obligations over each other according to God's Ordinance. They should be the first ones to help each other. God is Knower of all things.

Chapter 9

At-Taubah - The Repentance

This is the 9th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 129 verses. Humanity must abstain from associating others with God – the One True God. This injunction applies to matters of worship, obedience and law- giving. Ascribing partners to God does not upset Him. He is too High and Glorious to feel offended. Idolatry in any form only harms us by dragging down the honor granted to humans by the Sublime Creator. And it divides mankind into castes and sects. The idolaters, and others who associate gods besides the One True God, are the believers´ brothers and sisters once they embrace the truth. And eventually humankind will become one community. It is customary to omit Bismillah before this Surah as it is considered to be a continuation of the last Surah, Al-Anfal. However, the matter is absolutely insignificant and proper references are imperative to ´The Qur´an As It Explains Itself´. Al-Anfal is the 8th and this is the 9th Chapter of the Qur´an. (With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness).

بَرَاءَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِلَى الَّذِينَ عَاهَدتُّم مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **9:1**

Freedom from obligation is proclaimed from God and His Messenger towards those of the Pagans with whom you had made a treaty. [The treaties that the believers had signed with the idolaters of the Arabian Peninsula, no longer remain valid, since they have repeatedly violated them. 9:4]

فَسِيحُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَرْبَعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ غَيْرُ مُعْجِزِي **9:2**
اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْزِي الْكَافِرِينَ

Four sacred months

(O Idolaters, who have repeatedly violated the peace treaties!) Travel freely in the land for four months, and know that you cannot escape God, and that God will bring disgrace to the rejecters of the truth. [Four months of peacetime, see 9:36. The Central Authority will subdue the aggressors]

وَأَذَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِلَى النَّاسِ يَوْمَ الْحَجِّ الْأَكْبَرِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ **9:3**
بَرِيءٌ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ وَرَسُولُهُ فَإِن تُبْتُمْ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَإِن
تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ غَيْرُ مُعْجِزِي اللَّهِ وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

And a proclamation from God and His Messenger is herewith made to all mankind on this day of the Greatest Pilgrimage (9th day of the 12th lunar month, Zil-Hajjah). God disowns the idolaters, and so does His Messenger. So, if you repent, it will be better for you. But if you turn away from repentance, then know that you cannot escape God. (O Messenger) give tiding of an awful retribution to those who are bent upon opposing the truth,

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ عَاهَدتُّم مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَنقُصُوكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَمْ يُظَاهِرُوا عَلَيْكُمْ أَحَدًا فَأَتِمُّوا إِلَيْهِمْ عَهْدَهُمْ إِلَىٰ مُدَّتِهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ 9:4

Except those idolaters with whom you have a treaty and they have not subsequently failed you, nor have they helped others against you. You shall fulfill your treaty with them until their term. God loves those who are mindful of His laws. [9:3-5]

فَإِذَا انسَلَخَ الْأَشْهُرُ الْحُرُمُ فَاقْتُلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَيْثُ وَجَدتُّمُوهُمْ وَخُذُوهُمْ وَاحْصُرُوهُمْ وَاقْعُدُوا لَهُمْ كُلَّ مَرْصَدٍ فَإِن تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ فَخَلُّوا سَبِيلَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 9:5

When the four Sacred Months are over (and if the idolaters are still aggressing, neither becoming law-abiding citizens of the State, nor emigrating), subdue them whichever tribe they may belong to. Take them captive, and besiege them, and prepare for them ambush. But if they repent from aggression, and help in the consolidation of the Divine System and in setting up the Economic Order of Zakaat, then leave their way free. Surely, God is Forgiving Merciful (so shall you be). [The four Sacred Months forbidden for any warfare: From the 12th month, Zil-Hajjah up to the 3rd month, Rabi'ul Awwal 2:193-195, 9:36]

وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ حَتَّىٰ يَسْمَعَ كَلَامَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ أَبْلِغْهُ مَأْمَنَهُ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَعْلَمُونَ 9:6

(O Messenger) if anyone of the idolaters seeks your protection or a safe passage, grant him protection from the State. Convey to him the Word of God, and then escort him to where he feels safe and secure. This kindness on your part is mandatory because they are people who do not know (and have not yet seen the beauty of the Divine System).

كَيْفَ يَكُونُ لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ عَهْدٌ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَعِندَ رَسُولِهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ عَاهَدتُّمْ عِندَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ فَمَا اسْتَقَامُوا لَكُمْ 9:7

Restricted Temple

فَاسْتَقِيمُوا لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ

How can there be a treaty with God and His Messenger for the idolaters (when they have repeatedly violated it)? Exempted are those with whom you make a treaty at the Sacred Masjid. If they honor and uphold such a treaty, so shall you. God loves those who live upright.

كَيْفَ وَإِن يَظْهَرُوا عَلَيْكُمْ لَا يَرْقُبُوا فِيكُمْ إِلًّا وَلَا ذِمَّةً **9:8**
يُرْضُونَكُم بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتَأْبَىٰ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ

How can there be a treaty seeing that if they get the upper hand against you, they would respect no ties and no pacts with you? They pleased you with their speech but their hearts opposed you. Most of them defy their pledges. [Fasiqeen = Those who drift away]

اشْتَرَوْا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا فَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِهِ إِنَّهُمْ سَاءَ مَا **9:9**
كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

They trade away God's revelations for petty gains and hinder people from His path. Their deeds spread inequity and confusion in the society. [This trade, frequently mentioned in the Qur'an, indicates: Fulfilling selfish desires for instant gains at the cost of disregarding Permanent Moral Values]

لَا يَرْقُبُونَ فِي مُؤْمِنٍ إِلًّا وَلَا ذِمَّةً وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُعْتَدُونَ **9:10**

They respect no tie and no pact regarding a believer. They are the ones given to excesses.

فَإِن تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ **9:11**
وَنُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ

If they mend their ways, (and as law-abiding citizens), help consolidate the Divine System, and the Economic Order of Zakaat, then they are your brothers in the System of Life. We explain Our messages for those who wish to learn. [The usual translation of this verse conveys the meaning that if they start praying five times a day and give 2.5% poor-due per year, then they are your brothers in religion. This interpretation goes directly against the all-encompassing Ordinance of God that there is no compulsion or coercion in Deen Islam. 2:256]

وَإِن نَّكَثُوا أَيْمَانَهُم مِّن بَعْدِ عَهْدِهِمْ وَطَعَنُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ **9:12**
فَقَاتِلُوا أَئِمَّةَ الْكُفْرِ إِنَّهُمْ لَا أَيْمَانَ لَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَنتَهُونَ

If they keep breaking their pledges after their treaty, and assail your System, then fight the chiefs of the disbelievers. They have no respect for their binding oaths. This action will help restrain them from aggression.

أَلَا تُقَاتِلُونَ قَوْمًا نَّكَثُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ وَهَمُّوا بِإِخْرَاجِ الرَّسُولِ وَهُم بَدَءُوكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ أَتَخْشَوْنَهُمْ فَاللَّهُ أَحَقُّ أَن تَخْشَوْهُ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **9:13**

Will you not fight a people who keep breaking their solemn pledges and did everything to drive out the Messenger, and did attack you first? What! Do you fear them? Nay, it is God alone Whom you should more justly fear, if you are truly believers.

قَاتِلُوهُمْ يُعَذِّبْهُمُ اللَّهُ بِأَيْدِيكُمْ وَيُخْزِهِمْ وَيَنصُرْكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَيَشْفِ صُدُورَ قَوْمٍ مُّؤْمِنِينَ **9:14**

Fight them! God will punish them at your hands, and He will humiliate them, and give you victory over them, and He will soothe the bosoms of those who believe. (Soothe from the persecution they have undergone).

وَيُذْهِبْ غَيْظَ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَيَتُوبُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:15**

He will remove the rage from their hearts. (The invitation is always open.) God accepts corrective action according to His law. For God is All Knower, All Wise.

أَمْ حَسِبْتُمْ أَن تُتْرَكُوا وَلَمَّا يَعْلَمِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا مِنكُمْ وَلَمْ يَتَّخِذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَا رَسُولِهِ وَلَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلِيجَةً وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **9:16**

Do you think that you will be left alone without God distinguishing those among you who strive in His cause, and take none for ally except God, His Messenger, and the believers? And God is Aware of what you do.

مَا كَانَ لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ أَن يَعْمُرُوا مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ شَاهِدِينَ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِم بِالْكُفْرِ أُولَٰئِكَ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ وَفِي النَّارِ هُمْ خَالِدُونَ **9:17**

Those who associate others with God, (whether idols, dead saints, religious or temporal leaders), shall not administer God's Masjids, the Centers of the Divine System - while they witness against their own 'self' denial of truth. All their works are in vain and they will abide in the fire. [9:107, 30:31, 72:18. Pilgrimage of the House is a duty unto all mankind, not Muslims alone. 3:97]

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَن يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ **9:18**

Only those people are fit to administer or maintain the Masjids (the Centers of the Divine Order), who have unwavering belief in God and the Last Day. They strive to establish the Divine System, and to set up the Just Economic System of Zakaat and fear none but God. They are the ones who are rightly guided. [Ya'mur = Maintains or administers. Yousuf Ali, Pickthall and Muhammad Asad correctly translate the word as maintaining or tending]

أَجَعَلْتُمْ سِقَايَةَ الْحَاجِّ وَعِمَارَةَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ كَمَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَجَاهَدَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَوُونَ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **9:19**

? Mushricks

Do you consider providing water to pilgrims and caring for the Sacred Masjid (in Makkah) equal to the work of him who has Conviction in God and the Last Day and then strives in the cause of God? They are not equal in the Sight of God. God does not guide those who displace action with ritual. [Zaalim = One who displaces something from its rightful place = Choosing to do wrong]

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ أَعْظَمُ دَرَجَةً عِندَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ **9:20**

Those who attained belief, and left the domain of evil, and strove in the cause of God with their wealth and their lives, have a much greater rank with God. They are the ones who are truly triumphant.

يُبَشِّرُهُمْ رَبُّهُم بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنْهُ وَرِضْوَانٍ وَجَنَّاتٍ لَّهُمْ فِيهَا نَعِيمٌ مُّقِيمٌ **9:21**

Their Lord gives them good news of His grace, His approval, and the Gardens with lasting delight and bliss.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِندَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ **9:22**

They will live there forever. Surely, with God is immense reward.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا آبَاءَكُمْ وَإِخْوَانَكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ إِنِ اسْتَحَبُّوا الْكُفْرَ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّهُم مِّنكُمْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ **9:23**

? هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Even if your parents and siblings take pleasure in disbelief rather than faith, do not take them as allies. For, those of you who ally themselves with them, it is those who are wrongdoers. (The Divine Ideology shall take precedence over all other bonds.)

قُلْ إِن كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **9:24**

Say, "If your parents, your children, and your siblings, and your spouses, and your tribe, and the wealth you have acquired, and the business in which you fear a decline, and the houses you love, are dearer to you than God and His Messenger and striving in His cause, then wait until God brings His command to pass." (Systems based on other than the Supreme Divine Ideology are destined to collapse.) God does not guide those who drift away from Divine laws. [Faasiq = One who drifts away]

لَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي مَوَاطِنَ كَثِيرَةٍ وَيَوْمَ حُنَيْنٍ إِذْ أَعْجَبَتْكُمْ كَثْرَتُكُمْ فَلَمْ تُغْنِ عَنكُمْ شَيْئًا وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحُبَتْ ثُمَّ وَلَّيْتُم مُّدْبِرِينَ **9:25**

God has granted you victory in many battle-fields. And on the Day of Hunain, when you marveled at your great numbers, they did not avail you in the least. The earth, despite all its vastness, became constrained for you and you turned back, retreating.

ثُمَّ أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَنزَلَ جُنُودًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا وَعَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ **9:26**

Then God sent His peace of reassurance down upon His Messenger and upon the believers, and sent down armies you could not see, and punished the rejecters. Such is the reward of the rejecters of the truth. [The Messenger led them from chaos back to discipline, and boosted their morale. That was the army unseen. 3:125, 8:10, 9:40, 41:30, 48:4]

ثُمَّ يَتُوبُ اللَّهُ مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 9:27

God will shower mercy on the worthy according to His laws. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْمُشْرِكُونَ نَجَسٌ فَلَا يَقْرَبُوا 9:28
الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ بَعْدَ عَامِهِمْ هَٰذَا وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ عَيْلَةً فَسَوْفَ
يُغْنِيكُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ إِن شَاءَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

Restricted Temple

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! The idolaters have made their hearts unclean (and the Sacred Masjid of Makkah is the House of Pure Monotheism. Only those who believe in the Divine System can administer this Sacred House] So let not the Idolaters come close to it (for administering the House) after this year of theirs. If you fear loss of any gains, God will enrich you with His bounty. This is the promise of God Who is Knower, Wise. [See 9:18 for administration or maintenance. Also, note that God invites all mankind, not Muslims alone, to the Pilgrimage of the Sacred House. 3:97, 22:27]

قَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلَا يُحَرِّمُونَ مَا 9:29
حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَلَا يَدِينُونَ دِينَ الْحَقِّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا
الْكِتَابَ حَتَّىٰ يُعْطُوا الْجِزْيَةَ عَن يَدٍ وَهُمْ صَاغِرُونَ

Fight back against those (who keep violating peace treaties and commit aggression 9:1-10 and) who do not believe in God, nor in the Last Day, nor do they accept what God and His Messenger have made mandatory, nor do they acknowledge the True Religion - among those who were given the scripture, until they pay war reparations in humility.['Fight back' (See 9:1-4 Tasreef) - against those who keep violating peace treaties and commit aggression. Jizyah = War Reparations to be paid by the aggressors, and not any kind of tribute or tax as generally but erroneously translated. Mufridaat-e-Raaghib. The Arabic word for tribute is "Kharaj". See 18:94 'Kharjan']

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ عُزَيْرٌ ابْنُ اللَّهِ وَقَالَتِ النَّصَارَى الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ 9:30
اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ قَوْلُهُم بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ يُضَاهِئُونَ قَوْلَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
مِن قَبْلُ قَاتَلَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ

The Jews say, "Uzayr is God's son," while the Christians say, "The Messiah is God's son." They only utter baseless themes with their mouths, following the assertions made in earlier times by people who denied the truth. God condemns them. They are deluded. [Some Jews in the Arabian Peninsula used to believe that Osiris, the Egyptian idol, was God's son while others thought of Ezra, who restored the Torah after it had been lost in the Babylonian Exile, as God's son. Uzayr could mean Ezra as well as Osiris. See 20:88]

Accepting fatwas from clerics as Islam is setting up partners with God

اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَٰهًا وَاحِدًا لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **9:31**

Are we making the same mistakes?

They take their rabbis, priests and monks to be their Lords* besides God. And they take as their Lord, the Messiah son of Mary. Yet they were commanded to worship but One God. There is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him, He is far too Glorious for what they ascribe to Him. [*Talmud shows the Jewish superstition of ascribing divinity to Ezra, rabbis, saints, doctors of law and learned men. And the doctrine of Papal infallibility, divinity of saints and praying to them are common in the Roman Catholic Church]

يُرِيدُونَ أَن يُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّا أَن يُتِمَّ نُورَهُ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ **9:32**

They seek to extinguish God's light (the Qur'an) by their utterances. But God will not allow this to pass, for He has willed to spread His light in all its fullness even though the rejecters may detest it.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ **9:33**

Guidance

He is the One Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the True Religion (The Divinely Prescribed System of Life), that He may cause it to prevail over all religions and systems of life, even though the idolaters may detest it. [5:3, 9:31-33, 13:31, 14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:8-9. The Qur'anic Deen will prevail over all religions. This refers to Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism and all other forms of 'Isms' and religion, including the sects that are now present in the name of Islam. Please remember that no sect can be considered Islamic. DEEN in the Sight of God is nothing but Al-Islam (5:3). But next to religions, the Qur'anic System of Life will also dominate and prevail over all manmade political and social systems such as Communism, Atheism, Secularism, Secular Democracy, Despotism, Theocracy, Monarchy, all "isms" such as "Humanism" Socialism, Idol worship in any form, Sufism and Capitalism. This will happen as humanity, after the centuries old, protracted toil of trial and error will come to intellectually realize, and accept the Supremacy of the Final Testament, Al-Qur'an]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْأَحْبَارِ وَالرُّهْبَانِ لَيَأْكُلُونَ أَمْوَالَ النَّاسِ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَيَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ يَكْنِزُونَ الذَّهَبَ وَالْفِضَّةَ وَلَا يُنفِقُونَهَا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ **9:34**

فَبَشِّرْهُم بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! A great many religious leaders, rabbis, priests, monks, Mullahs, yogis, and mystics devour the wealth of people in falsehood, and bar them from the path of God. All those who hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in the cause of God, to them give tidings (O Prophet) of a painful doom. [Ahbaar = Clergy of any religion. Ruhbaan = Monks, Yogis and Sufis]

يَوْمَ يُحْمَىٰ عَلَيْهَا فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ فَتُكْوَىٰ بِهَا جِبَاهُهُمْ وَجُنُوبُهُمْ وَظُهُورُهُمْ هَٰذَا مَا كَنَزْتُمْ لِأَنفُسِكُمْ فَذُوقُوا مَا كُنتُمْ تَكْنِزُونَ **9:35**

On the Day when it will all be heated in the fire of Hell and their foreheads, flanks and backs will be branded with it. "Here is what you hoarded for yourselves, now taste what you had hoarded."

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِندَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَقَاتِلُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ كَافَّةً كَمَا يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ كَافَّةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ **9:36**

God has ordained twelve months in one year. This has been God's Ordinance since the day He created the heavens and earth. Four of these Months are Sacred, forbidden for all warfare. This is the Firm Religion, the right way. So, do not wrong yourselves by fighting during the Sacred Months. However, you may fight the idolaters in any or all these months if they fight against you in any or all of them (2:193-195). And know that God is with those who restrain themselves. [Mankind, through international treaties, must agree to shun all kind of warfare during these four months. This will give them a cooling off period that sense may prevail over emotions. Four Sacred Months for peacetime: 2:194, 9:1-5. From the 12th lunar month of Pilgrimage to the third month]

إِنَّمَا النَّسِيءُ زِيَادَةٌ فِي الْكُفْرِ يُضَلُّ بِهِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُحِلُّونَهُ عَامًا وَيُحَرِّمُونَهُ عَامًا لِّيُوَاطِئُوا عِدَّةَ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ فَيُحِلُّوا مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ زُيِّنَ لَهُمْ سُوءُ أَعْمَالِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ **9:37**

Altering the Sacred Months is only an addition to disbelief. It increases the straying of the disbelievers. They keep the total count of the Sacred Months as four, but

keep shifting them within the same year or from year to year. Thus they allow what God has forbidden. Their evil actions seem pleasing to them. God does not guide those who choose to reject the truth.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَا لَكُمْ إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمُ انفِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ اثَّاقَلْتُمْ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ أَرَضِيتُم بِالْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا مِنَ الْآخِرَةِ فَمَا مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ **9:38**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! What is amiss with you that, when called upon, "Go forth in the cause of God," you cling heavily to the ground? Do you choose pleasure in the life of this world rather than in the life to come? The enjoyment of this life is but a paltry thing compared to the Hereafter.

إِلَّا تَنفِرُوا يُعَذِّبْكُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا وَيَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ وَلَا تَضُرُّوهُ شَيْئًا وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **9:39**

If you did not go forth in God's cause, He (His law) will afflict you with a painful doom. He will replace you with another nation. You cannot harm Him in the least. All things transpire according to the laws appointed by God. [Only the competent nations live honorably on earth. 21:105, 24:55]

إِلَّا تَنصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا فَأَنزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا السُّفْلَىٰ وَكَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:40**

If you do not help the Messenger, God will help him, as always. When the disbelievers drove him out of his home, they were just two men. They had to seek refuge in a cave. The Messenger said to his companion, "Grieve not. God is with us." Then God sent His reassuring peace upon him, and supported him with invisible forces of faith and courage (9:26). He made the word of the disbelievers utterly low. God's Word remains Supreme, for God is Mighty, Wise.

انفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **9:41**

Go forth lightly armed, or heavily armed and strive with your wealth and person in the cause of God. This is best for you if you but knew.

لَوْ كَانَ عَرَضًا قَرِيبًا وَسَفَرًا قَاصِدًا لَّاتَّبَعُوكَ وَلَٰكِن بَعُدَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الشُّقَّةُ وَسَيَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ لَوِ اسْتَطَعْنَا لَخَرَجْنَا مَعَكُمْ يُهْلِكُونَ أَنفُسَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ 9:42

There are people among you that if it were a quick material gain and a short easy journey, they would follow you. But the strife and the distance seem heavy and long to them. They will swear by God, "If we could, we would have gone along with you." They destroy their own 'self'. God knows that they are liars.

عَفَا اللَّهُ عَنكَ لِمَ أَذِنتَ لَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَتَعْلَمَ الْكَاذِبِينَ 9:43

God pardons you (O Messenger) that you gave them permission to stay behind, before you could distinguish the truthful from the liars. [The permission gave the hypocrites an excuse to stay back]

لَا يَسْتَأْذِنُكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ أَن يُجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالْمُتَّقِينَ 9:44

Those who have conviction in God and the Last Day, do not ask you for exemption from striving with their wealth and persons. God is Aware of those who live upright.

إِنَّمَا يَسْتَأْذِنُكَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَارْتَابَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ فَهُمْ فِي رَيْبِهِمْ يَتَرَدَّدُونَ 9:45

Mushricks

Only those ask your leave (O Prophet) who do not truly believe in God and the Last Day. Their hearts feel doubt, and in their doubt they waver.

وَلَوْ أَرَادُوا الْخُرُوجَ لَأَعَدُّوا لَهُ عُدَّةً وَلَٰكِن كَرِهَ اللَّهُ انبِعَاثَهُمْ فَثَبَّطَهُمْ وَقِيلَ اقْعُدُوا مَعَ الْقَاعِدِينَ 9:46

If they wanted to go forth, they would have made necessary preparation. God disliked their participation for their reluctance, and held them back. (The Prophet had) said to them, "Stay behind with those who are sitting back."

لَوْ خَرَجُوا فِيكُم مَّا زَادُوكُمْ إِلَّا خَبَالًا وَلَأَوْضَعُوا خِلَالَكُمْ يَبْغُونَكُمُ الْفِتْنَةَ وَفِيكُمْ سَمَّاعُونَ لَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ 9:47

Even if they had gone forth they would have only caused trouble and run to and fro seeking sedition among you. In your ranks some are apt to listen to them and in your ranks are spies of the enemy. God knows the wrongdoers.

لَقَدِ ابْتَغَوُا الْفِتْنَةَ مِن قَبْلُ وَقَلَّبُوا لَكَ الْأُمُورَ حَتَّىٰ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَظَهَرَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَهُمْ كَارِهُونَ **9:48**

They sought to create dissension among you before, and raised difficulties for you (O Prophet). They did that until the truth came and the decree of God prevailed, though they detested it.

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَقُولُ ائْذَن لِّي وَلَا تَفْتِنِّي أَلَا فِي الْفِتْنَةِ سَقَطُوا وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمُحِيطَةٌ بِالْكَافِرِينَ **9:49**

Of them is he who says, "Grant me leave, and do not draw me into trial." Have they not fallen into trial already? In fact, Hell is all around the disbelievers.

إِن تُصِبْكَ حَسَنَةٌ تَسُؤْهُمْ وَإِن تُصِبْكَ مُصِيبَةٌ يَقُولُوا قَدْ أَخَذْنَا أَمْرَنَا مِن قَبْلُ وَيَتَوَلَّوا وَّهُمْ فَرِحُونَ **9:50**

If some good comes to you (O Prophet) it grieves them. And if calamity befalls you, they say, "We took our precautions beforehand." And they turn away rejoicing.

قُل لَّن يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا مَا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا هُوَ مَوْلَانَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **9:51**

Say, "No calamity befalls us except within the bounds of God's laws. Only He is our Lord Supreme (Maulana)." In God let the believers put their trust! [Calling religious men as Maulana is a very common but dangerous practice involving Shirk]

قُلْ هَلْ تَرَبَّصُونَ بِنَا إِلَّا إِحْدَى الْحُسْنَيَيْنِ وَنَحْنُ نَتَرَبَّصُ بِكُمْ أَن يُصِيبَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِعَذَابٍ مِّنْ عِندِهِ أَوْ بِأَيْدِينَا فَتَرَبَّصُوا إِنَّا مَعَكُم مُّتَرَبِّصُونَ **9:52**

Say, "Can you expect for us other than one of two things" - (victory or martyrdom)? We expect for you that God will send His retribution from Himself, or by our hands. Wait then expectant, and we shall hopefully wait with you."

قُلْ أَنفِقُوا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا لَّن يُتَقَبَّلَ مِنكُمْ إِنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ **9:53**

(Some hypocrites want to make financial contributions.) Tell them, "Your contribution is not accepted whether you pay willingly or unwillingly. You are a people who drift away from the System at the first opportune time."

وَمَا مَنَعَهُمْ أَن تُقْبَلَ مِنْهُمْ نَفَقَاتُهُمْ إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَبِرَسُولِهِ وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الصَّلَاةَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كُسَالَىٰ وَلَا يُنفِقُونَ إِلَّا وَهُمْ كَارِهُونَ **9:54**

Mushricks

What prevents their contributions from being accepted is this: They do not truly believe in God and His Messenger. They only claim to believe (2:8). They join you in congregations of prayer only half-heartedly and just to be seen of men (4:142, 107:5). And they contribute only with great reluctance in their hearts. [Islam requires willing submission to God. 2:256]

فَلَا تُعْجِبْكَ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُمْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُعَذِّبَهُم بِهَا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَتَزْهَقَ أَنفُسُهُمْ وَهُمْ كَافِرُونَ **9:55**

Let not their riches or their children and party astonish you (O Prophet). God causes them to suffer retribution through these in the life of this world and they depart in sorrow while they are rejecters (9:85).[The 'dazzle' of the world holds them back from striving. But people must strive and build Paradise with their own hands. 3:135, 16:32, 46:14-16]

وَيَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُمْ لَمِنكُمْ وَمَا هُم مِّنكُمْ وَلَٰكِنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ يَفْرَقُونَ **9:56**

And they swear by God that they are of you. In fact, they are not of you, they are people ridden with fear.

لَوْ يَجِدُونَ مَلْجَأً أَوْ مَغَارَاتٍ أَوْ مُدَّخَلًا لَّوَلَّوْا إِلَيْهِ وَهُمْ يَجْمَحُونَ **9:57**

If they could find a refuge or a cave or a hiding place, they would rush to it like runaway horses.

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَلْمِزُكَ فِي الصَّدَقَاتِ فَإِنْ أُعْطُوا مِنْهَا رَضُوا وَإِن لَّمْ يُعْطَوْا مِنْهَا إِذَا هُمْ يَسْخَطُونَ **9:58**

Some of them try to find fault with you (O Prophet) in the distribution of charity. If they are given plenty, they are pleased, but if they receive little share, they get enraged.

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ رَضُوا مَا آتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ سَيُؤْتِينَا اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ وَرَسُولُهُ إِنَّا إِلَى اللَّهِ رَاغِبُونَ **9:59**

It would have been enormously good for them if they were content with what God and His Messenger had given them. And if they had said, "God suffices us. God will give us of His bounty, and the Messenger will distribute in kindness and equity. We turn to God with all our hopes." [59:7. The Central Authority will be just to all]

إِنَّمَا الصَّدَقَاتُ لِلْفُقَرَاءِ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْعَامِلِينَ عَلَيْهَا وَالْمُؤَلَّفَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَالْغَارِمِينَ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ فَرِيضَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:60**

(The funds that the Central Authority receives as) Alms and Charity (Sadaqaat) belong to the following categories: The poor, those who are not able to earn enough living to meet their basic needs, those whose running businesses have stalled or the ones who have lost their jobs, those who have become needy with their active lives coming to a stand-still, officials who have been appointed by the government to collect alms and charity, those who are hindered from joining the Divine System for financial reasons, to free men and women from bondage of any kind: physical slavery, unjust captivity, and oppression. Also to those who are pressed under the load of ransom or heavy debt from an enemy, defense of the Ideological State, in the cause of God, the wayfarer who becomes needy, or travels to the believers in destitute condition, and the homeless son of the street. This is a Duty from God. He is the Knower, the Wise and His commands are based on knowledge and wisdom. [It is important to bear in mind an almost universal misconception among Muslim scholars and the masses about Sadaqaat (alms and charity). They understand the above eight categories as pertaining to Zakaat. But Zakaat indicates the Just Economic Order where everyone in the society flourishes. The cornerstone of Zakaat is spending whatever is surplus (2:219, 6:141). In more concrete terms, that means turning the extra income voluntarily to the Central Authority who, in turn, will transform the State where everyone works according to his capacity and is paid according to his needs. The Central Authority can set up a mandatory percentage of income as taxes on its citizens which would vary according to the needs of the time, be it 2.5%, 5% or more or less. Verse 9:60 is talking about Sadaqaat (alms and charity) and not Zakaat. Sadaqaat are meant to be only an interim arrangement applicable at any time until the Divine System is established and the Just Economic Order (Zakaat) is set up in the society]

وَمِنْهُمُ الَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ النَّبِيَّ وَيَقُولُونَ هُوَ أُذُنٌ قُلْ أُذُنُ خَيْرٍ لَّكُمْ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَيُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **9:61**

And among those (enemies of the truth) are some who hurt the Prophet and say, "He is only a hearer." Say, "A listener, that is good for you." He believes in God, has

faith in the believers, and is a mercy to those of you who believe." Those who vex and hurt the Messenger of God, for them is an awful punishment. [The Messenger is not an emperor or a king who keep guards around them. He is accessible to all at all time and it is good for you that he pays attention to everyone]

يَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ لَكُمْ لِيُرْضُوكُمْ وَاللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَقُّ أَن يُرْضُوهُ إِن كَانُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ **9:62**

(O You who believe) People swear by God to you in order to please you (and improve personal relations). But it is more fitting that they should please God and His Messenger, if they really believe (in the Divine Ideology).

أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّهُ مَن يُحَادِدِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَأَنَّ لَهُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدًا فِيهَا ذَٰلِكَ الْخِزْيُ الْعَظِيمُ **9:63**

Do they not know that one who opposes God and His Messenger, for him is Hellfire, to abide therein? That is the supreme disgrace.

يَحْذَرُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ أَن تُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُورَةٌ تُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ قُلِ اسْتَهْزِئُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْرِجٌ مَّا تَحْذَرُونَ **9:64**

The hypocrites fear that a Surah might be revealed concerning them, exposing what is in their hearts. Say, "Go on mocking! God will bring to light exactly what you are dreading." [It was indeed revealed. 47:30. The exalted Prophet came to know the hypocrites of his times]

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا نَخُوضُ وَنَلْعَبُ قُلْ أَبِاللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ وَرَسُولِهِ كُنتُمْ تَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **9:65**

If you ask them (O Messenger), they will say, "We only talk in jest." Say, "Do you realize that you are mocking God, His revelations and His Messenger?"

لَا تَعْتَذِرُوا قَدْ كَفَرْتُم بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ إِن نَّعْفُ عَن طَائِفَةٍ مِّنكُمْ نُعَذِّبْ طَائِفَةً بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ **9:66**

"Make no excuses. You have disbelieved after your confession of belief." If We forgive a group of you, there is another group whom We shall punish since they have violated human rights by stealing the fruit of others' labor." (Unless they restore their rights 4:17, 9:102, 25:70, 27:11).

الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتُ بَعْضُهُم مِّن بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمُنكَرِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَقْبِضُونَ أَيْدِيَهُمْ نَسُوا اللَّهَ **9:67**

فَنَسِيَهُمْ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

The hypocrites, both men and women, are all of a kind. They enjoin the doing of what is wrong and forbid the doing of what is right, and withhold their hands from doing good. They have forgotten God, and so He deprives them of His grace. The hypocrites drift away from humanity. ['God forgetting them' denotes He depriving them of His grace. God forgets nothing in the customary sense. Whoever forgets God, forgets himself and his honored stature of being a servant of the Supreme Lord. 59:19]

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْكُفَّارَ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا هِيَ حَسْبُهُمْ وَلَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ **9:68**

God promises the hypocrites, both men and women, and the rejecters of the truth, the fire of Hell for their abode. It suffices them. They deprive themselves of the grace of God, and theirs is the lasting torment.

كَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ كَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنكُمْ قُوَّةً وَأَكْثَرَ أَمْوَالًا وَأَوْلَادًا فَاسْتَمْتَعُوا بِخَلَاقِهِمْ فَاسْتَمْتَعْتُم بِخَلَاقِكُمْ كَمَا اسْتَمْتَعَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُم بِخَلَاقِهِمْ وَخُضْتُمْ كَالَّذِي خَاضُوا أُولَٰئِكَ حَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **9:69**

There have been people like you before who were mightier than you in strength, more affluent than you in wealth and children and party. They enjoyed their share of this worldly life. And you have been enjoying your share, just as they did, and you indulge in idle talk as they did. Such are the people whose works have perished in the world and in the life to come. And it is they who are the losers.

أَلَمْ يَأْتِهِمْ نَبَأُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَقَوْمِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأَصْحَابِ مَدْيَنَ وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَاتِ أَتَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **9:70**

Has not the history reached them of those before them? Of the People of Noah, 'Aad, Thamud, Abraham's people, the dwellers of Midyan, and the disasters that befell them. Their Messengers had come to them with clear evidence of the truth. God never did injustice to them. But they used to wrong their own people and thus wronged their own 'self'.

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ 9:71

Believing men and believing women are colleagues of one another. They enjoin virtue and forbid vice. Together, they help establish the Divinely System of Life, and set up the Economic Order of Zakaat. This is how they obey God and His Messenger. These are the ones on whom God showers His grace of success. Certainly, God is Exalted in Power, Wise. [The believing men and women, working together, do not deliver empty lectures. They enjoin virtue and forbid vice by personal example, knowing that the Qur'an is the Eternal Criterion of right and wrong. 2:185. 'Good' and 'Evil', 'Right' and 'Wrong' are not vague entities. The Qur'an clearly defines them in 2:177 and many other verses. In short, good is all that helps people and evil is all that hurts them]

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ 9:72

God promises to the believers, both men and women, Gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will live forever, and magnificent dwellings in the Gardens of Eden. And God's approval is the greatest of all blessings. That is the Supreme Triumph.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاهِدِ الْكُفَّارَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ وَاغْلُظْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ 9:73

[Establishment of the Divine System will build a Paradise on earth. But you will meet staunch opposition] O Prophet! Strive hard against the rejecters of the truth and the hypocrites! And be tough with them without the least inclination towards compromise in matters of Ideology. Their ultimate abode is Hell, a miserable destination.

يَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ مَا قَالُوا وَلَقَدْ قَالُوا كَلِمَةَ الْكُفْرِ وَكَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِسْلَامِهِمْ وَهَمُّوا بِمَا لَمْ يَنَالُوا وَمَا نَقَمُوا إِلَّا أَنْ أَغْنَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ فَإِن يَتُوبُوا يَكُ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ وَإِن يَتَوَلَّوْا يُعَذِّبْهُمُ اللَّهُ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمَا لَهُمْ 9:74

فِي الْأَرْضِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ

They (the hypocrites) swear by God that they have said nothing wrong. Yet they have uttered a word of disbelief (9:61-62). And they have denied the truth after professing their submission to God. They were aiming at something beyond their reach (attaining inner peace without sincerity to the Divine Guidance). And they could find no fault in the Divine System except that God has enriched them and enabled His Messenger to enrich them out of His bounty. So, it will be good for them if they repent and reform. But if they still turn away, God will cause them to suffer grievous retribution in this world and in the life to come. And they will have no protector or helper on earth.

وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ عَاهَدَ اللَّهَ لَئِنْ آتَانَا مِن فَضْلِهِ لَنَصَّدَّقَنَّ وَلَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **9:75**

And among them are those who promise God, "If He gives us of His bounty we will certainly spend in charity and will certainly become of the righteous, the ones who help others."

فَلَمَّا آتَاهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ بَخِلُوا بِهِ وَتَوَلَّوا وَّهُم مُّعْرِضُونَ **9:76**

Yet, when He gave them of His bounty they hoarded it and turned away from their promise.

فَأَعْقَبَهُمْ نِفَاقًا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يَلْقَوْنَهُ بِمَا أَخْلَفُوا اللَّهَ مَا وَعَدُوهُ وَبِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ **9:77**

God's law instilled hypocrisy in their hearts till the Day they meet Him (until their demise). This is because they broke their word to God that they promised Him, and because they lied again and again.

أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ سِرَّهُمْ وَنَجْوَاهُمْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ **9:78**

Are they not aware that God knows their thoughts and secret consultations and that God is the Great Knower of all that is Hidden?

الَّذِينَ يَلْمِزُونَ الْمُطَّوِّعِينَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ إِلَّا جُهْدَهُمْ فَيَسْخَرُونَ مِنْهُمْ سَخِرَ اللَّهُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **9:79**

It is these (hypocrites) who find fault with such of the believers who give generously, and they find fault with such believers who have nothing to give but their toil

and labor. They ridicule them all. God's Law of Requital will cause their ridicule to rebound on themselves, and grievous suffering awaits them.

اسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ أَوْ لَا تَسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ إِن تَسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً فَلَن يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **9:80**

Muhammad cannot ask for forgiveness

(O Prophet! You very compassionately ask forgiveness for them.) It does not matter if you ask forgiveness for them, or not, God will not forgive them even if you ask seventy times for their forgiveness. They have rejected God and His Messenger. God does not guide people who choose to drift away from the right path.

فَرِحَ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ بِمَقْعَدِهِمْ خِلَافَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَكَرِهُوا أَن يُجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَالُوا لَا تَنفِرُوا فِي الْحَرِّ قُلْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ أَشَدُّ حَرًّا لَّوْ كَانُوا يَفْقَهُونَ **9:81**

Those (hypocrites) who were left behind, rejoiced in their sitting back behind the Messenger of God, and disliked to strive with their wealth and persons in God's cause. They said, "Let us not go forth in heat." Say, "The fire of Hell is more intense", if they but understood. [And the advancing aggressors could soon bring the heat of the conflict to their homes]

فَلْيَضْحَكُوا قَلِيلًا وَلْيَبْكُوا كَثِيرًا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **9:82**

Then let them laugh a little, they will weep much, as the reward of what they have earned.

فَإِن رَّجَعَكَ اللَّهُ إِلَىٰ طَائِفَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ فَاسْتَأْذَنُوكَ لِلْخُرُوجِ فَقُل لَّن تَخْرُجُوا مَعِيَ أَبَدًا وَلَن تُقَاتِلُوا مَعِيَ عَدُوًّا إِنَّكُمْ رَضِيتُم بِالْقُعُودِ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ فَاقْعُدُوا مَعَ الْخَالِفِينَ **9:83**

If God returns you to a situation where they ask your permission to go forth, say, "You shall never again come out with me, nor fight an enemy with me. You were well pleased sitting back the first time. Then, stay back with those who stay behind (women, children, elderly men, the sick and the disabled).

وَلَا تُصَلِّ عَلَىٰ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُم مَّاتَ أَبَدًا وَلَا تَقُمْ عَلَىٰ قَبْرِهِ إِنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ **9:84**

Nor shall you (O Prophet) follow the funeral of any of them that dies, nor stand at his grave. They rejected God and His Messenger, and drifted away from the Commands until they died.

وَلَا تُعْجِبْكَ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَأَوْلَادُهُمْ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَن يُعَذِّبَهُم بِهَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَتَزْهَقَ أَنفُسُهُمْ وَهُمْ كَافِرُونَ **9:85**

Let not their wealth or their children or party impress you! God causes these things to be a suffering for them in this world, and their 'self' departs while they are disbelievers (9:55). [Hoarding of wealth and taking pride in children, party and possessions cause people to ignore Divine laws in their daily lives, and thus, they become a tribulation for them. 2:195, 8:28, 18:32, 63:9, 68:14, 57:20]

وَإِذَا أُنزِلَتْ سُورَةٌ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَجَاهِدُوا مَعَ رَسُولِهِ اسْتَأْذَنَكَ أُولُو الطَّوْلِ مِنْهُمْ وَقَالُوا ذَرْنَا نَكُن مَّعَ الْقَاعِدِينَ **9:86**

When a Surah is revealed saying, "Attain belief in God, and strive along with His Messenger", the able-bodied men of wealth ask your leave and say, "Allow us to stay behind with those who remain at home."

رَضُوا بِأَن يَكُونُوا مَعَ الْخَوَالِفِ وَطُبِعَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ **9:87**

They are well pleased to be with the disabled, the elderly, the women and children, and the ill. This attitude puts a seal on their hearts. They seldom understand (that fear can only be overcome with action 2:277, 6:48, 6:81).

لَٰكِنِ الرَّسُولُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ جَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْخَيْرَاتُ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **9:88**

But the Messenger, and those who believe with him, strive with their wealth and person. For them are all the good things and high ranks, and they are the ones who are truly prosperous.

أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **9:89**

God has made ready for them Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide. That is the signal victory.

وَجَاءَ الْمُعَذِّرُونَ مِنَ الْأَعْرَابِ لِيُؤْذَنَ لَهُمْ وَقَعَدَ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ سَيُصِيبُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **9:90**

And of the desert Arabs also, there were some who made excuses and came to claim exemption. And those who were false to God and His Messenger, merely sat behind. Grievous suffering is bound to befall the unbelievers among them.

لَّيْسَ عَلَى الضُّعَفَاءِ وَلَا عَلَى الْمَرْضَىٰ وَلَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ مَا يُنفِقُونَ حَرَجٌ إِذَا نَصَحُوا لِلَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ مَا عَلَى الْمُحْسِنِينَ مِن سَبِيلٍ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **9:91**

Not to be blamed are the physically weak, the elderly, the sick, and the ones who have no means to offer, so long as they are sincere to God and His Messenger (48:17). They should do what they can to support the cause. There is no way of blame against the doers of such good. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَلَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ إِذَا مَا أَتَوْكَ لِتَحْمِلَهُمْ قُلْتَ لَا أَجِدُ مَا أَحْمِلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ تَوَلَّوا وَّأَعْيُنُهُمْ تَفِيضُ مِنَ الدَّمْعِ حَزَنًا أَلَّا يَجِدُوا مَا يُنفِقُونَ **9:92**

Nor is there any blame on those who came to you (O Messenger) requesting that you provide them with mounts (horses and camels). You told them, "I cannot find a ride to mount you on." They returned with eyes flowing with tears out of sorrow that they had no means to spend for equipment.

إِنَّمَا السَّبِيلُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَسْتَأْذِنُونَكَ وَهُمْ أَغْنِيَاءُ رَضُوا بِأَن يَكُونُوا مَعَ الْخَوَالِفِ وَطَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **9:93**

The way of blame is only against those who ask for your leave when they are rich and able-bodied. They are well pleased to be with those who are obliged to stay behind. They have caused God's Law of Requital to seal their hearts without knowing it.

يَعْتَذِرُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ إِذَا رَجَعْتُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ قُل لَّا تَعْتَذِرُوا لَن نُّؤْمِنَ لَكُمْ قَدْ نَبَّأَنَا اللَّهُ مِنْ أَخْبَارِكُمْ وَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **9:94**

They will make excuse to you when you believers return. Say, "Make no excuse, for we shall not believe you. God has informed us about you. God and His Messenger, the Central Authority, will keep you under probation. And then you will be

brought back to Him, the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, and He will tell you what you had been doing."

سَيَحْلِفُونَ بِاللَّهِ لَكُمْ إِذَا انقَلَبْتُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ لِتُعْرِضُوا عَنْهُمْ فَأَعْرِضُوا عَنْهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ رِجْسٌ وَمَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **9:95**

They will swear by God, when you return to them, so that you may leave them alone. So leave them alone (9:125). They have hurt their humanity and earned the abode of Hell with their actions.

يَحْلِفُونَ لَكُمْ لِتَرْضَوْا عَنْهُمْ فَإِن تَرْضَوْا عَنْهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَرْضَىٰ عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْفَاسِقِينَ **9:96**

They swear that you believers may be pleased with them. Even if you accept them, God does not accept those who drift away from His commands [9:23-24]

الْأَعْرَابُ أَشَدُّ كُفْرًا وَنِفَاقًا وَأَجْدَرُ أَلَّا يَعْلَمُوا حُدُودَ مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:97**

Arabs are the worst hypocrites

The desert Arabs are more tenacious in disbelief and hypocrisy, and more likely to disregard the limits that God has revealed to His Messenger. God is Knower, Wise.

وَمِنَ الْأَعْرَابِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مَا يُنفِقُ مَغْرَمًا وَيَتَرَبَّصُ بِكُمُ الدَّوَائِرَ عَلَيْهِمْ دَائِرَةُ السَّوْءِ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **9:98**

Among these Bedouin Arabs is he who looks upon his spending as a penalty, and awaits a disaster to hit you. (They hope for the Divine Order to collapse.) It is those who invite disaster upon themselves. God is Hearer, Knower.

وَمِنَ الْأَعْرَابِ مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَيَتَّخِذُ مَا يُنفِقُ قُرُبَاتٍ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَصَلَوَاتِ الرَّسُولِ أَلَا إِنَّهَا قُرْبَةٌ لَّهُمْ سَيُدْخِلُهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **9:99**

And among the Bedouins are those who believe in God and the Last Day and consider their spending as a means towards God and a means of supporting the Messenger. This will raise their ranks with God. God will embrace them with His mercy. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُم بِإِحْسَانٍ رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتَهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **9:100**

The foremost among the emigrants and the helpers, as well as those who followed them in noble deeds: God's will is in harmony with them and their will in harmony with Him. He has made ready for them the evergreen Gardens, wherein they will abide eternally. This is the Supreme Triumph. [Muhaajireen = Emigrants (from Makkah). Ansaar = Those who hosted them (in Madinah). Radhi-Allahu 'anhum wa radhu 'Anh also translates as, "God is well-pleased with them and they are well-pleased with Him."]

وَمِمَّنْ حَوْلَكُم مِّنَ الْأَعْرَابِ مُنَافِقُونَ وَمِنْ أَهْلِ الْمَدِينَةِ مَرَدُوا عَلَى النِّفَاقِ لَا تَعْلَمُهُمْ نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُهُمْ سَنُعَذِّبُهُم مَّرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ يُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَذَابٍ عَظِيمٍ **9:101**

Some of the Bedouins who dwell around your town are hypocrites, and some of the people of Al-Madinah also persist in hypocrisy. You do not know them, We know them. We will punish them twice (they will be humiliated in the battle and they will see their families and children embracing Belief). Then they will be relegated to a painful doom.

وَآخَرُونَ اعْتَرَفُوا بِذُنُوبِهِمْ خَلَطُوا عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَآخَرَ سَيِّئًا عَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَتُوبَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **9:102**

There are others who acknowledge their faults. Since they have a mixed record of good and bad deeds, they may hope that God will relent toward them, for God is Forgiving, Merciful.

خُذْ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِم بِهَا وَصَلِّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ صَلَاتَكَ سَكَنٌ لَّهُمْ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **9:103**

Accept their contribution for the community. Purify their thoughts with proper education and training so that their own 'self' may grow. Encourage and support them! Your support is a great source of peace in their hearts. God is Hearer, Knower. [Let the believers adopt the Divine Attributes in their human capacity. 2:103]

أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَأْخُذُ الصَّدَقَاتِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **9:104**

Do they not know that God is the One Who accepts the repentance of His servants, and accepts their charity? God is the Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

وَقُلِ اعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **9:105**

Say, "Act! (Prove your word with action). God will watch your actions, and so will His Messenger, and the believers. Ultimately you will be returned to the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible. He will show you (a replay of) what you used to do."

وَآخَرُونَ مُرْجَوْنَ لِأَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِمَّا يُعَذِّبُهُمْ وَإِمَّا يَتُوبُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:106**

There are some who await God's decree whether He will punish them or relent to them. God is All Knower, All Wise. [Their matter is under investigation by the State. Divine laws are based on knowledge and wisdom 9:118]

وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مَسْجِدًا ضِرَارًا وَكُفْرًا وَتَفْرِيقًا بَيْنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَإِرْصَادًا لِّمَنْ حَارَبَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ مِن قَبْلُ وَلَيَحْلِفُنَّ إِنْ أَرَدْنَا إِلَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ **9:107**

Hypocrites built a temple

(The hypocrites keep making schemes.) They built a Masjid out of mischief to promote disbelief and sectarianism among the believers, and as an outpost for those who made war against God and His Messenger before. They will swear, "We had but good intentions", but God bears witness that they are liars.

لَا تَقُمْ فِيهِ أَبَدًا لَّمَسْجِدٌ أُسِّسَ عَلَى التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْ أَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ أَحَقُّ أَن تَقُومَ فِيهِ فِيهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّونَ أَن يَتَطَهَّرُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطَّهِّرِينَ **9:108**

You shall not stand in such a Masjid! (6:160). There is a Masjid whose foundation was laid from the first day on the Secure way, it is more worthy that you stand therein. In it are men who love to be purified, and God loves those who keep clean of division and sectarianism.

أَفَمَنْ أَسَّسَ بُنْيَانَهُ عَلَىٰ تَقْوَىٰ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانٍ خَيْرٌ أَم مَّنْ أَسَّسَ بُنْيَانَهُ عَلَىٰ شَفَا جُرُفٍ هَارٍ فَانْهَارَ بِهِ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **9:109**

Is he who founded his building on the Secure way of God and His goodly Acceptance better, or he who founded his building on the crumbling cliff of "Shirk" that topples down with him into the fire of Hell? God does not guide a people who displace right with wrong.

لَا يَزَالُ بُنْيَانُهُمُ الَّذِي بَنَوْا رِيبَةً فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ إِلَّا أَن تَقَطَّعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **9:110**

The building which they have built will never cease to be a source of misgiving in their hearts unless their hearts be torn to pieces. God is Knower, Wise. [A building that divides believers will remain a source of unrest in the hearts of the sectarians until their hearts stop beating]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَىٰ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُم بِأَنَّ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ وَيُقْتَلُونَ وَعْدًا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِعَهْدِهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَاسْتَبْشِرُوا بِبَيْعِكُمُ الَّذِي بَايَعْتُم بِهِ وَذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **9:111**

God has purchased from the believers their persons and their goods, for (in return) theirs is the Garden. They shall fight in the cause of God, and shall slay and be slain. It is a promise that is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel, and the Qur'an. Who can fulfill a promise better than God? Rejoice then in the bargain you have made, for that is the Supreme Triumph. [Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 6:32. Mathew 10:5, 10:39, 19:29, 21:19]

التَّائِبُونَ الْعَابِدُونَ الْحَامِدُونَ السَّائِحُونَ الرَّاكِعُونَ السَّاجِدُونَ الْآمِرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَالنَّاهُونَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَالْحَافِظُونَ لِحُدُودِ اللَّهِ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **9:112**

Triumphant are those who: - Return to the right path and take corrective action as soon as they realize that they have erred. - Obey the commands of God. - Work to manifest the praise of God (for bestowing the most excellent guidance). . - Pick up lessons about the history of previous nations whenever they travel. - Are always humble before the Divine System. - Adore and submit to God alone.

- Advocate all that is virtuous and discourage all that is vice. - And remain watchful against trespassing the limits set by God. So give the good news to those who have chosen to be graced with belief (that these are the men and women who deserve a most pleasant life in both worlds). [3:104, 33:35, 66:5]

مَا كَانَ لِلنَّبِيِّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَن يَسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ وَلَوْ كَانُوا أُولِي قُرْبَىٰ مِن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ **9:113**

It is not fitting for the Prophet and the believers to pray for the forgiveness of the idolaters, even if they are their relatives, after it has been made clear to them that they are dwellers of the fire.

وَمَا كَانَ اسْتِغْفَارُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ إِلَّا عَن مَّوْعِدَةٍ وَعَدَهَا إِيَّاهُ فَلَمَّا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ أَنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ لِّلَّهِ تَبَرَّأَ مِنْهُ إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لَأَوَّاهٌ حَلِيمٌ **9:114**

Abraham asked forgiveness for his father because of a promise that he had made. The promise was based on the hope that his father would mend his ways. When it was made clear to him that his father was a persistent opponent of God's commands, he desisted from asking forgiveness for him. Abraham was kind-hearted, clement. [14:41, 19:47]

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُضِلَّ قَوْمًا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَاهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يُبَيِّنَ لَهُم مَّا يَتَّقُونَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **9:115**

God never sends a people astray after He has guided them, unless they violate the laws that were made plain. God is the Knower of all things.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **9:116**

To God belongs the Dominion of the heavens and earth. He has full control over the laws of life and death, for individuals and nations. You have no protector and helper outside God's laws.

لَّقَد تَّابَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعُسْرَةِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا كَادَ يَزِيغُ قُلُوبُ فَرِيقٍ مِّنْهُمْ ثُمَّ تَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّهُ بِهِمْ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **9:117**

God turned in kindness to the Prophet, the emigrants and those who hosted them. They followed him in difficult times after the hearts of some of them had nearly wavered. Then He turned to them in kindness. He is Compassionate, Merciful to them. [Muhaajireen = Emigrants. Ansaar = Those who host and support them]

وَعَلَى الثَّلَاثَةِ الَّذِينَ خُلِّفُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا ضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحُبَتْ وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ وَظَنُّوا أَن لَّا مَلْجَأَ مِنَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ تَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَتُوبُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ **9:118**

And (God also turned in compassion) to the three men who had stayed behind. The earth, despite all its vastness, had become narrow for them, and they became extremely despondent. They realized with certainty that there is no refuge from God other than a return to Him. Then He turned to them in mercy so that they return to the right way. God is Acceptor of repentance, Merciful. [9:106, 9:43-46. According to the ever fallible history, the three who had stayed behind: Ka'b bin Maalik, Mararah bin Rabee', Hilal bin Umayyah]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ **9:119**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of God and be with the truthful.

مَا كَانَ لِأَهْلِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُم مِّنَ الْأَعْرَابِ أَن يَتَخَلَّفُوا عَن رَّسُولِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَرْغَبُوا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ عَن نَّفْسِهِ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ لَا يُصِيبُهُمْ ظَمَأٌ وَلَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا مَخْمَصَةٌ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَطَئُونَ مَوْطِئًا يَغِيظُ الْكُفَّارَ وَلَا يَنَالُونَ مِنْ عَدُوٍّ نَّيْلًا إِلَّا كُتِبَ لَهُم بِهِ عَمَلٌ صَالِحٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **9:120**

It is not for the residents of Al-Madinah and for the Bedouins around, to stay back behind the Messenger of God and prefer their own affairs over supporting him. For, whenever they suffer from thirst or weariness or hunger in the cause of God, and whenever they take any step that angers the rejecters, and whatever comes to them from the enemy (victory, injury or death), a good deed is recorded in their favor. God never fails to reward the doers of good. [Muhsin = A benefactor of humanity = One who serves people = Whoever helps the creation = A doer of good. Anger during combat deters sound planning. Muhsin, in this sense, may refer to the one engaged in benign aggression (self-defense) as opposed to malignant aggression (unjust war)]

وَلَا يُنفِقُونَ نَفَقَةً صَغِيرَةً وَلَا كَبِيرَةً وَلَا يَقْطَعُونَ وَادِيًا إِلَّا كُتِبَ لَهُمْ لِيَجْزِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **9:121**

And whatever they spend, small or large, and whenever they cross a valley, it is recorded in their credit, so that God repays them the best return for their actions.

وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنفِرُوا كَافَّةً فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ **9:122**

The believers shall not go to an expedition all together. Of every group of believers, let some of them come forth to gain sound knowledge of Deen (the Qur'anic System of life). Then they can pass the knowledge on to their people when they return, so that they may remain aware.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ يَلُونَكُم مِّنَ الْكُفَّارِ وَلْيَجِدُوا فِيكُمْ غِلْظَةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُتَّقِينَ **9:123**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Fight those of the disbelievers who close up on you, and let them find strength among your ranks. And know that God is with those who are mindful of His laws.

وَإِذَا مَا أُنزِلَتْ سُورَةٌ فَمِنْهُم مَّن يَقُولُ أَيُّكُمْ زَادَتْهُ هَٰذِهِ إِيمَانًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَزَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَهُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ **9:124**

Whenever a Surah is revealed some of them (hypocrites) say, "Which one of you has increased in faith?" In fact, it has increased the believers in faith and they rejoice.

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ فَزَادَتْهُمْ رِجْسًا إِلَىٰ رِجْسِهِمْ وَمَاتُوا وَهُمْ كَافِرُونَ **9:125**

But those who have caused their hearts to ail by harboring doubts, it only adds another element of disbelief to disbelief, and they die refusing to accept the truth.

أَوَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّهُمْ يُفْتَنُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَامٍ مَّرَّةً أَوْ مَرَّتَيْنِ ثُمَّ لَا يَتُوبُونَ وَلَا هُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ **9:126**

Do they not see that they are tested once or twice each year? Still they do not repent, nor pay heed. (Tested at your hands. 9:14).

وَإِذَا مَا أُنزِلَتْ سُورَةٌ نَّظَرَ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ هَلْ يَرَاكُم مِّنْ أَحَدٍ ثُمَّ انصَرَفُوا صَرَفَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُم بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ **9:127**

When a Surah is revealed, the hypocrites look at each other mockingly as if saying, "Does anyone see you? Let us leave." And then they turn away. God's law turns their hearts away because they are a people who do not use their faculties of understanding.

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُم بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **9:128**

There has come to you (O Mankind) a Messenger, one of your own, who feels your burden. He is full of concern for your betterment, and for those who choose to believe, he is most compassionate and merciful.

فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ **9:129**

(O Messenger) if they turn away, then say, "God is Sufficient for me. There is no god but He. In Him I put my trust. For, He is the Lord of the Tremendous Throne." ['Arsh = Throne = Sky = Height = The Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control. 7:54, 10:3, 13:2, 20:5, 25:59, 32:4, 57:4]

Chapter 10

Yunus - Jonah

This is the 10th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 109 verses. Prophet Jonah was sent to Nineveh, the capital of Ancient Assyria around 700 BC. Nineveh was located by the East Bank of the Tigris River, and had a population of just over 100,000. Granting a period of respite to nations, in which they can mend their ways, is one of the eternal Divine laws.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الر تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْحَكِيمِ **10:1**

A.L.R. Alif-Laam-Ra. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Raaziq the Provider, states that), These are the verses of a Book that is full of wisdom.

أَكَانَ لِلنَّاسِ عَجَبًا أَنْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَنْ أَنذِرِ النَّاسَ وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنَّ لَهُمْ قَدَمَ صِدْقٍ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ قَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسَاحِرٌ مُّبِينٌ **10:2**

Is it too much of a wonder for people that We reveal Our message to a man among them? "You shall warn mankind, and give good news to those who attain belief that they have a sure footing with their Lord." Those who are bent upon denying the truth, say, "This man is an obvious wizard." (He is gifted with spellbinding eloquence).

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ مَا مِن شَفِيعٍ إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِ إِذْنِهِ ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **10:3**

But, your Lord (Who sent this Book) is God Who created the heavens and earth in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control.

He, the Director of all directions, Issuer of all decrees, runs the Universe according to His laws. No intercessor can stand in His Court but as a witness of law. Such is God, your Sustainer. You shall serve Him. Will you not use your intellect and reasoning? [Six Stages or Eras: 2:255, 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 16:111, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, 41:10]

إِلَيْهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقًّا إِنَّهُ يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ بِالْقِسْطِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَهُمْ شَرَابٌ مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ وَعَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ **10:4**

To Him is your return, of all of you. God's promise is the unwavering truth. He created the first creation, and He will create it again, so that He may reward with justice those who attain belief and do works that help the society. And those who reject the truth, for them will be a burning draught of despair and a painful doom because of their persistent refusal to acknowledge the truth. [A consequence of their own doings. 33:24, 34:3-4, 45:22, 53:31]

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَّرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ ذَٰلِكَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **10:5**

He is the One Who appointed the sun as a splendid glow, and the moon as a cool light. He appointed stages for the moon, in due measure. You make your calculations and calendars accordingly. God has created the Universe as the absolute reality and for a purpose. God explains His verses for those who wish to learn. [The Universe is neither a dream as the ancient Hindu philosopher Manu preached, nor a reflection of the world of ideas as Plato thought. 6:97, 17:12]

إِنَّ فِي اخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَمَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَّقُونَ **10:6**

In the alternation of the day and the night, and in all that God has created in the heavens and earth, there are signs for people who are mindful of Divine laws. [Taqwa = Seeking to journey through life in security = To live upright = To be mindful of Divine laws = Being observant = Shielding oneself against moral disintegration. 2:41]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا وَرَضُوا بِالْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَاطْمَأَنُّوا بِهَا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا غَافِلُونَ **10:7**

Those who do not look forward to meeting with Us, but please and satisfy themselves with petty delights of the worldly life, it is they who neglect Our messages. [Meeting with Us = Liqa-anaa. At other places 'Meeting with the Lord' is generally understood as meeting the Divine Law of Requital or Recompense. Some exponents apply 'Meeting with the Lord' to Resurrection alone. In my humble opinion, since God is a Personal, Compassionate God, and a vast majority of His humble servants harbor an intense desire to see Him, He may not deny this Kindness to His servants. We know that God is far too Glorious to have a physical image (anthropomorphic form), but He is Able to do all things. In the World of command (AMR), He designs laws as He wills. It is only in the World of Creation (KHALQ) that He implements those laws, and then, never changes them. So, He is absolutely Capable of devising any law in His World of command. I find myself in agreement with numerous Ahadith narrating that humans should be able to meet their Creator in the Next Life, not as a wishful thinking, but because they are in agreement with the Qur'an. I do not certainly mean God assuming a physical form for 'meeting' with His servants, but in some way that is beyond our understanding at this time. Let us ponder some verses as well that allude to a new creation of humans in forms unknown to us at this time, and entirely new laws becoming operative in the New Universe: ... 56:59 Is it you who create it or are We the Creator? ... 56:60 We have decreed death (designed the laws of death) among you. And there is nothing to prevent Us 56:61 From changing your forms and making you in a manner, and in an environment, that is (as yet) unknown to you. ... 11:106 Those who, by their deeds, brought misery on themselves will be in the fire, sighing and wailing will be their portion. ... 11:107 Therein to abide, as long as the (New) Universe endures; that is time beyond count, unless your Lord decrees otherwise. Your Lord is Doer of what He wills in the World of command. ... The current Universe will be dismantled for a new Universe. 5:44, 14:19, 14:48, 21:104, 25:22, 35:16, 36:81, 69:16, 70:9) ... 'Meeting with the Lord' is mentioned in the Qur'an about a hundred times. Even the great Allama Mashriqi ventures into the area, although I humbly disagree with him. He thinks that with evolution, humans will lose their body and only the 'spirit' will remain. And this spirit will merge with the 'Spirit' of God. And that is the 'Meeting with the Lord'! (Ref: Hadith-il-Qur'an?) Now this concept exactly matches the Sufi parlance, and, therefore, it is totally unacceptable to a student of the Qur'an. Finally, 2:55 points out that only the disbelievers demand to see God in physical form, but that verse relates only to the life of this world]

أُولَٰئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **10:8**

Their home will be the fire that they have earned (ignited) with their own actions.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ يَهْدِيهِمْ رَبُّهُم بِإِيمَانِهِمْ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ **10:9**

Those who choose to believe and work to increase the human potential, their Lord guides them by virtue of their conviction (that no good deed goes to waste). Rivers will flow beneath them in the Gardens of Delight. [A'maal Saaleh = Deeds that increase the individual and collective potential of a society = Helping people = Improving the environment = Fulfilling others' needs = Contributing to the society = Correcting a deficiency]

دَعْوَاهُمْ فِيهَا سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَتَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ وَآخِرُ دَعْوَاهُمْ أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **10:10**

Ending of salat

Their prayer therein will be, "Glory be to You, O God!" Their greeting to one another will be, "Peace!" The conclusion of their prayer will be, "Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds!" [And so shall be the peaceful Ideal Society on earth. They will realize that the good of one is the good of another, and understand how Praiseworthy the Giver of such blissful guidance is]

وَلَوْ يُعَجِّلُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ الشَّرَّ اسْتِعْجَالَهُم بِالْخَيْرِ لَقُضِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ أَجَلُهُمْ فَنَذَرُ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **10:11**

If God hastened retribution for people as they demand goodly things be hastened for them, their respite would have already expired. (It is God's mercy that His Law of Requital does not grasp them instantly. He gives them time to mend their ways). Those who do not look forward to meeting with Us, We leave them in their arrogance, blindly stumbling to and fro. [10:7]

وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا إِلَىٰ ضُرٍّ مَّسَّهُ كَذَٰلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **10:12**

When affliction befalls man, he cries to Us, whether he be lying, or sitting or standing. But when We have relieved him of the affliction, he goes on his way as if he had never cried to Us for what afflicted him. Those who trespass the Divine laws, lose discernment and even their ill deeds will then seem fair to them.

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا الْقُرُونَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَمَّا ظَلَمُوا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَمَا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **10:13**

We annihilated many communities before you for their violation of human rights. Their Messengers had come to them with clear evidence of the truth, but they refused to believe them. Thus We reward those who steal the fruit of others' labor.

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ خَلَائِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ لِنَنظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ **10:14**

Now We have made you their successors in the land, to see how you behave.

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا ائْتِ بِقُرْآنٍ غَيْرِ هَٰذَا أَوْ بَدِّلْهُ قُلْ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أُبَدِّلَهُ مِن تِلْقَاءِ نَفْسِي إِنْ أَتَّبِعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **10:15**

Muhammad followed Quran only

When Our messages are conveyed to them in all clarity, those who do not expect that they are destined to meet with Us (want to strike a deal with the Messenger). They say, "Bring us a Qur'an other than this or make some changes in it." Say (O Prophet), "I cannot possibly change it on my own. I only follow what is revealed to me. If I disobey my Lord, I fear the retribution of an awesome Day."

قُل لَّوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا تَلَوْتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا أَدْرَاكُم بِهِ فَقَدْ لَبِثْتُ فِيكُمْ عُمُرًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **10:16**

Say, "If God willed otherwise, I would not have recited and conveyed this to you, nor would I have made you aware of it. I have dwelt among you a whole lifetime before this. (You have always called me Al-Ameen, the trustworthy and Sadiq, the truthful). Will you not, then, use your sense?" [7:184]

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ **10:17**

Who does a greater wrong than the one who forges a lie against God, or denies His revelations? But the guilty will never prosper.

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ شُفَعَاؤُنَا عِندَ اللَّهِ قُلْ أَتُنَبِّئُونَ اللَّهَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **10:18**

They worship and obey besides God, deities that can neither harm nor benefit them. They say, "These are our intercessors with God." Say, "Are you informing God of what He does not know in the heavens and earth? Glory to Him! He is High, Exalted above all that they associate with Him." [39:3]

وَمَا كَانَ النَّاسُ إِلَّا أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَاخْتَلَفُوا وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ فِيمَا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **10:19**

All mankind were but one community (and are meant to be so); then they differed. Had it not been for a Word that went forth from your Lord (the Law of Free will), He would have judged their disputes immediately. [2:30, 2:213, 2:256, 11:118, 16:9, 76:2-3]

وَيَقُولُونَ لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ فَقُلْ إِنَّمَا الْغَيْبُ لِلَّهِ فَانتَظِرُوا إِنِّي مَعَكُم مِّنَ الْمُنتَظِرِينَ **10:20**

Only God knows the future

And they say, "Why was not a miracle sent down to him from his Lord?" Then answer (O Prophet), "The Unseen is known to God alone. Wait for the results of my program, and I shall be waiting with you." [That will be the best sign for all of us to behold]

وَإِذَا أَذَقْنَا النَّاسَ رَحْمَةً مِّن بَعْدِ ضَرَّاءَ مَسَّتْهُمْ إِذَا لَهُم مَّكْرٌ فِي آيَاتِنَا قُلِ اللَّهُ أَسْرَعُ مَكْرًا إِنَّ رُسُلَنَا يَكْتُبُونَ مَا تَمْكُرُونَ **10:21**

When We cause people to taste of mercy after they have suffered a hardship, they start scheming to defy Our commands. Say, "God is more Swift in planning. Our couriers write down what you plot."

هُوَ الَّذِي يُسَيِّرُكُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا كُنتُمْ فِي الْفُلْكِ وَجَرَيْنَ بِهِم بِرِيحٍ طَيِّبَةٍ وَفَرِحُوا بِهَا جَاءَتْهَا رِيحٌ عَاصِفٌ وَجَاءَهُمُ الْمَوْجُ مِن كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ أُحِيطَ بِهِمْ دَعَوُا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ لَئِنْ أَنجَيْتَنَا مِنْ هَٰذِهِ لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ **10:22**

He is the One Who enables you to travel in the land and the sea. When you board the ships, the ships sail with the voyagers with a favorable breeze. And they rejoice therein. If a stormy wind comes and the waves surround them, they think they are overwhelmed. Then they implore God, in all sincerity turning to His universal laws, saying, "If You only save us this time, we will truly show our gratitude."

فَلَمَّا أَنجَاهُمْ إِذَا هُمْ يَبْغُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّمَا بَغْيُكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُم مَّتَاعَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَنُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **10:23**

Yet as soon as He has saved them, they return to land in their behavior of rebellion against all that is right. O Mankind! Remember that your rebellion is only against your own 'self' (91:9-10). Enjoyment of the worldly life with disregard of Eternity, is but a fleeting delight. In the end, to Us is your return, and We will inform you of all that you truly accomplished.

إِنَّمَا مَثَلُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَاءٍ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَاخْتَلَطَ بِهِ نَبَاتُ الْأَرْضِ مِمَّا يَأْكُلُ النَّاسُ وَالْأَنْعَامُ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَخَذَتِ الْأَرْضُ زُخْرُفَهَا وَازَّيَّنَتْ وَظَنَّ أَهْلُهَا أَنَّهُمْ قَادِرُونَ عَلَيْهَا أَتَاهَا أَمْرُنَا لَيْلًا أَوْ نَهَارًا فَجَعَلْنَاهَا حَصِيدًا كَأَن لَّمْ تَغْنَ بِالْأَمْسِ كَذَٰلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **10:24**

Those who do not invest in the life to come must consider a similitude: The life of the world is a passing delight: We send down water from the height to produce with it all kinds of plants from the earth, provision for humans and animals. Then, just as the earth has taken its ornament and is perfectly adorned, and its people think that they are in control, Our command arrives by night or by day, leaving it completely barren, as if nothing existed there yesterday. The only way to inherit the fruit of your labor in the Hereafter is to live by Our laws. We expound Our messages and signs in nature for those who use their intellect.

وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَىٰ دَارِ السَّلَامِ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **10:25**

God calls to the Home of Peace, and leads men and women to the straight path. He does guide to the straight path him who wills to be guided. [4:88]

لِّلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْحُسْنَىٰ وَزِيَادَةٌ وَلَا يَرْهَقُ وُجُوهَهُمْ قَتَرٌ وَلَا ذِلَّةٌ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **10:26**

Those who benefit humanity get rewarded manifold. No dust of sadness and no trace of humiliation will overshadow their faces. Such are the rightful dwellers of the Garden; they will abide therein.

وَالَّذِينَ كَسَبُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ جَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ بِمِثْلِهَا وَتَرْهَقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ مَّا لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ عَاصِمٍ كَأَنَّمَا أُغْشِيَتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ قِطَعًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مُظْلِمًا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **10:27**

And those who are unjust to others in their daily lives, will fail to balance their own personalities. They will spend their lives in sadness and humiliation, a linear result of their own actions. There will be no one to protect them from God's law. They will wander as if the darkness of night had covered their faces. They are the ones who have built their Hell and they will inherit it in the Eternity.

وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ نَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا مَكَانَكُمْ أَنتُمْ وَشُرَكَاؤُكُمْ فَزَيَّلْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَقَالَ شُرَكَاؤُهُم مَّا كُنتُمْ إِيَّانَا تَعْبُدُونَ **10:28**

One Day We will gather all of them together. We will say to those who acknowledged false deities, "Stay back, you and your contrived partners of God!" We will have the leaders and their followers confront each other. Their leaders will say, "It was not us that you worshiped."

فَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ إِن كُنَّا عَنْ عِبَادَتِكُمْ لَغَافِلِينَ **10:29**

(Such false deities as Prophets, angels, Sufis, saints, clergy, idols and the universal forces,) they will all say, "God suffices as a Witness between us and you that we were not even aware of your worship." [They worshiped their own desires and fantasies]

هُنَالِكَ تَبْلُو كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا أَسْلَفَتْ وَرُدُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ مَوْلَاهُمُ الْحَقِّ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **10:30**

Maula

Therein every person will experience exactly the result of what he did before. They will be brought back to God, their rightful Master, and all their false imagery will fail them. [Maula = The True Master = Lord Supreme. The extremely common practice of calling a religious leader as Maulana (Our Master) is a frank, deplorable form of Shirk (associating others with God). But the clergy take pride in it! Many verses in the Qur'an tell us that there is no Maulana but God. It is amazing to note that the Muslim clergy write Maulana with their names, and with their own hands! 9:51]

قُلْ مَن يَرْزُقُكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَمَّن يَمْلِكُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَمَن يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَيُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَمَن يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ فَسَيَقُولُونَ اللَّهُ فَقُلْ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **10:31**

(Now is the time for them to think.) Say (O Messenger), "Who is it that provides for you from the heaven and the earth, or who is it that has full power over your hearing and sight? And who is it that brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? And who is it that directs the Order of the Universe?" They will say, "God." Say, "Will you not then be mindful of His laws?"

فَذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمُ الْحَقُّ فَمَاذَا بَعْدَ الْحَقِّ إِلَّا الضَّلَالُ فَأَنَّىٰ تُصْرَفُونَ 10:32

Truth is in the Quran

Such is God, your Rightful Lord. After the truth what is there but error? How could you then turn away?

كَذَٰلِكَ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ فَسَقُوا أَنَّهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 10:33

The Word of your Lord is justified that those who drift away from Reason will not accept the truth.

قُلْ هَلْ مِن شُرَكَائِكُم مَّن يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ قُلِ اللَّهُ يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ فَأَنَّىٰ تُؤْفَكُونَ 10:34

Ask them, “Can any of your ’partner gods’ originate creation and then bring it forth again?” Say, “God originates creation and then brings it forth again. How then, are you so deluded?”

قُلْ هَلْ مِن شُرَكَائِكُم مَّن يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ قُلِ اللَّهُ يَهْدِي لِلْحَقِّ أَفَمَن يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ أَحَقُّ أَن يُتَّبَعَ أَمَّن لَّا يَهِدِّي إِلَّا أَن يُهْدَىٰ فَمَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ 10:35

Partners

Only God guides

Say, “Of your ‘partners’, is there any that can lead you to the truth?” Say, “God leads to the truth. So, who is more worthy of being followed? The One Who shows you the way or one who finds no way unless he is guided? What is amiss with you? How do you judge?”

وَمَا يَتَّبِعُ أَكْثَرُهُمْ إِلَّا ظَنًّا إِنَّ الظَّنَّ لَا يُغْنِي مِنَ الْحَقِّ شَيْئًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ 10:36

The majority of people follow nothing but conjecture. But conjecture can never be a substitute for the Reality of things. God is Knower of what they do (and forge).

وَمَا كَانَ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنُ أَن يُفْتَرَىٰ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَٰكِن تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ مِن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 10:37

This Qur'an could not possibly have been devised by anyone except God. Nay, it is a confirmation of the (truth in) the earlier revelations, and a clear exposition of the Eternal law. Without any trace of doubt, this Book is from the Lord of the Worlds. (While it confirms the surviving truth in the previous revelations, it is a Watcher over them and ignores and, where necessary, corrects the human touch in them. [2:75, 2:78-79, 2:101, 3:70-71, 3:78, 3:186-187, 5:13, 5:41, 6:91, 9:31]

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **10:38**

Who can produce a Quran

Or, do they say, "He has invented it"? Tell them, "Bring one Surah like this and call for help everyone you can besides God, if you are truthful." [2:23, 11:13. One chapter like this in beauty, eloquence and wisdom. And "besides God" would mean, without copying phrases and sentences from the Qur'an]

بَلْ كَذَّبُوا بِمَا لَمْ يُحِيطُوا بِعِلْمِهِ وَلَمَّا يَأْتِهِمْ تَأْوِيلُهُ كَذَٰلِكَ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الظَّالِمِينَ **10:39**

Nay, they deny it without grasping the profound knowledge therein. And they have yet to see the benevolent transformation it can bring about in the making of humanity. This is how those before them denied. Then see what was the end of those who thus wronged themselves! [Taaweel = Interpretation that can be implemented. Taaweel is erroneously promoted by some as remote meanings of the Qur'an known only to a few select! They are yet to see the implementation of the Qur'an, as to how it can bring about a benevolent transformation in the society]

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَمِنْهُم مَّن لَّا يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَرَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُفْسِدِينَ **10:40**

And of them is he who believes in this (Qur'an), and of them is he who does not believe in it. Your Lord is best Aware of those who are bent upon denial and want corruption and disorder to go on.

وَإِن كَذَّبُوكَ فَقُل لِّي عَمَلِي وَلَكُمْ عَمَلُكُمْ أَنتُم بَرِيئُونَ مِمَّا أَعْمَلُ وَأَنَا بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **10:41**

If they keep denying you (O Prophet), say, "I have my work, and you have your work. You are innocent of what I do and I am innocent of what you do." [109:1-6]

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَسْتَمِعُونَ إِلَيْكَ أَفَأَنتَ تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ وَلَوْ كَانُوا لَا يَعْقِلُونَ **10:42**

Among them are those who apparently listen to you. (But their thoughts are wandering.) Can you make hear those deaf who do not use reason? [47:16]

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَنظُرُ إِلَيْكَ أَفَأَنتَ تَهْدِي الْعُمْيَ وَلَوْ كَانُوا لَا يُبْصِرُونَ **10:43**

And among them you will find those who look at you without seeing. (Their mind is roaming elsewhere.) Can you show the way to those who are blind of the heart? [7:198]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ النَّاسَ شَيْئًا وَلَٰكِنَّ النَّاسَ أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **10:44**

God is never unjust to human beings; but people wrong themselves. [Failing to use the God-given faculties is the first wrong one can commit. It brings the humans down to subhuman levels. 7:179]

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ كَأَن لَّمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا سَاعَةً مِّنَ النَّهَارِ يَتَعَارَفُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ قَدْ خَسِرَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِلِقَاءِ اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانُوا مُهْتَدِينَ **10:45**

And on the Day when He will gather them, they will think they lived (in this world) an hour of the day, recognizing one another. (Others will think it was a day or a few days 20:103-104.) Lost will be those who denied meeting with God, and thus, failed to be rightly guided. [10:7]

وَإِمَّا نُرِيَنَّكَ بَعْضَ الَّذِي نَعِدُهُمْ أَوْ نَتَوَفَّيَنَّكَ فَإِلَيْنَا مَرْجِعُهُمْ ثُمَّ اللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْعَلُونَ **10:46**

Whether We show you (O Messenger), something of what We promise them, or cause you to die, to Us is their return. God is the Watcher over what they do.

Every nation is sent a messenger

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ رَسُولُهُمْ قُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْقِسْطِ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **10:47**

Every community has had a Messenger. They were judged in all equity only after their Messenger came (and delivered the message), and they were never wronged.

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **10:48**

And yet, they ask, “When will the promise be fulfilled, if you are truthful?” (The promise of just recompense.)

قُل لَّا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهُمْ فَلَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ **10:49**

Messenger has no special power

Say (O Messenger), "I have no power to avert any harm even from myself, or benefit myself contrary to the laws of God. Every community determines its own rise and fall. When the time comes, they can neither delay, nor hasten the requital."

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَتَاكُمْ عَذَابُهُ بَيَاتًا أَوْ نَهَارًا مَّاذَا يَسْتَعْجِلُ مِنْهُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ **10:50**

Say, "Have you thought, when His retribution comes to you suddenly by night, or in the bustling day, what portion of it would the guilty wish to hasten?"

أَثُمَّ إِذَا مَا وَقَعَ آمَنتُم بِهِ آلْآنَ وَقَدْ كُنتُم بِهِ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ **10:51**

"Would you then profess belief in it at last, when it comes to pass! Ah! Now? And you wanted to hasten it on." (But the period of respite has been over.)

ثُمَّ قِيلَ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا ذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْخُلْدِ هَلْ تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ **10:52**

It will be said to the oppressors and violators of human rights, "Taste the eternal torment, the exact reward of what you earned."

وَيَسْتَنبِئُونَكَ أَحَقٌّ هُوَ قُلْ إِي وَرَبِّي إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ **10:53**

They keep asking you (O Prophet), "Is it really true?" Say, "Yes, by my Lord, it is true, indeed. And you cannot defy His laws."

وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِكُلِّ نَفْسٍ ظَلَمَتْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ لَافْتَدَتْ بِهِ وَأَسَرُّوا النَّدَامَةَ لَمَّا رَأَوُا الْعَذَابَ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْقِسْطِ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **10:54**

Whoever oppresses people, has wronged his own 'self'. Even if they possessed everything on earth, they would readily present it as ransom. But they will regret within themselves when they see the doom. They will be judged fairly and no wrong shall be done to them.

أَلَا إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَلَا إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **10:55**

To God belongs all that is in the heavens and earth. His promise is unwaveringly True but most of them never learn.

هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **10:56**

He is the One Who gives life and death. You and your actions will be returned to Him.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَتْكُم مَّوْعِظَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِّمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **10:57**

O Mankind! There has now come to you Enlightenment from your Sustainer, and a healing for all that troubles your hearts; and guidance and grace to all who embrace it.

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَٰلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ **10:58**

Say, “In this bounty of God and in His grace - in this, then, let them rejoice. It is better than all the treasures that they may amass.”

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُم مَّا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ لَكُم مِّن رِّزْقٍ فَجَعَلْتُم مِّنْهُ حَرَامًا وَحَلَالًا قُلْ آللَّهُ أَذِنَ لَكُمْ أَمْ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَفْتَرُونَ **10:59**

***

We made things lawful and unlawful

Say, “Have you considered how God sends down to you all kinds of provisions for your minds and bodies? Then you render some of them unlawful and some lawful?” Say, “Has God permitted you to do this? Or do you invent lies and attribute them to God?” [The clergy go after manmade dogmas thus tampering with the revealed Word of God and declare unlawful His bounties of sustenance, food, clothes, ornament of life and things of aesthetic beauty such as art. 7:32. See 34:13 how a Prophet of God, Solomon decorates his kingdom with beautiful works of art]

وَمَا ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ **10:60**

Does it ever occur to the people who tamper with religion and invent lies concerning God, that they will have to face Him on the Resurrection Day? God is Infinitely Bountiful toward mankind, but the majority of them do not show gratitude in action (by sharing His bounties with others).

وَمَا تَكُونُ فِي شَأْنٍ وَمَا تَتْلُو مِنْهُ مِن قُرْآنٍ وَلَا تَعْمَلُونَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ إِلَّا كُنَّا عَلَيْكُمْ شُهُودًا إِذْ تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ وَمَا يَعْزُبُ عَن رَّبِّكَ مِن مِّثْقَالِ ذَرَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَلَا أَصْغَرَ مِن ذَٰلِكَ وَلَا أَكْبَرَ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ **10:61**

In whatever condition you may find yourself (O Prophet), and whatever of the Qur'an you are reciting and preaching, and whatever work or business you believers are occupied with, remember that We are your Witness from the moment you embark upon it. Not an atom's weight in the Low nor in the Height escapes your Lord's knowledge. Nor, a thing smaller or bigger, everything is recorded in a clear Database. [Smaller than atom: Who could think of electrons and protons in the 7th century!]

أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **10:62**

Remember that friends of God will have nothing to fear nor will they grieve,

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ **10:63**

Those who accept the Message and live upright. [See Taqwa, 2:41]

لَهُمُ الْبُشْرَىٰ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **10:64**

No changing in Gods words

There is good news for them in this world and in the life to come. God's Words never change. Success in the world and in the life to come is the Supreme Triumph. [And changeless are His laws 6:34, 6:115, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23. And you will never find even a slight turn in His laws 17:77]

وَلَا يَحْزُنكَ قَوْلُهُمْ إِنَّ الْعِزَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **10:65**

Let not their utterances sadden you (O Prophet). To God belongs all honor. He is the Hearer, the Knower. [No power, glory or honor is attainable contrary to His laws]

أَلَا إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَتَّبِعُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ شُرَكَاءَ إِن يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ **10:66**

To God belongs whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on earth. What do the ones, who worship His 'partners' instead of God, follow? They follow nothing but conjecture, and themselves do nothing but make wild guesses.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَالنَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَسْمَعُونَ **10:67**

He is the One Who made night for you to rest in, and made the day lighted to make things visible to you. These are signs for those who are willing to listen and think.

قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحَانَهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنْ عِندَكُم مِّن سُلْطَانٍ بِهَٰذَا أَتَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **10:68**

And yet they assert, "God has taken to Himself a son!." Glory to Him! He is Absolutely Independent needing no helpers. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. No evidence whatever you have for this assertion! Would you ascribe to God something you really do not know?

قُلْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ لَا يُفْلِحُونَ **10:69**

Say, "Those who attribute their lying inventions to God, will see the crops of their false imagery burning to ashes."

مَتَاعٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا مَرْجِعُهُمْ ثُمَّ نُذِيقُهُمُ الْعَذَابَ الشَّدِيدَ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْفُرُونَ **10:70**

They get their fleeting share in this world, but then to Us is their return. Our Law of Requital will have them effectively taste a dreadful doom, for they chose to live in the darkness of falsehood.

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ نُوحٍ إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ يَا قَوْمِ إِن كَانَ كَبُرَ عَلَيْكُم مَّقَامِي وَتَذْكِيرِي بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَعَلَى اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ فَأَجْمِعُوا أَمْرَكُمْ وَشُرَكَاءَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُنْ أَمْرُكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ غُمَّةً ثُمَّ اقْضُوا إِلَيَّ وَلَا تُنظِرُونِ **10:71**

(People have been fabricating falsehood since ancient times.) Relate to them the history of Noah. He said to his people, "O My people! If the stand I have taken and my reminding you of God's revelations are an offense to you, well, I have put my trust in God. So, get together on a decisive plan, you and your partners. Let

your course of action be clear to you. Then pass your sentence on me and give me no respite." [Maqaami = My stand = My station = My location]

فَإِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَمَا سَأَلْتُكُم مِّنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ **10:72**

But if you turn away, I have asked of you no wage. My wage is with none but God. And I am commanded to be of those who submit (to Him)."

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَمَن مَّعَهُ فِي الْفُلْكِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ خَلَائِفَ وَأَغْرَقْنَا الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُنذَرِينَ **10:73**

But, they persisted in their denial, and We saved Noah and his companions who boarded the ship, and made them successors in the land. (The deniers thought of the flood warning as a laughing matter. The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers flooded with torrential rains) and We drowned those who had rejected Our messages. See then what happened to those who had been given sufficient warning.

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِ رُسُلًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِمْ فَجَاءُوهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانُوا لِيُؤْمِنُوا بِمَا كَذَّبُوا بِهِ مِن قَبْلُ كَذَٰلِكَ نَطْبَعُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِ الْمُعْتَدِينَ **10:74**

Other messengers sent

Then after him We sent many Messengers to their respective people and they brought them clear evidence of the truth. (They preemptively rejected the message.) And they were not the kind of people who would choose to believe what they had denied before. Thus We (through Our laws) seal the hearts of the transgressors. [Mu'tadeen = Those who cross limits = Cross all bounds = Given to excesses = Transgressors = Who go beyond reason]

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِم مُّوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ بِآيَاتِنَا فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ **10:75**

Then, after them, We sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh and his chiefs, with Our messages. But they were a people arrogant and they were used to thriving on the fruit of others' toil.

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ عِندِنَا قَالُوا إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **10:76**

When the truth from Us came to them, they said, "This is clearly nothing but magic."

قَالَ مُوسَىٰ أَتَقُولُونَ لِلْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَكُمْ أَسِحْرٌ هَٰذَا وَلَا يُفْلِحُ السَّاحِرُونَ **10:77**

Moses said, “Is this what you say about the truth when it has come to you! Is this magic? Those who deceive people with lies and claims of magic, never prosper.”

قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِتَلْفِتَنَا عَمَّا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا وَتَكُونَ لَكُمَا الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكُمَا بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **10:78**

They said, “Have you come to turn us away from what we found our fathers doing, so that you two become prominent in the country? We will not believe in you two.”

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ ائْتُونِي بِكُلِّ سَاحِرٍ عَلِيمٍ **10:79**

Pharaoh said, “Bring all eloquent debaters to me.”

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ السَّحَرَةُ قَالَ لَهُم مُّوسَىٰ أَلْقُوا مَا أَنتُم مُّلْقُونَ **10:80**

And when they came, Moses said to them, “Begin with your presentation.“

فَلَمَّا أَلْقَوْا قَالَ مُوسَىٰ مَا جِئْتُم بِهِ السِّحْرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَيُبْطِلُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُصْلِحُ عَمَلَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **10:81**

When they finished with their arguments, Moses said, “Your reasoning is totally flawed. God proves it false through His laws. God will annihilate the political and social systems that promote corruption, disorder and bloody feuds.

وَيُحِقُّ اللَّهُ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُجْرِمُونَ **10:82**

God will always vindicate the truth by His laws, even though the guilty may hate it. [Societies will flourish only when they embrace the Permanent Value System. The guilty that are used to thriving on the toil of others, will hate equity]

فَمَا آمَنَ لِمُوسَىٰ إِلَّا ذُرِّيَّةٌ مِّن قَوْمِهِ عَلَىٰ خَوْفٍ مِّن فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِمْ أَن يَفْتِنَهُمْ وَإِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ لَعَالٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ **10:83**

Only a few of the Egyptians, some youngsters, could proclaim belief in Moses because of the fear of Pharaoh and his chiefs. Pharaoh was a most arrogant tyrant on earth. He used to exceed the limits.

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ يَا قَوْمِ إِن كُنتُمْ آمَنتُم بِاللَّهِ فَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلُوا إِن كُنتُم مُّسْلِمِينَ **10:84**

Moses said, “O My people! If you do believe in God, then place your trust in Him - if you have truly surrendered to Him.

فَقَالُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **10:85**

They responded, “In God we have put our trust. Our Lord! Make us not a temptation for the oppressors.”

وَنَجِّنَا بِرَحْمَتِكَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ **10:86**

“Save us by Your grace from people who oppose the truth.”

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَأَخِيهِ أَن تَبَوَّآ لِقَوْمِكُمَا بِمِصْرَ بُيُوتًا وَاجْعَلُوا بُيُوتَكُمْ قِبْلَةً وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **10:87**

We revealed to Moses and his brother, “Tell your people: Maintain your homes in Egypt, and turn them into centers of devotion and training. Establish the commandments in your lives and give good news to the believers.”

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ آتَيْتَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَأَهُ زِينَةً وَأَمْوَالًا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا رَبَّنَا لِيُضِلُّوا عَن سَبِيلِكَ رَبَّنَا اطْمِسْ عَلَىٰ أَمْوَالِهِمْ وَاشْدُدْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَلَا يُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّىٰ يَرَوُا الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ **10:88**

(Moses promised to proceed on these lines.) He prayed, “Our Lord! You have given Pharaoh and his chiefs a life of luxury and abundance. Our Lord! With their resources and might they continue with their oppression and lead people astray from Your path. Our Lord! Destroy their riches and make their faculties incapable of contriving their oppressive designs. They will not see the truth unless they face an awful suffering.”

قَالَ قَدْ أُجِيبَت دَّعْوَتُكُمَا فَاسْتَقِيمَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعَانِّ سَبِيلَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **10:89**

God said, “Your prayer is heard. Both of you shall remain determined. And you shall not follow the path of those who act without comprehending.” [20:36, 20:42]

وَجَاوَزْنَا بِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْبَحْرَ فَأَتْبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ وَجُنُودُهُ بَغْيًا وَعَدْوًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَدْرَكَهُ الْغَرَقُ قَالَ آمَنتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنَتْ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ **10:90**

We brought the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh with his armies pursued them in rage and bitter enmity. When Pharaoh was drowning, he cried out, "I believe that there is no god but the One in Whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of those who surrender."

آلْآنَ وَقَدْ عَصَيْتَ قَبْلُ وَكُنتَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **10:91**

What? Now! You rebelled ardently all your life. You committed bloody crimes on earth.

فَالْيَوْمَ نُنَجِّيكَ بِبَدَنِكَ لِتَكُونَ لِمَنْ خَلْفَكَ آيَةً وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا لَغَافِلُونَ **10:92**

God preserved pharoah

Pharaoh s body mummified

Nay, but this day We will preserve your body so that you may remain a lesson for generations to come. A great many of mankind remain heedless of Our signs. [The Pharaoh's body was only discovered during the excavations of 1898. Today it is on display in the Royal Mummies Chamber of the Egyptian Museum]

وَلَقَدْ بَوَّأْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مُبَوَّأَ صِدْقٍ وَرَزَقْنَاهُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا حَتَّىٰ جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **10:93**

Thereafter, We assigned to the Children of Israel an honorable dwelling place, and gave them decent provision. But they began to hold divergent views and divided themselves despite the knowledge (of revelation). Your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection regarding wherein they differed.

فَإِن كُنتَ فِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ فَاسْأَلِ الَّذِينَ يَقْرَءُونَ الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكَ لَقَدْ جَاءَكَ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ **10:94**

Study Quran when in doubt

(O Reader!) If you carry any doubts about what We have sent to you, ask those who have been reading the scripture before you. Indeed, the truth has come to you from your Lord. Do not be of those who waver. [Bible readers will confirm many facts given about them in the Qur'an]

وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **10:95**

(Those who consider Divine revelations as intrinsic inspiration, in fact deny them.) Be not of those who deny Our revelations and become losers.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِمْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **10:96**

Those against whom the Word of your Lord has been verified, would not believe. [The Word: They violate the law of guidance. 4:88]

وَلَوْ جَاءَتْهُمْ كُلُّ آيَةٍ حَتَّىٰ يَرَوُا الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ **10:97**

Though every evidence may come to them, until they see the painful doom.

فَلَوْلَا كَانَتْ قَرْيَةٌ آمَنَتْ فَنَفَعَهَا إِيمَانُهَا إِلَّا قَوْمَ يُونُسَ لَمَّا آمَنُوا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **10:98**

Sad is their state. There has never yet been any community that attained belief, and benefited by its belief, except the people of Jonah. When they embraced belief, We removed from them the suffering of disgrace, and let them enjoy their term. (37:147-148). [Jonah's people used to live in humiliation in Nineveh. When they accepted the Divine message, they prospered for about two centuries between 800-612 BC. Then the Midyans conquered them. After the demise of Jonah, his people had been fast ignoring the Divine Word revealed to Jonah, and leaning towards the resurging priest class. The invaders set on fire the wonderful town of Nineveh. The spacious 60 mile wide and beautiful town was reduced to ashes. The king of Assyria got himself burnt alive in the palace, and that was the end of the Assyrian dynasty]

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَآمَنَ مَن فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلُّهُمْ جَمِيعًا أَفَأَنتَ تُكْرِهُ النَّاسَ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ **10:99**

If your Lord willed, all who are on earth, would have believed. Would you then, compel people to become believers? [2:256, 76:4-6]

وَمَا كَانَ لِنَفْسٍ أَن تُؤْمِنَ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَيَجْعَلُ الرِّجْسَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ **10:100**

No person can attain conviction except by the law of God. And He places confusion in the minds of those who do not use their intellect. [6:126, 10:39. "He places", "He does", "He causes" = His laws are so designed]

قُلِ انظُرُوا مَاذَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا تُغْنِي الْآيَاتُ وَالنُّذُرُ عَن قَوْمٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ 10:101

Say, “Look and ponder what is in the heavens and earth! No miracles and no warnings will help those people who have chosen to disbelieve. [2:6-7, 41:53]

فَهَلْ يَنتَظِرُونَ إِلَّا مِثْلَ أَيَّامِ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِن قَبْلِهِمْ قُلْ فَانتَظِرُوا إِنِّي مَعَكُم مِّنَ الْمُنتَظِرِينَ 10:102

Can they expect other than the days of calamity that befell those who passed on before them? Say, “Wait then! I shall wait with you.”

ثُمَّ نُنَجِّي رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كَذَٰلِكَ حَقًّا عَلَيْنَا نُنجِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 10:103

We ultimately save Our Messengers and those who believe. It is incumbent upon Us to save the believers.

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِن كُنتُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّن دِينِي فَلَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِينَ تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَٰكِنْ أَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي يَتَوَفَّاكُمْ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ 10:104

Muhammad obeys God only

Say, “O Mankind! If you are in doubt about my religion, I do not worship and do not obey those whom you worship and obey instead of God. But I obey God Who causes you to die (and Who controls the laws of life and death of individuals and nations). I have been commanded to be of the believers.” [Religion: The System that the Prophet is trying to establish. Logic: If you believe that other parallel systems can be better, let us go ahead with our programs and await the results. 3:61, 7:71, 109:6]

وَأَنْ أَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ 10:105

(O Prophet) set your purpose resolutely for the Upright System of life and do not be of those who associate anyone with God in any form.

وَلَا تَدْعُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ فَإِن فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذًا مِّنَ الظَّالِمِينَ 10:106

Do not ever call on deities besides God. They have no control over your harm or benefit. If you expected help outside the laws of God, you will be among the wrongdoers.

وَإِن يَمْسَسْكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِن يُرِدْكَ بِخَيْرٍ فَلَا رَادَّ لِفَضْلِهِ يُصِيبُ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **10:107**

If God afflicts you, there is none who can remove it but He. And when He intends some benefit for you, there is none who can prevent His bounty. He sends it to His servants according to His laws. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. [Affliction, relief or bounty from God must draw our attention to His laws]

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءكُمُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَمَا أَنَا عَلَيْكُم بِوَكِيلٍ **10:108**

Muhammad is not our caretaker

Say, "O Mankind! Now has come to you the truth from your Lord. So whoever chooses to follow the right path, follows it for the good of his own 'self'. And whoever chooses to go astray, goes astray to the hurt of his own 'self'. And I am not a guardian over you."

وَاتَّبِعْ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَاصْبِرْ حَتَّىٰ يَحْكُمَ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الْحَاكِمِينَ **10:109**

(O Messenger) follow what is revealed to you and be steadfast in adversity until God issues His Judgment. And He is the Best of judges.

Chapter 11

Hud - Hud

This is the 11th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 123 verses. As we have learned earlier, Prophet Hud was sent to the powerful tribe of ´Aad. He is considered to be the next in line to Prophet Noah only and that puts his times several millennia BC. He is also thought to be the first ever Messenger to be raised in the Arabian Peninsula. Let us bear in mind that the inhabitants of the Peninsula were not Arabs before Prophet Ishmael whose period of advent is about 1800 BC. For a brief history of how the Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael, please see 2:125. All communities have received their Messengers from God. None of the Messengers asked for a return for their services to humanity. They met stiff resistance as well as enjoyed loyal following.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الر كِتَابٌ أُحْكِمَتْ آيَاتُهُ ثُمَّ فُصِّلَتْ مِن لَّدُنْ حَكِيمٍ خَبِيرٍ **11:1**

A.L.R. Alif-Laam-Ra. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Raaziq the Provider, states that), A Divine Writ this is, the verses wherein are perfected and well expounded. It comes from One Wise, Aware.

أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنَّنِي لَكُم مِّنْهُ نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ **11:2**

Serve God only

Serve God by serving fellow humans. (Say O Prophet), "I am from Him a warner to you and a bearer of good news.

وَأَنِ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُمَتِّعْكُم مَّتَاعًا حَسَنًا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَيُؤْتِ كُلَّ ذِي فَضْلٍ فَضْلَهُ وَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ كَبِيرٍ **11:3**

Seek your Sustainer's forgiveness turning to Him in repentance. He will then grant you a goodly enjoyment of life in this world until a term appointed. He will bestow His abounding grace on all who abound in merit. But if you turn away, then I fear for you the chastisement of a Great Day."

إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **11:4**

To God is your return and He has power over all things.

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ يَثْنُونَ صُدُورَهُمْ لِيَسْتَخْفُوا مِنْهُ أَلَا حِينَ يَسْتَغْشُونَ ثِيَابَهُمْ يَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **11:5**

See how they fold up their chests that they may hide their thoughts from Him! Even when they cover themselves with their garments, He knows what they conceal and what they reveal. He is Knower of the innermost thoughts of the hearts. [71:7]

وَمَا مِن دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ رِزْقُهَا وَيَعْلَمُ مُسْتَقَرَّهَا وَمُسْتَوْدَعَهَا كُلٌّ فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ **11:6**

There is no living creature on earth but its sustenance depends on God. He knows its habitation and its destiny. (He carries them from one station to another until the final destination.) All this is laid down in the Divine Database [6:99, 55:29]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَلَئِن قُلْتَ إِنَّكُم مَّبْعُوثُونَ مِن بَعْدِ الْمَوْتِ لَيَقُولَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **11:7**

He created the heavens and earth in six stages and established Himself on the Throne of His Almightiness. He has Supreme Control over the origination of life which began in water (21:30). Life is a test for yourselves to see which of you leads a balanced life and is best in conduct. Yet, if you (O Prophet), say, "You will be raised again after death," those who deny the truth will say, "This is nothing but manifest sorcery!" [45:24. Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, See 41:10]

وَلَئِنْ أَخَّرْنَا عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابَ إِلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ مَّعْدُودَةٍ لَّيَقُولُنَّ مَا يَحْبِسُهُ أَلَا يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمْ لَيْسَ مَصْرُوفًا عَنْهُمْ وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **11:8**

And when We delay for them the retribution until after the Period of respite, they will say, "What is keeping back the doom?" Ah! On the day it actually reaches them, nothing will turn it away from them. And their mockery will completely surround them.

وَلَئِنْ أَذَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِنَّا رَحْمَةً ثُمَّ نَزَعْنَاهَا مِنْهُ إِنَّهُ لَيَئُوسٌ كَفُورٌ **11:9**

Thus it is: If We let the human being taste some of Our grace, and then take it away from him, he abandons all hope, forgetting all gratitude.

وَلَئِنْ أَذَقْنَاهُ نَعْمَاءَ بَعْدَ ضَرَّاءَ مَسَّتْهُ لَيَقُولَنَّ ذَهَبَ السَّيِّئَاتُ عَنِّي إِنَّهُ لَفَرِحٌ فَخُورٌ **11:10**

But if We let him taste a blessing after adversity had afflicted him, he will say, "All adversity has gone away from me!" He is exultant, boastful.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَئِكَ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ **11:11**

Except those who are steadfast in adversity and prosperity, and work to improve human potential. For them is the protection of forgiveness and a great reward. [A'maal Saaleh = Deeds that increase the individual and collective potential of a society = Helping people = Improving the environment = Fulfilling others' needs = Contributing to the society]

فَلَعَلَّكَ تَارِكٌ بَعْضَ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَضَائِقٌ بِهِ صَدْرُكَ أَن يَقُولُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ كَنزٌ أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ مَلَكٌ إِنَّمَا أَنتَ نَذِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ **11:12**

Is it then conceivable (O Prophet), that you omit any part of what is being revealed to you (because the rejecters dislike it)? Or because you feel uncomfortable on their saying, "Why has not a treasure been sent down for him, or an angel come with him?" You are but a warner, and it is God Who is the Custodian of all things.

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُوَرٍ مِّثْلِهِ مُفْتَرَيَاتٍ وَادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **11:13**

Or they assert, "He has forged it." Say to them, "Then bring ten Surahs like this, forged, and call on whomever you can other than God - if you are truthful!" [Or produce one Surah like this 2:23, 10:38]

فَإِلَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكُمْ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أُنزِلَ بِعِلْمِ اللَّهِ وَأَن لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَهَلْ أَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ **11:14**

"And if they do not answer your call, then know that it has been revealed only with the knowledge of God, and that there is no god but He. Will you then submit to Him (be Muslims)?"

مَن كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا نُوَفِّ إِلَيْهِمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فِيهَا وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يُبْخَسُونَ **11:15**

Whoever cares for (no more than) the short term gains and glitter of the worldly life, We shall repay for them their deeds herein without the least reduction. [17:18]

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا النَّارُ وَحَبِطَ مَا صَنَعُوا فِيهَا وَبَاطِلٌ مَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **11:16**

But (since they did not invest in the life to come), for them is nothing but fire in the Hereafter. All that they have contrived here is in vain, and worthless is all that they did. [Following one's own desires is the inevitable consequence of disregarding Permanent Values]

أَفَمَن كَانَ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ وَيَتْلُوهُ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْهُ وَمِن قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً أُولَٰئِكَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ فَالنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ فَلَا تَكُ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّنْهُ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **11:17**

Can they (those who look for material gains alone) be like those who take their stand on clear evidence from their Lord and to whom a witness from Him recites it? (They have the Prophet as a witness who correlates God's signs in the Universe with His verses.) Also, they have the scripture of Moses since before it, a standard of guidance and grace. (It foretold the advent of the Final Messenger; Deuteronomy 18:15-18.) They choose to believe in it. As for those who league together (in opposition) rejecting the truth, the fire is their appointed place. And so, harbor no doubt; most certainly this is the truth from your Sustainer, even though most people do not believe it. [Imam = Standard of truth = Literally, the plumb-line = A trustworthy leader, human or book = Authority = Decisive means]

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أُولَٰئِكَ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ وَيَقُولُ الْأَشْهَادُ هَٰؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ أَلَا لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ **11:18**

Are our leaders lying to us

Who can be a greater wrongdoer than the one who invents a lie about God? Such will be brought before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, "These are the ones who lied about their Sustainer." God's rejection is the due of all those who displace right with wrong. [The clergy have tampered with previous scriptures, and they will keep doing it. 2:79, 2:101, 3:77-78, 5:48, 6:113, 6:138-139, 9:34, 22:52]

الَّذِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ **11:19**

They are the ones who hinder people from the path of God, and seek to make it crooked. Thus they practically disbelieve in the life Hereafter.

أُولَٰئِكَ لَمْ يَكُونُوا مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا كَانَ لَهُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ يُضَاعَفُ لَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مَا كَانُوا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ السَّمْعَ وَمَا كَانُوا يُبْصِرُونَ **11:20**

They will not escape on earth. And they will have no protectors against God. Double suffering will be imposed on them since they could not bear to hear (the truth) nor could see (it).

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **11:21**

Such are the ones who have lost their own 'self', and all their false imagery. Their invented dogmas and the idols will fail them.

لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ هُمُ الْأَخْسَرُونَ **11:22**

Without any doubt, these fabricators will be the worst losers in the Hereafter.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَأَخْبَتُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **11:23**

Those who attain belief and work for the betterment of people, and are humble before their Lord, are the rightful dwellers of the Garden; they will abide therein.

مَثَلُ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ كَالْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْأَصَمِّ وَالْبَصِيرِ وَالسَّمِيعِ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **11:24**

These two kinds of persons may be likened to the blind and the deaf, and he who can see and hear well. Are the two equal when compared? Will you not then keep this in mind? [13:16-19, 35:39][A brief historical resume of some communities and their Messengers illustrates this phenomenon - the efforts of the Messengers and the reaction of their respective people. Using Tasreef, here are some related verses about people and their Messengers described in Surah Hud. Noah (to the Valleys of Tigris and Euphrates): 7:69, 10:72, 14:9, 21:76, 23:23, 26:109, 29:14, 71:21. Hud (to 'Aad): 7:65, 7:123. 11:50, 29:38, 41:13, 46:26, 51:41, 53:50, 54:17, 69:4. Saleh (to Thamud): 7:73, 11:89, 26:141, 27:45. LOT: 6:86, 15:61, 21:74, 27:56, 29:26, 37:131. Abraham (to Babylon and Ninevah): 21:24, 2:258, 3:33, 3:96, 4:35, 4:125, 14:36, 16:120, 19:50, 21:51, 22:26, 29:27, 37:83, 37:99, 53:27,

53:37, 60:1, 87:19. Sho'aib (to Midyan): 7:85, 9:70, 15:78, 22:44, 26:176, 38:13, 50:14. Moses (to the Israelites and Pharaoh's people): 4:164, 6:84, 7:103, 7:144, 10:75, 17:101, 19:51, 20:9-40, 23:47, 26:10, 27-12, 28:22-29, 40:25, 79:15]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **11:25**

We sent Noah to his people and he declared, "Indeed, I come to you with a plain warning."

أَن لَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ أَلِيمٍ **11:26**

"That you may serve none but God (and follow not the rampant traditions). I am afraid this trend is slowly taking you toward a day of an awful disaster."

فَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ مَا نَرَاكَ إِلَّا بَشَرًا مِّثْلَنَا وَمَا نَرَاكَ اتَّبَعَكَ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ هُمْ أَرَاذِلُنَا بَادِيَ الرَّأْيِ وَمَا نَرَىٰ لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا مِن فَضْلٍ بَلْ نَظُنُّكُمْ كَاذِبِينَ **11:27**

But the chiefs of his people, who were the foremost in rejection of the message said, "We see in you nothing but a man like ourselves. And we see that none has followed you except, quite obviously, the lowest among us. And we do not find in you all any merit over us. Nay, we think all of you are liars. [17:70]

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَآتَانِي رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِندِهِ فَعُمِّيَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنُلْزِمُكُمُوهَا وَأَنتُمْ لَهَا كَارِهُونَ **11:28**

Noah said, "O My people, think! What if I am taking my stand on clear evidence from my Lord? What if He has blessed me out of His grace of guidance? It is obscure to you because you are not seeing it through the eyes of reason. In any case, can we compel you to accept what is detestable to you?"

وَيَا قَوْمِ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَالًا إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّهُم مُّلَاقُو رَبِّهِمْ وَلَٰكِنِّي أَرَاكُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ **11:29**

"O My people! No wealth do I ask you for this. My reward rests with none but God. And I am not going to repulse any of the believers (39:40, 63:8). They know that they are destined to meet their Lord, whereas in you I see people who are wandering in the darkness of ignorance."

وَيَا قَوْمِ مَن يَنصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِن طَرَدتُّهُمْ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **11:30**

"O My people! Who will help me against God if I drove them away? Will you then not reflect?"

وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِندِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ وَلَا أَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ تَزْدَرِي أَعْيُنُكُمْ لَن يُؤْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ إِنِّي إِذًا لَّمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ **11:31**

Only God knows the future

"I never say to you that I have the Treasures of God. Neither do I claim knowledge of what is beyond human perception, nor do I say that I am an angel. I disagree with you, that my followers are the people of the lesser status. You claim that God will never give them His bounties, but He knows their true merit. I cannot be unjust to them."

قَالُوا يَا نُوحُ قَدْ جَادَلْتَنَا فَأَكْثَرْتَ جِدَالَنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **11:32**

They said, "O Noah! You have disputed with us and disputed a great deal. Now bring upon us what you threaten us with, if you are a man of truth."

قَالَ إِنَّمَا يَأْتِيكُم بِهِ اللَّهُ إِن شَاءَ وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ **11:33**

He answered, "God alone brings His requital according to His law. Once it is upon you, then you can by no means escape."

وَلَا يَنفَعُكُمْ نُصْحِي إِنْ أَرَدتُّ أَنْ أَنصَحَ لَكُمْ إِن كَانَ اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَن يُغْوِيَكُمْ هُوَ رَبُّكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **11:34**

Noah said, "My counseling and well-wishing will not help you however much I desire to counsel you if God's law of guidance leaves you astray. He is your Lord, and to Him you must return." [God has appointed laws for guidance and straying. 4:88]

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ إِنِ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَعَلَيَّ إِجْرَامِي وَأَنَا بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُجْرِمُونَ **11:35**

God said to Noah, "Do they say that you have invented this set of values?" Tell them, "If I made it up, I am responsible for my crime. And I am innocent of your crimes."

وَأُوحِيَ إِلَىٰ نُوحٍ أَنَّهُ لَن يُؤْمِنَ مِن قَوْمِكَ إِلَّا مَن قَدْ آمَنَ فَلَا تَبْتَئِسْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ **11:36**

And it was revealed to Noah, "No one of your people will attain faith except the ones who have already believed. Do not be saddened by their actions."

وَاصْنَعِ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا وَلَا تُخَاطِبْنِي فِي الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُم مُّغْرَقُونَ **11:37**

(Noah was commanded) "Build an ark under Our Eyes and according to Our Directions, and do not plead with Me on behalf of the oppressors (23:27). Indeed, they are destined to be drowned." [A flood in the valley of Tigris and Euphrates was forthcoming (11:44). The rejecters would drown for not heeding the Prophet]

وَيَصْنَعُ الْفُلْكَ وَكُلَّمَا مَرَّ عَلَيْهِ مَلَأٌ مِّن قَوْمِهِ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُ قَالَ إِن تَسْخَرُوا مِنَّا فَإِنَّا نَسْخَرُ مِنكُمْ كَمَا تَسْخَرُونَ **11:38**

As he was building the ship, and every time the chiefs of his community passed by him, they mocked him. Thereupon he said, "If you are mocking us, we are mocking (your ignorance) just as you are mocking us (for truth)."

فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ مَن يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَيَحِلُّ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ **11:39**

And soon you will know upon whom a humiliating punishment befalls, and upon whom a lasting torment will come. "

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا وَفَارَ التَّنُّورُ قُلْنَا احْمِلْ فِيهَا مِن كُلٍّ زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَن سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ وَمَنْ آمَنَ وَمَا آمَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ **11:40**

Thus it was until Our command came to pass. Waters gushed forth in torrents over the face of the land. Torrential rain began and the rivers started overflowing. We commanded Noah to take with him livestock, a couple each, and to take his family and followers with him. The rejecters, of course, were not to embark. The community of believers with Noah was small. [11:45, 66:10. Noah's wife and son did not embark]

وَقَالَ ارْكَبُوا فِيهَا بِسْمِ اللَّهِ مَجْرَاهَا وَمُرْسَاهَا إِنَّ رَبِّي لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **11:41**

Noah put his trust in God and told his people to embark, "Come on board, in the name of God will be its course and its resting. My Lord is the Provider of shelter, Merciful."

وَهِيَ تَجْرِي بِهِمْ فِي مَوْجٍ كَالْجِبَالِ وَنَادَىٰ نُوحٌ ابْنَهُ وَكَانَ فِي مَعْزِلٍ يَا بُنَيَّ ارْكَب مَّعَنَا وَلَا تَكُن مَّعَ الْكَافِرِينَ 11:42

The ship sailed with them amidst huge waves as Noah called his son, who was standing aloof, “O My dear son! Come ride with us; do not be with the disbelievers.”

قَالَ سَآوِي إِلَىٰ جَبَلٍ يَعْصِمُنِي مِنَ الْمَاءِ قَالَ لَا عَاصِمَ الْيَوْمَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا مَن رَّحِمَ وَحَالَ بَيْنَهُمَا الْمَوْجُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُغْرَقِينَ 11:43

He said. “I will cling to a hill-top to protect me from the water.” Noah said, “Nothing can protect anyone today from God’s command except for those who have earned His grace.” A towering wave came between them and his son was among those who drowned. [The only security that day in the valley was for those who had believed in Noah and followed his advice]

وَقِيلَ يَا أَرْضُ ابْلَعِي مَاءَكِ وَيَا سَمَاءُ أَقْلِعِي وَغِيضَ الْمَاءُ وَقُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَاسْتَوَتْ عَلَى الْجُودِيِّ وَقِيلَ بُعْدًا لِّلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ 11:44

And it was said, “O earth! Swallow your water and, O Sky! Cease¡‘ And the command was fulfilled. The water sank into the earth. And the ark came to rest upon the Mount Al-Judi. And it was said, “Away with these oppressors of the weak.” [The ship came to rest at Judea, in the hills of Ararat, east of the Tigris River]

وَنَادَىٰ نُوحٌ رَّبَّهُ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنَّ ابْنِي مِنْ أَهْلِي وَإِنَّ وَعْدَكَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنتَ أَحْكَمُ الْحَاكِمِينَ 11:45

Noah called upon his Lord, “My Lord! My son was of my family and Your promise is the True promise and You are the Most Just of judges.” [So, why was he not saved? Didn’t You promise to save my family?]

قَالَ يَا نُوحُ إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِنْ أَهْلِكَ إِنَّهُ عَمَلٌ غَيْرُ صَالِحٍ فَلَا تَسْأَلْنِ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنِّي أَعِظُكَ أَن تَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ 11:46

Noah cannot intercede

He (God) said, “O Noah! Your son was not of your family. For, his conduct was unrighteous. So, do not ask me of what you have no knowledge. I enlighten you so that you do not remain ignorant.” [You were not aware of the Divine Criterion

of relationships which are based on Ideology and not on lineage otherwise you would not have asked such a question]

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَسْأَلَكَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرْ لِي وَتَرْحَمْنِي أَكُن مِّنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **11:47**

Noah said, "My Lord! I guard myself in Your shelter from asking favors which do not befit me, and for my lack of knowledge. Forgive me and shower me with Your grace, otherwise I will become a loser."

قِيلَ يَا نُوحُ اهْبِطْ بِسَلَامٍ مِّنَّا وَبَرَكَاتٍ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ أُمَمٍ مِّمَّن مَّعَكَ وَأُمَمٌ سَنُمَتِّعُهُمْ ثُمَّ يَمَسُّهُم مِّنَّا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **11:48**

He was told, "O Noah! Disembark and descend from the hills in peace from Us and blessings upon you, and some generations (that will spring forth) from your companions (11:41). There will be other peoples to whom We shall give enjoyment a long while, but in the end a painful chastisement will reach them from Us." [And other communities, all of them will be awarded according to their deeds. 11:15-16]

تِلْكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كُنتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنتَ وَلَا قَوْمُكَ مِن قَبْلِ هَٰذَا فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ الْعَاقِبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **11:49**

(O Prophet) these are the news We reveal to you that neither you, nor your people were aware of. Go ahead with your program with forbearance. The destination of bliss belongs to those who seek to live upright.

وَإِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا مُفْتَرُونَ **11:50**

We sent to 'Aad their brother Hud. He said, "O My people! Serve God alone. You have no god but He. As it is, you are but inventors of falsehood."

يَا قَوْمِ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **11:51**

He said, "O My people! I ask no reward from you. My reward is with Him Who brought me into being. If you use your sense, you will understand."

وَيَا قَوْمِ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُم مِّدْرَارًا وَيَزِدْكُمْ قُوَّةً إِلَىٰ قُوَّتِكُمْ وَلَا تَتَوَلَّوْا مُجْرِمِينَ **11:52**

"O My people! Come to the forgiveness of your Lord by turning to Him and mending your ways. He will shower on you abundant heavenly blessings, and will add strength to your strength. So do not turn back as the wicked."

قَالُوا يَا هُودُ مَا جِئْتَنَا بِبَيِّنَةٍ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَارِكِي آلِهَتِنَا عَن قَوْلِكَ وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **11:53**

They said, "O Hud! You have not shown us any miracle. We will not forsake our idols just because you say so. We are not going to believe you."

إِن نَّقُولُ إِلَّا اعْتَرَاكَ بَعْضُ آلِهَتِنَا بِسُوءٍ قَالَ إِنِّي أُشْهِدُ اللَّهَ وَاشْهَدُوا أَنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ **11:54**

"We think that one of our gods has possessed you like a demon and you have gone crazy." Hud said, "I call God to witness, and you too bear witness that I am absolutely free of your idolatry."

مِن دُونِهِ فَكِيدُونِي جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ لَا تُنظِرُونِ **11:55**

"Get together, all of you and your gods besides Him. Make a firm decision against me and give me no respite."

إِنِّي تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ رَبِّي وَرَبِّكُم مَّا مِن دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا إِنَّ رَبِّي عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **11:56**

"I have put my trust in God, my Lord and your Lord. There is not a creature in the Universe beyond His firm Control. Indeed, my Lord is on the Straight, Balanced Path." [God has designed the Universe so that all things go through evolution. It is an ascending, linear journey that makes progress possible. In the Cyclical hypothesis of the Greek philosophers, things will keep revolving in a circle like oxen endlessly going around water wells without covering any distance. Christian monasticism, Judaic mysticism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sufism etc define the ultimate objective of humans as freeing themselves of the endless cycle of life i.e. salvation. Therefore, salvation is a negative notion, whereas the Qur'an motivates us to attain eternal success. The dogma of Original Sin in Christianity also involves restoration to a sinless state, once again a negative connotation]

فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقَدْ أَبْلَغْتُكُم مَّا أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ إِلَيْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ رَبِّي قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ وَلَا تَضُرُّونَهُ شَيْئًا إِنَّ رَبِّي عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيظٌ **11:57**

"You may accept or reject the message that I have clearly conveyed to you. If you turn away, you will decline and fall. Then, My Lord will bring another people in your place. You cannot harm Him at all. My Lord is the Guardian of all things."

وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا هُودًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنَّا وَنَجَّيْنَاهُم مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ **11:58**

And so, when Our command came to pass, We saved Hud and those who believed with him by a mercy from Us. We saved them from a harsh retribution that inflicted the rejecters.

وَتِلْكَ عَادٌ جَحَدُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَعَصَوْا رُسُلَهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَمْرَ كُلِّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ **11:59**

Such were ‘Aad. They denied the clear messages of their Lord, rebelled against His Messengers and followed the command of every stubborn tyrant.

وَأُتْبِعُوا فِي هَٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَا إِنَّ عَادًا كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ أَلَا بُعْدًا لِّعَادٍ قَوْمِ هُودٍ **11:60**

And they were pursued in this world by Divine rejection, and will be overtaken by it on the Resurrection Day. ‘Aad denied their Sustainer! Oh, away with the ‘Aad, the people of Hud!

وَإِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ هُوَ أَنشَأَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُّجِيبٌ **11:61**

And to the tribe of Thamud, We sent their brother Saleh. He said, “O My people! Serve God. You have no one worthy of obedience but He. He initiated you from the earth and made you thrive thereon. Come to His forgiveness, then turn to Him in repentance mending your ways. My Lord is ever-Near, Responsive.”

قَالُوا يَا صَالِحُ قَدْ كُنتَ فِينَا مَرْجُوًّا قَبْلَ هَٰذَا أَتَنْهَانَا أَن نَّعْبُدَ مَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا وَإِنَّنَا لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا تَدْعُونَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٍ **11:62**

They said, “O Saleh! We had placed great hopes in you before this! But now you are telling us to move away from worshiping what our forefathers worshiped. Now we are in grave doubt, amounting to suspicion about the meaning of your call to us.”

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَآتَانِي مِنْهُ رَحْمَةً فَمَن يَنصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ عَصَيْتُهُ فَمَا تَزِيدُونَنِي **11:63**

غَيْرَ تَخْسِيرٍ

He said, “O My people! Do you really see and think? What if I have clear evidence of the truth from my Lord, and mercy from Him? Then, who can help me against God if I disobey Him? You can only push me into ruin.

وَيَا قَوْمِ هَٰذِهِ نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ آيَةً فَذَرُوهَا تَأْكُلْ فِي أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَمَسُّوهَا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذَكُمْ عَذَابٌ قَرِيبٌ **11:64**

(The feudal lords had been depriving the poor of using the land and its natural resources of water and vegetation). Saleh said, “O My people! This she-camel belonging to God shall be a token for you. So leave her alone to graze in God’s earth. Do her no harm, lest speedy punishment befall you.” [91:13][This verse along with 55:10 pronounces one of the most revolutionary concepts of the Qur’an. The land is owned by none but God and must be open for all His creation as a means of sustenance. So, all landlord-ship is contrary to the Divine Ordinance. In the Divine System, the Central Authority will see to it that any piece of land will be for those who toil in it and give God His Right, the poor-due. 6:141]

فَعَقَرُوهَا فَقَالَ تَمَتَّعُوا فِي دَارِكُمْ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ ذَٰلِكَ وَعْدٌ غَيْرُ مَكْذُوبٍ **11:65**

But they cruelly slaughtered her. Thereupon he said to his people, “Only for three more days shall you enjoy life in your homes. This is a promise that cannot be false.”

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا صَالِحًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنَّا وَمِنْ خِزْيِ يَوْمِئِذٍ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ **11:66**

And so, when Our command came to pass, by Our grace We saved Saleh and the believers with him from the humiliating annihilation of the day. Surely, your Lord, He alone is Strong, Almighty.

وَأَخَذَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دِيَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ **11:67**

(Saleh and His followers moved out of the town while the disbelievers stayed back with their mockery). And a tremendous blast overtook the oppressors, and then they lay lifeless, in their very homes, on the ground.

كَأَن لَّمْ يَغْنَوْا فِيهَا أَلَا إِنَّ ثَمُودَ كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ أَلَا بُعْدًا لِّثَمُودَ **11:68**

As if they had never lived there. Thamud had denied their Lord. Oh, away with the Thamud!

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بِالْبُشْرَىٰ قَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ سَلَامٌ فَمَا لَبِثَ أَن جَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ حَنِيذٍ **11:69**

(Similar was the end of the people of Lot.) Our Messengers came to Abraham bearing a glad tiding. They greeted Abraham with "Peace!" And he greeted them back with "Peace!" and made haste to place before them a roasted calf.

فَلَمَّا رَأَىٰ أَيْدِيَهُمْ لَا تَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ نَكِرَهُمْ وَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِ لُوطٍ **11:70**

But when he saw that their hands did not reach out towards it, he considered their conduct strange and became apprehensive of them. But they said, "Fear not! Indeed, we are sent to the people of Lot." (Abraham was apprehensive thinking the visitors refusing hospitality might have aggressive intentions, but in fact they were hurrying to Lot.)

وَامْرَأَتُهُ قَائِمَةٌ فَضَحِكَتْ فَبَشَّرْنَاهَا بِإِسْحَاقَ وَمِن وَرَاءِ إِسْحَاقَ يَعْقُوبَ **11:71**

And his wife (Sarah), standing nearby, laughed when We gave her good tiding of Isaac, and after Isaac, (his son) Jacob.

قَالَتْ يَا وَيْلَتَىٰ أَأَلِدُ وَأَنَا عَجُوزٌ وَهَٰذَا بَعْلِي شَيْخًا إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ **11:72**

She exclaimed, "Oh, woe unto me! Shall I bear a child now that I am an old woman and this husband of mine is an old man? This is really strange!"

قَالُوا أَتَعْجَبِينَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ رَحْمَتُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ إِنَّهُ حَمِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ **11:73**

Answered the Messengers, "Do you marvel about God's command? May God's grace and blessings be upon you, O Dwellers of the house! The Owner of all praise, Sublime He is."

فَلَمَّا ذَهَبَ عَنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الرَّوْعُ وَجَاءَتْهُ الْبُشْرَىٰ يُجَادِلُنَا فِي قَوْمِ لُوطٍ **11:74**

When the fear had left Abraham, and the good news was conveyed to him, he began to plead with Us for Lot's people.

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لَحَلِيمٌ أَوَّاهٌ مُّنِيبٌ **11:75**

For, Abraham was clement, kind-hearted, ever turning to His Lord.

يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ أَعْرِضْ عَنْ هَٰذَا إِنَّهُ قَدْ جَاءَ أَمْرُ رَبِّكَ وَإِنَّهُمْ آتِيهِمْ عَذَابٌ غَيْرُ مَرْدُودٍ **11:76**

(It was said) O Abraham! Forsake this! Your Lord's command has gone forth, and the retribution is now inevitable.

وَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا لُوطًا سِيءَ بِهِمْ وَضَاقَ بِهِمْ ذَرْعًا وَقَالَ هَٰذَا يَوْمٌ عَصِيبٌ **11:77**

When Our Messengers came to Lot he was distressed, and did not know how to save his people. He exclaimed, "This is a difficult day!"

وَجَاءَهُ قَوْمُهُ يُهْرَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ وَمِن قَبْلُ كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ هَٰؤُلَاءِ بَنَاتِي هُنَّ أَطْهَرُ لَكُمْ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُخْزُونِ فِي ضَيْفِي أَلَيْسَ مِنكُمْ رَجُلٌ رَّشِيدٌ **11:78**

And the most iniquitous among his people came rushing to Lot. (They wanted the visiting Messengers to approve their behavior.) Lot said, "O My people! Your wives, who are like my daughters, are permitted for you. Be mindful of God, and do not humiliate me in the presence of my guests. Is there not a single upright man among you?"

قَالُوا لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا لَنَا فِي بَنَاتِكَ مِنْ حَقٍّ وَإِنَّكَ لَتَعْلَمُ مَا نُرِيدُ **11:79**

They said, "You know, we have little interest in our wives whom you call your daughters. You know well what we want." [Our intention is to get our behavior made permissible]

قَالَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي بِكُمْ قُوَّةً أَوْ آوِي إِلَىٰ رُكْنٍ شَدِيدٍ **11:80**

Lot exclaimed, "I wish I had the strength to resist you or had some strong support."

قَالُوا يَا لُوطُ إِنَّا رُسُلُ رَبِّكَ لَن يَصِلُوا إِلَيْكَ فَأَسْرِ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعٍ مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنكُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَكَ إِنَّهُ **11:81**

مُصِيبُهَا مَا أَصَابَهُمْ إِنَّ مَوْعِدَهُمُ الصُّبْحُ أَلَيْسَ الصُّبْحُ بِقَرِيبٍ

They (the visiting Messengers) said, "O Lot! We are Messengers of your Lord. They will not catch up to you. Now take your family while it is yet night. And let none of you look back, except your wife (who will stay behind). What is to befall these (people) shall befall her. Their appointed time is the morning. Is not the morning near? [She stays behind because she has chosen to silently accept the trends of the times]

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا جَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَافِلَهَا وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهَا حِجَارَةً مِّن سِجِّيلٍ مَّنضُودٍ **11:82**

And so, when Our command came to pass, We brought low the highly arrogant towns (Sodom and Gomorrah), and rained down upon them hard devastating rocks (from the volcano).

مُّسَوَّمَةً عِندَ رَبِّكَ وَمَا هِيَ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ بِبَعِيدٍ **11:83**

The stones were marked arrows from your Lord. His requital is never far from those who choose to do wrong.

وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ وَلَا تَنقُصُوا الْمِكْيَالَ وَالْمِيزَانَ إِنِّي أَرَاكُم بِخَيْرٍ وَإِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ مُّحِيطٍ **11:84**

And to Midyan, We sent their brother Sho'aib. He said, "O My people! Serve God alone. There is no god for you but He. And do not give short measure and weight. I see that you are prosperous. But I fear for you a day that will surround you with chastisement." [Any system based on injustice cannot endure]

وَيَا قَوْمِ أَوْفُوا الْمِكْيَالَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ وَلَا تَعْثَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ **11:85**

"So, O My people! Always give full measure and weight with equity and do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs. Do not spread corruption and disorder in the land."

بَقِيَّتُ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ وَمَا أَنَا عَلَيْكُم بِحَفِيظٍ **11:86**

"That which God gives you as just profit is better for you if you believe. But I am not a guardian over you."

قَالُوا يَا شُعَيْبُ أَصَلَاتُكَ تَأْمُرُكَ أَن نَّتْرُكَ مَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا أَوْ أَن نَّفْعَلَ فِي أَمْوَالِنَا مَا نَشَاءُ إِنَّكَ لَأَنتَ الْحَلِيمُ الرَّشِيدُ **11:87**

They said, "O Sho'aib! (We had thought that your religion was only a matter between you and your Lord.) Does your way of prayer (Salaat) command that we should forsake the worship that our fathers practiced? Or, that we should give up doing what we like to do with our economy? You want us to think that you are the only clement, and the rightly guided man among us."

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَرَزَقَنِي مِنْهُ رِزْقًا حَسَنًا وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُخَالِفَكُمْ إِلَىٰ مَا أَنْهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ إِنْ أُرِيدُ إِلَّا الْإِصْلَاحَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ **11:88**

He said, "O My people, think again! What if I am acting on a clear evidence from my Lord, and He has provided me with a decent sustenance? I deal in all fairness and I shall never preach what I do not practice behind your sight. I desire nothing but reform to the best of my power. All my resources, abilities, and success depend on God alone. In Him I trust and to Him I turn with hope."

وَيَا قَوْمِ لَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شِقَاقِي أَن يُصِيبَكُم مِّثْلُ مَا أَصَابَ قَوْمَ نُوحٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ هُودٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ صَالِحٍ وَمَا قَوْمُ لُوطٍ مِّنكُم بِبَعِيدٍ **11:89**

"O My people! Let not my disagreement with you be taken personally to cause you to persist in your guilt so that the same (retribution) befall you that befell the people of Noah, and the people of Hud, and the people of Saleh. And remember that the people of Lot did not live very far from you."

وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ رَبِّي رَحِيمٌ وَدُودٌ **11:90**

(None of the communities was destroyed for a deficiency in their worship. They met destruction for violating human rights.) "Seek forgiveness of your Lord, then repent by journeying on the right path. You will experience that my Lord is Merciful, Loving." [14:8]

قَالُوا يَا شُعَيْبُ مَا نَفْقَهُ كَثِيرًا مِّمَّا تَقُولُ وَإِنَّا لَنَرَاكَ فِينَا ضَعِيفًا وَلَوْلَا رَهْطُكَ لَرَجَمْنَاكَ وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْنَا بِعَزِيزٍ **11:91**

They said, "O Sho'aib! Much of what you tell us is beyond our comprehension. We see that you are not a man of power in our midst. If we were not concerned about

your family and your tribe, we would have stoned you. You are of no value to us."

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَرَهْطِي أَعَزُّ عَلَيْكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاتَّخَذْتُمُوهُ وَرَاءَكُمْ ظِهْرِيًّا إِنَّ رَبِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ مُحِيطٌ **11:92**

He said, "O My people! Does my family and tribe command a greater respect than God? And you put Him behind you, neglected. Remember, my Lord surrounds all you do."

وَيَا قَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنِّي عَامِلٌ سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ مَن يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَمَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ وَارْتَقِبُوا إِنِّي مَعَكُمْ رَقِيبٌ **11:93**

"O My people! Do your utmost and so will I. Soon you will find out which of us will incur the chastisement of humiliation, and who is a liar. Just watch, and I am watching along with you."

وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا شُعَيْبًا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِّنَّا وَأَخَذَتِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دِيَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ **11:94**

When Our command came to pass, We saved Sho'aib, and those who believed with him, by a mercy from Us. An awful blast seized the wrongdoers. The morning found them dead in their very homes, on the ground. [Sho'aib and his companions had moved to safety as forewarned]

كَأَن لَّمْ يَغْنَوْا فِيهَا أَلَا بُعْدًا لِّمَدْيَنَ كَمَا بَعِدَتْ ثَمُودُ **11:95**

As if they had never lived there. Oh, away with Midyan, just as the Thamud have been done away with!

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **11:96**

We sent Moses with Our revelations and a manifest authority (of self-evident truth).

إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ فَاتَّبَعُوا أَمْرَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَا أَمْرُ فِرْعَوْنَ بِرَشِيدٍ **11:97**

To Pharaoh and his chiefs. They followed only the command of Pharaoh, and his command did not lead to right.

يَقْدُمُ قَوْمَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَأَوْرَدَهُمُ النَّارَ وَبِئْسَ الْوِرْدُ الْمَوْرُودُ **11:98**

Pharaoh will go before his people on the Day of Resurrection, and lead them into the fire. What a miserable place to land! [14:28]

وَأُتْبِعُوا فِي هَٰذِهِ لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِئْسَ الرِّفْدُ الْمَرْفُودُ **11:99**

Divine rejection was made to follow them in this world and will overcome them on the Day of Resurrection. Contemptible is the gift that will be given to them.

ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ الْقُرَىٰ نَقُصُّهُ عَلَيْكَ مِنْهَا قَائِمٌ وَحَصِيدٌ **11:100**

(O Messenger), this is news from only a few of the past communities that We narrate to you. Some of them are merely surviving and some have vanished.

وَمَا ظَلَمْنَاهُمْ وَلَٰكِن ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَمَا أَغْنَتْ عَنْهُمْ آلِهَتُهُمُ الَّتِي يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ لَّمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُ رَبِّكَ وَمَا زَادُوهُمْ غَيْرَ تَتْبِيبٍ **11:101**

We did no injustice to them, but they wronged themselves. And when the command of your Lord came to pass, their gods whom they called besides God availed them not. They only added to their ruin.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَخْذُ رَبِّكَ إِذَا أَخَذَ الْقُرَىٰ وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ إِنَّ أَخْذَهُ أَلِيمٌ شَدِيدٌ **11:102**

Such is the grasp of your Lord's Law of Requital on townships when they run oppressive systems. His grasp is painful, strong.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّمَنْ خَافَ عَذَابَ الْآخِرَةِ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمٌ مَّجْمُوعٌ لَّهُ النَّاسُ وَذَٰلِكَ يَوْمٌ مَّشْهُودٌ **11:103**

Herein, certainly is a lesson for those who fear the suffering of the life to come. That is a Day when all mankind will be gathered, and that is a Day that will be witnessed by all that ever lived. And the results of all actions will become manifest.

وَمَا نُؤَخِّرُهُ إِلَّا لِأَجَلٍ مَّعْدُودٍ **11:104**

And We defer that Day only to a specified time.

يَوْمَ يَأْتِ لَا تَكَلَّمُ نَفْسٌ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ فَمِنْهُمْ شَقِيٌّ وَسَعِيدٌ **11:105**

On that Day, when it comes, no one will speak except by His Leave. Some of them will be sad, others glad. [The sad ones will be devoid of blessings, and the glad ones will enjoy all bounties of the eternal life. 36:59]

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ شَقُوا فَفِي النَّارِ لَهُمْ فِيهَا زَفِيرٌ وَشَهِيقٌ **11:106**

Those who, by their deeds, brought misery on themselves will be in the fire, sighing and wailing will be their portion. [21:100]

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا مَا دَامَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ رَبُّكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ فَعَّالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ **11:107**

Therein to abide, as long as the (New) Universe endures; that is time beyond count, unless your Lord decrees otherwise. Your Lord is Doer of what He wills in the World of command. [The current Universe will be dismantled for a new Universe. 5:44, 14:48, 21:104, 25:22, 39:37, 69:16, 70:9]

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ سُعِدُوا فَفِي الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا مَا دَامَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ رَبُّكَ عَطَاءً غَيْرَ مَجْذُوذٍ **11:108**

The happy ones on that Day will enter the Garden and live there as long as the (New) Universe endures, that is time beyond count; until your Lord opens for them the way to further evolution, a gift unfailing.

فَلَا تَكُ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّمَّا يَعْبُدُ هَٰؤُلَاءِ مَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا كَمَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُهُم مِّن قَبْلُ وَإِنَّا لَمُوَفُّوهُمْ نَصِيبَهُمْ غَيْرَ مَنقُوصٍ **11:109**

Be not in doubt about the end of those who worship idols in any form. They only blindly follow their forefathers. They and their forefathers will get their due portion according to Our law.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ فَاخْتُلِفَ فِيهِ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مُرِيبٍ **11:110**

People differed even when Moses was given the scripture. Had it not been for a Word that had already gone forth from your Lord, the matter would have been judged between them then and there. They are still in doubt, amounting to suspicion, concerning it. [The Word that the Final revelation Al-Qur'an, will come forth with perfected message]

وَإِنَّ كُلًّا لَّمَّا لَيُوَفِّيَنَّهُمْ رَبُّكَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ إِنَّهُ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **11:111**

Unto each your Lord will certainly repay his works. He is fully Aware of what they do.

فَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَمَن تَابَ مَعَكَ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **11:112**

Therefore, (O Prophet) stand firm as you are commanded, along with those who turn to God with you. Remember to be moderate in all your actions. He is watching all that you do.

وَلَا تَرْكَنُوا إِلَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا فَتَمَسَّكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصَرُونَ **11:113**

Do not be intimidated by the oppressors and guard yourself against even a touch of the fire. Remember, there are no protectors to help you against the laws of God. And then you will not be helped in any way.

وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ طَرَفَيِ النَّهَارِ وَزُلَفًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ إِنَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يُذْهِبْنَ السَّيِّئَاتِ ذَٰلِكَ ذِكْرَىٰ لِلذَّاكِرِينَ **11:114**

Salat times

Strive to establish and consolidate the Divine System, day and night. Actions that create balance in the society remove the ill effects of inequities. Good deeds remove bad deeds. This is a reminder for those who pay attention.

وَاصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **11:115**

And be steadfast. God never fails to reward the benefactors of humanity.

فَلَوْلَا كَانَ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ أُولُو بَقِيَّةٍ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْفَسَادِ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّمَّنْ أَنجَيْنَا مِنْهُمْ وَاتَّبَعَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَا أُتْرِفُوا فِيهِ وَكَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ **11:116**

But, sadly for them! Among the generations before your time, only a few were virtuous enough to discourage disorder in the land. We saved those few, whereas those who continued to violate human rights only pursued material riches. And they were guilty of stealing the fruit of others' labor (and they were requited). [Zulm = Displacing something from its rightful place = Wrongdoing = Violation of human rights. Mujrimeen = Criminals = Guilty = Those who thrive on the fruit of others' toil]

وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ لِيُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلُهَا مُصْلِحُونَ **11:117**

Your Lord never unjustly destroys a community (for wrong beliefs alone) as long as its people are reformers, setting right their own, and one another's condition.[The Qur'an is consistent in its theme that people will be rewarded for what they do (Ya'maloon), and not for what they know (Ya'lamoon). The Book stresses on the right belief system only because people are strongly influenced in their behavior by what they think and believe. Muslihoon = Reformers = Those who help their own and fellow humans' condition = Those who set things right in their environment. This is one of the most revolutionary verses in the Qur'an. It throws out all dogmatic assertions that are the hallmark of a 'religion'. As we

have seen, Islam is not a 'religion' consisting merely of a set of some dogmas, rites and rituals. It is Ad-Deen, the Divinely Prescribed Collective Way of Life. Allama Muhammad Asad, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Allama Inayatullah Khan Al-Mashriqi et al are in complete agreement with the meaning of this verse 11:117 as translated here]

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا يَزَالُونَ مُخْتَلِفِينَ **11:118**

God made all nations

Had your Lord so willed, He could have made all mankind one single community, (but He has granted them free will as against other creatures who are driven by instinct). Therefore, they will continue to hold divergent views. [5:48]

إِلَّا مَن رَّحِمَ رَبُّكَ وَلِذَٰلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ **11:119**

Except those on whom your Lord will bestow His grace (for working toward the noble objective of unity). And for this He created them. Those who defy (this command) will fulfill the Word of your Lord, "Surely, I shall fill Hell with the nomad and urban mankind all together."

وَكُلًّا نَّقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ الرُّسُلِ مَا نُثَبِّتُ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَجَاءَكَ فِي هَٰذِهِ الْحَقُّ وَمَوْعِظَةٌ وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **11:120**

(O Messenger) all that We relate to you of the history of some Messengers, is in order to strengthen your heart. Although through these accounts the truth comes to you, but it is also meant to be an enlightenment and reminder for all believers in this Divine Writ.

وَقُل لِّلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنَّا عَامِلُونَ **11:121**

And tell those who adamantly disbelieve, "Do anything that may be in your power, while we shall labor (in God's way.)"

وَانتَظِرُوا إِنَّا مُنتَظِرُونَ **11:122**

And tell them, "And wait for what is coming. Indeed, we are also waiting."

وَلِلَّهِ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُ الْأَمْرُ كُلُّهُ فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **11:123**

And God alone comprehends the hidden reality of the heavens and earth. For, all that exists goes back to Him as its Source. Serve Him, then, and place your trust in Him alone. Your Lord is not unaware of what you do.

Chapter 12

Yusuf - Joseph

This is the 12th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 111 verses. In this Surah, the story of Prophet Joseph (Yusuf) is narrated. As usual, the Qur´an validates certain Biblical accounts while correcting the errors that were intermingled with the passage of time. And the Sublime purpose of the Book, even in historical accounts, consistently remains enlightenment for the reader. Prophet Jacob titled Israel, was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. Jacob had twelve sons from four wives. Joseph the second youngest and Benjamin (Binyamin), the youngest had the same mother (Rachel). Joseph was born about 1700 BC in Hebron, Palestine, and according to the Bible died at the age of 110. There are two mandatory qualities for being a good leader: Sincerity and Competence. Note that the Egyptian head of state of Prophet Joseph´s era referred as ´Malik´ (Ruler or King) in the Quran and not as Pharaoh, the word that appears erroneously in the book of Genesis. The term Pharaoh came in use only for kings after 1500 BC which historians call the New Kingdom. Prophet Joseph lived around 1700 BC during the Old Kingdom, that of Amalekites. In the story of Moses, the Quran uses the term Pharaoh for the Egyptian ruler. Moses lived around 1400 BC during the New Kingdom, that of Pharaohs.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الر تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ **12:1**

A.L.R. Alif-Laam-Ra. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Raaziq the Provider, states that), These are the messages of a revelation clear in itself and clearly showing the truth.

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **12:2**

Indeed, We have sent it down in all clarity, in the most eloquent language so that you might encompass it with your reason. ('Arabiyyan' = Most eloquent tongue).

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَإِن كُنتَ مِن قَبْلِهِ لَمِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ **12:3**

We reveal this Qur'an to you (O Prophet) and explain it in the best possible way, seeing that before this you were unaware of what revelation is.

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ كَوْكَبًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ رَأَيْتُهُمْ لِي سَاجِدِينَ **12:4**

Thus spoke Joseph to his father, "O My father! I have seen in a dream eleven stars, and the sun, and the moon. I saw them bowing to me in honor!"

قَالَ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تَقْصُصْ رُؤْيَاكَ عَلَىٰ إِخْوَتِكَ فَيَكِيدُوا لَكَ كَيْدًا إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِلْإِنسَانِ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **12:5**

Jacob replied, "O My dear son! Do not relate your dream to your brothers lest they plot a scheme against you. Surely, Satan (selfish ego) is man's open enemy."

وَكَذَٰلِكَ يَجْتَبِيكَ رَبُّكَ وَيُعَلِّمُكَ مِن تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ وَيُتِمُّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ كَمَا أَتَمَّهَا عَلَىٰ أَبَوَيْكَ مِن قَبْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **12:6**

"Your Lord will elect you and give you outstanding insight into the reality of things. He will perfect His grace upon you, and upon the House of Jacob, as He perfected it upon your forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Your Lord is Knower, Wise."

لَّقَدْ كَانَ فِي يُوسُفَ وَإِخْوَتِهِ آيَاتٌ لِّلسَّائِلِينَ **12:7**

In the story of Joseph and his brothers there are messages for all with a seeking mind.

إِذْ قَالُوا لَيُوسُفُ وَأَخُوهُ أَحَبُّ إِلَىٰ أَبِينَا مِنَّا وَنَحْنُ عُصْبَةٌ إِنَّ أَبَانَا لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **12:8**

Joseph's brothers spoke thus to one another, "Joseph and his brother (Benjamin) are more favored by our father even though we are so many. Our father is obviously in error."

اقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ أَوِ اطْرَحُوهُ أَرْضًا يَخْلُ لَكُمْ وَجْهُ أَبِيكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا مِن بَعْدِهِ قَوْمًا صَالِحِينَ **12:9**

One of them proposed, "Let us slay Joseph or leave him in a distant land. Then your father's favor will be all for you, and your affairs will be adjusted right for you."

قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ لَا تَقْتُلُوا يُوسُفَ وَأَلْقُوهُ فِي غَيَابَتِ الْجُبِّ يَلْتَقِطْهُ بَعْضُ السَّيَّارَةِ إِن كُنتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ **12:10**

Another of them suggested, “Do not slay Joseph. Rather, if you must do something, cast him into a deep well, and some caravan may pick him up.”

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مَا لَكَ لَا تَأْمَنَّا عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَنَاصِحُونَ **12:11**

They said, “O Our father! Why do you not trust us with Joseph when we are good friends to him?”

أَرْسِلْهُ مَعَنَا غَدًا يَرْتَعْ وَيَلْعَبْ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ **12:12**

“Send him with us tomorrow that he may enjoy himself and play. We will take good care of him.”

قَالَ إِنِّي لَيَحْزُنُنِي أَن تَذْهَبُوا بِهِ وَأَخَافُ أَن يَأْكُلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَأَنتُمْ عَنْهُ غَافِلُونَ **12:13**

Jacob said, “I worry that you take him with you to the wild and some wolf devours him when you are distracted.”

قَالُوا لَئِنْ أَكَلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَنَحْنُ عُصْبَةٌ إِنَّا إِذًا لَّخَاسِرُونَ **12:14**

They said, “If a wolf devours him in the strong presence (of the ten) of us, will our lives be worth living?”

فَلَمَّا ذَهَبُوا بِهِ وَأَجْمَعُوا أَن يَجْعَلُوهُ فِي غَيَابَتِ الْجُبِّ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ لَتُنَبِّئَنَّهُم بِأَمْرِهِمْ هَٰذَا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **12:15**

Unanimous in their decision, they led Joseph to cast him into a deep well. When they were placing Joseph in the well, We revealed to him that he would remain secure, and one day he would tell his brothers about what they did. We also revealed to him that it would be a mystery to them as to how Joseph was saved!

وَجَاءُوا أَبَاهُمْ عِشَاءً يَبْكُونَ **12:16**

After carrying out their plan they came to their father at night weeping.

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا إِنَّا ذَهَبْنَا نَسْتَبِقُ وَتَرَكْنَا يُوسُفَ عِندَ مَتَاعِنَا فَأَكَلَهُ الذِّئْبُ وَمَا أَنتَ بِمُؤْمِنٍ لَّنَا وَلَوْ كُنَّا صَادِقِينَ **12:17**

Saying, “O Our father! We went racing with each other, and left Joseph by our belongings. A wolf did eat him up. We fear that you will not believe us even though we speak the truth.”

وَجَاءُوا عَلَىٰ قَمِيصِهِ بِدَمٍ كَذِبٍ قَالَ بَلْ سَوَّلَتْ لَكُمْ أَنفُسُكُمْ أَمْرًا فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ وَاللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ عَلَىٰ مَا تَصِفُونَ **12:18**

And they came with false blood on his shirt. He said, "I do not believe this story; you have made it up. I will remain steadfast in the face of your conspiracy, and God is the One Whose help is sought in the kind of misfortune you describe to me."

وَجَاءَتْ سَيَّارَةٌ فَأَرْسَلُوا وَارِدَهُمْ فَأَدْلَىٰ دَلْوَهُ قَالَ يَا بُشْرَىٰ هَٰذَا غُلَامٌ وَأَسَرُّوهُ بِضَاعَةً وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ **12:19**

There came a caravan, and they sent their water drawer. He let down his rope and pail into the well. He called in excitement, "Oh, what a lucky find! It is a boy!" People of the caravan took him along as treasure. And God was Aware of what they did.

وَشَرَوْهُ بِثَمَنٍ بَخْسٍ دَرَاهِمَ مَعْدُودَةٍ وَكَانُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الزَّاهِدِينَ **12:20**

They sold him in the market for a low price, a few silver coins. They had little idea of his value.

وَقَالَ الَّذِي اشْتَرَاهُ مِن مِّصْرَ لِامْرَأَتِهِ أَكْرِمِي مَثْوَاهُ عَسَىٰ أَن يَنفَعَنَا أَوْ نَتَّخِذَهُ وَلَدًا وَكَذَٰلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلِنُعَلِّمَهُ مِن تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ وَاللَّهُ غَالِبٌ عَلَىٰ أَمْرِهِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **12:21**

The one who bought him in Egypt said to his wife, "Receive him honorably. Take good care of him. May be he can help us or we can adopt him as a son." We, thus, established Joseph in Egypt and arranged for him proper education and training. He was gifted with a great insight into events. God's command always prevails although most people do not understand (the Law of Cause and Effect).

وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **12:22**

When he reached his prime, We bestowed upon him wisdom and knowledge. This is how We reward the doers of good to others. [Wisdom and knowledge are granted to all those who benefit people since youth. 28:14]

وَرَاوَدَتْهُ الَّتِي هُوَ فِي بَيْتِهَا عَن نَّفْسِهِ وَغَلَّقَتِ الْأَبْوَابَ وَقَالَتْ هَيْتَ لَكَ قَالَ مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ رَبِّي أَحْسَنَ مَثْوَايَ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ **12:23**

The lady of the house, tried to seduce him. She closed the doors and said, "I am all yours." He said, "May God protect me! Truly, He is my Lord and He has bestowed upon me a good moral character and granted me a position of honor. The wrongdoers do not prosper." [Ahsana Mathwa = An excellent abode = A position of honor = Good moral stature]

وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ وَهَمَّ بِهَا لَوْلَا أَن رَّأَىٰ بُرْهَانَ رَبِّهِ كَذَٰلِكَ لِنَصْرِفَ عَنْهُ السُّوءَ وَالْفَحْشَاءَ إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُخْلَصِينَ **12:24**

She desired him, and he would have desired her if he had not known the clear moral value from his Lord, ("Go not near adultery" 17:32.) Obeying Our command saved him from evil and lewdness. He was among Our sincere servants.

وَاسْتَبَقَا الْبَابَ وَقَدَّتْ قَمِيصَهُ مِن دُبُرٍ وَأَلْفَيَا سَيِّدَهَا لَدَى الْبَابِ قَالَتْ مَا جَزَاءُ مَنْ أَرَادَ بِأَهْلِكَ سُوءًا إِلَّا أَن يُسْجَنَ أَوْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **12:25**

And they raced to the door and in the process, she tore his shirt from behind. They found her husband at the door. She said, "What should be the punishment for one who wanted to molest your wife, except prison or a painful chastisement?"

قَالَ هِيَ رَاوَدَتْنِي عَن نَّفْسِي وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا إِن كَانَ قَمِيصُهُ قُدَّ مِن قُبُلٍ فَصَدَقَتْ وَهُوَ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ **12:26**

Joseph said, "She is the one who tried to seduce me." Now a member of her family came and suggested, "If his shirt is torn from the front, then she is telling the truth, and he is the liar.

وَإِن كَانَ قَمِيصُهُ قُدَّ مِن دُبُرٍ فَكَذَبَتْ وَهُوَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **12:27**

And if his shirt is torn from the back then she lied, and he is telling the truth."

فَلَمَّا رَأَىٰ قَمِيصَهُ قُدَّ مِن دُبُرٍ قَالَ إِنَّهُ مِن كَيْدِكُنَّ إِنَّ كَيْدَكُنَّ عَظِيمٌ **12:28**

When her husband saw the shirt torn from the back, he said, "This is the typical scheme of you women. Your scheming is formidable." [His discriminatory comment shows his anger, and that women in that society were not viewed well]

يُوسُفُ أَعْرِضْ عَنْ هَٰذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرِي لِذَنبِكِ إِنَّكِ كُنتِ مِنَ الْخَاطِئِينَ **12:29**

He said, "O Joseph! Forget about what happened. And you O woman! Ask forgiveness. For, you have been greatly at fault."

وَقَالَ نِسْوَةٌ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ امْرَأَتُ الْعَزِيزِ تُرَاوِدُ فَتَاهَا عَن نَّفْسِهِ قَدْ شَغَفَهَا حُبًّا إِنَّا لَنَرَاهَا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **12:30**

Women in the city started gossiping, "The governor's wife is trying to seduce her servant. She is deeply in love with him. But we see that she adopted the wrong tactics."

فَلَمَّا سَمِعَتْ بِمَكْرِهِنَّ أَرْسَلَتْ إِلَيْهِنَّ وَأَعْتَدَتْ لَهُنَّ مُتَّكَأً وَآتَتْ كُلَّ وَاحِدَةٍ مِّنْهُنَّ سِكِّينًا وَقَالَتِ اخْرُجْ عَلَيْهِنَّ فَلَمَّا رَأَيْنَهُ أَكْبَرْنَهُ وَقَطَّعْنَ أَيْدِيَهُنَّ وَقُلْنَ حَاشَ لِلَّهِ مَا هَٰذَا بَشَرًا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا مَلَكٌ كَرِيمٌ **12:31**

When she heard their gossip, she invited them, and prepared comfortable couches for them, and they schemed. She gave a knife to each of the women. Then, she called Joseph, "Come out to them!" And when they saw him they flattered him and 'cut their hands'. They exclaimed in their flattery, "Good Lord! This is no mortal man! This is but an angel!" [The governor's wife and her friends had planned to incite Joseph into behaving indecently. "Cut their hands" = They exhausted their efforts. There is absolutely no mention of the supposed "beauty' of Joseph, a fabrication adopted by ancient and modern commentators. Secondly, the root word Qat'a in this verse is of very special significance. Did these women chop off their hands? Must the thieves get their hands chopped off? Please see 5:38-39]

قَالَتْ فَذَٰلِكُنَّ الَّذِي لُمْتُنَّنِي فِيهِ وَلَقَدْ رَاوَدتُّهُ عَن نَّفْسِهِ فَاسْتَعْصَمَ وَلَئِن لَّمْ يَفْعَلْ مَا آمُرُهُ لَيُسْجَنَنَّ وَلَيَكُونًا مِّنَ الصَّاغِرِينَ **12:32**

The lady of the house said, "This is he about whom you blamed me. I tried to seduce him but he firmly saved himself. Since he thinks he is an angel, and remains adamant against my command, he shall be imprisoned and brought low. [The women made up allegations against him]

قَالَ رَبِّ السِّجْنُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا يَدْعُونَنِي إِلَيْهِ وَإِلَّا تَصْرِفْ عَنِّي كَيْدَهُنَّ أَصْبُ إِلَيْهِنَّ وَأَكُن مِّنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ **12:33**

He said, "My Lord! Prison is dearer to me than what they invite me to. Unless You help me fend off their schemes, I am afraid of getting intimidated and of behaving like the ignorant ones."

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ فَصَرَفَ عَنْهُ كَيْدَهُنَّ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **12:34**

His Lord heard his prayer, and helped Joseph remain steadfast in fending off their schemes. He is the Hearer, the Knower (of all intentions and actions).

ثُمَّ بَدَا لَهُم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوُا الْآيَاتِ لَيَسْجُنُنَّهُ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ **12:35**

Later, they (the judges) even after seeing the proofs of (his innocence), decided to put him in prison for a while.

وَدَخَلَ مَعَهُ السِّجْنَ فَتَيَانِ قَالَ أَحَدُهُمَا إِنِّي أَرَانِي أَعْصِرُ خَمْرًا وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ إِنِّي أَرَانِي أَحْمِلُ فَوْقَ رَأْسِي خُبْزًا تَأْكُلُ الطَّيْرُ مِنْهُ نَبِّئْنَا بِتَأْوِيلِهِ إِنَّا نَرَاكَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **12:36**

Two young men went to prison with him (for unrelated crimes). One of them (a butler) told his dream, "I saw myself making wine." The other (a baker) said, "I saw myself carrying bread on my head from which birds were eating. Can you tell us what this means? We see that you are a doer of good."

قَالَ لَا يَأْتِيكُمَا طَعَامٌ تُرْزَقَانِهِ إِلَّا نَبَّأْتُكُمَا بِتَأْوِيلِهِ قَبْلَ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمَا ذَٰلِكُمَا مِمَّا عَلَّمَنِي رَبِّي إِنِّي تَرَكْتُ مِلَّةَ قَوْمٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ **12:37**

He said, "I will tell you the meaning before today's meal is served. But, remember that it is my Lord Who teaches me through revelation. Indeed, I have stayed away from the ways of people who do not believe in God and are disbelievers in the life to come."

وَاتَّبَعْتُ مِلَّةَ آبَائِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ مَا كَانَ لَنَا أَن نُّشْرِكَ بِاللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ ذَٰلِكَ مِن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى **12:38**

النَّاسِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ

"I follow the Creed of such of my ancestors as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is not conceivable that we ever ascribe partners to God. This (belief in Monotheism) is the bounty of God upon us and upon all mankind. (It frees us from bondage to superstition and to 'men of religion'). But the majority of people fail to grasp this point, and thus remain ungrateful."

يَا صَاحِبَيِ السِّجْنِ أَأَرْبَابٌ مُّتَفَرِّقُونَ خَيْرٌ أَمِ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ **12:39**

"O My prison mates! Are several masters better, or God, the One, the Dominant?"

مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِهِ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءً سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُم مَّا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَانٍ إِنِ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ أَمَرَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **12:40**

"Those whom you worship and obey besides Him, are but names that you have fabricated, you and your forefathers. God has revealed no authority for them. All ruling belongs to God alone. And there is no Judge but He. He has commanded that you serve none but Him. That is the Right Religion. But most people are not aware of this fact or disregard it in practice."

يَا صَاحِبَيِ السِّجْنِ أَمَّا أَحَدُكُمَا فَيَسْقِي رَبَّهُ خَمْرًا وَأَمَّا الْآخَرُ فَيُصْلَبُ فَتَأْكُلُ الطَّيْرُ مِن رَّأْسِهِ قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ الَّذِي فِيهِ تَسْتَفْتِيَانِ **12:41**

"O My prison mates! The first of you will be the chief wine butler for the King. The other one (the chief baker of the King) will be crucified and birds will eat off his head. Thus is the case decided about what you ask."

وَقَالَ لِلَّذِي ظَنَّ أَنَّهُ نَاجٍ مِّنْهُمَا اذْكُرْنِي عِندَ رَبِّكَ فَأَنسَاهُ الشَّيْطَانُ ذِكْرَ رَبِّهِ فَلَبِثَ فِي السِّجْنِ بِضْعَ سِنِينَ **12:42**

Joseph asked the one whom he thought would be released, "Mention me in the presence of your King." But Satan (his selfish ways) made him forget to mention it to the King, so Joseph stayed in prison for a few years.

وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ سَبْعَ بَقَرَاتٍ سِمَانٍ يَأْكُلُهُنَّ سَبْعٌ عِجَافٌ وَسَبْعَ سُنبُلَاتٍ خُضْرٍ وَأُخَرَ يَابِسَاتٍ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ أَفْتُونِي فِي رُؤْيَايَ إِن كُنتُمْ لِلرُّؤْيَا تَعْبُرُونَ **12:43**

And one day the King of Egypt said to his court, "I have dreamed seven fat cows being eaten up by seven lean cows and seven green spikes of wheat and (seven) dry. O My chiefs! Explain to me my vision, if you can interpret dreams."

قَالُوا أَضْغَاثُ أَحْلَامٍ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَأْوِيلِ الْأَحْلَامِ بِعَالِمِينَ **12:44**

They answered, "Confused nightmares! We are not skilled in interpreting such dreams." [This king was not a Pharaoh. He is probably the second one of the six Hyksos rulers who dominated Egypt between 1700-1580 BC, after invading the country through the Sinai Peninsula]

وَقَالَ الَّذِي نَجَا مِنْهُمَا وَادَّكَرَ بَعْدَ أُمَّةٍ أَنَا أُنَبِّئُكُم بِتَأْوِيلِهِ فَأَرْسِلُونِ **12:45**

The one who was released (the chief butler) at long last remembered. He said, "I can bring you the meaning, so send me forth."

يُوسُفُ أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُ أَفْتِنَا فِي سَبْعِ بَقَرَاتٍ سِمَانٍ يَأْكُلُهُنَّ سَبْعٌ عِجَافٌ وَسَبْعِ سُنبُلَاتٍ خُضْرٍ وَأُخَرَ يَابِسَاتٍ لَّعَلِّي أَرْجِعُ إِلَى النَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **12:46**

He said, "Joseph, O you truthful one! Explain for us the seven fat cows being eaten by seven lean ones, and the seven green spikes of wheat and others dry. I wish to go back with information that they may know" (the interpretation and your value).

قَالَ تَزْرَعُونَ سَبْعَ سِنِينَ دَأَبًا فَمَا حَصَدتُّمْ فَذَرُوهُ فِي سُنبُلِهِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّمَّا تَأْكُلُونَ **12:47**

Joseph told him the meaning and the way to avert the oncoming famine, "Work hard on agriculture for seven seasons. When you harvest the crop, only reap the amount you need. Leave the rest of the grains in the spikes (to store for the ensuing famine)."

ثُمَّ يَأْتِي مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ سَبْعٌ شِدَادٌ يَأْكُلْنَ مَا قَدَّمْتُمْ لَهُنَّ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّمَّا تُحْصِنُونَ **12:48**

"Then after that will come seven dry seasons which will use up all that you have prepared for them, but a little that you have stored up."

ثُمَّ يَأْتِي مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ عَامٌ فِيهِ يُغَاثُ النَّاسُ وَفِيهِ يَعْصِرُونَ **12:49**

"After that, one year will come with good rains and the crops will be plenty. You will get abundant grain and fruit, and a lot of oil and juice to squeeze." [Please note that only a Messenger of God could correctly interpret dreams since God shares His knowledge of the future only with a Messenger He chooses. 3:179, 72:26-27]

وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ ائْتُونِي بِهِ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ الرَّسُولُ قَالَ ارْجِعْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَاسْأَلْهُ مَا بَالُ النِّسْوَةِ اللَّاتِي قَطَّعْنَ أَيْدِيَهُنَّ إِنَّ رَبِّي بِكَيْدِهِنَّ عَلِيمٌ **12:50**

And the King said, "Bring him before me!" When the courier came to Joseph, he said, "Return to your King and ask him to find out the case of the women who had exhausted their efforts. Certainly, my Lord knows their plot." ["Cutting hands" = Exhausting efforts. Joseph asked for investigation before being released to vindicate his character]

قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُنَّ إِذْ رَاوَدتُّنَّ يُوسُفَ عَن نَّفْسِهِ قُلْنَ حَاشَ لِلَّهِ مَا عَلِمْنَا عَلَيْهِ مِن سُوءٍ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ الْعَزِيزِ الْآنَ حَصْحَصَ الْحَقُّ أَنَا رَاوَدتُّهُ عَن نَّفْسِهِ وَإِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **12:51**

The King sent for those women, and asked them, "What happened when you tried to seduce Joseph?" They answered, "Good Lord! We found no evil in him." The wife of the governor (Zelicha, Zulaikha in the Arab history) couldn't hold back, "Now the truth is out. I was the one who tried to make him desire me and he is truthful."

ذَٰلِكَ لِيَعْلَمَ أَنِّي لَمْ أَخُنْهُ بِالْغَيْبِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي كَيْدَ الْخَائِنِينَ **12:52**

(When Joseph heard this, he said), "I hope that the governor will realize that I never betrayed him in his absence. And God never leads to success the schemes of betrayers."

وَمَا أُبَرِّئُ نَفْسِي إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوءِ إِلَّا مَا رَحِمَ رَبِّي إِنَّ رَبِّي غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **12:53**

(Zelicha continued) "I do not claim innocence for myself. The human 'self' incites evil except for those who have deserved grace from my Lord. Surely, my Lord is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful."

وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ ائْتُونِي بِهِ أَسْتَخْلِصْهُ لِنَفْسِي فَلَمَّا كَلَّمَهُ قَالَ إِنَّكَ الْيَوْمَ لَدَيْنَا مَكِينٌ أَمِينٌ **12:54**

The King said, "Bring him to me so that I may appoint him a close adviser to me." And when he had spoken with him, the King decreed, "From today you have a high standing with us, invested with all trust." [Note the Egyptian head of state of Prophet Joseph's era referred as 'Malik' (Ruler or King) and not as Pharaoh, the word that appears erroneously in the book of Genesis. The term Pharaoh came in use only for kings after 1500 BC which historians call the New Kingdom. Prophet Joseph lived around 1700 BC during the Old Kingdom, that of Amalekites. In the story of Moses, the term Pharaoh is used for the Egyptian ruler. Moses lived around 1400 BC during the New Kingdom, that of Pharaohs]

قَالَ اجْعَلْنِي عَلَىٰ خَزَائِنِ الْأَرْضِ إِنِّي حَفِيظٌ عَلِيمٌ **12:55**

Joseph replied, "Place in my charge the land resources (the treasury) of the State. I will prove to be a knowledgeable guardian." [Now that he could personally handle the oncoming drought]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ مَكَّنَّا لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَتَبَوَّأُ مِنْهَا حَيْثُ يَشَاءُ نُصِيبُ بِرَحْمَتِنَا مَن نَّشَاءُ وَلَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **12:56**

Thus, We gave established power to Joseph in the land (of Egypt). He had full mastery over it, ruling as he saw fit. We bestow Our grace according to Our laws, and never waste the reward of the doers of good.

وَلَأَجْرُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ **12:57**

And the reward in the life to come is phenomenally better for all those who attain belief and live upright.

وَجَاءَ إِخْوَةُ يُوسُفَ فَدَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَعَرَفَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ مُنكِرُونَ **12:58**

(And after some years) Joseph's brothers came and presented themselves before him. Joseph recognized them, but they did not know him. [They came from Can'aan to buy grain as places around Egypt started suffering the drought]

وَلَمَّا جَهَّزَهُم بِجَهَازِهِمْ قَالَ ائْتُونِي بِأَخٍ لَّكُم مِّنْ أَبِيكُمْ أَلَا تَرَوْنَ أَنِّي أُوفِي الْكَيْلَ وَأَنَا خَيْرُ الْمُنزِلِينَ **12:59**

And when he had given them suitable provisions, he said, "Next time bring to me that brother of yours from your father's side. Now you have seen that I am just and hospitable."

فَإِن لَّمْ تَأْتُونِي بِهِ فَلَا كَيْلَ لَكُمْ عِندِي وَلَا تَقْرَبُونِ **12:60**

"And if you do not bring him to me, you will get no share from me; you will not even come close."

قَالُوا سَنُرَاوِدُ عَنْهُ أَبَاهُ وَإِنَّا لَفَاعِلُونَ **12:61**

They said, "We will try to persuade his father to let him go. We will surely do that."

وَقَالَ لِفِتْيَانِهِ اجْعَلُوا بِضَاعَتَهُمْ فِي رِحَالِهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَعْرِفُونَهَا إِذَا انقَلَبُوا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **12:62**

Joseph said to his servants, "Load their barter (the price of wheat) back in their saddlebags, so that they may find it when they go home, and hence be more eager to return."

فَلَمَّا رَجَعُوا إِلَىٰ أَبِيهِمْ قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مُنِعَ مِنَّا الْكَيْلُ فَأَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا أَخَانَا نَكْتَلْ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ **12:63**

When they went back to their father, they said, "O Our father! All grain is to be withheld from us unless you send with us our brother (Benjamin). So send him so that we may obtain the measure, we will guard him well."

قَالَ هَلْ آمَنُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا كَمَا أَمِنتُكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَخِيهِ مِن قَبْلُ فَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ حَافِظًا وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **12:64**

Jacob said, "Shall I trust you with him as I trusted you with his brother? God is better at guarding and He is the most Merciful of the merciful."

وَلَمَّا فَتَحُوا مَتَاعَهُمْ وَجَدُوا بِضَاعَتَهُمْ رُدَّتْ إِلَيْهِمْ قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا مَا نَبْغِي هَٰذِهِ بِضَاعَتُنَا رُدَّتْ إِلَيْنَا وَنَمِيرُ أَهْلَنَا وَنَحْفَظُ أَخَانَا وَنَزْدَادُ كَيْلَ بَعِيرٍ ذَٰلِكَ كَيْلٌ يَسِيرٌ **12:65**

When they opened their packs, they discovered that their barter had been returned to them. (The grand minister, the Prophet of God, had paid on their behalf.) They said, "O Our father! What more can we ask? We shall bring food for our family and guard our brother. And we shall have the extra measure of a camel load. The first load we have brought is but scant."

قَالَ لَنْ أُرْسِلَهُ مَعَكُمْ حَتَّىٰ تُؤْتُونِ مَوْثِقًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ لَتَأْتُنَّنِي بِهِ إِلَّا أَن يُحَاطَ بِكُمْ فَلَمَّا آتَوْهُ مَوْثِقَهُمْ قَالَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ مَا نَقُولُ وَكِيلٌ **12:66**

Jacob said, "I will not send him with you until you give me a solemn pledge in the name of God, that you will bring him back to me unless you get surrounded (by circumstances beyond control). And when they gave him their solemn pledge, he said, "God is the witnessing Guardian over all we say."

وَقَالَ يَا بَنِيَّ لَا تَدْخُلُوا مِن بَابٍ وَاحِدٍ وَادْخُلُوا مِنْ أَبْوَابٍ مُّتَفَرِّقَةٍ وَمَا أُغْنِي عَنكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ إِنِ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَيْهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ **12:67**

And he said, "O My sons! Do not enter the town all by one gate, but enter by different gates. Yet, I cannot avail you against the Divine laws. (So, handle all situations accordingly.) Rule and law-giving belongs to God alone. In Him I trust, and everyone must place trust in Him since the Divine laws never change." [17:77, 33:38, 35:43. It is a common misconception that Jacob told his eleven sons to enter by different gates to obviate 'evil eye'. Historically the brothers had been accused of spying on a previous occasion. The Qur'an consistently rejects all superstition. Genesis 42:9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said to them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come]

وَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا مِنْ حَيْثُ أَمَرَهُمْ أَبُوهُم مَّا كَانَ يُغْنِي عَنْهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ إِلَّا حَاجَةً فِي نَفْسِ يَعْقُوبَ قَضَاهَا وَإِنَّهُ لَذُو عِلْمٍ لِّمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **12:68**

When they went, they entered the town as their father instructed. Jacob was quite right that even he (a Prophet of God) could not avail them against the Divine laws. It was a duty that he did (giving the correct advice to his sons), although it could not prevent what was to happen (with Benjamin 12:75-81). He was, by Our instruction, full of knowledge. But most people do not know.

وَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ آوَىٰ إِلَيْهِ أَخَاهُ قَالَ إِنِّي أَنَا أَخُوكَ فَلَا تَبْتَئِسْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **12:69**

When they met with Joseph, he brought his brother closer to him and said, “I am your brother, do not grieve about what they have been doing to us.”

فَلَمَّا جَهَّزَهُم بِجَهَازِهِمْ جَعَلَ السِّقَايَةَ فِي رَحْلِ أَخِيهِ ثُمَّ أَذَّنَ مُؤَذِّنٌ أَيَّتُهَا الْعِيرُ إِنَّكُمْ لَسَارِقُونَ **12:70**

AZAN

As the camels were being loaded, one of the brothers hid the drinking-cup into his brother’s (Benjamin’s) saddlebag. Then a caller cried, “O Camel-riders! You are thieves!” [12:77-89. The Qur’an here corrects Genesis which states that it was Joseph who had placed the cup in their pack]

قَالُوا وَأَقْبَلُوا عَلَيْهِم مَّاذَا تَفْقِدُونَ **12:71**

They said, coming towards them, “What is it that you have lost?”

قَالُوا نَفْقِدُ صُوَاعَ الْمَلِكِ وَلِمَن جَاءَ بِهِ حِمْلُ بَعِيرٍ وَأَنَا بِهِ زَعِيمٌ **12:72**

They said, “We have lost the King’s cup, and whoever produces it shall have an extra camel-load, and I (the chief royal servant) guarantee that.”

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتُم مَّا جِئْنَا لِنُفْسِدَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا كُنَّا سَارِقِينَ **12:73**

They explained, “By God! Well you know that we did not come here to create mischief in the land, and we are not thieves.”

قَالُوا فَمَا جَزَاؤُهُ إِن كُنتُمْ كَاذِبِينَ **12:74**

The callers asked, “What shall be the penalty for it if you prove liars?”

قَالُوا جَزَاؤُهُ مَن وُجِدَ فِي رَحْلِهِ فَهُوَ جَزَاؤُهُ كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الظَّالِمِينَ **12:75**

The brothers replied, “The penalty for it! He in whose bag the cup is found, he shall be the penalty for it. (The thief will become your slave.) Thus we requite the doers of such wrong (in our land).”

فَبَدَأَ بِأَوْعِيَتِهِمْ قَبْلَ وِعَاءِ أَخِيهِ ثُمَّ اسْتَخْرَجَهَا مِن وِعَاءِ أَخِيهِ كَذَٰلِكَ كِدْنَا لِيُوسُفَ مَا كَانَ لِيَأْخُذَ أَخَاهُ فِي دِينِ **12:76**

الْمَلِكِ إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ نَرْفَعُ دَرَجَاتٍ مَّن نَّشَاءُ وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ

They were brought before Joseph for the search. He began with the bags of his half-brothers before the bag of his brother (Benjamin). And he finally extracted the cup out of his brother's bag. We thus perfected the plan for Joseph. He could not have detained his brother under the King's law. But that was the will of God. We raise people in ranks according to Our laws. Yet, above every person of knowledge there is One Who knows all.

قَالُوا إِن يَسْرِقْ فَقَدْ سَرَقَ أَخٌ لَّهُ مِن قَبْلُ فَأَسَرَّهَا يُوسُفُ فِي نَفْسِهِ وَلَمْ يُبْدِهَا لَهُمْ قَالَ أَنتُمْ شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا تَصِفُونَ **12:77**

The brothers said, "If he stole, so did his brother in the past." Joseph stayed quiet, revealing nothing. He only said in his heart, "You are in worse case, and God is the Best Knower of what you allege."

قَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الْعَزِيزُ إِنَّ لَهُ أَبًا شَيْخًا كَبِيرًا فَخُذْ أَحَدَنَا مَكَانَهُ إِنَّا نَرَاكَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **12:78**

They said to Joseph, "O Noble one! He has an aged father, so take one of us instead of him. We see that you are a doer of good."

قَالَ مَعَاذَ اللَّهِ أَن نَّأْخُذَ إِلَّا مَن وَجَدْنَا مَتَاعَنَا عِندَهُ إِنَّا إِذًا لَّظَالِمُونَ **12:79**

He answered, "God save us from detaining other than the one with whom we found our goods. Otherwise, we would be unjust."

فَلَمَّا اسْتَيْأَسُوا مِنْهُ خَلَصُوا نَجِيًّا قَالَ كَبِيرُهُمْ أَلَمْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ قَدْ أَخَذَ عَلَيْكُم مَّوْثِقًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَمِن قَبْلُ مَا فَرَّطتُمْ فِي يُوسُفَ فَلَنْ أَبْرَحَ الْأَرْضَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْذَنَ لِي أَبِي أَوْ يَحْكُمَ اللَّهُ لِي وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الْحَاكِمِينَ **12:80**

So, when they lost hope, they conferred in private. The eldest among them said, "Do you not know that your father took a solemn pledge from you in God's name, and how you failed in the case of Joseph before? I shall not go from this place until my father gives leave or God judges for me. He is the Best of deciders."

ارْجِعُوا إِلَىٰ أَبِيكُمْ فَقُولُوا يَا أَبَانَا إِنَّ ابْنَكَ سَرَقَ وَمَا شَهِدْنَا إِلَّا بِمَا عَلِمْنَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِلْغَيْبِ حَافِظِينَ 12:81

(He told the rest of the brothers), "Return to your father and say, 'O Our father! Your son has committed theft. We bear witness only to what we know. And we could not guard against the unseen.

وَاسْأَلِ الْقَرْيَةَ الَّتِي كُنَّا فِيهَا وَالْعِيرَ الَّتِي أَقْبَلْنَا فِيهَا وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ 12:82

Ask the township where we were, and the caravan we came with. We are certainly telling the truth.'"

قَالَ بَلْ سَوَّلَتْ لَكُمْ أَنفُسُكُمْ أَمْرًا فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَأْتِيَنِي بِهِمْ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ 12:83

Jacob said, "Nay, you have made up yet another story good enough only for you. But I resort to decent forbearance. May God bring them all to me! He, only He, is the Knower, the Wise."

وَتَوَلَّىٰ عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَا أَسَفَىٰ عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ وَابْيَضَّتْ عَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْحُزْنِ فَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ 12:84

Then Jacob turned away from them saying, "Ah, my grief for Joseph!" His eyes glistened with tears but he suppressed his grief." [Jacob worried more about Joseph since he had no news of him yet. Many exponents at this point have ventured into strange guesswork. They report that Prophet Jacob became blind with grief and cried incessantly for eighty years grieving for Joseph! The Bible relates that Jacob lived to be 147 years old. Even so, it is not befitting of a Prophet of God, or even an ordinary person, to turn blind with grief and weep incessantly for 80 years. The whiteness of his eyes in this verse clearly refers to his eyes glistening with tears momentarily. And then he controlled his grief]

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ تَفْتَأُ تَذْكُرُ يُوسُفَ حَتَّىٰ تَكُونَ حَرَضًا أَوْ تَكُونَ مِنَ الْهَالِكِينَ 12:85

His sons said, "By God! You will never cease remembering Joseph until your health is ruined or you perish."

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَثِّي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 12:86

He said, “I present my distress and anguish only to God and I know from God what you know not.”

يَا بَنِيَّ اذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِن يُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ وَلَا تَيْأَسُوا مِن رَّوْحِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يَيْأَسُ مِن رَّوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ **12:87**

“O My sons! Go and find Joseph and his brother and never despair of the soothing mercy of God. None but the disbelievers (in His Attributes) despair of the soothing mercy of God.”

فَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ قَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الْعَزِيزُ مَسَّنَا وَأَهْلَنَا الضُّرُّ وَجِئْنَا بِبِضَاعَةٍ مُّزْجَاةٍ فَأَوْفِ لَنَا الْكَيْلَ وَتَصَدَّقْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَجْزِي الْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ **12:88**

When they came before Joseph, they said, “O Noble one! We have suffered a lot of hardship along with our family. We bring only inferior barter to pay. So give us the full measure, and be charitable to us. God rewards the charitable.”

قَالَ هَلْ عَلِمْتُم مَّا فَعَلْتُم بِيُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ إِذْ أَنتُمْ جَاهِلُونَ **12:89**

As he granted the request, Joseph said, “Do you remember what you did to Joseph and his brother in your ignorance?”

قَالُوا أَإِنَّكَ لَأَنتَ يُوسُفُ قَالَ أَنَا يُوسُفُ وَهَٰذَا أَخِي قَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّهُ مَن يَتَّقِ وَيَصْبِرْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **12:90**

They exclaimed, “What? Is it really you who are Joseph?” He answered, “I am Joseph and this is my brother. God has been Gracious to us. If one empowers himself against evil, and is steadfast, God never wastes the reward of such doers of good.”

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ آثَرَكَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَإِن كُنَّا لَخَاطِئِينَ **12:91**

They said, “By God! God has exalted you above us, and we were at fault.”

قَالَ لَا تَثْرِيبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **12:92**

Joseph said, “There is no blame on you this day! May God forgive you, and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.”

اذْهَبُوا بِقَمِيصِي هَٰذَا فَأَلْقُوهُ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِ أَبِي يَأْتِ بَصِيرًا وَأْتُونِي بِأَهْلِكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ 12:93

Now, go and take this royal shirt of mine and show it to my father. He will see the reality of things. Then, bring all your family to me.

وَلَمَّا فَصَلَتِ الْعِيرُ قَالَ أَبُوهُمْ إِنِّي لَأَجِدُ رِيحَ يُوسُفَ لَوْلَا أَن تُفَنِّدُونِ 12:94

As soon as the caravan departed from Egypt, their father (Jacob) began saying, “I do scent the presence of Joseph even though you may call me senile.”

قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ إِنَّكَ لَفِي ضَلَالِكَ الْقَدِيمِ 12:95

They said, “By God! You are still in your old confusion.”

فَلَمَّا أَن جَاءَ الْبَشِيرُ أَلْقَاهُ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ فَارْتَدَّ بَصِيرًا قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُل لَّكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 12:96

(The caravan arrived in Can’aan.) The bearer of the good news came and cast (Joseph’s royal shirt) over his (Jacob’s) face, he was delighted and his eyes saw the reality. He said, “Did I not tell you that I know from God what you do not know?”

قَالُوا يَا أَبَانَا اسْتَغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا خَاطِئِينَ 12:97

They said, “O Our father! Ask forgiveness for us, for we trailed behind in your obedience, we were at fault.”

قَالَ سَوْفَ أَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ 12:98

No one can intercede

Jacob answered, “I shall ask forgiveness for you from my Sustainer. He is Forgiving, Merciful.”

فَلَمَّا دَخَلُوا عَلَىٰ يُوسُفَ آوَىٰ إِلَيْهِ أَبَوَيْهِ وَقَالَ ادْخُلُوا مِصْرَ إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ آمِنِينَ 12:99

And when they came in before Joseph, he respectfully greeted his parents, “Welcome to Egypt! God willing, you will be in safety and peace here.”

وَرَفَعَ أَبَوَيْهِ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَخَرُّوا لَهُ سُجَّدًا وَقَالَ يَا أَبَتِ هَٰذَا تَأْوِيلُ رُؤْيَايَ مِن قَبْلُ قَدْ جَعَلَهَا رَبِّي حَقًّا وَقَدْ أَحْسَنَ بِي 12:100

إِذْ أَخْرَجَنِي مِنَ السِّجْنِ وَجَاءَ بِكُم مِّنَ الْبَدْوِ مِن بَعْدِ أَن
نَّزَغَ الشَّيْطَانُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ إِخْوَتِي إِنَّ رَبِّي لَطِيفٌ لِّمَا يَشَاءُ
إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

Has his dream materialized

He raised his parents upon the throne of honor. All those present bowed to him in respect (to let his parents see the honor God had given their son). Joseph said, "O My father! This is how my Lord has made my dream come true. He has been very kind to me, since He freed me from the prison, and He has brought you here from the village. Satan (selfishness of my brothers) had sown enmity between us brothers. My Lord is Unfathomable in the ways He carries out His will. For, He is the Knower, the Wise."

رَبِّ قَدْ آتَيْتَنِي مِنَ الْمُلْكِ وَعَلَّمْتَنِي مِن تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ **12:101**
فَاطِرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنتَ وَلِيِّي فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ
تَوَفَّنِي مُسْلِمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ

Dua

(Then, Joseph prayed,) "O My Lord! You have bestowed on me some power, and have granted me the insight into events. O You Originator of the heavens and earth! You are my Protecting Friend in this world and the Hereafter. Help me remain committed to Your commands until the last breath, and unite me with those who develop their 'self' by doing good to the society."

ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهِ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا كُنتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ **12:102**
أَجْمَعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَمْكُرُونَ

(O Prophet Muhammad) These are the chapters of the Unseen (history) that We reveal to you. You were not there when the brothers of Joseph decided together and were making their schemes.

وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **12:103**

(Although you narrated the accurate account of Joseph as they demanded), most of these people will not believe even as you compassionately so desire.

وَمَا تَسْأَلُهُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **12:104**

Although you ask them no reward for it. It is but a reminder for the worlds.

وَكَأَيِّن مِّنْ آيَةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ **12:105**
عَنْهَا مُعْرِضُونَ

How many a sign there is in the heavens and earth which they pass by with their faces turned away (without paying attention)!

Shirk, setting up partners

وَمَا يُؤْمِنُ أَكْثَرُهُم بِاللَّهِ إِلَّا وَهُم مُّشْرِكُونَ **12:106**

The majority of those who believe in God, also commit SHIRK (idol worship in different forms). [Mushrik = One who calls upon gods besides God = Associates others with God = Believes in false deities = Ascribes partners to Him = Submits to false authorities in any form = Prefers clergy over revelation = Commits idol worship]

أَفَأَمِنُوا أَن تَأْتِيَهُمْ غَاشِيَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ أَوْ تَأْتِيَهُمُ السَّاعَةُ بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **12:107**

Do they consider themselves secure from the overwhelming requital of God, or the coming of the Hour all of a sudden while they do not perceive?

قُلْ هَٰذِهِ سَبِيلِي أَدْعُو إِلَى اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ بَصِيرَةٍ أَنَا وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِي **12:108**

Don't follow other sources

وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Say (O Prophet), "This is my way. Resting my call upon reason, I am calling you all to God, I and those who follow me. Glory to God! And I am not one of those who ascribe divinity in any form besides Him." [We do not invite through blind faith, vague dogmas or by stunning your intellect with miracles]

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُّوحِي إِلَيْهِم مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **12:109**

And even before you, We sent none but men to whom We revealed Our messages - (Men) chosen from the people of the townships. Have they then never journeyed about the earth to see what happened in the end to those who lived before them? But the home of the Hereafter is best for those who live upright. Will you not then, use reason?

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا اسْتَيْأَسَ الرُّسُلُ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ كُذِبُوا جَاءَهُمْ نَصْرُنَا فَنُجِّيَ مَن نَّشَاءُ وَلَا يُرَدُّ بَأْسُنَا عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **12:110**

There have been times when even the Messengers had lost all hope of reformation and thought that they had been denied. Then came Our help. We saved according

to Our laws (those worthy of being saved). And none can repel Our retribution from the guilty who thrive on the fruit of others' toil.

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَٰكِن تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **12:111**

Indeed in the history of these men, there is a lesson for people of understanding. As for this revelation, it could not possibly be a Hadith, fabricated. It confirms the (surviving truth in) the previous scriptures, and gives a detailed explanation of everything. And it is a beacon and mercy for all those who accept it. [2:79, 2:101, 3:78, 5:48]

Chapter 13

Ar-Ra´d - The Thunder

This is the 13th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 43 verses. 13:13 indicates thunder being an angel of God. And a reported saying of the exalted Messenger emphasizes this fact. Yet, under the Biblical influence most Muslims think of angels only as winged creatures flying across the Universe. The Qur´an, in all compassion, does not expect us to know the exact nature of all what is beyond the present state of our mind. For example, we believe according to the Book of God that His verses were conveyed to the Prophets´ hearts, through the angels of revelation. How exactly this process took place, then carries little significance. In general, the Qur´an describes ´angels´ as God´s physical laws and forces operative in the Universe. ("The real existence on earth is of the one who benefits humanity." 13:17)

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

المر تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَالَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ الْحَقُّ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **13:1**

A.L.M.R. Alif-Laam-Meem-Ra. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, Raaziq the Provider, states that), These are the verses of the Divine Writ, the scripture. What is revealed to you (O Prophet) from your Sustainer is the truth. Yet most people do not believe in it.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي رَفَعَ السَّمَاوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرَوْنَهَا ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُم بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّكُمْ تُوقِنُونَ **13:2**

God is the One Who raised the skies without pillars visible to you. Then, upon the Throne of His Almightiness, He assumed Supreme Control of the entire Universe. He committed the sun and the moon to be of service, each running to an appointed term. He keeps Order in the Universe and He explains His messages in detail, so that you may be sure of meeting with your Lord. [Studying the Book of nature will bring mankind closer to their Lord. Until recently, the sun was thought to be stationary, but today we know that the sun, along with Solar System, is moving toward the "Constellation of Hercules," also known as the "Solar Apex", at a speed of 12 miles per second, 43,200 miles per hour. 36:38]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَدَّ الْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنْهَارًا وَمِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ جَعَلَ فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ يُغْشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **13:3**

He is the One Who has spread the earth wide and placed therein mountains firm like pegs, and flowing streams. And He created thereon couples of every kind of plants (and their fruit). He causes the night to cover the day. In all this, there are signs for people who think. [Plants have male and female flowers, and some trees like the date-palm are unisexual, male and female]

وَفِي الْأَرْضِ قِطَعٌ مُّتَجَاوِرَاتٌ وَجَنَّاتٌ مِّنْ أَعْنَابٍ وَزَرْعٌ وَنَخِيلٌ صِنْوَانٌ وَغَيْرُ صِنْوَانٍ يُسْقَىٰ بِمَاءٍ وَاحِدٍ وَنُفَضِّلُ بَعْضَهَا عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ فِي الْأُكُلِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **13:4**

On earth there are many lots and tracts of land in proximity, yet widely differing from one another in composition and quality. On it, there are vineyards, and fields of grain, date and palm-trees, growing in clusters or standing alone. All of them receive the same water and yet, We have made some of them excel others in fruit. In all this, there are signs for people who use their intellect.

وَإِن تَعْجَبْ فَعَجَبٌ قَوْلُهُمْ أَإِذَا كُنَّا تُرَابًا أَإِنَّا لَفِي خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ الْأَغْلَالُ فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **13:5**

If you wonder at this, then even more wondrous is their saying, “What! After we have become dust, shall we be restored to life in a new act of creation?” They are the ones who deny their Sustainer. And they are the ones who will carry the shackles of their own making around their necks. They will be dwellers of the fire, to dwell therein.

وَيَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ قَبْلَ الْحَسَنَةِ وَقَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِمُ الْمَثُلَاتُ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو مَغْفِرَةٍ لِّلنَّاسِ عَلَىٰ ظُلْمِهِمْ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **13:6**

(Instead of reflecting on the message), they challenge you (O Prophet) to hasten the disaster, rather than doing acts of benevolence. Sufficient examples have been

set for them in the past. Your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind despite their transgressions. But your Lord is also Strict in grasping. [He has designed the Law of Respite, the interim period when people can safely mend their ways]

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مُنذِرٌ وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ **13:7**

Those who deny the truth keep saying, "Why has no miracle ever been bestowed upon him from his Lord?" But you (O Prophet) are only a warner and to every community is a guide. [The Perfect Divine Guidance through the Prophet shall be preserved in the form of the Qur'an for all times and all people 6:34, 6:91, 6:116, 10:64, 15:9 18:27, 41:53, 75:16-19. And his prime duty is to counsel mankind that false systems of life only end up in disaster]

اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَحْمِلُ كُلُّ أُنثَىٰ وَمَا تَغِيضُ الْأَرْحَامُ وَمَا تَزْدَادُ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ عِندَهُ بِمِقْدَارٍ **13:8**

***

God knows what every female bears, and what every womb releases or gains. Everything has a due measure with Him. [God's Guidance is a mercy to humanity. We may liken it to the nourishment of the embryo in the evolving environment of the womb. The embryo lodges in security and its needs are met in a timely fashion in perfect balance. Then the fetus comes to the world ready to thrive. This is how the Divine System, when established in a society, nourishes the individual]

عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ الْكَبِيرُ الْمُتَعَالِ **13:9**

He has perfect knowledge of the visible and the invisible. He is the Great, Most High.

سَوَاءٌ مِّنكُم مَّنْ أَسَرَّ الْقَوْلَ وَمَن جَهَرَ بِهِ وَمَنْ هُوَ مُسْتَخْفٍ بِاللَّيْلِ وَسَارِبٌ بِالنَّهَارِ **13:10**

It is all alike to Him whether any of you conceals his thoughts or declares them, and whether he seeks to hide under the cover of night or walks boldly in daylight.

لَهُ مُعَقِّبَاتٌ مِّن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن دُونِهِ مِن وَالٍ **13:11**

Each person has Divine laws surrounding him. They record his actions according to the command of God. Most certainly, God does not change the condition of a nation until they first change themselves. And when God intends a nation to suffer punishment (as a consequence of their misdeeds), there is none who can repel it. For, they have no defender besides Him. [8:53, 82:10-14. Hifz = Protect

= Preserve = Save = Record = Guard. Ma bi anfusihim = What is in themselves = What is in their own 'self' = What is in their hearts = Their psyche = Their way of thinking = Their intentions = Their will to change = Their innate 'self']

هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمُ الْبَرْقَ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَيُنشِئُ السَّحَابَ الثِّقَالَ **13:12**

He is the One Who displays before you the lightning, to cause fear and hope, and initiates heavy clouds. [Similarly, the light of guidance brings to you the warning and a good tiding]

وَيُسَبِّحُ الرَّعْدُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ مِنْ خِيفَتِهِ وَيُرْسِلُ الصَّوَاعِقَ فَيُصِيبُ بِهَا مَن يَشَاءُ وَهُمْ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي اللَّهِ وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ **13:13**

And the thunder and the (other) angels strive to glorify Him by carrying out their duties in awe of Him. And He is the One Whose physical laws let loose the thunderbolt to strike the earth. And yet they stubbornly argue about God (and fall for superstitions), though He is Awesome in Power!

لَهُ دَعْوَةُ الْحَقِّ وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُونَ لَهُم بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا كَبَاسِطِ كَفَّيْهِ إِلَى الْمَاءِ لِيَبْلُغَ فَاهُ وَمَا هُوَ بِبَالِغِهِ وَمَا دُعَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ **13:14**

Calling upon Him is the True calling. Those unto whom they call besides God, cannot respond to them at all. Thus, they are like the one who stretches forth his two palms towards water hoping for it to reach his mouth from distance, and it will never reach. Likewise, the calling of those who are oblivious to Divine laws is misdirected. [4:123]

وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَظِلَالُهُم بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ **13:15**

And before God bow, willingly or unwillingly, all beings that are in the heavens and earth, as do their shadows in the mornings and evenings. [3:82, 41:11]

قُلْ مَن رَّبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قُلِ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَاتَّخَذْتُم مِّن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ لِأَنفُسِهِمْ نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ أَمْ هَلْ تَسْتَوِي الظُّلُمَاتُ وَالنُّورُ **13:16**

أَمْ جَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ شُرَكَاءَ خَلَقُوا كَخَلْقِهِ فَتَشَابَهَ الْخَلْقُ عَلَيْهِمْ
قُلِ اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ

Ask them, "Who is the Sustainer of the heavens and earth?" Say, "It is God!" (23:84-90, 29:21-23). Then ask, "Why then, do you take as protectors besides Him those who have neither benefit, nor harm even for themselves?" (When you acknowledge Him as God of the heavens, what stops you from acknowledging Him as God of the earth, and thus, as the law-giving authority? (6:3, 21:21-22, 43:84). Say, "Is the blind of reason equal to the seer, or is darkness equal to light?" (11:24, 35:19). Have their so-called partners of God created something like He has created, so that this act of creation appears to them to be similar? Say, "God is the Creator of all things. He is the One, Dominating."

أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَسَالَتْ أَوْدِيَةٌ بِقَدَرِهَا فَاحْتَمَلَ السَّيْلُ زَبَدًا رَّابِيًا وَمِمَّا يُوقِدُونَ عَلَيْهِ فِي النَّارِ ابْتِغَاءَ حِلْيَةٍ أَوْ مَتَاعٍ زَبَدٌ مِّثْلُهُ كَذَٰلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْحَقَّ وَالْبَاطِلَ فَأَمَّا الزَّبَدُ فَيَذْهَبُ جُفَاءً وَأَمَّا مَا يَنفَعُ النَّاسَ فَيَمْكُثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَذَٰلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ **13:17**

He sends down water from the height causing the riverbeds to flow according to their measure and the flood bears on its surface swelling foam. When they use fire to refine metals for their jewelry or equipment, foam is produced like it. In this way, God is citing for you the example of the truth and falsehood. For, as far as the foam is concerned, it passes away as scum upon the riverbanks - While that which is of benefit to mankind, exists on earth. This is how God uses analogies for you to understand. [The real existence on earth is of the person or the system that benefits humanity]

لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمُ الْحُسْنَىٰ وَالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُ لَوْ أَنَّ لَهُم مَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ لَافْتَدَوْا بِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ سُوءُ الْحِسَابِ وَمَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ **13:18**

For those who respond to their Sustainer's call, is a state of bliss. And those who do not respond to Him, even if they had all the treasures of the world and more like it, they would readily give it as ransom. But, a terrible reckoning awaits them, and Hell will be their abode. What a miserable bed to lie on!

أَفَمَن يَعْلَمُ أَنَّمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ الْحَقُّ كَمَنْ هُوَ أَعْمَىٰ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ **13:19**

Is he, then who knows that what has been revealed to you (O Prophet) is the truth from your Sustainer, like him who chooses to remain blind? Only those who develop their insight will bear this in mind.

الَّذِينَ يُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَنقُضُونَ الْمِيثَاقَ **13:20**

Those who are true to their bond with God (in their allegiance to the Divine System), keep their pledge with God and with people,

وَالَّذِينَ يَصِلُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَن يُوصَلَ وَيَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ وَيَخَافُونَ سُوءَ الْحِسَابِ **13:21**

Build bridges of goodwill between people, and strengthen ties of human relationships as God has commanded, and stand in awe of their Sustainer. (not relegating His commands to others' utterances), and fear the eventuality of a tough accountability,

وَالَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً وَيَدْرَءُونَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ السَّيِّئَةَ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ **13:22**

They persevere in the face of adversities seeking the approval of their Sustainer, help establish and consolidate the Divine System, and uphold the Permanent Values, spend on others of the provision We have given them, in secret and in public, and they counter harshness with kindness. Theirs will be the Eternal Home. [2:27]

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَن صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِم مِّن كُلِّ بَابٍ **13:23**

They will enter the Gardens of Eden, along with all who are righteous, of their parents, spouses and children. Angels will greet them at every gate.

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُم بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ **13:24**

Saying, "Peace be upon you, since you remained steadfast in your commitment! Oh, what an excellent final home!"

وَالَّذِينَ يَنقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَن يُوصَلَ وَيُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ وَلَهُمْ سُوءُ الدَّارِ **13:25**

But those who broke the pledge with God after ratifying it, and cut asunder what God has commanded to be joined (13:20-21), and spread corruption and disorder on earth, their due is (God's) rejection. And theirs is the terrible Home!

اللَّهُ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ وَفَرِحُوا بِالْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا مَتَاعٌ **13:26**

God grants abundant provision, or gives it in scant measure according to His laws (17:18-21) And they (rejecters of the Permanent Values) rejoice in the life of this world alone (without investing in the Eternity) But the life of this world is a fleeting pleasure compared with the Hereafter (2:200-201)

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ أَنَابَ **13:27**

(These laws are unwavering.) Now those who are bent upon denying the truth say, "Why has no miracle ever been bestowed upon him from his Lord?" Say, "People go astray according to God's laws, and attain guidance according to His laws. (Man has been endowed with free will and there is no compulsion or coercion in Religion, whether physical, emotional or intellectual.) [2:256, 4:88, 12:108]

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُم بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ **13:28**

Those who attain faith through reason, their hearts find rest in the practical remembrance of God, that is, in following His commands. Remembering God (by following His commands) ensures tranquility in the hearts.

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ طُوبَىٰ لَهُمْ وَحُسْنُ مَآبٍ **13:29**

The abode of bliss is guaranteed to those who accept the message and fulfill the needs of others. [3:13]

كَذَٰلِكَ أَرْسَلْنَاكَ فِي أُمَّةٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهَا أُمَمٌ لِّتَتْلُوَ عَلَيْهِمُ الَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَهُمْ يَكْفُرُونَ بِالرَّحْمَٰنِ قُلْ هُوَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ مَتَابِ **13:30**

(O Messenger) We have sent you as We sent the Messengers before you so that you convey to them what We reveal to you, for in their ignorance, they deny the Most Gracious. Say, "He is my Lord, there is no god but He. In Him I put my trust and to Him do I turn (for grace)."

وَلَوْ أَنَّ قُرْآنًا سُيِّرَتْ بِهِ الْجِبَالُ أَوْ قُطِّعَتْ بِهِ الْأَرْضُ أَوْ كُلِّمَ بِهِ الْمَوْتَىٰ بَل لِّلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ جَمِيعًا أَفَلَمْ يَيْأَسِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَن لَّوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَهَدَى النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَلَا يَزَالُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا تُصِيبُهُم بِمَا صَنَعُوا قَارِعَةٌ أَوْ تَحُلُّ قَرِيبًا مِّن دَارِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَ وَعْدُ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ **13:31**

The Divine law precludes the possibility that a Lecture would move the mountains, tear the earth asunder, or make the dead speak. Nay, all decrees belong to God. Do not the believers know that if God had willed, He could have guided all mankind (by making them driven by positive instincts)? As for those who reject the Divine laws in nature: Disasters will not cease to strike them for their deeds, even close to their homes until the promise of God come to pass. Surely, God never fails in His promise. [Mankind will keep devising various political and socio-economic systems in search for the best. Those systems will keep collapsing and they will keep suffering far and close to their towns and homes. Then, ultimately, they will realize that the Qur'an offers the solutions to all the problems humanity faces at any given time. 5:3, 9:31-33, 10:100, 13:31,14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9. The Qur'an is intended to move hearts, not mountains. 6:7, 6:25, 6:112, 15:14-15, 17:90-93]

وَلَقَدِ اسْتُهْزِئَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَأَمْلَيْتُ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُهُمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عِقَابِ **13:32**

Messengers were mocked before you, but I gave the rejecters plenty of respite. At length I seized them, and how awesome was My requital!

أَفَمَنْ هُوَ قَائِمٌ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ شُرَكَاءَ قُلْ سَمُّوهُمْ أَمْ تُنَبِّئُونَهُ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَم بِظَاهِرٍ مِّنَ الْقَوْلِ بَلْ زُيِّنَ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مَكْرُهُمْ وَصُدُّوا عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ **13:33**

Is there any equal to the One Who stands witness over what every person does? Yet, they ascribe partners to God. Say, "Name them! Are you informing Him of something that He does not know on earth? Or is it a mere show of words?" Nay, whatever the unbelievers contrive seems fair to them. But they get hindered from the right path. Whoever chooses to go astray according to God's law, for him there is no guide. [4:88]

لَّهُمْ عَذَابٌ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَشَقُّ وَمَا لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَاقٍ **13:34**

For them is torment in the life of this world, and certainly the doom of the life to come is harder, and they will have no defender against God.

مَّثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وُعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ أُكُلُهَا دَائِمٌ وَظِلُّهَا تِلْكَ عُقْبَى الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوا وَّعُقْبَى الْكَافِرِينَ النَّارُ **13:35**

The similitude of the Garden which is promised for the righteous, is flowing streams beneath, its fruit everlasting, and cool shades (14:25, 47:15). This is the reward of the righteous, while the reward of the rejecters is the fire.

وَالَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَفْرَحُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ مَن يُنكِرُ بَعْضَهُ قُلْ إِنَّمَا أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ وَلَا أُشْرِكَ بِهِ إِلَيْهِ أَدْعُو وَإِلَيْهِ مَآبِ **13:36**

So, those to whom We have given the Book, rejoice in what is revealed to you (O Prophet). But, among the (dissenting) groups, there are those who deny a part of it. Say, "I am commanded only that I serve God and associate none with Him. Unto Him I invite all mankind, and He is my goal." [The dissenting groups even preach that some of the verses are abrogated or that they have a hidden meaning]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَنزَلْنَاهُ حُكْمًا عَرَبِيًّا وَلَئِنِ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُم بَعْدَمَا جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا وَاقٍ **13:37**

Don't follow blindly

Thus, We have revealed it, a decisive authority in Arabic. (O Prophet) if you follow their likes and dislikes after the knowledge has come to you, you will have no protector or defender against God.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَذُرِّيَّةً وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَن يَأْتِيَ بِآيَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ لِكُلِّ أَجَلٍ كِتَابٌ **13:38**

And certainly We sent Messengers before you, and We appointed for them wives and children as well. It was not given to any Messenger that he could bring a sign (the requital they hastened for), but it came according to God's Law of Respite. For every rise and for every fall, there is a Written law. [7:34. All Messengers

Gods revelation was conveyed as commanded

were mortal human beings and they conveyed God's revelation as commanded. Please note that all of them had wives and children, and think of Jesus!]

يَمْحُو اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُثْبِتُ وَعِندَهُ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ **13:39**

God blots out and establishes communities according to His laws. Nations rise and fall accordingly, and with Him is the Ultimate Decree. [Ummul Kitaab = The Ultimate Decree = Divine Database]

وَإِن مَّا نُرِيَنَّكَ بَعْضَ الَّذِي نَعِدُهُمْ أَوْ نَتَوَفَّيَنَّكَ فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلَاغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ **13:40**

(O Messenger) whether We show you what We promise them, or cause you to die before that, your duty is to convey the message. And the reckoning is Ours.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا نَأْتِي الْأَرْضَ نَنقُصُهَا مِنْ أَطْرَافِهَا وَاللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ لَا مُعَقِّبَ لِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ **13:41**

Do they not see that every day on earth brings them closer to the end? For, when God judges, there is no power that could repel His Judgment. And Swift in reckoning He is!

وَقَدْ مَكَرَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَلِلَّهِ الْمَكْرُ جَمِيعًا يَعْلَمُ مَا تَكْسِبُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ وَسَيَعْلَمُ الْكُفَّارُ لِمَنْ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ **13:42**

Those who lived before these people, also devised schemes, but the most Subtle devising is that of God. He knows what every 'self' earns. The rejecters will soon find out as to whom belongs the Future.

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَسْتَ مُرْسَلًا قُلْ كَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ وَمَنْ عِندَهُ عِلْمُ الْكِتَابِ **13:43**

The disbelievers say, "You have not been sent (by God)." Say, "None can bear witness between me and you as God does; and then, none can bear witness as the one who truly understands this Book by way of reason." [God will soon prove me true]

Chapter 14

Ibraheem - Abraham

This is the 14th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 52 verses. Prophet Abraham lived around 1800 BC in Ur, Babylon (Mesopotamia, now Iraq), Can´aan (Palestine), and later in Makkah. He is the ancestor of Jews, and Arabs, and ideologically, of all Christians and Muslims. Isaac was his son from Sarah, and Ishmael was his son from Hagar (Hajirah) From his son Isaac descended Jacob (Israel) and the Children of Israel. Through his other son, Ishmael descended the Arabs and God´s last Messenger, Muhammad, the exalted. Abraham´s father Azar, as the Chief Priest, was the most powerful man in Babylon, next only to the King. As the progeny of Azar, Abraham and Ishmael were entitled to the luxurious and powerful office of the Chief Priesthood in the court of King Nimrod. But they sacrificed all temptation in order to follow the commands of God and strove to establish True Monotheism wherever they lived. [Footnote: Midyan was the name of Prophet Abraham´s son from his third wife, Qatoora. His progeny had settled in the Arabian Peninsula as well, and Prophet Sho´aib (Jethro) was sent to the Midyans during the times of Moses]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الر كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ **14:1**

A.L.R. Alif-Laam-Ra (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Raaziq the Provider, states that), A Divine Writ this is that We have revealed to you (O Prophet) so that you may bring forth all mankind, by their Sustainer's leave, out of darkness into light. On to the way that leads to the Almighty, the Owner of all praise. [14:5, 33:43]

اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَوَيْلٌ لِّلْكَافِرِينَ مِنْ عَذَابٍ شَدِيدٍ **14:2**

God to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. Therefore, those who reject His guidance, incur an awful retribution. [His commands must govern human social order as they govern the Universe]

الَّذِينَ يَسْتَحِبُّونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا عَلَى الْآخِرَةِ وَيَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ 14:3

They choose the life of this world as the sole object of their love, preferring it to the life to come, and bar people from the path of God. They try to make the straight path crooked. They have strayed far away. [They oppose reform in order to protect their selfish interests]

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا بِلِسَانِ قَوْمِهِ لِيُبَيِّنَ لَهُمْ فَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ 14:4

No language is superior to another

We never sent a Messenger who did not speak the language of his people, so that he might make the message clear to them. People go astray or attain guidance according to God's laws (4:88). He is Almighty, Wise.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا أَنْ أَخْرِجْ قَوْمَكَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَذَكِّرْهُم بِأَيَّامِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ 14:5

Moses

(Moses spoke the language of his people.) We sent him with Our messages, saying, "Bring your people from darkness to light and remind them of the Days of God. There are lessons in the history of nations for those who are steadfast in their resolve to rise and wish that their efforts be fruitful." [The Days of God = When people follow His guidance. Shukr or gratefulness is not just the verbal proclamation of 'Thank God!' It pertains to sharing the God-given bounties with others. It also means 'efforts bearing fruit']

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ أَنجَاكُم مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَسُومُونَكُمْ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ وَيُذَبِّحُونَ أَبْنَاءَكُمْ وَيَسْتَحْيُونَ نِسَاءَكُمْ وَفِي ذَٰلِكُم بَلَاءٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ عَظِيمٌ 14:6

Moses spoke thus to his people, "Remember God's blessing upon you when He saved you from Pharaoh's people. They used to persecute you in the worst manner, killed your sons and spared your women (for slavery and shameful acts). Therein was a tremendous trial from your Lord."

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ 14:7

God made Azan

And recall! Your Lord proclaimed, “If you are grateful (establishing a system where everyone equitably receives the provision), I will give you more. But if you show ingratitude, then My retribution is certainly dire.”

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ إِن تَكْفُرُوا أَنتُمْ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ **14:8**

And Moses said, “If you deny the truth and show ingratitude, you and all on earth together, know that God is absolutely Free of want, Worthy of all praise.” [He is in no need of your worship]

أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَبَأُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ لَا يَعْلَمُهُمْ إِلَّا اللَّهُ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَرَدُّوا أَيْدِيَهُمْ فِي أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَقَالُوا إِنَّا كَفَرْنَا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُم بِهِ وَإِنَّا لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا تَدْعُونَنَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٍ **14:9**

“Has not the history of the previous communities reached you? The history of the people of Noah and ‘Aad and Thamud? And of those who came after them? None knows them but God. To them came their Messengers with clear evidence of the truth. But they put their hands on their mouths and said, “Look! We reject what you are sent with. We are in great doubt concerning what you invite us.”

قَالَتْ رُسُلُهُمْ أَفِي اللَّهِ شَكٌّ فَاطِرِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَدْعُوكُمْ لِيَغْفِرَ لَكُم مِّن ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُؤَخِّرَكُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى قَالُوا إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا تُرِيدُونَ أَن تَصُدُّونَا عَمَّا كَانَ يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا فَأْتُونَا بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **14:10**

Following forefathers

Their Messengers said, “Can there be any doubt about God, the Initiator of the heavens and earth? He only calls you that He may grant you the protection of His forgiveness for your trailing behind in humanity and to postpone your end until an appointed time.” They said, “Ah, you are but mortals like us! You want to bar us from what our ancestors used to worship. Then bring us a clear authority.” [God is far too Glorious from feeling offended by idol worship in any form. But submitting to false deities and ’authorities’ is the root cause of inequities in any society, such as superstition, exploitation, ritualism and division of humanity into castes and sects, and the resulting violation of human rights. That is why all Messengers of God began their mission by calling people to the service, and obedience of the One True God]

قَالَتْ لَهُمْ رُسُلُهُمْ إِن نَّحْنُ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَمُنُّ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَمَا كَانَ لَنَا أَن نَّأْتِيَكُم بِسُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **14:11**

(Without exception) their Messengers said to them, "Yes, we are human beings like yourselves. But God gives His grace (of revelation) to whom He chooses among His servants. It is not for us to bring you an authority except as God permits. And all believers put their trust in God.

وَمَا لَنَا أَلَّا نَتَوَكَّلَ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَقَدْ هَدَانَا سُبُلَنَا وَلَنَصْبِرَنَّ عَلَىٰ مَا آذَيْتُمُونَا وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ **14:12**

"Why should we not put our trust in God? He has shown us the ways we follow. We shall certainly endure with uncompromising resolve whatever torment you inflict upon us. Let those who trust put their trust in God." [Trusting in God is trusting the permanence of His laws]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِرُسُلِهِمْ لَنُخْرِجَنَّكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِنَا أَوْ لَتَعُودُنَّ فِي مِلَّتِنَا فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ لَنُهْلِكَنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ **14:13**

The ungrateful rejecters resorted to threatening the Messengers, "Be sure, We will banish you from our land unless you return to our religion." But their Lord revealed to them, "We will subdue those who try to relegate the truth and insist on running oppressive systems." [Zaalimeen exactly translated in the last line]

وَلَنُسْكِنَنَّكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَنْ خَافَ مَقَامِي وَخَافَ وَعِيدِ **14:14**

"And certainly We will establish you in the land after them. This reward is for those who recognize My Majesty and My warning."

وَاسْتَفْتَحُوا وَخَابَ كُلُّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ **14:15**

They earnestly prayed for triumph and then every stubborn tyrant was undone.

مِّن وَرَائِهِ جَهَنَّمُ وَيُسْقَىٰ مِن مَّاءٍ صَدِيدٍ **14:16**

Hell of his own making is behind every stubborn tyrant, and before him is the cup of distress that he is made to drink. [Such people hinder their own development and forfeit inner peace in this life as well. 47:15]

يَتَجَرَّعُهُ وَلَا يَكَادُ يُسِيغُهُ وَيَأْتِيهِ الْمَوْتُ مِن كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَمَا هُوَ بِمَيِّتٍ وَمِن وَرَائِهِ عَذَابٌ غَلِيظٌ **14:17**

Which he sips but can hardly swallow. How difficult it is to swallow the bitterness of self-imposed failure! A life unlived, a mere survival as if death comes to him from all sides, yet he neither lives nor dies. To follow him still is a heavy doom! [20:74, 87:13]

مَّثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَرَمَادٍ اشْتَدَّتْ بِهِ الرِّيحُ فِي يَوْمٍ عَاصِفٍ لَّا يَقْدِرُونَ مِمَّا كَسَبُوا عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الضَّلَالُ الْبَعِيدُ **14:18**

Here is a similitude of those who deny their Lord. Their works are like ashes that the wind blows hard on a stormy day. They have no power whatsoever over what they earned. Such is the farthest wandering. [13:17, 14:24-26]

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ إِن يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَأْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ **14:19**

Have you not realized that God has created the heavens and earth with a sublime purpose? If He wills, He can do away with you and bring a new creation. [4:133, 7:146, 9:39, 47:38]

وَمَا ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ بِعَزِيزٍ **14:20**

And this is not difficult for God.

وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا فَقَالَ الضُّعَفَاءُ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا لَكُمْ تَبَعًا فَهَلْ أَنتُم مُّغْنُونَ عَنَّا مِنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ قَالُوا لَوْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَهَدَيْنَاكُمْ سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْنَا أَجَزِعْنَا أَمْ صَبَرْنَا مَا لَنَا مِن مَّحِيصٍ **14:21**

They will be, all of them, marshaled before God. Then the ones who had disabled their minds with blind following will say to their self-glorified leaders, "We used to follow you. Can you divert from us some of God's doom?" The leaders will respond, "If God had guided us, we would have guided you. Now it makes no difference whether we panic in grief or try to bear it in patience, there is no escape for us." [It is noteworthy here that Satan had brought the same argument that his Lord sent him astray. 7:16]

وَقَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ لَمَّا قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَعَدَكُمْ وَعْدَ الْحَقِّ وَوَعَدتُّكُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُكُمْ وَمَا كَانَ لِيَ عَلَيْكُم مِّن سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا أَن دَعَوْتُكُمْ فَاسْتَجَبْتُمْ لِي فَلَا تَلُومُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنفُسَكُم مَّا أَنَا بِمُصْرِخِكُمْ وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُصْرِخِيَّ إِنِّي كَفَرْتُ بِمَا أَشْرَكْتُمُونِ مِن قَبْلُ إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **14:22**

Satan tempts us

And Satan (their selfish desires) will disown them after the Judgment has been issued, "God promised you a true promise. And I promised you, then failed you. But I had no power over you except that I called upon you and you obeyed me. So do not blame me, blame yourselves. Neither can I help you, nor can you help me. Now I condemn your act of associating me with God. There must be a painful doom for all those who relegate the truth and choose to do wrong."

وَأُدْخِلَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ تَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ **14:23**

And those who attained belief and increased human potential, will be admitted to the Gardens underneath which rivers flow, therein to abide by their Lord's leave. Their greeting therein is, "Peace!"

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ **14:24**

Do you not reflect how God cites an example of a Noble Ideology as a goodly tree, firmly rooted with its branches swinging high in the heaven? [This Ideology ensures blessings in both lives. Kalimatan Tayyebah = There is no god but God, and Muhammad is His Messenger = Goodly Word = Noble Ideology = Ordained System of Life. 35:10]

تُؤْتِي أُكُلَهَا كُلَّ حِينٍ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهَا وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **14:25**

It (the tree of this Ideology) bears fruit in all seasons by the leave of its Lord. God sets forth examples to humans that they may reflect.

وَمَثَلُ كَلِمَةٍ خَبِيثَةٍ كَشَجَرَةٍ خَبِيثَةٍ اجْتُثَّتْ مِن فَوْقِ الْأَرْضِ مَا لَهَا مِن قَرَارٍ **14:26**

And the example of an evil ideology is that of a bad tree that gets easily uprooted from the surface of the earth, and it has no stability. [It is neither firmly rooted, nor reaches any heights]

يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ **14:27**

God strengthens those who choose to believe, with the Word that stands firm, in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. But God leaves to stray, those who choose to do wrong. God does everything according to His laws.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ بَدَّلُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ كُفْرًا وَأَحَلُّوا قَوْمَهُمْ دَارَ الْبَوَارِ **14:28**

Have you not considered those who exchange God's blessing with ingratitude and lead their people down to an abode of utter loss?

جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَوْنَهَا وَبِئْسَ الْقَرَارُ **14:29**

Into Hell! They are exposed to it. What a miserable place to rest in! [They show ingratitude by holding on to God's blessings for themselves, and exhort their people to do the same]

وَجَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَندَادًا لِّيُضِلُّوا عَن سَبِيلِهِ قُلْ تَمَتَّعُوا فَإِنَّ مَصِيرَكُمْ إِلَى النَّارِ **14:30**

And they set up rivals to God to mislead from His way. (They take the clergy as their authorities instead of the Word of God, thus setting up 'rivals' to Him.) Tell them, "Enjoy life while you can, for your sure destination is the fire."

قُل لِّعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُنفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَّا بَيْعٌ فِيهِ وَلَا خِلَالٌ **14:31**

(O Prophet), "Tell My believing servants to establish the Divine System and spend on others of the provision We have given them, secretly and openly, before a Day comes wherein there shall be neither trading nor befriending." [2:254]

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْفُلْكَ لِتَجْرِيَ فِي الْبَحْرِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْأَنْهَارَ **14:32**

(Think of the Source of your wealth and provision!) God is the One Who has created the heavens and earth, and sends down water from the sky, thereby producing fruit and vegetation as provision for you. And He makes ships and boats to be of service to you that they sail in the sea by His command, and has made of service to you the rivers.

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبَيْنِ وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ **14:33**

And He made the sun and the moon, both of them constant on their courses and committed the night and the day to serve you.

وَآتَاكُم مِّن كُلِّ مَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ وَإِن تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ **14:34**

And He gives you all that you would be asking Him for. If you count the blessings of God's provision never will you be able to enumerate them. Indeed, the human being is persistent in wrongdoing, stubbornly ingrate. [55:29]

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَٰذَا الْبَلَدَ آمِنًا وَاجْنُبْنِي وَبَنِيَّ أَن نَّعْبُدَ الْأَصْنَامَ **14:35**

Recall that Abraham said, "My Lord! Make this a peaceful land and protect me and my children from idolatry in any form." [2:125]

رَبِّ إِنَّهُنَّ أَضْلَلْنَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ فَمَن تَبِعَنِي فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي وَمَنْ عَصَانِي فَإِنَّكَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **14:36**

"My Lord! They (the keepers of these idols and temples) mislead a great many people. Whoever follows me, will be of me. Any who rebels against me, well, You are Forgiving, Merciful." [11:15. Relationships would stand on Ideology. 2:124, 60:4]

رَّبَّنَا إِنِّي أَسْكَنتُ مِن ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِندَ بَيْتِكَ الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَاجْعَلْ أَفْئِدَةً مِّنَ النَّاسِ **14:37**

Abraham made salat

تَهْوِي إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُم مِّنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ

"Our Lord! I have settled some of my family in this barren valley without cultivation, by your Sacred House. Our Lord! They are here to establish the Divine System. Give them the nobility of character so that the hearts of people incline toward them. Provide for them with your blessings so that they may focus on their Mission. Make their efforts fruitful and enable them to show gratitude by sharing the bounties with others." [The meaning of Shukr has been detailed in the last sentence]

رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ مَا نُخْفِي وَمَا نُعْلِنُ وَمَا يَخْفَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ **14:38**

"Our Lord! You know what we conceal and what we reveal. Nothing is hidden from God, whether on earth or in heaven."

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي وَهَبَ لِي عَلَى الْكِبَرِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبِّي لَسَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ **14:39**

"All praise to God Who has given me sons like Ishmael and Isaac in later age! My Lord is the Hearer of prayer."

رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ **14:40**

Abraham made salat

"My Lord! Enable me and my children to establish the Divine System. Our Lord! Accept my prayer."

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ **14:41**

Our Lord! Grant the shelter of forgiveness to me, my parents, and the believers on the Day when the final reckoning comes to pass." [9:114]

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ غَافِلًا عَمَّا يَعْمَلُ الظَّالِمُونَ إِنَّمَا يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ **14:42**

Do not think that God is unaware of what the wrongdoers are doing. He but gives them respite. They will stare in horror on the Day when all their deeds will reach their logical conclusion.

مُهْطِعِينَ مُقْنِعِي رُءُوسِهِمْ لَا يَرْتَدُّ إِلَيْهِمْ طَرْفُهُمْ وَأَفْئِدَتُهُمْ هَوَاءٌ **14:43**

As they rush to and fro with their faces looking upwards, their eyes will not even blink, and their hearts will be horrified.

وَأَنذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ فَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُّجِبْ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرُّسُلَ أَوَلَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُم مِّن قَبْلُ مَا لَكُم مِّن زَوَالٍ **14:44**

So, warn mankind of the Day when the suffering may befall them, and the wrongdoers will say, “Our Lord! Give us a little time. We will respond to Your Call and follow the Messengers.” (They will be told), ”What! Did you not use to swear in the past that there would never be a decline for you¿‘

وَسَكَنتُمْ فِي مَسَاكِنِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ كَيْفَ فَعَلْنَا بِهِمْ وَضَرَبْنَا لَكُمُ الْأَمْثَالَ **14:45**

“You dwelled in the homes and towns where people before you had dwelt and wronged their own ‘self’ oppressing the weak. And you were made well aware of how We dealt with them. And We gave you plenty of examples.”

وَقَدْ مَكَرُوا مَكْرَهُمْ وَعِندَ اللَّهِ مَكْرُهُمْ وَإِن كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ **14:46**

They made mighty schemes, but their schemes were well within the Sight of God, even though they were strong enough to intimidate the strongest of (human) resolves. [Literally, strong enough to shake mountains]

فَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْلِفَ وَعْدِهِ رُسُلَهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ **14:47**

Never think that God would fail His Messengers in His promise. Surely, God is Mighty, the Lord of just requital.

يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ **14:48**

The Day will come when this earth will be replaced with a new earth, and the heavens too will be replaced and they will come forth to God, the One, the Dominating. [And before that, as the caravan of humanity journeys forward, people will witness a total metamorphosis in their political and social systems, a brand new environment where the Universal law of the One Mighty, Dominating God will prevail. 9:31-33, 13:31,14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

وَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ يَوْمَئِذٍ مُّقَرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ **14:49**

And even before the Day of Resurrection, the Divine System will be established on earth and the guilty will not be able to commit bloody crimes on earth, nor will they be able to steal the fruit of the toil of others. They will be effectively immobilized.

سَرَابِيلُهُم مِّن قَطِرَانٍ وَتَغْشَىٰ وُجُوهَهُمُ النَّارُ **14:50**

They will be drenched in the flames of their own igniting, feeling as if the coal tar is stuck on their whole existence.

لِيَجْزِيَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ **14:51**

Justice will be swift in the Divine Order, so that everyone is paid a quick recompense and peace will remain undisturbed. God is Swift at reckoning.

هَٰذَا بَلَاغٌ لِّلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذَرُوا بِهِ وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ **14:52**

This is a clear message for all mankind in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is One God. Let those endowed with insight take this to heart. [Danger signs have been posted on the highway of life as the caravan of humanity moves along to the noble goal of Peace. God is the Sustainer and Cherisher of all humanity and His law is Supreme (1:1, 114:1). Men and women of understanding and discernment, and those of history, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and those in positions of authority must pay heed to what their Lord is telling them. 9:31-33, 14:48, 18:48, 48:28, 61:9]

Chapter 15

Al-Hijr - The Valley Of Rocks

This is the 15th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 99 verses. Al- Hijr implies "The Valley of Rocks". The valley extends from Makkah to Syria, a distance of about 1,000 miles. The people of Prophets Saleh and Sho´aib inhabited here in their respective times. Prophet Lot was sent a bit north in the valley, close to the Dead Sea. Rocky and desert grounds, the "stone-hearted" behavior of these three communities, and the history of their annihilation through earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, perhaps gave the Valley its name. The ancient Greek philosopher, Ptolemy (Batlimus) mentioned the place as ´Hegra´.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الر تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَقُرْآنٍ مُّبِينٍ **15:1**

A.L.R. Alif-Laam-Ra (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Raaziq the Provider, states that), These are the verses of revelation, of Qur'an that explains itself.

رُّبَمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ **15:2**

The time is coming when the rejecters of the truth will ardently wish that they were Muslims.

ذَرْهُمْ يَأْكُلُوا وَيَتَمَتَّعُوا وَيُلْهِهِمُ الْأَمَلُ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **15:3**

Let them eat, drink, and enjoy life while hanging on to false hopes. They will come to know. [47:12. If they do not come to the truth, the truth will come to them, and they will see it. 102:7]

وَمَا أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا وَلَهَا كِتَابٌ مَّعْلُومٌ **15:4**

And We never annihilated any community that had not a term assigned and decreed. [All communities are given a period of respite. 13:38]

مَّا تَسْبِقُ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلَهَا وَمَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ **15:5**

(The Law of Respite makes no exceptions.) The end of any community can neither be advanced, nor delayed.

وَقَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِي نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ إِنَّكَ لَمَجْنُونٌ **15:6**

And yet, those who deny the truth, say, "O You, to whom this reminder has been revealed, certainly you are mad!"

لَّوْ مَا تَأْتِينَا بِالْمَلَائِكَةِ إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **15:7**

"Why do you not bring angels to us if you are among the truthful?"

مَا نُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَا كَانُوا إِذًا مُّنظَرِينَ **15:8**

We do not send down the angels except when the period of respite is over. And in that case the rejecters get no further reprieve.

Allah guards Quran

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ **15:9**

We have sent down this reminder, and We will guard it. [6:115]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي شِيَعِ الْأَوَّلِينَ **15:10**

Of course, (O Prophet) even before your time We sent Messengers to the communities.

وَمَا يَأْتِيهِم مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **15:11**

And never came a Messenger to them that they did not mock him.

كَذَٰلِكَ نَسْلُكُهُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **15:12**

We instill this attitude in the hearts of the guilty. [Mujrim = One who thrives on the fruit of other's labor = Guilty]

لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَقَدْ خَلَتْ سُنَّةُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **15:13**

They do not accept the message. Such has been the way of those who went before them.

وَلَوْ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَظَلُّوا فِيهِ يَعْرُجُونَ **15:14**

And even if We opened to them a Gate into the Heaven, and they kept ascending through it,

لَقَالُوا إِنَّمَا سُكِّرَتْ أَبْصَارُنَا بَلْ نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ مَّسْحُورُونَ **15:15**

They would say, "Our eyes are intoxicated. Nay, we are a people bewitched."

وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَّاهَا لِلنَّاظِرِينَ **15:16**

We have set constellations in the Sky and We have beautified it for the beholders.

وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَّجِيمٍ **15:17**

And We have guarded it from every destructive force.

إِلَّا مَنِ اسْتَرَقَ السَّمْعَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ مُّبِينٌ **15:18**

The Shining Flame of knowledge has now come to you to dispel the deceptive claims of every deceiver. [26:210-212, 37:8-9, 52:38, 67:5, 72:8-9. God is everywhere, not just in the skies. The Qur'an dispels all superstitions including the clairvoyants and fortunetellers spying onto His Court]

وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْزُونٍ **15:19**

And the earth, We have spread it out, and placed in it mountains firmly. And caused each seemly thing to grow therein in due proportion. [15:19-20, 31:10, 39:5, 41:10, 79:28-30, 88:18-20]

وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعَايِشَ وَمَن لَّسْتُمْ لَهُ بِرَازِقِينَ **15:20**

We have given you means of livelihood, as well as for all whose sustenance does not depend on you.

وَإِن مِّن شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِندَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ وَمَا نُنَزِّلُهُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ **15:21**

There is not a thing but with Us are the treasures thereof. And We send it down but in precise measure.

وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيَاحَ لَوَاقِحَ فَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمُوهُ وَمَا أَنتُمْ لَهُ بِخَازِنِينَ **15:22**

We send the winds as pollinators that fertilize plants, and cause water to come down from the height for you to drink. Who holds the stores of the Universe? You do not. [51:4]

وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ وَنَحْنُ الْوَارِثُونَ **15:23**

For, it is We, We alone Who control the laws of life and death, and it is We alone Who remain the Ultimate Inheritor. [So, the provision must remain accessible to all. 56:63-74]

وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ مِنكُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَأْخِرِينَ **15:24**

We know those who passed on before you, and We know those who will come after you. [And We know those who advance in goodness and those who lag behind]

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ **15:25**

It is your Lord Who will gather all of them together. Surely, He is Wise, All Knower.

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِن صَلْصَالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ **15:26**

And We created man from sounding clay, out of dark inorganic matter. [37:11]

وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ مِن نَّارِ السَّمُومِ **15:27**

Before humanity became civilized, We had placed in them a fiery disposition. See Jinn - Surah 72, note]

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي خَالِقٌ بَشَرًا مِّن صَلْصَالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ **15:28**

Recall when your Sustainer said to the angels, "Indeed, I am about to create man out of sounding inorganic matter, (and then) out of hydrated clay." [2:30-35, 7:11-22, 17:61, 19:21, 20:116-120]

فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ **15:29**

And when I have perfected him in due proportion and breathed into him of My Energy, be of service to him." [Of My Energy = Free will. 76:3]

فَسَجَدَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَجْمَعُونَ **15:30**

Thereupon the angels agreed to be subservient, all of them together. [The physical laws in the Universe were made subservient to mankind]

إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ مَعَ السَّاجِدِينَ **15:31**

But Iblees (Satan) refused to be among those who submitted. [The selfish desires of humans declared rebellion against the higher controls of Reason. 2:34]

قَالَ يَا إِبْلِيسُ مَا لَكَ أَلَّا تَكُونَ مَعَ السَّاجِدِينَ **15:32**

God asked, "O Iblees! Why are you not with those who submitted?"

قَالَ لَمْ أَكُن لِّأَسْجُدَ لِبَشَرٍ خَلَقْتَهُ مِن صَلْصَالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ **15:33**

He replied, “I am not one to submit to man whom You have created from sounding inorganic matter.”

قَالَ فَاخْرُجْ مِنْهَا فَإِنَّكَ رَجِيمٌ **15:34**

God said, “Go forth then, from here! You are dismissed forthwith.”

وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكَ اللَّعْنَةَ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ **15:35**

“My rejection shall be your due until the Day of Judgment.“ [7:14-15]

قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنظِرْنِي إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ **15:36**

Said Iblees, “Then O My Sustainer! Grant me respite until the Day when all shall be raised from the dead.”

قَالَ فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ **15:37**

Answered He, “Surely, so be it. You shall be among those who are granted respite.”

إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُومِ **15:38**

“Till the Day known (to Me alone).”

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **15:39**

Satan says he will mislead us

Iblees said, “O My Lord! Because You have put me in the wrong, I will entice them on earth, and I will put them all in the wrong.” [Ghawa = Put in error = Thwart = Mislead = Deprive of sound judgment]

إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **15:40**

“Except those who are truly Your servants.“

قَالَ هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ عَلَيَّ مُسْتَقِيمٌ **15:41**

“This is, with Me, a straight path,” said God.

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ **15:42**

"Surely, you shall have no power over My servants, except those who put themselves in error and follow you."

وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمَوْعِدُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **15:43**

"And for all such, Hell is the promised abode."

لَهَا سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابٍ لِّكُلِّ بَابٍ مِّنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَّقْسُومٌ **15:44**

With seven gates leading into it - each gate receiving its share of wrongdoers. [Sab'ah = Seven = Many. The right path is one, while the wrong paths are numerous and each of them leads to Hell. 30:30-31]

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **15:45**

Surely, those who live upright, will find themselves amidst gardens and springs.

ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ آمِنِينَ **15:46**

They will be told, "Enter them in peace, secure."

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِم مِّنْ غِلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ **15:47**

And We shall remove from their hearts any sense of jealousy, rancor, rivalry and bitterness. And they shall rest as brothers and sisters, facing one another, on thrones of happiness. [7:43, 56:15, 88:13. Akh = Brother. Ukht = Sister. Ikhwan = Brothers and sisters]

لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَمَا هُم مِّنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ **15:48**

No weariness shall ever touch them, and never shall they lose this abode of bliss.

نَبِّئْ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **15:49**

Tell My servants that I am Forgiving, Merciful.

وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ **15:50**

Yet, My Law of Requital dispenses a severe requital.

وَنَبِّئْهُمْ عَن ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ **15:51**

As an example, tell them once again about Abraham's guests.

إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ إِنَّا مِنكُمْ وَجِلُونَ **15:52**

When they came to him, and said, “Peace!” He said, “Indeed, We are afraid of you.”

قَالُوا لَا تَوْجَلْ إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ عَلِيمٍ **15:53**

Said they, “Fear not! Indeed, we bring you the glad tiding of an enlightened son.”

قَالَ أَبَشَّرْتُمُونِي عَلَىٰ أَن مَّسَّنِيَ الْكِبَرُ فَبِمَ تُبَشِّرُونَ **15:54**

He said, “How can you give me such glad tiding even though I have been overtaken by old age?”

قَالُوا بَشَّرْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْقَانِطِينَ **15:55**

They answered, “We have given you the glad tiding that is bound to come true. So be not of those who abandon hope!”

قَالَ وَمَن يَقْنَطُ مِن رَّحْمَةِ رَبِّهِ إِلَّا الضَّالُّونَ **15:56**

Abraham exclaimed, “And who, other than the one in error, despairs of the grace of his Lord?”

قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ **15:57**

He added, “And afterward what is your mission, O Messengers¿‘

قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ **15:58**

They replied, “We are sent to dispense retribution to a guilty people,

إِلَّا آلَ لُوطٍ إِنَّا لَمُنَجُّوهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **15:59**

Except Lot’s household and followers, all of whom we shall save (as commanded).

إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَّرْنَا إِنَّهَا لَمِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ **15:60**

But not his wife, who, we have ascertained, will be among those who will lag behind.”

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ آلَ لُوطٍ الْمُرْسَلُونَ **15:61**

When the Messengers came to Lot’s house,

قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّنكَرُونَ **15:62**

He said, “Indeed, you are people unknown.”

قَالُوا بَلْ جِئْنَاكَ بِمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ **15:63**

They answered, “Nay, we bring to you the decision concerning what they keep disputing with you.”

وَأَتَيْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ **15:64**

“And we are bringing you the certainty (that the period of respite for your people is over). We are indeed truthful.”

فَأَسْرِ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعٍ مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ وَاتَّبِعْ أَدْبَارَهُمْ وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنكُمْ أَحَدٌ وَامْضُوا حَيْثُ تُؤْمَرُونَ **15:65**

“Go, then, with your family and followers while it is yet night. Follow them in the rear, and let none of you look back (never to come back to this place). But proceed as you are commanded (by your Lord 11:81).”

وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ ذَٰلِكَ الْأَمْرَ أَنَّ دَابِرَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ مَقْطُوعٌ مُّصْبِحِينَ **15:66**

And We made plain the case to him, “The last remnant of those shall be wiped out in the morning.”

وَجَاءَ أَهْلُ الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ **15:67**

The residents of the town came in rejoicing in anticipation. [They thought that these Messengers could make for them permissible what Lot had been declaring non-permissible]

قَالَ إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ ضَيْفِي فَلَا تَفْضَحُونِ **15:68**

Lot said, “Indeed, these are my guests; so do not embarrass me.”

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُخْزُونِ **15:69**

“Be mindful of God and disgrace me not!”

قَالُوا أَوَلَمْ نَنْهَكَ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ **15:70**

They said, “Did we not forbid you from entertaining anyone?”

قَالَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ بَنَاتِي إِن كُنتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ **15:71**

Lot said, “These (your wives who are like) my daughters, are better for you, if you would.”

لَعَمْرُكَ إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **15:72**

The Messengers said to Lot, “They will not listen to you even if you preach them all your life.” They were highly intoxicated, stumbling up and down.

فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ مُشْرِقِينَ **15:73**

The blast (of requital) overtook them at the time of sunrise.

فَجَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَافِلَهَا وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن سِجِّيلٍ **15:74**

We turned the towns upside down and showered upon them hard heated rocks.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُتَوَسِّمِينَ **15:75**

Therein, are lessons for the inquiring minds.

وَإِنَّهَا لَبِسَبِيلٍ مُّقِيمٍ **15:76**

Those towns (Sodom and Gomorrah) stood by a road that still exists.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **15:77**

Herein is a message for those who believe.

وَإِن كَانَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ لَظَالِمِينَ **15:78**

And the dwellers in woods (of Midyan, the people of Sho’aib), were also wrongdoers.

فَانتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ **15:79**

And so We (Our Law of Requital) struck them. Both these communities lived by a highway, plain to see.

وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْحِجْرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **15:80**

And likewise, the dwellers in Al-Hijr (Thamud of Prophet Saleh) denied Our Messengers.

وَآتَيْنَاهُمْ آيَاتِنَا فَكَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ **15:81**

And We gave them Our messages, but they stubbornly turned away from them.

وَكَانُوا يَنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا آمِنِينَ **15:82**

They used to carve secure homes out of the mountains.

فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ مُصْبِحِينَ **15:83**

And so the blast (of requital) overtook them early in the morning.

فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **15:84**

And of no avail to them was all the power that they had acquired.

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَآتِيَةٌ فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ **15:85**

We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, without purpose. The Hour (of revolution) is surely coming. So overlook their faults (O Prophet), and forgive them graciously. [Nations failing to meet the natural conditions of survival destroy themselves. So shall happen to these people if they do not mend their ways. 73:10]

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ **15:86**

Your Lord is the all Knowing Creator.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنَ الْعَظِيمَ **15:87**

We have given you several examples from history that repeats itself, and We have given you this Sublime Qur'an that defines the laws of the rise and fall of nations. [39:23][39:23. Most ancient and contemporary exponents have misunderstood this verse because of uncritical following of Bukhari. They maintain that Sab'an (Seven) here means the seven verses of the first Surah, Al-Fatihah. Obviously, this interpretation is against the flowing context here and it reduces the glorious meaning to naught. Saba' = Seven, and Bidha' = Three up to nine, often denote several]

لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَاخْفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **15:88**

So do not even look at the worldly possessions that We have given to different people (among the deniers) and grieve not that their luxuries keep them from seeing the truth. But lower your wing of kindness to the believers. [15:94]

وَقُلْ إِنِّي أَنَا النَّذِيرُ الْمُبِينُ **15:89**

Say, "Truly, I am one who warns openly and without ambiguity."

كَمَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَى الْمُقْتَسِمِينَ **15:90**

We did send down punishment upon the formulators of sects, after such warnings.

الَّذِينَ جَعَلُوا الْقُرْآنَ عِضِينَ **15:91**

Those who say Quran is abrogated

Those who cause division and sectarianism after (this revelation), will be seen as dismembering the Qur'an.

فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَسْأَلَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **15:92**

Therefore, by your Lord, We will call all of them to account.

عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **15:93**

For whatever they have done!

فَاصْدَعْ بِمَا تُؤْمَرُ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **15:94**

So, proclaim openly all that you have been commanded and disregard those who bring forth 'authorities' parallel to Him.

إِنَّا كَفَيْنَاكَ الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ **15:95**

Surely, We shall suffice you against all who deride this message.

الَّذِينَ يَجْعَلُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **15:96**

And those who set up another god besides God, soon they will come to know.

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ **15:97**

And We know well that your heart is distressed by what they say.

فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُن مِّنَ السَّاجِدِينَ **15:98**

But strive to manifest the glory of your Lord that the Giver of such Magnificent guidance is worthy of all praise. Be among those who humbly adore Him. [Saajid = One who adores God = He who prostrates = One who sincerely submits to God = The truly devoted]

وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ **15:99**

Serve your Lord so that you may have conviction in the forthcoming success.

Chapter 16

An-Nahl - The Bee

This is the 16th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 128 verses. An-Nahl signifies the Bee. The honeybee is a remarkable creature. It works hard through the processes of making honey and then turns up its labor for the common benefit of all. What a beautiful token of selflessness, and organized Way of Life!

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

أَتَىٰ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُوهُ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **16:1**

God's command has come. Stop and think over these messages and hasten not in comprehending the Qur'an. Glorified, Exalted He is, High above what people associate with Him.

يُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ أَنْ أَنذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ **16:2**

He sends down His angels with revelation of His command, to such of His servants as He wills. Saying, "Proclaim that there is no one worthy of obedience but Me, so be mindful of My laws."

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ تَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **16:3**

He has created the heavens and the earth with purpose. He is High, Exalted above all that they associate with Him.

خَلَقَ الْإِنسَانَ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ خَصِيمٌ مُّبِينٌ **16:4**

He created the human being out of male and female gametes. They should be humble before their Creator's messages instead of being contentious.

وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ وَمَنَافِعُ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ **16:5**

And cattle He has created for you. From them you derive warmth, and numerous benefits, and from them you obtain food.

وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا جَمَالٌ حِينَ تُرِيحُونَ وَحِينَ تَسْرَحُونَ **16:6**

And you find beauty in them when you drive them home in the evenings and when you take them out to pasture in the mornings.

وَتَحْمِلُ أَثْقَالَكُمْ إِلَىٰ بَلَدٍ لَّمْ تَكُونُوا بَالِغِيهِ إِلَّا بِشِقِّ الْأَنفُسِ إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **16:7**

They carry your loads to places you could not reach without much hardship. Surely, your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **16:8**

And He created horses, mules, and donkeys for you to ride and for joyful decor. And He will yet create things of which (today) you have no knowledge.

وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَصْدُ السَّبِيلِ وَمِنْهَا جَائِرٌ وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **16:9**

(You see that these animals serve you and follow their instinct) God alone can show the right path, but there are ways that turn aside towards wrong. If God willed, He could have guided all of you. [He could have created you driven by instinct without the ability to make choices]

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لَّكُم مِّنْهُ شَرَابٌ وَمِنْهُ شَجَرٌ فِيهِ تُسِيمُونَ **16:10**

He is the One Who sends down water from the sky, from it you drink, and out of it grows the vegetation on which you feed your cattle.

يُنبِتُ لَكُم بِهِ الزَّرْعَ وَالزَّيْتُونَ وَالنَّخِيلَ وَالْأَعْنَابَ وَمِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **16:11**

Therewith He causes crops to grow for you, corn, olives, date palms, grapes, vineyards, and all kinds of fruit. This is a convincing sign for those who reflect (on the universal order).

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومُ مُسَخَّرَاتٌ بِأَمْرِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **16:12**

He has committed to your service the night and the day, as well as the sun and the moon. And the stars are committed by His command. These are sufficient signs for people who use their intellect.

وَمَا ذَرَأَ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَذَّكَّرُونَ **16:13**

And all that He has created for you on earth is of diverse colors and qualities. Therein is a message for people who would reflect (and study the Book of Nature). [My rendition of Yatazakkaroon = Those who study the Book of Nature; Root word Zikr = Reflection = Remembrance = Observation = Reminder. Dr. Ghulam Jeelani Barq rightly points out that there are two Books of God: The scripture and the Universe around us. The other two sources of knowledge: Human 'self' and History]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ الْبَحْرَ لِتَأْكُلُوا مِنْهُ لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُوا مِنْهُ حِلْيَةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا وَتَرَى الْفُلْكَ مَوَاخِرَ فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **16:14**

We can eat seafood

And He is the One Who has made the sea subservient. You eat from it tender fresh meat and take from it gems which you may wear. And on that very sea you see the ships roaming through the waves so that you might seek of His bounty and be appreciative.

وَأَلْقَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَن تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَأَنْهَارًا وَسُبُلًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ **16:15**

And He has placed mountains firm like stabilizing pegs in the earth, lest it sway with you; and made streams and paths, so that you may find your way. [21:31, 31:10. Mountains are the most vivid evidence of the geological history of the earth. With the earth's interior still being almost a molten fluid, the earth crust cooled off becoming hard, and mountains came into being like pegs as the crest shrank. Mountains clench different plates of the earth together like a peg. In this way, they create more stability in the earth's crust and take away much energy from earthquakes. 78:6-7]

وَعَلَامَاتٍ وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ **16:16**

And the natural landmarks as well as the stars to help people navigate.

أَفَمَن يَخْلُقُ كَمَن لَّا يَخْلُقُ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **16:17**

Is the One Who creates comparable to anyone that cannot create? Will you then not reflect?

وَإِن تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **16:18**

If you count up God's favors, you would never be able to fathom them. God is Forgiving, Merciful. [His blessings abound in the Universe. He is the Absolver of imperfections. And He nourishes all mankind 1:1, 114:1]

وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُسِرُّونَ وَمَا تُعْلِنُونَ **16:19**

And God knows which of His blessings you keep hidden and which of them you bring into the open.

وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ **16:20**

Those whom they invoke besides God create nothing and are themselves created.

أَمْوَاتٌ غَيْرُ أَحْيَاءٍ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ **16:21**

Don't call on the dead for help

(Powerless are the so-called saints, mystics and monks, whom you make holier and holier with the passage of time.) They are dead, disintegrated bodies, not living. They are not even aware when they will be raised. [And you still call upon them for help!]

إِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَالَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ قُلُوبُهُم مُّنكِرَةٌ وَهُم مُّسْتَكْبِرُونَ **16:22**

One God

Your God is One God. Those who do not believe in the Afterlife, their hearts refuse to admit, for they are proud. [The very thought of accountability before a Supreme Being hurts their arrogance]

لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْتَكْبِرِينَ **16:23**

(They deceive people with fancy words and contrived rituals but) God knows their intentions and actions, and what they conceal and what they reveal. Surely, He does not love the arrogant.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُم مَّاذَا أَنزَلَ رَبُّكُمْ قَالُوا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **16:24**

And when it is said to them, "What has your Lord revealed?" They say, "Fables of ancient times!" [When the Qur'an is presented to them, their clergy claim that its verses apply not to them, but only to Jews, Christians and the idolaters of Arabia]

لِيَحْمِلُوا أَوْزَارَهُمْ كَامِلَةً يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمِنْ أَوْزَارِ الَّذِينَ يُضِلُّونَهُم بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ أَلَا سَاءَ مَا يَزِرُونَ **16:25**

They shall bear their burdens undiminished on the Resurrection Day, with part of the burdens of those whom they misled without this revealed knowledge. Ah, evil is what they bear!

قَدْ مَكَرَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَأَتَى اللَّهُ بُنْيَانَهُم مِّنَ الْقَوَاعِدِ فَخَرَّ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّقْفُ مِن فَوْقِهِمْ وَأَتَاهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **16:26**

Those who lived before them, had also plotted (against God's way) whereupon God struck at the very foundations of all they had built and contrived; such that the roofs caved in upon them from above. And the doom befell them from directions they had not even perceived.

ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُخْزِيهِمْ وَيَقُولُ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ كُنتُمْ تُشَاقُّونَ فِيهِمْ قَالَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ إِنَّ الْخِزْيَ الْيَوْمَ وَالسُّوءَ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ **16:27**

Bring forth Gods partners

On the Resurrection Day He will cover them with shame and say, "Where are My 'partners' for whose sake you opposed My guidance?" Men and women blessed with knowledge will say, "This Day are humiliation and misery upon the rejecters."

الَّذِينَ تَتَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنفُسِهِمْ فَأَلْقَوُا السَّلَمَ مَا كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ مِن سُوءٍ بَلَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **16:28**

Namely, those whose lives the angels take while they were doing wrong to their own 'self'. They finally would offer submission and say, "We did not mean to do wrong." "Yes indeed! God is Knower of all you were doing!"

فَادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَلَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ **16:29**

Therefore, enter the gates of Hell, to abide therein." A miserable abode for those who do wrong and take pride in it.

وَقِيلَ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا مَاذَا أَنزَلَ رَبُّكُمْ قَالُوا خَيْرًا لِّلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ وَلَنِعْمَ دَارُ **16:30**

الْمُتَّقِينَ

And to those who live upright, it is said, “What has your Lord sent down?” They say, “All that is good.” (The Qur’an ordains people to benefit others.) For those who do good to others in this world, is a goodly return here, and the home of the Hereafter will be better. Pleasant will be the home of those who live upright.

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ لَهُمْ فِيهَا مَا يَشَاءُونَ كَذَٰلِكَ يَجْزِي اللَّهُ الْمُتَّقِينَ **16:31**

The Gardens of Eden they will enter, underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will have whatever they wish. This is how God rewards the upright.

الَّذِينَ تَتَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ طَيِّبِينَ يَقُولُونَ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمُ ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **16:32**

Angels

(The upright are contented even as they depart from the world.) Angels cause them to die saying, “Peace unto you! Enter the Garden now because of what you used to do.”

هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَن تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ رَبِّكَ كَذَٰلِكَ فَعَلَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَمَا ظَلَمَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **16:33**

(Those who violate human rights, wrong their own ‘self’.) Are they waiting for the angels to visit them, or that your Lord’s command comes (for their doom)? So did those who passed on before them. But God did not wrong them. Nay, they wronged their own ‘self’.

فَأَصَابَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا عَمِلُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **16:34**

All the evil that they had done fell back upon them, and the very thing they used to mock, surrounded them.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا عَبَدْنَا مِن دُونِهِ مِن شَيْءٍ نَّحْنُ وَلَا آبَاؤُنَا وَلَا حَرَّمْنَا مِن دُونِهِ مِن شَيْءٍ كَذَٰلِكَ فَعَلَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَهَلْ عَلَى الرُّسُلِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **16:35**

The idolaters say, "If God had so willed, we would not have worshiped anyone but Him, neither we nor our forefathers. Nor would we have forbidden things against His command." Thus did those before them. But, are the Messengers responsible for other than conveying the message clearly?

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ **16:36**

Messengers sent to every nation

We have raised in every community a Messenger, saying, "Serve God alone and shun false gods in any form." Then God guided some of the people (since they followed the laws of guidance 4:88). And error took hold of others (who fell into arrogance or blind following 18:29). So, travel through the earth, and see what the end was of the deniers.

إِن تَحْرِصْ عَلَىٰ هُدَاهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَن يُضِلُّ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **16:37**

(O Messenger) in your compassion you desire everyone to be rightly guided, but God does not guide those who choose straying. And they have no helpers.

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَا يَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ مَن يَمُوتُ بَلَىٰ وَعْدًا عَلَيْهِ حَقًّا وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **16:38**

They most strongly swear by God that He will not raise the dead. Nay, but it is a promise binding upon Him in truth, but most people do not make use of whatever they know.

لِيُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِي يَخْتَلِفُونَ فِيهِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَاذِبِينَ **16:39**

He will then make them understand wherein they differed, and the rejecters will realize that they were liars.

إِنَّمَا قَوْلُنَا لِشَيْءٍ إِذَا أَرَدْنَاهُ أَن نَّقُولَ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ **16:40**

Whenever We will anything to be, We say to it Our Word, "Be" and it is. [The moment We pass a decree in the World of Command, it starts happening]

وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا فِي اللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا ظُلِمُوا لَنُبَوِّئَنَّهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَلَأَجْرُ الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ 16:41

Those who emigrate in the cause of God because they were oppressed, We shall give them good lodging in the world, and the reward of the Hereafter is greater, if they but knew.

الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ 16:42

They have been steadfast, and have put their trust in their Sustainer.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُّوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِن كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 16:43

(O Prophet) before you We sent none but men to whom We granted revelation. (Tell the deniers), "If you do not know this, ask the bearers of the reminder (People of the Book)."

بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَأَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ 16:44

Allah explains the Quran

With clear evidence of the truth and Books of Divine wisdom, We sent them. And now (O Prophet) We have revealed this reminder to you for you to convey to mankind what has been revealed for them, so that they may think.

أَفَأَمِنَ الَّذِينَ مَكَرُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَن يَخْسِفَ اللَّهُ بِهِمُ الْأَرْضَ أَوْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ 16:45

Can those who devise evil schemes ever feel sure that God will not cause the earth to swallow them, or that suffering will not befall them in ways they could least anticipate?

أَوْ يَأْخُذَهُمْ فِي تَقَلُّبِهِمْ فَمَا هُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ 16:46

Or that His Law of Requital will not take them to task suddenly in the midst of their comings and goings? Then there is no escape for them.

أَوْ يَأْخُذَهُمْ عَلَىٰ تَخَوُّفٍ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ 16:47

Or that He could not cause such communities to decline slowly. Yet, your Lord is Most Compassionate, Merciful. [6:65, 7:182. He has ordained the Law of Respite for individuals and nations. 39:54]

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ مِن شَيْءٍ يَتَفَيَّأُ ظِلَالُهُ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَالشَّمَائِلِ سُجَّدًا لِّلَّهِ وَهُمْ دَاخِرُونَ **16:48**

Have they not observed the things that God has created? Their shadows incline to the right and to the left; that is their utter submission to God, in all humility. [Even the shadows can show you that the entire Cosmos, with its celestial bodies, is submitting to His laws]

وَلِلَّهِ يَسْجُدُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِن دَابَّةٍ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ **16:49**

Muslim

Indeed, before God, bows in submission all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth, whether living beings or the angels, for none are arrogant. ['All that is' includes three classes of God's creation: Inanimate things, living beings, and angels. Angels, here, represent God's forces in nature]

يَخَافُونَ رَبَّهُم مِّن فَوْقِهِمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ **16:50**

They all fear their Lord, High above them, and they do all that they are commanded. [24:41]

وَقَالَ اللَّهُ لَا تَتَّخِذُوا إِلَٰهَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ إِنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَإِيَّايَ فَارْهَبُونِ **16:51**

And God has said, "Do not take two gods. There is only One God. So Me, only Me, shall you fear." [21:19-21, 29:60-61, 43:84. The One True God Who sustains all Universe, must be your God in your individual and collective lives. And there is no such thing as a god Yazdaan and a god Ahriman, as in Zoroastrianism]

وَلَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَهُ الدِّينُ وَاصِبًا أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَتَّقُونَ **16:52**

Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and earth. Therefore, the Religion belongs eternally to Him (as the Source). Will you then fear other than God? [The entire Cosmos follows His System]

وَمَا بِكُم مِّن نِّعْمَةٍ فَمِنَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فَإِلَيْهِ تَجْأَرُونَ **16:53**

And whatever blessings you enjoy are from God, and when touched by distress, to Him you turn for help.

ثُمَّ إِذَا كَشَفَ الضُّرَّ عَنكُمْ إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنكُم بِرَبِّهِمْ يُشْرِكُونَ **16:54**

Yet as soon as He relieves you from the distress, some of you fall back into associating others with their Lord,

لِيَكْفُرُوا بِمَا آتَيْنَاهُمْ فَتَمَتَّعُوا فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **16:55**

As if to show their ingratitude to what We have given them. Enjoy yourselves while you can. Soon the reality will dawn upon you.

وَيَجْعَلُونَ لِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ نَصِيبًا مِّمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ تَاللَّهِ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ عَمَّا كُنتُمْ تَفْتَرُونَ **16:56**

They set aside a portion of what We have provided them with, for those about whom they know nothing (idols and fictitious gods.) By God! You will be asked concerning all that you fabricate.

وَيَجْعَلُونَ لِلَّهِ الْبَنَاتِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَلَهُم مَّا يَشْتَهُونَ **16:57**

They ascribe daughters to God. All glory to Him! And to themselves they choose what they desire!

وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُم بِالْأُنثَىٰ ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ **16:58**

So, whenever any of them is given the glad tiding of the birth of a daughter, his face darkens with sadness and anger.

يَتَوَارَىٰ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ مِن سُوءِ مَا بُشِّرَ بِهِ أَيُمْسِكُهُ عَلَىٰ هُونٍ أَمْ يَدُسُّهُ فِي التُّرَابِ أَلَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ **16:59**

Ashamed, he hides himself from people, because of the news given to him. He even asks himself, “Shall I keep the baby grudgingly, or bury her deep in dust?” Oh, evil is what they decide!

لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ مَثَلُ السَّوْءِ وَلِلَّهِ الْمَثَلُ الْأَعْلَىٰ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **16:60**

Those who disbelieve in the Hereafter (and look for quick gains in this life), set up an evil example in the society. God’s is the Supreme example. (His Sublime Attributes adopted in their limited human capacity enable people to set up excellent examples.) For, He alone is the Mighty, the Wise. [30:27]

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِظُلْمِهِم مَّا تَرَكَ عَلَيْهَا مِن دَابَّةٍ وَلَٰكِن يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهُمْ لَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ **16:61**

If God were to punish humans for their wrongdoing, He would not leave a single living creature upon the face of the earth (35:45). But He grants them respite until a term decreed. And when their term expires, they can neither delay it by a single hour nor can they hasten it.

وَيَجْعَلُونَ لِلَّهِ مَا يَكْرَهُونَ وَتَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُهُمُ الْكَذِبَ أَنَّ لَهُمُ الْحُسْنَىٰ لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّ لَهُمُ النَّارَ وَأَنَّهُم مُّفْرَطُونَ **16:62**

They ascribe to God what they dislike for themselves, and then lie that the fair reward is for them. Surely, for them is the fire, and they will be hastened on into it. [56:10]

تَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمَمٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فَهُوَ وَلِيُّهُمُ الْيَوْمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **16:63**

By God! We sent Messengers to communities before you. But Satan, their selfish desires, made their acts fair-seeming to them. To this day he remains their patron, so they will have a painful doom.

وَمَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِي اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **16:64**

***

Guidance

And upon you (O Prophet) We have revealed this Book so that you may clearly explain to them that wherein they differ (and thus help them become one community). And this Book is a guidance and mercy for people who will believe.

وَاللَّهُ أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَسْمَعُونَ **16:65**

(This Divine Writ has the power to revive the intellectually dead, and those who are going through a life unlived. The likeliness of the Qur'an is that) God sends down water from the sky, giving life thereby to the earth after it had been lifeless. Herein, is a message for those who hear and listen.

وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً نُّسْقِيكُم مِّمَّا فِي بُطُونِهِ مِن بَيْنِ فَرْثٍ وَدَمٍ لَّبَنًا خَالِصًا سَائِغًا لِّلشَّارِبِينَ **16:66**

In the cattle too there is a lesson for you. We give you to drink from their bellies, processed through the digested food and blood, pure milk pleasant to those who drink it. [23:21]

وَمِن ثَمَرَاتِ النَّخِيلِ وَالْأَعْنَابِ تَتَّخِذُونَ مِنْهُ سَكَرًا وَرِزْقًا حَسَنًا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **16:67**

Of the fruits of the date palm, and grapes, from which you make (the harmful) intoxicants, as well as wholesome sustenance. In this is a message for those who use their sense.

وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنِ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ **16:68**

Consider how your Lord inspired the bee, "Build for yourself dwellings in hills and in trees, and in what people may build."

ثُمَّ كُلِي مِن كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ فَاسْلُكِي سُبُلَ رَبِّكِ ذُلُلًا يَخْرُجُ مِن بُطُونِهَا شَرَابٌ مُّخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ فِيهِ شِفَاءٌ لِّلنَّاسِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **16:69**

"And then eat from fruits of all kind, and follow the ways that your Sustainer has made easy for you." (God endowed the bee with navigational skills.) And then comes Honey forth from their bellies a delicious drink of many hues, in which there is health for people. In all this, there is a message for people who are willing to listen. [Notice the female gender used throughout for bees. They are the worker bees. Interestingly, Shakespeare wrote: Honeybees are soldiers and they have a king]

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ يَتَوَفَّاكُمْ وَمِنكُم مَّن يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْذَلِ الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْ لَا يَعْلَمَ بَعْدَ عِلْمٍ شَيْئًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ **16:70**

God has created you, and in time will cause you to die. There are some among you whose lives are prolonged to an abject old age, when they cease to know what they once knew so well. (The time to do good deeds is when you are capable.) God is Knower, Powerful. [22:5]

وَاللَّهُ فَضَّلَ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ فِي الرِّزْقِ فَمَا الَّذِينَ فُضِّلُوا بِرَادِّي رِزْقِهِمْ عَلَىٰ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَهُمْ فِيهِ سَوَاءٌ أَفَبِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ **16:71**

And God has caused some of you to excel in earning livelihood over others. And yet, those who are more abundantly provided are often unwilling to share their provision with those who work for them, lest all might be equal in this respect. Will

they continue to deny God's blessings in this manner? [16:53, 28:78, 30:28, 39:49, 43:32, 70:24]

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَزْوَاجِكُم بَنِينَ وَحَفَدَةً وَرَزَقَكُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ أَفَبِالْبَاطِلِ يُؤْمِنُونَ وَبِنِعْمَتِ اللَّهِ هُمْ يَكْفُرُونَ **16:72**

God made mates for us

And God has given you mates of your own kind, and through your mates, has given you children and their children, and has provided for you decent sustenance of life. (Note that in your family, individuals earn according to their capacity and receive according to their needs.) Will people, then, stick to false systems in the society and thus turn ungrateful to God's blessings?

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَمْلِكُ لَهُمْ رِزْقًا مِّنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ **16:73**

And they worship besides God that which owns no provision for them from the heavens and the earth, nor they have any power. [15:21. 'Worshiping besides God' here indicates running manmade systems that fail to provide equitably to the society and individuals. 'From the heavens and earth' will then denote heavenly blessings and using earthly resources]

فَلَا تَضْرِبُوا لِلَّهِ الْأَمْثَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **16:74**

Therefore, compare none with God. God knows and you do not know.

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا عَبْدًا مَّمْلُوكًا لَّا يَقْدِرُ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ وَمَن رَّزَقْنَاهُ مِنَّا رِزْقًا حَسَنًا فَهُوَ يُنفِقُ مِنْهُ سِرًّا وَجَهْرًا هَلْ يَسْتَوُونَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **16:75**

God gives you an example of two men; one of them is enslaved, unable to do anything of his own accord. And the other is a free man whom We have blessed with Our bounties, and he spends of it on others secretly and openly. Can these two be equal? All praise to God! (Praise Him by way of obedience.) But the majority of humans do not understand (that verbal proclamation of thanks does not equate gratitude by sharing the bounties with others).

وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَّجُلَيْنِ أَحَدُهُمَا أَبْكَمُ لَا يَقْدِرُ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ كَلٌّ عَلَىٰ مَوْلَاهُ أَيْنَمَا يُوَجِّههُّ لَا يَأْتِ بِخَيْرٍ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي هُوَ وَمَن يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **16:76**

God gives you another example of two men. One of them is he whose faculties of speech and mind are disabled. He cannot do anything of his own accord and he is wholly dependent on his care-provider, unable to bring forth any good. Can such a one be equal to the man who is fit, enjoins justice and himself walks the straight path? [God expects humans to use their faculties in the best manner]

وَلِلَّهِ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا أَمْرُ السَّاعَةِ إِلَّا كَلَمْحِ الْبَصَرِ أَوْ هُوَ أَقْرَبُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **16:77**

God knows the mystery of the hereafter

Unto God belongs the Unseen of the heavens and the earth, and the Hour is but as a twinkling of the eye, or even quicker. (A speedy revolution may be around the corner.) Surely, God has appointed due measure for all things and events.

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُم مِّن بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **16:78**

God brought you forth from the bellies of your mothers when you knew nothing, and He gave you hearing, sight and intelligence so that you may give thanks. [You must give thanks by using your faculties to actualize your potentials and help others]

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الطَّيْرِ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ فِي جَوِّ السَّمَاءِ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا اللَّهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **16:79**

Do they not see the birds held poised in mid-air? None holds them but God. Herein are signs for people who wish to attain conviction through reason. [It is God Who has designed the law that creatures heavier than air can fly, and objects heavier than water can float]

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّن بُيُوتِكُمْ سَكَنًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّن جُلُودِ الْأَنْعَامِ بُيُوتًا تَسْتَخِفُّونَهَا يَوْمَ ظَعْنِكُمْ وَيَوْمَ إِقَامَتِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَصْوَافِهَا وَأَوْبَارِهَا وَأَشْعَارِهَا أَثَاثًا وَمَتَاعًا إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **16:80**

Shelter

God has given you in your houses a place of rest. And He has given you of the hides of cattle, tent-houses which you find light to carry when you travel and when you camp. And of their wool, their fur, and their hair, you make furnishings and comforts that serve you for a while.

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّمَّا خَلَقَ ظِلَالًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الْجِبَالِ أَكْنَانًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ سَرَابِيلَ تَقِيكُمُ الْحَرَّ وَسَرَابِيلَ تَقِيكُم بَأْسَكُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ يُتِمُّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُسْلِمُونَ **16:81**

God has provided you shade out of things He has created. He has granted you resort in the mountains, garments to protect you from heat, and coats of armor to protect you from your own foolhardy violence. Thus He completes His blessings on you so that you may willingly submit to Him.

فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **16:82**

Then, if they turn away, your only duty (O Prophet) is clear conveyance of the message. [16:84]

يَعْرِفُونَ نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنكِرُونَهَا وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ **16:83**

In fact, they recognize God's blessings, but they refuse to acknowledge them. (That is how) most of them are unbelievers. [16:71]

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ مِن كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا ثُمَّ لَا يُؤْذَنُ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ **16:84**

And think of the Day when We shall raise among every community a witness, then no excuse will be accepted from those who rejected the truth, nor will they be allowed to make amends. [4:41, 16:77, 16:89, 41:24]

وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الْعَذَابَ فَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنظَرُونَ **16:85**

When the wrongdoers actually see the doom, it will be too late. It will not be made light for them, nor will they be given further respite.

وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا شُرَكَاءَهُمْ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ شُرَكَاؤُنَا الَّذِينَ كُنَّا نَدْعُو مِن دُونِكَ فَأَلْقَوْا إِلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلَ إِنَّكُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ **16:86**

When those who ascribe partners to God see their 'partners' they will say, "Our Lord! These are our 'partners' whom we used to call instead of You." But, the leaders will fling to them the retort, "You certainly have been lying to yourselves in self-deception."

وَأَلْقَوْا إِلَى اللَّهِ يَوْمَئِذِ السَّلَمَ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **16:87**

And they will tender their submission to God on that Day, but all they used to fabricate will miserably fail them.

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ زِدْنَاهُمْ عَذَابًا فَوْقَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا يُفْسِدُونَ **16:88**

The ones who not only rejected the truth, but hindered people from the way of God, We will add doom upon doom for them because they corrupted the human minds and the society.

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِم مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَىٰ هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ **16:89**

Book is sufficient

For, one Day, We shall raise from every community a leading witness against them from among themselves. And We shall call you (O Prophet) to testify regarding those whom your message has reached. The Book We have revealed to you explains everything; a Guide and grace and the glad tiding for all those who have submitted.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ **16:90**

Justice

God commands justice, creating balance in the society, benefiting humanity, kindness to His creation, and giving to relatives. And He forbids all indecent deeds, immodesty, stinginess and rebellion. He instructs you (again) so that you may take it to heart. [Ihsaan = Creating balance in the society, benefiting humanity, kindness to God's creation. Fahasha = Immodesty, lewdness, indecent deeds, stinginess to the point of shame. Munkar = All deeds that the Qur'an condemns and forbids. Baghii = Transgression, rebellion, crossing limits, commit excesses]

وَأَوْفُوا بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ إِذَا عَاهَدتُّمْ وَلَا تَنقُضُوا الْأَيْمَانَ بَعْدَ تَوْكِيدِهَا وَقَدْ جَعَلْتُمُ اللَّهَ عَلَيْكُمْ كَفِيلًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ **16:91**

Fulfill the Covenant with God as you have pledged to do so. And do not break your oaths after you have confirmed them, for you have made God as the Guarantor over you. For, God knows all you do. [1:4-5, 9:111]

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّتِي نَقَضَتْ غَزْلَهَا مِن بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ أَنكَاثًا تَتَّخِذُونَ أَيْمَانَكُمْ دَخَلًا بَيْنَكُمْ أَن تَكُونَ أُمَّةٌ هِيَ أَرْبَىٰ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِنَّمَا يَبْلُوكُمُ اللَّهُ بِهِ وَلَيُبَيِّنَنَّ لَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ **16:92**

Do not be like a woman who breaks apart the yarn which she herself has spun and made strong, by using your oaths as a means of deceiving one another, only because

one party is more numerous than another. Thus, God lets you test yourselves (in character). He will certainly explain to you on the Day of Resurrection wherein you differed. [57:20. Being truthful, keeping pledges and being trustworthy are the prime qualities of a believer according to a reported Hadith that agrees with Qur'an. Human beings are the only creatures who can make a pledge and this is a test of their character. Breaking pledges violates human rights and hurts one's own 'self'. 'Wherein you differed' in this instance, also alludes to rationalizing misdeeds in various ways]

وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَٰكِن يُضِلُّ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَلَتُسْأَلُنَّ عَمَّا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **16:93**

Had God so willed, He could have made you all one single community. However, He lets go astray him that wills (to go astray) and guides him that wills (to be guided). And you will be called to account for all that you ever did. [A common error of translation: "God sends astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills." In that case, the very revelations of God come into question! If straying and guidance solely depended on God's will, no person could be held accountable for his deeds. In fact, God shows the right path and lets people make free choices. 2:256, 4:88, 18:29]

وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا أَيْمَانَكُمْ دَخَلًا بَيْنَكُمْ فَتَزِلَّ قَدَمٌ بَعْدَ ثُبُوتِهَا وَتَذُوقُوا السُّوءَ بِمَا صَدَدتُّمْ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَكُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **16:94**

Do not make your oaths a means of deceiving one another, otherwise you will slip after having been firm (in faith). You will have to taste the evil consequences of hindering yourself from the path of God. And there will be a tremendous suffering awaiting you. [Breaking solemn oaths and pledges will create distrust in the society and present a bad example for all. Such violation is like barring oneself and others from the path of God]

وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا إِنَّمَا عِندَ اللَّهِ هُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **16:95**

Do not trade away your Covenant with God for petty gains. God possesses what is far better for you, if you but knew.

مَا عِندَكُمْ يَنفَدُ وَمَا عِندَ اللَّهِ بَاقٍ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّ الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **16:96**

What you possess vanishes away, but what He has (and that you deposit with Him) lasts forever. We will give those who are steadfast (in their pledges) their reward according to the best of their actions. [16:94. 'Best of their actions' indicates, even beyond their merit]

Both sexes- pronoun

Arabic words are gender neutral

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهُ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **16:97**

The good will be rewarded

Whoever - male or female - does works that help others and is a believer, We shall certainly cause them to live a good life, and We shall grant them the rewards considering the best of their actions.

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ **16:98**

When you read the Qur'an, seek refuge in God against Satan, the rejected one. [One's own straying thoughts as well may divert the attention]

إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ **16:99**

He (Satan) has no power over those who truly believe and put their trust in their Lord.

إِنَّمَا سُلْطَانُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَتَوَلَّوْنَهُ وَالَّذِينَ هُم بِهِ مُشْرِكُونَ **16:100**

His power is only over those who befriend him and assign 'partners' to God.

وَإِذَا بَدَّلْنَا آيَةً مَّكَانَ آيَةٍ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يُنَزِّلُ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مُفْتَرٍ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **16:101**

When We replace one revelation with another; and God knows best what He reveals; they say, "You are but a forger." But most of them do not know [that human civilization has evolved sufficiently to be given the perfected Final message superseding previous scriptures, and that the Qur'an will remain a watcher over them. 5:48]

قُلْ نَزَّلَهُ رُوحُ الْقُدُسِ مِن رَّبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُثَبِّتَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ **16:102**

Tell them, "Gabriel has brought it down from your Lord in absolute truth. This revelation will keep firm in thought and action, those who accept it. And it will provide guidance and good news to Submitters." [Roohul Qudus = Sacred Energy = Gabriel 2:97. Rooh, Raooh = Soothing mercy 12:87. Trustworthy angel 26:193]

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُمْ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّمَا يُعَلِّمُهُ بَشَرٌ لِّسَانُ الَّذِي يُلْحِدُونَ إِلَيْهِ أَعْجَمِيٌّ وَهَٰذَا لِسَانٌ عَرَبِيٌّ مُّبِينٌ **16:103**

We know well what they say, "It is but a man teaching him!" The tongue of him they so maliciously point to is notably foreign, while this is Arabic, pure and clear.

Quran hasn't been tempered with

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَا يَهْدِيهِمُ اللَّهُ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **16:104**

Those who refuse to acknowledge God's messages, God does not show them the lighted road, and for them is a painful suffering. [Ayaatillah = God's verses = Divine revelation = Qur'anic verses = Also implies God's signs in the Book and in the Universe, depending on the context]

إِنَّمَا يَفْتَرِي الْكَذِبَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ **16:105**

It is those who reject God's messages that invent this falsehood (of a man teaching the Prophet). And it is those who are lying.

مَن كَفَرَ بِاللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ إِيمَانِهِ إِلَّا مَنْ أُكْرِهَ وَقَلْبُهُ مُطْمَئِنٌّ بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَٰكِن مَّن شَرَحَ بِالْكُفْرِ صَدْرًا فَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **16:106**

Anyone who utters unbelief, after attaining faith in God, except under compulsion, his heart remaining firm in faith, is different from the one who is fully content with disbelief. The latter group invites God's requital, and theirs is an awful doom. [See 6:145, 14:8. The Divine wisdom decrees that if someone is bent upon killing a Muslim unless he denies God, he may do so to save his life. The subject is restricted to uttering belief/disbelief in God, and involves unduly risking one's life]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمُ اسْتَحَبُّوا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا عَلَى الْآخِرَةِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ **16:107**

That is because they have chosen the life of this world only, ignoring the life to come. God does not guide those who choose to reject the truth.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَارِهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ **16:108**

Such are those whose hearts, ears and eyes God (His law) has sealed. For, they have remained heedless. [Disuse of faculties brings people down to subhuman levels of existence. 2:171, 7:179]

لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **16:109**

There is no doubt that such people will be great losers in the Hereafter as well.

ثُمَّ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لِلَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا مِن بَعْدِ مَا فُتِنُوا ثُمَّ جَاهَدُوا وَصَبَرُوا إِنَّ رَبَّكَ مِن بَعْدِهَا لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **16:110**

But certainly, your Lord; to those who leave their homes after trial and persecution, and then strive and patiently persevere, your Lord is oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

يَوْمَ تَأْتِي كُلُّ نَفْسٍ تُجَادِلُ عَن نَّفْسِهَا وَتُوَفَّىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **16:111**

Beware of the Day when every human being will come to plead for himself alone. (There shall be no pleaders or intercessors), and they will be repaid exactly what they did. And no one shall be wronged.

وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا قَرْيَةً كَانَتْ آمِنَةً مُّطْمَئِنَّةً يَأْتِيهَا رِزْقُهَا رَغَدًا مِّن كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَكَفَرَتْ بِأَنْعُمِ اللَّهِ فَأَذَاقَهَا اللَّهُ لِبَاسَ الْجُوعِ وَالْخَوْفِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ **16:112**

God gives you an example. Think of a township that used to be secure and prosperous, with provision coming to it in plenty from all directions. But, they practically denied God's blessings by not sharing them with the needy. So God's law made it experience the garb of hunger and fear for their wrong system. [6:44]

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَأَخَذَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَهُمْ ظَالِمُونَ **16:113**

A Messenger came to them from among themselves, but they denied him. And so the torment seized them since they used to wrong themselves by doing wrong to others.

*** فَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاشْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ **16:114**

So enjoy all the lawful and decent things which God has provided for you. And be grateful for God's bounty, if it is Him you truly serve. [Gratitude is not mere words of thanks. It involves sharing God's bounties with fellow humans]

إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةَ وَالدَّمَ وَلَحْمَ الْخِنزِيرِ وَمَا أُهِلَّ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ فَمَنِ اضْطُرَّ غَيْرَ بَاغٍ وَلَا عَادٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **16:115**

Unlawful

He only prohibits for you the dead animal, blood, and swine-flesh and anything that has been dedicated to other than God. In a forced situation, provided one doesn't exceed the necessity, remember that God is Forgiving, Merciful. [6:145]

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَا تَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُكُمُ الْكَذِبَ هَٰذَا حَلَالٌ وَهَٰذَا حَرَامٌ لِّتَفْتَرُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَرُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ لَا يُفْلِحُونَ **16:116**

Only Allah makes laws

Do not keep uttering in falsehood, "This is lawful and this is unlawful", thus inventing lies against God. Those who fabricate lies against God, fail to prosper in their own 'self'.

مَتَاعٌ قَلِيلٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **16:117**

A brief enjoyment, but grievous suffering in the long run!

وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ هَادُوا حَرَّمْنَا مَا قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ مِن قَبْلُ وَمَا ظَلَمْنَاهُمْ وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **16:118**

To the Jews We had prohibited such things as We have mentioned to you before (6:147). We did them no wrong, but they used to do wrong to themselves. [They followed their religious leadership instead of the Divine revelation]

ثُمَّ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لِلَّذِينَ عَمِلُوا السُّوءَ بِجَهَالَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابُوا مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ وَأَصْلَحُوا إِنَّ رَبَّكَ مِن بَعْدِهَا لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **16:119**

Remember that your Lord shows mercy to those who do evil out of ignorance but then come back to the right path and make amends. Surely, your Lord, after all this, is Forgiving, Merciful.

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَانِتًا لِّلَّهِ حَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **16:120**

Abraham was virtue personified devoted in his commitment to God, turning away from all that is false. He upheld strict Monotheism and never indulged in idolatry of any kind. His impact on history was like that of a whole community. [2:124-126, 14:35-37. Ummah = A community based on a noble ideology = Community = A person combining within himself all virtues = Virtue personified, in this context]

شَاكِرًا لِّأَنْعُمِهِ اجْتَبَاهُ وَهَدَاهُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **16:121**

He was always grateful for the blessings granted by Him Who had elected him and guided him on to straight path.

وَآتَيْنَاهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **16:122**

We gave him good reward in the world. And in the Hereafter he shall be among those who developed their personalities, actualizing their human potentials.

ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنِ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **16:123**

We have revealed to you this message (O Prophet), "Follow the creed of Abraham who turned away from all that is false." (2:125). He was, by no means, of the idolaters.

إِنَّمَا جُعِلَ السَّبْتُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَيَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **16:124**

And know that the observance of Sabbath was ordained for those who came to hold divergent views about him. Your Lord will judge between them on the Resurrection Day, where they differed (from the way of Abraham). [2:65, 4:47, 4:154, 7:163]

ادْعُ إِلَىٰ سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُم بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّ عَن سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ **16:125**

Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful exhortation. Reason with them most decently. Your Lord is best Aware of him who strays from His path, and He is best Aware of the upright.

وَإِنْ عَاقَبْتُمْ فَعَاقِبُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا عُوقِبْتُم بِهِ وَلَئِن صَبَرْتُمْ لَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لِّلصَّابِرِينَ **16:126**

So, if you have to respond to an attack in argument, respond only to the extent of the attack leveled against you. But to bear with patience is far better for the steadfast.

وَاصْبِرْ وَمَا صَبْرُكَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا تَكُ فِي ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ **16:127**

Endure then, with patience, always remembering that it is none but God Who gives you the strength to endure (O Prophet). Do not grieve over them, nor be distressed by the false arguments they contrive.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوا وَّالَّذِينَ هُم مُّحْسِنُونَ **16:128**

God is with the upright, and the benefactors of humanity.

Chapter 17

Al-Asra - The Night Journey

This is the 17th Surah of the Qur´an. Some historians refer to it as Surah Bani Israel. It has 111 verses. Asra (Night Journey) is often confused with Me´raaj (Ascension). Since God is Omnipresent, the notion of anyone going to meet with Him over the skies does not stand up to reason. Asra signifies night journey and it refers to the beginning of the exalted Messenger´s emigration from Makkah to Madinah by night. Verses 20:77 and 26:52 use the same term for migration of Prophet Moses along with his followers across the sea. Also consider 17:2. Masjid Al-Aqsa means, the Remote Mosque and refers to the ´Remote Mosque´ in Madinah, the place where Muslims used to establish congregational prayers before the Prophet´s arrival to the city. Masjid may also be understood here as Madinah being the place of regular congregations. The famous Masjid Al-Aqsa, the so-called Qiblah Awwal, the supposed First Holy Sanctuary, is widely known as Haram Shareef) in Jerusalem. But, in fact, it was built in 72 AH (691 CE) by the Umayyad Ruler, Abdul Malik bin Marwan, about 60 years after the exalted Messenger passed on. The First Sanctuary was nothing but Ka´bah in Makkah 3:96. Jerusalem, until the Muslim conquest under the second Caliph of Islam in 637 CE, had been under the control of Byzantine Christians for centuries, and there was no person worshiping in a Masjid anywhere in the world but Madinah. So, the question of the presence of a Masjid in Jerusalem during the lifetime of the exalted Prophet should not arise. Again, Muslims conquered Jerusalem in 637 CE during the Rule of the second Caliph of Islam, Hazrat Umar. When he visited the place, he continued to pray in open grounds, although Pope Severinus gave him the key to the city and invited him to pray in the Church of Holy Sepulture. But Hazrat Umar feared that Muslims might start converting churches into Masjids, so he politely declined. If a Masjid were present, he would have prayed there. The word Me´raaj (physical Ascension) nowhere occurs in the Qur´an. Yet, under erroneous traditions, it is a popular, though non-Qur´anic, belief among many Muslims that the exalted Messenger was taken up physically to the Heights/Skies to meet with God! The Qur´an sets the records straight by asserting that the First ever blessed Sanctuary was the Ka´bah built by Prophets Abraham and Ishmael in Makkah. And that the Divine laws are unchangeable under all circumstances. Bodily Ascension is a Biblical and not a Qur´anic theme at all. Qubbah-tas-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock) is an Islamic shrine and major landmark located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, near Al-Aqsa. It was completed in 691 CE. Temple Mount is a holy site for Judaism as well.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَىٰ بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ **17:1**

Glorious is He Who initiated the migration of His servant by night, from the Sacred Masjid to the Remote Masjid whose environment We did bless that We may

show him some of Our signs. He is the Hearer, the Seer. [20:23. Signs that the Divine System will begin to prevail from there]

وَآتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَلَّا تَتَّخِذُوا مِن دُونِي وَكِيلًا **17:2**

(Recall that Moses had to migrate from Pharaoh's Kingdom to the Sinai Peninsula.) We gave Moses the scripture and We appointed it a Guide to the Children of Israel, saying, "Choose no guardian besides Me."

ذُرِّيَّةَ مَنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا **17:3**

They were the descendants of those whom We carried on the ship along with Noah. Surely, he was a most grateful servant of Ours.

وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لَتُفْسِدُنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَتَعْلُنَّ عُلُوًّا كَبِيرًا **17:4**

We had informed the Children of Israel in the scripture, "Surely, you will work corruption on the earth twice, and show great arrogance and tyranny."

فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَّنَا أُولِي بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَانَ وَعْدًا مَّفْعُولًا **17:5**

When the first of the warnings came to pass, We sent against you Our servants of great might (armies of Nimrod Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon) who ravaged your country, a warning fulfilled (and took you to Babylon as slaves in 586 BC).

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَمْدَدْنَاكُم بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ أَكْثَرَ نَفِيرًا **17:6**

Then, We granted you victory over them (when King Cyrus of Persia defeated the Babylonians and brought you back to your country in 520 BC). We then, helped you with wealth and children and made you numerous in soldiery.

إِنْ أَحْسَنتُمْ أَحْسَنتُمْ لِأَنفُسِكُمْ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسُوءُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتْبِيرًا **17:7**

We made it clear, "If you do collective good, you will be doing good to yourselves. And if you do evil, you will hurt yourselves. (You did not heed these warnings),

and then the second warning came to pass. [The Roman General Titus invaded Jerusalem in 70 CE. His armies entered the Temple and destroyed everything they conquered completely, just as the Babylonians had done before]

عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يَرْحَمَكُمْ وَإِنْ عُدتُّمْ عُدْنَا وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا **17:8**

Now is the time that your Lord may bless you with His mercy (as the Final Messenger is in your midst 7:157). If you repeat your transgressions, We will counter with retribution. We have made Hell a prison for opponents of the Divine Order.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا **17:9**

Surely, this Qur'an guides to what is most upright, and gives good news of a great reward to those who accept it, and benefit the creation.

وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ أَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **17:10**

And that for those who disbelieve in the life to come, We have readied grievous suffering.

وَيَدْعُ الْإِنسَانُ بِالشَّرِّ دُعَاءَهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ الْإِنسَانُ عَجُولًا **17:11**

Man asks for what is evil for him as he prays for the good. Man is prone to be hasty in judgment.

وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَتَيْنِ فَمَحَوْنَا آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْصِرَةً لِّتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابَ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَصَّلْنَاهُ تَفْصِيلًا **17:12**

All is explained in detail

(Right and wrong have been made distinct as day and night.) We have appointed the Night and the Day as two of Our signs. The sign of the Night We have made darkness while the sign of the Day we have made sight-giving so that you may seek the bounty from your Lord, and be aware of the numbers and counting of years. Thus, We have explained all things in detail. [6:97, 10:5. Reckon every day, month and year to see what you have gained and lost in your self-development]

وَكُلَّ إِنسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَائِرَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنشُورًا **17:13**

All deeds of the humans are instantly recorded on their own 'self', as if the record book is fastened to their own necks. And We shall bring forth this record book wide open to them on the Day of Resurrection.

اقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا **17:14**

"Read your book! You are a sufficient auditor for yourself this Day."

مَّنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّىٰ نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا **17:15**

So, whoever goes right, does it for his own 'self', and whoever strays, strays against his own 'self'. No person bears the load of another. And We never punish any people until We have sent a Messenger. [The Eternal Messenger now is the Qur'an]

وَإِذَا أَرَدْنَا أَن نُّهْلِكَ قَرْيَةً أَمَرْنَا مُتْرَفِيهَا فَفَسَقُوا فِيهَا فَحَقَّ عَلَيْهَا الْقَوْلُ فَدَمَّرْنَاهَا تَدْمِيرًا **17:16**

(Here is the Divine Law of Requital for communities.) We let the leaders of a community commit corruption, drift out of discipline and consider themselves above law. Then the sentence is passed against them and We annihilate them completely. [And the leaders and the public are left blaming one another. 7:38, 10:28, 14:21, 16:86]

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِن بَعْدِ نُوحٍ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا **17:17**

How many generations has Our law annihilated since Noah! God suffices as the Knower and Beholder of what causes His servants to trail behind.

مَّن كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَاجِلَةَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَن نُّرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا مَّدْحُورًا **17:18**

Those who desire only the quick gains of this life, We readily grant them from it according to Our laws, to those whom We will. In the end, We have appointed for them Hell. They will endure its heat, condemned and rejected. [2:200, 11:15-16]

وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُم مَّشْكُورًا **17:19**

And the one who keeps the life to come in view and strives for it as best as he can, provided he is a true believer; the endeavor of every such person will be accepted. [2:201]

كُلًّا نُّمِدُّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَهَٰؤُلَاءِ مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا **17:20**

All, these as well as those, We bestow on them some of your Lord's gifts since your Lord's giving is not confined. [42:20]

انظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَلَلْآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا **17:21**

Behold how We bestow more bounty on some of them than others. But the life to come will be far higher in degree and far greater in bounty.

لَّا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ فَتَقْعُدَ مَذْمُومًا مَّخْذُولًا **17:22**

Do not set up gods besides God. If you run manmade systems, disregarding the Permanent Values, you will face an embarrassing failure.

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبْلُغَنَّ عِندَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُل لَّهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُل لَّهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا **17:23**

Be kind to parents

(A benevolent society begins at home.) Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and always be kind to your parents. If one of them or both attain old age, do not utter the slightest harsh word to them. Never repel them and always address them respectfully. [36:68]

وَاخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُل رَّبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا **17:24**

Lower for them the wing of kindness and humility and say, "My Lord! Bestow upon them Your grace as they raised me in kindness since I was little."

رَّبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ إِن تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّابِينَ غَفُورًا **17:25**

Your Lord knows best what is in your minds. If you work for social welfare, He grants the protection of forgiveness to those who take corrective action when they falter. [Saaleh = He who contributes to the society = Who does acts of social welfare = Helps people = Restores balance. Ghafarah = Helmet and armor = Guarding against deterioration = Protection = Forgiveness. Awwabeen = Those who take corrective action = Who return to the right road]

Zakat
See 26:9

وَآتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ وَالْمِسْكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَلَا تُبَذِّرْ تَبْذِيرًا **17:26**

And give your relative his or her Divinely ordained right, and give to those whose running businesses have stalled, those who have lost their jobs, the needy wayfarer, the homeless, and the one who reaches you in a state of destitution. Do not squander your wealth senselessly. [2:261, 6:141. Squanderers cannot be charitable]

إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا **17:27**

Squanderers are close companions of Satan, their selfish desires. And Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord.

وَإِمَّا تُعْرِضَنَّ عَنْهُمُ ابْتِغَاءَ رَحْمَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكَ تَرْجُوهَا فَقُل لَّهُمْ قَوْلًا مَّيْسُورًا **17:28**

If you are waiting for affluence from your Lord, and are unable to currently help the needy, then speak to them in kindness, and treat them in the nicest manner.

وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ فَتَقْعُدَ مَلُومًا مَّحْسُورًا **17:29**

You should not keep your hand chained to your neck in stinginess, nor open it foolishly lest you sit down destitute and denuded.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا **17:30**

Your Lord provides sustenance in abundance and scarcity according to His laws. He is fully Cognizant, Seer of His servants. [Manyyasha = According to His laws = Common but erroneous translation, 'whom He pleases'. God has appointed laws for affluence and poverty in societies. In the Divine System every individual will get fair return for his labor. 53:39]

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ نَّحْنُ نَرْزُقُهُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ إِنَّ قَتْلَهُمْ كَانَ خِطْئًا كَبِيرًا **17:31**

Do not kill your children (nor deprive them of good rearing) for fear of poverty. We are the One Who provide for them as well as for you. Surely, killing them is a grave offense. [Killing children = Slaying them = Depriving them of proper education and training = Rearing children callously. The Divine System will take responsibility of all your needs. 6:151, 9:111, 20:118]

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزِّنَا إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا 17:32

Do not come close to adultery, for, it is an abomination and an evil way.

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَن قُتِلَ مَظْلُومًا فَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا لِوَلِيِّهِ سُلْطَانًا فَلَا يُسْرِف فِّي الْقَتْلِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ مَنصُورًا 17:33

Don't kill

You shall not kill any person, for God has forbidden it, except for just cause (through an appropriate court). In case of unjust killing, We have given rights to the victim's next of kin. With that right of retribution, comes the responsibility that, since the law is helping them, he (the next of kin) must not exceed the limits. [2:178, 5:32, 6:152, 42:40. Illa bil-Haqq = Except in the course of justice = Except for a just cause]

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مَالَ الْيَتِيمِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ حَتَّىٰ يَبْلُغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا 17:34

Go not near the wealth of the orphan, except for his or her own good, until they come of age. (Then let them make their own decisions.) This is a covenant that you must fulfill. Surely, you will be questioned about all your covenants.

وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ إِذَا كِلْتُمْ وَزِنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا 17:35

(Always be mindful of just dealings.) Give full measure when you measure, and weigh with even scale. This is the best way and it will prove to be best in the end. [81:1-3]

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا 17:36

And you shall not follow blindly any information of which you have no direct knowledge. (Using your faculties of perception and conception) you must verify it for yourself. In the Court of your Lord, you will be held accountable for your hearing, sight, and the faculty of reasoning. [32:9, 45:23, 46:26. And so, the insane and the disabled will have their incapacities taken into account in a court of law]

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَن تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا 17:37

Don't be arrogant

Do not walk on earth with pride. Neither could you bore through the earth, nor could you become as tall as the mountains. [Your body language speaks louder than words. 3:187, 31:19, 40:75]

كُلُّ ذَٰلِكَ كَانَ سَيِّئُهُ عِندَ رَبِّكَ مَكْرُوهًا **17:38**

The evil of all this is detestable in the Sight of your Lord.

ذَٰلِكَ مِمَّا أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ رَبُّكَ مِنَ الْحِكْمَةِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ فَتُلْقَىٰ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَلُومًا مَّدْحُورًا **17:39**

Is Hadith the other wisdom

This is some of the wisdom your Lord has revealed to you. Do not set up with God any other god, lest you be cast into Hell, blameworthy and rejected. [2:269]

أَفَأَصْفَاكُمْ رَبُّكُم بِالْبَنِينَ وَاتَّخَذَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنَاثًا إِنَّكُمْ لَتَقُولُونَ قَوْلًا عَظِيمًا **17:40**

What! Has your Lord distinguished you by giving you sons, and chosen for Himself daughters in the guise of angels? Certainly, you speak a monstrous word! [16:57]

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا وَمَا يَزِيدُهُمْ إِلَّا نُفُورًا **17:41**

We have explained things in various ways in this Qur'an so that they understand, but it only increases their flight from the truth. [Blind following, arrogance, preconceived notions disable reason. 4:88]

قُل لَّوْ كَانَ مَعَهُ آلِهَةٌ كَمَا يَقُولُونَ إِذًا لَّابْتَغَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِي الْعَرْشِ سَبِيلًا **17:42**

Say, "If there were any other deities side by side with Him, as they claim, even those would have to find a way to the Lord of the Throne of Almightiness."

سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ عُلُوًّا كَبِيرًا **17:43**

Glorified is He, and High Exalted above what they say!

تُسَبِّحُ لَهُ السَّمَاوَاتُ السَّبْعُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَن فِيهِنَّ وَإِن مِّن شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تَفْقَهُونَ تَسْبِيحَهُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا **17:44**

All the seven Highs and their Lows, and all beings in them are working His Plan, displaying that He is Praiseworthy. All creatures are playing their role in the

Universe. In your present state of knowledge, you do not understand their exact modes of action. God, the Clement, the Absolver of imperfections, sustains and maintains them in Order.

وَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ جَعَلْنَا بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ حِجَابًا مَّسْتُورًا **17:45**

Hijab-barrier

When you recite the Qur'an, We put an invisible veil between you and those who disbelieve in the Hereafter. [17:41. Disbelievers in the eternal life remain preoccupied with the glitter of this world, a mental barrier to understanding]

وَجَعَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً أَن يَفْقَهُوهُ وَفِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرًا وَإِذَا ذَكَرْتَ رَبَّكَ فِي الْقُرْآنِ وَحْدَهُ وَلَّوْا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِهِمْ نُفُورًا **17:46**

And We (Our laws) place shields over their hearts and minds to prevent them from grasping it, and cause deafness in their ears. Their minds, hearts, and ears act impermeable when you mention your Lord in the Qur'an, Him alone and they turn their backs in disgust. [They wish to hear about other deities and false 'authorities']

نَّحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَسْتَمِعُونَ بِهِ إِذْ يَسْتَمِعُونَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِذْ هُمْ نَجْوَىٰ إِذْ يَقُولُ الظَّالِمُونَ إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا مَّسْحُورًا **17:47**

We are best Aware of what they wish to hear when they listen to you. Then they hold secret meetings and these wrongdoers say, "You only follow a man who is under the influence of magic." [It is unfortunate that under the influence of fabricated traditions, most Muslims even today believe that a Jewish magician successfully cast a spell of 'magic' on the exalted Prophet! Traditions and Ahadith that clash with the Qur'an, were obviously contrived by non-Muslims in the guise of 'Imams' 25:8]

انظُرْ كَيْفَ ضَرَبُوا لَكَ الْأَمْثَالَ فَضَلُّوا فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَبِيلًا **17:48**

See what similes they strike for you (O Prophet)! They are going astray to the point of no return.

وَقَالُوا أَإِذَا كُنَّا عِظَامًا وَرُفَاتًا أَإِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ خَلْقًا جَدِيدًا **17:49**

And they say, "What! After we are bones and fragments, shall we be raised up as a new creation?"

قُلْ كُونُوا حِجَارَةً أَوْ حَدِيدًا **17:50**

Say, "Even if you turn into rocks or iron!"

أَوْ خَلْقًا مِّمَّا يَكْبُرُ فِي صُدُورِكُمْ فَسَيَقُولُونَ مَن يُعِيدُنَا قُلِ الَّذِي فَطَرَكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ فَسَيُنْغِضُونَ إِلَيْكَ رُءُوسَهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هُوَ قُلْ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ قَرِيبًا 17:51

"Or fossilize into forms as far away from life as you can imagine, you shall be raised up." Then they might say, "Who shall bring us back to life?" Tell them, "He Who initiated you in the first place." They will then shake their heads and say, "When will that be?" Say, "It may be sooner than you think!"

يَوْمَ يَدْعُوكُمْ فَتَسْتَجِيبُونَ بِحَمْدِهِ وَتَظُنُّونَ إِن لَّبِثْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا 17:52

A Day when He will call you, you will be spellbound with His glory. Then you will think that you lived in this world only a short while.

وَقُل لِّعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنزَغُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلْإِنسَانِ عَدُوًّا مُّبِينًا 17:53

Satan plants animosity

(They must do good works in this short lifespan, so) Tell My servants to speak to one another in a kind manner and treat one another nicely. Satan, their selfishness, creates discord among them. For, Satan is an open foe for humans.

رَّبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِكُمْ إِن يَشَأْ يَرْحَمْكُمْ أَوْ إِن يَشَأْ يُعَذِّبْكُمْ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَكِيلًا 17:54

Your Lord is best Aware of you (what you are, what you do and what you deserve). He will bestow His grace upon you or He will chastise you according to His laws. We have not sent you (O Prophet) as a warden over them.

وَرَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَقَدْ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَ النَّبِيِّينَ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَآتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ زَبُورًا 17:55

And your Lord is best Aware of all beings who are in the highs and the lows. We caused some Prophets to excel the others. To David We gave a Book of wisdom [The Psalms, as well as a kingdom that was matchless in its times. 21:79, 34:10, 38:19-20. All Prophets were one in purpose, so we make no distinction between them. 2:62, 2:136, 2:253]

قُلِ ادْعُوا الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُم مِّن دُونِهِ فَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ كَشْفَ الضُّرِّ عَنكُمْ وَلَا تَحْوِيلًا 17:56

(All these Prophets taught that there is only One True God.) Say, "Call unto those saints, angels, idols, whom you consider gods besides Him. They have no power to rid you of any troubles, nor can they divert them."

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ يَبْتَغُونَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمُ الْوَسِيلَةَ أَيُّهُمْ أَقْرَبُ وَيَرْجُونَ رَحْمَتَهُ وَيَخَافُونَ عَذَابَهُ إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ كَانَ مَحْذُورًا **17:57**

Even the believing sages whom they call upon, are themselves striving to obtain their Lord's favor and closeness. They hope for His grace, and fear His requital. Surely, your Lord's requital is something to beware of!

وَإِن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا نَحْنُ مُهْلِكُوهَا قَبْلَ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ أَوْ مُعَذِّبُوهَا عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا كَانَ ذَٰلِكَ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَسْطُورًا **17:58**

There is not a township but We will destroy it before the Day of Resurrection, or punish it with dire punishment. This is well recorded in the Divine Database.

وَمَا مَنَعَنَا أَن نُّرْسِلَ بِالْآيَاتِ إِلَّا أَن كَذَّبَ بِهَا الْأَوَّلُونَ وَآتَيْنَا ثَمُودَ النَّاقَةَ مُبْصِرَةً فَظَلَمُوا بِهَا وَمَا نُرْسِلُ بِالْآيَاتِ إِلَّا تَخْوِيفًا **17:59**

(They keep asking for visible signs for fulfillment of the warnings of the oncoming disaster, such as the sign of the she-camel of Thamud.) Nothing has changed Our plan to send down this revelation, even though the previous generations have often denied Our verses. (For example) We sent the she-camel to Thamud, a visible sign of their compliance. But they did wrong to her. We send messages that they fear (the consequences of their misdeeds and establish the right System in their societies). [7:73, 11:89, 26:141, 27:45. Thamud killed the visible sign of the she-camel and incurred heavy retribution]

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لَكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ أَحَاطَ بِالنَّاسِ وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الرُّؤْيَا الَّتِي أَرَيْنَاكَ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَالشَّجَرَةَ الْمَلْعُونَةَ فِي الْقُرْآنِ وَنُخَوِّفُهُمْ فَمَا يَزِيدُهُمْ إِلَّا طُغْيَانًا كَبِيرًا **17:60**

We said to you (O Prophet), "Your Lord encompasses all mankind, so We have given you the vision (of mankind's unity)." Those who hinder this Plan will end up eating the bitter, pungent Tree of Division that is mentioned in the Qur'an. This vision and the Tree of Division shall be a test for them. Now We have conveyed a warning to them, yet, for a time it shall increase them in gross rebellion. [Vision: Mankind will become one community again. Division: 7:19, 14:26, 15:39, 17:60, 37:65, 38:82, 44:44]

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ قَالَ أَأَسْجُدُ لِمَنْ خَلَقْتَ طِينًا **17:61**

(Refresh the story of your common origin and the challenge facing humanity since day one.) We made angels, the Divine laws in the Universe, subservient to Adam, the mankind. It was Iblees, their despondence after fulfilling their selfish desires, that refused to submit. He said, "Shall I bow to one whom You have created from inorganic matter (and thus charged him with material temptations)?" [2:30-39, 7:11-14, 15:27-41]

قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَكَ هَٰذَا الَّذِي كَرَّمْتَ عَلَيَّ لَئِنْ أَخَّرْتَنِ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَأَحْتَنِكَنَّ ذُرِّيَّتَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **17:62**

He said, "Since You have honored him above me, grant me respite until the Day of Resurrection, and I will put reins through the noses of his children and pull them wherever I please. Only a few will withstand my temptation."

قَالَ اذْهَبْ فَمَن تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ فَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ جَزَاؤُكُمْ جَزَاءً مَّوْفُورًا **17:63**

God said, "Go! But whoever of them follows you, Hell will be the reward for all of you, an ample recompense."

وَاسْتَفْزِزْ مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتَ مِنْهُم بِصَوْتِكَ وَأَجْلِبْ عَلَيْهِم بِخَيْلِكَ وَرَجِلِكَ وَشَارِكْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ وَعِدْهُمْ وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا **17:64**

Devil

"Tempt and allure them with your voice such of them as you can (through the media and show biz, and propaganda against the truth). You may prompt them into armed conflicts, and entice them with monetary help, business partnerships and ready loans. You may misguide the children with detrimental educational programs, and counter-productive recreation. And hold out promises to them." Whatever Satan promises them, is meant to deceive their mind.

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ وَكِيلًا **17:65**

"Indeed, you shall have no power over My faithful servants. And your Lord suffices as their Guardian." [15:40-42]

رَّبُّكُمُ الَّذِي يُزْجِي لَكُمُ الْفُلْكَ فِي الْبَحْرِ لِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِكُمْ رَحِيمًا **17:66**

(O Mankind, be mindful of your Lord to ward off Satan.) Your Sustainer is He Who causes the ships to move on for you through the sea that you may seek of His bounty. Surely, He is Most Gracious towards you.

وَإِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فِي الْبَحْرِ ضَلَّ مَن تَدْعُونَ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ فَلَمَّا نَجَّاكُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ أَعْرَضْتُمْ وَكَانَ الْإِنسَانُ كَفُورًا **17:67**

(His laws are changeless and, therefore, trustworthy.) When harm touches you on the sea, those you call upon besides Him, fail you miserably. (You try to save the ship according to Divine laws and forget superstitions.) But when He brings you safely ashore, you turn away and forget Him. Most ungrateful is the human being.

أَفَأَمِنتُمْ أَن يَخْسِفَ بِكُمْ جَانِبَ الْبَرِّ أَوْ يُرْسِلَ عَلَيْكُمْ حَاصِبًا ثُمَّ لَا تَجِدُوا لَكُمْ وَكِيلًا **17:68**

(You forget that His laws apply to land as they do in the entire Universe). Can you then, ever feel sure that He will not cause the dry land to engulf you, or let loose upon you a deadly storm, whereupon you find none to be your protector?

أَمْ أَمِنتُمْ أَن يُعِيدَكُمْ فِيهِ تَارَةً أُخْرَىٰ فَيُرْسِلَ عَلَيْكُمْ قَاصِفًا مِّنَ الرِّيحِ فَيُغْرِقَكُم بِمَا كَفَرْتُمْ ثُمَّ لَا تَجِدُوا لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا بِهِ تَبِيعًا **17:69**

Or can you feel sure that He will not return you to that plight a second time, and then let loose upon you a raging tempest and cause you to drown in requital for your ingratitude? And then, you will find none to help you against Us. [Life is too short and too unpredictable to postpone for tomorrow the good you can do today]

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ كَثِيرٍ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا **17:70**

Surely, We have conferred dignity on children of Adam (as a birth right, regardless of where the child is born), and provided them with transport on land and sea and given them decent things of life. We have favored them over very many of those whom We have created.

يَوْمَ نَدْعُو كُلَّ أُنَاسٍ بِإِمَامِهِمْ فَمَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَقْرَءُونَ كِتَابَهُمْ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ فَتِيلًا **17:71**

But one Day We shall summon all human beings with their records. One who is given his record in the right hand will read it in jubilation. This will be a symbol of success for them, and they will receive their rewards without the least reduction.

وَمَن كَانَ فِي هَٰذِهِ أَعْمَىٰ فَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ أَعْمَىٰ وَأَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا **17:72**

Whoever is blind of heart here will be blind in the Hereafter as well, and yet further astray (from grace). [Individuals and nations that are blind of reason live in misery in this world, and no amount of wishful thinking will take them to success]

وَإِن كَادُوا لَيَفْتِنُونَكَ عَنِ الَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ لِتَفْتَرِيَ عَلَيْنَا غَيْرَهُ وَإِذًا لَّاتَّخَذُوكَ خَلِيلًا **17:73**

They endeavor to tempt you away from what We reveal to you, to substitute in Our Name something quite different. In that case, they would have certainly made you their friend. [They want the Prophet to make compromises in return for accepting him as the King of Arabia - compromises like authorizing the worship of their false deities as well and taking back human equality. 17:46]

وَلَوْلَا أَن ثَبَّتْنَاكَ لَقَدْ كِدتَّ تَرْكَنُ إِلَيْهِمْ شَيْئًا قَلِيلًا **17:74**

Their pressure was so intense that, without firm conviction that brings Our support, you might have inclined toward them a little. [10:15, 11:113, 68:9]

إِذًا لَّأَذَقْنَاكَ ضِعْفَ الْحَيَاةِ وَضِعْفَ الْمَمَاتِ ثُمَّ لَا تَجِدُ لَكَ عَلَيْنَا نَصِيرًا **17:75**

Had you inclined toward them, We would have doubled the retribution for you in this life and after death, and you would have found no one to help you against Us (Our Law of Requital).

وَإِن كَادُوا لَيَسْتَفِزُّونَكَ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ لِيُخْرِجُوكَ مِنْهَا وَإِذًا لَّا يَلْبَثُونَ خِلَافَكَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **17:76**

Since they saw that they could not persuade you, they wished to drive you out (of Madinah as well). If they had done that, (they would have lost the stabilizing force of your presence and), they would have annihilated one another in a short while.

سُنَّةَ مَن قَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِن رُّسُلِنَا وَلَا تَجِدُ لِسُنَّتِنَا تَحْوِيلًا **17:77**

Such has always been Our law with all of Our Messengers We sent before you. (Nations that drove them out suffered dire consequences.) You will never find a change in Our laws. [6:34, 6:115, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23]

***

أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِدُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَىٰ غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ مَشْهُودًا **17:78**

Salat times

You shall commit yourself to reflect on the Divine Commands before sunrise and then carry on with your program until the darkness of night prevails. The Qur'an springs forth the light for you to brighten your way. The dawn ushered in by the Qur'an will be self-evident to all. Its likeness is the dawn that brings light after a dark night. [42:38]

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا **17:79**

(As head of the state, you shall commit yourself to extra endeavor.) You shall even contemplate and work part of the night, from sunset to the darkness of night. (And your companions shall join you in this endeavor as needed 73:2-3). Soon, your Lord will raise you to a highly honored, praiseworthy station. [Maqaam-am-Mahmooda = Praiseworthy station that will be obvious to the friend and foe alike]

وَقُل رَّبِّ أَدْخِلْنِي مُدْخَلَ صِدْقٍ وَأَخْرِجْنِي مُخْرَجَ صِدْقٍ وَاجْعَل لِّي مِن لَّدُنكَ سُلْطَانًا نَّصِيرًا **17:80**

Dua

Say, "My Lord! Admit me in honor and let me depart in honor at every juncture of my life, and help me with strong support."

وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا **17:81**

(Time has come for you to) say, "The truth has come to light, and falsehood has withered away. For, falsehood is bound to wither away."

وَنُنَزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا **17:82**

? Emulates

Thus, step by step, We have sent down in the Qur'an the cure of all ills of humanity. It is a mercy for those who accept it. At the same time, it is a harbinger of loss for the oppressors (since it liberates the oppressed from their grasp). [Zaalimeen in this context = Oppressors = Those who displace the Qur'an from its rightful position of authority]

وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْإِنسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ كَانَ يَئُوسًا **17:83**

People without higher objectives easily exult and turn away when Our laws make life pleasant for them. And they quickly despair when a hardship touches them. [41:51]

قُلْ كُلٌّ يَعْمَلُ عَلَىٰ شَاكِلَتِهِ فَرَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ سَبِيلًا **17:84**

Say, "Everyone acts in a manner peculiar to himself. (Human beings tend to make their own rules of conduct), but your Lord is best Aware as to who has chosen the best path.

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الرُّوحِ قُلِ الرُّوحُ مِنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّي وَمَا أُوتِيتُم مِّنَ الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **17:85**

(O Messenger) they ask you about the Revelation. Say, "The Revelation is from my Lord's World of Command of which you have been given little knowledge." ['Rooh' = Divine Energy from which free will has been given to humans = 'Wahi' = Revelation = 'Spirit' = 'Soul' = Angel of Revelation. 'Spirit' and 'Soul' are popular but non-Qur'anic terms. 'Nafs' (meaning Self) in the Qur'an comes closest to these two terms]

وَلَئِن شِئْنَا لَنَذْهَبَنَّ بِالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ ثُمَّ لَا تَجِدُ لَكَ بِهِ عَلَيْنَا وَكِيلًا **17:86**

(Revelation is the extrinsic knowledge, as distinct from intrinsic inspiration.) If We so willed, We could withdraw what We reveal to you, and you would find none to plead on your behalf before Us.

إِلَّا رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ إِنَّ فَضْلَهُ كَانَ عَلَيْكَ كَبِيرًا **17:87**

This (Revelation) is a grace from your Lord. His bounty upon you (O Messenger) has ever been great. [6:116, 15:19, 87:6-7]

قُل لَّئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَن يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا **17:88**

Say, "If all mankind, in towns and villages, get together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they will not be able to produce the like of it, no matter how much help they give one another." [2:23, 10:38, 11:13]

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ فَأَبَىٰ أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ إِلَّا كُفُورًا **17:89**

We have used Tasreef to explain The Qur'an in many facets for mankind. However, most people (due to arrogance, prejudice or blind following) remain ungrateful by rejecting such clear guidance. [17:41]

وَقَالُوا لَن نُّؤْمِنَ لَكَ حَتَّىٰ تَفْجُرَ لَنَا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ يَنبُوعًا **17:90**

(Instead of reflecting on it, they keep demanding physical miracles) and they say, "We will not believe in you until you cause a spring to gush forth from the earth."

أَوْ تَكُونَ لَكَ جَنَّةٌ مِّن نَّخِيلٍ وَعِنَبٍ فَتُفَجِّرَ الْأَنْهَارَ خِلَالَهَا تَفْجِيرًا **17:91**

"Or unless you bring a garden of date palms and grape vines and cause rivers to gush forth in their midst."

أَوْ تُسْقِطَ السَّمَاءَ كَمَا زَعَمْتَ عَلَيْنَا كِسَفًا أَوْ تَأْتِيَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ قَبِيلًا **17:92**

"Or make the sky fall on us, as you keep warning us about retribution, or bring God and the angels face to face before us." [26:187, 6:35]

أَوْ يَكُونَ لَكَ بَيْتٌ مِّن زُخْرُفٍ أَوْ تَرْقَىٰ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَلَن نُّؤْمِنَ لِرُقِيِّكَ حَتَّىٰ تُنَزِّلَ عَلَيْنَا كِتَابًا نَّقْرَؤُهُ قُلْ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّي هَلْ كُنتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَّسُولًا **17:93**

Only a messenger

Climb the sky- miraj

"Or unless you have a dazzling house of gold or unless you climb into the sky. But, nay, we will not believe your climbing unless you bring a written book that we can read." Tell them, "Glorified is my Lord! Am I more than a human, a Messenger¿'

وَمَا مَنَعَ النَّاسَ أَن يُؤْمِنُوا إِذْ جَاءَهُمُ الْهُدَىٰ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا أَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ بَشَرًا رَّسُولًا **17:94**

Yet whenever guidance came to people, nothing kept them from believing as much as this objection, "Would God send a mortal man as His Messenger?"

قُل لَّوْ كَانَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَلَائِكَةٌ يَمْشُونَ مُطْمَئِنِّينَ لَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَلَكًا رَّسُولًا **17:95**

Say, "If angels walked about and dwelled on the earth, We would have sent an angel from the heaven as Messenger." [43:60]

قُلْ كَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا 17:96

Tell them, "God suffices as witness between me and you. Surely, He is fully Aware of His servants." [The outcome through His laws will prove who is right]

وَمَن يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِهِ وَنَحْشُرُهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَلَىٰ وُجُوهِهِمْ عُمْيًا وَبُكْمًا وَصُمًّا مَّأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدْنَاهُمْ سَعِيرًا 17:97

The rightly guided is the one who follows God's Guidance. Anyone who quits His way, has gone astray. You will not find any protectors for them outside His laws. On the Day of Resurrection, We will gather them together prone upon their faces, blind, dumb, and deaf. (That is how they lived their life.) Hell is their abode, and every time its flames abate, We shall increase for them its blazing flame.

ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاؤُهُم بِأَنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَقَالُوا أَإِذَا كُنَّا عِظَامًا وَرُفَاتًا أَإِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ خَلْقًا جَدِيدًا 17:98

Such is their reward because they preemptively rejected Our messages. And for having said, "When we are bones and fragments, shall we be raised from the dead as a new creation?"

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ قَادِرٌ عَلَىٰ أَن يَخْلُقَ مِثْلَهُمْ وَجَعَلَ لَهُمْ أَجَلًا لَّا رَيْبَ فِيهِ فَأَبَى الظَّالِمُونَ إِلَّا كُفُورًا 17:99

Do they not realize that God Who created the heavens and the earth, is Able to create them anew in their own likeness again? He has appointed an irrevocable time to end the worldly life (and of Resurrection). Only those remain submerged in the darkness of ignorance who are bent upon doing wrong to their own 'self' (and thus remain ungrateful for the Benevolent guidance).

قُل لَّوْ أَنتُمْ تَمْلِكُونَ خَزَائِنَ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّي إِذًا لَّأَمْسَكْتُمْ خَشْيَةَ الْإِنفَاقِ وَكَانَ الْإِنسَانُ قَتُورًا 17:100

Say, "If you owned the treasures of my Lord's grace, you would keep them back for fear of exhausting them. For, the human being has always been covetous."

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ تِسْعَ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ فَاسْأَلْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِذْ جَاءَهُمْ فَقَالَ لَهُ فِرْعَوْنُ إِنِّي لَأَظُنُّكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ مَسْحُورًا **17:101**

(We have been sending Prophets for the reformation of this mentality.) We gave to Moses nine clear messages. Ask then, the Children of Israel what happened when he came to them and Pharaoh said to him, "Surely, O Moses! I think you are bewitched." [2:83, 7:133, 27:12, 34:13. Think of the Ten Commandments given to Prophet Moses. The Qur'an drops the forbidding of making graven images, although Muslim orthodoxy declares it Haraam.]

قَالَ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا أَنزَلَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ بَصَائِرَ وَإِنِّي لَأَظُنُّكَ يَا فِرْعَوْنُ مَثْبُورًا **17:102**

Answered Moses, "You know well that no one but the Lord of the heavens and the earth has revealed these eye-opening messages and, certainly, O Pharaoh! I think that you are utterly lost."

فَأَرَادَ أَن يَسْتَفِزَّهُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُ وَمَن مَّعَهُ جَمِيعًا **17:103**

Pharaoh resolved to wipe off Moses and his followers from the face of the earth. But We drowned him and those with him, all together.

وَقُلْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِ لِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اسْكُنُوا الْأَرْضَ فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ جِئْنَا بِكُمْ لَفِيفًا **17:104**

After that We said to the Children of Israel, "Dwell now securely on earth but remember that when the last promise comes to pass, We shall bring you as a crowd gathered out of various communities." [The first two promises: 17:5, 17:7, 7:157]

وَبِالْحَقِّ أَنزَلْنَاهُ وَبِالْحَقِّ نَزَلَ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا **17:105**

Quran is truth

We have sent it down, and with the truth it has come down (to you O Prophet). We have sent you as a bearer of glad tidings and as a warner.

وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَىٰ مُكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنزِيلًا **17:106**

With the Qur'an which We have gradually unfolded, so that you might convey it to mankind by stages. Indeed, We have sent it down step by step, as one revelation.

قُلْ آمِنُوا بِهِ أَوْ لَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ مِن قَبْلِهِ إِذَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ يَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ سُجَّدًا **17:107**

Say, “Believe in it or do not believe in it.” Those who possess knowledge from the previous scriptures, when it is recited to them, they fall down to their chins, prostrating.“ [Zaqan = Chin, and not face]

وَيَقُولُونَ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِن كَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّنَا لَمَفْعُولًا **17:108**

They say, “Glory be to our Lord. Surely, the promise of our Lord has been fulfilled.“

وَيَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ يَبْكُونَ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ خُشُوعًا **17:109**

And so they fall down on their chins, weeping, and increasing in humility.

قُلِ ادْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوِ ادْعُوا الرَّحْمَٰنَ أَيًّا مَّا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ وَلَا تَجْهَرْ بِصَلَاتِكَ وَلَا تُخَافِتْ بِهَا وَابْتَغِ بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ سَبِيلًا **17:110**

Pray softly

Say, “Call upon God, or call upon the Beneficent: By whatever name you call upon Him, to Him belong the best names and attributes of perfection. And do not be too loud in your prayer, nor speak in a voice too low, but follow a way between. [7:180]

وَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَمْ يَتَّخِذْ وَلَدًا وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ شَرِيكٌ فِي الْمُلْكِ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ وَلِيٌّ مِّنَ الذُّلِّ وَكَبِّرْهُ تَكْبِيرًا **17:111**

And say, “All praise is due to God Who never begot a son, nor does He have a partner in His Kingdom, nor does He need any ally out of weakness.” Therefore, extol His greatness with all magnificence. [Establish His Supremacy on earth with all magnificence, as it is in the entire Universe. 9:33, 74:3]

Chapter 18

Al-Kahf - The Cave

This is the 18th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 110 verses. The Surah derives its name from the Cave in which some young men (probably seven of them) had taken shelter against persecution by the Roman Emperor Decius (who ruled between 249-251 CE). Decius (Daqianoos) being a pagan was known for his persecution of the Unitarian Monotheistic Christians. They were true Unitarian followers of Jesus Christ, and they took refuge outside the town of Ephesus (Afsoos) in today´s Turkey. The 19th Century Archaeology has uncovered the ruins of the town just South of Izmir. Dwellers of the Cave, known as ´The Seven Sleepers´ in history, have also been referred in this Surah as the owners of Ar-Raqeem - from Raqam meaning inscribing - Inscription. I understand that they held on to the scripture, the Gospel of Jesus. The dogmas of Trinity, Blood Atonement, Divinity and Sonship of Jesus, all were canonized about 75 years after Decius at the Conference of Nicea under Emperor Constantine in 325 CE. So, the Gospel that these young men held on to, was much closer to the real teachings of Jesus. They were vanguards of truth, and not ascetics withdrawing from the responsibilities of the worldly life. Al-Kahf is one of the most commonly misinterpreted Surahs of the Qur´an because of contradictory historical accounts, questionable Ahadith and the Biblical influence on the minds of many commentators. The Qur´an, as always, sifts out fabrications and embraces the truth. Tasreef (and some relevant history) help us understand this Surah. The Surah also gives us an important lesson that true revolutions begin in the hearts and violent revolutions create only corruption, disorder and bloodshed in the land.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ عَلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَل لَّهُ عِوَجًا **18:1**

No flaws in the Quran

All beauty and balance in the Universe is the living evidence that God is Praiseworthy.

All praise is for God Who has revealed this Book to His servant, and made it flawless.

قَيِّمًا لِّيُنذِرَ بَأْسًا شَدِيدًا مِّن لَّدُنْهُ وَيُبَشِّرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا حَسَنًا **18:2**

It is a perfect Book, unerringly straight so that He may warn (the rejecters) of a strict retribution from Him (which is the destructive result of their wrongdoings). And that He may give good news to the believers who benefit the society, that theirs shall be an immensely pleasant reward.

مَّاكِثِينَ فِيهِ أَبَدًا **18:3**

A state of bliss in which they shall dwell beyond the count of time.

وَيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا **18:4**

Furthermore, this Divine Writ is meant to warn all those who say, "God has taken to Himself a son."

مَّا لَهُم بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ وَلَا لِآبَائِهِمْ كَبُرَتْ كَلِمَةً تَخْرُجُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ إِن يَقُولُونَ إِلَّا كَذِبًا **18:5**

No knowledge whatsoever have they of Him, and neither did their forefathers. An outrageous statement it is that comes out of their mouths, and nothing but falsehood do they utter!

فَلَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَّفْسَكَ عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمْ إِن لَّمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهَٰذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا **18:6**

(O Messenger) should you (in your compassion) grieve yourself to death if they are not willing to believe in this Message?

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ زِينَةً لَّهَا لِنَبْلُوَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا **18:7**

(God never ordained asceticism for mankind. It was something they had invented 57:27.) We have adorned what is on earth so that We may let them test themselves as to who is best in conduct, and lives a balanced life. [18:30-31, 18:46, 67:2. Ahsanu 'amala includes 'best in conduct' and 'balanced life']

وَإِنَّا لَجَاعِلُونَ مَا عَلَيْهَا صَعِيدًا جُرُزًا **18:8**

We shall reduce all that is on earth to barren dust!

أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا **18:9**

Do you think that the Dwellers of the Cave, the Upholders of Raqeem (the Inscribed Gospel) were some supernatural beings, more wondrous than Our other signs? [Nay, strange legends became famous about them]

إِذْ أَوَى الْفِتْيَةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا **18:10**

As they fled for refuge to the Cave (outside Ephesus), they prayed, "Our Lord! Bestow on us grace from Your Presence, and help us conduct our affairs in the right way.

فَضَرَبْنَا عَلَىٰ آذَانِهِمْ فِي الْكَهْفِ سِنِينَ عَدَدًا **18:11**

And thereupon We veiled their ears in the Cave for some years. [They remained isolated, hiding from the soldiers of Emperor Decius during his reign, 249-251 CE]

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِنَعْلَمَ أَيُّ الْحِزْبَيْنِ أَحْصَىٰ لِمَا لَبِثُوا أَمَدًا **18:12**

And then We roused them (out of the Cave), in order to test for themselves which of the two parties, (the young men and their friends in town, or their opponents), had made better use of the time. [The Dwellers of the Cave had maintained secret communication with like-minded people in Ephesus]

نَّحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى **18:13**

And now (contrary to hearsay) We shall relate to you (O Prophet) their true history. Indeed, they were young men who truly believed in their Lord and We increased them in guidance.

وَرَبَطْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ إِذْ قَامُوا فَقَالُوا رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَن نَّدْعُوَ مِن دُونِهِ إِلَٰهًا لَّقَدْ قُلْنَا إِذًا شَطَطًا **18:14**

We strengthened their hearts as they took a firm stand and said, "Our only Lord is the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth. Never shall we call upon any 'authority' other than Him. If we did, we would be in enormous schism." [Their proclamation was not mere words. They were determined to establish the Divine System in their land]

هَٰؤُلَاءِ قَوْمُنَا اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ آلِهَةً لَّوْلَا يَأْتُونَ عَلَيْهِم بِسُلْطَانٍ بَيِّنٍ فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا **18:15**

"Our people have taken gods other than Him. Why do they not bring forward a clear and convincing evidence in support of what they do? And who does a greater wrong than the one who invents a lie against God?" [Taken gods other than Him = Obeyed false authorities contradicting Divine Commands]

وَإِذِ اعْتَزَلْتُمُوهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَأْوُوا إِلَى الْكَهْفِ يَنشُرْ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُم مِّن رَّحْمَتِهِ وَيُهَيِّئْ لَكُم مِّنْ أَمْرِكُم مِّرْفَقًا **18:16**

(The young men conferred with their friends and among themselves), "Now that you have withdrawn from them and all that they submit to other than God, then

seek refuge in the Cave. Your Lord will shower you with His grace, and set your affairs towards ease."

وَتَرَى الشَّمْسَ إِذَا طَلَعَت تَّزَاوَرُ عَن كَهْفِهِمْ ذَاتَ الْيَمِينِ وَإِذَا غَرَبَت تَّقْرِضُهُمْ ذَاتَ الشِّمَالِ وَهُمْ فِي فَجْوَةٍ مِّنْهُ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ مَن يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَن يُضْلِلْ فَلَن تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُّرْشِدًا **18:17**

And you would have seen the sun rising on the right side of the Cave, and set, aside from them, on the left while they lived on in that spacious chamber. It is a sign of God that (He arranged for them excellent camouflage and) whom God guides is rightly guided, and whom He lets go astray (for violating the laws of guidance) for such, you will find no ally to show the right way. [The Cave lay North South and while it was roomy from inside, its entrance was small]

وَتَحْسَبُهُمْ أَيْقَاظًا وَهُمْ رُقُودٌ وَنُقَلِّبُهُمْ ذَاتَ الْيَمِينِ وَذَاتَ الشِّمَالِ وَكَلْبُهُم بَاسِطٌ ذِرَاعَيْهِ بِالْوَصِيدِ لَوِ اطَّلَعْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ لَوَلَّيْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِرَارًا وَلَمُلِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ رُعْبًا **18:18**

You would have thought that they were awake, even when they slept. (They remained alert round the clock.) We made them change their positions right and left, frequently. They had a faithful dog to guard the entrance, with its four paws outstretched (ready to pounce). The whole environment was awe-inspiring. Had you come upon them suddenly, you would have fled away from them in awe.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِيَتَسَاءَلُوا بَيْنَهُمْ قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ كَمْ لَبِثْتُمْ قَالُوا لَبِثْنَا يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ قَالُوا رَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَبِثْتُمْ فَابْعَثُوا أَحَدَكُم بِوَرِقِكُمْ هَٰذِهِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ فَلْيَنظُرْ أَيُّهَا أَزْكَىٰ طَعَامًا فَلْيَأْتِكُم بِرِزْقٍ مِّنْهُ وَلْيَتَلَطَّفْ وَلَا يُشْعِرَنَّ بِكُمْ أَحَدًا **18:19**

And so, when We caused them to rise (out of the Cave), they began to ask one another (about the next step). One of them asked, "How long have you been here?" "We have been here a day or part of a day!" they answered. Finally they said, "Your Lord knows best how long. (They were so committed to their mission that they hardly noticed how the days and nights went by.) Let one of you go with these silver coins to the town, and look for the best available food, and bring you some provisions. But let him exercise caution, and by no means make anyone aware of you."

إِنَّهُمْ إِن يَظْهَرُوا عَلَيْكُمْ يَرْجُمُوكُمْ أَوْ يُعِيدُوكُمْ فِي مِلَّتِهِمْ وَلَن تُفْلِحُوا إِذًا أَبَدًا **18:20**

"If they discover you, they will stone you to death or force you to revert to their religion. Then you will never succeed."

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَعْثَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَأَنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا إِذْ يَتَنَازَعُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَمْرَهُمْ فَقَالُوا ابْنُوا عَلَيْهِم بُنْيَانًا رَّبُّهُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ قَالَ الَّذِينَ غَلَبُوا عَلَىٰ أَمْرِهِمْ لَنَتَّخِذَنَّ عَلَيْهِم مَّسْجِدًا **18:21**

And in this way We caused them to be discovered (when their mission had succeeded), and everyone realized that God's promise is always true. There remained no doubt about the success of the Revolution. (The Dwellers of the Cave were revered by their people as the Divine Order was restored. Time went by and they passed on. The reverence of the people took a turn.) Some people said, "Erect a building in the memory of the Dwellers of the Cave since God knows their high stature." Others, whose opinion prevailed, said, "We must raise a house of worship in their memory in which people would submit to the One True God, a temple of Submission (Masjid). [But later, people converted the building into a monastery and placed huge tombstones with superstitious inscriptions including RAQEEM. The sanctuary became a haven for nuns and monks]

سَيَقُولُونَ ثَلَاثَةٌ رَّابِعُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ خَمْسَةٌ سَادِسُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ رَجْمًا بِالْغَيْبِ وَيَقُولُونَ سَبْعَةٌ وَثَامِنُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ قُل رَّبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِعِدَّتِهِم مَّا يَعْلَمُهُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ فَلَا تُمَارِ فِيهِمْ إِلَّا مِرَاءً ظَاهِرًا وَلَا تَسْتَفْتِ فِيهِم مِّنْهُمْ أَحَدًا **18:22**

Then, some would say they were three, and their dog was the fourth, and some would say five, and their dog the sixth. They only made wild guesses, and some of them said that they were seven and their dog was the eighth. Say, "My Lord is best Aware of their number." There are some who know* their right number but, do not argue about them except a passing comment. You need not consult anyone about them (to avoid undue controversies). [*The last statement that they were seven and their dog was the eighth, is not denied by the Qur'an. Those who get this point probably know their number]

وَلَا تَقُولَنَّ لِشَيْءٍ إِنِّي فَاعِلٌ ذَٰلِكَ غَدًا **18:23**

(This is the news of the Unseen. Like, the next day is unseen for you.) Never say about a thing, "Certainly, I will do it tomorrow." [Something may happen beyond your control]

إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ وَاذْكُر رَّبَّكَ إِذَا نَسِيتَ وَقُلْ عَسَىٰ أَن يَهْدِيَنِ رَبِّي لِأَقْرَبَ مِنْ هَٰذَا رَشَدًا 18:24

Add to your statement, “If my promise is not contrary to the Divine laws” - And remember your Lord if you forget your promise, and say, “I hope my Lord will guide me even closer to the right course.”

وَلَبِثُوا فِي كَهْفِهِمْ ثَلَاثَ مِائَةٍ سِنِينَ وَازْدَادُوا تِسْعًا 18:25

And (some people assert that) they lived in the Cave for three hundred years and some have added nine (to that number). [Interestingly, 300 Solar years = 309 lunar years, but God knows best]

قُلِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَبِثُوا لَهُ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَبْصِرْ بِهِ وَأَسْمِعْ مَا لَهُم مِّن دُونِهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا يُشْرِكُ فِي حُكْمِهِ أَحَدًا 18:26

Say, “God knows best how long they remained there.” His alone is the knowledge of the hidden reality of the heavens and the earth. How well does He see and hear! They have no guardian apart from Him and He allots no one a share in His Rule!

وَاتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِن كِتَابِ رَبِّكَ لَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَلَن تَجِدَ مِن دُونِهِ مُلْتَحَدًا 18:27

(O Messenger) convey to them whatever of this Book is revealed to you from your Lord. 6:19.) None can alter His Words. And you will find no refuge other than Him. [His laws in Theory (Kalimaatillah), and His laws in Practice as implemented in the Universe (Sunnatillah), never change. 6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85, 48:23]

وَاصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا تُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرُطًا 18:28

(There is a lesson of perseverance in the history of the Dwellers of the Cave.) Keep yourself content with those who remember their Lord morning and evening seeking His approval. And let not your eyes overlook them in quest for the glitter of this world. And do not obey any whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance, one who follows his own desires, and whose case has been closed. [6:52, 8:52-54, 89:29:30. ‘Case closed’ = The Divine laws have already decreed for him ultimate loss for his relentless misdeeds]

وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ فَمَن شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِن وَمَن شَاءَ فَلْيَكْفُرْ إِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ نَارًا أَحَاطَ بِهِمْ سُرَادِقُهَا وَإِن يَسْتَغِيثُوا يُغَاثُوا بِمَاءٍ كَالْمُهْلِ يَشْوِي الْوُجُوهَ بِئْسَ الشَّرَابُ وَسَاءَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا **18:29**

And proclaim, "This is the truth from your Lord. Whoever accepts it let him accept it, and whoever rejects it, let him reject it." Surely, for all those who wrong their own 'self', We have readied billowing folds of fire to surround them. When they beg for water, they will be given their burning hot deeds that backfire on their faces, a drink of distress they gave others. How dreadful a drink! And how terrible a resting place! [9:34-35]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ إِنَّا لَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ مَنْ أَحْسَنَ عَمَلًا **18:30**

As for those who attain belief and do works that help others, We never fail to reward such benefactors of humanity.

أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِن ذَهَبٍ وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُضْرًا مِّن سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُّتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ نِعْمَ الثَّوَابُ وَحَسُنَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا **18:31**

Theirs shall be the Gardens of Eden with rivers flowing beneath. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and wear green robes of finest silk, brocade and velvet, reclining upon thrones of honor. What a wonderful reward, and how goodly a place to rest!

وَاضْرِبْ لَهُم مَّثَلًا رَّجُلَيْنِ جَعَلْنَا لِأَحَدِهِمَا جَنَّتَيْنِ مِنْ أَعْنَابٍ وَحَفَفْنَاهُمَا بِنَخْلٍ وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمَا زَرْعًا **18:32**

(The real success belongs to those who work for both lives.) Cite for them the example of two men. To one of them, We had given two vineyards, and surrounded them with date palms and placed a field of grain in between.

كِلْتَا الْجَنَّتَيْنِ آتَتْ أُكُلَهَا وَلَمْ تَظْلِم مِّنْهُ شَيْئًا وَفَجَّرْنَا خِلَالَهُمَا نَهَرًا **18:33**

Both gardens produced plenty of fruit on time, as We caused a stream to flow through them.

وَكَانَ لَهُ ثَمَرٌ فَقَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ وَهُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ أَنَا أَكْثَرُ مِنكَ مَالًا وَأَعَزُّ نَفَرًا **18:34**

Once, after an abundant crop, he boastfully said to his friend, "I am far more prosperous than you, and I command more respect from people."

وَدَخَلَ جَنَّتَهُ وَهُوَ ظَالِمٌ لِّنَفْسِهِ قَالَ مَا أَظُنُّ أَن تَبِيدَ هَٰذِهِ أَبَدًا **18:35**

And having thus wronged himself, he entered his garden saying, "I do not think that this will ever perish!"

وَمَا أَظُنُّ السَّاعَةَ قَائِمَةً وَلَئِن رُّدِدتُّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي لَأَجِدَنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهَا مُنقَلَبًا **18:36**

He said, "I do not think that the Hour will ever come. If I am returned to my Lord, I will find something even better as my resort."

قَالَ لَهُ صَاحِبُهُ وَهُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ أَكَفَرْتَ بِالَّذِي خَلَقَكَ مِن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ سَوَّاكَ رَجُلًا **18:37**

His friend differed with him, "Do you disbelieve in the One Who created you from dust, and then from gametes, and then shaped you into the current human form?"

لَّٰكِنَّا هُوَ اللَّهُ رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِرَبِّي أَحَدًا **18:38**

"As for me, God is my Lord and I will never accept any other god besides my Lord."

وَلَوْلَا إِذْ دَخَلْتَ جَنَّتَكَ قُلْتَ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ إِن تَرَنِ أَنَا أَقَلَّ مِنكَ مَالًا وَوَلَدًا **18:39**

And he continued, "Ah, when you entered your garden, you should have said, 'This is what God has given me according to His laws for no one has Power but God.' You see that I have less wealth and fewer children than you." (Still I associate no one with Him.)

فَعَسَىٰ رَبِّي أَن يُؤْتِيَنِ خَيْرًا مِّن جَنَّتِكَ وَيُرْسِلَ عَلَيْهَا حُسْبَانًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَتُصْبِحَ صَعِيدًا زَلَقًا **18:40**

He said, “So my Lord may grant me something better than your garden. (The luxuries of this life are bound to vanish.) He may send a calamity from heaven to wipe out this garden, leaving it a heap of barren dust.”

أَوْ يُصْبِحَ مَاؤُهَا غَوْرًا فَلَن تَسْتَطِيعَ لَهُ طَلَبًا 18:41

“Or, it may happen that the water level recedes low, out of your reach.” [Therefore, we must invest for the Eternity as well]

وَأُحِيطَ بِثَمَرِهِ فَأَصْبَحَ يُقَلِّبُ كَفَّيْهِ عَلَىٰ مَا أَنفَقَ فِيهَا وَهِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَىٰ عُرُوشِهَا وَيَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي لَمْ أُشْرِكْ بِرَبِّي أَحَدًا 18:42

And thus it happened. One day, the arrogant man’s fruitful gardens were wiped out. And there he was, twisting and turning his hands in sorrow. He lost his property which was now tumbled to pieces in complete ruin. And he could only say, “Oh, I wish I never worshiped anyone (even my property) other than my Lord!”

وَلَمْ تَكُن لَّهُ فِئَةٌ يَنصُرُونَهُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ مُنتَصِرًا 18:43

He had none to help him against the Divine laws, nor could he help himself.

هُنَالِكَ الْوَلَايَةُ لِلَّهِ الْحَقِّ هُوَ خَيْرٌ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ عُقْبًا 18:44

Thus it is. The only invincible protection comes from God alone. He is the Best to grant recompense, and the Best to determine what must be.

وَاضْرِبْ لَهُم مَّثَلَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا كَمَاءٍ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَاخْتَلَطَ بِهِ نَبَاتُ الْأَرْضِ فَأَصْبَحَ هَشِيمًا تَذْرُوهُ الرِّيَاحُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّقْتَدِرًا 18:45

Cite for them the example of the materialistic life of this world. It is like the water We send down from the sky, and which is absorbed by plants of the earth. But in time they turn into dry stubble or hay which the winds blow freely about. God is Sovereign over all things and events. [Total preoccupation with the material delights of life deprives people from growing in humanity]

الْمَالُ وَالْبَنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِندَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا 18:46

(Divine bounties and blessings are for you to enjoy, but they are a means to a higher end 7:32.) Wealth and children are the joys of the life of this world. But good deeds that fulfill the needs of others, their fruit endures forever. Such actions are of far greater merit in the Sight of your Lord, and the best foundation of hope. [19:76]

وَيَوْمَ نُسَيِّرُ الْجِبَالَ وَتَرَى الْأَرْضَ بَارِزَةً وَحَشَرْنَاهُمْ فَلَمْ نُغَادِرْ مِنْهُمْ أَحَدًا **18:47**

So, know the Day when the tycoons of wealth and power will be shaken by Our law, and the poor downtrodden will come at par with them. All humanity will stand equal. No person will lag behind in his or her birth right of dignity. [20:105]

وَعُرِضُوا عَلَىٰ رَبِّكَ صَفًّا لَّقَدْ جِئْتُمُونَا كَمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ بَلْ زَعَمْتُمْ أَلَّن نَّجْعَلَ لَكُم مَّوْعِدًا **18:48**

And they will be marshaled before your Lord in ranks. (It will be said to them), "Now, you have come to Us as We created you at the first creation. But you thought that We had set no plan for this (Day)." [Also, in this world, mankind will become one single community, as they were in the beginning. 2:213, 10:19]

وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ فَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا فِيهِ وَيَقُولُونَ يَا وَيْلَتَنَا مَالِ هَٰذَا الْكِتَابِ لَا يُغَادِرُ صَغِيرَةً وَلَا كَبِيرَةً إِلَّا أَحْصَاهَا وَوَجَدُوا مَا عَمِلُوا حَاضِرًا وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا **18:49**

Nothing is left out in the book

The Book will be laid open and you will see the guilty fearful of what they see therein. Those who used to steal the fruit of others' labor will say, "Oh, woe to us! What kind of a Book is this that leaves out nothing, be it small or large, but takes everything into account." And they will find all that they did confronting them, for your Lord wrongs no one. [This verse probably applies to the Qur'an and to the Divine Database, just as Hell and Paradise are frequently mentioned in the Qur'an applying to both lives. 9:31-33, 13:31,14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 53:39-40, 61:9]

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنِّ فَفَسَقَ عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِ أَفَتَتَّخِذُونَهُ وَذُرِّيَّتَهُ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِن دُونِي وَهُمْ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ بِئْسَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ بَدَلًا **18:50**

Recall when We said to the angels, "Humble yourselves to Adam!" They all humbled themselves except Iblees. He was of the hidden selfish desires that drifted away from his Lord's command. Will you still befriend him and his comrades rather than Me? And they are enemies to you! Miserable is the exchange the wrongdoers make. [2:30-38, 18:48. Zurriyyah = Progeny = Children = Party = Comrades]

مَّا أَشْهَدتُّهُمْ خَلْقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَا خَلْقَ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَمَا كُنتُ مُتَّخِذَ الْمُضِلِّينَ عَضُدًا **18:51**

I never permitted any creatures to witness the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor their own creation. And neither do I need to take as My helpers those beings (religious leaders) who lead people astray.

وَيَوْمَ يَقُولُ نَادُوا شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ فَدَعَوْهُمْ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُم مَّوْبِقًا 18:52

Be mindful of the Day when He will say, "Call those whom you assigned as My partners." Then they will call upon them, but they will not answer. We shall set a gulf of doom between them.

وَرَأَى الْمُجْرِمُونَ النَّارَ فَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُم مُّوَاقِعُوهَا وَلَمْ يَجِدُوا عَنْهَا مَصْرِفًا 18:53

Those who thrived on the fruit of others' toil will gaze at the fire, and will realize that they are bound to fall into it, and will find no way to escape.

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ لِلنَّاسِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ وَكَانَ الْإِنسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا 18:54

Examples are in the Quran

Indeed, for the benefit of mankind We use Tasreef to explain the Qur'an from various vantage points. However, man, above all other imperfections, is given to contention.

وَمَا مَنَعَ النَّاسَ أَن يُؤْمِنُوا إِذْ جَاءَهُمُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَّا أَن تَأْتِيَهُمْ سُنَّةُ الْأَوَّلِينَ أَوْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ قُبُلًا 18:55

For, what is there to keep people from attaining belief now that guidance has come to them, and from asking the protecting forgiveness of their Lord? - Unless they choose the fate of the ancient people to befall them and hasten the doom upon them.

وَمَا نُرْسِلُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَيُجَادِلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ لِيُدْحِضُوا بِهِ الْحَقَّ وَاتَّخَذُوا آيَاتِي وَمَا أُنذِرُوا هُزُوًا 18:56

Messengers are bearers of good news

But We send the Messengers only as heralds of glad tidings and as warners. Whereas the rejecters contend with false arguments, trying to refute the truth, and to make My verses and warnings a target of their mockery.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن ذُكِّرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ فَأَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا وَنَسِيَ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً أَن يَفْقَهُوهُ وَفِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرًا وَإِن تَدْعُهُمْ إِلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَلَن يَهْتَدُوا إِذًا أَبَدًا ??? 18:57

And who does greater harm to himself than the one to whom his Lord's messages are conveyed and he turns away from them, forgetting what he is doing and what wrong he has done before? Our law makes their hearts and ears impermeable to reason and advice. No matter what you do to guide them, they will not allow themselves to be shown the right way.

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَفُورُ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ لَوْ يُؤَاخِذُهُم بِمَا كَسَبُوا لَعَجَّلَ لَهُمُ الْعَذَابَ بَل لَّهُم مَّوْعِدٌ لَّن يَجِدُوا مِن دُونِهِ مَوْئِلًا 18:58

Yet, your Lord is the Truly-Forgiving One, full of grace. He could take the rejecters to task right away for whatever wrong they commit, and punish them then and there. But He gives them a period of respite beyond which they shall find no refuge.

وَتِلْكَ الْقُرَىٰ أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ لَمَّا ظَلَمُوا وَجَعَلْنَا لِمَهْلِكِهِم مَّوْعِدًا 18:59

Our Law of Requital annihilated many communities when they went on and on with their unjust systems. They were all given a due period of respite (in order to make amends) and We set up a time-limit for their annihilation.

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِفَتَاهُ لَا أَبْرَحُ حَتَّىٰ أَبْلُغَ مَجْمَعَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ أَوْ أَمْضِيَ حُقُبًا 18:60

And so, in the course of his quest for knowledge, Moses said to his young friend, "I shall not give up until I reach the junction of the two streams, though I march on for ages in my quest." [The Divine revelation shows the way and the outcome with conviction. When Moses was a young man, not yet commissioned as a Prophet, he was constantly in search of truth 93:7. God chose His Prophets and assigned them their mission at the appropriate time. The young Moses knew that the human intellect was the source of conceptual knowledge whereas the Divine revelation is the extrinsic knowledge from beyond human faculties. Intellect and revelation: The Two Streams of knowledge]

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَا مَجْمَعَ بَيْنِهِمَا نَسِيَا حُوتَهُمَا فَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ سَرَبًا 18:61

But when Moses with his young friend reached the junction of the two streams, they forgot all about the fish. And it disappeared into the sea. [Moses became more concerned about his people in bondage. Interestingly, fish is an ancient symbol of worldly life with all its glitter]

فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَا قَالَ لِفَتَاهُ آتِنَا غَدَاءَنَا لَقَدْ لَقِينَا مِن سَفَرِنَا هَٰذَا نَصَبًا 18:62

And after the two had walked some distance, Moses said to his young friend, "Bring us our lunch, the journey has been tiring."

قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَ إِذْ أَوَيْنَا إِلَى الصَّخْرَةِ فَإِنِّي نَسِيتُ الْحُوتَ وَمَا أَنسَانِيهُ إِلَّا الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ أَذْكُرَهُ وَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ عَجَبًا 18:63

Said his friend, "Would you believe it? When we rested at the rock, I forgot about the fish and none but Satan, my wandering thoughts, made me forget it. And it took its way into the sea. How strange!

قَالَ ذَٰلِكَ مَا كُنَّا نَبْغِ فَارْتَدَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمَا قَصَصًا 18:64

Moses said, "That is what we were seeking!" And the two turned back retracing their footsteps. (Moses retired to rest in deep thought.)

فَوَجَدَا عَبْدًا مِّنْ عِبَادِنَا آتَيْنَاهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِندِنَا وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ مِن لَّدُنَّا عِلْمًا 18:65

(Moses wondered how exciting the merging of the two streams would be! And he imagined that) he found a servant of Ours, upon whom We had bestowed grace from Our Presence and to whom We had imparted knowledge from Ourselves. [A close examination of verses 60-65 is quite revealing. From this point on the young friend suddenly disappears. Also consider the way the fish disappeared, and how then, Moses remarks, "That is what we were seeking". I agree with Allama Muhammad Asad that the 'fish' here is only figurative. I also understand that the young friend of Moses is none else but his own youthful enthusiasm taking him to a great quest. Then in 18:64 Moses goes back retracing his footsteps. So, what happens next is most probably his deep contemplation at rest. The mystical story is worth pondering. The enlightened man who meets Moses at this juncture, and later his weird actions, definitely grant him an allegorical and not a tangible presence. For these reasons I think that in 18:60-82, the Qur'an is relating the intellectual search of Moses rather than his physical experience]

قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَىٰ هَلْ أَتَّبِعُكَ عَلَىٰ أَن تُعَلِّمَنِ مِمَّا عُلِّمْتَ رُشْدًا 18:66

Moses (deep in his contemplation) said to the man, "May I follow you that you may teach me some of the knowledge and guidance which you have been taught?"

قَالَ إِنَّكَ لَن تَسْتَطِيعَ مَعِيَ صَبْرًا 18:67

He said, "Surely, you would not be able to have patience with me.

وَكَيْفَ تَصْبِرُ عَلَىٰ مَا لَمْ تُحِطْ بِهِ خُبْرًا 18:68

And how can you bear with what you cannot comprehend¿‘

قَالَ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ صَابِرًا وَلَا أَعْصِي لَكَ أَمْرًا 18:69

Moses said, “God willing, you will find me patient and I will not disobey you.”

قَالَ فَإِنِ اتَّبَعْتَنِي فَلَا تَسْأَلْنِي عَن شَيْءٍ حَتَّىٰ أُحْدِثَ لَكَ مِنْهُ ذِكْرًا 18:70

The man said, “Well, if you go with me, do not ask me any questions unless I choose to tell you about it.”

فَانطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا رَكِبَا فِي السَّفِينَةِ خَرَقَهَا قَالَ أَخَرَقْتَهَا لِتُغْرِقَ أَهْلَهَا لَقَدْ جِئْتَ شَيْئًا إِمْرًا 18:71

So they went on until they were in a boat and he made a hole in it. Moses said, “Did you make a hole to drown its people? You have done something terrible!”

قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ إِنَّكَ لَن تَسْتَطِيعَ مَعِيَ صَبْرًا 18:72

The man said, “Did I not tell you that you could not bear with me?”

قَالَ لَا تُؤَاخِذْنِي بِمَا نَسِيتُ وَلَا تُرْهِقْنِي مِنْ أَمْرِي عُسْرًا 18:73

Said Moses, “Do not rebuke me for forgetting. And be not hard on me for my fault.”

فَانطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا لَقِيَا غُلَامًا فَقَتَلَهُ قَالَ أَقَتَلْتَ نَفْسًا زَكِيَّةً بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ لَّقَدْ جِئْتَ شَيْئًا نُّكْرًا 18:74

So they went on until when they met a lad, he slew him. Moses said, “What! Have you slain an innocent person who had slain none? Surely, you have done a horrible thing.”

قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُل لَّكَ إِنَّكَ لَن تَسْتَطِيعَ مَعِيَ صَبْرًا 18:75

The man said, “Didn’t I tell you that you could not bear with me?”

قَالَ إِن سَأَلْتُكَ عَن شَيْءٍ بَعْدَهَا فَلَا تُصَاحِبْنِي قَدْ بَلَغْتَ مِن لَّدُنِّي عُذْرًا 18:76

Moses said, “If I ask you after this about anything, then do not keep me with you. By then you shall have received enough excuses from me.”

فَانطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَيَا أَهْلَ قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَطْعَمَا أَهْلَهَا فَأَبَوْا أَن يُضَيِّفُوهُمَا فَوَجَدَا فِيهَا جِدَارًا يُرِيدُ أَن يَنقَضَّ فَأَقَامَهُ قَالَ لَوْ شِئْتَ لَاتَّخَذْتَ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا **18:77**

So they proceeded. When they reached a township, they asked its people for food, but they refused them hospitality. Soon they saw a wall that was about to collapse, and he fixed it. Moses said, “If you had wished, you could have taken a wage for that.”

قَالَ هَٰذَا فِرَاقُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنِكَ سَأُنَبِّئُكَ بِتَأْوِيلِ مَا لَمْ تَسْتَطِع عَّلَيْهِ صَبْرًا **18:78**

He replied, “This is the parting between you and me! But I will explain to you the real meaning of things you could not bear with patience.“

أَمَّا السَّفِينَةُ فَكَانَتْ لِمَسَاكِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ فِي الْبَحْرِ فَأَرَدتُّ أَنْ أَعِيبَهَا وَكَانَ وَرَاءَهُم مَّلِكٌ يَأْخُذُ كُلَّ سَفِينَةٍ غَصْبًا **18:79**

“As for the boat, it belonged to poor people working on the river, and I wished to make it defective. For, behind them was a king who was taking every (good) boat by force.

وَأَمَّا الْغُلَامُ فَكَانَ أَبَوَاهُ مُؤْمِنَيْنِ فَخَشِينَا أَن يُرْهِقَهُمَا طُغْيَانًا وَكُفْرًا **18:80**

And as for the lad, his parents were true believers whereas we had every reason to fear that he would bring bitter grief upon them by rebellion and disbelief.

فَأَرَدْنَا أَن يُبْدِلَهُمَا رَبُّهُمَا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُ زَكَاةً وَأَقْرَبَ رُحْمًا **18:81**

And so we desired that their Sustainer grant them, instead of him, a child better in purity of conduct and affection.

وَأَمَّا الْجِدَارُ فَكَانَ لِغُلَامَيْنِ يَتِيمَيْنِ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ وَكَانَ تَحْتَهُ كَنزٌ لَّهُمَا وَكَانَ أَبُوهُمَا صَالِحًا فَأَرَادَ رَبُّكَ أَن يَبْلُغَا أَشُدَّهُمَا وَيَسْتَخْرِجَا كَنزَهُمَا رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَمَا فَعَلْتُهُ عَنْ أَمْرِي ذَٰلِكَ تَأْوِيلُ مَا لَمْ تَسْطِع عَّلَيْهِ صَبْرًا **18:82**

As for the wall, it belonged to two orphan boys in the town. And there was a treasure for them, beneath the wall. Their late father was a righteous man, and your Lord wanted them to grow up to full maturity and then extract their treasure as a mercy from your Lord. I did not do it of my own accord (but by Divine Command). This is the explanation of things you could not stand." [As the pondering was over, Moses understood that revelation is to the intellect what the sunlight is to the eye. Thus, was completed his intellectual journey. Later on Moses was commissioned to Prophethood and experienced the Divine revelation first hand]

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَن ذِي الْقَرْنَيْنِ قُلْ سَأَتْلُو عَلَيْكُم مِّنْهُ ذِكْرًا **18:83**

(O Messenger) they ask you about Zul-Qarnain. Say, "I will convey to you something by which he is worth remembering."

إِنَّا مَكَّنَّا لَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَآتَيْنَاهُ مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ سَبَبًا **18:84**

We established him in power on earth and granted him the ways and means to accomplish his objectives.

فَأَتْبَعَ سَبَبًا **18:85**

Zul-Qarnain set out for an expedition. He chose the right means in whatever he did.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ مَغْرِبَ الشَّمْسِ وَجَدَهَا تَغْرُبُ فِي عَيْنٍ حَمِئَةٍ وَوَجَدَ عِندَهَا قَوْمًا قُلْنَا يَا ذَا الْقَرْنَيْنِ إِمَّا أَن تُعَذِّبَ وَإِمَّا أَن تَتَّخِذَ فِيهِمْ حُسْنًا **18:86**

(Conquering land to the west toward Lydia, he reached as far as the Black Sea.) The sun was setting and it appeared to him as if it was setting in the dark waters. (The local people, given to wrongdoing, fought against him and lost.) We said, "O Zul-Qarnain! Either punish or be kind to them." [Zul-Qarnain = King Cyrus the Great of Persia, 590-529 BC]

قَالَ أَمَّا مَن ظَلَمَ فَسَوْفَ نُعَذِّبُهُ ثُمَّ يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ فَيُعَذِّبُهُ عَذَابًا نُّكْرًا **18:87**

Cyrus said to them, "As for him who does wrong from now on, we shall punish him. And then he will be brought back before his Lord Who will commit him to greater retribution. [Note King Cyrus talking in the royal manner, "We" and reflect on the King of kings, God, using "I" and "We" for Himself]

وَأَمَّا مَنْ آمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلَهُ جَزَاءً الْحُسْنَىٰ وَسَنَقُولُ لَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِنَا يُسْرًا **18:88**

But whoever chooses to believe and helps others, he will have a goodly reward and we will make his task easy by our command." ['Amal Saaleh = Act of social welfare = Helping others = Increasing the societal potential = Fulfilling needs]

ثُمَّ أَتْبَعَ سَبَبًا **18:89**

(After establishing peace in the West) he once again chose the right means to achieve a right end. [He set forth to an expedition towards the East]

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ مَطْلِعَ الشَّمْسِ وَجَدَهَا تَطْلُعُ عَلَىٰ قَوْمٍ لَّمْ نَجْعَل لَّهُم مِّن دُونِهَا سِتْرًا **18:90**

Then he reached (Balkh in Afghanistan) at the rising of the sun, the easternmost point of his expedition. He found it rising on a people for whom We had appointed no shelter from it. [The nomads there built no houses or tents]

كَذَٰلِكَ وَقَدْ أَحَطْنَا بِمَا لَدَيْهِ خُبْرًا **18:91**

So it was, and We knew all about him and his resources. [He helped those people with his abundant resources that God had given him]

ثُمَّ أَتْبَعَ سَبَبًا **18:92**

And once again he chose the right means to achieve a right end. [North towards Caucasus]

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ بَيْنَ السَّدَّيْنِ وَجَدَ مِن دُونِهِمَا قَوْمًا لَّا يَكَادُونَ يَفْقَهُونَ قَوْلًا **18:93**

When he reached the valley between two mountain ranges, he found people whose language was barely understandable to him.

قَالُوا يَا ذَا الْقَرْنَيْنِ إِنَّ يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ مُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَهَلْ نَجْعَلُ لَكَ خَرْجًا عَلَىٰ أَن تَجْعَلَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمْ سَدًّا **18:94**

They presented a grievance, "O Zul-Qarnain! Gog and Magog are ravaging this land. They keep attacking and commit bloody crimes. May we, then, pay you a regular tribute that you will erect a barrier between us and them?" [Tribute = Kharaj, not Jizyah of 9:29 which means War Damages or Reparations]

قَالَ مَا مَكَّنِّي فِيهِ رَبِّي خَيْرٌ فَأَعِينُونِي بِقُوَّةٍ أَجْعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُمْ رَدْمًا **18:95**

He responded, “The power in which My Lord has established me is better than tribute. Help me then with manpower and I will erect a strong barrier between you and them.”

آتُونِي زُبَرَ الْحَدِيدِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا سَاوَىٰ بَيْنَ الصَّدَفَيْنِ قَالَ انفُخُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَعَلَهُ نَارًا قَالَ آتُونِي أُفْرِغْ عَلَيْهِ قِطْرًا **18:96**

“Bring me pieces of iron.” (His engineers worked their skills using dirt and molten iron and filled the gap between the mountains.) When he had filled up the space between the two steep mountainsides, he said, “(Light a fire and) blow with your bellows!” When it was red hot, he said, “Bring me molten copper and tar to pour over it.”

فَمَا اسْطَاعُوا أَن يَظْهَرُوهُ وَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا لَهُ نَقْبًا **18:97**

Thus they (Gog and Magog) could not climb it, nor could they bore holes in it.

قَالَ هَٰذَا رَحْمَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّي فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ رَبِّي جَعَلَهُ دَكَّاءَ وَكَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّي حَقًّا **18:98**

Said the King, “This is a grace from my Lord. Yet when the time appointed by my Lord comes, He will make this barrier level with the ground. And my Lord’s promise always comes true. [The barrier will stay in place and crumble according to Divine laws]

وَتَرَكْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَمُوجُ فِي بَعْضٍ وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَجَمَعْنَاهُمْ جَمْعًا **18:99**

(Zul-Qarnain was right that such obstructions would become immaterial with time.) We will let some nations invade others on a day when the trumpets of war are blown. Then We will gather them together in battle-fields. [Gog and Magog, the powerful imperialist nations, will attack one another and the weaker nations, and great wars will take place]

وَعَرَضْنَا جَهَنَّمَ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْكَافِرِينَ عَرْضًا **18:100**

And on that day, We shall place hell before the rejecters of the truth, for all to see.

الَّذِينَ كَانَتْ أَعْيُنُهُمْ فِي غِطَاءٍ عَن ذِكْرِي وَكَانُوا لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَمْعًا **18:101**

Those whose eyes were veiled to see My reminder, and who could not bear to hear.

أَفَحَسِبَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن يَتَّخِذُوا عِبَادِي مِن دُونِي أَوْلِيَاءَ إِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ نُزُلًا 18:102

Satan succeeds in in setting up partners with God

Do the disbelievers in My reminder think that they can choose My servants as allies besides Me? We have readied Hell as a welcome for the disbelievers. [No matter what coalitions they make, if they befriend systems other than the Divine Order, they will end up in Hell]

قُلْ هَلْ نُنَبِّئُكُم بِالْأَخْسَرِينَ أَعْمَالًا 18:103

Say, “Shall We inform you who the worst losers are in respect of their deeds?”

الَّذِينَ ضَلَّ سَعْيُهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يُحْسِنُونَ صُنْعًا 18:104

They are the ones whose effort in the life of the world remains misdirected. And yet they think that they are doing good work. [They work in the wrong cause, contrary to the Divine reminder]

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَلِقَائِهِ فَحَبِطَتْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَلَا نُقِيمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزْنًا 18:105

It is those who have chosen to deny their Sustainer’s messages and the fact that they are destined to meet Him. Their works are in vain. And on the Day of Resurrection We will give them no weight.

ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاؤُهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ بِمَا كَفَرُوا وَاتَّخَذُوا آيَاتِي وَرُسُلِي هُزُوًا 18:106

That is their reward, Hell! For, they rejected the truth and ridiculed My messages and My Messengers.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا 18:107

As for those who attain belief and fulfill the needs of others, there will be gardens of Paradise to welcome them.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حِوَلًا 18:108

Therein shall they abide. They will not even desire a change!

قُل لَّوْ كَانَ الْبَحْرُ مِدَادًا لِّكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّي لَنَفِدَ الْبَحْرُ قَبْلَ أَن **18:109**
تَنفَدَ كَلِمَاتُ رَبِّي وَلَوْ جِئْنَا بِمِثْلِهِ مَدَدًا

Everything is in the Quran

Say, "If all the sea were ink for my Sustainer's Words, the sea would be exhausted before my Sustainer's Words are exhausted! And thus it would be if We were to add to it sea upon sea." [31:27]

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ **18:110**
فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا
يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

Say (O Prophet), "I am only a human like you. It is revealed to me that your God is only One God. So, whoever looks forward to meeting with His Lord, let him do works that help others and ascribe no partners in the service of his Lord."

Prophet is human like us

Chapter 19

Maryam - Mary

This is the 19th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 98 verses. One of the important injunctions that clearly come through in this Surah is that God makes laws as He wills in the World of command and enforces them in the World of Creation i.e. the Universe. Then, He never changes them. The grand empire of human learning, development, invention, science and technology would have failed to come off ground if God´s physical laws in the Universe were to keep changing. Pregnancy and childbirth require the unison of the male and the female chromosomes. God never changes His laws, therefore, the idea of a virgin birth, although popular among the Christians and the Muslims, is non-Qur´anic and absolutely erroneous. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is probably more often mentioned in the Qur´an than in the Bible, as a lady of outstanding determination and character. Prophet Zacharias was the elder contemporary of Mary. Both descended from Prophet Aaron. The families had been the custodians of the holy shrines in Can´aan (Palestine) Zacharias, a distant uncle was Mary´s guardian in the sanctuary. Jesus is referred to as son of Mary because his mother was more prominent and also because his father Joseph the carpenter, died at an early age. The Bible also refers to Jesus as son of man and as son of David, and Elizabeth wife of Zacharias is called the daughter of Aaron. Also, in the history of mankind Mary was the first revolutionary and that too, a feminine voice against the institution of monasticism that was never Divinely ordained. Before moving on, let us note a few salient points for the sake of clear understanding: (i) Mary was a descendant of Prophet Aaron. Even generations after a prominent man, it was customary to call the descendants this way. In Luke 1:5 Elizabeth, the wife of Prophet Zacharias, is referred to as "One of the daughters of Aaron". That is why Mary is referred to as sister of Aaron in 19:28. (ii) In verse 19:23 it appears that Mary is talking to her husband. Violation of the sanctuary rules, a land far from home, lack of shelter and labor pains all add to her grief. Now a few important concepts given in the Qur´an that strongly negate the fallacy of the "Virgin Birth" of Jesus. (iii) God does all things according to His laws. [3:40,19:9] (iv) And you will never see God´s laws changing or deviating. [6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23] (v) The example of Jesus, as far as God is concerned, is the same as that of Adam. He created him from dust; then said to him, "Be", and he was. [3:59] (vi) By Adam is meant all mankind. [7:11] (vii) All men are created from dust, then from a zygote, male and female. [22:5] (viii) The Qur´an emphatically and repeatedly states that all human beings are procreated from both male and female, without exceptions. (ix) Even God would not have an offspring since He never had a mate. [6:101] (x) Verse 19:22 narrates Mary moving far-off from her village. Since Mary had broken the rules of the shrine, she and her family kept the marriage with Joseph Carpenter confidential. When she became pregnant, the husband and wife decided to move far away to avoid the mockery of people.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

كٓهيعٓصٓ **19:1**

K.H.Y.'A.S. Kaaf Ha Ya 'Ain Saad (Kareem the Honored, Haadi the Guide, Yaamen the Bounteous, 'Aleem the Knower, Saadiq the True, states that)

ذِكْرُ رَحْمَتِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدَهُۥ زَكَرِيَّآ **19:2**

Mention of the mercy of your Sustainer to His servant Zacharias.

إِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبَّهُ نِدَاءً خَفِيًّا **19:3**

When he called out to his Lord in the secrecy of his heart. [3:37]

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَهَنَ الْعَظْمُ مِنِّي وَاشْتَعَلَ الرَّأْسُ شَيْبًا وَلَمْ أَكُن بِدُعَائِكَ رَبِّ شَقِيًّا **19:4**

He said, "My Lord! My bones have turned brittle and my head is shining with gray hair, and I have never remained unblessed in my prayer to You, my Lord."

وَإِنِّي خِفْتُ الْمَوَالِيَ مِن وَرَائِي وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا فَهَبْ لِي مِن لَّدُنكَ وَلِيًّا **19:5**

"Now I fear what my relatives will do after me. (I am concerned about the heritage of my ancestors such as Jacob.) But my wife is barren. Oh, Give me from Your Presence, a successor.

يَرِثُنِي وَيَرِثُ مِنْ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ وَاجْعَلْهُ رَبِّ رَضِيًّا **19:6**

Let him be my heir and the heir of the house of Jacob and make him, my Lord, worthy of Your acceptance."

يَا زَكَرِيَّا إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ اسْمُهُ يَحْيَىٰ لَمْ نَجْعَل لَّهُ مِن قَبْلُ سَمِيًّا **19:7**

John

He was told, "O Zacharias! We give you the good news of a boy whose name shall be Yahya (John the Baptist). We have never given this name to anyone before." [19:65]

قَالَ رَبِّ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا وَقَدْ بَلَغْتُ مِنَ الْكِبَرِ عِتِيًّا **19:8**

Zacharias exclaimed, "My Lord! How can I have a son when my wife is barren and I am already infirm with old age?"

قَالَ كَذَٰلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَقَدْ خَلَقْتُكَ مِن قَبْلُ وَلَمْ تَكُ شَيْئًا **19:9**

He said: Thus it is. Your Lord says, "It is easy for Me. I created you before, and you were nothing." [The infertility in his wife was treated. 21:90]

قَالَ رَبِّ اجْعَل لِّي آيَةً قَالَ آيَتُكَ أَلَّا تُكَلِّمَ النَّاسَ ثَلَاثَ لَيَالٍ سَوِيًّا **19:10**

Zacharias said, "My Lord! Give me a special message." He said, "The message is that you shall not speak to people for three (days and) nights consecutively." [3:40-41. Vow of silence - 19:26. He was not struck dumb (as claimed in Luke: 1:20-22)]

فَخَرَجَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ مِنَ الْمِحْرَابِ فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْهِمْ أَن سَبِّحُوا بُكْرَةً وَعَشِيًّا **19:11**

Glorify God at dawn and dusk

Then Zacharias came out from the shrine and told his deputies by signs, "Keep striving in your mission morning and evening that His glory be manifest to beholders."

يَا يَحْيَىٰ خُذِ الْكِتَابَ بِقُوَّةٍ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْحُكْمَ صَبِيًّا **19:12**

[John (Yahya) was born according to the good news] We told him "O Yahya! Hold fast to the scripture." And We had granted him wisdom and good judgment when he was yet a little boy.

وَحَنَانًا مِّن لَّدُنَّا وَزَكَاةً وَكَانَ تَقِيًّا **19:13**

We gave him compassion from Our Presence and a spotless character. He lived a life upright and he was of those who empower themselves against evil. [See Taqwa in Glossary]

وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَيْهِ وَلَمْ يَكُن جَبَّارًا عَصِيًّا **19:14**

He was dutiful toward his parents, and was polite, not rebellious or arrogant.

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَيْهِ يَوْمَ وُلِدَ وَيَوْمَ يَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ يُبْعَثُ حَيًّا **19:15**

Salutes to him the day he was born, the day he dies and the day he shall be raised alive!

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ انتَبَذَتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا **19:16**

(O Prophet) make mention of Mary in the Book when she withdrew from her people to an eastern location. [She left the sanctuary and went to her village in Galilee]

فَاتَّخَذَتْ مِن دُونِهِمْ حِجَابًا فَأَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهَا رُوحَنَا فَتَمَثَّلَ لَهَا بَشَرًا سَوِيًّا **19:17**

Hijabum

(Since she was not used to mixing with people), she had chosen seclusion from them. Then We sent to her Our angel that appeared to her in the shape of a well-made human being. [Angels never appear in this world in physical form, so, fatamathalaha = 'that appeared to her in a dream'. 6:8, 16:33, 25:22]

قَالَتْ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِالرَّحْمَٰنِ مِنكَ إِن كُنتَ تَقِيًّا **19:18**

She exclaimed, “Surely, I seek refuge in the Most Gracious that you may be righteous.”

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ غُلَامًا زَكِيًّا **19:19**

He said: I am only a Messenger of your Lord who says, “I shall bestow upon you the gift of a son endowed with a spotless character.” [See 3:45]

قَالَتْ أَنَّىٰ يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَلَمْ يَمْسَسْنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ أَكُ بَغِيًّا **19:20**

She said, “How can I have a son when no man has ever (intimately) touched me? For, I am not unchaste.” [3:46, 19:28]

قَالَ كَذَٰلِكِ قَالَ رَبُّكِ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِّنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَّقْضِيًّا **19:21**

The angel answered: Thus it is - Your Lord says, “It is easy for Me, so that We make him a symbol for people and a grace from Us. And it is a thing decreed.” [3:46-47. A symbol - of belief and disbelief. A grace - revelation]

فَحَمَلَتْهُ فَانتَبَذَتْ بِهِ مَكَانًا قَصِيًّا **19:22**

And in time she conceived him and withdrew with him to a far-off place, (Bethlehem).

فَأَجَاءَهَا الْمَخَاضُ إِلَىٰ جِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَا لَيْتَنِي مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَٰذَا وَكُنتُ نَسْيًا مَّنسِيًّا **19:23**

And when labor pains drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree, she exclaimed, “Ah, I wish I had died before this, and had become a thing forgotten, utterly forgotten!” [Mary appears to be talking to herself]

فَنَادَاهَا مِن تَحْتِهَا أَلَّا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْتَكِ سَرِيًّا **19:24**

A voice came to her from beneath the palm-tree, “Grieve not! Your Lord has provided a stream beneath you.“ [Probably Joseph’s voice]

وَهُزِّي إِلَيْكِ بِجِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ تُسَاقِطْ عَلَيْكِ رُطَبًا جَنِيًّا **19:25**

“And shake the trunk of the palm-tree towards you. It will drop fresh ripe dates upon you.”

فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَإِمَّا تَرَيِنَّ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنسِيًّا **19:26**

"Eat then and drink, and let your eyes be gladdened! And if you see any human being, convey this to him, 'Indeed, I have made a vow of silence for the Beneficent. So, I may not speak to any person today.' "

فَأَتَتْ بِهِ قَوْمَهَا تَحْمِلُهُ قَالُوا يَا مَرْيَمُ لَقَدْ جِئْتِ شَيْئًا فَرِيًّا **19:27**

Later, she returned to her people carrying the child with her. They said, "O Mary! You have come with an amazing thing (breaking the rules of the shrine)."

يَا أُخْتَ هَارُونَ مَا كَانَ أَبُوكِ امْرَأَ سَوْءٍ وَمَا كَانَتْ أُمُّكِ بَغِيًّا **19:28**

"O Sister of Aaron! Your father was not a bad man, nor was your mother a woman unchaste, nor did she ever oppose the system." ["Sister of Aaron", See Author's Note above. 'Baghyya' carries both meanings given at the end.]

فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَن كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا **19:29**

Then she pointed to him. They said, "How can we talk to one who is in the cradle, a young boy?" [Mary and Joseph had lived in Bethelhem for years. 'In the cradle', idiomatically means a young person. In 19:31 he promises to establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order. Can a child say that?]

قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا **19:30**

But he spoke up, "Indeed, I am a servant of God. He has given me revelation and appointed me a Prophet."

وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُ وَأَوْصَانِي بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ مَا دُمْتُ حَيًّا **19:31**

Salat

"He has made me blessed wherever I may be. He has enjoined upon me to establish the Divine System and help set up the Just Economic Order as long as I live."

وَبَرًّا بِوَالِدَتِي وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا **19:32**

"And He has made me kind to my mother, and has not made me haughty, unblessed."

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدتُّ وَيَوْمَ أَمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا **19:33**

"Peace was on me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I will be raised to life again." [19:15]

ذَٰلِكَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قَوْلَ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ 19:34

Such was Jesus, the son of Mary and this is the truth of this matter about whose nature they so deeply disagree.

مَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ أَن يَتَّخِذَ مِن وَلَدٍ سُبْحَانَهُ إِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ 19:35

It does not befit God that He would beget a son. He is Glorious, High above (what they say). When He decrees a thing, it starts happening.

وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ 19:36

And (Jesus always said), "Surely, God is my Lord and your Lord, so serve Him alone. This is the straight path."

فَاخْتَلَفَ الْأَحْزَابُ مِن بَيْنِهِمْ فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن مَّشْهَدِ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ 19:37

And yet, the sects (that follow the Bible) differ among themselves. There is humiliation in store for all those who deny the truth when that awesome Day appears.

أَسْمِعْ بِهِمْ وَأَبْصِرْ يَوْمَ يَأْتُونَنَا لَٰكِنِ الظَّالِمُونَ الْيَوْمَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ 19:38

How plainly will they hear and see the truth when they come before Us! Today, however, they persist in doing wrong to themselves and are obviously lost in error.

وَأَنذِرْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْحَسْرَةِ إِذْ قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ وَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ 19:39

So, warn them of the Day of Regrets, when the case will be decided. Being negligent of their duty to investigate with reason, they do not believe in the reality as yet.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَرِثُ الْأَرْضَ وَمَنْ عَلَيْهَا وَإِلَيْنَا يُرْجَعُونَ 19:40

Indeed, We inherit the earth, and all who are on it, and to Us all will return.

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَّبِيًّا 19:41

Also mention in the Book (the story of) Abraham. Indeed, he was a man of truth, a Prophet.

إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ لِمَ تَعْبُدُ مَا لَا يَسْمَعُ وَلَا يُبْصِرُ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنكَ شَيْئًا **19:42**

He even confronted his father (Azar), "O My father! Why do you worship what hears not and sees not and can be of no avail to you?" [Azar (Terah) was the chief priest of King Nimrod Shaddad of Babylon and Ninevah, and he was a master sculptor]

يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي قَدْ جَاءَنِي مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَمْ يَأْتِكَ فَاتَّبِعْنِي أَهْدِكَ صِرَاطًا سَوِيًّا **19:43**

"O My father! There has come to me of knowledge that did not come to you. Follow me then, and I will lead you on a perfect way."

يَا أَبَتِ لَا تَعْبُدِ الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ كَانَ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ عَصِيًّا **19:44**

"O My father! Do not serve the Satan, for Satan (the selfish desires) is a rebel against the Beneficent."

يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَن يَمَسَّكَ عَذَابٌ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ فَتَكُونَ لِلشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيًّا **19:45**

"O My father! I am afraid that a retribution from the Beneficent might overtake you, and you be counted among the friends of Satan."

قَالَ أَرَاغِبٌ أَنتَ عَنْ آلِهَتِي يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ لَئِن لَّمْ تَنتَهِ لَأَرْجُمَنَّكَ وَاهْجُرْنِي مَلِيًّا **19:46**

He answered, "Do you dislike my gods, O Abraham? If you cease not, I will certainly cause you to be stoned to death! Now get away from me for good!" [The Chief Priest, Azar, had the power to declare someone apostate and condemn him to be stoned to death. For the Divine Ordinance of No Compulsion in Religion, see 2:256]

قَالَ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ سَأَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكَ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِي حَفِيًّا **19:47**

Abraham said, "Peace be upon you! I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness. For, He is ever Kind to me." [9:114]

وَأَعْتَزِلُكُمْ وَمَا تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَأَدْعُو رَبِّي عَسَىٰ أَلَّا أَكُونَ بِدُعَاءِ رَبِّي شَقِيًّا **19:48**

"I am withdrawing from you all and from whatever you invoke besides God. I will call on my Lord. By imploring my Lord alone, I cannot go wrong." [60:4]

فَلَمَّا اعْتَزَلَهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَكُلًّا جَعَلْنَا نَبِيًّا **19:49**

So, when he abandoned them and their deities besides God, We bestowed upon him a son Isaac and a grandson Jacob. And each of them We made a Prophet. [Abraham had moved from Mesopotamia to Syria]

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُم مِّن رَّحْمَتِنَا وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ عَلِيًّا **19:50**

We showered them with Our grace and We granted them a high and true renown.

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ مُوسَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ مُخْلَصًا وَكَانَ رَسُولًا نَّبِيًّا **19:51**

And make mention in this Book, of Moses. Surely, he was sincerely devoted and a Prophet bearing Our message.

وَنَادَيْنَاهُ مِن جَانِبِ الطُّورِ الْأَيْمَنِ وَقَرَّبْنَاهُ نَجِيًّا **19:52**

We called and blessed him with revelation by the Mount Sinai and made him draw near to Us to converse in secret. [Right side of the Mount allegorically indicates a blessing]

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ مِن رَّحْمَتِنَا أَخَاهُ هَارُونَ نَبِيًّا **19:53**

And We bestowed upon him of Our mercy his brother, Aaron, a Prophet as well.

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صَادِقَ الْوَعْدِ وَكَانَ رَسُولًا نَّبِيًّا **19:54**

And make mention in the Book, of Ishmael. He was truthful in his pledge, and he was a Prophet bearing Our message.

وَكَانَ يَأْمُرُ أَهْلَهُ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ وَكَانَ عِندَ رَبِّهِ مَرْضِيًّا **19:55**

Salat started with Abraham

He enjoined upon his people the establishment of the Divine System and of the Just Economic Order. He was highly acceptable in the Sight of his Lord.

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِدْرِيسَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَّبِيًّا **19:56**

And make mention of Enoch (Idris) in the Book. Surely, he was a man of truth, a Prophet.

وَرَفَعْنَاهُ مَكَانًا عَلِيًّا 19:57

And We raised him to a high station of honor.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِن ذُرِّيَّةِ آدَمَ وَمِمَّنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْرَائِيلَ وَمِمَّنْ هَدَيْنَا وَاجْتَبَيْنَا إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُ الرَّحْمَٰنِ خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَبُكِيًّا 19:58

These are some of the Prophets whom God blessed. They all were from the descendants of Adam, the early humans. The descendants of those whom We carried with Noah on the Ark, and the descendants of Abraham and Israel (Jacob). We guided them and selected them. Whenever the messages of the Most Gracious were conveyed to them, they would fall down prostrate in tears. [Devoted to Submission, they put their hearts into their mission]

فَخَلَفَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوَاتِ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غَيًّا 19:59

Salat got lost

But after them came generations that ruined the Salaat and started following desires. Soon they will meet utter disillusion. [ruined the Salaat = Stopped following the Divine commands and followed their desires instead]

إِلَّا مَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يُظْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا 19:60

Except those who repented by returning to the right track, truly believed and did their best for the community. Such will enter the Garden, and will not face the least of injustice.

جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ عِبَادَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَأْتِيًّا 19:61

The Beneficent has promised His servants the Gardens of Eternal bliss (Eden) that is unseen at this time. And His promise must always be fulfilled.

لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا إِلَّا سَلَامًا وَلَهُمْ رِزْقُهُمْ فِيهَا بُكْرَةً وَعَشِيًّا 19:62

There they will not hear any vain discourse, but only salutations of Peace. And therein they will have their sustenance day and night. [Likewise, in the Ideal Society no person will sleep hungry and there shall be plenty of provision for all]

تِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي نُورِثُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا مَن كَانَ تَقِيًّا 19:63

Such is the Garden which We give as an inheritance to those of Our servants who have lived upright (and thus earned it with their own hands).

وَمَا نَتَنَزَّلُ إِلَّا بِأَمْرِ رَبِّكَ لَهُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِينَا وَمَا خَلْفَنَا وَمَا بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ نَسِيًّا 19:64

(And the angels say), “We do not descend but by the command of your Lord. To Him belongs our assignments of the past, present and future. Your Lord is never forgetful.” [41:31. Inspiration, motivation, resolve, courage, steadfastness, hope and good news are also angels that support the upright]

رَّبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَاعْبُدْهُ وَاصْطَبِرْ لِعِبَادَتِهِ هَلْ تَعْلَمُ لَهُ سَمِيًّا 19:65

Lord of the heavens and the earth and of all that is between them! Therefore, serve Him and be constant in His service. Do you know any whose name is worthy of mentioning side by side with His?

وَيَقُولُ الْإِنسَانُ أَإِذَا مَا مِتُّ لَسَوْفَ أُخْرَجُ حَيًّا 19:66

Human (keeps thinking or) says, “What! When I am dead, shall I be raised up alive?”

أَوَلَا يَذْكُرُ الْإِنسَانُ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ وَلَمْ يَكُ شَيْئًا 19:67

But does not man reflect that We created him before, when he was nothing?

فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَحْشُرَنَّهُمْ وَالشَّيَاطِينَ ثُمَّ لَنُحْضِرَنَّهُمْ حَوْلَ جَهَنَّمَ جِثِيًّا 19:68

So, by your Lord, without doubt, We shall certainly get them together including the rebellious ones; then We shall bring them crouching, around Hell.

ثُمَّ لَنَنزِعَنَّ مِن كُلِّ شِيعَةٍ أَيُّهُمْ أَشَدُّ عَلَى الرَّحْمَٰنِ عِتِيًّا 19:69

Then, We will drag out from among every sect the most stubborn in rebellion to the Beneficent.

ثُمَّ لَنَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِالَّذِينَ هُمْ أَوْلَىٰ بِهَا صِلِيًّا 19:70

And certainly We know best those who are more worthy of being burned therein.

وَإِن مِّنكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَىٰ رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا مَّقْضِيًّا 19:71

Everyone of you (stubborn rebels) will approach it. This is a fixed decree of your Lord. [19:69, 19:86, 21:99]

ثُمَّ نُنَجِّي الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوا وَّنَذَرُ الظَّالِمِينَ فِيهَا جِثِيًّا **19:72**

And once again, We shall save the upright and leave the wrongdoers crouching in humiliation. [The upright will not even hear any commotion of Hell. 21:102]

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَيُّ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ خَيْرٌ مَّقَامًا وَأَحْسَنُ نَدِيًّا **19:73**

As it is, when Our messages are presented to them in all clarity, the rejecters say to the believers, "Which of the two sides, yours or ours, has a better position and glamour?"

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُم مِّن قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَحْسَنُ أَثَاثًا وَرِئْيًا **19:74**

But many generations We have destroyed before them. They were more imposing in equipment and in outward glitter. ['We' refers to the Law of Requital]

قُلْ مَن كَانَ فِي الضَّلَالَةِ فَلْيَمْدُدْ لَهُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ مَدًّا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا رَأَوْا مَا يُوعَدُونَ إِمَّا الْعَذَابَ وَإِمَّا السَّاعَةَ فَسَيَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ هُوَ شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَأَضْعَفُ جُندًا **19:75**

Say, "The Beneficent gives respite to those who go astray. During this period of respite they either mend their ways or move on to see the promise of retribution in this life or at the Hour of Doom. Then they know who is worse off and weaker in forces."

وَيَزِيدُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا هُدًى وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِندَ رَبِّكَ ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ مَّرَدًّا **19:76**

God increases in guidance, those who seek it and seek to live upright. The lasting good deeds that fulfill the needs of others, are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and are best for eventual returns and better for resort.

أَفَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي كَفَرَ بِآيَاتِنَا وَقَالَ لَأُوتَيَنَّ مَالًا وَوَلَدًا **19:77**

Have you seen the kind of person who denies Our messages and says, "Surely, I will be given wealth and children." [He fails to realize that there is more to life than these blessings]

أَطَّلَعَ الْغَيْبَ أَمِ اتَّخَذَ عِندَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ عَهْدًا **19:78**

Do they know the realm of the Unseen? Have they taken a promise from the Beneficent?

كَلَّا سَنَكْتُبُ مَا يَقُولُ وَنَمُدُّ لَهُ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ مَدًّا 19:79

Nay, We shall record what he says, and prolong for him a span of torment.

وَنَرِثُهُ مَا يَقُولُ وَيَأْتِينَا فَرْدًا 19:80

To Us shall return all that he speaks of, and he shall appear before Us in a lonely state.

وَاتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ آلِهَةً لِّيَكُونُوا لَهُمْ عِزًّا 19:81

And they have chosen idols in various forms besides God, hoping that they would be a source of strength for them.

كَلَّا سَيَكْفُرُونَ بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ وَيَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضِدًّا 19:82

But nay, they will reject their worship, and will turn against them.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا الشَّيَاطِينَ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ تَؤُزُّهُمْ أَزًّا 19:83

Are you not aware that We have sent satanic forces against the disbelievers to confound them with confusion?

فَلَا تَعْجَلْ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّمَا نَعُدُّ لَهُمْ عَدًّا 19:84

So make no haste against them, for We mark the number of their days.

يَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ الْمُتَّقِينَ إِلَى الرَّحْمَٰنِ وَفْدًا 19:85

On the Day when We shall gather the righteous to Us, the Beneficent, like a delegation presented for honors,

وَنَسُوقُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ وِرْدًا 19:86

And drive the violators of human rights to Hell as a thirsty herd is driven to a well.

لَّا يَمْلِكُونَ الشَّفَاعَةَ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّخَذَ عِندَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ عَهْدًا 19:87

No intercession

None will have the benefit of intercession unless he has entered into a bond with the Beneficent during the life of the world.

وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَلَدًا 19:88

As it is, some assert, “The Beneficent has taken a son!”

لَّقَدْ جِئْتُمْ شَيْئًا إِدًّا 19:89

Indeed, you have put forth something monstrous!

تَكَادُ السَّمَاوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ وَتَنشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُّ الْجِبَالُ هَدًّا 19:90

Whereby the skies are almost torn, and the earth is split asunder, and the mountains fall in ruins!

أَن دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ وَلَدًا 19:91

That men should ascribe a son to the Most Gracious.

وَمَا يَنبَغِي لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ أَن يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا 19:92

It is not befitting for the Majesty of the Beneficent that He should choose a son.

إِن كُلُّ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِي الرَّحْمَٰنِ عَبْدًا 19:93

There is none in the skies and earth but comes to the Beneficent as a servant.

لَّقَدْ أَحْصَاهُمْ وَعَدَّهُمْ عَدًّا 19:94

Indeed, He fully knows them, and has counted them one by one.

وَكُلُّهُمْ آتِيهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَرْدًا 19:95

And each of them will come to Him singly on the Resurrection Day.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَيَجْعَلُ لَهُمُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وُدًّا 19:96

Surely, those who attain belief and work for the good of others, the Beneficent will endow them with love.

فَإِنَّمَا يَسَّرْنَاهُ بِلِسَانِكَ لِتُبَشِّرَ بِهِ الْمُتَّقِينَ وَتُنذِرَ بِهِ قَوْمًا لُّدًّا 19:97

Quran made easy

And only to this end We have made this (Qur'an) easy to understand in your own tongue (O Prophet) - That you may convey thereby glad news to the righteous and warn people given to futile disputation.

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُم مِّن قَرْنٍ هَلْ تُحِسُّ مِنْهُم مِّنْ أَحَدٍ أَوْ تَسْمَعُ لَهُمْ رِكْزًا 19:98

But We have destroyed many generations before them. Can you perceive a single one of them now or hear a whisper of them?

Chapter 20

Ta-Ha - The Ideal Prophet

This is the 20th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 135 verses many of which are very brief. Ta Ha is the metaphor for perfection illustrated by the full moon. All Prophets were one in purpose but their timings and jurisdictions have been different. God´s perfected, eternally preserved message was revealed to the Final Prophet Muhammad. The Title Ta Ha represents, and linguistically implies ´The Ideal Prophet´. According to the Qur´anic style, the title of a Surah is not at all restrictive. This Surah makes a most beautiful use of allegories. The forthcoming verses give us a beautiful walk-through of the flowery concepts in this Divine forest. Let us move along in the fragrant mist of Ta Ha.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

طه **20:1**

T.H. Ta-Ha! (O Ideal Prophet!)

Quran is not sent to make us suffer

مَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لِتَشْقَىٰ **20:2**

We have not bestowed upon you this Qur'an to cause you any hardship.

إِلَّا تَذْكِرَةً لِّمَن يَخْشَىٰ **20:3**

But, only as a reminder to those who fear (faltering in their journey of life). [Khashiyyah = Fearing = Being in awe = Being awestruck. Compare with Taqwa meaning journeying through life in security. This verse is commonly translated ending with 'those who fear (God)'. See Preface for Taqwa]

تَنزِيلًا مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ الْعُلَى **20:4**

A revelation from Him Who has created the earth and the glorious heavens.

الرَّحْمَٰنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَىٰ **20:5**

The Beneficent, established on the Throne of Almightiness. [He maintains Supreme Control over all that He has created]

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَمَا تَحْتَ الثَّرَىٰ **20:6**

Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens, all that is on the earth, all that is between them and all that is beneath the soil. [All things in the Universe follow His laws]

وَإِن تَجْهَرْ بِالْقَوْلِ فَإِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَى **20:7**

And if you speak aloud, then He knows the secret thoughts, as well as what is yet more hidden.

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ **20:8**

God! There is no god but He. To Him belongs the Most Beautiful Names. [His alone are the attributes of perfection]

وَهَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ مُوسَىٰ **20:9**

Has there come to you the history of Moses?

إِذْ رَأَىٰ نَارًا فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَّعَلِّي آتِيكُم مِّنْهَا بِقَبَسٍ أَوْ أَجِدُ عَلَى النَّارِ هُدًى **20:10**

When he saw a fire (in the desert), he said to his family, "Wait! I perceive a fire. Perhaps I can bring you a burning torch from there or find some direction at the fire." [27:7, 28:29]

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ يَا مُوسَىٰ **20:11**

When Moses reached the fire, a voice called out, "O Moses! [This is the story of the days when Moses had reached the converging point of the stream of the conceptual knowledge of intellect, and the stream of the extrinsic knowledge of the Divine revelation. 18:65]

إِنِّي أَنَا رَبُّكَ فَاخْلَعْ نَعْلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى **20:12**

I am your Lord! Take off your sandals. Surely, you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa." [Your quest for the truth is over. So lighten the burdens of your search. Now you are in the 'Sacred Valley of revelation']

وَأَنَا اخْتَرْتُكَ فَاسْتَمِعْ لِمَا يُوحَىٰ **20:13**

Inspiration to Moses

I have chosen you, so listen to what is being revealed.

إِنَّنِي أَنَا اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدْنِي وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِذِكْرِي **20:14**

Devotion and salat

Surely, I, I alone am God, there is no god but Me. Therefore, serve Me alone, and establish the Divine Order in the land for My remembrance.

إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ أَكَادُ أُخْفِيهَا لِتُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا تَسْعَىٰ **20:15**

End will come

Most certainly, the revolution is coming. I have almost kept it hidden. (Through this revolution) every person will get fair compensation of his endeavor. [This will end the hegemony of Pharaoh and his people. As-Saa'ah frequently denotes the Hour or the Day of Resurrection. But it also means a great revolution. The context of the verses here cannot mean anything but revolution. Resurrection would be completely out of place here]

فَلَا يَصُدَّنَّكَ عَنْهَا مَن لَّا يُؤْمِنُ بِهَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ فَتَرْدَىٰ **20:16**

Let not those people join your mission who consider it an impossible dream. They accept only what meets their desires. Such people will do more harm than good to your Mission."

وَمَا تِلْكَ بِيَمِينِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ **20:17**

"What is your strength O Moses?" [Moses was then given complete guidance and strong Logic]

قَالَ هِيَ عَصَايَ أَتَوَكَّأُ عَلَيْهَا وَأَهُشُّ بِهَا عَلَىٰ غَنَمِي وَلِيَ فِيهَا مَآرِبُ أُخْرَىٰ **20:18**

He said, "Your guidance is my strength. It will help me in all walks of life. I will try to be a competent shepherd for the Israelites, and will use it as the challenges come forth."

قَالَ أَلْقِهَا يَا مُوسَىٰ **20:19**

God said, "You are now ready to embark upon your mission."

فَأَلْقَاهَا فَإِذَا هِيَ حَيَّةٌ تَسْعَىٰ **20:20**

He felt that the message given to him was vibrant with life.

قَالَ خُذْهَا وَلَا تَخَفْ سَنُعِيدُهَا سِيرَتَهَا الْأُولَىٰ **20:21**

He said, "Grasp it and fear not. We will keep it evergreen." Moses was told to hold fast to what he was taught to the extent that it became his first nature; even in frightening situations. And that he would come out unscathed from trying circumstances.

وَاضْمُمْ يَدَكَ إِلَىٰ جَنَاحِكَ تَخْرُجْ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ آيَةً أُخْرَىٰ **20:22**

The light in your heart will shine forth in the power of your presentation of the truth. That will be another sign.

لِنُرِيَكَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا الْكُبْرَى **20:23**

We will show you some of Our great signs (witness how the strength of the truth can bring about great Revolutions 17:1, 79:20).

اذْهَبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ **20:24**

Go to Pharaoh who is transgressing the limits."

قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي **20:25**

(Moses) said, "My Lord! Grant me a noble heart, tolerance, and courage. [Literal: Expand my chest for me. 94:1]

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي **20:26**

And ease my task for me. [94:2-5]

وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّن لِّسَانِي **20:27**

Make me eloquent of speech.

يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي **20:28**

That they may take my word to their hearts.

وَاجْعَل لِّي وَزِيرًا مِّنْ أَهْلِي **20:29**

And appoint for me a deputy from my people.

هَارُونَ أَخِي **20:30**

My brother Aaron.

اشْدُدْ بِهِ أَزْرِي **20:31**

Strengthen me with him.

وَأَشْرِكْهُ فِي أَمْرِي **20:32**

Make him my partner in my Mission.

كَيْ نُسَبِّحَكَ كَثِيرًا **20:33**

That both of us strive hard together to manifest Your glory.

وَنَذْكُرَكَ كَثِيرًا 20:34

And we take every step remembering Your commands.

إِنَّكَ كُنتَ بِنَا بَصِيرًا 20:35

(It is a great feeling that) You are watching us every moment."

قَالَ قَدْ أُوتِيتَ سُؤْلَكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ 20:36

God said, "O Moses! All your requests are granted. [10:89]

God accepts Moses's supplication

وَلَقَدْ مَنَنَّا عَلَيْكَ مَرَّةً أُخْرَىٰ 20:37

We have blessed you before and prepared you for this day (since you were born). [All Prophets were born Prophets but they were assigned their Mission later]

إِذْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّكَ مَا يُوحَىٰ 20:38

When We inspired your mother with this inspiration:

أَنِ اقْذِفِيهِ فِي التَّابُوتِ فَاقْذِفِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ فَلْيُلْقِهِ الْيَمُّ بِالسَّاحِلِ يَأْخُذْهُ عَدُوٌّ لِّي وَعَدُوٌّ لَّهُ وَأَلْقَيْتُ عَلَيْكَ مَحَبَّةً مِّنِّي وَلِتُصْنَعَ عَلَىٰ عَيْنِي 20:39

"Place him (the baby Moses) in a box, and cast the box into the river. The river will cast it on to the bank, and it will be picked up by the one who considers Me and him (Moses) as his enemy. O Moses! I prepared you for this day with love, and reared you before My Sight.

إِذْ تَمْشِي أُخْتُكَ فَتَقُولُ هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ مَن يَكْفُلُهُ فَرَجَعْنَاكَ إِلَىٰ أُمِّكَ كَيْ تَقَرَّ عَيْنُهَا وَلَا تَحْزَنَ وَقَتَلْتَ نَفْسًا فَنَجَّيْنَاكَ مِنَ الْغَمِّ وَفَتَنَّاكَ فُتُونًا فَلَبِثْتَ سِنِينَ فِي أَهْلِ مَدْيَنَ ثُمَّ جِئْتَ عَلَىٰ قَدَرٍ يَا مُوسَىٰ 20:40

Your sister walked (to the Royal Palace) and said to the royals, 'I can tell you of a nursing mother who can take good care of the baby.' We thus returned you to your mother, that she might be consoled and stop worrying. When you grew up, you accidentally killed a man who was beating up another man (28:15). We resolved this matter for you when you were going through trying periods. Then

you dwelt among the Midyanites (with Prophet Sho'aib) for several years. (Then you walked between the two streams, one of intellect and one of revelation, to the point where they joined 18:65). And now you are here as ordained, O Moses!

وَاصْطَنَعْتُكَ لِنَفْسِي **20:41**

This is how I have made you for My service.

اذْهَبْ أَنتَ وَأَخُوكَ بِآيَاتِي وَلَا تَنِيَا فِي ذِكْرِي **20:42**

Now go, you and your brother, with My messages and stay vigilant about My remembrance.

اذْهَبَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ **20:43**

Go, both of you, to Pharaoh. He has transgressed all bounds.

فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَىٰ **20:44**

Speak to him nicely, so that he may take heed and fear the consequences of his actions."

قَالَا رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا نَخَافُ أَن يَفْرُطَ عَلَيْنَا أَوْ أَن يَطْغَىٰ **20:45**

They said, "Our Lord! Surely, We fear that he might act hastily regarding us in abrupt tyranny."

قَالَ لَا تَخَافَا إِنَّنِي مَعَكُمَا أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَىٰ **20:46**

Answered He, "Fear not. Indeed, I am with both of you, I Hear and I See."

فَأْتِيَاهُ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولَا رَبِّكَ فَأَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَا تُعَذِّبْهُمْ قَدْ جِئْنَاكَ بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ الْهُدَىٰ **20:47**

So both of you go to him and say, "We are two Messengers of your Lord. Let the Children of Israel go with us, and stop persecuting them forthwith. We have come to you with a message from your Lord. And Peace be upon him who follows right guidance.

إِنَّا قَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْنَا أَنَّ الْعَذَابَ عَلَىٰ مَن كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ **20:48**

Surely, it has been revealed to us that doom will be for him who is bent upon denial and turns away."

قَالَ فَمَن رَّبُّكُمَا يَا مُوسَىٰ **20:49**

Pharaoh said, "Who then is the Lord of you two, O Moses?"

قَالَ رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَىٰ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَىٰ 20:50

He replied, “Our Lord is He who creates and shapes everything, assigns its role and guides it right.”

قَالَ فَمَا بَالُ الْقُرُونِ الْأُولَىٰ 20:51

(Pharaoh in front of his courtiers thought up a tricky question.) He said, “What then is the state of the previous generations?” [The ancestors of the dignitaries sitting around, who never believed in your Lord]

قَالَ عِلْمُهَا عِندَ رَبِّي فِي كِتَابٍ لَّا يَضِلُّ رَبِّي وَلَا يَنسَى 20:52

Allah never forgets

(Pharaoh expected Moses to say that they would be in Hellfire, and that would infuriate the courtiers.) Moses responded, “The knowledge of that is with my Lord in a Record. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَسَلَكَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّن نَّبَاتٍ شَتَّىٰ 20:53

He is the One Who has made the earth a cradle for you, and has traced out roads and channels for you therein. And He sends down water from the sky.” By this means We bring forth different classes and pairs of plants.

كُلُوا وَارْعَوْا أَنْعَامَكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي النُّهَىٰ 20:54

Eat and raise your cattle. Surely, herein are signs for men and women endowed with reason.

مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَىٰ 20:55

From the earth We created you, into it We return you and from it We will bring you forth a second time. But he stubbornly rejected the message.

وَلَقَدْ أَرَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا كُلَّهَا فَكَذَّبَ وَأَبَىٰ 20:56

And (through Moses) We made Pharaoh aware of all Our messages but he belied them and kept denying. [The message plainly refuted Pharaoh’s long-standing claim that he was the high lord of people since he owned the land, the rivers and the resources of Egypt 43:46-54, 79:17-26]

قَالَ أَجِئْتَنَا لِتُخْرِجَنَا مِنْ أَرْضِنَا بِسِحْرِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ 20:57

He said, “Have you come here to destabilize our country and drive us out of our land with your false religion and magical arguments, O Moses?”

فَلَنَأْتِيَنَّكَ بِسِحْرٍ مِّثْلِهِ فَاجْعَلْ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكَ مَوْعِدًا لَّا نُخْلِفُهُ نَحْنُ وَلَا أَنتَ مَكَانًا سُوًى **20:58**

"In that case, we will certainly produce magic to match yours! Set up an appointment between us and you. Neither we, nor you shall break this appointment. It will be at a location convenient to us both and where both parties will have even chances." [7:104-126, 10:76-82, 26:34-51. Pharaoh is arranging a debate between his priests and Moses]

قَالَ مَوْعِدُكُمْ يَوْمُ الزِّينَةِ وَأَن يُحْشَرَ النَّاسُ ضُحًى **20:59**

Answered Moses, "Your appointed time is the forthcoming Day of the Festival. And let the people be assembled after sunrise."

فَتَوَلَّىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ فَجَمَعَ كَيْدَهُ ثُمَّ أَتَىٰ **20:60**

Pharaoh turned and collected his strength. (In the next few days he summoned his master debaters, the priests from various towns.) And then he came at the appointed time.

قَالَ لَهُم مُّوسَىٰ وَيْلَكُمْ لَا تَفْتَرُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا فَيُسْحِتَكُم بِعَذَابٍ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنِ افْتَرَىٰ **20:61**

Moses warned Pharaoh's debaters, "Woe to you! Do not invent a lie against God, lest He afflict you with suffering. The forger of a lie hurts his own 'self'."

فَتَنَازَعُوا أَمْرَهُم بَيْنَهُمْ وَأَسَرُّوا النَّجْوَىٰ **20:62**

On hearing this, they debated among themselves about what they must do but they kept their talk secret.

قَالُوا إِنْ هَٰذَانِ لَسَاحِرَانِ يُرِيدَانِ أَن يُخْرِجَاكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِكُم بِسِحْرِهِمَا وَيَذْهَبَا بِطَرِيقَتِكُمُ الْمُثْلَىٰ **20:63**

The chiefs, seeing their hesitation, said to the debaters, "These two are wizards, capable of carrying the masses with them, destroying your time-honored traditions, and thus estranging you in your own country or causing a great rebellion that may drive you out of the land."

فَأَجْمِعُوا كَيْدَكُمْ ثُمَّ ائْتُوا صَفًّا وَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْيَوْمَ مَنِ اسْتَعْلَىٰ **20:64**

The chiefs took matters very seriously and commanded the debaters, "So arrange your plan, and face Moses and Aaron as a united front. Indeed, he is the victor today who gains the upper hand."

قَالُوا يَا مُوسَىٰ إِمَّا أَن تُلْقِيَ وَإِمَّا أَن نَّكُونَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ أَلْقَىٰ 20:65

The debaters asked, “O Moses! Will you begin or shall we go first?”

قَالَ بَلْ أَلْقُوا فَإِذَا حِبَالُهُمْ وَعِصِيُّهُمْ يُخَيَّلُ إِلَيْهِ مِن سِحْرِهِمْ أَنَّهَا تَسْعَىٰ 20:66

He said, “Nay, you go first.” Their smart presentation appeared to him to put life into otherwise feeble arguments with their logic wandering in different directions. [They were throwing the ropes of falsehood against the Rope (revelation) of God]

فَأَوْجَسَ فِي نَفْسِهِ خِيفَةً مُّوسَىٰ 20:67

Moses feared in his heart that their expertise of playing with words might influence the audience. [7:116]

قُلْنَا لَا تَخَفْ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْأَعْلَىٰ 20:68

We said, “Fear not! Surely, it is you who will prevail.

وَأَلْقِ مَا فِي يَمِينِكَ تَلْقَفْ مَا صَنَعُوا إِنَّمَا صَنَعُوا كَيْدُ سَاحِرٍ وَلَا يُفْلِحُ السَّاحِرُ حَيْثُ أَتَىٰ 20:69

Present your case with confidence and the sheer power of truth will swallow all their handiwork. Their fabrication is no more than a scheme of deception. And the liars never succeed against the truth, however skillfully they design their strategy.”

فَأُلْقِيَ السَّحَرَةُ سُجَّدًا قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّ هَارُونَ وَمُوسَىٰ 20:70

Pharaoh 's people acknowledged God

Then the debaters fell down prostrating themselves, and exclaimed “We have come to believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses!”

قَالَ آمَنتُمْ لَهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ آذَنَ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَكَبِيرُكُمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَكُمُ السِّحْرَ فَلَأُقَطِّعَنَّ أَيْدِيَكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ وَلَأُصَلِّبَنَّكُمْ فِي جُذُوعِ النَّخْلِ وَلَتَعْلَمُنَّ أَيُّنَا أَشَدُّ عَذَابًا وَأَبْقَىٰ 20:71

Pharaoh said, “Have you come to believe in him before I give you permission? Surely, he must be your master who has conspired with you. I will cut off your hands and feet on alternate sides and then I will crucify all of you on the palm trunks. Then you will know for certain which of us can give the more severe and the more lasting punishment, (the Lord of Moses or me.)”

قَالُوا لَن نُّؤْثِرَكَ عَلَىٰ مَا جَاءَنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالَّذِي فَطَرَنَا فَاقْضِ مَا أَنتَ قَاضٍ إِنَّمَا تَقْضِي هَٰذِهِ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا 20:72

They answered, “Never shall we choose you above the clear evidence of the truth that has come to us, nor prefer you over Him Who brought us into being! So issue whatever decree you will. Your judgment can only touch us in this worldly life.

إِنَّا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّنَا لِيَغْفِرَ لَنَا خَطَايَانَا وَمَا أَكْرَهْتَنَا عَلَيْهِ مِنَ السِّحْرِ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ 20:73

As for us, we have come to believe in our Lord hoping that He may forgive us our faults. And that He may forgive us for the lies that you had forced us to speak. God is the Source of all good, Everlasting.”

إِنَّهُ مَن يَأْتِ رَبَّهُ مُجْرِمًا فَإِنَّ لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ 20:74

Surely, as for him who shall appear before his Sustainer while he had been violating human rights, for him shall be Hell. He will neither die there nor live. [14:17, 87:13]

وَمَن يَأْتِهِ مُؤْمِنًا قَدْ عَمِلَ الصَّالِحَاتِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَىٰ 20:75

Whereas he who appears before Him as a believer who had been doing good to others, such people will have lofty ranks.

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ مَن تَزَكَّىٰ 20:76

And Gardens of Eden (Perpetual bliss) beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide. That shall be the recompense of all those who have developed their personality. (They have actualized their own ‘self’ by helping humanity with their wealth and person.)

وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي فَاضْرِبْ لَهُمْ طَرِيقًا فِي الْبَحْرِ يَبَسًا لَّا تَخَافُ دَرَكًا وَلَا تَخْشَىٰ 20:77

Finally, a time came when We commanded Moses, “Take away My servants by night and find for them a dry path through the Sea of Reeds. Fear not of being overtaken (by Pharaoh), and dread not the sea.” [7:130, 26:63, 44:24]

فَأَتْبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ بِجُنُودِهِ فَغَشِيَهُم مِّنَ الْيَمِّ مَا غَشِيَهُمْ **20:78**

Pharaoh pursued them with his forces, but the high tide completely overwhelmed them, and covered them up.

وَأَضَلَّ فِرْعَوْنُ قَوْمَهُ وَمَا هَدَىٰ **20:79**

This is because Pharaoh had led his people astray and had not guided them right. [An example, that the top leadership could make or break a community]

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ قَدْ أَنجَيْنَاكُم مِّنْ عَدُوِّكُمْ وَوَاعَدْنَاكُمْ جَانِبَ الطُّورِ الْأَيْمَنَ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَنَّ وَالسَّلْوَىٰ **20:80**

O Children of Israel! We saved you from your enemy, and then made a Covenant with you by the right-hand slope of Mount Sinai, and gave you ample provision, meats and wholesome vegetation. [2:57, right-hand slope 19:52]

كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا فِيهِ فَيَحِلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ غَضَبِي وَمَن يَحْلِلْ عَلَيْهِ غَضَبِي فَقَدْ هَوَىٰ **20:81**

Saying, "Partake and enjoy the decent provisions which We have bestowed upon you. But do not disregard equity and none shall be deprived of the natural resources. Transgress not in this respect lest My disapproval should descend on you. And those peoples on whom My disapproval descends, will certainly perish."

وَإِنِّي لَغَفَّارٌ لِّمَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدَىٰ **20:82**

And I am Forgiving for those who repent (by coming back to the right path), believe, lead a righteous life, and remain rightly guided.

وَمَا أَعْجَلَكَ عَن قَوْمِكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ **20:83**

(Once, Moses was a step ahead in excitement.) His Lord said, "What made you hasten from your people, O Moses?"

قَالَ هُمْ أُولَاءِ عَلَىٰ أَثَرِي وَعَجِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ رَبِّ لِتَرْضَىٰ **20:84**

Moses answered, "They are following my footsteps. I have rushed to You my Lord, so that You may be well-pleased with me."

قَالَ فَإِنَّا قَدْ فَتَنَّا قَوْمَكَ مِن بَعْدِكَ وَأَضَلَّهُمُ السَّامِرِيُّ **20:85**

(God) said, "We have tested your people after you left them, and Saamiri has led them astray."

فَرَجَعَ مُوسَىٰ إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ غَضْبَانَ أَسِفًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَلَمْ يَعِدْكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ وَعْدًا حَسَنًا أَفَطَالَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْعَهْدُ أَمْ أَرَدتُّمْ أَن يَحِلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ غَضَبٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُم مَّوْعِدِي **20:86**

Moses returned to his people in a state of anger and sorrow. He said, "O My people! Did not your Lord make a handsome promise to you? Did, then, the fulfillment of this promise seem to you too long in coming? Or did you wish that your Lord's requital come upon you, and so you broke your promise to me?"

قَالُوا مَا أَخْلَفْنَا مَوْعِدَكَ بِمَلْكِنَا وَلَٰكِنَّا حُمِّلْنَا أَوْزَارًا مِّن زِينَةِ الْقَوْمِ فَقَذَفْنَاهَا فَكَذَٰلِكَ أَلْقَى السَّامِرِيُّ **20:87**

They said, "We intended to break no promises. But this is what happened. We were loaded with the sinful burdens of the (Egyptian people's) ornament, and so we threw them into the fire, as suggested by this As-Saamiri."

فَأَخْرَجَ لَهُمْ عِجْلًا جَسَدًا لَّهُ خُوَارٌ فَقَالُوا هَٰذَا إِلَٰهُكُمْ وَإِلَٰهُ مُوسَىٰ فَنَسِيَ **20:88**

Then As-Saamiri made the effigy of a calf. It even brought forth a lowing sound with wind or when blown into it. So they said, "This is your god, and the god of Moses, but he has forgotten." [As-Saamiri was not a Sumerian. He originally hailed from northern India. Babu Rajindra's treatise "Casting of a Caste" shows Saamiri belonging to the 'Untouchables'. Fed up with apartheid, he tried to lay down the foundation of a new mixed caste that could socialize with all four castes of Hinduism. Consequently, he was exiled by the powerful Brahmins and ended up in Egypt and later followed Moses in the Exodus. Cow worship was running in his blood stream. Side by side, the golden calf of the Israelites symbolized the centuries old Egyptian influence. The Egyptians used to worship the 'sacred' bull APIS who was considered to be a god-incarnate. The soul of the sacred bull upon death was supposed to transmigrate into another idol called Osiris whom they worshiped as God's son. Recall Uzayr mentioned in the Qur'an (9:30). Some Jews in Arabia, still under the influence of ancient Egyptian traditions during the times of the exalted Messenger, used to believe in Uzayr or Osiris the Bull-god as God's son]

أَفَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَلَّا يَرْجِعُ إِلَيْهِمْ قَوْلًا وَلَا يَمْلِكُ لَهُمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا **20:89**

They knew full well that, like all false deities, the golden calf could not respond to queries, and had no control over their harm or benefit.

وَلَقَدْ قَالَ لَهُمْ هَارُونُ مِن قَبْلُ يَا قَوْمِ إِنَّمَا فُتِنتُم بِهِ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ فَاتَّبِعُونِي وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرِي **20:90**

And Aaron had told them beforehand, “O My people! You are being tempted to evil by this idol. But your only Lord is the Beneficent! Follow me then, and obey my order¡‘ [Exodus 32:1-5, on the contrary, declares Prophet Aaron guilty of making and worshiping the calf!]

قَالُوا لَن نَّبْرَحَ عَلَيْهِ عَاكِفِينَ حَتَّىٰ يَرْجِعَ إِلَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ **20:91**

Worshipped the cow

They said, “We will by no means cease worshiping it until Moses comes back to us.”

قَالَ يَا هَارُونُ مَا مَنَعَكَ إِذْ رَأَيْتَهُمْ ضَلُّوا **20:92**

When he returned, Moses asked, “O Aaron! What stopped you when you saw them going astray?

أَلَّا تَتَّبِعَنِ أَفَعَصَيْتَ أَمْرِي **20:93**

That you followed me not? Didn’t you disobey my order?”

قَالَ يَا ابْنَ أُمَّ لَا تَأْخُذْ بِلِحْيَتِي وَلَا بِرَأْسِي إِنِّي خَشِيتُ أَن تَقُولَ فَرَّقْتَ بَيْنَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَمْ تَرْقُبْ قَوْلِي **20:94**

Aaron said, “O Son of my mother! Do not get mad at me, and do not treat me harshly. I feared that you would say, “You have let the Children of Israel divide into parties and sects.” [Moses accepted this explanation since sectarianism is no less a crime than idol worship in any form. Seizing the beard and head pertains to harsh interrogation. 7:150]

قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكَ يَا سَامِرِيُّ **20:95**

Moses now turned to Saamiri, “What do you have to say O Saamiri?”

قَالَ بَصُرْتُ بِمَا لَمْ يَبْصُرُوا بِهِ فَقَبَضْتُ قَبْضَةً مِّنْ أَثَرِ الرَّسُولِ فَنَبَذْتُهَا وَكَذَٰلِكَ سَوَّلَتْ لِي نَفْسِي **20:96**

He answered, “I saw what they did not see. So I took a handful (of dust) from the footprint of the Messenger, and cast it away (into the calf). This is what my mind prompted me to do.”

قَالَ فَاذْهَبْ فَإِنَّ لَكَ فِي الْحَيَاةِ أَن تَقُولَ لَا مِسَاسَ وَإِنَّ لَكَ مَوْعِدًا لَّن تُخْلَفَهُ وَانظُرْ إِلَىٰ إِلَٰهِكَ الَّذِي ظَلْتَ عَلَيْهِ عَاكِفًا لَّنُحَرِّقَنَّهُ ثُمَّ لَنَنسِفَنَّهُ فِي الْيَمِّ نَسْفًا **20:97**

Moses said, “Go away then, for good! In this life it is for you to say, “Touch me not!” And moreover you have a promise that will not fail. Now, look at your god to whom you were so devoted. Surely, we will burn it and scatter its ashes far and wide over the sea.” [‘Untouchable’: People will consider him untouchable as before, and the suffering of the Hereafter will be inescapable. Moses wanted his people to see the powerlessness of false deities and their potential to divide humanity]

إِنَّمَا إِلَٰهُكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَسِعَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا **20:98**

One God

“The only deity of you all is God. There is no god but He. And He embraces all things within His knowledge.”

كَذَٰلِكَ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ مِنْ أَنبَاءِ مَا قَدْ سَبَقَ وَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ مِن لَّدُنَّا ذِكْرًا **20:99**

(O Prophet) We thus tell you some news of what happened in the past. And We have given you a reminder from Our Presence.

مَّنْ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَحْمِلُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وِزْرًا **20:100**

Whoever turns away from it, he will bear a heavy load on the Day of Resurrection.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهِ وَسَاءَ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حِمْلًا **20:101**

Abiding under it - an evil burden for them on the Day of Resurrection,

يَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ وَنَحْشُرُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ يَوْمَئِذٍ زُرْقًا **20:102**

The Day when the Trumpet is blown - On that Day We will assemble the guilty with their eyes dimmed in fear. [20:124]

يَتَخَافَتُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِن لَّبِثْتُمْ إِلَّا عَشْرًا **20:103**

Whispering among themselves, “You lived but ten days.”

نَّحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ إِذْ يَقُولُ أَمْثَلُهُمْ طَرِيقَةً إِن لَّبِثْتُمْ إِلَّا يَوْمًا **20:104**

We know best all they will say. The most perceptive of them will say, “You have lived but a day.” [75:20-21, 76:28]

وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْجِبَالِ فَقُلْ يَنسِفُهَا رَبِّي نَسْفًا **20:105**

They ask you (O Messenger), “What will become of the mountains, the tycoons of power and wealth?” Say, “My Lord will blow them away like dust, [18:47, 56:5, 77:10, 78:20, 81:3]

فَيَذَرُهَا قَاعًا صَفْصَفًا 20:106

And will leave the earth plain and level." [Falsehood, deception and treachery shall vanish from the land]

لَّا تَرَىٰ فِيهَا عِوَجًا وَلَا أَمْتًا 20:107

Wherein you see neither curve nor ruggedness - (a life of truthfulness).

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَّبِعُونَ الدَّاعِيَ لَا عِوَجَ لَهُ وَخَشَعَتِ الْأَصْوَاتُ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ فَلَا تَسْمَعُ إِلَّا هَمْسًا 20:108

On that Day all people will follow the caller who has no crookedness in him. (Ta Ha, the Ideal Prophet's call. The Call that is straight, without crookedness. 2:186, 7:86, 18:1, 33:46). And they will follow the call without deviation. The most vociferous of leaders will subdue their voices before the Beneficent. You will only hear soft voices and gentle footsteps.

*** يَوْمَئِذٍ لَّا تَنفَعُ الشَّفَاعَةُ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَرَضِيَ لَهُ قَوْلًا 20:109

No intercession

On that Day, intercession will be of no avail except if one stands up as a witness and is accepted according to the law of the Beneficent. [None will have the benefit of intercession unless he has entered into a bond with the Beneficent during the life of the world. 19:87]

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِهِ عِلْمًا 20:110

This information is given by Him Who knows their past and their future, while none encompasses His knowledge.

وَعَنَتِ الْوُجُوهُ لِلْحَيِّ الْقَيُّومِ وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ حَمَلَ ظُلْمًا 20:111

All faces will be humbled before the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsistent Maintainer of the Universe. And the violators of human rights will be undone.

وَمَن يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَا يَخَافُ ظُلْمًا وَلَا هَضْمًا 20:112

Whereas anyone who has done his best to help people, and is a believer in the Permanent Values, need have no fear of being wronged or deprived of merit.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَنزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا وَصَرَّفْنَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْوَعِيدِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ أَوْ يُحْدِثُ لَهُمْ ذِكْرًا 20:113

And thus have We sent this down, an Arabic Qur'an, and explained therein warnings in many ways, so that people may live upright or that it make them rise to a new level of awareness.

فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا **20:114**

Take time to reveal the Quran

Know, then, that Sublimely Exalted is God, the Ultimate Sovereign, the Ultimate Truth. (O Prophet) hasten not with the Qur'an before the release of a particular revelation to you is completed. And say, "My Lord! Increase me in knowledge." [75:16-17]

وَلَقَدْ عَهِدْنَا إِلَىٰ آدَمَ مِن قَبْلُ فَنَسِيَ وَلَمْ نَجِدْ لَهُ عَزْمًا **20:115**

(Without Divine Guidance man is easily fallible.) We made a covenant with Adam (the first humans) that he would hold fast to Our commands, but he forgot, and We found no constancy in him. [Adam = Mankind = Humanity. 2:30-38, 7:11-25]

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ **20:116**

Recall when We said to the angels, "Bow before Adam, they bowed except Iblees; he refused." [Divine laws in the Universe have been made of service to humans but their selfish desires rebel against their higher conscious controls]

فَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ إِنَّ هَٰذَا عَدُوٌّ لَّكَ وَلِزَوْجِكَ فَلَا يُخْرِجَنَّكُمَا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ فَتَشْقَىٰ **20:117**

And thereupon We said, "O Adam! Surely, this is an enemy to you and your wife so let him not drive the two of you out of this Garden so that you have to toil hard" (for getting your sustenance).

إِنَّ لَكَ أَلَّا تَجُوعَ فِيهَا وَلَا تَعْرَىٰ **20:118**

"Indeed, you are living the life of Paradise (on this very earth) where you are guaranteed never to go hungry, nor go unsheltered."

وَأَنَّكَ لَا تَظْمَأُ فِيهَا وَلَا تَضْحَىٰ **20:119**

"Neither do you go thirsty, nor are you exposed to the burning sun." [Well-provided with food, clothing, shelter, the basic needs]

فَوَسْوَسَ إِلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانُ قَالَ يَا آدَمُ هَلْ أَدُلُّكَ عَلَىٰ شَجَرَةِ الْخُلْدِ وَمُلْكٍ لَّا يَبْلَىٰ **20:120**

But Satan whispered to him. (The selfish desires were teaching him a sinister lesson), "O Adam! Shall I lead you to the tree of eternal life and ownership that is ever-lasting?"

فَأَكَلَا مِنْهَا فَبَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوْآتُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا يَخْصِفَانِ عَلَيْهِمَا مِن وَرَقِ الْجَنَّةِ وَعَصَىٰ آدَمُ رَبَّهُ فَغَوَىٰ **20:121**

Man and woman both ate of the Tree. (People fell into schism for personal interests and their basic necessities of life ceased to come by easily. They had to toil and contend with one another to earn their livelihood.) This exposed the flaws in their character. They tried to hide their selfish behavior. Thus did Adam-mankind disobeyed their Lord, and fell into error. [What was the Forbidden Tree? Not of 'knowledge', nor of 'immortality' as per the Bible. It is the Tree that branches off people based upon selfish desires. The early human beings started marking up lands and hoarding. They also saw their children as a means of attaining immortality. So, this very earth which was a Paradise for them to begin with, became a place where they had to continuously toil and often exploit one another to earn a living - a Paradise lost! Sauaatuhuma = The vices in both, men and women = Erroneously translated as 'nakedness'. 2:34-39, 2:213, 7:11, 7:19-26 15:28-29, 17:61, 18:50, 38:72-73]

ثُمَّ اجْتَبَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ وَهَدَىٰ **20:122**

Thereafter his Lord elected him, accepted his repentance and guided him.

قَالَ اهْبِطَا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُم مِّنِّي هُدًى فَمَنِ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَىٰ **20:123**

Came down to earth and became enemies

He said, "Go down therefore, O humans, males and females, foes to one another competing for sustenance! Nonetheless, there shall most certainly come to you guidance from Me. And whoever follows My guidance will not go astray, nor will face hardship." [Nations that follow Divine laws, their economy will be abundant]

وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنكًا وَنَحْشُرُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَعْمَىٰ **20:124**

But whoever turns away from My Message, his will be a narrow life and economy. And We will raise him blind on the Day of Resurrection. [17:72, 20:102. 'Zikri' = My Remembrance = The Qur'an = The Law = The Message. Such individuals and nations will live in economic and moral poverty]

قَالَ رَبِّ لِمَ حَشَرْتَنِي أَعْمَىٰ وَقَدْ كُنتُ بَصِيرًا **20:125**

He will wonder, "My Lord, why did you gather me blind when I used to be able to see?" [22:46]

قَالَ كَذَٰلِكَ أَتَتْكَ آيَاتُنَا فَنَسِيتَهَا وَكَذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمَ تُنسَىٰ **20:126**

God ignores those who ignore God

God will reply, “Thus it is. Our messages came to you but you were oblivious to them. (Being blind of reason, you disregarded them.) And thus, this Day you will be left in oblivion.”

وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي مَنْ أَسْرَفَ وَلَمْ يُؤْمِن بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَشَدُّ وَأَبْقَىٰ **20:127**

Thus do We reward him who transgresses beyond limits and rejects the messages of his Sustainer. The suffering for them in the life to come shall be severe and lasting!

أَفَلَمْ يَهْدِ لَهُمْ كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُم مِّنَ الْقُرُونِ يَمْشُونَ فِي مَسَاكِنِهِمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي النُّهَىٰ **20:128**

Is it not a guidance for them to know how many a generation Our law destroyed before them, amid whose dwelling-places they now walk? In this, are signs for men and women who wish to understand.

وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَكَانَ لِزَامًا وَأَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى **20:129**

If it were not for a decree that has already been issued by your Lord, setting a term, (the Law of Respite), the Ultimate requital would have come upon them at once.

فَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا وَمِنْ آنَاءِ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْ وَأَطْرَافَ النَّهَارِ لَعَلَّكَ تَرْضَىٰ **20:130**

Salat times
Glorify at two ends of the day

So, (O Prophet) be patient about what they say. Strive in the way of your Sustainer beginning before dawn to before sunset and even during hours of the night, practically all day, that the Divine System becomes a living witness of His praise. Thus you will attain true happiness (with success in your noble mission.)

وَلَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّنْهُمْ زَهْرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا لِنَفْتِنَهُمْ فِيهِ وَرِزْقُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ **20:131**

And do not turn your eyes towards the splendor of the worldly life We have caused many to enjoy. The provision of your Lord is better and more lasting. [13:17. 15:88. Worldly gifts are a test for them to live righteously or turn away from guidance. 104:6-7]

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَّحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ **20:132**

Enjoin upon your family and followers that their central duty remains the establishment of the Divine System. We do not ask you to provide for Us, We provide for you. And the future (and Hereafter) belongs to the righteous.

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا يَأْتِينَا بِآيَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ أَوَلَمْ تَأْتِهِم بَيِّنَةُ مَا فِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَىٰ **20:133**

And they say, "Why does he not bring us a miracle from his Lord?" But has there not come to them a clear evidence of all the truth that was in the former scriptures? [All Divine scriptures have been miracles in their own right. 5:48]

وَلَوْ أَنَّا أَهْلَكْنَاهُم بِعَذَابٍ مِّن قَبْلِهِ لَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ آيَاتِكَ مِن قَبْلِ أَن نَّذِلَّ وَنَخْزَىٰ **20:134**

Had Our law annihilated them with some punishment before this, they would have said, "Our Lord! If only you had sent a Messenger, so that we might have followed Your messages before we were thus humbled and disgraced!" [5:19]

قُلْ كُلٌّ مُّتَرَبِّصٌ فَتَرَبَّصُوا فَسَتَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ أَصْحَابُ الصِّرَاطِ السَّوِيِّ وَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ **20:135**

Say, "Everyone is hopefully waiting (what the future may bring); wait then, for you will come to know who are on the even path, and who are rightly guided." [6:136]21. Al-Anbiya - The Prophets[Author's Note] This is the 21st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 112 verses. The exalted Messenger is a grace for all humanity since he heralds history's most significant and benevolent revolution. And his message is preserved to the letter in the Qur'an, a Book that has the power to unite humanity and solve every single of their problems. It is the foremost liberator of men and women from all kinds of mental and physical bondage. Human equality and equity, compassion and justice, respect of human rights, protection of faith, life, mind, honor and property and unrelenting stress on the Permanent Moral Values, are themes that the reader will find glittering on its pages. Ironically, such glorious message is to date hidden behind the clouds of false traditions even from the eyes of those who consider themselves as the custodians of the Book of God. QXP (The Qur'an As It Explains Itself) is a unique effort to translate and render the Qur'an into English completely from within itself, and free of the misleading human touch, traditions that have been victimizing this Great Book during the last one thousand years. Open any page, start anywhere, and you will feel the Majesty, Power and Beauty of this Divine Writ. This Surah gives us brief narratives of several Prophets and their experiences. As per style of the Book, the Surah enfolds the permanent message, concepts and guidance for every human being on earth. The Qur'an frequently presents history, the cosmos, and the human psyche and soma as evidences to its authority and authenticity. Also, now is the time to recall 3:7 since this Surah is decorated with quite a few exquisitely beautiful allegories.With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness

Chapter 21

Al-Anbiya - The Prophets

This is the 21st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 112 verses. The exalted Messenger is a grace for all humanity since he heralds history´s most significant and benevolent revolution. And his message is preserved to the letter in the Qur´an, a Book that has the power to unite humanity and solve every single of their problems. It is the foremost liberator of men and women from all kinds of mental and physical bondage. Human equality and equity, compassion and justice, respect of human rights, protection of faith, life, mind, honor and property and unrelenting stress on the Permanent Moral Values, are themes that the reader will find glittering on its pages. Ironically, such glorious message is to date hidden behind the clouds of false traditions even from the eyes of those who consider themselves as the custodians of the Book of God. QXP (The Qur´an As It Explains Itself) is a unique effort to translate and render the Qur´an into English completely from within itself, and free of the misleading human touch, traditions that have been victimizing this Great Book during the last one thousand years. Open any page, start anywhere, and you will feel the Majesty, Power and Beauty of this Divine Writ. This Surah gives us brief narratives of several Prophets and their experiences. As per style of the Book, the Surah enfolds the permanent message, concepts and guidance for every human being on earth. The Qur´an frequently presents history, the cosmos, and the human psyche and soma as evidences to its authority and authenticity. Also, now is the time to recall 3:7 since this Surah is decorated with quite a few exquisitely beautiful allegories.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

اقْتَرَبَ لِلنَّاسِ حِسَابُهُمْ وَهُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مُّعْرِضُونَ **21:1**

Closer draws to people the time of their reckoning, and yet they turn away stubbornly heedless of it.

مَا يَأْتِيهِم مِّن ذِكْرٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِم مُّحْدَثٍ إِلَّا اسْتَمَعُوهُ وَهُمْ يَلْعَبُونَ **21:2**

Quran is Muhammad's miracle
Edip

Whenever a new reminder comes to them from their Lord, they listen to it with playful amusement. [26:5]

لَاهِيَةً قُلُوبُهُمْ وَأَسَرُّوا النَّجْوَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا هَلْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ أَفَتَأْتُونَ السِّحْرَ وَأَنتُمْ تُبْصِرُونَ **21:3**

With their hearts preoccupied with fleeting delights, the wrongdoers confer secretly, “Is he not just a human being like you? Will you yield to his spellbinding eloquence with your eyes open?”

قَالَ رَبِّي يَعْلَمُ الْقَوْلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **21:4**

The Prophet said, “My Lord knows every word that is spoken in the High and the Low. He is the Hearer, the Knower.”

بَلْ قَالُوا أَضْغَاثُ أَحْلَامٍ بَلِ افْتَرَاهُ بَلْ هُوَ شَاعِرٌ فَلْيَأْتِنَا بِآيَةٍ كَمَا أُرْسِلَ الْأَوَّلُونَ **21:5**

“Nay,” they say, “Muddled dreams! Nay, he has but invented it! Nay, he is but a poet! Let him then bring us a miracle (as we have heard), like the ones that were given to Prophets of old!”

مَا آمَنَتْ قَبْلَهُم مِّن قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا أَفَهُمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ **21:6**

Not one of the communities before them that We (Our law) destroyed, would ever believe (in their Messengers). Will these, then, believe?

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُّوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِن كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **21:7**

Separation in ranks?

For, before you We sent none but men to whom We granted revelation. So, (tell the deniers), “Ask the followers of previous reminders if you know not.” [12:109, 16:43]

وَمَا جَعَلْنَاهُمْ جَسَدًا لَّا يَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَمَا كَانُوا خَالِدِينَ **21:8**

We did not give them bodies that would not require food, nor were they immortal.

ثُمَّ صَدَقْنَاهُمُ الْوَعْدَ فَأَنجَيْنَاهُمْ وَمَن نَّشَاءُ وَأَهْلَكْنَا الْمُسْرِفِينَ **21:9**

We always fulfilled Our promise to them. We saved them and all those who were worthy to be saved according to Our law and We destroyed those who had wasted their own “Self.”

لَقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ كِتَابًا فِيهِ ذِكْرُكُمْ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **21:10**

O Mankind! Now We have revealed to you a Book that is all about you and it will give you eminence. Will you not, then, use reason? [21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44]

Use your reasoning

وَكَمْ قَصَمْنَا مِن قَرْيَةٍ كَانَتْ ظَالِمَةً وَأَنشَأْنَا بَعْدَهَا قَوْمًا آخَرِينَ **21:11**

We (Our law) dashed into fragments many communities because they ran unjust systems and We replaced them with other people. [Zaalim = Wrongdoer = One who displaces something from its rightful place = Unjust = Oppressor = Violator of human rights = One who chooses to do wrong]

فَلَمَّا أَحَسُّوا بَأْسَنَا إِذَا هُم مِّنْهَا يَرْكُضُونَ **21:12**

And as soon as they began feeling Our Mighty requital, they tried to flee from it. [7:182, 16:26]

لَا تَرْكُضُوا وَارْجِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَا أُتْرِفْتُمْ فِيهِ وَمَسَاكِنِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُسْأَلُونَ **21:13**

(It was said,) "Flee not, but return to the good things of life you were given, and to your mansions, in order that you may be held to account." [How you amassed this wealth and luxury. 102:8]

قَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ **21:14**

They said, "Ah, woe to us! We did wrong others and ourselves."

فَمَا زَالَت تِّلْكَ دَعْوَاهُمْ حَتَّىٰ جَعَلْنَاهُمْ حَصِيدًا خَامِدِينَ **21:15**

And that cry of theirs did not cease until We made them as a field mown down, as silent as ashes. [36:28]

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَاعِبِينَ **21:16**

We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in mere play, or without purpose. [11:7, 45:22, 53:31]

لَوْ أَرَدْنَا أَن نَّتَّخِذَ لَهْوًا لَّاتَّخَذْنَاهُ مِن لَّدُنَّا إِن كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ **21:17**

Had We willed to find a pastime, We could have produced it from Our Presence, if such had been Our will at all!

بَلْ نَقْذِفُ بِالْحَقِّ عَلَى الْبَاطِلِ فَيَدْمَغُهُ فَإِذَا هُوَ زَاهِقٌ وَلَكُمُ الْوَيْلُ مِمَّا تَصِفُونَ **21:18**

Nay, We hurl the truth against falsehood and it crushes the latter, and falsehood has to vanish. Ah! There is destruction for you who forge false dogmas. [Some people conjecture that the Universe is a dream, a play or a mere shadow of the World

of Ideas. But God has designed it such that the truth advances and falsehood vanishes]

وَلَهُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَنْ عِندَهُ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَلَا يَسْتَحْسِرُونَ **21:19**

Unto Him belongs whoever is in the heavens and earth. All creation dwells in His Dominion and none is ever too proud to obey His laws, nor do they get tired.

يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ **21:20**

They (extol His glory and) strive night and day towards the fulfillment of His Plan and do not pause.

أَمِ اتَّخَذُوا آلِهَةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ هُمْ يُنشِرُونَ **21:21**

And yet, some people choose 'gods' from the earth thinking that systems devised by them can make the humanity rise.

لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **21:22**

If there were other gods besides God, there would have been chaos in both (the heavens and earth). Glorified is God, the Lord of Supreme Control, above all that they contrive. [3:84, 6:3, 16:51, 39:67]

لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسْأَلُونَ **21:23**

(The Ultimate Sovereignty, befits only Him.) He cannot be called to account for what He does, whereas they will be held accountable.

أَمِ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ آلِهَةً قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ هَٰذَا ذِكْرُ مَن مَّعِيَ وَذِكْرُ مَن قَبْلِي بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ الْحَقَّ فَهُم مُّعْرِضُونَ **21:24**

And yet they choose deities instead of Him! Say, "Bring your evidence. This is the demand of those with me and this has been the demand of those who were with previous Prophets." Indeed, most of them do not recognize the truth, therefore, they stubbornly turn away from it. [23:117]

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ **21:25**

Shahada

We sent no Messenger before you without having revealed to him, “There is no god but Me, therefore you shall worship Me alone.”

وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَلَدًا سُبْحَانَهُ بَلْ عِبَادٌ مُّكْرَمُونَ **21:26**

And some say, “The Beneficent has taken to Himself a son. Glory to Him! They are but servants raised in honor.

لَا يَسْبِقُونَهُ بِالْقَوْلِ وَهُم بِأَمْرِهِ يَعْمَلُونَ **21:27**

They do not precede to convey any word (as revelation) before He has revealed it to them, and they act by His command.”

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يَشْفَعُونَ إِلَّا لِمَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ وَهُم مِّنْ خَشْيَتِهِ مُشْفِقُونَ **21:28**

No intercession

He knows their future and their past. They cannot intercede, except that they may stand up as witnesses for those who have earned a bond of His approval in the worldly life. And they stand in awe and reverence of His glory. [6:15, 19:87]

وَمَن يَقُلْ مِنْهُمْ إِنِّي إِلَٰهٌ مِّن دُونِهِ فَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِيهِ جَهَنَّمَ كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الظَّالِمِينَ **21:29**

There is only one God

Any person who claims, “Indeed, I have Divine powers beside Him,” We reward him with Hell. Thus We repay the wrongdoers.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتَا رَتْقًا فَفَتَقْنَاهُمَا وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **21:30**

Big Bang Theory

Are the disbelievers not aware that the heavens and earth used to be one solid mass and We exploded them asunder? And that out of water We made every living thing? Will they not, then, acknowledge the truth? [Here is a clear allusion to the Big Bang theory. Numerous celestial bodies came into being and started swimming along in their orbits. Almost all modern astrophysicists believe that this Universe has originated as one entity from one single element, hydrogen that, in stages, became consolidated with gravity and then broke apart into celestial bodies. (Muhammad Asad). 21:33, 24:45, 36:40, 79:30]

وَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَن تَمِيدَ بِهِمْ وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا فِجَاجًا سُبُلًا لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ **21:31**

And We have set firm mountains (as pegs) on the earth, lest it sway with them (16:15). And We have made therein broad roadways so that they might find their way.

وَجَعَلْنَا السَّمَاءَ سَقْفًا مَّحْفُوظًا وَهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهَا مُعْرِضُونَ **21:32**

And We have rendered the sky a canopy well guarded. Yet they turn away from the signs that these things point to. [Canopy: The atmosphere keeps in safe balance the gases and temperature, and protects from the incoming meteorites]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ **21:33**

And He is the One Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. They swim along, each in an orbit.

وَمَا جَعَلْنَا لِبَشَرٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ الْخُلْدَ أَفَإِن مِّتَّ فَهُمُ الْخَالِدُونَ **21:34**

We are all mortal

(All things in the Universe are but mortal.) We have never granted everlasting life to any human before you. If you die, can they be immortal?

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَنَبْلُوكُم بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ **21:35**

Every living being is bound to taste death. We test you through the evil and good aspects of things by way of trial. To Us must you return. [Life and death afford humans the opportunity to do good deeds and achieve eternal rewards. 67:2]

وَإِذَا رَآكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوًا أَهَٰذَا الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَهُم بِذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ **21:36**

(O Prophet) whenever the rejecters see you, they make you a target of their mockery, saying, “Is this the one who talks of your gods?” And yet, it is they who oppose all mention of the Beneficent.

خُلِقَ الْإِنسَانُ مِنْ عَجَلٍ سَأُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِي فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُونِ **21:37**

Man has been created with a tendency to be hasty and looking for instant gains or results. Soon enough, I will show you more of My signs, but do not ask Me to hasten.

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **21:38**

And they say, “When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are men of truth?”

لَوْ يَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا حِينَ لَا يَكُفُّونَ عَن وُجُوهِهِمُ النَّارَ وَلَا عَن ظُهُورِهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ **21:39**

If those who are bent upon denial only knew that they will not be able to repel the fire off their faces and their backs! And no one will help them then.

بَلْ تَأْتِيهِم بَغْتَةً فَتَبْهَتُهُمْ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ رَدَّهَا وَلَا هُمْ يُنظَرُونَ **21:40**

Nay, but it will come upon them suddenly and it will stun them. They will be unable to repel it, and they will not be given any more respite.

وَلَقَدِ اسْتُهْزِئَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **21:41**

(O Prophet) even before your time Messengers have been mocked, but in the end, the mockers were overwhelmed by the very thing they ridiculed (Divine retribution).

قُلْ مَن يَكْلَؤُكُم بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ بَلْ هُمْ عَن ذِكْرِ رَبِّهِم مُّعْرِضُونَ **21:42**

Only God protects you

Say, "Who guards you in the night and in the day from the (requital of the) Beneficent?" Yet, they stubbornly turn away from remembrance of their Sustainer. [He does not take you to task for every transgression. 4:31, 16:61, 35:45]

أَمْ لَهُمْ آلِهَةٌ تَمْنَعُهُم مِّن دُونِنَا لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَلَا هُم مِّنَّا يُصْحَبُونَ **21:43**

Do they have gods who can shield them from Our laws? Their perceived deities cannot even help themselves, nor can they be defended against Us.

بَلْ مَتَّعْنَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَآبَاءَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ طَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْعُمُرُ أَفَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّا نَأْتِي الْأَرْضَ نَنقُصُهَا مِنْ أَطْرَافِهَا أَفَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ **21:44**

Nay, We let these people and their ancestors enjoy the good things of life until the period grew long for them. Do they not see that We gradually reduce the land in their control from the borders? Can they prevail (against Divine laws)? [Every day on earth brings them closer to the end and the holdings of the great landlords are becoming smaller. 13:41]

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أُنذِرُكُم بِالْوَحْيِ وَلَا يَسْمَعُ الصُّمُّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا مَا يُنذَرُونَ **21:45**

Prophet is only a warner

Say, "I warn you on the strength of Divine revelation!" But the deaf to reason cannot hear the call, however often they are warned.

وَلَئِن مَّسَّتْهُمْ نَفْحَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ رَبِّكَ لَيَقُولُنَّ يَا وَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ **21:46**

And if a breath of your Lord's retribution were to touch them, they would say, "Oh, woe to us! Surely, we were wrongdoers!"

وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِن كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا وَكَفَىٰ بِنَا حَاسِبِينَ **21:47**

We will set up the scales of justice on the Day of Resurrection, and no person will be wronged in the least. Though the good or evil be of the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it forth. We are Sufficient for reckoning and none can take account as We do. [99:7-8]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَضِيَاءً وَذِكْرًا لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ **21:48**

We gave Moses and Aaron the Criterion of right and wrong, and a light and reminder for those who wished to live upright.

الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ وَهُم مِّنَ السَّاعَةِ مُشْفِقُونَ **21:49**

(For those) who stood in awe of their Lord even in privacy, and feared the approaching Hour of accountability.

وَهَٰذَا ذِكْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ أَفَأَنتُمْ لَهُ مُنكِرُونَ **21:50**

This (Qur'an) is a blessed reminder that We have revealed. Will you then reject it? [They have learned the consequence of those who had denied Moses and Aaron]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ رُشْدَهُ مِن قَبْلُ وَكُنَّا بِهِ عَالِمِينَ **21:51**

Long before, We showed Abraham his direction and We were Aware of him,

إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَا هَٰذِهِ التَّمَاثِيلُ الَّتِي أَنتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ **21:52**

When he said to his father and his people, "What are these images and statues that you sit around worshiping?"

قَالُوا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا لَهَا عَابِدِينَ **21:53**

They responded, "We found our ancestors worshipers of them."

قَالَ لَقَدْ كُنتُمْ أَنتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **21:54**

He said, “Indeed you and your ancestors have been in plain error.”

قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا بِالْحَقِّ أَمْ أَنتَ مِنَ اللَّاعِبِينَ **21:55**

They said, “Are you telling us some serious truth or are you one of those jesters?”

قَالَ بَل رَّبُّكُمْ رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الَّذِي فَطَرَهُنَّ وَأَنَا عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُم مِّنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ **21:56**

He said, “Nay, your Lord is the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth, Who initiated them from nothing. I am of those who bear witness to this truth (on the basis of reason).”

وَتَاللَّهِ لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَامَكُم بَعْدَ أَن تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ **21:57**

“And by God, I have planned to deal with your idols when you turn back and leave the temple”. [You will see if those whom you believe to guard you can even guard themselves]

فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُذَاذًا إِلَّا كَبِيرًا لَّهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ **21:58**

Then he broke them to pieces except the big one, so that they might turn to it. [37:88-98]

قَالُوا مَن فَعَلَ هَٰذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ **21:59**

They said, “Who has done this to our gods? He must be of the wrongdoers.”

قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى يَذْكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ **21:60**

Some said, “We heard a youth talking about them; he is called Abraham.”

قَالُوا فَأْتُوا بِهِ عَلَىٰ أَعْيُنِ النَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْهَدُونَ **21:61**

The custodians of the temple conferred and said, “Then bring him before the people’s eyes, so that they might bear witness.”

قَالُوا أَأَنتَ فَعَلْتَ هَٰذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ **21:62**

(And when he came) they asked, “Is it you who has done this to our gods, O Abraham?”

قَالَ بَلْ فَعَلَهُ كَبِيرُهُمْ هَٰذَا فَاسْأَلُوهُمْ إِن كَانُوا يَنطِقُونَ **21:63**

Abraham grabbed the opportunity of driving home the point, “Whoever did it, did it. This is their chief. Ask them if they speak.” [Important note: As many commentators of the Qur’an, ancient and modern, that I am aware of, have

mistranslated this verse simply for missing the punctuation after 'Fa'aluh'. They render the first part of the verse as, "This was done by the big one of them." And then they go into defending in futility Prophet Abraham against uttering a lie. But, "This is their chief" is in fact a new sentence]

فَرَجَعُوا إِلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ فَقَالُوا إِنَّكُمْ أَنتُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ **21:64**

They were taken aback, withdrew, thought and said to one another, "Surely, you yourselves are the wrongdoers." [You neglected the security of the powerless idols]

ثُمَّ نُكِسُوا عَلَىٰ رُءُوسِهِمْ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ يَنطِقُونَ **21:65**

They were utterly confounded in shame, lowered their heads and said to Abraham, "You know that they do not speak."

قَالَ أَفَتَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنفَعُكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَضُرُّكُمْ **21:66**

Abraham said, "Do you then worship instead of God what cannot benefit you or harm you?"

أُفٍّ لَّكُمْ وَلِمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **21:67**

"Despicable it is for you and for all that you worship instead of God. Will you, then, use your sense¿'

قَالُوا حَرِّقُوهُ وَانصُرُوا آلِهَتَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ **21:68**

The priesthood of the temple (in their personal interests) instigated the masses, "Burn him alive and uphold your gods if you are going to take any action."

قُلْنَا يَا نَارُ كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ **21:69**

But We said, "O fire! Be cool, and security for Abraham!" [The fire of their rage soon cooled down. 29:24-26, 37:88-89]

وَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَخْسَرِينَ **21:70**

And whereas they schemed against him, We made them the true losers. [They failed to value a man of his stature]

وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ **21:71**

And We rescued Abraham and (his nephew and close companion) Lot to the land that We blessed for all people. [They migrated from their homeland of Ur in Mesopotamia, today's Iraq, to Syria-Palestine that was blessed with a long line of Prophets]

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ نَافِلَةً وَكُلًّا جَعَلْنَا صَالِحِينَ **21:72**

We bestowed upon Abraham, a son Isaac and a grandson Jacob. We made all of them great benefactors of humanity as they addressed the inequities in human thought and behavior.

وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ **21:73**

Salat and Islam started with Abraham

We made them leaders who set the standards of leadership. They guided people as We commanded, into doing collective good for the society, and to establish the Divine System with a Just Economic Order. They were true servants of Ours.

وَلُوطًا آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَت تَّعْمَلُ الْخَبَائِثَ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ فَاسِقِينَ **21:74**

Later We commissioned Lot to prophethood and gave him wisdom and knowledge. (After his best efforts failed) We saved him from the wrath of the community that was bent upon doing indecent deeds. They were a rebellious people who were given to doing evil.

وَأَدْخَلْنَاهُ فِي رَحْمَتِنَا إِنَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **21:75**

We brought Lot in unto Our grace. He was of the righteous.

وَنُوحًا إِذْ نَادَىٰ مِن قَبْلُ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ **21:76**

The same goes for Noah long before. He called on Us, and We saved him, his household and followers from the great distress of persecution.

وَنَصَرْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **21:77**

We delivered him from the people who rejected Our commands. They were a people given to inequities and oppressing the weak and We caused all of them to drown.

وَدَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ إِذْ يَحْكُمَانِ فِي الْحَرْثِ إِذْ نَفَشَتْ فِيهِ غَنَمُ الْقَوْمِ وَكُنَّا لِحُكْمِهِمْ شَاهِدِينَ **21:78**

And David and Solomon ruled in great justice. They gathered the straying sheep, the masses of their kingdom, when they were bent upon destroying their own crop of prosperity. We were Witness to their benevolent governance.

فَفَهَّمْنَاهَا سُلَيْمَانَ وَكُلًّا آتَيْنَا حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُودَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ وَكُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ **21:79**

We gave Solomon great understanding of the affairs of the state, and each of them We endowed with wisdom and knowledge. It was Our Power that made the tribal leaders (loyal to David so that they could) strive to manifest Our glory as did the horse riders of the strong Tribe of At-Taeer. We are the One Who did all these things. [Jibaal = Mountains = The elite = Top leadership. At-Taeer = The birds = The 'flying' horsemen = A Tribe in Syria-Palestine with excellent cavalry. 'We did' = We made it possible]

وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ صَنْعَةَ لَبُوسٍ لَّكُمْ لِتُحْصِنَكُم مِّن بَأْسِكُمْ فَهَلْ أَنتُمْ شَاكِرُونَ **21:80**

We taught him the science of armor to protect you from each other's foolhardy violence. Are you then thankful? [David was the first one to master iron technology and later generations benefited from it. Therefore, 'to protect you']

وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ عَاصِفَةً تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا وَكُنَّا بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَالِمِينَ **21:81**

We made the gusting winds subservient to Solomon as his ships sailed to the land We had blessed. And of everything We are Aware. [When people discover some of Divine laws, they call it Science, and Solomon made good use of it]

وَمِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ مَن يَغُوصُونَ لَهُ وَيَعْمَلُونَ عَمَلًا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ وَكُنَّا لَهُمْ حَافِظِينَ **21:82**

We humbled the most rebellious tribes, and made them compliant to him. Some of them dived for him in the sea and carried out other duties, besides. But it was We Who kept watch over them. [We were for them, and are for you, the Guardians of the laws of governance and science 34:13, 38:37]

وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **21:83**

Job called unto his Lord, "Affliction has befallen me, but You are the Most Merciful of the merciful." [38:41. He was lost away from his people]

فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِ مِن ضُرٍّ وَآتَيْنَاهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُم مَّعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِندِنَا وَذِكْرَىٰ لِلْعَابِدِينَ **21:84**

We responded to him and relieved his agony from which he suffered. We re-united him with his people and his followers had doubled in the meantime. That was grace from Us, and a thing to be commemorated by all those who serve Us.

وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِدْرِيسَ وَذَا الْكِفْلِ كُلٌّ مِّنَ الصَّابِرِينَ **21:85**

Also remember Ishmael, Enoch (Idrees) and Ezekiel (Zal-Kifl), all were among the steadfast. [Ezekiel was one of the Israelite tribal prophets in the 6th century BC]

وَأَدْخَلْنَاهُمْ فِي رَحْمَتِنَا إِنَّهُم مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **21:86**

And so We admitted them in Our grace, for, they were men of quality.

وَذَا النُّونِ إِذ ذَّهَبَ مُغَاضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَن لَّن نَّقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَىٰ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَن لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ **21:87**

And remember Zan-Noon (Jonah of Ninevah), when he departed in anger thinking that We had no power over him. But he cried out in darkness, "There is no god but You. Be You Glorified! Truly, I have been a wrongdoer." ['We had no power over him': Jonah thought that God would not take him to task. Jonah lost all hope of his people reforming, and migrated before the Divine decree came. 10:98, 37:139-148, 68:48. Zulumaat = The darkness of error = Desperate situation = Hopelessness = Remorse = Darkness. It has nothing to do with the legend of staying in the belly of a fish. The fish had only grabbed him in her teeth momentarily]

فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ وَكَذَٰلِكَ نُنجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **21:88**

And so We responded to him and saved him from grief. Thus We save from grief those who believe in Our laws.

وَزَكَرِيَّا إِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبَّهُ رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي فَرْدًا وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الْوَارِثِينَ **21:89**

And Zacharias called unto his Lord, O My Sustainer! Do not leave me childless! However, I do realize that You will remain when all else has ceased to be. You are the Ultimate of the inheritors. [3:33, 19:5-7]

فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ يَحْيَىٰ وَأَصْلَحْنَا لَهُ زَوْجَهُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا وَكَانُوا لَنَا خَاشِعِينَ **21:90**

And so We responded to him, and bestowed upon him Yahya, after making his wife fit to bear him a child. And they (parents and son) used to race in doing good

works, and remembered Us in situations of hope or fear. And they were always devoted to Us.

وَالَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهَا مِن رُّوحِنَا وَجَعَلْنَاهَا وَابْنَهَا آيَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **21:91**

And remember her (Mary) who guarded her chastity (under very adverse circumstances). We breathed into her of Our Energy, and caused her, together with her son, to become a symbol of Our grace for all people. [Breathing of Divine Energy = Free will for every human. 3:44, 19:16, 32:9. Symbol of grace = Whereas the Israelites maligned them, they were made honorable]

إِنَّ هَٰذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ **21:92**

Surely, O Mankind! This community of yours is one single community, since I am the Sustainer of you all. So, serve Me alone! [23:52]

وَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُم بَيْنَهُمْ كُلٌّ إِلَيْنَا رَاجِعُونَ **21:93**

But disregarding the command, they cut off their unity, (forgetting that) to Us all of them are bound to return.

فَمَن يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَا كُفْرَانَ لِسَعْيِهِ وَإِنَّا لَهُ كَاتِبُونَ **21:94**

Allah does not reject the good

Whoever works for the good of others, believing in Permanent Values, his efforts will never be rejected. Indeed, We are recording it for him.

وَحَرَامٌ عَلَىٰ قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا أَنَّهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ **21:95**

There is a ban on any community that We have annihilated from rising again,

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُتِحَتْ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ وَهُم مِّن كُلِّ حَدَبٍ يَنسِلُونَ **21:96**

Until, when Gog and Magog are let loose, and they swarm upon them from every height. [Imperialist nations run over and dominate them. And then after some passage of time the desire for freedom and glory germinates in their hearts once again. 17:58, 18:94-99]

وَاقْتَرَبَ الْوَعْدُ الْحَقُّ فَإِذَا هِيَ شَاخِصَةٌ أَبْصَارُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا قَدْ كُنَّا فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَٰذَا بَلْ كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ **21:97**

The time of the True promise is coming closer. The eyes of the rejecters will stare in horror, “Oh, woe to us! We lived in slumber. Nay, we were only hurting our own ‘self’.”

إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ أَنتُمْ لَهَا وَارِدُونَ **21:98**

They will be told, “You and those whom you served instead of God, are but the fuel of Hell; that is the destiny you chose to come to.

لَوْ كَانَ هَٰؤُلَاءِ آلِهَةً مَّا وَرَدُوهَا وَكُلٌّ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **21:99**

[If your leaders had foresight, they would have saved themselves and their people from this fire.] If they were really deities, they would not have ended up here. But the leaders and their followers will abide therein.

لَهُمْ فِيهَا زَفِيرٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يَسْمَعُونَ **21:100**

Sobbing and wailing will be their lot therein, and nothing else will they hear.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ سَبَقَتْ لَهُم مِّنَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ عَنْهَا مُبْعَدُونَ **21:101**

[The upheavals of the Revolution would only be a smooth transition for those who have been trying to create balance in the society and improving the lot of humanity] Those for whom kindness has gone forth from Us, will be far removed from there (Hell).

لَا يَسْمَعُونَ حَسِيسَهَا وَهُمْ فِي مَا اشْتَهَتْ أَنفُسُهُمْ خَالِدُونَ **21:102**

They will not hear the slightest sound thereof, while they enjoy an abode where they get all they desire.

لَا يَحْزُنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ وَتَتَلَقَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ هَٰذَا يَوْمُكُمُ الَّذِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ **21:103**

The horror will cause them no grief, since the angels (of peace, fulfillment, and delight) will welcome them, “This is your day of triumph that you were promised.”

يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجِلِّ لِلْكُتُبِ كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُّعِيدُهُ وَعْدًا عَلَيْنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ **21:104**

On that Day We shall roll up the Sky as written scrolls are rolled up. Then, just as We initiated the first creation, We shall produce a new one (a new Universe). This is a promise binding upon Us. For, We are Able to do all things. [Ultimately, God

will create a new Universe (14:48). And before that, the planet earth will see a new Dawn. Top leaders, tyrants, clergy and tycoons of wealth will lose their high empires of influence. It will be a new life for people, united as one single community as they once were. 2:213, 10:19, 39:67]

وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِن بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ **21:105**

Heaven and earth will be replaced ?

And after advising mankind, We wrote down in all Books of Divine wisdom that My able servants will inherit the earth.

إِنَّ فِي هَٰذَا لَبَلَاغًا لِّقَوْمٍ عَابِدِينَ **21:106**

Herein there is a clear message for people who would truly serve God.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **21:107**

And thus, (O Prophet) We have sent you as a mercy for the worlds. [Mankind will become one single community through the Book revealed to you. Rahmatallil'Aalameen = Mercy for the worlds = Grace for all humanity = A benevolent advent for all nations and peoples. Furthermore, the exalted Prophet is God's grace to all humanity for these reasons: 1 - The Book revealed to him appeals to all people irrespective of race, color, cast and national origin. 2 - It appeals exclusively to reason and does not require blind faith in any dogmas. 3 - It is the only perfectly preserved scripture word for word]

قُلْ إِنَّمَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَهَلْ أَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ **21:108**

Say, "It has been revealed to me that your God is One God. Will you then submit to Him?"

فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَقُلْ آذَنتُكُمْ عَلَىٰ سَوَاءٍ وَإِنْ أَدْرِي أَقَرِيبٌ أَم بَعِيدٌ مَّا تُوعَدُونَ **21:109**

If they still turn away, then say, "I have conveyed it to all of you alike. But I do not know whether what you are promised is near or far."

إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَكْتُمُونَ **21:110**

Surely, He knows all that is said openly, just as He knows all that you conceal.

وَإِنْ أَدْرِي لَعَلَّهُ فِتْنَةٌ لَّكُمْ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **21:111**

And I do not know, except that this may be a trial for you, and enjoyment for a while (during the period of respite)."

21:112 قَالَ رَبِّ احْكُم بِالْحَقِّ وَرَبُّنَا الرَّحْمَٰنُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ عَلَىٰ مَا تَصِفُونَ

The Prophet said, "Judge (between them and us) as you judge in truth. Our Lord is the Beneficent, the Helper against whatever falsehood you ascribe to Him." [1:5]

Chapter 22

Al-Hajj - The Annual Convention (Pilgrimage)

This is the 22nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 78 verses. As usual this Surah embraces concepts and commands in a beautiful diversity. The Qur´an maintains a unique literary style that wherever we open the Book, we feel instantly connected. In my humble opinion, cover to cover reading with understanding of the Book of God twice in a whole lifetime enables us to enjoy its grandeur whenever and wherever we open it. Revisiting the Book for reference and consultation must go along regularly throughout life for our own good. Pilgrimage to the Sacred Masjid of Makkah has been ordained for all humanity with its prime objective being to seek solutions of all human conflicts and attain universal unity. Hajj does in fact mean ´determination for a noble cause´. The traditional, ritualistic approach to Hajj comes from Pre-Islamic times and has no basis in the Qur´an.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّ زَلْزَلَةَ السَّاعَةِ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ **22:1**

O Mankind! Be mindful of your Sustainer so that you may journey through life in blissful honor and security. (If you fail to bring the house of humanity to order), the Hour will quake the earth with awesome wars.

يَوْمَ تَرَوْنَهَا تَذْهَلُ كُلُّ مُرْضِعَةٍ عَمَّا أَرْضَعَتْ وَتَضَعُ كُلُّ ذَاتِ حَمْلٍ حَمْلَهَا وَتَرَى النَّاسَ سُكَارَىٰ وَمَا هُم بِسُكَارَىٰ وَلَٰكِنَّ عَذَابَ اللَّهِ شَدِيدٌ **22:2**

On the Day when you see it (wars of such intensity that) even a nursing mother would forget her infant, and the pregnant would abort her fetus. And it will seem to you that all mankind is drunk, although they will not be drunk. But the Divine requital is a tremendous thing.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يُجَادِلُ فِي اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَيَتَّبِعُ كُلَّ شَيْطَانٍ مَّرِيدٍ **22:3**

And yet, among people there are those who argue about God without attaining knowledge, and follow every rebellious satanic force.

كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ مَن تَوَلَّاهُ فَأَنَّهُ يُضِلُّهُ وَيَهْدِيهِ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ **22:4**

For the rebellious desire it has been decreed that whoever befriends it, certainly, it will mislead him and guide him to the retribution of the Flame.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِن كُنتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّنَ الْبَعْثِ فَإِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُم مِّن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ مِن مُّضْغَةٍ مُّخَلَّقَةٍ وَغَيْرِ مُخَلَّقَةٍ لِّنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ وَنُقِرُّ فِي الْأَرْحَامِ مَا نَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ نُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا ثُمَّ لِتَبْلُغُوا أَشُدَّكُمْ وَمِنكُم مَّن يُتَوَفَّىٰ وَمِنكُم مَّن يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْذَلِ الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْلَا يَعْلَمَ مِن بَعْدِ عِلْمٍ شَيْئًا وَتَرَى الْأَرْضَ هَامِدَةً فَإِذَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ وَأَنبَتَتْ مِن كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ **22:5**

O Mankind! If you are in doubt that one day you will be resurrected back to life after death, consider the process of your own evolution. We have created you in stages: From inorganic matter, then from male and female gametes, then from a zygote, then from an embryo, shapely and first shapeless. We thus clearly explain things for you. The embryo and then the fetus stay in the womb until an appointed term according to Our laws. Then We bring you forth as infants and carry you to maturity. While some of you die young, others live to the feeblest old age so that they know nothing after knowing much. You see a dry barren land, but when We send down water on it, it vibrates with life and grows all kinds of beautiful plants. [Recapturing the earlier stages of evolution, We initiated life from inorganic matter, the clay, then hydrated clay. Through it We brought forth the single life cell, the unicellular organism. Then We created the male and the female cells. Thus procreation came into play. Male and female gametes join, a clot, a little lump of flesh, turning into the embryo that 'hangs' in the womb. The embryo is partly formed and partly unformed, until it becomes the fetus and then assumes the final evident proportions. For the origin of life on the planet and creation of the human being, herein are some important references for the research minded reader: 4:1, 6:2, 6:38, 6:99, 7:11, 7:189, 11:6, 11:61, 15:26-27, 21:30, 22:5, 23:12-14, 24:45, 25:54, 30:20, 31:28, 32:7-9, 35:11, 36:77, 37:11, 39:6, 40:64-67, 51:49, 53:45, 55:14, 71:14-17, 76:2-3, 86:5-7, 96:1-22]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّهُ يُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَأَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **22:6**

All this happens because God alone is the Ultimate truth and He alone revives the dead and because He has Supreme Control over all things and events.

وَأَنَّ السَّاعَةَ آتِيَةٌ لَّا رَيْبَ فِيهَا وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْعَثُ مَن فِي الْقُبُورِ **22:7**

And know that the Hour is bound to come, beyond any doubt, and that God will certainly resurrect all who are in their graves. (And He will raise humanity onto their feet, just as He will raise the dead from their disintegrated states, whether in graves or in the oceans, in ashes, their scattered pieces sprayed about, or in the bellies of the fish and the birds etc.)

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يُجَادِلُ فِي اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَلَا هُدًى وَلَا كِتَابٍ مُّنِيرٍ **22:8**

And yet, among people there are those who argue about God without attaining knowledge, guidance and without any light-giving revelation. [22:3]

ثَانِيَ عِطْفِهِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا خِزْيٌ وَنُذِيقُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ **22:9**

Turning away in pride to divert people from the path of God. Disgrace is in store for them in this world. And on the Day of Resurrection We will make them taste the doom of burning.

ذَٰلِكَ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاكَ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَيْسَ بِظَلَّامٍ لِّلْعَبِيدِ **22:10**

Saying, “This is what you sent before with your own hands, for God is no oppressor of His servants.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ حَرْفٍ فَإِنْ أَصَابَهُ خَيْرٌ اطْمَأَنَّ بِهِ وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ فِتْنَةٌ انقَلَبَ عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ خَسِرَ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةَ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ **22:11**

And among people there is the one who serves God conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity touches him he turns about on his face, losing both, this world and the Hereafter. That is certainly a manifest loss. [4:143. Face = Whole-being. He turns away completely]

يَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُ وَمَا لَا يَنفَعُهُ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الضَّلَالُ الْبَعِيدُ **22:12**

He calls, instead of God, on what neither can harm him nor benefit him. That is the utmost straying.

يَدْعُو لَمَن ضَرُّهُ أَقْرَبُ مِن نَّفْعِهِ لَبِئْسَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَلَبِئْسَ الْعَشِيرُ 22:13

He calls to him whose harm is nearer than his benefits, an evil master, and an evil follower.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ 22:14

Heaven for those who acknowledge

Surely, God will admit those who have attained belief and fulfill the needs of others, into Gardens beneath which rivers flow. For, all things happen according to the laws that God has willed to design.

مَن كَانَ يَظُنُّ أَن لَّن يَنصُرَهُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ فَلْيَمْدُدْ بِسَبَبٍ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ ثُمَّ لْيَقْطَعْ فَلْيَنظُرْ هَلْ يُذْهِبَنَّ كَيْدُهُ مَا يَغِيظُ 22:15

If anyone thinks that God cannot help him in this world and in the life to come, let him reach out to the heaven by any other means and thus try to make headway. And then let him see whether his approach will dispel the cause of his anguish.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَنزَلْنَاهُ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَن يُرِيدُ 22:16

And thus We have revealed the Qur'an in simple and plain verses. God guides him who seeks guidance.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالصَّابِئِينَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ وَالْمَجُوسَ وَالَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ 22:17

God will separate believers from non believers

Those who have attained faith (in the Qur'an), those who are Jewish, the agnostics, the Christians, the Zoroastrians and Pagans: Certainly, God will decide between them on the Day of Resurrection. God is Witness over all things and events. [2:136, 11:121, 22:55-56. Sabians = Agnostics, 2:62]

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَسْجُدُ لَهُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ وَالنُّجُومُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَالشَّجَرُ 22:18

وَالدَّوَابُّ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ وَكَثِيرٌ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِ الْعَذَابُ وَمَن
يُهِنِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن مُّكْرِمٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا يَشَاءُ

Do you not see that whoever is in the heavens and on earth, the sun and the moon, the stars and the mountains, the trees, the animals, and a great many of human beings submit to God? And there are a great many human beings who make themselves deserving of retribution. And those whom God will disgrace, none can raise them to honor. For, God does everything according to His laws.

هَٰذَانِ خَصْمَانِ اخْتَصَمُوا فِي رَبِّهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا قُطِّعَتْ **22:19**
لَهُمْ ثِيَابٌ مِّن نَّارٍ يُصَبُّ مِن فَوْقِ رُءُوسِهِمُ الْحَمِيمُ

There are two contrary kinds of men (in the world) who contend about their Sustainer (one in truth, the other in falsehood). Those who are bent upon opposing the truth will have garments of flames they cut out for themselves, and they will cause burning despair to be poured on their top priorities. [104:6-7]

يُصْهَرُ بِهِ مَا فِي بُطُونِهِمْ وَالْجُلُودُ **22:20**

Causing all their inner arsenal and their exterior proclamations to melt away to naught.

وَلَهُم مَّقَامِعُ مِنْ حَدِيدٍ **22:21**

Time is coming to restrain the criminals in rods and chains. [21:39, 57:25]

كُلَّمَا أَرَادُوا أَن يَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا مِنْ غَمٍّ أُعِيدُوا فِيهَا وَذُوقُوا **22:22**
عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ

Whenever, in their anguish, they try to come out of it, they shall be returned to it, "Taste the doom of burning."

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ **22:23**
تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِن
ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ

And God will admit those who have attained belief and helped others, into the Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. Therein (like royals) they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and where silk will be their garment. [18:31]

وَهُدُوا إِلَى الطَّيِّبِ مِنَ الْقَوْلِ وَهُدُوا إِلَىٰ صِرَاطِ الْحَمِيدِ **22:24**

For they were willing to be guided towards the best concepts and so they were led on to the way to the Praiseworthy. [Qaul = Saying = Tenet = Concept = Expression]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَيَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ الَّذِي جَعَلْنَاهُ لِلنَّاسِ سَوَاءً الْعَاكِفُ فِيهِ وَالْبَادِ وَمَن يُرِدْ فِيهِ بِإِلْحَادٍ بِظُلْمٍ نُّذِقْهُ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **22:25**

Surely, those who reject the truth and bar people from the path of God, and from the Center of Divine Ideology, the Sacred Masjid, must know that We have appointed it for all mankind alike. This is the Inviolable House of collective submission for the locals as well as the visitors (2:125). Whoever seeks to relegate it from Ideology to ritualism, directly or through side cannels, We will make him taste an awful doom. [Zulm = Relegation from the rightful place]

وَإِذْ بَوَّأْنَا لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ مَكَانَ الْبَيْتِ أَن لَّا تُشْرِكْ بِي شَيْئًا وَطَهِّرْ بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْقَائِمِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُودِ **22:26**

Kaba- Abraham

Behold! We pointed the site of the Sacred House, Ka'bah, to Abraham, saying, "Associate none with Me, and keep My House clean of human dogmas for those whose Divine Ideology of Monotheism will revolve around this Center for all mankind. Train the visitors to stand up for truth, and bow to and prostrate before Divine Commands." [2:125, 2:197, 3:95-97, 22:28-29]

وَأَذِّن فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَىٰ كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِن كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ **22:27**

Announcement for haj Athan

"And announce to mankind the duty of Pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot, and on every kind of fast mount, coming from every far away point on earth."

لِّيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُم مِّن بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطْعِمُوا الْبَائِسَ الْفَقِيرَ **22:28**

Slaughter during pilgrimage

So that they might see with their own eyes and experience what benefits the Divine System holds for them (in addition to uniting them in the common bond of humanity). And they shall commemorate God's Name collectively during the specified days of Hajj; and over the livestock He has bestowed upon them. Then host one another with the livestock (to make the Congregation self-sufficient in the food resources). Eat and feed the distressed poor (regardless of whether they are in the congregation or not). [An important note: Although the Saudi government forbids non-Muslims to come to Makkah and Madinah, this practice is

contrary to the Qur'an. The idolaters are forbidden only to 'ya'mur' or administer the Masjid for obvious ideological reasons. (9:17-18, 3:97). In fact, they must be allowed to come and witness the benefits of the unity of mankind. (22:27-28)]

ثُمَّ لْيَقْضُوا تَفَثَهُمْ وَلْيُوفُوا نُذُورَهُمْ وَلْيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ **22:29**

As they host one another, they shall consult to clean out their societies of individual and collective vices, and they design ways to fulfill their obligations as human beings. Then they shall walk around the Ancient House in their resolve.

ذَٰلِكَ وَمَن يُعَظِّمْ حُرُمَاتِ اللَّهِ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُ عِندَ رَبِّهِ وَأُحِلَّتْ لَكُمُ الْأَنْعَامُ إِلَّا مَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاجْتَنِبُوا الرِّجْسَ مِنَ الْأَوْثَانِ وَاجْتَنِبُوا قَوْلَ الزُّورِ **22:30**

All this is the purpose of Hajj. Whoever will honor these directives and limitations, it will be good for him in the Sight of his Lord. The livestock here is lawful food for you except for those already prohibited. You shall avoid idol worship in any form, and abstain from bearing false witness. Avoid all things that bring your progress to a standstill. Lying, bearing false witness and flamboyant behavior are specifically forbidden at this congregation to prevent nullification of the grand objective. [2:173, 5:3, 6:145, 16:115. Rijs, Awthan, Zoor encompass all the stated meanings]

حُنَفَاءَ لِلَّهِ غَيْرَ مُشْرِكِينَ بِهِ وَمَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَكَأَنَّمَا خَرَّ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَتَخْطَفُهُ الطَّيْرُ أَوْ تَهْوِي بِهِ الرِّيحُ فِي مَكَانٍ سَحِيقٍ **22:31**

Turn to God alone, associating none with Him. For whoever ascribes partners to God, it is as if he has fallen from the sky and the birds snatch him or the wind blows him to far-off places.

ذَٰلِكَ وَمَن يُعَظِّمْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِن تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ **22:32**

Such is his state. And anyone who honors the symbols set up by God must know that mere honoring these symbols is of no value without righteousness of the heart.

لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ثُمَّ مَحِلُّهَا إِلَى الْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ **22:33**

(Procuring livestock during Hajj is a symbol of devotion to God.) In them are benefits for you for a term appointed. (They carry you and your loads.) In the end, their place for slaughter or donation is near the Ancient House. [The plains of Mina, and not Ka'bah]

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنسَكًا لِّيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُم مِّن بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَإِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَلَهُ أَسْلِمُوا وَبَشِّرِ الْمُخْبِتِينَ **22:34**

And to every community We have ordained rites that they might extol the Name of God over the sustenance He gave them from the livestock. But your God is the same; the One and only God. Therefore, submit to Him alone. And give good news to all those who are humble. [22:67]

الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَهُمْ وَالْمُقِيمِي الصَّلَاةِ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **22:35**

Contact Prayer Salat

The truly humble are those whose hearts tremble with awe whenever God is mentioned. They steadfastly bear whatever ill befalls them. And they constantly strive to establish and consolidate the Divine System and spend the wealth that We have given them, on their fellow human beings. [8:2]

وَالْبُدْنَ جَعَلْنَاهَا لَكُم مِّن شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ فِيهَا خَيْرٌ فَاذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا صَوَافَّ فَإِذَا وَجَبَتْ جُنُوبُهَا فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطْعِمُوا الْقَانِعَ وَالْمُعْتَرَّ كَذَٰلِكَ سَخَّرْنَاهَا لَكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **22:36**

And the camels! We have appointed them among the symbols (of obedience) to God; in them is much good for you. (They carry you and your loads and then help you host one another.) So, dedicate them to God's Name when they are drawn up in lines (for slaughter during Hajj). And after they have fallen to the ground lifeless, partake from their flesh, and feed the contented poor who do not beg as well as the poor who ask. Remember that God has subjected these animals to you so that you may be grateful.

لَن يَنَالَ اللَّهَ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَٰكِن يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنكُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **22:37**

Neither their meat nor their blood reaches God. What reaches Him is your devotion. He has thus subjected them to you that you manifestly establish the greatness of God in the land for everyone to behold (the objective of Hajj) - And to see how magnificent the guidance is that He has bestowed upon you. And (O Prophet) give glad news to all benefactors of humanity. [2:185]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدَافِعُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ خَوَّانٍ كَفُورٍ **22:38**

Surely, God will defend the community of true believers. Indeed, God does not love those who betray the Divine System ordained in this Book, and thus show ingratitude for the magnificent guidance they have received.

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظُلِمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ **22:39**

Permission to fight is granted to those against whom war is wrongfully waged. God is Able to support them -

الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِم بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَن يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُم بِبَعْضٍ لَّهُدِّمَتْ صَوَامِعُ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَلَيَنصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَن يَنصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ **22:40**

Those who have been evicted from their homes unjustly, for no reason other than saying, "Our Lord is God!" For, if God had not enabled some people to repel others, temples, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and Masjids, where the Name of God is oft mentioned, would have been destroyed. And God will certainly help those who help Him. God is Mighty, Powerful.

الَّذِينَ إِن مَّكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ **22:41**

Those who, if We give them power in the land, establish Salaat (the Divine System), set up the Economic Order of Zakaat (in which wealth circulates freely to nourish every member of the society, and the basic needs of all individuals are taken care of). Their rule ensures that the Permanent Moral Values are promoted, and what the Qur'an forbids, is discouraged. And in their governance all affairs are decided according to God's decrees (given in the Qur'an. 5:44).

وَإِن يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَعَادٌ وَثَمُودُ **22:42**

(This is the framework of the Constitution that would finally take effect.) If they deny you (O Prophet), so did, before them, the people of Noah, 'Aad, and Thamud.

وَقَوْمُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَقَوْمُ لُوطٍ **22:43**

As did the people of Abraham, and the people of Lot.

وَأَصْحَابُ مَدْيَنَ وَكُذِّبَ مُوسَىٰ فَأَمْلَيْتُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُهُمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ **22:44**

And the dwellers of Midyan. And Moses was also denied. And I gave the rejecters a period of respite, but then I took them to task. And how awesome was My rejection of them!

فَكَأَيِّن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ فَهِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَىٰ عُرُوشِهَا وَبِئْرٍ مُّعَطَّلَةٍ وَقَصْرٍ مَّشِيدٍ **22:45**

And how many a township have We (Our Law of Requital) annihilated, for, they oppressed people and violated human rights! And now they lie deserted, with their roofs caved in! And how many a well lies abandoned, and how many a castle in ruins that once stood high!

أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَتَكُونَ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ يَعْقِلُونَ بِهَا أَوْ آذَانٌ يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا فَإِنَّهَا لَا تَعْمَى الْأَبْصَارُ وَلَٰكِن تَعْمَى الْقُلُوبُ الَّتِي فِي الصُّدُورِ **22:46**

Have they never journeyed about the earth, letting their hearts gain wisdom, and causing their ears to hear? Indeed, it is not their eyes that become blind, but their hearts that are in the chests become blind.

وَيَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَلَن يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ وَإِنَّ يَوْمًا عِندَ رَبِّكَ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ مِّمَّا تَعُدُّونَ **22:47**

Time is relevant

And so (O Prophet) they challenge you to hasten the doom, but God never fails to fulfill His promise. A day of your Lord is like a thousand of your years. (See 32:5, 70:4). [Before your Lord, is the Eternal 'Now'. He is above temporal and spatial bounds]

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ أَمْلَيْتُ لَهَا وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُهَا وَإِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ **22:48**

("As you sow, so shall you reap", is an unwavering law, as evidenced by the rise and fall of nations.) How many communities have gone before, whom I gave respite although they were transgressors, but then I (My Law of Requital) seized them. For with Me is the end of all journeys.

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّمَا أَنَا لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **22:49**

Say, “O Mankind! I am but a plain warner to you.”

فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ **22:50**

And know that communities who attain belief and augment human potential, shall be granted the protection of forgiveness and a most excellent provision (in both worlds).

وَالَّذِينَ سَعَوْا فِي آيَاتِنَا مُعَاجِزِينَ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ **22:51**

Whereas those who strive against Our messages seeking to defeat their purpose, they are destined to face the Insurmountable Barrier.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رَّسُولٍ وَلَا نَبِيٍّ إِلَّا إِذَا تَمَنَّىٰ أَلْقَى الشَّيْطَانُ فِي أُمْنِيَّتِهِ فَيَنسَخُ اللَّهُ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ ثُمَّ يُحْكِمُ اللَّهُ آيَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **22:52**

Yet whenever We sent a Messenger or Prophet before you, Satan (satanic people) tried to confound the central aims of the message. But God, renders null and void all the aspirations Satan had. And God makes His messages clear in and by themselves. God is All Knower, Wise. [Satanic people then tried to alter his teachings after he passed on. God sent another Messenger to restore the purity of His messages. Then, God revealed His Final message and Himself guaranteed its accuracy and preservation. 5:48, 6:113-116, 15:9, 16:101, 22:52]

لِّيَجْعَلَ مَا يُلْقِي الشَّيْطَانُ فِتْنَةً لِّلَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ وَالْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَفِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ **22:53**

(God allows) these satanic people to advance their aspirations so that He might make this conspiracy a test for people and distinguish (the true believers in the Divine revelation) from those who have a disease in their hearts and who are hardened of heart. Surely, those who relegate the Divine revelation in favor of human aspirations create great schism and sectarianism. [Zulm = Displacing something from its rightful place = Oppression = Violation of human rights = Relegation of the truth = Wrongdoing. 2:53]

وَلِيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ فَيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ فَتُخْبِتَ لَهُ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **22:54**

Those who have blessed themselves with knowledge, will recognize that this (Qur’an) is the truth from your Lord, and so they accept it. Then their hearts are made

humble to it. God Himself is the Guide of those who choose to believe, to a straight way. [5:48, 15:19]

وَلَا يَزَالُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّنْهُ حَتَّىٰ تَأْتِيَهُمُ السَّاعَةُ بَغْتَةً أَوْ يَأْتِيَهُمْ عَذَابُ يَوْمٍ عَقِيمٍ **22:55**

And those who reject faith will not cease to remain in suspense until the Hour suddenly comes upon them, or there comes to them the suffering of a barren day (devoid of all hope).

الْمُلْكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلَّهِ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ **22:56**

Paradise for good work

On that Day all Dominion will visibly belong to God, and His law and His Judgment will prevail in the human society as well (through this Divine Writ). Then those who believe in this Divine revelation and contribute to the advancement of the society, will be in the Gardens of Delight, in this world and in the Hereafter.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ **22:57**

Whereas for those who are bent upon opposing the truth, and deny Our revelations, there shall be a humiliating suffering in store.

وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ قُتِلُوا أَوْ مَاتُوا لَيَرْزُقَنَّهُمُ اللَّهُ رِزْقًا حَسَنًا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ **22:58**

As for those who forsake the domain of evil in the cause of God and are then slain or die, God will most certainly provide them a goodly sustenance. God, He is the Best of providers.

لَيُدْخِلَنَّهُم مُّدْخَلًا يَرْضَوْنَهُ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَعَلِيمٌ حَلِيمٌ **22:59**

God, the Knower, the Clement, will admit them to a place they will love.

ذَٰلِكَ وَمَنْ عَاقَبَ بِمِثْلِ مَا عُوقِبَ بِهِ ثُمَّ بُغِيَ عَلَيْهِ لَيَنصُرَنَّهُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَعَفُوٌّ غَفُورٌ **22:60**

That is so. As for him who responds to aggression only to the extent of the injustice that was inflicted upon him, and is then wronged again, God will certainly help him. God is Forbearing, Forgiving. [22:39. ‘Afw = Absolving imperfections = Forbearance = Pardoning]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ **22:61**

Thus it is, because God (is Omnipotent and He) merges the night into the day and merges the day into the night. God is Hearer, Seeing.

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ هُوَ الْبَاطِلُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ **22:62**

Attributes of God

Thus it is, because God alone is the Ultimate Truth. And all that they call on instead of Him is sheer falsehood. And because God, He alone is the Exalted, the Tremendous.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَتُصْبِحُ الْأَرْضُ مُخْضَرَّةً إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ **22:63**

Have you not seen how God sends down water from the sky and then the earth becomes green? Surely, God is Unfathomable, Aware.

لَّهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ **22:64**

Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. God is Absolutely Independent, Owner of praise.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُم مَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالْفُلْكَ تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَيُمْسِكُ السَّمَاءَ أَن تَقَعَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **22:65**

Have you not realized how God has made everything on earth subservient to you? And the ships run upon the sea by His command, and He holds back the celestial bodies and high atmosphere from coming down on to the earth except in accordance with His law. Surely, God is Compassionate, Merciful to people.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ **22:66**

And He is the One Who gives you the gift of life, then He will cause you to die, and will then give you life again. Yet, ungrateful is man (not using the gift of life to its maximum potential).

لِّكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ جَعَلْنَا مَنسَكًا هُمْ نَاسِكُوهُ فَلَا يُنَازِعُنَّكَ فِي الْأَمْرِ وَادْعُ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ إِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ هُدًى مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **22:67**

We have let every community hold some rites that they observe (as diversity in humanity 49:13). So, let them not involve you in their arguments, just call them to your Lord (2:177). You (O Prophet) are on the right way.

وَإِن جَادَلُوكَ فَقُلِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **22:68**

And if they argue with you, say, "God is best Aware of what you do."

اللَّهُ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كُنتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ **22:69**

God will judge among you regarding all your differences when humanity stands up on its feet, and finally on the Day of Resurrection." [2:213, 22:17, 22:56]

أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ **22:70**

God has all records

Do you not know that God is fully Aware of all that is in the High and the Low? All that is in the Divine Database. Surely, all this is easy for God.

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَمَا لَيْسَ لَهُم بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ **22:71**

And yet, they (seeing His Dominion of the Universe, and claiming to believe in Him) idolize instead of God that wherein He has placed no power, and they know nothing about them. But there is no helper for those who relegate the truth. [They blindly follow their ancestors 10:39]

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ تَعْرِفُ فِي وُجُوهِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الْمُنكَرَ يَكَادُونَ يَسْطُونَ بِالَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا قُلْ أَفَأُنَبِّئُكُم بِشَرٍّ مِّن ذَٰلِكُمُ النَّارُ وَعَدَهَا اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **22:72**

And when Our messages are conveyed to them in all clarity, you can notice a denial on the faces of those who are bent upon rejecting the truth. They would almost attack those who convey Our messages to them. Say, "Shall I, then, tell you something worse than what you feel now? The fire! God has promised it for those who are bent upon opposing the truth. How miserable a journey's end!"

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ضُرِبَ مَثَلٌ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَن يَخْلُقُوا ذُبَابًا وَلَوِ اجْتَمَعُوا لَهُ وَإِن يَسْلُبْهُمُ الذُّبَابُ شَيْئًا لَّا يَسْتَنقِذُوهُ مِنْهُ ضَعُفَ الطَّالِبُ وَالْمَطْلُوبُ **22:73**

"O Mankind! Here is an example for you to listen and ponder! Indeed, those beings you invoke instead of God, cannot create as much as a fly, even if they were to join all their forces to do so. And if a fly robs them of anything, they cannot get it back from it. Weak is the seeker and weak is the sought."

مَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ **22:74**

They do not esteem God as He must be esteemed. God is most Powerful, Almighty. [6:92, 39:67. They have no true understanding of Him]

اللَّهُ يَصْطَفِي مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا وَمِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ **22:75**

God chooses messengers

(In His Almightiness) God chooses message-bearers from among the angels as well as from among mankind. Indeed, God is Hearer, All-Seeing. [Angels being message-bearers = Angels of revelation to the Prophets]

يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **22:76**

He knows all that is of the past, the present and the future. For, to God all things return (and go back to Him as their Source).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ارْكَعُوا وَاسْجُدُوا وَاعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَافْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **22:77**

Kneel and prostate

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Bow before the commands of your Lord in full submission and serve Him alone. And do good to the society so that you may prosper. [Rukoo' (Bowing) and Sajdah (Prostration) are not confined to the ritual physical motions. They convey a more sublime message of being humble and submitting to God's commands]

وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِّلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِن قَبْلُ وَفِي هَٰذَا لِيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ **22:78**

شَهِيدًا عَلَيْكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِاللَّهِ هُوَ مَوْلَاكُمْ فَنِعْمَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ

Strive hard in God's cause, with all the striving that is due to Him. It is He Who has elected you to carry the message and has placed no hardship in religion, the Creed of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you Muslims (Submitters) in the bygone days and now in this revelation - That the Messenger may be a witness for you and you be witnesses for all mankind! (You shall be the watchers over people that no community oppresses the other.) So, establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order, and hold fast unto God. He is your Lord Supreme, and how excellent is this Giver of support! [2:143. Muslimeen = Muslims = Those who submit to God alone]

Chapter 23

Al-Mu´minoon - The Believers

This is the 23rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 118 verses. Brief verses, diversity of concepts, Tasreef - we will come across flowers of different aromas and colors as we stroll through this garden. Wealth and rule on earth are only the means to a noble end: Striving for the betterment of all humanity]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **23:1**

Successful are the believers.

الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ **23:2**

Those who humbly and whole-heartedly follow Divine Commands.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ **23:3**

Those who avoid vain talk and turn away from all that is senseless (and value time),

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلزَّكَاةِ فَاعِلُونَ **23:4**

Those who support the Economic Order of Zakaat (where wealth circulates in the society and nourishes every individual),

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفُرُوجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ **23:5**

Those who guard their chastity, [17:32]

إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ **23:6**

Holding off their carnal desires except for their spouses who are rightfully theirs through wedlock. They are then, free of all blame. [4:3, 24, 25. 24:32][The very common rendition of this verse is extremely misleading. The ancient and modern scholars,

Concubines ***
Edip

to my knowledge, with the solitary exception of Allama Muhammad Asad in his 'The Message Of The Qur'an, think that slave girls are being mentioned here. But, Ma Malakat Ayemaanahum is common gender. Could the translators have said that it was right for a bondman to have sex with his 'owner' woman, and that too, when she was married? The translators and exponents confined it to the females alone since in the second century after the exalted Prophet, Muslims, under the influence of corrupted kings and Imams, had begun reverting to the old ways of Jaahilyah. Some verses foretell these conspiracies: 6:112-113, 22:52-55, 25:31, 42:13-14, 45:16-18. The word AW in 23:6 is explanatory. AW = Or - That is - Namely - Call it - In other words. AW appears in this format instead of 'or' in many places in the Qur'an such as 23:5-7, 24:3, 25:62. Please also see 70:30. Ma malakat ayimaanukum = Literally, those whom your right hands possess = Those who are rightfully yours through wedlock]

فَمَنِ ابْتَغَىٰ وَرَاءَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْعَادُونَ **23:7**

Those who cross these limits, are transgressors.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ **23:8**

True believers are faithful to their trusts and to their pledges. [4:58]

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَوَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ **23:9**

They guard the Divine System. [24:41]

أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ **23:10**

It is those who shall be the inheritors.

الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **23:11**

It is those who will inherit the Paradise wherein they shall abide (in both lives 7:43, 43:72, 70:33-34).

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِن سُلَالَةٍ مِّن طِينٍ **23:12**

Indeed, We created the human being from the essence of clay. [22:5]

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ **23:13**

Then We placed him as the male and female gametes in a safe lodging.

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا **23:14**
الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا
آخَرَ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ

Then We fashioned the gametes into zygote, a leech-like mass of flesh, then the hanging little lump, the embryo. Then We created bones within the embryonic lump, and then clothed the bones with flesh, designing it into the fetus. And then We made it a new creation (the human infant). So Blessed is God, The Best of creators. [71:14. That has been confirmed by modern experts in human embryology. Dr. Keith Moore of Toronto, the foremost embryologist in the world, has made a change in his textbooks ('Before We Are Born', 'Clinical Embryology') to mention the Qur'anic 'Alaqa' (leech-like mass of flesh), seeing a picture of leech and comparing it with the early appearance of the embryo]

ثُمَّ إِنَّكُم بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ لَمَيِّتُونَ **23:15**

And then, after all this, you are destined to die.

ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تُبْعَثُونَ **23:16**

On the Day of Resurrection you are raised again. [84:19]

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا فَوْقَكُمْ سَبْعَ طَرَائِقَ وَمَا كُنَّا عَنِ الْخَلْقِ غَافِلِينَ **23:17**

We have created above you seven celestial orbits, and We are never unaware of the creation. [35:1]

وَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً بِقَدَرٍ فَأَسْكَنَّاهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ ذَهَابٍ بِهِ لَقَادِرُونَ **23:18**

We send down from the sky water in due measure, and We cause it to soak in the soil. And certainly, We are Able to drain and evaporate it off. [Modern research shows that 16 million tons of water evaporates from the earth every second and exactly the total aggregate, 513 trillion tons, falls on earth as rain every year. A slight deviation from this rule would quickly make life extinct from the planet. 43:11]

فَأَنشَأْنَا لَكُم بِهِ جَنَّاتٍ مِّن نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ لَّكُمْ فِيهَا فَوَاكِهُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ **23:19**

And from it, We produce for you gardens of date-palms and grapes, wherein you have abundant fruit and you eat thereof.

وَشَجَرَةً تَخْرُجُ مِن طُورِ سَيْنَاءَ تَنبُتُ بِالدُّهْنِ وَصِبْغٍ لِّلْآكِلِينَ **23:20**

As well as a tree that grows in abundance in (the lands adjoining) Mount Sinai, yielding oil and relish for all to eat.

وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ فِي الْأَنْعَامِ لَعِبْرَةً نُّسْقِيكُم مِّمَّا فِي بُطُونِهَا وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ **23:21**

In the cattle too there is a lesson for you. We give you to drink of what is in their bellies. You derive many benefits from them, and also consume their meat. [16:66]

وَعَلَيْهَا وَعَلَى الْفُلْكِ تُحْمَلُونَ **23:22**

On them and on the ships you are carried.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **23:23**

(We took care of your physical and mental needs.) We sent (the first Prophet 6:83-87), Noah to his people and he said, "O My people! Serve God. You have no god other than Him. Will you not then be mindful of Him and be righteous?"

فَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن قَوْمِهِ مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُرِيدُ أَن يَتَفَضَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَأَنزَلَ مَلَائِكَةً مَّا سَمِعْنَا بِهَٰذَا فِي آبَائِنَا الْأَوَّلِينَ **23:24**

Followers of forefathers

But the leaders in his community who refused to acknowledge the truth, said, "This is only a man like you who wants to become prominent among you. God would have sent angels if He willed (to convey a message to us). We never heard this from our forefathers.

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا رَجُلٌ بِهِ جِنَّةٌ فَتَرَبَّصُوا بِهِ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ **23:25**

He is nothing but a madman, so watch him for a while."

قَالَ رَبِّ انصُرْنِي بِمَا كَذَّبُونِ **23:26**

Said he, "My Lord! Help me, for they accuse me of lying."

فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ أَنِ اصْنَعِ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا وَفَارَ التَّنُّورُ فَاسْلُكْ فِيهَا مِن كُلٍّ زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَن سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ مِنْهُمْ وَلَا تُخَاطِبْنِي فِي الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُم مُّغْرَقُونَ **23:27**

Then We revealed to him thus, “Build the ark, under Our eyes and according to Our revealed instructions. Then, as Our command comes to pass and the torrent gushes forth, take on board a couple each of the domesticated animals - As well as your family and followers except the one against whom the Word has already gone forth (for his persistent denial). And do not plead with Me on behalf of the oppressors. Surely, they will be drowned.”

فَإِذَا اسْتَوَيْتَ أَنتَ وَمَن مَّعَكَ عَلَى الْفُلْكِ فَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي نَجَّانَا مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **23:28**

When you have settled on the ship along with your companions, say, “All praise is due to God Who has saved us from the oppressors.”

وَقُل رَّبِّ أَنزِلْنِي مُنزَلًا مُّبَارَكًا وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الْمُنزِلِينَ **23:29**

And say, “O My Sustainer! Enable me to disembark at a blessed landing place. You are the Best Director of destinations.“

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ وَإِن كُنَّا لَمُبْتَلِينَ **23:30**

Herein are messages, for We keep testing (communities for viability).

ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ قَرْنًا آخَرِينَ **23:31**

(And after those people of old) We gave rise to new generations.

فَأَرْسَلْنَا فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **23:32**

And We always sent to them a Messenger of their own. (Without exception each of these Messengers said), “Serve God. You have no god other than Him. Will you not then be mindful of Him and be righteous?”

وَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ مِن قَوْمِهِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِلِقَاءِ الْآخِرَةِ وَأَتْرَفْنَاهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يَأْكُلُ مِمَّا تَأْكُلُونَ مِنْهُ وَيَشْرَبُ مِمَّا تَشْرَبُونَ **23:33**

(And invariably) it was their leaders who refused to acknowledge the truth and denied the meeting in the Hereafter, simply because We had granted them ease and plenty in their worldly life. Every time such people would say, “This is only a man like you who eats what you eat and drinks as you drink.

وَلَئِنْ أَطَعْتُم بَشَرًا مِّثْلَكُمْ إِنَّكُمْ إِذًا لَّخَاسِرُونَ **23:34**

If you obey a mortal like yourselves, you will be the losers.

أَيَعِدُكُمْ أَنَّكُمْ إِذَا مِتُّمْ وَكُنتُمْ تُرَابًا وَعِظَامًا أَنَّكُم مُّخْرَجُونَ **23:35**

Does he promise you that, after you die and become dust and bones, you shall be brought forth again?

هَيْهَاتَ هَيْهَاتَ لِمَا تُوعَدُونَ **23:36**

Impossible, impossible, is what you are promised!

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَبْعُوثِينَ **23:37**

There is nothing but our life of this world. We die and we live, and we shall not be raised again. (We see people dying and children being born every day.)

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا رَجُلٌ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا وَمَا نَحْنُ لَهُ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ **23:38**

He is just a man who has invented a lie about God. We are not going to believe in him.“

قَالَ رَبِّ انصُرْنِي بِمَا كَذَّبُونِ **23:39**

(Whereupon the Messenger) would say, “My Lord! Help me, for they accuse me of lying.”

قَالَ عَمَّا قَلِيلٍ لَّيُصْبِحُنَّ نَادِمِينَ **23:40**

(And God) would say, “In a little while they will be sorry!”

فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ بِالْحَقِّ فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ غُثَاءً فَبُعْدًا لِّلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **23:41**

Then the blast (of requital) overtook them, justly and inevitably, and We made them as rubbish of dead leaves. (11:68). And so - away with people who wronged their own ‘self’!

ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ قُرُونًا آخَرِينَ **23:42**

Then after them We brought forth other generations.

مَا تَسْبِقُ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلَهَا وَمَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ **23:43**

No community can advance its term, nor delay it. (The laws of the rise and fall of nations are unchangeable 7:34, 13:38,15:5)

ثُمَّ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا تَتْرَىٰ كُلَّ مَا جَاءَ أُمَّةً رَّسُولُهَا كَذَّبُوهُ فَأَتْبَعْنَا بَعْضَهُم بَعْضًا وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَحَادِيثَ فَبُعْدًا لِّقَوْمٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ **23:44**

We sent Our Messengers in succession. Whenever a Messenger came to a people, they denied him. Our Law of Requital caused them to follow one another in disaster, and We made them history. And so - away with people who would not believe!

ثُمَّ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَأَخَاهُ هَارُونَ بِآيَاتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **23:45**

Then We sent Moses and his brother Aaron with Our messages and a clear authority from Us.

إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا عَالِينَ **23:46**

To Pharaoh and his chiefs, but they showed arrogance. For, they were a nation of megalomaniacs.

فَقَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ لِبَشَرَيْنِ مِثْلِنَا وَقَوْمُهُمَا لَنَا عَابِدُونَ **23:47**

And so they said, “Shall we believe in these two mortals like us whose people are our slaves?”

فَكَذَّبُوهُمَا فَكَانُوا مِنَ الْمُهْلَكِينَ **23:48**

Thus they denied them, and earned their place among the doomed.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ **23:49**

For, We had given Moses the scripture, that they might live upright.

وَجَعَلْنَا ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَأُمَّهُ آيَةً وَآوَيْنَاهُمَا إِلَىٰ رَبْوَةٍ ذَاتِ قَرَارٍ وَمَعِينٍ **23:50**

And We made the son of Mary and his mother a symbol (of Our grace). We gave them abode on a land abounding in hills, affording rest and security and fresh water springs (as they migrated from Jerusalem after the attempted crucifixion. See www.tombofjesus.com).

يَا أَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُوا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ **23:51**

(This was a brief resume of some of the Messengers. They were told), “O Messengers! Partake of the decent things of life and work for the betterment of humanity. Surely, I am Aware of what you do.

وَإِنَّ هَٰذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاتَّقُونِ 23:52

Division

And certainly, this community of yours is one community and I am your Sustainer. So, remain conscious of Me." [Since all Messengers were one Brotherhood unanimous in purpose, all mankind must consider one another as Brothers and Sisters]

فَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُم بَيْنَهُمْ زُبُرًا كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ 23:53

But they (mankind) have torn their affair of unity between them into sects, each sect rejoicing in what it has. [30:32]

فَذَرْهُمْ فِي غَمْرَتِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ 23:54

Leave them alone lost in their ignorance until a time. [And the truth will ultimately prevail. 9:32, 22:17, 22:55-57]

أَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّمَا نُمِدُّهُم بِهِ مِن مَّالٍ وَبَنِينَ 23:55

Do they think that, since We continue to provide them with wealth and children,

نُسَارِعُ لَهُمْ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ بَل لَّا يَشْعُرُونَ 23:56

We are being swift to them with good things? Nay, but they perceive not.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ هُم مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ رَبِّهِم مُّشْفِقُونَ 23:57

Surely, those who are awe-inspired and conscious of their Lord,

وَالَّذِينَ هُم بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ 23:58

And have conviction in the messages of their Lord,

وَالَّذِينَ هُم بِرَبِّهِمْ لَا يُشْرِكُونَ 23:59

And do not associate anyone with Him,

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوا وَّقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ 23:60

And give (of their wealth and person), whatever they can, and are still afraid (that they have not done enough and), because they have to return to their Lord.

أُولَٰئِكَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَهُمْ لَهَا سَابِقُونَ 23:61

It is those who race with one another to improve the quality of life for humanity, and it is those who are worthy of winning good things.

وَلَا نُكَلِّفُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا وَلَدَيْنَا كِتَابٌ يَنطِقُ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **23:62**

We do not burden any human being with more than he or she is able to bear. And with Us is a Record that speaks the truth (about what you can and cannot do). And so, none shall be wronged. [2:286, 6:153, 7:42. Burden: Challenges come your way to let you expand your potential. One is only accountable for one's capacity]

بَلْ قُلُوبُهُمْ فِي غَمْرَةٍ مِّنْ هَٰذَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْمَالٌ مِّن دُونِ ذَٰلِكَ هُمْ لَهَا عَامِلُونَ **23:63**

Nay, but their hearts are in ignorance of this Qur'an, and they are too busy doing other things and will keep doing so!

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَخَذْنَا مُتْرَفِيهِم بِالْعَذَابِ إِذَا هُمْ يَجْأَرُونَ **23:64**

When We grasp their rich elite with retribution, they will moan and groan.

لَا تَجْأَرُوا الْيَوْمَ إِنَّكُم مِّنَّا لَا تُنصَرُونَ **23:65**

Do not complain now; you deserve no help from Us.

قَدْ كَانَتْ آيَاتِي تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَكُنتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ تَنكِصُونَ **23:66**

My messages were conveyed to you, but you used to turn back on your heels.

مُسْتَكْبِرِينَ بِهِ سَامِرًا تَهْجُرُونَ **23:67**

In arrogance, talking nonsense about these verses like people telling fables far into the night.

أَفَلَمْ يَدَّبَّرُوا الْقَوْلَ أَمْ جَاءَهُم مَّا لَمْ يَأْتِ آبَاءَهُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **23:68**

Have they not pondered the Word? Is the revelation something that never came to their remote ancestors?

أَمْ لَمْ يَعْرِفُوا رَسُولَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَهُ مُنكِرُونَ **23:69**

Or do they not recognize their Messenger, that they deny him? [10:16]

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ بِهِ جِنَّةٌ بَلْ جَاءَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ لِلْحَقِّ كَارِهُونَ **23:70**

Or do they say, “There is madness in him?” Nay, he brings them the truth, and most of them detest the truth. [They want him to make compromises. 10:15, 11:113, 17:74, 68:9]

وَلَوِ اتَّبَعَ الْحَقُّ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ لَفَسَدَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَن فِيهِنَّ بَلْ أَتَيْنَاهُم بِذِكْرِهِمْ فَهُمْ عَن ذِكْرِهِم مُّعْرِضُونَ **23:71**

And if the truth had followed their whims (2:120), certainly the heavens and the earth and all beings therein would have suffered chaos. Nay, We have given them their reminder, but they turn away from their reminder that can give them eminence. [7:176, 21:10-24, 43:43]

أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ خَرْجًا فَخَرَاجُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ **23:72**

(O Messenger) do you ask them for any tribute? (They must know that) your Sustainer’s tribute is best, for, He is the Best of providers.

وَإِنَّكَ لَتَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **23:73**

Certainly, you call them onto a straight path.

وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ عَنِ الصِّرَاطِ لَنَاكِبُونَ **23:74**

But those who disbelieve in the life to come are bound to deviate from the right path.

وَلَوْ رَحِمْنَاهُمْ وَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِم مِّن ضُرٍّ لَّلَجُّوا فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **23:75**

Even if We had mercy on them and relieved them of their suffering, they would obstinately persist in their transgression wandering to and fro.

وَلَقَدْ أَخَذْنَاهُم بِالْعَذَابِ فَمَا اسْتَكَانُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَمَا يَتَضَرَّعُونَ **23:76**

We tested them through suffering, but they did not humble themselves before their Lord, nor implored Him.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَابًا ذَا عَذَابٍ شَدِيدٍ إِذَا هُمْ فِيهِ مُبْلِسُونَ **23:77**

Until when We open for them the gate of severe retribution, they will then be plunged in despair.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنشَأَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ **23:78**

(O Mankind) He is the One Who has created for you hearing and sight, and mind (the faculties to perceive and conceive). But, how seldom do you show gratitude by really using them!

وَهُوَ الَّذِي ذَرَأَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **23:79**

And He is the One Who has multiplied you on earth (as unity in diversity), and to Him you will be gathered. [67:24]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَلَهُ اخْتِلَافُ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **23:80**

And He is the One Who gives life and death and to Him is due the alternation of Night and Day. Will you not, then, use your sense? [His laws govern the life and death of individuals and nations, just as He alternates night and day]

بَلْ قَالُوا مِثْلَ مَا قَالَ الْأَوَّلُونَ **23:81**

Nay, they say what the people of the olden times used to say.

قَالُوا أَإِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظَامًا أَإِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ **23:82**

They say, "What! After we die and become mere dust and bones, shall we then, be raised again?

لَقَدْ وُعِدْنَا نَحْنُ وَآبَاؤُنَا هَٰذَا مِن قَبْلُ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **23:83**

Indeed, this we have been promised, we and our forefathers, long ago. These are nothing but tales of the ancient."

قُل لِّمَنِ الْأَرْضُ وَمَن فِيهَا إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **23:84**

Say, "Unto whom belongs the earth and all that live thereon, if you happen to know?"

سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **23:85**

They will reply "Unto God." Say, "Will you not then think?"

قُلْ مَن رَّبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ **23:86**

Say, "Who is the Sustainer of the seven heavens, and the Lord of the Tremendous Throne?" [16:49, 42:29]

سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **23:87**

They will answer, “They belong to God.” Say, “Will you not then be mindful of Him?”

قُلْ مَن بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ يُجِيرُ وَلَا يُجَارُ عَلَيْهِ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **23:88**

Say, “In whose hand is the mighty Dominion over all things, and who protects, while against Him there is no protection; if you happen to know the answer!”

سَيَقُولُونَ لِلَّهِ قُلْ فَأَنَّىٰ تُسْحَرُونَ **23:89**

They will reply, “All that belongs to God.” Say, “How can you then deceive yourselves?”

بَلْ أَتَيْنَاهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ **23:90**

We have given them the truth, yet they are intent upon lying to themselves. [Acceptance of His Rule in their lives hurts their selfish interests. 21:20, 23:70]

مَا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ مِن وَلَدٍ وَمَا كَانَ مَعَهُ مِنْ إِلَٰهٍ إِذًا لَّذَهَبَ كُلُّ إِلَٰهٍ بِمَا خَلَقَ وَلَعَلَا بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **23:91**

Never did God take to Himself a son, nor was there ever any god besides Him. For, had there been any, each god would have taken along its creation and tried to overcome the others. God is High above all that they allege.

عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **23:92**

Knower of the Invisible and the Visible! And Exalted He is above the partners they attribute to Him.

قُل رَّبِّ إِمَّا تُرِيَنِّي مَا يُوعَدُونَ **23:93**

Say, “My Lord! If you let me witness what the wrongdoers are warned against,

رَبِّ فَلَا تَجْعَلْنِي فِي الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **23:94**

My Lord! Then let me not be among them.” [8:25]

وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ أَن نُّرِيَكَ مَا نَعِدُهُمْ لَقَادِرُونَ **23:95**

Surely, We are Able to show you what they are warned against.

ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ السَّيِّئَةَ نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَصِفُونَ **23:96**

(Nevertheless), counter evil with goodness. We are best Aware of what they allege (about these revelations).

وَقُل رَّبِّ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ هَمَزَاتِ الشَّيَاطِينِ **23:97**

And say, “My Lord! I seek refuge with You from the prompting of the satanic forces [in my heart and from the evil ones]

وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ رَبِّ أَن يَحْضُرُونِ **23:98**

And I seek refuge with You, my Lord, lest they come near me.”

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ **23:99**

(Those who keep lying to themselves), when death comes to one of them, says, “My Lord! Send me back, [23:74, 90]

لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا تَرَكْتُ كَلَّا إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ هُوَ قَائِلُهَا وَمِن وَرَائِهِم بَرْزَخٌ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ **23:100**

No communication with the dead

That I may do good works in what I left behind!” Nay! It is but a meaningless word he says. And behind them is a barrier until the Day they are raised. [39:58]

فَإِذَا نُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَلَا أَنسَابَ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَلَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **23:101**

And when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no relationships between them that Day, nor will they ask about one another.

فَمَن ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **23:102**

Then those whose scales (of good deeds) are heavy, they are the successful.

وَمَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فِي جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدُونَ **23:103**

And those whose scales are light, it is those who have wasted their own ‘self’, and abide in Hell.

تَلْفَحُ وُجُوهَهُمُ النَّارُ وَهُمْ فِيهَا كَالِحُونَ **23:104**

Their faces in agony as the fire burns them therein.

أَلَمْ تَكُنْ آيَاتِي تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَكُنتُم بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ **23:105**

(And it will be said), “Were not My messages conveyed to you, and did you not deny them?”

قَالُوا رَبَّنَا غَلَبَتْ عَلَيْنَا شِقْوَتُنَا وَكُنَّا قَوْمًا ضَالِّينَ **23:106**

They will say, “Our Lord! Our wickedness overwhelmed us, and we became a people astray.

رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْهَا فَإِنْ عُدْنَا فَإِنَّا ظَالِمُونَ **23:107**

Our Lord! Bring us out of here, and if we return to our old behavior, then we are wrongdoers.”

قَالَ اخْسَئُوا فِيهَا وَلَا تُكَلِّمُونِ **23:108**

He will say, “Be downgraded in this humiliation and do not speak to Me.”

إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِي يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **23:109**

“Behold! A group of My servants used to say, ‘Our Lord! We have chosen to believe, so forgive us and bestow grace upon us, for, You are the Most Merciful.”’

فَاتَّخَذْتُمُوهُمْ سِخْرِيًّا حَتَّىٰ أَنسَوْكُمْ ذِكْرِي وَكُنتُم مِّنْهُمْ تَضْحَكُونَ **23:110**

But you ridiculed them, to the extent that it made you ignore My message while you were laughing at them.

إِنِّي جَزَيْتُهُمُ الْيَوْمَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ **23:111**

This Day I have rewarded them for their patience. They certainly are the triumphant.”

قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ عَدَدَ سِنِينَ **23:112**

He will ask, “What number of years did you spend on earth?”

قَالُوا لَبِثْنَا يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ فَاسْأَلِ الْعَادِّينَ **23:113**

They will say, “We stayed a day or part of a day. But ask those who keep count.”

قَالَ إِن لَّبِثْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا لَّوْ أَنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **23:114**

He will say, “You stayed only a little, if you had only realized then!”

أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ **23:115**

Do you think that We have created you without purpose, and that you will not be brought back to Us?"

فَتَعَالَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ **23:116**

Know that God is Exalted, the King, the truth. There is no god but He, the Lord of the Honored Throne.

وَمَن يَدْعُ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ لَا بُرْهَانَ لَهُ بِهِ فَإِنَّمَا حِسَابُهُ عِندَ رَبِّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الْكَافِرُونَ **23:117**

So, anyone who calls upon gods besides God, has no evidence of it. And his account rests with his Lord? Surely, such deniers of the truth will not attain the ultimate prosperity. [23:1]

وَقُل رَّبِّ اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ وَأَنتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ **23:118**

And say, "My Lord! Grant me the protection of forgiveness absolving my imperfections and bestow grace, for You are the Best of the merciful."

Chapter 24

An-Noor - The Light

This is the 24th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 64 verses. The Qur´an is the beacon of light that shines on the path of individuals and nations when they turn it on. This Surah gives us the Rules of Conduct in our society, explaining social behavior between men and women. As always it embraces several golden concepts. The Surah derives its name from the glorious title of the Qur´an. God calls the Book "An-Noor, the Light". The preamble of this Surah is unique since it immediately addresses some very important social problems. Note: The ´hadithized´ translations and explanations succumb to a fabrication that names a highly honorable lady, making up a long, malicious and wicked story, while the Qur´an does not mention any particular person as the subject of slander at all. Any events safe- guarded by this Divine revelation are meant to guide us in knowledge and wisdom and are, therefore, timeless in their import.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سُورَةٌ أَنزَلْنَاهَا وَفَرَضْنَاهَا وَأَنزَلْنَا فِيهَا آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ **24:1**

Quran is clear

This is a Surah that We have sent down with a decree of law. Clear commandments have been given in it for you to bear in mind.

الزَّانِيَةُ وَالزَّانِي فَاجْلِدُوا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا مِائَةَ جَلْدَةٍ وَلَا تَأْخُذْكُم بِهِمَا رَأْفَةٌ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلْيَشْهَدْ عَذَابَهُمَا طَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **24:2**

Public shame

The habitual adulteress and the habitual adulterer, flog each one of them with a hundred stripes. And let not compassion sway you in their case from carrying out God's law, if you believe in God and the Last Day. And let a group of believers witness the penalty. [Az-Zani & Az-Zaniah = Those who are habitual adulterers, like As-Saariq means a habitual thief. Jaldah (from skin) implies that the lashes must be superficial on the skin. And the presence of a group of believers clearly indicates the punishment as a means of deterrence and not torture. Nowhere does the Qur'an ordain the barbaric punishment of stoning to death anyone for any crime. Lewdness: 4:15, 25. Punishment as a deterrent: 5:38. Capital punishment for rape: 33:60:61. Notice that the punishment would, in general,

apply to adultery committed in public since it is almost always done in privacy with anyone seldom being a witness]

الزَّانِي لَا يَنكِحُ إِلَّا زَانِيَةً أَوْ مُشْرِكَةً وَالزَّانِيَةُ لَا يَنكِحُهَا إِلَّا زَانٍ أَوْ مُشْرِكٌ وَحُرِّمَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **24:3**

The adulterer couples with none but an adulteress who worships her desires. And with the adulteress none couples but the adulterer who worships his desires. It is forbidden to the believers. [24:26, 45:23][Fornication and adultery are a form of idol worship for, such people submit to their desires. The word AW here is explanatory. AW = Or + That is + Namely + Call it + In other words. AW appears in this format instead of 'or' in many places in the Qur'an such as 23:6, 24:3, 25:62. Nikah, in the lexicon, applies to genuine wedlock as well as to sexual relations between a man and a woman outside wedlock, depending on the context. The very common rendering of this verse to the effect that an adulterer is allowed to marry only an adulteress or idolatress, and vice versa, is absolutely erroneous and contrary to the Big Picture of the Qur'an which lays great emphasis on reform and forgiveness. And it defies all sense. Whereas many translators have maintained that such men and women will end up marrying their like. This is obviously the result of not bearing in mind the meaning of AW and Nikah, and going against common sense. Finally, the Book of God does not downgrade people once they have repented or received penalty. Oh, yet another point! After painting an X-rated scenario of Madinah as if adultery/fornication was going on right and left and coming to public knowledge, in the very life-time of the exalted Prophet, the Imams of the old come up with a horrible joke. They insult Hazrat Ali that he decreed for an adulterer to receive a hundred stripes to fulfill the command in the Qur'an, and then stoned him to death to fulfill the command of Hadith! The so-called Imams also contend that while an unmarried person will receive lashes, a married or mature person must be condemned to death by stoning! Did they not prefer their own whims to the Word of God?]

وَالَّذِينَ يَرْمُونَ الْمُحْصَنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَأْتُوا بِأَرْبَعَةِ شُهَدَاءَ فَاجْلِدُوهُمْ ثَمَانِينَ جَلْدَةً وَلَا تَقْبَلُوا لَهُمْ شَهَادَةً أَبَدًا وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ **24:4**

(Protecting the honor of a woman is extremely important.) Those who accuse chaste women and then fail to produce four witnesses (the court of law shall order to) carry out eighty lashes to such accusers. And never in the future accept their testimony. They have drifted away from morality. [24:23. Faasiq = One who drifts away-from what? Will depend on the context]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا مِن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ وَأَصْلَحُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **24:5**

Except those who afterward repent and reform. For God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَالَّذِينَ يَرْمُونَ أَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُمْ شُهَدَاءُ إِلَّا أَنفُسُهُمْ فَشَهَادَةُ أَحَدِهِمْ أَرْبَعُ شَهَادَاتٍ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **24:6**

As for those who accuse their wives, but have no witnesses except themselves, then let the accuser call God four times to witness that he is telling the truth.

وَالْخَامِسَةُ أَنَّ لَعْنَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ إِن كَانَ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ **24:7**

And the fifth time, that God may reject him if he is telling a lie.

وَيَدْرَأُ عَنْهَا الْعَذَابَ أَن تَشْهَدَ أَرْبَعَ شَهَادَاتٍ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ **24:8**

But punishment shall be averted from her if she calls God four times as Witness that he is telling a lie.

وَالْخَامِسَةَ أَنَّ غَضَبَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهَا إِن كَانَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **24:9**

And the fifth time, that God may reject her if he is telling the truth. [The court shall then punish neither the husband nor the wife and it infers that the same procedure applies if the wife accuses her husband]

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ حَكِيمٌ **24:10**

Were it not for God's favor upon you and His grace (your social fabric would have been undone). God is Clement, Wise.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ جَاءُوا بِالْإِفْكِ عُصْبَةٌ مِّنكُمْ لَا تَحْسَبُوهُ شَرًّا لَّكُم بَلْ هُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مِّنْهُم مَّا اكْتَسَبَ مِنَ الْإِثْمِ وَالَّذِي تَوَلَّىٰ كِبْرَهُ مِنْهُمْ لَهُ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **24:11**

Surely, there are numerous among you who would slander others. Think not that this (law of eighty lashes and calling God to Witness) is harsh for you. Nay, it is good for you since every slanderer will have to account for what he earns through this dragging violation of human dignity. In the Divine System an awesome punishment awaits anyone who magnifies the slander (trying to make it believable).

لَّوْلَا إِذْ سَمِعْتُمُوهُ ظَنَّ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بِأَنفُسِهِمْ خَيْرًا وَقَالُوا هَٰذَا إِفْكٌ مُّبِينٌ **24:12**

Why do not the believing men and believing women, whenever such a rumor is heard, think the best of one another and say, "This is an obvious slander¿' [No judgment should be passed without evidence]

لَّوْلَا جَاءُوا عَلَيْهِ بِأَرْبَعَةِ شُهَدَاءَ فَإِذْ لَمْ يَأْتُوا بِالشُّهَدَاءِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ عِندَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ **24:13**

Why do they not (demand of the accusers that they) produce four witnesses? If they do not produce witnesses, they certainly are liars in the Sight of God.

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ لَمَسَّكُمْ فِي مَا أَفَضْتُمْ فِيهِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **24:14**

And were it not for the favor and grace of God upon you, in this world and in the Hereafter, an awful suffering would have afflicted you for the slanders you fall for.

إِذْ تَلَقَّوْنَهُ بِأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَتَقُولُونَ بِأَفْوَاهِكُم مَّا لَيْسَ لَكُم بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَتَحْسَبُونَهُ هَيِّنًا وَهُوَ عِندَ اللَّهِ عَظِيمٌ **24:15**

When you welcome (slander) on your tongues and utter with your mouths something of which you have no knowledge, you deem it as a light matter. But it is most serious in the Sight of God.

وَلَوْلَا إِذْ سَمِعْتُمُوهُ قُلْتُم مَّا يَكُونُ لَنَا أَن نَّتَكَلَّمَ بِهَٰذَا سُبْحَانَكَ هَٰذَا بُهْتَانٌ عَظِيمٌ **24:16**

(And once again), why do you not say, whenever you hear such a rumor, "It is not befitting for us to talk about it. Glory to You (Our Lord), this is a monstrous calumny."

يَعِظُكُمُ اللَّهُ أَن تَعُودُوا لِمِثْلِهِ أَبَدًا إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **24:17**

God admonishes you that you do not repeat the like thereof ever, if you are indeed believers.

وَيُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **24:18**

And God clearly explains His verses for you. God is the Knower, the Wise.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَن تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **24:19**

Surely, those who love to see immorality spread among the believers, shall be punished (by a court of law) in this world and in the life to come. For, God knows and you do not know.

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **24:20**

Were it not for God's favor upon you and His grace (your social fabric would have been undone). God is Compassionate, Merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ وَمَن يَتَّبِعْ خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَإِنَّهُ يَأْمُرُ بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنكَرِ وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ مَا زَكَىٰ مِنكُم مِّنْ أَحَدٍ أَبَدًا وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ يُزَكِّي مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **24:21**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Follow not the steps of satanic people in the community. Anyone who follows Satan's footsteps should know that he advocates evil and vice. Had it not been for the favor of God, and His grace to you, none of you could have grown in goodness. Thus it is - but anyone can develop the 'self' (attain Self-actualization) by following God's laws (given in the Qur'an). God is Hearer, Knower. [And He is Most Perceptive of our psycho-social needs]

وَلَا يَأْتَلِ أُولُو الْفَضْلِ مِنكُمْ وَالسَّعَةِ أَن يُؤْتُوا أُولِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا أَلَا تُحِبُّونَ أَن يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **24:22**

So, (even if you have been slandered) let not those of you who have been graced with bounties and resources, ever miss out in helping their relatives, the needy, and those who have forsaken the domain of evil for the sake of God. But let them pardon and overlook the imperfections of others. Do you not desire that God should forgive you your faults and absolve your imperfections? Certainly, God is Forgiving, Merciful. [Development of the 'self' takes place by respecting the Moral Values, and helping people with wealth and person. 2:232, 4:49, 9:103, 24:21, 24:30, 53:32, 91:9-10, 92:18]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَرْمُونَ الْمُحْصَنَاتِ الْغَافِلَاتِ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ لُعِنُوا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ **24:23**

Certainly, those who accuse chaste, unaware believing women, shall be deprived of God's grace in this world and in the Hereafter. An awesome suffering awaits them. [Ghaafilaat = Women who are unknowingly indiscreet about evil = Simple, innocent women = Women who are unaware = Women who are not attentive in a given circumstance. For eighty lashes for the accusers, see 24:4]

يَوْمَ تَشْهَدُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَلْسِنَتُهُمْ وَأَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **24:24**

The Day when their tongues, their hands and their feet will testify against them about all that they did. [And a time will come when methods of investigation will become far advanced]

يَوْمَئِذٍ يُوَفِّيهِمُ اللَّهُ دِينَهُمُ الْحَقَّ وَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ **24:25**

On that Day God will pay them their just due, and they will come to know that God! He is the Manifest truth.

الْخَبِيثَاتُ لِلْخَبِيثِينَ وَالْخَبِيثُونَ لِلْخَبِيثَاتِ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ لِلطَّيِّبِينَ وَالطَّيِّبُونَ لِلطَّيِّبَاتِ أُولَئِكَ مُبَرَّءُونَ مِمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ **24:26**

Evil women keep company with evil men, and evil men keep company with evil women. Likewise, men and women of good character are companions to one another (9:71, 112). The latter are innocent of whatever people might say about them. For them is protection and honorable provision. [Maghfirah = Forgiveness = Protection = Guarding against detriment]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ بُيُوتِكُمْ حَتَّىٰ تَسْتَأْنِسُوا وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ **24:27**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not enter the houses other than your own until you have obtained permission and greeted their people with peace. That is best for you if you would bear it in mind.

فَإِن لَّمْ تَجِدُوا فِيهَا أَحَدًا فَلَا تَدْخُلُوهَا حَتَّىٰ يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ وَإِن قِيلَ لَكُمُ ارْجِعُوا فَارْجِعُوا هُوَ أَزْكَىٰ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ **24:28**

And if you find no one in the home, do not enter it until permission has been given to you. And if you are asked to go back, then, go back. This will be most befitting for your own 'self'. God is Knower of your actions (that strengthen or enfeeble the 'self').

لَّيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَن تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ مَسْكُونَةٍ فِيهَا مَتَاعٌ لَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا تَكْتُمُونَ **24:29**

There is no blame on you if you enter vacant houses in which some of your property is placed. God knows what you do in public and in private.

قُل لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ **24:30**

Tell the believing men to lower their gaze, and guard their modesty. This helps them grow in character. Surely, God is Aware of what they do.

وَقُل لِّلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَىٰ جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوِ التَّابِعِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الْإِرْبَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوِ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَىٰ عَوْرَاتِ النِّسَاءِ وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ مِن زِينَتِهِنَّ وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **24:31**

Cleavage, not hair

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze, and guard their modesty. They should not show off their adornment beyond what may be decently and spontaneously apparent. Let them cover their chest area with their light covering. They should not let their attraction be apparent to any but their husbands or fathers or husbands' fathers, or their sons or their husbands' sons, or their brothers, or their brothers' sons or sisters' sons, or their women folk, or their close dependents, or such male attendants as are beyond all sexual desire, or children who have no carnal knowledge of women. And they should not strike their feet or swing their legs in walking so as to draw attention to their hidden beauty and ornament. O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Turn all of you together to God so that you may be successful (in establishing a benevolent society). [33:59]

وَأَنكِحُوا الْأَيَامَىٰ مِنكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ إِن يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ **24:32**

And marry the singles among you, (whether they are widowed, divorced or bachelors). They may marry the righteous among your male and female servants. If they are poor, God will enrich them with His bounty. God is of Infinite means, and He knows all things.

وَلْيَسْتَعْفِفِ الَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ نِكَاحًا حَتَّىٰ يُغْنِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ وَالَّذِينَ يَبْتَغُونَ الْكِتَابَ مِمَّا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ فَكَاتِبُوهُمْ إِنْ عَلِمْتُمْ فِيهِمْ خَيْرًا وَآتُوهُم مِّن مَّالِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي آتَاكُمْ وَلَا تُكْرِهُوا فَتَيَاتِكُمْ عَلَى الْبِغَاءِ إِنْ أَرَدْنَ تَحَصُّنًا لِّتَبْتَغُوا عَرَضَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَن يُكْرِههُّنَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ مِن بَعْدِ إِكْرَاهِهِنَّ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **24:33**

Let those who cannot find a match keep chaste until God grants them sufficiency out of His bounty. If any of the male and female servants desires a deed of emancipation, write it for them ensuring good for them by way of rehabilitation. Give them from God's wealth that He has bestowed upon you. You shall not hinder, for worldly gains, your maidservants from guarding their chastity through marriage. If anyone forces them, then to them, after their being compelled, God will be Forgiving, Merciful. [Reflect on forgiveness and mercy as explained in Glossary and in 1:1. The Divine System will protect them and take full care of their mental and physical development. 4:5-6, 53:38]

وَلَقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ آيَاتٍ مُّبَيِّنَاتٍ وَمَثَلًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ **24:34**

We have revealed to you messages clearly showing the truth, and many a lesson from the generations before you. Herein is Enlightenment for those who wish to journey through life in blissful honor and security.

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ مَثَلُ نُورِهِ كَمِشْكَاةٍ فِيهَا مِصْبَاحٌ الْمِصْبَاحُ فِي زُجَاجَةٍ الزُّجَاجَةُ كَأَنَّهَا كَوْكَبٌ دُرِّيٌّ يُوقَدُ مِن شَجَرَةٍ مُّبَارَكَةٍ زَيْتُونَةٍ لَّا شَرْقِيَّةٍ وَلَا غَرْبِيَّةٍ يَكَادُ زَيْتُهَا يُضِيءُ وَلَوْ لَمْ تَمْسَسْهُ نَارٌ نُّورٌ عَلَىٰ نُورٍ **24:35**

يَهْدِي اللَّهُ لِنُورِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ الْأَمْثَالَ لِلنَّاسِ
وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

Gods light-Quran, radiates Gods Message

God is the Light of the heavens and earth. The example of His Light (the Qur'an) is that of a lamp that is placed inside a niche enclosed in glass that shines like a radiant star. This lamp is kindled from a blessed tree - olive - neither of the East nor of the West. Its light issues forth in all directions. The oil glows by itself even though no fire has touched it. Light upon Light. God guides to His Light anyone who seeks guidance. And God sets forth allegories for mankind. God is Knower of all things. [God being Light = Life-giving, sustaining and guiding Power of the Universe. And Qur'an is the Light of God. 5:15, 20:51, 41:42, 42:52]

فِي بُيُوتٍ أَذِنَ اللَّهُ أَن تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ **24:36**

This light-giving Lamp (Qur'an) glows in houses that God has caused to be exalted, that His Name is celebrated in them. In them, His glory is extolled in the mornings and in the evenings. [The dwellers therein strive to raise His Name day and night]

رِجَالٌ لَّا تُلْهِيهِمْ تِجَارَةٌ وَلَا بَيْعٌ عَن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَإِقَامِ الصَّلَاةِ **24:37**
وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ يَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا تَتَقَلَّبُ فِيهِ الْقُلُوبُ وَالْأَبْصَارُ

(These are not the communities of monks but) they are such that neither business matters nor sale can divert them from the remembrance of God. They keep striving to consolidate the Divine System and set up the Economic Order of Zakaat in the society. They have awesome consciousness of the Day when hearts and eyes will be horrified. [50:20]

لِيَجْزِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا وَيَزِيدَهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ وَاللَّهُ يَرْزُقُ مَن يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **24:38**

(They pray) that God may reward them for the best of what they did and increase for them His bounty. God provides sustenance beyond all reckoning according to His laws. [2:261]

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَسَرَابٍ بِقِيعَةٍ يَحْسَبُهُ الظَّمْآنُ مَاءً **24:39**
حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَهُ لَمْ يَجِدْهُ شَيْئًا وَوَجَدَ اللَّهَ عِندَهُ فَوَفَّاهُ
حِسَابَهُ وَاللَّهُ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ

As for those who reject the message, their deeds are like a mirage in the desert. The thirsty one supposes it to be water until he comes to it and finds nothing. How-

ever, he does meet God's Law of Requital to pay him his due. God is Swift at taking account.

أَوْ كَظُلُمَاتٍ فِي بَحْرٍ لُّجِّيٍّ يَغْشَاهُ مَوْجٌ مِّن فَوْقِهِ مَوْجٌ مِّن فَوْقِهِ سَحَابٌ ظُلُمَاتٌ بَعْضُهَا فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ إِذَا أَخْرَجَ يَدَهُ لَمْ يَكَدْ يَرَاهَا وَمَن لَّمْ يَجْعَلِ اللَّهُ لَهُ نُورًا فَمَا لَهُ مِن نُّورٍ **24:40**

Or like total darkness in the midst of a deep ocean, with waves upon waves and a thick cloud above - darkness upon darkness. When he holds out his hand, he can barely see it. For, whomever God deprives of light, will have no light. [Light consists of several wavelengths. In deep waters, each wavelength can only penetrate to a certain depth. In this way, light loses its intensity per layer, darkness over darkness. There is recent scientific observation of a phenomenon called 'internal waves' which are created in different densities in the deep water where the layers of water have their own wave structure, waves upon waves. Captain Dr. Bernard Jarman, a renowned oceanographer, upon reading this verse, asked, "Oh, was this man Muhammad a sailor who had been through storms?" On learning that he only lived in a desert, Dr. Jarman embraced Islam in 1923]

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالطَّيْرُ صَافَّاتٍ كُلٌّ قَدْ عَلِمَ صَلَاتَهُ وَتَسْبِيحَهُ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ **24:41**

Do you not realize that God, He is the One Whom all beings in the heavens and earth glorify, and the birds, with their wings outspread, as they fly in columns. All of them know their Salaat and Tasbeeh (mission and strife). God is Aware of what they do to fulfill His Plan. [All creatures know their Salaat, their inborn Divinely programmed instincts. So, they can automatically strive (do their Tasbeeh) in the best way. But humans are not programmed with such inborn instincts. Given free will, they must do their Salaat by following the revealed guidance and thus strive (do Tasbeeh) in the best way]

وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ **24:42**

Unto God belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth, and to God is the journey's end.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُزْجِي سَحَابًا ثُمَّ يُؤَلِّفُ بَيْنَهُ ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ رُكَامًا فَتَرَى الْوَدْقَ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ خِلَالِهِ وَيُنَزِّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِن جِبَالٍ فِيهَا مِن بَرَدٍ فَيُصِيبُ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَصْرِفُهُ عَن مَّن يَشَاءُ يَكَادُ سَنَا بَرْقِهِ يَذْهَبُ بِالْأَبْصَارِ **24:43**

Have you not seen how God drives the clouds, then gathers them, then makes them layers, and then you see the rain coming forth from them? He sends down, from the heights, hail and loads of snow to cover some ground and leave some uncovered, according to His laws. The flashes of lightning and the brightness of the snow dazzle the sight, all but snatching it away. [2:19-20]

يُقَلِّبُ اللَّهُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّأُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ 24:44

It is God Who alternates the night and the day. Herein is a lesson for men and women of vision and understanding. [Of darkness of ignorance and light of knowledge, of death and life, calculating time, rest and work, planning the life on the planet, and so on]

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَ كُلَّ دَابَّةٍ مِّن مَّاءٍ فَمِنْهُم مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ بَطْنِهِ وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ رِجْلَيْنِ وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَمْشِي عَلَىٰ أَرْبَعٍ يَخْلُقُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ 24:45

And God has created every living creature from water. (Life began in water (21:30). Some of them crawl on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four. God creates all things with a purpose and according to His laws. And God has Supreme control over all things and events.

لَّقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا آيَاتٍ مُّبَيِّنَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ 24:46

All revelations

Surely, We have sent down messages clearly showing the truth, but God guides onto a straight path one who wishes to be guided.

وَيَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالرَّسُولِ وَأَطَعْنَا ثُمَّ يَتَوَلَّىٰ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُم مِّن بَعْدِ ذَٰلِكَ وَمَا أُولَٰئِكَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ 24:47

They say, “We believe in God and the Messenger and we obey.” Then after that, a faction of them turns away. Such are not believers.

وَإِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُم مُّعْرِضُونَ 24:48

And so it is that whenever they are called to God and His Messenger to judge between them, some of them turn away.

وَإِن يَكُن لَّهُمُ الْحَقُّ يَأْتُوا إِلَيْهِ مُذْعِنِينَ 24:49

However, if the truth is on their side, they come to him in full submission.

أَفِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ أَمِ ارْتَابُوا أَمْ يَخَافُونَ أَن يَحِيفَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَرَسُولُهُ بَلْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ 24:50

Is there disease in their hearts? Or do they bear any doubts? Or do they fear that God and His Messenger might deal unjustly with them? Nay, it is they themselves who are unjust (since they wish to obviate justice).

إِنَّمَا كَانَ قَوْلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَن يَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ 24:51

Whenever invited to God and His Messenger to judge in their affairs, the true believers say, “We hear and we obey.” They are the ones who will ultimately prosper.

وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَخْشَ اللَّهَ وَيَتَّقْهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ 24:52

Whoever obeys God and His Messenger, and fears (violating the commands of) God, and thus empowers himself against evil, such are the triumphant. [See Taqwa, 2:41]

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِنْ أَمَرْتَهُمْ لَيَخْرُجُنَّ قُل لَّا تُقْسِمُوا طَاعَةٌ مَّعْرُوفَةٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ 24:53

Whereas there are some who swear by God solemnly that, if you order them, they will go forth to any mission. Say, “Swear not! Obedience is virtuous. Surely, God is Aware of all you do.“

قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْهِ مَا حُمِّلَ وَعَلَيْكُم مَّا حُمِّلْتُمْ وَإِن تُطِيعُوهُ تَهْتَدُوا وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ 24:54

Messengers duty is to deliver only

Say, “Obey God and obey the Messenger - the Central Authority. But if you turn away, remember that he is only responsible for the duty placed on him, and you for the duty placed on you. If you obey him, you will be on the right guidance. The Messenger’s duty is only to convey the message clearly.”

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ 24:55

وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَن كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

God has promised that those of you who will believe in the Divine laws and strengthen human resources, He will make them rulers on earth, as He granted rule to the previous nations. He will certainly establish for them the System of Life that He has approved for them, and will replace their fear with peace and security. All this because they obey Me alone. They ascribe no partner to Me. But all those who, after this, deny these laws will drift out (of the community of living nations). [28:6, 33:27. The 'belief' mentioned in this verse does not pertain to any dogmas and tenets, but to the realization that the entire Universe is operating under the unchangeable Physical laws of One Supreme authority, thus providing the basis for all Science and Technology]

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ **24:56**

So, (O Believers) establish and consolidate the Divine System, set up the Economic Order of Zakaat, and obey the Messenger, so that you may flourish (as the embryo flourishes in the mother's womb). [La'allakum turhamoon = Literally, so that you may attain mercy = That you may flourish as the embryo flourishes in the mother's womb. Rahm = Womb. Obey the Messenger = The eternal Messenger now is the Qur'an]

Salat.
Obey Messenger.

لَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ وَلَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **24:57**

And think not that the rejecters of the Divine laws can escape on earth. Fire shall be their home, and it is a miserable abode.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِيَسْتَأْذِنكُمُ الَّذِينَ مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَبْلُغُوا الْحُلُمَ مِنكُمْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ مِّن قَبْلِ صَلَاةِ الْفَجْرِ وَحِينَ تَضَعُونَ ثِيَابَكُم مِّنَ الظَّهِيرَةِ وَمِن بَعْدِ صَلَاةِ الْعِشَاءِ ثَلَاثُ عَوْرَاتٍ لَّكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ بَعْدَهُنَّ طَوَّافُونَ عَلَيْكُم بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **24:58**

(Your social mannerism begins at home.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Let your servants and children who have not yet come of age ask your permission before coming in to see you on three occasions: Before you engage in your assignments at dawn, at noon when you are resting with light clothes, and after you have completed your assignments at night. These are your three times of privacy. At other times it is not wrong for you or for them to move about freely, attending to one another. In this way, God makes clear to you the revelations. God is Knower, Wise.

وَإِذَا بَلَغَ الْأَطْفَالُ مِنكُمُ الْحُلُمَ فَلْيَسْتَأْذِنُوا كَمَا اسْتَأْذَنَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ **24:59**

And when the children among you come of age, let them ask permission, like those who became adults before them asked permission. Thus God makes His revelations clear for you. God is Knower, Wise. [24:27, 24:58]

وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ اللَّاتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِنَّ جُنَاحٌ أَن يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ غَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ بِزِينَةٍ وَأَن يَسْتَعْفِفْنَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُنَّ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **24:60**

And the elderly women who have no interest in getting married, there is no blame on them if they lay aside their outer garments in such a way as not to show adornment. To maintain modesty is best for them. God is Hearer, Knower. [24:31, 33:33]

لَّيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَىٰ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْأَعْرَجِ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْمَرِيضِ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَن تَأْكُلُوا مِن بُيُوتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ آبَائِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ إِخْوَانِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أَخَوَاتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أَعْمَامِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ عَمَّاتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أَخْوَالِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ خَالَاتِكُمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكْتُم مَّفَاتِحَهُ أَوْ صَدِيقِكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَن تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعًا أَوْ أَشْتَاتًا فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُم بُيُوتًا فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ تَحِيَّةً مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ مُبَارَكَةً طَيِّبَةً كَذَٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ **24:61**

Males and Females
eat together

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

(Helping the disabled, and keeping good relations within families must be matters of priority in your society.) There is no blame on the blind, nor on the crippled, nor on the sick or handicapped, to eat from your houses. And there is no blame on you for eating at your own homes, your fathers' homes, your mothers' homes, your brothers' homes, your sisters' homes, your paternal uncles' homes, your paternal aunts' homes, your maternal uncles' homes, your maternal aunts' homes, the homes you manage and hold the keys of, or the home of a friend. You do nothing wrong by dining together or apart. But whenever you enter houses, salute one another with a blessed, goodly greeting from God. Thus God makes clear the revelations for you, so that you may understand.

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَإِذَا كَانُوا مَعَهُ عَلَىٰ أَمْرٍ جَامِعٍ لَّمْ يَذْهَبُوا حَتَّىٰ يَسْتَأْذِنُوهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَأْذِنُونَكَ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ فَإِذَا اسْتَأْذَنُوكَ لِبَعْضِ شَأْنِهِمْ فَأْذَن لِّمَن شِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمُ اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **24:62**

Only those are true believers in God and His Messenger who do not leave without permission when they are with him in a community meeting. Those who ask permission are the ones who believe in God and His Messenger. So when they ask your permission (O Prophet) in order to handle some of their affairs, grant permission to whomever of them you can. Remember (their welfare during their absence) asking forgiveness for them, for, God is Forgiving, Merciful.

لَّا تَجْعَلُوا دُعَاءَ الرَّسُولِ بَيْنَكُمْ كَدُعَاءِ بَعْضِكُم بَعْضًا قَدْ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ يَتَسَلَّلُونَ مِنكُمْ لِوَاذًا فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَن تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **24:63**

Do not consider the Messenger's summons among you as your calling one another. God knows those of you who sneak out under flimsy excuses. And let those who conspire to evade his orders beware of a consequent tribulation or an awful retribution. [62:9]

أَلَا إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قَدْ يَعْلَمُ مَا أَنتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَيَوْمَ يُرْجَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ فَيُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ **24:64**

عَلِيمٌ

Remember: To God belongs all that is in the heavens and earth. He knows your condition (capabilities, limitations, intentions, and actions). The Day when all people return to Him, He will make them truly understand what they did in life. God is the Knower of all things and events. [53:31]

Chapter 25

Al-Furqan - The Criterion

This is the 25th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 77 verses. God and His Messenger warn us against ignoring the Qur´an, for our own good. Al-Furqan, another name for the Qur´an means the "Criterion between Right and Wrong." The Messenger will say to his Lord that his people had abandoned the Qur´an. ´His people´ applies to all Muslims at all times.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا **25:1**

Most Blessed He is Who has revealed to His servant, the Criterion of right and wrong so that it might be a warning to the entire world. [The Prophet, with his conduct well preserved in the Qur'an, shall be a warner to all people anywhere and at all times 6:19, 7:158, 21:107. Therefore, no Prophet, Messenger or Apostle will come after him]

الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَمْ يَتَّخِذْ وَلَدًا وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ شَرِيكٌ فِي الْمُلْكِ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَّرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا **25:2**

(The Sender of this Criterion is) He to Whom belongs the Kingship of the heavens and earth. He has chosen no son, nor does He have a partner in His Kingship. He is the One Who creates all things in precise design and gives them the potential to become what they are meant to be.

وَاتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ آلِهَةً لَّا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ لِأَنفُسِهِمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ مَوْتًا وَلَا حَيَاةً وَلَا نُشُورًا **25:3**

And yet, there are those who, instead of Him, choose gods that can create nothing and are themselves created. And they do not have the power to avert harm or cause benefit even to themselves. They have no control over death and life, nor can they raise the dead (people and nations).

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا إِفْكٌ افْتَرَاهُ وَأَعَانَهُ عَلَيْهِ قَوْمٌ آخَرُونَ فَقَدْ جَاءُوا ظُلْمًا وَزُورًا 25:4

Those who oppose the truth say, “This (Qur’an) is a lie that he has devised with the help of other people.” Wrong is what they do and falsehood is what they utter.

وَقَالُوا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اكْتَتَبَهَا فَهِيَ تُمْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا 25:5

Prophet was literate

And they say, “Fables of ancient times which he has written down as they are dictated to him morning and evening.”

قُلْ أَنزَلَهُ الَّذِي يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا 25:6

Say, “He Who knows all the mysteries of the heavens and earth has revealed it to me. He is Forgiving, Merciful.” (May He forgive you for slandering me!)

وَقَالُوا مَالِ هَٰذَا الرَّسُولِ يَأْكُلُ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشِي فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ فَيَكُونَ مَعَهُ نَذِيرًا 25:7

Yet they say, “What sort of a Messenger is this who eats food and goes about in the market-places? Why is not an angel sent down to him to act as a warner together with him?”

أَوْ يُلْقَىٰ إِلَيْهِ كَنزٌ أَوْ تَكُونُ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ يَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا وَقَالَ الظَّالِمُونَ إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا مَّسْحُورًا 25:8

“Or why has not a treasure been bestowed on him, or why has he not a garden for enjoyment?” The wicked say, “You are but following a man bewitched!” [17:47]

انظُرْ كَيْفَ ضَرَبُوا لَكَ الْأَمْثَالَ فَضَلُّوا فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَبِيلًا 25:9

See what sort of examples they apply to you! They have strayed too far to find a way.

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي إِن شَاءَ جَعَلَ لَكَ خَيْرًا مِّن ذَٰلِكَ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَيَجْعَل لَّكَ قُصُورًا 25:10

Blessed is the One Who can, if He so wills, give you far better than all that, Gardens with flowing rivers and He could give you beautiful palaces.

بَلْ كَذَّبُوا بِالسَّاعَةِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِمَن كَذَّبَ بِالسَّاعَةِ سَعِيرًا 25:11

Nay, but they deny the oncoming Hour, and for those who deny the oncoming Hour, We have readied a Flame.

إِذَا رَأَتْهُم مِّن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغَيُّظًا وَزَفِيرًا **25:12**

When the Flame sees them from afar they will hear its rage and its roar.

وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُّقَرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ ثُبُورًا **25:13**

And when they are flung into a narrow space linked together in chains, they will pray for extinction there and then. (Distress of Hell is constricting while the bliss of Paradise is Spacious. [3:133]

لَّا تَدْعُوا الْيَوْمَ ثُبُورًا وَاحِدًا وَادْعُوا ثُبُورًا كَثِيرًا **25:14**

This Day, do not pray for a single extinction, but pray for repeated extinctions. [Therein they merely survive, neither living nor dying 14:17, 20:74, 87:13]

قُلْ أَذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ أَمْ جَنَّةُ الْخُلْدِ الَّتِي وُعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَزَاءً وَمَصِيرًا **25:15**

Say, "Is this better or the Garden of Immortality which is promised to the upright? That is their reward and the ultimate destination."

لَّهُمْ فِيهَا مَا يَشَاءُونَ خَالِدِينَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ رَبِّكَ وَعْدًا مَّسْئُولًا **25:16**

Therein abiding, they have all that they desire. A promise from your Sustainer that must be fulfilled and it is worth coveting.

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَيَقُولُ أَأَنتُمْ أَضْلَلْتُمْ عِبَادِي هَٰؤُلَاءِ أَمْ هُمْ ضَلُّوا السَّبِيلَ **25:17**

And on the Day when He summons them, together with the idols they had set up besides God, He will say to the idols, "Did you mislead these servants of Mine, or did they go astray from the way on their own?"

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ مَا كَانَ يَنبَغِي لَنَا أَن نَّتَّخِذَ مِن دُونِكَ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَٰكِن مَّتَّعْتَهُمْ وَآبَاءَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ نَسُوا الذِّكْرَ وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا بُورًا **25:18**

They will say, "Glory to You! It was not befitting for us that we should take for protecting masters other than You alone. But You did bestow on them and their ancestors, good things in life to the extent that they disregarded the reminder and became a lost people."

فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوكُم بِمَا تَقُولُونَ فَمَا تَسْتَطِيعُونَ صَرْفًا وَلَا نَصْرًا وَمَن يَظْلِم مِّنكُمْ نُذِقْهُ عَذَابًا كَبِيرًا **25:19**

It will be said to the idolaters, "Now your idols have proved you liars in what you say. So you cannot avert your penalty nor get help." And whoever among you wrongs others and thus wrongs himself, We shall make him taste of the great torment!

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لَيَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ بَصِيرًا **25:20**

And the Messengers whom We sent before you (O Prophet) were all mortals who ate food and walked in the markets. We thus test you by means of each other (as to who recognizes and conveys the truth). Will you have patience (to reflect)? Your Sustainer is Seer of all. [Human beings must evaluate the message by way of reason and not through blind faith, physical miracles or supernatural phenomena. 12:108]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَىٰ رَبَّنَا لَقَدِ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ وَعَتَوْا عُتُوًّا كَبِيرًا **25:21**

Those who do not believe that they are destined to meet Us, say, "Why do not angels come down to us, or why do we not see our Lord?" They think too highly of themselves and they are uttering a gross insult.

يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَا بُشْرَىٰ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُجْرِمِينَ وَيَقُولُونَ حِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا **25:22**

Yet on that Day when they see the angels, it will not be a pleasant news for violators of human rights who used to thrive on others' labor. They will exclaim, "Can there be a barrier between the angels and us?"

وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَىٰ مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَّنثُورًا **25:23**

And We will look at the deeds they have done, and will make their work scatter like ashes and dust.

أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُّسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا **25:24**

Whereas on the same Day those who have earned the Paradise, excellent is their abode with fairest places for rest and repose, and good news upon good news will be theirs.

وَيَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ السَّمَاءُ بِالْغَمَامِ وَنُزِّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تَنزِيلًا **25:25**

The Day the heaven with the clouds will be rent asunder, angels will be sent down, a grand descent in ranks.

الْمُلْكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ وَكَانَ يَوْمًا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ عَسِيرًا **25:26**

On that Day it will become obvious to all that the Sovereignty belongs to the Most Gracious alone. So, a Day of distress it will be for all those who had been rejecting the truth.

وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَىٰ يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا **25:27**

When the Day comes, the transgressor will bite his hands in anguish, exclaiming, "Oh, I wish I had taken a path with the Messenger¡'

يَا وَيْلَتَىٰ لَيْتَنِي لَمْ أَتَّخِذْ فُلَانًا خَلِيلًا **25:28**

"Oh, woe to me, I wish I hadn't taken so and so for a friend¡'

لَّقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنسَانِ خَذُولًا **25:29**

"Indeed he led me away from the reminder after it had come to me. Ah, the Satan is but a traitor to the human being."

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا **25:30**

Started following Hadith not Quran?

And the Messenger will say, "O My Lord! These are my people, the ones who had forsaken this Qur'an making it of no account." [Mahjoor = Disabled = Abandoned = Neglected = Forsaken. They had immobilized it like villagers who bind a cow by tying her front foot to her horn]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا **25:31**

Thus We have made for every Prophet enemies among the guilty, those who have been used to thriving on the fruit of others' toil. Yet, Your Lord is Sufficient for a Guide and Helper. [6:112, 22:52-54. The Divine message, being a great equalizer of humanity, strikes at the interests of the unjust exploiters]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً كَذَٰلِكَ لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا **25:32**

Those who are bent on denying the truth ask, "Why has not the Qur'an been revealed to him all at once¿' But that has been so! For, in order to strengthen your heart We have already arranged it in the Right Order. And We have caused you to convey it to people in stages, step by step. [73:4. The Qur'an has been revealed in its entirety upon the Prophet's heart in the Night of Majesty and conveyed to people in stages over a period of 23 years. 2:185, 44:3, 97:1]

وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ إِلَّا جِئْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا **25:33**

And no question or objection do they bring to you but We reveal to you the absolute truth and its best explanation. [The best Tafseer or explanation of the Qur'an comes from within itself]

الَّذِينَ يُحْشَرُونَ عَلَىٰ وُجُوهِهِمْ إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ أُولَٰئِكَ شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَأَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا **25:34**

Those who will be gathered prone on their faces to Hell, it is those who will be worst in station, and as to the path, they are most astray.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا مَعَهُ أَخَاهُ هَارُونَ وَزِيرًا **25:35**

Recall that We gave Moses the scripture, and appointed his brother Aaron as minister to him.

فَقُلْنَا اذْهَبَا إِلَى الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَدَمَّرْنَاهُمْ تَدْمِيرًا **25:36**

Then We said, "Go you both to the people who reject Our messages." Then We annihilated them with a complete annihilation.

وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ لَّمَّا كَذَّبُوا الرُّسُلَ أَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ آيَةً وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **25:37**

And Noah's people: When they had denied the Messengers, We caused them to drown and made them as a sign for mankind. We have readied a painful doom for those who choose to do wrong.

وَعَادًا وَثَمُودَ وَأَصْحَابَ الرَّسِّ وَقُرُونًا بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ كَثِيرًا **25:38**

And (Our law also struck) 'Aad and Thamud, and the people of Ar-Rass, and many generations in between. [The people of Ar-Rass used to dig deep wells, and irrigate their flourishing crops. They lived in the current province of Al-Qaseem

in the Central Arabian Peninsula. Historically, they had thrown their Messenger in a well, and persisted with their unjust feudal system]

وَكُلًّا ضَرَبْنَا لَهُ الْأَمْثَالَ وَكُلًّا تَبَّرْنَا تَتْبِيرًا **25:39**

Each of them We had warned with examples and every one of them We brought to total ruin.

وَلَقَدْ أَتَوْا عَلَى الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي أُمْطِرَتْ مَطَرَ السَّوْءِ أَفَلَمْ يَكُونُوا يَرَوْنَهَا بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ نُشُورًا **25:40**

They must have passed by the township (Sodom) that was rained with a miserable rain. Did they not see it? But they do not expect to be raised again. [They do not believe in accountability, and think that events happen only by chance]

وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوًا أَهَٰذَا الَّذِي بَعَثَ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا **25:41**

So, whenever they see you, they make you a target of their mockery saying, “Is this the one whom God has sent as a Messenger?

إِن كَادَ لَيُضِلُّنَا عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا لَوْلَا أَن صَبَرْنَا عَلَيْهَا وَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ حِينَ يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ مَنْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا **25:42**

He would have led us far away from our gods if we were not so steadfastly attached to them.” They will know, when they see the doom, as to who is more astray from the road.

أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَاهُ أَفَأَنتَ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكِيلًا **25:43**

Have you seen the one who has taken as god his own vain desire? Could you be an advocate for him?

أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا **25:44**

Or do you think that most of them really hear and use their reason? Nay! they are but like cattle. Nay, they are farther astray. [The cattle at least follow the Divine laws instinctively]

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَيْفَ مَدَّ الظِّلَّ وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَجَعَلَهُ سَاكِنًا ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا الشَّمْسَ عَلَيْهِ دَلِيلًا **25:45**

Are you not aware of your Lord by His works? He spreads the shade, and if He willed, He could have made it still! Then We would have made the sun its pilot. [He could have designed the Solar System differently with the earth remaining stationary]

ثُمَّ قَبَضْنَاهُ إِلَيْنَا قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا **25:46**

Then We gradually withdraw it to Us, a gradual withdrawal.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا وَالنَّوْمَ سُبَاتًا وَجَعَلَ النَّهَارَ نُشُورًا **25:47**

He is the One Who makes night a robe for you, and sleep a rest, and makes every day to be a resurrection.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيَاحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا **25:48**

He is the One Who sends the winds, glad news of His coming grace, and We send down pure water from the sky.

لِّنُحْيِيَ بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا وَنُسْقِيَهُ مِمَّا خَلَقْنَا أَنْعَامًا وَأَنَاسِيَّ كَثِيرًا **25:49**

That We may give life with it to a dead land, and We provide drink for Our creations, a great many animals and human beings.

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا فَأَبَىٰ أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ إِلَّا كُفُورًا **25:50**

We have repeated (these messages) to mankind in diverse ways, so that they might bear in mind. Yet most people remain ungrateful (for such light-giving guidance).

وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَبَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ نَّذِيرًا **25:51**

Had We so willed, We could have continued to raise up a warner in every single community. [But, the time has now come for the Eternal, Universal message, the Qur'an. 25:1]

فَلَا تُطِعِ الْكَافِرِينَ وَجَاهِدْهُم بِهِ جِهَادًا كَبِيرًا **25:52**

So, heed not the deniers and strive hard against them by means of this (Qur'an), with utmost striving. [Jihadan Kabeera = The Great Jihad by means of the Qur'an]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَٰذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ وَهَٰذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَحِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا **25:53**

And He is the One Who has given freedom of movement to the two kinds of great bodies of water. One is palatable and fresh, the other salty and bitter. Yet, He has made a barrier between them, a barrier that is not to be crossed. [35:12. Please see 18:60 for two streams in a different sense]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا **25:54**

And He is the One Who has created the human being from this very water, (21:30, 24:45) and then He has established relationships by lineage and by marriage, for, your Lord is the Designer of all things. [The best relationships are established on the basis of Ideology 3:102, 49:10-13]

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنفَعُهُمْ وَلَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَكَانَ الْكَافِرُ عَلَىٰ رَبِّهِ ظَهِيرًا **25:55**

Yet, instead of God, they serve what can neither benefit them nor harm them. A rejecter of the truth, (regardless of his origin and relationship) joins hands with another rejecter against his own Sustainer. [Zaheera = Helper. For Ideology and Relatives, see 11:45-47, 66:10]

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا **25:56**

Yet, We have sent you (O Prophet) as a bearer of glad news and as a warner.

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِلَّا مَن شَاءَ أَن يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا **25:57**

Say, "I ask you no reward for this, except that whoever wishes may take a way to his Lord." [34:47, 42:13]

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْحَيِّ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا **25:58**

And put your trust in Him Who lives, and dies not, and strive to manifest His praise. He suffices as the Knower of where His servants trail behind.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ الرَّحْمَٰنُ فَاسْأَلْ بِهِ خَبِيرًا **25:59**

He who has created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control. The Beneficent! Ask about Him anyone acquainted. [Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, See 41:10. 'Anyone acquainted' = Someone well founded

in knowledge = One who has some idea of His glory by reflecting on His Book of revelation and the 'Book' of Nature = Ask God Himself by reflecting on His creation]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ قَالُوا وَمَا الرَّحْمَٰنُ أَنَسْجُدُ لِمَا تَأْمُرُنَا وَزَادَهُمْ نُفُورًا **25:60**

Yet when it is said to them, "Adore the Beneficent!" They say, "What is the Beneficent? Are we to adore just what you say?" And it merely increases them in disgust.

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرَاجًا وَقَمَرًا مُّنِيرًا **25:61**

Blessed is He Who set up in the sky great constellations, and put therein a radiant Lamp, and a Moon shining with light.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِّمَنْ أَرَادَ أَن يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا **25:62**

And He is the One Who causes the night and the day to succeed each other: (Sufficient sign) for him who is willing to be mindful, and who is willing to be appreciative (for the evident signs).

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا **25:63**

The true servants of the Beneficent are those who walk upon the earth humbly, and when the ignorant ones address them, they say, "Peace!" [3:138, 22:41, 31:17-18]

وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا **25:64**

And those who adore their Lord in tough situations, making a rightful submission and taking a rightful stand. [Night refers to tough situations when it is difficult to find a way]

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا **25:65**

Dua

And those who say, "Our Lord! Spare us the agony of Hell, for its doom is relentless."

إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا **25:66**

It is a miserable abode and resting place.

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَٰلِكَ قَوَامًا **25:67**

And those who, when they spend their wealth, are neither wasteful, nor stingy. And (they know that) there is always middle ground between the two extremes. [2:219, 17:29]

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا **25:68**

Those who call on no deities along with God. Nor take a life that God has forbidden except in the course of justice (through a court of law). Nor do they commit adultery; and whoever does this, drags down one's own humanity.

يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَخْلُدْ فِيهِ مُهَانًا **25:69**

The retribution on the Day of Resurrection will be doubled for him and therein He will abide in lasting humiliation,

إِلَّا مَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **25:70**

Except one who repents and believes in the Permanent Moral Values and takes corrective action. For such, God will replace the ill effects of their deeds with the balancing effects of good deeds. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

وَمَن تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَتَابًا **25:71**

And whoever repents and takes corrective action, certainly he turns toward God with true repentance.

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا **25:72**

Those who: Never give false witness, do not participate in assemblies of vanity, and when they have to pass by futile activity, they pass by it with dignity,

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا **25:73**

When they are reminded of (even) the revelations of their Lord, they do not fall at them deaf and blind (with deaf and blind acceptance).

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا **25:74**

Dua

And those who say, “Our Lord! Grant us that our spouses and children be the comfort of our eyes (that they excel in character). And let us be an excellent pattern for the righteous.

أُولَٰئِكَ يُجْزَوْنَ الْغُرْفَةَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيُلَقَّوْنَ فِيهَا تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا **25:75**

Such are the ones who will be rewarded with a high station of honor for their steadfast commitment (to their Lord). Therein they will be met with salutation and peace.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسُنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا **25:76**

Therein to abide. What a goodly destiny! And what a high station!

قُلْ مَا يَعْبَأُ بِكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دُعَاؤُكُمْ فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا **25:77**

Say (O Prophet), “My Lord would not concern Himself with you if you did not call (people) to Him.” (And tell the deniers), “You have rejected (Him), and soon will come the inevitable requital.”

Chapter 26

Ash-Shu´ara - The Poets

This is the 26th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 227 verses. The Book goes along in its style of unity in diversity. The Qur´an emphasizes that nothing in the Universe is inherently bad. Poetry can be beneficial or detrimental depending on the message it carries. Those who indulge in senseless poetry mislead people and waste their own and others´ time. Poets do not do what they say, and only the straying people follow them. The exceptions are those poets who believe in the Permanent Values and work for the betterment of humanity. The Surah embraces some other magnificent concepts as well.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

طسم **26:1**

T.S.M. Ta-Seen-Meem (Toor-e-Sina, Musa. Recall Mount Sinai where Moses received the revelation.)

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ **26:2**

All proof is in the Quran

These are verses of the Book that is clear in itself and makes things clear.

لَعَلَّكَ بَاخِعٌ نَّفْسَكَ أَلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ **26:3**

(O Prophet) will you, (in your compassion), torment yourself to death that they refuse to become believers?

إِن نَّشَأْ نُنَزِّلْ عَلَيْهِم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ آيَةً فَظَلَّتْ أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ **26:4**

Had We so willed, We could have sent down to them a sign from the heaven, to which they would bend their necks in humility. [But, that is not Our Design. We expect them to use reason. 12:108]

وَمَا يَأْتِيهِم مِّن ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ مُحْدَثٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ **26:5**

And so whenever a reminder comes to them from the Beneficent, they turn away from it.

فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنبَاءُ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **26:6**

Thus, they have rejected this message. But in time they will come to understand what it was that they ridiculed.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَمْ أَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ **26:7**

Have they never considered the earth, how many noble things of all kind We have made to grow in it in pairs? [Zawjin kareem = Noble, fruitful, bounteous things in pairs. 51:50-51]

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:8**

This is a sign, yet most of them are not believers (in the Almightiness of their Lord).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:9**

But your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. [Whether they believe or disbelieve, He provides them with means of sustenance]

وَإِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبُّكَ مُوسَىٰ أَنِ ائْتِ الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **26:10**

And recall when your Lord called Moses, “Go to the community of oppressors,

قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَلَا يَتَّقُونَ **26:11**

To the people of Pharaoh so that they may live upright.“

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَن يُكَذِّبُونِ **26:12**

Moses said, “My Lord! I am afraid they will accuse me of lying.

وَيَضِيقُ صَدْرِي وَلَا يَنطَلِقُ لِسَانِي فَأَرْسِلْ إِلَىٰ هَارُونَ **26:13**

I will feel uncomfortable and I might not speak confidently, so send for Aaron to help me.

وَلَهُمْ عَلَيَّ ذَنبٌ فَأَخَافُ أَن يَقْتُلُونِ **26:14**

And they have a charge against me, so I fear they will kill me.“ [28:15]

قَالَ كَلَّا فَاذْهَبَا بِآيَاتِنَا إِنَّا مَعَكُم مُّسْتَمِعُونَ **26:15**

God said, “Nay! Both of you go with Our messages. We are with you hearing.”

فَأْتِيَا فِرْعَوْنَ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:16**

Go together to Pharaoh and say, “We are Messengers from the Lord of the Worlds.”

أَنْ أَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **26:17**

“Let the Children of Israel go with us.“ [20:47]

قَالَ أَلَمْ نُرَبِّكَ فِينَا وَلِيدًا وَلَبِثْتَ فِينَا مِنْ عُمُرِكَ سِنِينَ **26:18**

Pharaoh said to Moses, “Did we not rear you as a child among us? And you lived with us many years of your life.

وَفَعَلْتَ فَعْلَتَكَ الَّتِي فَعَلْتَ وَأَنتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ **26:19**

And you did what you did, killing a man from our people. You are of the ungrateful.“

قَالَ فَعَلْتُهَا إِذًا وَأَنَا مِنَ الضَّالِّينَ **26:20**

Moses said, “I did it but I am lost how it happened!” [I only struck him once with a fist and he died. 28:15]

فَفَرَرْتُ مِنكُمْ لَمَّا خِفْتُكُمْ فَوَهَبَ لِي رَبِّي حُكْمًا وَجَعَلَنِي مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:21**

Then I fled from you in fear. But God has given me a command and appointed me one of His Messengers.

وَتِلْكَ نِعْمَةٌ تَمُنُّهَا عَلَيَّ أَنْ عَبَّدتَّ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **26:22**

And this, the past favor you so tauntingly remind me! Yes, you raised me in your palaces. But it was so since you enslaved the Children of Israel.”

قَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ وَمَا رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:23**

Pharaoh said, “What is the Lord of the Worlds?” [20:49]

قَالَ رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِن كُنتُم مُّوقِنِينَ **26:24**

Moses said, “Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them; if you allow yourselves to be convinced.” [43:51, 79:24]

قَالَ لِمَنْ حَوْلَهُ أَلَا تَسْتَمِعُونَ **26:25**

Pharaoh said to those around him, “Do you not hear this?”

قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **26:26**

Moses said, “Yes, He is your Lord and the Lord of your ancestors.”

قَالَ إِنَّ رَسُولَكُمُ الَّذِي أُرْسِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ لَمَجْنُونٌ **26:27**

Pharaoh said, “Your Messenger who has been sent to you is a crazy man.”

قَالَ رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **26:28**

Moses said, “He is the Lord of the East and the West and everything in between. (You would know) if you use your intellect.”

قَالَ لَئِنِ اتَّخَذْتَ إِلَهًا غَيْرِي لَأَجْعَلَنَّكَ مِنَ الْمَسْجُونِينَ **26:29**

Pharaoh said, “If you choose a god other than me, I will put you in prison.”

قَالَ أَوَلَوْ جِئْتُكَ بِشَيْءٍ مُّبِينٍ **26:30**

Moses responded, “Even if I bring to you all evidence of the truth?”

قَالَ فَأْتِ بِهِ إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **26:31**

He said, “Bring your signs if you are truthful.”

فَأَلْقَىٰ عَصَاهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ ثُعْبَانٌ مُّبِينٌ **26:32**

Moses presented the absolute truth, vibrant with life. [7:107-108, 20:17-25, 28:31-32]

وَنَزَعَ يَدَهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ بَيْضَاءُ لِلنَّاظِرِينَ **26:33**

He presented his powerful logic that shone bright.

قَالَ لِلْمَلَإِ حَوْلَهُ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَسَاحِرٌ عَلِيمٌ **26:34**

Pharaoh said to his chiefs, “He is a magical debater.

يُرِيدُ أَن يُخْرِجَكُم مِّنْ أَرْضِكُم بِسِحْرِهِ فَمَاذَا تَأْمُرُونَ **26:35**

He intends to expel you from your own land by his magic. Then what is it you advise¿‘ [7:110]

قَالُوا أَرْجِهْ وَأَخَاهُ وَابْعَثْ فِي الْمَدَائِنِ حَاشِرِينَ **26:36**

They said, “Put him and his brother on hold and send couriers to cities,

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سَحَّارٍ عَلِيمٍ **26:37**

That they bring all expert religious debaters to you.“ [Saahir = Magician = Sorcerer = Spellbinding orator]

فَجُمِعَ السَّحَرَةُ لِمِيقَاتِ يَوْمٍ مَّعْلُومٍ **26:38**

The debaters got together at the appointed day and time.

وَقِيلَ لِلنَّاسِ هَلْ أَنتُم مُّجْتَمِعُونَ **26:39**

People were given an open invitation to assemble there, “Are you all gathering?”

لَعَلَّنَا نَتَّبِعُ السَّحَرَةَ إِن كَانُوا هُمُ الْغَالِبِينَ **26:40**

Pharaoh continued, “So that when the debaters win, we carry them in a procession.”

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ السَّحَرَةُ قَالُوا لِفِرْعَوْنَ أَئِنَّ لَنَا لَأَجْرًا إِن كُنَّا نَحْنُ الْغَالِبِينَ **26:41**

When they came, they said to Pharaoh, “Will there be a reward for us if we are the winners?”

قَالَ نَعَمْ وَإِنَّكُمْ إِذًا لَّمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ **26:42**

He said, “Yes, and you will have high ranks in my court.” [7:113]

قَالَ لَهُم مُّوسَىٰ أَلْقُوا مَا أَنتُم مُّلْقُونَ **26:43**

Moses said, “Begin however you wish to begin.”

فَأَلْقَوْا حِبَالَهُمْ وَعِصِيَّهُمْ وَقَالُوا بِعِزَّةِ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الْغَالِبُونَ **26:44**

They put forward their logic and swore, “By Pharaoh’s majesty! We will be the victors.”

فَأَلْقَىٰ مُوسَىٰ عَصَاهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ تَلْقَفُ مَا يَأْفِكُونَ **26:45**

Moses responded with the mighty truth, and right away it swallowed their false logic.

فَأُلْقِيَ السَّحَرَةُ سَاجِدِينَ **26:46**

The debaters fell prostrate in awe.

قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:47**

Saying, “We believe in the Lord of the Worlds.

رَبِّ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ **26:48**

The Lord of Moses and Aaron.“

قَالَ آمَنتُمْ لَهُ قَبْلَ أَنْ آذَنَ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَكَبِيرُكُمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَكُمُ السِّحْرَ فَلَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ لَأُقَطِّعَنَّ أَيْدِيَكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُم مِّنْ خِلَافٍ وَلَأُصَلِّبَنَّكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **26:49**

Pharaoh said, “Have you believed in him before I grant my permission? He is your chief who has taught you magic (spellbinding eloquence). You shall find out soon. I will cut off your hands and feet alternately and certainly I will crucify every one of you.” [It is worth noting that the tyrannical powers wish to guard even the thinking of others!]

قَالُوا لَا ضَيْرَ إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا مُنقَلِبُونَ **26:50**

They said, “No matter! (This will not change our decision.) To our Lord we will return.

إِنَّا نَطْمَعُ أَن يَغْفِرَ لَنَا رَبُّنَا خَطَايَانَا أَن كُنَّا أَوَّلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **26:51**

We hope that our Lord will forgive our faults, since we are the foremost of the believers.“

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي إِنَّكُم مُّتَّبَعُونَ **26:52**

We revealed to Moses, “Take away My servants by night, for you will be pursued.”

فَأَرْسَلَ فِرْعَوْنُ فِي الْمَدَائِنِ حَاشِرِينَ **26:53**

In the meantime, Pharaoh sent couriers to the cities,

إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ لَشِرْذِمَةٌ قَلِيلُونَ **26:54**

“This is a low contemptible gang.

وَإِنَّهُمْ لَنَا لَغَائِظُونَ **26:55**

Cetainly, they have enraged us.

وَإِنَّا لَجَمِيعٌ حَاذِرُونَ **26:56**

And we are an army ready to repel any danger.“

فَأَخْرَجْنَاهُم مِّن جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **26:57**

Then, We drove them (Pharaoh and his chiefs) out of the gardens and springs,

وَكُنُوزٍ وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ **26:58**

And treasures, lofty positions and beautiful estate. [Soon to be drowned in hateful pursuit of Moses and his followers]

كَذَٰلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **26:59**

Thus those things were taken away from them and We caused the Children of Israel to inherit the blessings. [Instead of returning to Egypt they would rule the land including Sinai, Jordan, Palestine, Northern Arabian Peninsula until their zenith during the times of David and Solomon about 940 BC. 7:136:137, 20:76-80]

فَأَتْبَعُوهُم مُّشْرِقِينَ **26:60**

And they (Pharaoh's armies) overtook them at sunrise.

فَلَمَّا تَرَاءَى الْجَمْعَانِ قَالَ أَصْحَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِنَّا لَمُدْرَكُونَ **26:61**

When both parties saw each other, the companions of Moses said, "Ah, we are overtaken."

قَالَ كَلَّا إِنَّ مَعِيَ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ **26:62**

He answered, "Nay! My Lord is with me and He will guide me."

فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ أَنِ اضْرِب بِّعَصَاكَ الْبَحْرَ فَانفَلَقَ فَكَانَ كُلُّ فِرْقٍ كَالطَّوْدِ الْعَظِيمِ **26:63**

Then We revealed to Moses, "Strike the sea with your staff. Seek for them a dry path with confidence. (Cross over the dried up Sea of Reeds.) The morning found the two parties apart like two hills with a basin in between.

وَأَزْلَفْنَا ثَمَّ الْآخَرِينَ **26:64**

And We caused the pursuers to draw near to that place.

وَأَنجَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَمَن مَّعَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ **26:65**

And We saved Moses and those with him, every one of them.

ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخَرِينَ **26:66**

(And as the high tide came), We drowned the others.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:67**

Herein is a sure lesson. Yet, most people are not believers in the Law of Recompense.

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:68**

And certainly, your Lord! He is Almighty, Merciful.

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ **26:69**

And convey to them of the history of Abraham.

إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ **26:70**

When he said to his father and his people, “What is it that you worship?”

قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ أَصْنَامًا فَنَظَلُّ لَهَا عَاكِفِينَ **26:71**

They said, “We worship idols and we are very devoted to them.”

قَالَ هَلْ يَسْمَعُونَكُمْ إِذْ تَدْعُونَ **26:72**

He said, “Do they hear when you call them?

أَوْ يَنفَعُونَكُمْ أَوْ يَضُرُّونَ **26:73**

Or do they benefit or harm you¿‘

قَالُوا بَلْ وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا كَذَٰلِكَ يَفْعَلُونَ **26:74**

They said, “Nay, but we found our forefathers doing this.”

قَالَ أَفَرَأَيْتُم مَّا كُنتُمْ تَعْبُدُونَ **26:75**

He said, “Have you then ever considered what it is that you have been worshiping,

أَنتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمُ الْأَقْدَمُونَ **26:76**

You and your bygone forefathers!

فَإِنَّهُمْ عَدُوٌّ لِّي إِلَّا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:77**

Certainly, they (all kinds of idols) are enemies to me, for I am devoted only to the Lord of the Worlds,

الَّذِي خَلَقَنِي فَهُوَ يَهْدِينِ **26:78**

The One Who created me and guides me.

وَالَّذِي هُوَ يُطْعِمُنِي وَيَسْقِينِ **26:79**

The One Who provides food and drink to me (and to you).

وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ **26:80**

The One Who restores me to health when I get sick.

وَالَّذِي يُمِيتُنِي ثُمَّ يُحْيِينِ **26:81**

The One Who will cause me to die and then bring me back to life.

وَالَّذِي أَطْمَعُ أَن يَغْفِرَ لِي خَطِيئَتِي يَوْمَ الدِّينِ **26:82**

And the One Who, I ardently hope, will forgive me my faults on the Day of Judgment."

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي حُكْمًا وَأَلْحِقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ **26:83**

"My Lord! Grant me wisdom and good judgment, and unite me with the righteous. [Saaliheen = Those who have attained self-actualization = Those who set things right = Help augment the human potential = Serve the community = Remove any deficiencies = Correct wrong = Fulfill other's needs = Do acts of social welfare = The righteous]

وَاجْعَل لِّي لِسَانَ صِدْقٍ فِي الْآخِرِينَ **26:84**

Let me set a good example for the future generations and leave an honorable mention among them.

وَاجْعَلْنِي مِن وَرَثَةِ جَنَّةِ النَّعِيمِ **26:85**

And make me worthy of the Garden of bliss. [Waratha (singular, Waarith) = Literally, 'inheritors', but that meaning necessitates the demise of some previous dwellers of Paradise. Also, inheritance comes without effort on the part of the inheritor. So, the correct meaning = Deserving = Truly worthy]

وَاغْفِرْ لِأَبِي إِنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الضَّالِّينَ **26:86**

And forgive my father (by showing him the right path). He is of those who strayed. [9:114, 14:41, 19:47, 60:4]

وَلَا تُخْزِنِي يَوْمَ يُبْعَثُونَ **26:87**

And let me not be disgraced on the Day when they are raised.

يَوْمَ لَا يَنفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ **26:88**

The Day when wealth and children will avail none.

إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ **26:89**

But only he will prosper who brings to God a noble heart.“ [37:85]

وَأُزْلِفَتِ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **26:90**

And the Garden will be brought close for the upright.

وَبُرِّزَتِ الْجَحِيمُ لِلْغَاوِينَ **26:91**

Whereas the Blazing Fire will appear plainly before those who had lost themselves in error.

وَقِيلَ لَهُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْبُدُونَ **26:92**

And it will be said, “Where is all that you used to worship and obey,

مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ هَلْ يَنصُرُونَكُمْ أَوْ يَنتَصِرُونَ **26:93**

Instead of God? Can they help you or help themselves?”

فَكُبْكِبُوا فِيهَا هُمْ وَالْغَاوُونَ **26:94**

Then they will be hurled into Hell, the leaders and their straying followers.

وَجُنُودُ إِبْلِيسَ أَجْمَعُونَ **26:95**

And the party of Iblees, all together.

قَالُوا وَهُمْ فِيهَا يَخْتَصِمُونَ **26:96**

And right away, blaming one another, they will exclaim,

تَاللَّهِ إِن كُنَّا لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **26:97**

“By God, we were in manifest error!

إِذْ نُسَوِّيكُم بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:98**

When we ranked you with the Lord of the Worlds.

وَمَا أَضَلَّنَا إِلَّا الْمُجْرِمُونَ **26:99**

It is these guilty leaders who misled us.

فَمَا لَنَا مِن شَافِعِينَ **26:100**

Now we have no intercessors.

وَلَا صَدِيقٍ حَمِيمٍ **26:101**

Nor a close friend.

فَلَوْ أَنَّ لَنَا كَرَّةً فَنَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **26:102**

Oh, if only we could have another chance we would be among the believers." [23:99-100, 39:58]

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:103**

In all this, there is lesson, but most of them still are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:104**

And certainly, your Lord! He is Almighty, Merciful. (He gives you sustenance for body and mind).

كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:105**

The people of Noah too denied the Messengers.

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ أَخُوهُمْ نُوحٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **26:106**

When their brother Noah said to them, "Will you not fear straying?

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **26:107**

I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:108**

Be mindful of God and pay heed to me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:109**

And no reward, whatsoever, do I ask for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:110**

So be mindful of God and pay heed to me."

قَالُوا أَنُؤْمِنُ لَكَ وَاتَّبَعَكَ الْأَرْذَلُونَ **26:111**

They answered, "Shall we put our faith in you even though the low class people are following you?"

قَالَ وَمَا عِلْمِي بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **26:112**

He said, "I am not concerned with their professions and what they have been doing before.

إِنْ حِسَابُهُمْ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّي لَوْ تَشْعُرُونَ **26:113**

Their accountability is up to my Lord. If only you understood (that the most honored in the Sight of God is the one who is best in conduct 49:13).

وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **26:114**

So, I shall not drive away the believers.

إِنْ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **26:115**

I am only a plain warner."

قَالُوا لَئِن لَّمْ تَنتَهِ يَا نُوحُ لَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمَرْجُومِينَ **26:116**

They said, "O Noah! If you do not refrain, you will be stoned to death."

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي كَذَّبُونِ **26:117**

Thereupon he prayed, "My Lord! My people are accusing me of lying.

فَافْتَحْ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَهُمْ فَتْحًا وَنَجِّنِي وَمَن مَّعِيَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **26:118**

So, judge between me and them openly, and save me and my company of believers."

فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَمَن مَّعَهُ فِي الْفُلْكِ الْمَشْحُونِ **26:119**

And We saved him and those who accompanied him in the laden Ark.

ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا بَعْدُ الْبَاقِينَ **26:120**

Then afterward We drowned the others.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:121**

In this, there is a sign, even though most of them are not believers (in the law of Just Recompense).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:122**

But, certainly, your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. [His Rule is the Rule of law, and not that of tyrannical whims]

كَذَّبَتْ عَادٌ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:123**

‘Aad also rejected the Messengers.

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ أَخُوهُمْ هُودٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **26:124**

When their brother Hud said to them, “Will you not seek to live upright?

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **26:125**

I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:126**

Be mindful of God and pay heed to me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:127**

And no reward, whatsoever, do I ask for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

أَتَبْنُونَ بِكُلِّ رِيعٍ آيَةً تَعْبَثُونَ **26:128**

You build on every height monuments of vanity.

وَتَتَّخِذُونَ مَصَانِعَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَخْلُدُونَ **26:129**

And you make for yourselves mighty castles; will you thus become immortal?

وَإِذَا بَطَشْتُم بَطَشْتُمْ جَبَّارِينَ **26:130**

And you seize people cruelly, without any restraint. [Subjecting them into bondage to build these gorgeous structures for you]

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:131**

Be mindful of God and heed me.

وَاتَّقُوا الَّذِي أَمَدَّكُم بِمَا تَعْلَمُونَ **26:132**

Be mindful of Him Who helped you with good things you know and the know-how and skills.

أَمَدَّكُم بِأَنْعَامٍ وَبَنِينَ **26:133**

He Who has helped you with livestock and human resources.

وَجَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **26:134**

And gardens and water springs.

إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **26:135**

Surely, I fear for you the requital of an awesome day."

قَالُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْنَا أَوَعَظْتَ أَمْ لَمْ تَكُن مِّنَ الْوَاعِظِينَ **26:136**

But they answered, "It is the same for us whether you counsel us or not.

إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا خُلُقُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **26:137**

This has been our life-style for generations.

وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ **26:138**

And we shall never be doomed."

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَأَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:139**

So, they rejected him and We destroyed them. Therein is a sign, even though most people are not believers (in the law of Just Recompense).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:140**

But, certainly, your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. (He keeps balance between grace and Justice]

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:141**

Thamud also denied the Messengers.

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ أَخُوهُمْ صَالِحٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **26:142**

When their brother Saleh said to them, “Will you not seek to live upright?

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **26:143**

Truly, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:144**

Be mindful of God and heed me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:145**

I ask you no reward, whatsoever, for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

أَتُتْرَكُونَ فِي مَا هَاهُنَا آمِنِينَ **26:146**

Do you think that you could continue in security as it is (with your unjust system) forever?

فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **26:147**

In gardens and water springs.

وَزُرُوعٍ وَنَخْلٍ طَلْعُهَا هَضِيمٌ **26:148**

And fields, and these palm trees and delicious fruits.

وَتَنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا فَارِهِينَ **26:149**

And that you will always skillfully carve out of the mountains luxurious mansions?

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:150**

Be mindful of God and heed me.

وَلَا تُطِيعُوا أَمْرَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ **26:151**

And do not obey the command of those who trespass the bounds of justice and equity.

الَّذِينَ يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُصْلِحُونَ **26:152**

Those who spread corruption in the land, and reform not."

قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مِنَ الْمُسَحَّرِينَ **26:153**

But they replied, "You are but one of the bewitched.

مَا أَنتَ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا فَأْتِ بِآيَةٍ إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **26:154**

You are just a mortal like us. So bring us a miracle if you are a man of truth."

قَالَ هَٰذِهِ نَاقَةٌ لَّهَا شِرْبٌ وَلَكُمْ شِرْبُ يَوْمٍ مَّعْلُومٍ **26:155**

He said, "This she-camel (representing the weak and the poor, being owner-less) has the right to drink, just as you have the right to water (your flocks) at the time of watering.

وَلَا تَمَسُّوهَا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذَكُمْ عَذَابُ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **26:156**

Do not harm her, or the retribution will seize you on an awesome day."

فَعَقَرُوهَا فَأَصْبَحُوا نَادِمِينَ **26:157**

But they killed her and made way for their own humiliation. [The usual translation of Fa-asbahoo Naadimeen as 'they regretted, repented or became penitent' seems to be inaccurate, since in that case the Most Gracious would have forgiven them. 'Aqarooha = They hamstrung her. Cutting the hamstrings of a camel leads to a quick demise, therefore, 'they hamstrung her' = 'They killed her']

فَأَخَذَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:158**

So, the retribution seized them. Herein is a sign, yet most people are not believers.

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:159**

Certainly, your Lord is Mighty, Merciful.

كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ لُوطٍ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:160**

And the people of Lot also denied the Messengers.

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ أَخُوهُمْ لُوطٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **26:161**

When their brother Lot said to them, “Will you not seek to live upright?

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **26:162**

Truly, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:163**

Be mindful of God and heed me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:164**

And no reward whatsoever do I ask you for it. My reward rests with none but with the Lord of the Worlds.

أَتَأْتُونَ الذُّكْرَانَ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:165**

Of all the creatures in the worlds, you approach males.

وَتَذَرُونَ مَا خَلَقَ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُم مِّنْ أَزْوَاجِكُم بَلْ أَنتُمْ قَوْمٌ عَادُونَ **26:166**

And leave those whom your Lord has created for you to be your mates. You are a people who cross all bounds of decency.”

قَالُوا لَئِن لَّمْ تَنتَهِ يَا لُوطُ لَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُخْرَجِينَ **26:167**

They said, “O Lot! If you do not desist, you will be driven out of the town.”

قَالَ إِنِّي لِعَمَلِكُم مِّنَ الْقَالِينَ **26:168**

He said, “I am of those who deplore your actions.”

رَبِّ نَجِّنِي وَأَهْلِي مِمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ **26:169**

“O My Lord! Save me, my family and my followers from the consequences of what they do.”

فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ **26:170**

So, We saved him and his followers, all of them.

إِلَّا عَجُوزًا فِي الْغَابِرِينَ **26:171**

All but the old woman (the wife of Lot) who chose to stay behind.

ثُمَّ دَمَّرْنَا الْآخَرِينَ **26:172**

And then We utterly destroyed the others.

وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِم مَّطَرًا فَسَاءَ مَطَرُ الْمُنذَرِينَ **26:173**

And We poured a rain, the dreadful rain (from the volcano) on all those who had been warned.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:174**

Herein is a sign, but most of them are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:175**

Your Lord is Almighty, Merciful.

كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **26:176**

And the dwellers in the wood dales (of Midyan) denied the Messengers. [The Tribe of Midyan lived between Madinah and Damascus since around 2000 BC. They were the descendants of Prophet Abraham's son Midyan from his third wife Qatoora. Prophet Sho'aib was raised among them around 1300 BC. 7:85]

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ شُعَيْبٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **26:177**

When their brother Sho'aib said to them, "Will you not seek to live upright?

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **26:178**

Truly, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ **26:179**

Be mindful of God and heed me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَىٰ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:180**

I ask you no reward whatsoever for it. My reward is with none but with the Lord of the Worlds.

أَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُخْسِرِينَ **26:181**

Always give full measure, and do not cause loss to people.

وَزِنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ **26:182**

And in all your dealings, weigh with a just balance.

وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ وَلَا تَعْثَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ **26:183**

Do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs. And desist from creating corruption and disorder in the land.

وَاتَّقُوا الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالْجِبِلَّةَ الْأَوَّلِينَ **26:184**

Be mindful of Him Who created you and the generations before."

قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مِنَ الْمُسَحَّرِينَ **26:185**

They said, "You are but of the bewitched.

وَمَا أَنتَ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا وَإِن نَّظُنُّكَ لَمِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ **26:186**

You are nothing but a mortal like us. And We think that you are one of the liars.

فَأَسْقِطْ عَلَيْنَا كِسَفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **26:187**

If you are truthful, let fragments of the sky fall upon us."

قَالَ رَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **26:188**

He replied, "My Lord is best Aware of your actions."

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَأَخَذَهُمْ عَذَابُ يَوْمِ الظُّلَّةِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **26:189**

But they persisted in denial. Then the Day of overshadowing gloom seized them. It was the suffering of an awesome day. (Historically, a dark extensive cloud rained upon them heavily and incessantly. It is sometimes referred to as the Day of the Canopy).

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ **26:190**

Herein, is a sign, and most of them were not believers (in the Law of Requital).

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **26:191**

Your Lord! He is Almighty, Merciful.

وَإِنَّهُ لَتَنزِيلُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **26:192**

Certainly, this Qur'an is the revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ **26:193**

The trustworthy Divine Energy (angel Gabriel) has brought it down. [2:97, 16:102]

عَلَىٰ قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ **26:194**

Upon your heart (O Prophet), so that you may be of the warners.

بِلِسَانٍ عَرَبِيٍّ مُّبِينٍ **26:195**

In the plain Arabic tongue. [In a language that is clear and easy to understand] [Universality of the message 7:158, 25:1. Prophets Ishmael, Hud, Saleh, Sho'aib, all of them preached in the Arabian Peninsula. And since Aramaic and Hebrew are ancient Arabic dialects, all the Hebrew Prophets, in this sense, conveyed the Divine message in the Arabic tongue]

وَإِنَّهُ لَفِي زُبُرِ الْأَوَّلِينَ **26:196**

And it (the Qur'an) has been announced in the previous scriptures.

أَوَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُمْ آيَةً أَن يَعْلَمَهُ عُلَمَاءُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **26:197**

Is it not an evidence enough for them that learned men among the Children of Israel have recognized it?

وَلَوْ نَزَّلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ بَعْضِ الْأَعْجَمِينَ **26:198**

But if We had revealed this to any of the non-Arabs,

فَقَرَأَهُ عَلَيْهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ مُؤْمِنِينَ **26:199**

And had he read it to them, they would have had reason to disbelieve it. [This would have been a foreign tongue to them, but now it is in plain Arabic that they easily understand]

كَذَٰلِكَ سَلَكْنَاهُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **26:200**

But to the guilty people, it just passes through their hearts (as a foreign tongue even though they might be Arabs). [41:44]

لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ حَتَّىٰ يَرَوُا الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ **26:201**

They will not believe in it until they suffer the dire consequences.

فَيَأْتِيَهُم بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **26:202**

The requital will come upon them suddenly, when they least expect it.

فَيَقُولُوا هَلْ نَحْنُ مُنظَرُونَ **26:203**

Then they will say, “Could we have a respite?”

أَفَبِعَذَابِنَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ **26:204**

Do they wish that Our requital come to them quickly?

أَفَرَأَيْتَ إِن مَّتَّعْنَاهُمْ سِنِينَ **26:205**

As you see, Our Law of Respite allows them to enjoy Our bounties for years.

ثُمَّ جَاءَهُم مَّا كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ **26:206**

And then comes what they were promised.

مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يُمَتَّعُونَ **26:207**

Then, of what avail will be their past enjoyments?

وَمَا أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا لَهَا مُنذِرُونَ **26:208**

We never annihilated a community unless it had been warned,

ذِكْرَىٰ وَمَا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ **26:209**

And reminded. For, We are never unjust.

وَمَا تَنَزَّلَتْ بِهِ الشَّيَاطِينُ **26:210**

(The Qur’an is the Ultimate reminder.) No Satans have brought it down. [Satans = Diviners, soothsayers, clairvoyants, the supposed ‘evil spirits’. Gabriel has revealed it upon the Prophet’s heart. 2:185, 26:193, 44:3]

وَمَا يَنبَغِي لَهُمْ وَمَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ **26:211**

It is beyond their stature, nor is it in their power.

إِنَّهُمْ عَنِ السَّمْعِ لَمَعْزُولُونَ **26:212**

They are banished from hearing and understanding it. [15:17-18, 37:8, 67:5]

فَلَا تَدْعُ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُعَذَّبِينَ **26:213**

So, do not invoke any other god with God, or you will be among those who are made to suffer.

وَأَنذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ **26:214**

And warn first those who are close to you.

وَاخْفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِمَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **26:215**

(O Prophet) lower your wing in kindness to those who believe and follow you. [15:88]

فَإِنْ عَصَوْكَ فَقُلْ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **26:216**

Say to those who deny you, "I am free of responsibility from what you do."

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ **26:217**

Put your trust in the Almighty, the Merciful,

الَّذِي يَرَاكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ **26:218**

Who sees you whenever you take a stand.

وَتَقَلُّبَكَ فِي السَّاجِدِينَ **26:219**

And when you (O Prophet) move among those who humbly submit themselves before the Divine System. [Sajdah = Prostration = Submission in humility = Obeying the Divine Commands = Adoration]

إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **26:220**

Surely, He is the Hearer, the Knower.

هَلْ أُنَبِّئُكُمْ عَلَىٰ مَن تَنَزَّلُ الشَّيَاطِينُ **26:221**

Shall I inform you on whom the devils descend?

تَنَزَّلُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ أَفَّاكٍ أَثِيمٍ **26:222**

They descend on every lying, self-deceiver. [45:7]

يُلْقُونَ السَّمْعَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ كَاذِبُونَ **26:223**

They listen to lies and rumors, and most of them make up lies.

وَالشُّعَرَاءُ يَتَّبِعُهُمُ الْغَاوُونَ **26:224**

As for poets, the misguided follow them.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّهُمْ فِي كُلِّ وَادٍ يَهِيمُونَ **26:225**

Have you not seen how they stray in every valley of thought, like a camel with false thirst?

وَأَنَّهُمْ يَقُولُونَ مَا لَا يَفْعَلُونَ **26:226**

And that they say what they do not practice? [36:39]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَانتَصَرُوا مِن بَعْدِ مَا ظُلِمُوا وَسَيَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَيَّ مُنقَلَبٍ يَنقَلِبُونَ **26:227**

But there are those who along with believing (in revelation), set things right in the society, remain mindful of God's commands, and stand up for their rights. The violators of human rights will soon come to know how viciously their affairs get overturned. [A'maal Saaleh = Actions that create balance in the society = Acts that remove deficiencies = Helping others = Increasing individual and societal potential. Wantasaroo = They support their just cause = Defend themselves = Stand up for their rights = They help create a just social order with no room for oppression]

Chapter 27

An-Naml - The Valley Of An-Naml

This is the 27th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 93 verses. This Surah is often misinterpreted for relying heavily on conjecture- based traditions and for trying to give literal meanings to allegories. While Naml does mean ant in Arabic, this Surah refers to the Valley and the community known as An-Naml in Southern Arabia. Namlat = The Lady of Naml, Queen of the tribe of Banu Shisan or Banu Naml. (Ref: Taj-il-´Uroos refers to the Valley and the Tribe of Namla - Qamoos states, "The tribe Al- Abraqa is from the waters (descendants) of An-Namla." - A Journey Through The Yemen by Walter Harris - Nelson´s Encyclopedia - English Translation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Muhammad Ali - Urdu Translation by him, Bayan- ul-Quran) This Surah is an excellent example of how the Qur´an makes beautiful use of metaphors, similes and allegories. Verse 3:7 clearly states that many of the Qur´anic verses are allegorical, especially those concerning the Unseen: History, future and the abstract.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

طس تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْقُرْآنِ وَكِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ **27:1**

T.S. Taa-Seen (Toor-e-Sina, Mount Sinai. Recall the initiation of revelation to Moses, and now) - These are messages of the Qur'an, the Book clear in itself and clearly showing the truth.

هُدًى وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **27:2**

A guidance and a glad tiding for the believers.

الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ **27:3**

Salat
Acknowledge

Who establish and consolidate the Divine System and set up the Economic Order of Zakaat. They have conviction in the life to come (that the human 'self' lives on after death, and that all actions meet a just requital.)

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ زَيَّنَّا لَهُمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فَهُمْ يَعْمَهُونَ **27:4**

Those who do not believe in the Eternity of the 'self', will obviously deny the continuation of life after death. Our law makes their deeds of instant gratification pleasing in their eyes and so they keep stumbling blindly to and fro.

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَهُمْ سُوءُ الْعَذَابِ وَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ هُمُ الْأَخْسَرُونَ **27:5**

It is they for whom the worst suffering awaits, and they will be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.

وَإِنَّكَ لَتُلَقَّى الْقُرْآنَ مِن لَّدُنْ حَكِيمٍ عَلِيمٍ **27:6**

Surely, you are receiving the Qur'an from the Presence of One Wise, Aware.

إِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِأَهْلِهِ إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا سَآتِيكُم مِّنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ آتِيكُم بِشِهَابٍ قَبَسٍ لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ **27:7**

(Moses was also given a clear book. When he and his family were in a cold and dark valley), Moses said, "I see a fire. I may bring you news from there (about our location). Or bring you a burning torch so that you might warm yourselves." (20:10, 28:29)

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهَا نُودِيَ أَن بُورِكَ مَن فِي النَّارِ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **27:8**

But when he came close to it, he was called, "Blessed are all who are in and near the light! And Exalted is God, Lord of the Worlds." (See 9:32 for the allegory of Fire + Light = Divine Guidance. 7:137, 28:30)

يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنَّهُ أَنَا اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **27:9**

"O Moses! It is I, God, the Almighty, the Wise."

وَأَلْقِ عَصَاكَ فَلَمَّا رَآهَا تَهْتَزُّ كَأَنَّهَا جَانٌّ وَلَّىٰ مُدْبِرًا وَلَمْ يُعَقِّبْ يَا مُوسَىٰ لَا تَخَفْ إِنِّي لَا يَخَافُ لَدَيَّ الْمُرْسَلُونَ **27:10**

"Now rehearse the truth." When Moses did that, he felt that he had the vibrant Force of truth in hand. Yet he was awe-struck by the uphill task before him, like grabbing a huge python. God said, "O Moses! Do not fear! The Messengers do not fear in My Presence." [Please note kaannaha jann = As if it was a python, concerning 'Asa or staff. Additional Tasreef: 7:108, 20:17-24, 26:10-15, 26:32-33, 28:31-32]

إِلَّا مَن ظَلَمَ ثُمَّ بَدَّلَ حُسْنًا بَعْدَ سُوءٍ فَإِنِّي غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **27:11**

"Nor anyone who has replaced evil with good should have any fear. I am Forgiving, Merciful." [26:20, 28:15-17]

وَأَدْخِلْ يَدَكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجْ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ فِي تِسْعِ آيَاتٍ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ **27:12**

"When you present the light in your heart with forceful logic, it will shine with unblemished truth. Take the Nine (of My) Messages to Pharaoh and his people, for they are a people drifting away from the right path." [28:32. Nine, and not Ten Commandments. 2:83, 17:101, 34:13]

فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْهُمْ آيَاتُنَا مُبْصِرَةً قَالُوا هَٰذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **27:13**

But when they received Our illuminating messages, they said, "This is obvious magic (a spellbinding deception)."

وَجَحَدُوا بِهَا وَاسْتَيْقَنَتْهَا أَنفُسُهُمْ ظُلْمًا وَعُلُوًّا فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **27:14**

And they rejected the messages wrongfully and out of pride, although they were convinced within themselves. Reflect on what happened in the end to the corrupters.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ عِلْمًا وَقَالَا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي فَضَّلَنَا عَلَىٰ كَثِيرٍ مِّنْ عِبَادِهِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **27:15**

We bestowed upon David and Solomon knowledge and they used to say, "All praise belongs to God Who has blessed us more than a great many of His believing servants."

وَوَرِثَ سُلَيْمَانُ دَاوُودَ وَقَالَ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ عُلِّمْنَا مَنطِقَ الطَّيْرِ وَأُوتِينَا مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَهُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْمُبِينُ **27:16**

Solomon was David's heir (as the Prophet and king) He said, "O People! We have been given a great cavalry of ready horses with best knowledge of training them, and we have been given every blessing. This is a manifest bounty." [21:79, 34:10. Solomon ruled as King from 965 to 926 BC. The common misconception that Solomon could speak to birds is denied here, as he clearly says that all his people understood Taair. Mantiq = Knowledge = Logic = Speech and concept. Taair = Omen = Destiny = Registration of Deeds = Fleet-footed horse = Cavalry = Bird. 5:110, 7:131, 27:47, 27:47, 17:13, 27:16, 2:260, 6:38, 24:4. At-Taairaan = Those marching to war]

وَحُشِرَ لِسُلَيْمَانَ جُنُودُهُ مِنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ وَالطَّيْرِ فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ **27:17**

Solomon's army included warrior tribes of the woods and the mountains, dwellers of townships, and great riders of the tribe of Taer. They were well disciplined, and dedicated to any appointed mission.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَوْا عَلَىٰ وَادِ النَّمْلِ قَالَتْ نَمْلَةٌ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّمْلُ ادْخُلُوا مَسَاكِنَكُمْ لَا يَحْطِمَنَّكُمْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَجُنُودُهُ وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ 27:18

***

The Queen

Once (when Solomon was on an expedition), they came upon the valley ruled by An-Naml. The Queen, (realizing the power of Solomon), ordered her armies, "Go back in your barracks, lest Solomon and his armies crush you without knowing that we are a peaceful tribe."

فَتَبَسَّمَ ضَاحِكًا مِّن قَوْلِهَا وَقَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَدْخِلْنِي بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ 27:19

Solomon smiled joyously at her words and said, "My Lord! Enable me to be grateful for Your blessings upon me and my parents. And enable me to work for the betterment of humanity and thus achieve Your approval. Include me, by Your grace, among Your righteous servants."

وَتَفَقَّدَ الطَّيْرَ فَقَالَ مَا لِيَ لَا أَرَى الْهُدْهُدَ أَمْ كَانَ مِنَ الْغَائِبِينَ 27:20

(Leaving the peaceful tribe of An-Naml alone, Solomon marched forward.) As he examined the cavalry, he said, "How is it that I do not see the commander Al-Hoodhood (the Hoopoe)? Is he one of the absentees?"

لَأُعَذِّبَنَّهُ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا أَوْ لَأَذْبَحَنَّهُ أَوْ لَيَأْتِيَنِّي بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ 27:21

(Absconding from the marching army was a breach of discipline.) Solomon said, "Unless the commander presented a good reason I would punish him or demote him to a low rank."

فَمَكَثَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ فَقَالَ أَحَطتُ بِمَا لَمْ تُحِطْ بِهِ وَجِئْتُكَ مِن سَبَإٍ بِنَبَإٍ يَقِينٍ 27:22

But before long Al-Hoodhood showed up. (He was coming back from a reconnaissance mission to the Kingdom of Queen Bilqees, Sheba.) He said, "I have come with the latest news, some important and reliable information from the land of Sheba that you are not aware of." [Their armies were planning an expedition to North]

إِنِّي وَجَدتُّ امْرَأَةً تَمْلِكُهُمْ وَأُوتِيَتْ مِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَلَهَا عَرْشٌ عَظِيمٌ 27:23

Sheba ruled

"The country is ruled by a Queen who has been given everything and she has a tremendous throne."

وَجَدتُّهَا وَقَوْمَهَا يَسْجُدُونَ لِلشَّمْسِ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فَصَدَّهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ فَهُمْ لَا يَهْتَدُونَ 27:24

"I found her and her people worshiping the sun instead of God. Their ego makes them think that they are doing right. Satan (the priesthood of the Sun-Temple) hinders them from the right path. So they cannot find the right way."

أَلَّا يَسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي يُخْرِجُ الْخَبْءَ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُخْفُونَ وَمَا تُعْلِنُونَ 27:25

"They do not adore God Who brings forth what is hidden in the heavens and earth, and knows what you hide and what you reveal."

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ 27:26

Shahada

(They do not understand) "God; there is no god but He, Lord of Supreme Control."

قَالَ سَنَنظُرُ أَصَدَقْتَ أَمْ كُنتَ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ 27:27

(Solomon listened to the report and decided to carry out further investigation.) He said, "Soon we shall see whether you have told the truth or lied."

اذْهَب بِّكِتَابِي هَٰذَا فَأَلْقِهْ إِلَيْهِمْ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا يَرْجِعُونَ 27:28

(He gave a letter to the commander of the cavalry to take to the court of Sheba, and to watch their response), "Go with this letter of mine, deliver it to them, and then watch for their response."

قَالَتْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ إِنِّي أُلْقِيَ إِلَيَّ كِتَابٌ كَرِيمٌ 27:29

The Queen said, "O Chiefs! A very noble letter has been delivered to me."

إِنَّهُ مِن سُلَيْمَانَ وَإِنَّهُ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ 27:30

"It is from Solomon and it says, 'With the Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness."'

أَلَّا تَعْلُوا عَلَيَّ وَأْتُونِي مُسْلِمِينَ **27:31**

'Exalt not yourselves against me, but come to me as those who surrender."' [The Kingdom of Queen Bilqees Sheba of Yemen-Abyssinia had hostile plans towards the North]

قَالَتْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ أَفْتُونِي فِي أَمْرِي مَا كُنتُ قَاطِعَةً أَمْرًا حَتَّىٰ تَشْهَدُونِ **27:32**

She said, "O Chiefs! Advise me in this matter. (You know that) I take no decisions without you."

قَالُوا نَحْنُ أُولُو قُوَّةٍ وَأُولُو بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ وَالْأَمْرُ إِلَيْكِ فَانظُرِي مَاذَا تَأْمُرِينَ **27:33**

They said, "We have the power, we are tough in warfare, and the command is yours. Think about (other aspects of the situation) and command as you will."

قَالَتْ إِنَّ الْمُلُوكَ إِذَا دَخَلُوا قَرْيَةً أَفْسَدُوهَا وَجَعَلُوا أَعِزَّةَ أَهْلِهَا أَذِلَّةً وَكَذَٰلِكَ يَفْعَلُونَ **27:34**

She said, "When kings invade a town, they ruin it and humiliate its dignitaries. Thus do they behave.

وَإِنِّي مُرْسِلَةٌ إِلَيْهِم بِهَدِيَّةٍ فَنَاظِرَةٌ بِمَ يَرْجِعُ الْمُرْسَلُونَ **27:35**

So, I am going to send a gift to them and see the response that our envoys bring." [The intelligent Queen made a prudent decision disregarding the advice of her loyal chiefs. She was cognizant of King Solomon's might, and she was impressed by the benevolent message in the letter]

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ سُلَيْمَانَ قَالَ أَتُمِدُّونَنِ بِمَالٍ فَمَا آتَانِيَ اللَّهُ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا آتَاكُم بَلْ أَنتُم بِهَدِيَّتِكُمْ تَفْرَحُونَ **27:36**

The envoys reached Solomon with the gift and a letter from the Queen. Solomon said, "What! Do you want to please me with a gift of vanity? God has given me better than what He has given you (material wealth and guidance). Nay, it is you who exult in your gift." [The gift was studded with precious jewels and diamonds. Solomon, being a Prophet and a powerful emperor expected the Queen to denounce her hostile intentions in the region and to reflect about the One True God]

ارْجِعْ إِلَيْهِمْ فَلَنَأْتِيَنَّهُم بِجُنُودٍ لَّا قِبَلَ لَهُم بِهَا وَلَنُخْرِجَنَّهُم مِّنْهَا أَذِلَّةً وَهُمْ صَاغِرُونَ **27:37**

Solomon said to the envoys, "Go back to them, (and tell them that) we certainly will come to them with forces they cannot withstand. We will drive the leaders out of power and they will be humiliated." [Historically the Kingdom of Sheba flourished from 1100 To 115 BC. At their zenith they were the richest nation in the world. Their economy was based on excellent agriculture and international trade. They had the most advanced irrigation systems of the times, with great water dams. Their Kingdom included today's whole of Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia, and boasting a strong army they frequently had expansive designs further south and up north. As the inevitable result of worshiping multiple false deities, including the sun, their society was not without inequities of caste and creed. Solomon, the King and the Prophet, planned to subdue the Sheba Empire to thwart their aggressive designs and to protect the region from oppression. And he succeeded magnificently. Queen Bilqees of Sheba and her people embraced Solomon's message and reverted to the worship and obedience of the One True God]

قَالَ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ أَيُّكُمْ يَأْتِينِي بِعَرْشِهَا قَبْلَ أَن يَأْتُونِي مُسْلِمِينَ **27:38**

(When Solomon found out that the Queen was coming), he said, "O Chiefs! Which one of you can present the best plan to get her throne before they come to me surrendering?" [1500 miles between Ma'aarib, the capital of Sheba to Jerusalem]

قَالَ عِفْرِيتٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَن تَقُومَ مِن مَّقَامِكَ وَإِنِّي عَلَيْهِ لَقَوِيٌّ أَمِينٌ **27:39**

One of the strong commanders of the mountain division said, "My troops can accomplish this mission with lightening speed, before you rise up to think of and assign anyone else. I am competent and trustworthy for this job."

قَالَ الَّذِي عِندَهُ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَن يَرْتَدَّ إِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ فَلَمَّا رَآهُ مُسْتَقِرًّا عِندَهُ قَالَ هَٰذَا مِن فَضْلِ رَبِّي لِيَبْلُوَنِي أَأَشْكُرُ أَمْ أَكْفُرُ وَمَن شَكَرَ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ رَبِّي غَنِيٌّ كَرِيمٌ **27:40**

Another powerful commander, who had knowledge of the correspondence, said, "I can accomplish the mission even sooner, before your gaze returns to you (before you having to rethink)." (Solomon dispatched the forces, and the mission was smoothly accomplished. The Queen's throne was brought to Jerusalem before she arrived and) he saw it set in his presence. He said, "This success is a blessing from my Lord, that He may try me whether I am grateful or ungrateful. Whoever

is grateful is grateful for one's own good, and whoever is ungrateful, should know that my Lord is Absolutely Independent, Supremely Honorable."

قَالَ نَكِّرُوا لَهَا عَرْشَهَا نَنظُرْ أَتَهْتَدِي أَمْ تَكُونُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَهْتَدُونَ **27:41**

Solomon then said, "Alter her throne for her so that we may see whether she gets the point and comes to guidance or whether she remains unguided." [Solomon's workmen had erased the images of the sun god, inscribed sensible inscriptions and made the throne look even more gorgeous]

فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ قِيلَ أَهَٰكَذَا عَرْشُكِ قَالَتْ كَأَنَّهُ هُوَ وَأُوتِينَا الْعِلْمَ مِن قَبْلِهَا وَكُنَّا مُسْلِمِينَ **27:42**

So, when she came, she was asked, "Is your throne like this?" She said, "It seems that this is it! We already knew that the truth is on your side and my chiefs and I have surrendered to it." [The previous knowledge about Solomon's character and Kingdom, the distinguished letters he wrote to her and reports by her envoys, and now his superb court had convinced the intelligent and open-minded Queen]

وَصَدَّهَا مَا كَانَت تَّعْبُدُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهَا كَانَتْ مِن قَوْمٍ كَافِرِينَ **27:43**

What she used to worship other than God, had been stopping her. She had been of the disbelieving folk. [Solomon advised her that obeying God could bring not only the best provision in the world but insure eternal success. Queen Sheba embraced the message and stopped worshiping the sun, and other creations of God]

قِيلَ لَهَا ادْخُلِي الصَّرْحَ فَلَمَّا رَأَتْهُ حَسِبَتْهُ لُجَّةً وَكَشَفَتْ عَن سَاقَيْهَا قَالَ إِنَّهُ صَرْحٌ مُّمَرَّدٌ مِّن قَوَارِيرَ قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي وَأَسْلَمْتُ مَعَ سُلَيْمَانَ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **27:44**

She was escorted to the palace. It was said, "Enter the hall." When she saw the smooth polished glass floor, she thought that it was a pool of water and she was spellbound. Solomon said, "This is a palace paved smooth with slabs of glass." She said, "I have been doing wrong to myself, and now I submit with Solomon to God, the Lord of the Worlds." [She realized that following the Divine laws ensures the best bounties in this life as well. There are some historical accounts that Solomon and Bilqees got married. But the Rabbinical Talmudic traditions propose that they committed adultery then and there, out of which Nimrod Nebuchadnezzar, the tyrant emperor of Babylon was born! That is of course inconceivable of God's Prophet. Kashafat 'an saaqaiha idiomatically means that she was spellbound, and not that she bared her calves; a common error of many translators. For example, tying one's hand to the neck means miserliness]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ فَإِذَا هُمْ فَرِيقَانِ يَخْتَصِمُونَ **27:45**

We sent to Thamud their brother Saleh saying, "Serve God alone." They had divided into two contending classes (the rich and the poor).

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ لِمَ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ قَبْلَ الْحَسَنَةِ لَوْلَا تَسْتَغْفِرُونَ اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ **27:46**

Saleh said, "O My people! Why do you hasten to commit evil instead of doing good? Why do you not (mend your ways and) ask God to forgive you, so that you may become worthy of His mercy?"

قَالُوا اطَّيَّرْنَا بِكَ وَبِمَن مَّعَكَ قَالَ طَائِرُكُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَنتُمْ قَوْمٌ تُفْتَنُونَ **27:47**

They answered, "We consider you, and your companions a bad omen for us." He said, "Your omen is determined by God's laws. Nay, you are but a people who are being tested."

وَكَانَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ تِسْعَةُ رَهْطٍ يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُصْلِحُونَ **27:48**

There was a gang of nine leaders in the city who spread disorder in the land, and blocked all reform.

قَالُوا تَقَاسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ لَنُبَيِّتَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ ثُمَّ لَنَقُولَنَّ لِوَلِيِّهِ مَا شَهِدْنَا مَهْلِكَ أَهْلِهِ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ **27:49**

They called a meeting and after swearing to one another in the name of God, said, "We will all ambush him and his family by night, and afterward we shall boldly say to his tribe, We know nothing about their death. And we are truthful."

وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا وَمَكَرْنَا مَكْرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **27:50**

And so they devised an evil scheme. But Our ever-vigilant Law of Requital invariably has counter designs. And they perceived it not.

فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ مَكْرِهِمْ أَنَّا دَمَّرْنَاهُمْ وَقَوْمَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **27:51**

Then see the consequences of their plotting. We (Our law) annihilated them (the corrupt leaders) and their people, all of them. [The excuse of the masses that their leaders had led them astray would be of no avail. 14: 21-22, 34:31-33, 37:25-33]

فَتِلْكَ بُيُوتُهُمْ خَاوِيَةً بِمَا ظَلَمُوا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **27:52**

And now their dwellings are empty, ruined, as a result of their violation of human rights. Herein, is a sign for those who make use of what they learn.

وَأَنجَيْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ **27:53**

And We saved those who chose to believe and lived righteously.

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ وَأَنتُمْ تُبْصِرُونَ **27:54**

(We also sent) Lot who said to his people, "Will you commit this abomination while you see and understand?"

أَئِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّن دُونِ النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنتُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ **27:55**

You approach men with lust instead of women. Nay, you are a people who act senselessly." [27:54]

فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا أَخْرِجُوا آلَ لُوطٍ مِّن قَرْيَتِكُمْ إِنَّهُمْ أُنَاسٌ يَتَطَهَّرُونَ **27:56**

But the answer of his people was nothing but, "Expel Lot's followers from your town! For, they are people who show off to be pure."

فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَّرْنَاهَا مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ **27:57**

Thereupon We saved Lot, his household and his followers but his wife - whom We knew was destined to remain behind for her disbelief. [7:85, 11:81, 66:10. Genesis states that she accidentally looked back and was, therefore, doomed!]

وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِم مَّطَرًا فَسَاءَ مَطَرُ الْمُنذَرِينَ **27:58**

And We showered a rain upon them. Dreadful was the rain for those who had been warned.

قُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَىٰ آللَّهُ خَيْرٌ أَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **27:59**

Say, “All praise to God and salutation on His servants whom He has raised in ranks!” Is God Best or the ‘partners’ they ascribe to Him?

أَمَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنزَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنبَتْنَا بِهِ حَدَائِقَ ذَاتَ بَهْجَةٍ مَّا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَن تُنبِتُوا شَجَرَهَا أَإِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ يَعْدِلُونَ **27:60**

Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth, and sends down for you water from the sky? And with it We cause beautiful orchards to spring forth. It was not of your doing to make the trees in them grow - any god beside God? Nay, they are a people swerving away from reason.

أَمَّن جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا أَإِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **27:61**

Nay, who is it that has made the earth habitable, and caused rivers to run through it, has set upon it firm mountains, and has set a barrier between two great bodies of water - any god beside God? Nay, most of them do not use what they know. [25:53]

أَمَّن يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ أَإِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ **27:62**

Nay, who is it that responds to the distressed when he calls out to Him, and removes the distress, and gave you supremacy on earth - any god beside God? How seldom do you keep this in mind! [24:54-55]

أَمَّن يَهْدِيكُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَن يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَاحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ أَإِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى اللَّهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **27:63**

Nay, who is it that shows you the way in the darkness of land and sea, and sends forth the winds as heralds of His grace - any god beside God? Sublime, Exalted is God from all that they associate with Him.

أَمَّن يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَمَن يَرْزُقُكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَإِلَٰهٌ مَّعَ اللَّهِ قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **27:64**

Nay, who is it that initiates creation, and then reproduces it? And who is it that provides for you from the heaven and the earth - any god beside God? Say, “If you think so bring your evidence if you are men of truth.” [23:117]

قُل لَّا يَعْلَمُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ **27:65**

Only God knows the unseen

Say, “None in the heavens and the earth knows the Unseen, none whatsoever but God. Nor do they perceive when they will be raised.” [16:22]

بَلِ ادَّارَكَ عِلْمُهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهَا بَلْ هُم مِّنْهَا عَمُونَ **27:66**

But their knowledge of the Hereafter stops short of conviction. They are in doubt concerning it and they block their mind in blindness from realizing (the unwavering Law of Requital).

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَإِذَا كُنَّا تُرَابًا وَآبَاؤُنَا أَئِنَّا لَمُخْرَجُونَ **27:67**

And so, the rejecters say, “What! After we have become dust - and our fathers - shall we be brought forth again?

لَقَدْ وُعِدْنَا هَٰذَا نَحْنُ وَآبَاؤُنَا مِن قَبْلُ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **27:68**

Yes, we were promised this, and our fathers before us. But these are nothing but tales of the ancients.”

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **27:69**

Say, “Travel in the land and see what has been the end of the guilty.”

وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا تَكُن فِي ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ **27:70**

And grieve not for them, nor distress yourself because of their plots.”

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **27:71**

And they say, “When is this promise to be fulfilled, if you are men of truth?”

قُلْ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ رَدِفَ لَكُم بَعْضُ الَّذِي تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ **27:72**

Say, “You are already going through some of the suffering you challenge.”

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ 27:73

Your Lord is full of bounty to mankind. Yet most of them are ungrateful.

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ 27:74

But your Lord knows what their hearts conceal, and all that they proclaim.

وَمَا مِنْ غَائِبَةٍ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ 27:75

And there is nothing hidden in the heaven and the earth but it is in a clear Record.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَقُصُّ عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَكْثَرَ الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ 27:76

This Qur'an explains to the Children of Israel most of wherein they differ (such as the nature of Jesus).

Quran is your guidance

وَإِنَّهُ لَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ 27:77

It is a guidance and grace for all who believe in it.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُم بِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ 27:78

Surely, your Lord will judge between them in His wisdom, for, He is the Mighty, the Knower.

فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ 27:79

So, put your trust in God alone, for, you are taking stand on self-evident truth.

إِنَّكَ لَا تُسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَىٰ وَلَا تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا وَلَّوْا مُدْبِرِينَ 27:80

But you cannot make the dead (or the "living-dead") hear, nor can you make the deaf of heart to hear the call when they turn back to retreat.

وَمَا أَنتَ بِهَادِي الْعُمْيِ عَن ضَلَالَتِهِمْ إِن تُسْمِعُ إِلَّا مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُم مُّسْلِمُونَ 27:81

Nor can you lead the blind of reason out of their error. You can only make those hear who believe in Our signs, so they submit.

وَإِذَا وَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَخْرَجْنَا لَهُمْ دَابَّةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ تُكَلِّمُهُمْ أَنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا لَا يُوقِنُونَ **27:82**

When the Word comes to pass against them, We will cause the poor exploited ones to rise up, practically telling people that they did not have conviction in Our messages. [Dabbatam-min-Al-ardh applies to the humbled ones just as 'mountains' in several places in the Qur'an indicate the elite. The common understanding of this term as 'a creature coming out of the earth', in my humble opinion, is incorrect. For, supra-natural phenomena stand contrary to the Changeless Divine laws. The error is the result of trying to give literal meaning to an allegory in blind following of fabricated Ahadith. See 6:65]

وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ مِن كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ فَوْجًا مِّمَّن يُكَذِّبُ بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ **27:83**

And times will come when We will gather forces from every community who denied Our revelations, and they will meet one another in combat.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوا قَالَ أَكَذَّبْتُم بِآيَاتِي وَلَمْ تُحِيطُوا بِهَا عِلْمًا أَمَّاذَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **27:84**

When they arrive, He will say, "Did you deny My revelations, before acquiring knowledge about them? Or what else was it that you were doing?" [10:39]

وَوَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ عَلَيْهِم بِمَا ظَلَمُوا فَهُمْ لَا يَنطِقُونَ **27:85**

And the word of truth will stand revealed against them for all the wrongs they had committed. Then they will not utter a single word.

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا جَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لِيَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَالنَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **27:86**

Do they not see that We have made the Night for them to rest and the Day to give them light? In this are signs for any people who will accept the truth. [The Divine laws are as operational in the human society as they are in the Universe]

وَيَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ فَفَزِعَ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَن شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَكُلٌّ أَتَوْهُ دَاخِرِينَ **27:87**

And on the Day when the Trumpet is sounded, everyone of the elite and of the humbled will be horrified, except such as God wills to exempt. All will present themselves to Him in humility. [6:74, 18:99, 20:102, 27:89, 39:68. 'Exempt' probably

indicates true believers who have benefited others, since the Qur'an repeatedly asserts that such will have nothing to fear or grieve]

وَتَرَى الْجِبَالَ تَحْسَبُهَا جَامِدَةً وَهِيَ تَمُرُّ مَرَّ السَّحَابِ صُنْعَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَتْقَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ إِنَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَفْعَلُونَ **27:88**

And the powerful elite that you consider firm as mountains, will float around like weightless clouds. Such is the Design of God Who disposes off all things in perfect order. Surely, He is fully Aware of what you do.

مَن جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ خَيْرٌ مِّنْهَا وَهُم مِّن فَزَعٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ آمِنُونَ **27:89**

Those who benefit mankind will be rewarded better than the recompense for their good deeds. And they will be secure from terror that Day. [21:103, 27:87]

وَمَن جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَكُبَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ هَلْ تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **27:90**

But those who cause inequity in the world, will fall prone into the fire of humiliation. "Are you rewarded for anything but what you did?"

إِنَّمَا أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ رَبَّ هَٰذِهِ الْبَلْدَةِ الَّذِي حَرَّمَهَا وَلَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ **27:91**

Say (O Prophet), "I am commanded to serve the Lord of this town (Makkah) - Him Who has made it sacred, and to Whom all things belong. And I am commanded to be of those who surrender to Him.

وَأَنْ أَتْلُوَ الْقُرْآنَ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَقُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ **27:92**

And to convey this Qur'an (to mankind). Whoever, then, goes right, goes right only for the good of his own 'self'. As for him who goes astray, say, "I am only a warner!"

وَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَتَعْرِفُونَهَا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **27:93**

And say, "All praise is due to God! In time He will show you His Signs, so that you will recognize them." And your Lord is not unaware of whatever you do.

Chapter 28

Al-Qasas - The Narration

This is the 28th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 88 verses. This Surah touches upon history with its lessons as well as other precious guidance for everyday life. Denounce not the life of this world for the Hereafter or vice versa.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

طسم **28:1**

T.S.M. Ta-Seen-Meem (Toor-e-Sina, Musa. commandments were given to Moses at Mount Sinai.)

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ **28:2**

These are verses of the Book clear in itself, and it makes things clear.

نَتْلُو عَلَيْكَ مِن نَّبَإِ مُوسَىٰ وَفِرْعَوْنَ بِالْحَقِّ لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **28:3**

We narrate to you some history of Moses and Pharaoh, setting forth the truth for the benefit of those who will believe.

إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ عَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلَ أَهْلَهَا شِيَعًا يَسْتَضْعِفُ طَائِفَةً مِّنْهُمْ يُذَبِّحُ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَيَسْتَحْيِي نِسَاءَهُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **28:4**

Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and divided people into castes. A tribe among them (the Israelites) he oppressed, killing their sons and sparing their women (for slavery and shameful acts). Surely, he was of the corrupters. [2:49, 7:141, 40:25] [Prophet Joseph son of Prophet Israel Jacob had died around 1600 BC. His successors gradually lost control of the government and the native Egyptians started up a slow but steady rebellion against the Israelites. About a century later around 1500 BC, the Egyptians wrested control of the government and established a Kingdom. The Egyptian Kings from then on assumed the title of 'Pharaoh'. They began persecuting the Israelites about 1400 BC and this

persecution reached its zenith in the times of Prophet Moses, under the rule of Pharaoh Ramses II, 1290 to 1224 BC]

وَنُرِيدُ أَن نَّمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ **28:5**

But it was Our will to bestow favor to those who were oppressed in the land, and to make them leaders, and to make them inheritors.

وَنُمَكِّنَ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنُرِيَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا مِنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَحْذَرُونَ **28:6**

And to establish them on earth, and to show Pharaoh (the King) and Haman (the Chief Adviser and High Priest) and their troops what they feared from the Israelites. ['Feared from the Israelites': The Israelites in Egypt had allied with the invading Hyksos dynasty 1700-1580 BC. See 12:44. Haaman: This Haman is quite different from the Persian Haman of the Old Testament who was an adviser to the Persian King Xerxes, who ruled eight hundred years later, from 486 To 465 BC. 'Haman' of Pharaoh derives his name from the title borne by every successive High Priest of the Egyptian Kingdom. 'Ha-Amen' = High Priest of the Egyptian god Amon. So the Haman mentioned in the Qur'an refers to the High Priest during the reign of Ramses II. The ability to translate the hieroglyphic language system of the Egyptians had been utterly lost for centuries at the time of the revelation of the Qur'an, and would remain lost until the year 1799. After the discovery in that year of the Rosetta Stone, scholars were able to unlock the mystery of the hieroglyphs and, eventually, to confirm that there was really a Haman, unmentioned in the Hebrew scriptures, who was close to this Pharaoh in this period, and who was involved in construction of towers and of temples just as the Qur'an says. This information is important to bear in mind in order to avoid confusion. Some historical records propose that the Pyramids of Egypt began to be built under the royal decree of one of the Pharaohs. The Qur'an alludes to that possibility in 38:12]

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكِ وَجَاعِلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **28:7**

We inspired the mother of Moses, "Nourish him and when you worry for his life, (place him in a box and) cast him into the river, and have no fear nor grieve. We shall bring him back to you and make him one of Our Messengers." [The mother of Moses was the wife of Amram (Imran). They had three children: Miriam, Aaron and Moses in that order. Mary, mother of Jesus had descended from Amram through Aaron, and that is how the Qur'an refers to her as Maryam daughter of Imran. The Royal decree of Pharaoh applied to the new born boys when Aaron was already a few years old]

فَالْتَقَطَهُ آلُ فِرْعَوْنَ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ عَدُوًّا وَحَزَنًا إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا كَانُوا خَاطِئِينَ **28:8**

And the family of Pharaoh picked him up, not knowing that he would become an enemy to them and a source of grief. That is because Pharaoh, Haman and their troops were a people bent on committing fault upon fault.

وَقَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ فِرْعَوْنَ قُرَّتُ عَيْنٍ لِّي وَلَكَ لَا تَقْتُلُوهُ عَسَىٰ أَن يَنفَعَنَا أَوْ نَتَّخِذَهُ وَلَدًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **28:9**

The wife of Pharaoh said, “A joy to the eye for me and you! Do not slay him. He may well be of use to us, or we may adopt him as a son.” And they did not perceive (the future).

وَأَصْبَحَ فُؤَادُ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ فَارِغًا إِن كَادَتْ لَتُبْدِي بِهِ لَوْلَا أَن رَّبَطْنَا عَلَىٰ قَلْبِهَا لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **28:10**

And the heart of the mother of Moses became void. She almost gave away his identity had We not strengthened her heart, so that she might remain a firm believer.

وَقَالَتْ لِأُخْتِهِ قُصِّيهِ فَبَصُرَتْ بِهِ عَن جُنُبٍ وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **28:11**

And so she said to his sister, “Follow him!” And the girl (the 12 year old Miriam) watched him from afar, while they were not aware.

وَحَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَرَاضِعَ مِن قَبْلُ فَقَالَتْ هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ **28:12**

From the very beginning We caused him to refuse suckling from foster mothers. She (Miriam, the sister of baby Moses) said, “Shall I tell you of a family that can raise him for you and take good care of him?”

فَرَدَدْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ أُمِّهِ كَيْ تَقَرَّ عَيْنُهَا وَلَا تَحْزَنَ وَلِتَعْلَمَ أَنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **28:13**

And thus We restored him to his mother so that her eye might be gladdened and that she might grieve no longer, and that she might know that God’s promise always comes true. But most of them know not.

وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَاسْتَوَىٰ آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَكَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **28:14**

When he reached his prime and full maturity, We bestowed upon him wisdom and knowledge. This is how We reward the doers of good to others. [Wisdom and knowledge are granted to all those who benefit people since youth. 12:22]

وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ عَلَىٰ حِينِ غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا فَوَجَدَ فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يَقْتَتِلَانِ هَٰذَا مِن شِيعَتِهِ وَهَٰذَا مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَاسْتَغَاثَهُ الَّذِي مِن شِيعَتِهِ عَلَى الَّذِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَزَهُ مُوسَىٰ فَقَضَىٰ عَلَيْهِ قَالَ هَٰذَا مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ مُّضِلٌّ مُّبِينٌ **28:15**

And one day the young Moses entered the city at a time when most of its people were resting unaware of what was going on in the streets. And there he encountered two men fighting with each other. One was of his people (a Hebrew) and the other of his (Egyptian) adversaries. His tribesman cried out to him for help against the one who was of the enemies - Whereupon Moses struck him with his fist and thus, (accidentally) brought about his end. But then he said to himself, "This is of Satan's doing! Surely, he is an open enemy, a misleader." [Moses, not yet commissioned to Prophethood, was denouncing his emotions]

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَغَفَرَ لَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **28:16**

And he prayed, "My Lord! Surely, I have hurt my 'self'. Forgive me then." And He forgave him, for, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. [Moses had intended only to help the weak and not to kill the other man]

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ فَلَنْ أَكُونَ ظَهِيرًا لِّلْمُجْرِمِينَ **28:17**

He said, "My Lord! Since You have bestowed Your grace on me, never again will I support the guilty."

فَأَصْبَحَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي اسْتَنصَرَهُ بِالْأَمْسِ يَسْتَصْرِخُهُ قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَىٰ إِنَّكَ لَغَوِيٌّ مُّبِينٌ **28:18**

In the morning he was in the city, fearing, watchful when the man who had asked him the day before cried out to him for help. Moses said to him, "You are one obvious troublemaker."

فَلَمَّا أَنْ أَرَادَ أَن يَبْطِشَ بِالَّذِي هُوَ عَدُوٌّ لَّهُمَا قَالَ يَا مُوسَىٰ أَتُرِيدُ أَن تَقْتُلَنِي كَمَا قَتَلْتَ نَفْسًا بِالْأَمْسِ إِن تُرِيدُ إِلَّا أَن تَكُونَ جَبَّارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا تُرِيدُ أَن تَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُصْلِحِينَ **28:19**

But then, as soon as he was about to lay his hands on their enemy, the man said, "O Moses! Would you kill me as you killed a person yesterday? Your aim is to become a tyrant in the land, for you do not care to be of those who set things right."

وَجَاءَ رَجُلٌ مِّنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْعَىٰ قَالَ يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنَّ الْمَلَأَ يَأْتَمِرُونَ بِكَ لِيَقْتُلُوكَ فَاخْرُجْ إِنِّي لَكَ مِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ **28:20**

And then and there a man came running from the other side of the city, and said, "O Moses! The chiefs are considering your case with a view to kill you. You better leave immediately. Surely, I wish you well."

فَخَرَجَ مِنْهَا خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ قَالَ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **28:21**

So he escaped from there, fearful, vigilant and said, "My Lord! Save me from the oppressive people."

وَلَمَّا تَوَجَّهَ تِلْقَاءَ مَدْيَنَ قَالَ عَسَىٰ رَبِّي أَن يَهْدِيَنِي سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ **28:22**

As he turned his face towards Midyan, he said to himself, "It may well be that my Lord will guide me onto the right road."

وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةً مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ وَوَجَدَ مِن دُونِهِمُ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُمَا قَالَتَا لَا نَسْقِي حَتَّىٰ يُصْدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ وَأَبُونَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ **28:23**

When he arrived at the wells of Midyan, he found a crowd of people watering their herds and flocks. And he found two women who were keeping away their flocks. He asked, "What is the matter with you?" They said, "We cannot water our flocks until the shepherds take back their flocks. And our father is a very old man."

فَسَقَىٰ لَهُمَا ثُمَّ تَوَلَّىٰ إِلَى الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ **28:24**

So he watered their flocks for them; then he turned back to the shade (of the tree he had been relaxing under). And he said, "My Lord! I am in dire need of any good that You bestow upon me and any opportunity that You provide me for doing good."

فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاءٍ قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيَكَ أَجْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقَصَصَ قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ **28:25**

Shortly afterwards, one of the two maidens came to him walking shyly, and said, "My father invites you, so that he might duly reward you for having watered our flocks for us." As soon as Moses came to him and told him the story, he said, "Have no fear! You are now safe from those oppressive people."

قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَا أَبَتِ اسْتَأْجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنِ اسْتَأْجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ **28:26**

One of the two maidens said, "O My father! Hire him! For, the best one you can hire is the competent, the trustworthy."

قَالَ إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُنكِحَكَ إِحْدَى ابْنَتَيَّ هَاتَيْنِ عَلَىٰ أَن تَأْجُرَنِي ثَمَانِيَ حِجَجٍ فَإِنْ أَتْمَمْتَ عَشْرًا فَمِنْ عِندِكَ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَشُقَّ عَلَيْكَ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **28:27**

He (the father) said, "I am willing to let you marry one of these two daughters of mine on the understanding that you will remain eight pilgrimages (years) in my service. Then if you make it ten, it will be a grace from you. I do not want to impose any hardship on you. God willing, you will find me righteous in all my dealings."

قَالَ ذَٰلِكَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ أَيَّمَا الْأَجَلَيْنِ قَضَيْتُ فَلَا عُدْوَانَ عَلَيَّ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ مَا نَقُولُ وَكِيلٌ **28:28**

He (Moses) said, "Be that the agreement between me and you. Whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there will be no injustice to me. And God be Witness to all that

we say." [Moses married Sho'aib's daughter Zipporah and in time they had two sons]

فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَجَلَ وَسَارَ بِأَهْلِهِ آنَسَ مِن جَانِبِ الطُّورِ نَارًا قَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا لَّعَلِّي آتِيكُم مِّنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ جَذْوَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ **28:29**

And when Moses had fulfilled his term, and was traveling with his family, he saw a fire on the slope of Mount Toor of Sinai. He said to his family, "Stay here. I have seen a fire. I hope to bring you some information from there, or a burning torch, that you may warm yourselves." [20:10, 27:7]

فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ مِن شَاطِئِ الْوَادِ الْأَيْمَنِ فِي الْبُقْعَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ مِنَ الشَّجَرَةِ أَن يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ **28:30**

But when he came close to it, he was called from the right side of the valley in the blessed field, from the tree, "O Moses! Certainly, I am God, the Lord of the Worlds."

وَأَنْ أَلْقِ عَصَاكَ فَلَمَّا رَآهَا تَهْتَزُّ كَأَنَّهَا جَانٌّ وَلَّىٰ مُدْبِرًا وَلَمْ يُعَقِّبْ يَا مُوسَىٰ أَقْبِلْ وَلَا تَخَفْ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْآمِنِينَ **28:31**

"Rehearse your supporting power of truth." Moses felt as if the mission assigned to him was like holding a huge python, and he retreated hesitating. (God said), "O Moses! Draw near (to conviction), and fear not, you are secure from harm." [See 27:10. Ka-annaha jaann = As if it was a python, applies to the living truth. 7:107-108, 20:17-24, 26:32-33, 27:10-12]

اسْلُكْ يَدَكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجْ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ وَاضْمُمْ إِلَيْكَ جَنَاحَكَ مِنَ الرَّهْبِ فَذَانِكَ بُرْهَانَانِ مِن رَّبِّكَ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ **28:32**

"The guidance enshrined in your heart will shine unblemished when you present it with confidence. And guard your heart against all fear. Then these two shall be your evidences from your Lord to Pharaoh and his chiefs, (the Divine truth and your confident presentation). Surely, they are people drifting away from Moral Values."

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي قَتَلْتُ مِنْهُمْ نَفْسًا فَأَخَافُ أَن يَقْتُلُونِ **28:33**

Moses said, "My Lord! I killed a man among them and I am afraid they will kill me.

وَأَخِي هَارُونُ هُوَ أَفْصَحُ مِنِّي لِسَانًا فَأَرْسِلْهُ مَعِيَ رِدْءًا يُصَدِّقُنِي إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَن يُكَذِّبُونِ **28:34**

And my brother Aaron - he is far better in speech than I am. Send him, therefore, as a helper, so that he might more eloquently bear witness to my speaking the truth. I am afraid that they will accuse me of lying."

قَالَ سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ وَنَجْعَلُ لَكُمَا سُلْطَانًا فَلَا يَصِلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِآيَاتِنَا أَنتُمَا وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَكُمَا الْغَالِبُونَ **28:35**

God said, "We shall strengthen your abilities with your brother, and We will give both of you power that they will not be able to touch you. With Our signs, you shall triumph; you two as well as those who follow you."

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم مُّوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالُوا مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّفْتَرًى وَمَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَٰذَا فِي آبَائِنَا الْأَوَّلِينَ **28:36**

But as soon as Moses came to them with Our clear verses, they said, "This is nothing but magic (mysteriously forged lie). And we have never heard such (sermon) from our ancestors."

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ رَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِمَن جَاءَ بِالْهُدَىٰ مِنْ عِندِهِ وَمَن تَكُونُ لَهُ عَاقِبَةُ الدَّارِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ **28:37**

Moses replied, "My Lord is best Aware as to who comes with guidance from Him, and to whom the future belongs. Surely, the oppressors do not attain a happy state of mind."

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرِي فَأَوْقِدْ لِي يَا هَامَانُ عَلَى الطِّينِ فَاجْعَل لِّي صَرْحًا لَّعَلِّي أَطَّلِعُ إِلَىٰ إِلَٰهِ مُوسَىٰ وَإِنِّي لَأَظُنُّهُ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ **28:38**

Pharaoh said, "O Chiefs! I have not known any god for you other than myself. Well, then, O Haman! Kindle me a fire for baking bricks and then build me a lofty tower so that I may have a look at the 'god' of Moses, although I think, he is of the liars."

وَاسْتَكْبَرَ هُوَ وَجُنُودُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا يُرْجَعُونَ **28:39**

Thus Pharaoh and his forces continued to behave with unjust pride in the land, as they thought that they would never have to appear before Us.

فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الظَّالِمِينَ **28:40**

And so We seized him and his armies, and threw them into the sea. Remember what happened to those oppressors in the end.

وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا يُنصَرُونَ **28:41**

And We made them leaders inviting to the fire, and no help shall they find on the Day of Resurrection.

وَأَتْبَعْنَاهُمْ فِي هَٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ هُم مِّنَ الْمَقْبُوحِينَ **28:42**

In this world, We did cause condemnation to follow them, and they shall be among the despised ones on the Day of Resurrection.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا أَهْلَكْنَا الْقُرُونَ الْأُولَىٰ بَصَائِرَ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **28:43**

We had given the scripture to Moses - after We had annihilated several earlier communities - to give insight to people, and a guidance and a mercy, that they might reflect.

وَمَا كُنتَ بِجَانِبِ الْغَرْبِيِّ إِذْ قَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَمْرَ وَمَا كُنتَ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ **28:44**

And (O Prophet) you were not present on the western slope (of Mount Sinai) when We expounded the commandments to Moses, nor were you among those who witnessed his times.

وَلَٰكِنَّا أَنشَأْنَا قُرُونًا فَتَطَاوَلَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْعُمُرُ وَمَا كُنتَ ثَاوِيًا فِي أَهْلِ مَدْيَنَ تَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا وَلَٰكِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ **28:45**

Nay, but between them and you We brought forth many generations, and long was their life-span. And neither did you dwell among the people of Midyan, conveying to them Our messages. Nay, but We have been sending Messengers.

وَمَا كُنتَ بِجَانِبِ الطُّورِ إِذْ نَادَيْنَا وَلَٰكِن رَّحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أَتَاهُم مِّن نَّذِيرٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **28:46**

And neither were you present on the slope of Mount Sinai when We called Moses. But you are sent as an act of your Lord's grace, to warn people to whom no warner has come before you, so that they may reflect. [32:3, 36:6. Prophet Ishmael, the ancestor of Arabs, cannot be considered a Prophet to them since Children of Ishmael multiplied and inhabited Arabia as the Arab community long after his death. See 2:125 and introduction to Surah 11 Hud]

وَلَوْلَا أَن تُصِيبَهُم مُّصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ آيَاتِكَ وَنَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **28:47**

Otherwise, if disaster struck them as a result of their own actions, they might say, "Our Lord! Why did You not send a Messenger to us, that we might have followed Your revelations and been of the believers?"

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ عِندِنَا قَالُوا لَوْلَا أُوتِيَ مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ مِن قَبْلُ قَالُوا سِحْرَانِ تَظَاهَرَا وَقَالُوا إِنَّا بِكُلٍّ كَافِرُونَ **28:48**

And yet, now that the truth has come to them from Us, they say, "Why is he not given the like of what Moses was given?" (The supernatural miracles they had heard about). But, did not the generations before this revelation reject the truth of what Moses was given? They used to say, "Two examples of delusion, supporting each other (Moses and Aaron)! And they said, "Certainly, we reject both of them."

قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابٍ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمَا أَتَّبِعْهُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **28:49**

Book of guidance

Say, "Produce then, a Book from God that would offer better guidance than either of these two (the Torah and the Qur'an), and I shall follow it! Do it if you are truthful." [The Gospel is not mentioned here since, according to Jesus, he only came to fulfill the law. Another point worth mentioning is that the Qur'an embraces all of the truth that was given in the Torah while rejecting human interpolations or deletions. 2:101, 3:78, 5:48]

فَإِن لَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنِ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا **28:50**

يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

If they fail to respond to you, then know that they only follow their own desires. Who can be farther astray than one who follows his own desires, without guidance from God? God does not guide people who choose to do wrong.

Message is in the Quran

وَلَقَدْ وَصَّلْنَا لَهُمُ الْقَوْلَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **28:51**

We have caused this Word to reach mankind step by step, so that they might take it to heart. [Wassalna embraces 'step by step']

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِهِ هُم بِهِ يُؤْمِنُونَ **28:52**

As for those whom We have given the scripture before, will in time, come to believe in this one as well. [26:196-197. People of the Book that sincerely reflect on the Qur'an, will accept it]

وَإِذَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِهِ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا مِن قَبْلِهِ مُسْلِمِينَ **28:53**

And whenever it is recited (and explained) to them, they say, "We believe in it, for, it is the truth from our Lord. Even before it, we have been Muslims." [Tilaawah = Recitation with understanding. 'We have been Muslims' = We have always known that Divine revelation alone is the authority and we have surrendered ourselves to God]

أُولَٰئِكَ يُؤْتَوْنَ أَجْرَهُم مَّرَّتَيْنِ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيَدْرَءُونَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ السَّيِّئَةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **28:54**

These will receive a twofold reward because they persevere, counter harsh behavior in a kind manner and distribute Our provision of guidance and sustenance among others. [13:22]

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا نَبْتَغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ **28:55**

(Additionally) whenever they hear vain talk, they withdraw from it decently and say, "To us our deeds and to you yours; Peace be upon you, we do not seek to join the ignorant." [25:72]

إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ **28:56**

Surely, you cannot guide everyone you love, but it is God Who guides him who wishes to be guided. And He is best Aware of those who will be rightly guided. [2:272, 4:88, 10:99-100]

وَقَالُوا إِن نَّتَّبِعِ الْهُدَىٰ مَعَكَ نُتَخَطَّفْ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا أَوَلَمْ نُمَكِّن لَّهُمْ حَرَمًا آمِنًا يُجْبَىٰ إِلَيْهِ ثَمَرَاتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ رِّزْقًا مِّن لَّدُنَّا وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **28:57**

They (the Quraish) say, "If we were to follow the guidance to which you invite us, we would be torn away from our land." Why! Have We not established for them a Secure Sanctuary, to which are brought all kinds of produce, a provision from Our Presence? But most of them do not make use of what they know.

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَرْيَةٍ بَطِرَتْ مَعِيشَتَهَا فَتِلْكَ مَسَاكِنُهُمْ لَمْ تُسْكَن مِّن بَعْدِهِمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ الْوَارِثِينَ **28:58**

And how many a town We annihilated, which exulted in their life of ease and plenty! - Such that most of their dwelling places have remained deserted after them. For it is We alone Who shall remain when all else have passed away!

وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ حَتَّىٰ يَبْعَثَ فِي أُمِّهَا رَسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا وَمَا كُنَّا مُهْلِكِي الْقُرَىٰ إِلَّا وَأَهْلُهَا ظَالِمُونَ **28:59**

Yet, your Lord never destroyed townships unless He sent a Messenger in their midst who conveyed Our commands to them. And never did We destroy the townships unless the people thereof violated human rights.

وَمَا أُوتِيتُم مِّن شَيْءٍ فَمَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتُهَا وَمَا عِندَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **28:60**

And whatever you have been given is a comfort and decor for the life of the world. And what God has is better and more lasting. Will you not, then, use sense?

أَفَمَن وَعَدْنَاهُ وَعْدًا حَسَنًا فَهُوَ لَاقِيهِ كَمَن مَّتَّعْنَاهُ مَتَاعَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ هُوَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ **28:61**

Is he, then, to whom We have given a goodly promise which he shall see fulfilled comparable to the one whom We have given the good things of this life, but who on the Resurrection Day, is to be among those brought up for punishment? [24:55]

وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ كُنتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ **28:62**

On that Day He will call to them, and will ask, "Where are My 'partners' whom you imagined?"

قَالَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ رَبَّنَا هَٰؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَغْوَيْنَا **28:63**
أَغْوَيْنَاهُمْ كَمَا غَوَيْنَا تَبَرَّأْنَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كَانُوا إِيَّانَا يَعْبُدُونَ

Those against whom the charge will be proved, will say, "Our Lord! These are the ones we misled. We misled them only because we were astray ourselves. We now disown them before you. It was not us they worshiped."

وَقِيلَ ادْعُوا شُرَكَاءَكُمْ فَدَعَوْهُمْ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُمْ وَرَأَوُا **28:64**
الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يَهْتَدُونَ

And it will be said, "Call upon all your 'partners"' - but the 'partners' will not answer them - Whereupon they will see the suffering - Ah, if they had allowed themselves to be guided!

وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أَجَبْتُمُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **28:65**

And on the Day when He will call them and say, "What answer did you give to the Messengers?"

فَعَمِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَنبَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَهُمْ لَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **28:66**

On that Day all arguments (they used to contrive) will be dimmed for them, nor will they ask one another.

فَأَمَّا مَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَعَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ مِنَ **28:67**
الْمُفْلِحِينَ

But anyone who (in the worldly life) turns to the right path, truly believes and helps others with righteous deeds, will find himself among the successful.

وَرَبُّكَ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ مَا كَانَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ سُبْحَانَ **28:68**
اللَّهِ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

Your Lord does create and choose as He wills. No choice do they have in this matter. Glorified is God and High above all that they associate with Him. [In the on-going Universal evolution, species and nations are subject to the Law of Natural Selection]

وَرَبُّكَ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ **28:69**

And your Lord knows what their hearts conceal and what they reveal. [He is fully Aware of the subtle and manifest stages toward the fulfillment of His Plan]

وَهُوَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْأُولَىٰ وَالْآخِرَةِ وَلَهُ الْحُكْمُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **28:70**

For He is God, other than Whom there is no god. Unto Him is due all praise, at the first and at the last. For Him is the command, and to Him you shall be brought back.

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّيْلَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ إِلَٰهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُم بِضِيَاءٍ أَفَلَا تَسْمَعُونَ **28:71**

Say, "Will you consider this: If God were to make the Night last over you until the Resurrection Day, what god is there, other than God, who can give you light? Will you not, then, listen to the truth?"

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ النَّهَارَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ مَنْ إِلَٰهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُم بِلَيْلٍ تَسْكُنُونَ فِيهِ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ **28:72**

Say, "Will you consider this: If God were to make the day last over you until the Day of Resurrection, what god is there other than God, who can give you a night in which you can rest? Will you not, then, use your insight?"

وَمِن رَّحْمَتِهِ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **28:73**

It is from His grace that He has made for you night and day, in order to rest, and seek His bounty, that you may be grateful.

وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ كُنتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ **28:74**

And (think again) the Day He will call them, He will ask, "Where are My 'partners' whom you imagined?" [28:62]

وَنَزَعْنَا مِن كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا فَقُلْنَا هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ فَعَلِمُوا أَنَّ الْحَقَّ لِلَّهِ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **28:75**

And from every community We shall draw a witness (their Prophet) and We shall say to the rejecters, "Bring your proof for what you used to claim." Then shall they know that the truth is certainly with God alone, and all they used to fabricate will forsake them.

إِنَّ قَارُونَ كَانَ مِن قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ فَبَغَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ وَآتَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْكُنُوزِ مَا إِنَّ مَفَاتِحَهُ لَتَنُوءُ بِالْعُصْبَةِ أُولِي الْقُوَّةِ إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ قَوْمُهُ لَا تَفْرَحْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَرِحِينَ **28:76**

Qaroon (Korah) was, doubtless, of the people of Moses but he oppressed them. We had granted him such riches that his treasure-chests alone would have been too heavy a burden for more than ten strong men. His people said to him, "Do not arrogantly exult, for, God does not love those who exult in arrogance." [Miftaah = Key. Maftaah = Chest under lock and key. 'Usbah = A group of ten to forty men. Korah, a cousin of Moses, was the chief slave driver for Pharaoh, and for his wealth and position as the chief adviser, he was next in power only to Pharaoh, and equal to Haman. Historically, this legendary "Trio" of despotism + priesthood + capitalism, has always joined hands in the exploitation of the masses]

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِن كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **28:77**

"Seek, by means of what God has granted you, the Home of the Hereafter, but do not forget your portion in this world. Do good to others as God has done good to you. Do not spread corruption in the land, for God does not love the corrupters." [This single verse is enough to dismiss the false notion of Islam being 'fatalistic', so frequently propagated by ignorant friends and critics]

قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عِندِي أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَهْلَكَ مِن قَبْلِهِ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مَنْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ قُوَّةً وَأَكْثَرُ جَمْعًا وَلَا يُسْأَلُ عَن ذُنُوبِهِمُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ **28:78**

He replied, "This wealth has been given to me because of the knowledge that is with me." Did he not know that God's Law of Requital had annihilated, before him, whole generations which were superior to him in strength and richer in what they had amassed? But such guilty need no questioning since their guilt is obvious and yet, they are not exempt from the Law of Respite.

فَخَرَجَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فِي زِينَتِهِ قَالَ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا يَا لَيْتَ لَنَا مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ قَارُونُ إِنَّهُ لَذُو حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ **28:79**

And so once he came out to his people in all his pomp. And those who cared only for the life of this world said, "Ah, we wish we had the like of what Qaroon has been

given. He is extremely fortunate."

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ وَيْلَكُمْ ثَوَابُ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لِّمَنْ آمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَلَا يُلَقَّاهَا إِلَّا الصَّابِرُونَ **28:80**

But those who knew better said, "Woe to you! Merit in the Sight of God is far better for anyone who believes and works for equity among people. This reward is reserved for those who do not fall for instant gains, and work hard steadfastly." [The real wealthy is one who believes in Divine laws, helps the needy, and benefits the society]

فَخَسَفْنَا بِهِ وَبِدَارِهِ الْأَرْضَ فَمَا كَانَ لَهُ مِن فِئَةٍ يَنصُرُونَهُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُنتَصِرِينَ **28:81**

And thereupon We caused the earth to swallow him and his dwelling. And he had none and nothing to help him against God's laws, nor could he help himself.

وَأَصْبَحَ الَّذِينَ تَمَنَّوْا مَكَانَهُ بِالْأَمْسِ يَقُولُونَ وَيْكَأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَقْدِرُ لَوْلَا أَن مَّنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا لَخَسَفَ بِنَا وَيْكَأَنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الْكَافِرُونَ **28:82**

And those who had envied his position only the day before were saying the next morning, "Ah, God is the One Who makes the provision plenty or scarce for His servants according to His laws. Had God not been kind to us, He could have caused the earth to swallow us! Ah, the rejecters of the truth can never attain lasting contentment."

تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فَسَادًا وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **28:83**

That Home of the Hereafter We shall give to those who do not seek to exalt themselves on earth, nor do they seek corruption and disorder. And the Future belongs to those who seek to live upright.

مَن جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ خَيْرٌ مِّنْهَا وَمَن جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَلَا يُجْزَى الَّذِينَ عَمِلُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ إِلَّا مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **28:84**

Anyone who brings actions that benefit others, the reward to him will be better than what he has done. And anyone who is unfair in his dealings with others, such will be punished, but not more than the like of what they have done.

God is fair

إِنَّ الَّذِي فَرَضَ عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ لَرَادُّكَ إِلَىٰ مَعَادٍ قُل رَّبِّي أَعْلَمُ مَن جَاءَ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَمَنْ هُوَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **28:85**

Certainly, (O Believer) He Who has made this Qur'an a binding duty upon you, will assuredly bring you back to the ultimate destination. Say, "My Lord knows best as to who is rightly guided and who is obviously lost in error." [See 21:10. Faradha = Made it incumbent = Made it a binding duty. Ma'aad = The ultimate destination = The final state or condition = The Hereafter (for taking account). I agree with Muhammad Asad and other exponents that the second person singular in this verse applies to every person who chooses Al-Qur'an as the Guide. From then on, it is a change of direction to a new destination in this world and in the Hereafter. Based on fabricated history, some exponents have taken Ma'aad to mean Makkah, thus restricting the Glorious Book as a duty to the exalted Prophet alone, and freeing Muslims and other people from their noblest duty towards the Qur'an! Is not the Book a comprehensive guide the understanding of which is incumbent upon all humanity? Is it not all about us humans? Did the Prophet (S) return to Makkah as his final destination? 4:82, 6:19, 12:3, 17:9, 17:82, 21:10, 25:30]

وَمَا كُنتَ تَرْجُو أَن يُلْقَىٰ إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابُ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ ظَهِيرًا لِّلْكَافِرِينَ **28:86**

(O Prophet) you never expected that this Book will be bestowed upon you. But it is a mercy from your Lord (to all humanity). So, you shall never side with the rejecters.

وَلَا يَصُدُّنَّكَ عَنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أُنزِلَتْ إِلَيْكَ وَادْعُ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **28:87**

And let not anyone divert you from God's messages after they have been sent down to you. But, invite people to your Lord and be not of those who associate others with Him. [Do not uphold systems other than the Divinely ordained System of Life]

وَلَا تَدْعُ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ هَالِكٌ إِلَّا وَجْهَهُ لَهُ الْحُكْمُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **28:88**

Do not call on another god besides God. There is no god but He. Everything will perish except His Eternal Self. To Him belongs all Governance, Command and Judgment, and to Him you will be returned. [Do not heed human 'authorities' and manmade systems contrary to the Divine Commandments]

Chapter 29

Al-´Ankaboot - The Spider

This is the 29th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 69 verses. The weakest dwelling is that of the spider. Those who ignore the Divine System automatically choose ways of life that are as fragile as the home of a spider. This is an example for those who accept worldly masters and their parallel systems, and ignore the Divine Guidance. The Surah touches upon some history of human behavior and their reaction to Divine revelation, and gives us Permanent Injunctions to reflect on and follow.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **29:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, states),

أَحَسِبَ النَّاسُ أَن يُتْرَكُوا أَن يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ **29:2**

Do people think that they will be left (at ease) simply because they say, "We believe", and will not be put to test? [Mere belief such as belief in Blood Atonement will never suffice for Salvation and Success. 2:214, 3:141, 9:16, 33:10]

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ **29:3**

We did test those who lived before them. Thus, God knows those who are truthful and He knows those who are liars.

أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ أَن يَسْبِقُونَا سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ **29:4**

Do those who treat others unfairly think that they can escape Us (Our laws)? Bad is their judgment! [Sayyeh = Harming others = Disrupting people's lives = Treating them unfairly]

مَن كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ لَآتٍ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ **29:5**

One who looks forward to meeting with God, should have conviction that the end is bound to come - and He is the Hearer, the Knower.

وَمَن جَاهَدَ فَإِنَّمَا يُجَاهِدُ لِنَفْسِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَغَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ **29:6**

So, whoever strives (with wealth and person), strives for the good of his own 'self'. God is altogether Independent of His creation.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَحْسَنَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **29:7**

As for those who come to believe and help others, We shall blot out their previous misdeeds, and We shall certainly reward them generously for what they do.

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حُسْنًا وَإِن جَاهَدَاكَ لِتُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **29:8**

We have enjoined upon the human being kindness to parents. But, if they strive to make you ascribe divinity besides Me, this will conflict with what you have learned. Then, do not obey them, for it is to Me that all of you must return, whereupon I shall truly make you understand what you used to do. [31:14-15]

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ فِي الصَّالِحِينَ **29:9**

Those who choose to believe and do acts of community service, We will admit them to the company of the righteous. [Saaliheen, 26:83]

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ فَإِذَا أُوذِيَ فِي اللَّهِ جَعَلَ فِتْنَةَ النَّاسِ كَعَذَابِ اللَّهِ وَلَئِن جَاءَ نَصْرٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّا كُنَّا مَعَكُمْ أَوَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِمَا فِي صُدُورِ الْعَالَمِينَ **29:10**

Of mankind there are such who say, "We do believe in God." But when they are made to suffer for the sake of God, they think that persecution at the hands of people is God's punishment. And if help comes from your Lord, they say, "We were with you all the while." Is not God best Aware of what is in the hearts of all creation?

وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ 29:11

God knows those who have chosen to believe, and He knows the hypocrites.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّبِعُوا سَبِيلَنَا وَلْنَحْمِلْ خَطَايَاكُمْ وَمَا هُم بِحَامِلِينَ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُم مِّن شَيْءٍ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ 29:12

And some rejecters tell the believers, “Follow our way and we will bear your faults.“ Never in the least will they bear their faults. They are but liars.

وَلَيَحْمِلُنَّ أَثْقَالَهُمْ وَأَثْقَالًا مَّعَ أَثْقَالِهِمْ وَلَيُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ 29:13

They will bear their own burdens, and in addition, the burden of misleading others. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will be held accountable for the lies they invented.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ فَلَبِثَ فِيهِمْ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ إِلَّا خَمْسِينَ عَامًا فَأَخَذَهُمُ الطُّوفَانُ وَهُمْ ظَالِمُونَ 29:14

And We sent Noah to his people and his message survived among his followers a thousand years less fifty. The flood overwhelmed them, for they were violators of human rights. [‘Noah lived among them 950 years’ alludes to the ancient texts which ascertained the age of a great man by the period his message survived]

فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَأَصْحَابَ السَّفِينَةِ وَجَعَلْنَاهَا آيَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ 29:15

And We saved him and his followers on the ship and We made this a lesson for all people.

وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاتَّقُوهُ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ 29:16

(Abraham was sent more than a thousand years after Noah, at about the same location in Mesopotamia.) Abraham said to his people, “Serve God and be mindful of Him. That will be best for you if you know and understand.

إِنَّمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا وَتَخْلُقُونَ إِفْكًا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ لَكُمْ رِزْقًا فَابْتَغُوا عِندَ اللَّهِ الرِّزْقَ وَاعْبُدُوهُ وَاشْكُرُوا لَهُ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ 29:17

You worship idols instead of God and spread false news about their powers. Those you worship instead of God (such as the priesthood of the temple) do not own your provision. (If you establish the Divine System), God will guarantee honorable provision for you. Then, serve Him alone and be grateful by sharing His bounties with others. Unto Him you shall be brought back.

وَإِن تُكَذِّبُوا فَقَدْ كَذَّبَ أُمَمٌ مِّن قَبْلِكُمْ وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **29:18**

And if you reject (the message), so did communities before you (and suffered the consequences). The duty of the Messenger is only to convey the message clearly and publicly. [Balaaghil Mubeen = Convey clearly, openly, publicly]

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَيْفَ يُبْدِئُ اللَّهُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ **29:19**

Do they not see how God originates creation, and then repeats it? This is easy for God. [Think of the emergence of organic matter, its decay and the re-emergence of life]

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ بَدَأَ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ اللَّهُ يُنشِئُ النَّشْأَةَ الْآخِرَةَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **29:20**

Say, "Travel on earth and find out how He originated creation. And how afterward, God brings forth entirely new forms. God is the Supreme Designer of all things."

يُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَرْحَمُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُقْلَبُونَ **29:21**

He punishes individuals and communities according to His laws, and bestows mercy according to His laws. To Him you will be returned.

وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **29:22**

And never - not on earth and not in the heavens - you can hope to defy His laws. And there is no protector or helper for you other than God. [In the context of change and evolution, the earth and the sky might also indicate the low and high state of communities]

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَلِقَائِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ يَئِسُوا مِن رَّحْمَتِي وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **29:23**

Those who reject God's messages and the meeting with Him, it is those who will despair of My mercy. And for them is an awful doom. [They disbelieve in the Divine Plan and in the advanced form of life in the Hereafter. 56:61]

فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا اقْتُلُوهُ أَوْ حَرِّقُوهُ فَأَنجَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنَ النَّارِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **29:24**

(Abraham explained these facts to his people) but their only answer was, "Slay him or burn him alive!" But God saved him from their fiery rage. In this history, there are lessons for believers (such as, when people have no sensible answers, they resort to threats and violence. 21:68, 37:96-97).

وَقَالَ إِنَّمَا اتَّخَذْتُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا مَّوَدَّةَ بَيْنِكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُ بَعْضُكُم بِبَعْضٍ وَيَلْعَنُ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا وَمَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **29:25**

And he said, "You have chosen idols (and their priests) instead of God, out of regard for your social bonds in this worldly life. But on the Resurrection Day you will disown one another and curse one another. The fire will be your home, and there will be no helpers for you.

فَآمَنَ لَهُ لُوطٌ وَقَالَ إِنِّي مُهَاجِرٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **29:26**

And Lot believed in him (Abraham) all along. Abraham said, "I will quit this domain of evil and migrate for the sake of my Lord, for He is Exalted in Might, and Wise." [37:99. From the Kingdom of Nimrod Shaddad in Babylon, Abraham emigrated to Syria-Can'aan. Lot, Abraham's nephew, was later commissioned as a Prophet and sent to Sodom and Gomorrah by the Dead Sea]

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَجَعَلْنَا فِي ذُرِّيَّتِهِ النُّبُوَّةَ وَالْكِتَابَ وَآتَيْنَاهُ أَجْرَهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَإِنَّهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ لَمِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **29:27**

And We bestowed upon Abraham (a son) Isaac, and (a grandson) Jacob, and caused Prophethood and revelation to continue among his progeny. And We gave him his reward in this world and, in the life to come, he shall be among those who perfected their own 'self'.

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُم بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِّنَ الْعَالَمِينَ **29:28**

And Lot said to his people, “You commit such an abomination as no one in the world has done before you.

أَئِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ وَتَقْطَعُونَ السَّبِيلَ وَتَأْتُونَ فِي نَادِيكُمُ الْمُنكَرَ فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا ائْتِنَا بِعَذَابِ اللَّهِ إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ **29:29**

Do you not approach males, and cut off the way of nature? Do you not commit highway robbery? And do you not commit shameful vices openly in your assemblies?” But his people’s only answer was, “Bring down upon us the punishment of God if you are a man of truth.”

قَالَ رَبِّ انصُرْنِي عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْمُفْسِدِينَ **29:30**

He prayed, “My Lord! Help me against people who spread corruption and disorder.”

وَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بِالْبُشْرَىٰ قَالُوا إِنَّا مُهْلِكُو أَهْلِ هَٰذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ إِنَّ أَهْلَهَا كَانُوا ظَالِمِينَ **29:31**

When Our Messengers brought the glad news to Abraham (of a son Isaac), they also said, “We are appointed to herald the annihilation of that town, for its people are wrongdoers.” [Abraham lived in Hebron, Palestine about 1800 BC. From the heights in Hebron they could see the Valley of Sodom by the Dead Sea]

قَالَ إِنَّ فِيهَا لُوطًا قَالُوا نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن فِيهَا لَنُنَجِّيَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ كَانَتْ مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ **29:32**

Abraham said, “But Lot is also there.” They said, “We know well who dwell there. We will certainly save him, his household and his followers; all but his wife who will stay behind (since she has stayed behind in belief).” [Ahl of a Prophet includes his household and his followers. 7:80-84, 11:70-89, 15:59, 21:71-76, 26:161-167, 27:54-56, 66:10]

وَلَمَّا أَن جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا لُوطًا سِيءَ بِهِمْ وَضَاقَ بِهِمْ ذَرْعًا وَقَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ وَلَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّا مُنَجُّوكَ وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَكَ كَانَتْ مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ **29:33**

When Our Messengers came to Lot, he was grieved on their account, for he could not protect them. But they said, “Fear not, nor grieve! We are appointed to save you, your household and your followers, except your wife who will stay behind.

إِنَّا مُنزِلُونَ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ هَٰذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ رِجْزًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ **29:34**

We are about to herald the heavenly requital upon the people of this town because of their drifting away from Permanent Values."

وَلَقَد تَّرَكْنَا مِنْهَا آيَةً بَيِّنَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **29:35**

And so it was. Therein We have left a clear sign for people who use their intellect. [The Dead Sea to this day is also known as Bahr Lut, the Sea of Lot, and it remains devoid of plant and animal life]

وَإِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا فَقَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَارْجُوا الْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَلَا تَعْثَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ **29:36**

And to Midyan We sent their brother Sho'aib (Jethro). He said, "O My people! Serve God, and look forward to the Last Day, the life to come, and do not act wickedly on earth spreading disorder and corruption."

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دَارِهِمْ جَاثِمِينَ **29:37**

But they denied him. Thereupon a dreadful rainstorm and earthquake overtook them, and morning found them dead, prone in their homes. (26:189)

وَعَادًا وَثَمُودَ وَقَد تَّبَيَّنَ لَكُم مِّن مَّسَاكِنِهِمْ وَزَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فَصَدَّهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَكَانُوا مُسْتَبْصِرِينَ **29:38**

And (the Tribes of) 'Aad and Thamud! Their fate is manifest to you from their ruined dwellings. Satan had made their doings seem goodly to them, and thus had barred them from the right path. And they were people who were endowed with vision![Their personal interests hindered them from coming to the right path. They were people of vision and high intellect, Mustabsireen. However, unjust systems wither away regardless of how smartly they are run. The capital of 'Aad was the legendary Iram, the Town of Pillars that lies buried in the sand dunes of the second largest desert in the world after the African Sahara. Called Ruba' al-Khali' = The Empty Quarter, this desert covers much of the Southeastern Arabian Peninsula. Iram is mentioned in 89:7. The Tribe of Thamud had descended from 'Aad and is, therefore, frequently referred to in history and ancient Arabic poetry as 'Aad-e-thani (Second 'Aad). Inscriptions and records dating as far back as 715 BC refer to them as Thamudenes and Thamudaei (writings of Aristo, Ptolemy, Pliny). Rock inscriptions, dwellings and tombs decorated with animal sculptures still exist in the valley of Al-Hijr from Northern Hijaz to Syria. Recently, satellite images have discovered their castles built within the drilled mountains of Yemen as well!]

وَقَارُونَ وَفِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُم مُّوسَىٰ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا كَانُوا سَابِقِينَ **29:39**

And such is the story of Qaroon (Korah) and Pharaoh and Haman! (They represented wealth, tyranny and priesthood, respectively that go hand in hand in exploiting people.) To them had come Moses with all evidence of the truth, but they remained arrogant in the land. But they could not escape. [28:6, 28:76]

فَكُلًّا أَخَذْنَا بِذَنبِهِ فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِ حَاصِبًا وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَخَذَتْهُ الصَّيْحَةُ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ خَسَفْنَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَغْرَقْنَا وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **29:40**

For, every one of them We took to task for trailing behind in human virtue. And so, upon some of them We let loose a hurricane, some of them were overtaken by a sudden blast, some of them We caused to be swallowed by the earth, and some of them We caused to drown. It was not God Who wronged them, but it was they who wronged themselves. [The Law of Requital never discriminates between people, whether individuals or nations]

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ كَمَثَلِ الْعَنكَبُوتِ اتَّخَذَتْ بَيْتًا وَإِنَّ أَوْهَنَ الْبُيُوتِ لَبَيْتُ الْعَنكَبُوتِ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **29:41**

The likeness of those who choose patrons other than God, is that of the spider which makes for itself a house. The frailest of all houses is the spider's house, if they reflect on what they know. [Its web easily traps the weak but cannot withstand the least bit of pressure]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ مِن شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **29:42**

God knows whatever they call upon instead of Him. He is Almighty, Wise.

وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ وَمَا يَعْقِلُهَا إِلَّا الْعَالِمُونَ **29:43**

Such are the examples We cite for mankind, but only men and women with knowledge of sciences will make best use of their intellect. ['Aalim = Scientist = A knowledgeable person. 30:22-23, 35:27-28. "There is a coherent plan in the Universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for." - British astronomer, author, Sir Fred Hoyle]

خَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **29:44**

(It is those who can best understand that) God has created the heavens and the earth with a definite purpose. In this, is a sign for those who choose to believe.

Purpose of salat
Commemorate Allah

اتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ **29:45**

Whatever you recite is zikr- akimi-u

(O Prophet) convey to people all that is revealed to you of the Book, and establish the Divine System. Establishment of the Divine System will shut off lewdness, stinginess, and bad conduct. This is so, because God's law is the Greatest law that can give you eminence. And God knows whatever you people contrive on your own. [21:10, 21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44, 70:21-27. Fahasha includes miserliness, and Munkar is all behavior that goes against Permanent Values given in the Qur'an]

وَلَا تُجَادِلُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ وَقُولُوا آمَنَّا بِالَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَأُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَإِلَٰهُنَا وَإِلَٰهُكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ **29:46**

One God for all

(The Divine System will be the Living truth in itself, so) argue not with the People of the Scripture except in a most kind manner. Tell those who adamantly relegate the truth, "We believe in what has been bestowed upon us, as well as (the truth in) what has been bestowed upon you. For, our God and your God is One, and to Him we surrender." [2:79, 2:101, 3:78, 5:48. Zulm = To relegate the truth = Displace something from its rightful place = Oppression = Violation of human rights = Wrongdoing]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ فَالَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمِنْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَمَا يَجْحَدُ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَّا الْكَافِرُونَ **29:47**

And thus it is! We have bestowed this Book upon you (O Prophet). And many of those whom We gave the previous scriptures will come to believe in it (5:48). Also, many of your people will believe in it. And none could knowingly reject Our messages except such as would preemptively reject an obvious truth.

وَمَا كُنتَ تَتْلُو مِن قَبْلِهِ مِن كِتَابٍ وَلَا تَخُطُّهُ بِيَمِينِكَ إِذًا لَّارْتَابَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ **29:48**

Prophet read after the revelation

(O Prophet) you were never able to read a book before this (Qur'an), nor could you write anything with your own hand. Or else, those who try to disprove the truth might have some reason to doubt it. [2:23. Biyameenik = With your right hand = With your own hand]

بَلْ هُوَ آيَاتٌ بَيِّنَاتٌ فِي صُدُورِ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ وَمَا يَجْحَدُ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَّا الظَّالِمُونَ **29:49**

Nay, here are messages self-evident in the hearts of those endowed with knowledge. And none but the unjust will disregard Our messages. [Zaalim = Unjust = Oppressor = Violator of human rights = One who relegates the truth = Displaces something from its rightful place]

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ قُلْ إِنَّمَا الْآيَاتُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **29:50**

Miracles are with God

Quran is a miracle

And yet they say, "Why are not miracles bestowed upon him from his Lord?" Say, "These verses are in themselves miraculous signs concerning God and with Him are the miracles (that you can see in the Universe). As for me, I am but a plain warner (drawing your attention to His signs and to the consequences of your actions.)"

أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِهِمْ أَنَّا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَرَحْمَةً وَذِكْرَىٰ لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **29:51**

Why! Is it not enough of a miracle for them that We have bestowed upon you this Book that is conveyed to them? For, herein is grace, a reminder, and it is a giver of eminence to people who accept it.

قُلْ كَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ شَهِيدًا يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ وَكَفَرُوا بِاللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **29:52**

Say, "God suffices as Witness between me and you. He knows all that is in the heavens and earth. Those who believe in falsehood and disbelieve in God, are the ultimate losers." [6:136]

وَيَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَلَوْلَا أَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى لَّجَاءَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَلَيَأْتِيَنَّهُم بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ 29:53

They challenge you to hasten the doom. If the term (of respite) had not been set for it, that requital would have come upon them immediately. Certainly, it will come upon them all of a sudden, while they perceive not.

يَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمُحِيطَةٌ بِالْكَافِرِينَ 29:54

They keep asking you to hasten the doom, but the blazing fire will surround the rejecters of faith (after the period of respite is over). [79:36, 82:16]

يَوْمَ يَغْشَاهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِن فَوْقِهِمْ وَمِن تَحْتِ أَرْجُلِهِمْ وَيَقُولُ ذُوقُوا مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 29:55

The Day will come when suffering overwhelms them from above them and from beneath their feet, and He will say, “Taste now the fruit of your own doings!”

يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ أَرْضِي وَاسِعَةٌ فَإِيَّايَ فَاعْبُدُونِ 29:56

O My servants who have chosen to be graced with belief! My earth is vast. Serve Me then, Me alone! [4:97. One can do good works anywhere on earth. Under extremely adverse circumstances, one can forsake the domain of evil, and migrate in the cause of God]

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ 29:57

(To that noble end strive with all you have, even with your lives since) every living being is bound to taste death. And then, all of you will be returned to Us.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُبَوِّئَنَّهُم مِّنَ الْجَنَّةِ غُرَفًا تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا نِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ 29:58

Reward in paradise

Whereupon to all those who have attained belief, and worked for the betterment of humanity We shall certainly assign mansions in the Garden underneath which rivers flow, therein to abide. How excellent a reward for the workers! (25:75)

الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ 29:59

Those who are steadfast in adversity and in ease, and put their trust in their Lord.

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن دَابَّةٍ لَّا تَحْمِلُ رِزْقَهَا اللَّهُ يَرْزُقُهَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 29:60

How many are the creatures that do not carry their own sustenance? It is God Who provides for them and you, for He is the Hearer, the Knower. [Establishment of the Divine System ensures honorable provision for everyone. 6:152, 11:6]

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ **29:61**

And if you ask them, "Who has created the heavens and earth, and subjected the sun and the moon?" They will answer, "God". How, then, are they lost in the wilderness of thought! [The Creator must be the law-giving Authority to mankind as He is in the entire Universe. 21:20-22, 23:84-88, 31:25, 39:38, 43:9]

اللَّهُ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَقْدِرُ لَهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **29:62**

God widens His provision to His servants (and societies) according to His laws, and He restricts it accordingly. God is Knower of all things (including the best socio-economic Order for mankind).

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّن نَّزَّلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ مِن بَعْدِ مَوْتِهَا لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ **29:63**

And thus it is: If you ask them, "Who sends down water from the height, and with it gives life to the earth, after it has been dead?" They will answer, "God." Say, "(Since this is so) all praise is due to God alone!" But the majority of people fail to use their intellect (and fail to realize that His guidance can revive the 'living-dead' and the 'dead' nations).

وَمَا هَٰذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَهْوٌ وَلَعِبٌ وَإِنَّ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ لَهِيَ الْحَيَوَانُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **29:64**

This life is temporary

What is the life of this world but amusement and play? But the Home of the Hereafter; that is life indeed, if they but knew.

فَإِذَا رَكِبُوا فِي الْفُلْكِ دَعَوُا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ فَلَمَّا نَجَّاهُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ إِذَا هُمْ يُشْرِكُونَ **29:65**

And so when they embark on a ship (and encounter danger), they call unto God, sincere in their faith in Him. But as soon as He has brought them safe ashore, they resume their idolatry (and fall for the superstition of Shirk calling upon 'saints' and religious men.)

لِيَكْفُرُوا بِمَا آتَيْنَاهُمْ وَلِيَتَمَتَّعُوا فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **29:66**

And thus they show ingratitude for all that We have given them, and go on thoughtlessly enjoying life. But soon they will know.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا جَعَلْنَا حَرَمًا آمِنًا وَيُتَخَطَّفُ النَّاسُ مِنْ حَوْلِهِمْ أَفَبِالْبَاطِلِ يُؤْمِنُونَ وَبِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ يَكْفُرُونَ **29:67**

Have they not considered that We have established a Sacred Sanctuary (in Makkah) as a source of peace and security and all the while people are being ravaged all around them? Will they still believe in falsehood, and deny God's blessing? [The Divine System frees people from fear and insecurity]

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِالْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْكَافِرِينَ **29:68**

?Hadith

And who can be a greater wrongdoer than he who invents a lie and attributes it to God, or denies the truth when it comes to him? Is not there a home in Hell for those bent upon rejection?

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **29:69**

As for those who sincerely strive for Us, We will guide them onto paths that lead to Us. (New channels keep opening for them leading them out of the spider's web onto the straight path.) God is with the benefactors of humanity. [Muhsineen = Benefactors of humanity]

Chapter 30

Ar-Room - The Romans

This is the 30th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 60 verses. As stated earlier, a Surah is not restricted by its title. Only in the beginning, it alludes to the Roman Persian wars, 603-624 CE. The title is more important for reference purposes, and this Surah as well presents for us beautiful concepts in diversity.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **30:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, states that),

غُلِبَتِ الرُّومُ **30:2**

The Romans have been defeated,

فِي أَدْنَى الْأَرْضِ وَهُم مِّن بَعْدِ غَلَبِهِمْ سَيَغْلِبُونَ **30:3**

In the nearby and the lowest land on earth. Yet, despite this defeat, they shall be victorious. ["Al-Ardhil Adna" = The lowest and nearby lands. The Dead Sea area is the lowest land on earth. Byzantine Romans were defeated at the hands of the Persians in the nearby lands of Syria-Palestine-Egypt, including, most crucially, in the Battle of the Dead Sea region, in 613-615 CE. The war between the two super powers of the times carried on from 603 To 624 CE. Muhammad (S) had been commissioned as a Prophet in 610 CE]

فِي بِضْعِ سِنِينَ لِلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِن قَبْلُ وَمِن بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **30:4**

Within ten years! God's is the command in the past and in the future. On that day the believers too will have cause to rejoice. [The believers were victorious against the much stronger Makkans bent upon annihilating them at the most crucial battle of all history, the Battle of Badr near Madinah, in 624 CE. This was exactly the time when the Byzantine Romans soundly defeated the Persians]

بِنَصْرِ اللَّهِ يَنصُرُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **30:5**

By God's Help. For, He gives victory according to His laws. And He is Exalted in Might, Most Merciful.

وَعْدَ اللَّهِ لَا يُخْلِفُ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **30:6**

This is God's promise. God never fails to fulfill His promise. But most people do not know (that His laws never change).

يَعْلَمُونَ ظَاهِرًا مِّنَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ عَنِ الْآخِرَةِ هُمْ غَافِلُونَ **30:7**

They know and care only about the apparent instant gratifications of the life of this world, and remain oblivious to the Eternal life to come.

أَوَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِم مَّا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ لَكَافِرُونَ **30:8**

Do they not reflect on themselves? God has not created the heavens and earth, and all that is between them, but for a specific purpose and for an appointed term. Yet, a great many people deny that they are destined to meet their Lord.

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَأَثَارُوا الْأَرْضَ وَعَمَرُوهَا أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا عَمَرُوهَا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَٰكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ **30:9**

(Reflecting on your own existence, the Universe, and on history can show you the truth.) Have they not, then, traveled in the land and seen what happened in the end to those who lived before them? They were more powerful than these are, and they left a stronger impact on the earth, and built it up better than these are doing. And to them came their Messengers with all evidence of the truth. It was not God Who wronged them, but it was they who used to wrong their own 'self'. [35:44, 40:21]

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَاقِبَةَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا السُّوأَىٰ أَن كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا بِهَا يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **30:10**

Then, evil was the end of those who did evil, because they denied the revelations of God and ridiculed them.

اللَّهُ يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **30:11**

(All this happens to communities according to Divine laws that are operational in the entire Universe.) He initiates the creation, and then repeats it. Ultimately, all of you will be returned to Him.

وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يُبْلِسُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ **30:12**

And on the Day when the Hour comes, those who have committed crimes against humanity, will be struck with despair.

وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُم مِّن شُرَكَائِهِمْ شُفَعَاءُ وَكَانُوا بِشُرَكَائِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ **30:13**

Their 'idols' will not be able to stand up for them, rather, they will reject one another.

وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَفَرَّقُونَ **30:14**

On the Day the Hour comes, they will part company. And people will be sorted out.

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَهُمْ فِي رَوْضَةٍ يُحْبَرُونَ **30:15**

As for those who attained belief and fulfilled the needs of others, they will be made happy in a Meadow of delight listening to beautiful music. [42:22, 43:70. 'Hibr' = Delightful music]

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَلِقَاءِ الْآخِرَةِ فَأُولَئِكَ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُحْضَرُونَ **30:16**

Whereas those who disbelieve, and reject Our messages, and the meeting of the Hereafter, they will be presented for punishment.

فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ حِينَ تُمْسُونَ وَحِينَ تُصْبِحُونَ **30:17**

Therefore, glorify God when you retire at night, and when you rise in the morning. [Seek eminence in the twilight and dawn of your lives. 21:10, 23:71, 29:45, 29:51]

وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَعَشِيًّا وَحِينَ تُظْهِرُونَ **30:18**

All praise belongs to Him in the heavens and on earth whether it is darkness of the night or brightness of the day. [The Universe bears testimony that all praise is due to Him]

يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَيُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَيُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَكَذَٰلِكَ تُخْرَجُونَ **30:19**

He is the One Who brings forth the living from the dead and brings forth the dead from the living. And He gives life to earth after it has been lifeless. And thus shall you be brought forth. [Likewise, His guidance revives communities]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَكُم مِّن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ إِذَا أَنتُم بَشَرٌ تَنتَشِرُونَ **30:20**

Among His signs it is that He even created you out of dust (beginning of life from water and inorganic matter - life-cell). And then, (after evolution) you became human beings scattered far and wide. [6:2, 6:99, 7:11, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12, 31:28]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِّتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُم مَّوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **30:21**

Marriage-mutual love

And among His signs is this: He created for you mates from yourselves, so that you might find comfort in them. And He ordained between you love and kindness. In that are signs for those who reflect. [Azwaaj = Husband + Wife, that are mates to, and complement, each other's personality]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالِمِينَ **30:22**

Do we have to change names

And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. Herein are signs for those who make best use of what they learn.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ مَنَامُكُم بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَابْتِغَاؤُكُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَسْمَعُونَ **30:23**

And among His signs is your sleeping during the night or the day, and your quest of His bounty. Herein are signs for people who hear and listen.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ يُرِيكُمُ الْبَرْقَ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَيُنَزِّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَيُحْيِي بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **30:24**

And among His signs is this: He displays before you the lightning, for a fear and for hope, and sends down water from the height, giving life to the earth after it had been lifeless. Herein are signs for people who use their intellect.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَن تَقُومَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ بِأَمْرِهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ دَعْوَةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ إِذَا أَنتُمْ تَخْرُجُونَ **30:25**

And among His signs is this: The heavens and earth stand by His command. When He calls you by a single call, you will straightaway emerge from the earth.

وَلَهُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ كُلٌّ لَّهُ قَانِتُونَ **30:26**

To Him belongs every being in the heavens and the earth. All are obedient to Him.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَهُ الْمَثَلُ الْأَعْلَىٰ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **30:27**

And He is the One Who initiates creation in the first instance, and then brings it forth anew, and it is most easy for Him. His is the Sublime Similitude in the heavens and on earth. He is the Light of the heavens and earth 24:35). He is the Mighty, the Wise. [24:35, 30:11]

ضَرَبَ لَكُم مَّثَلًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ هَل لَّكُم مِّن مَّا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُم مِّن شُرَكَاءَ فِي مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ فَأَنتُمْ فِيهِ سَوَاءٌ تَخَافُونَهُمْ كَخِيفَتِكُمْ أَنفُسَكُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **30:28**

He gives you an example from your own society. Would you agree to make your employees equal partners in the provision We have bestowed upon you? Are you as mindful of them as you are mindful of yourselves? (So do you conceive of a 'discriminating' God!) Thus We explain Our messages for people who use their intellect. [16:71]

بَلِ اتَّبَعَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَهْوَاءَهُم بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ فَمَن يَهْدِي مَنْ أَضَلَّ اللَّهُ وَمَا لَهُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **30:29**

But nay, the transgressors follow their own opinions without knowledge. But who can guide those whom God has let go astray (for violating His laws of guidance 4:88)? To them there will be no helpers.

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **30:30**

Therefore, devote yourself to the Upright Religion turning away from all that is false. Such is the natural aim of God's creation of humans. And God's laws of creation never change. This is the perfect Religion but most people do not know. [Deen = Divinely prescribed System of Life. God has initiated the Universe with a sublime Plan wherein all things are committed to His law, and mankind being a part of the Universe, must live by His laws]

مُنِيبِينَ إِلَيْهِ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ **30:31**

Turn to Him alone then, and be mindful of Him, and establish the Divine System and be not of those who ascribe 'partners' to Him, [2:213]

مِنَ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ **30:32**

Sects

Those who split up their religion becoming sects, each sect delighting in whatever beliefs they have. [3:104, 6:160, 23:53, 42:13. Sectarianism is invariably based on taking humans as 'authorities']

وَإِذَا مَسَّ النَّاسَ ضُرٌّ دَعَوْا رَبَّهُم مُّنِيبِينَ إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا أَذَاقَهُم مِّنْهُ رَحْمَةً إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُم بِرَبِّهِمْ يُشْرِكُونَ **30:33**

When harm touches people they call upon their Lord, turning to Him alone. But as soon as He lets them taste grace from Him, some of them revert to worshiping their idols.

لِيَكْفُرُوا بِمَا آتَيْنَاهُمْ فَتَمَتَّعُوا فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **30:34**

This is how they show their ingratitude to what (guidance) We have given them. So, enjoy yourselves awhile, but soon you will come to know.

أَمْ أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانًا فَهُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِمَا كَانُوا بِهِ يُشْرِكُونَ **30:35**

Have We ever sent down to them any authority that tells them to commit Shirk, associate others with God?

وَإِذَا أَذَقْنَا النَّاسَ رَحْمَةً فَرِحُوا بِهَا وَإِن تُصِبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ إِذَا هُمْ يَقْنَطُونَ **30:36**

And thus it is: When We let people taste grace they are quick to rejoice therein. But when adversity befalls them as a result of their own doings, they are in despair! [Constancy in personality is attainable only by living righteously]

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **30:37**

Have they not seen that God enlarges the provision on whatever (community) it is, according to His laws, and restricts it likewise? Herein are signs for people who believe (in the Divine laws).

فَآتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ وَالْمِسْكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **30:38**

So, give the relatives their rightful share, and to the needy, and the one whose business has stalled, the one who has lost his job, the one whose hard-earned income is insufficient to meet the basic needs, the homeless son of the street, and the needy traveler and the one who has traveled to you for help. This is best for those who seek God's approval. For, it is those who are truly successful. [Zal qurba, Miskeen, Wabn-is-sabeel, encompass all the meanings rendered. The Divinely ordained Economic Order will ensure equity and prosperity for all]

وَمَا آتَيْتُم مِّن رِّبًا لِّيَرْبُوَ فِي أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ فَلَا يَرْبُو عِندَ اللَّهِ وَمَا آتَيْتُم مِّن زَكَاةٍ تُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُضْعِفُونَ **30:39**

And the wealth you give in usury in order that it may increase on other people's money has no increase with God. But what you give in charity, seeking God's approval, these are the ones who will have their return multiplied. [2:275-276, 3:129, 74:6]

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ رَزَقَكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ هَلْ مِن شُرَكَائِكُم مَّن يَفْعَلُ مِن ذَٰلِكُم مِّن شَيْءٍ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **30:40**

God is He Who has created you and then has provided you with sustenance, then will cause you to die, and then will bring you to life again. Are there any of your 'partners' who can do any single one of these things? Glorious He is, and Sublimely Exalted above the 'partners' they associate with Him.

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُم بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **30:41**

Rampant disorder has appeared in the land and in the sea because of what the hands of people have earned. He will let them taste the consequences of some of their works that they may turn back (from what they have been doing). [This verse may point toward environmental pollution and greenhouse phenomenon etc]

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلُ كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُم مُّشْرِكِينَ **30:42**

Say, "Travel in the land and notice the end of communities before you. Most of them worshiped idols in various forms (and ran manmade systems 30:31-32)."

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ الْقَيِّمِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَّا مَرَدَّ لَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصَّدَّعُونَ **30:43**

Set your purpose resolutely for the Perfect Religion, before the Inevitable Day comes from God. On that Day people will be in two groups.

مَن كَفَرَ فَعَلَيْهِ كُفْرُهُ وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِأَنفُسِهِمْ يَمْهَدُونَ **30:44**

Whoever rejects the truth will suffer from that rejection, whereas all who do constructive deeds, will make goodly provision for themselves.

لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِن فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ **30:45**

Reward

That He may reward out of His bounty, those who accept the message, and work to help others. He does not love those who reject the truth.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَن يُرْسِلَ الرِّيَاحَ مُبَشِّرَاتٍ وَلِيُذِيقَكُم مِّن رَّحْمَتِهِ وَلِتَجْرِيَ الْفُلْكُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **30:46**

Among His signs is that He sends the winds with glad tiding giving you His grace (of rain on the land), and (the same winds) let the ships sail according to His laws for you to seek His bounty, so that your efforts may become fruitful. [Shukr = Gratitude = Sharing the bounties with others = Thanks = Efforts becoming fruitful]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ رُسُلًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِمْ فَجَاءُوهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَانتَقَمْنَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا وَكَانَ حَقًّا عَلَيْنَا نَصْرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **30:47**

We did send Messengers before you to their respective people, and they brought them clear evidence of the truth. Then, We (Our Law of Requital) inflicted Our retribution on those who stole the fruit of others' labor and violated human rights. And We have made it incumbent upon Us to help the believers.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَاحَ فَتُثِيرُ سَحَابًا فَيَبْسُطُهُ فِي السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ وَيَجْعَلُهُ كِسَفًا فَتَرَى الْوَدْقَ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ خِلَالِهِ فَإِذَا أَصَابَ بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ **30:48**

(Divine Guidance is a blessing for humanity just as) it is God Who sends forth the winds so that they raise a cloud, and then He spreads it along the high atmosphere according to His laws. And causes it to break up, and you see rain pour down from within it. And when He makes it fall on His servants by His laws, they rejoice.

وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلِ أَن يُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِم مِّن قَبْلِهِ لَمُبْلِسِينَ **30:49**

Even though before that, before it was sent down upon them, they were in despair.

فَانظُرْ إِلَىٰ آثَارِ رَحْمَتِ اللَّهِ كَيْفَ يُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ لَمُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **30:50**

Behold then these signs of God's grace - how He revives the earth after it had been lifeless. He is the Reviver of the dead, and He is Able to do all things. [Similarly, His guidance can revive individuals and nations]

وَلَئِنْ أَرْسَلْنَا رِيحًا فَرَأَوْهُ مُصْفَرًّا لَّظَلُّوا مِن بَعْدِهِ يَكْفُرُونَ **30:51**

But if We send a wind from which they see their crop turn ripen up yellow, then they seek to hide it from fellow humans, thus becoming ungrateful. [56:63-72]

فَإِنَّكَ لَا تُسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَىٰ وَلَا تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا وَلَّوْا مُدْبِرِينَ **30:52**

Cannot guide the misguided

And you cannot make the dead to hear, nor can you make the deaf of heart to hear the call when they turn their backs and go away. [36:51-52]

وَمَا أَنتَ بِهَادِ الْعُمْيِ عَن ضَلَالَتِهِمْ إِن تُسْمِعُ إِلَّا مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُم مُّسْلِمُونَ 30:53

Nor can you bring the blind of heart out of their straying. You can make none to hear except those who believe in Our messages (using their vision) and are willing to live in submission to God.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن ضَعْفٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِن بَعْدِ ضَعْفٍ قُوَّةً ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِن بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ ضَعْفًا وَشَيْبَةً يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْقَدِيرُ 30:54

It is God Who creates you weak (as infants), then, after the weak state, gives you strength; then substitutes after the strength, weakness and gray hair. All this happens according to His laws of Creation. And He is the Knower, the Able.

وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يُقْسِمُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ مَا لَبِثُوا غَيْرَ سَاعَةٍ كَذَٰلِكَ كَانُوا يُؤْفَكُونَ 30:55

(Since your life is short, your time is precious.) On the Day when the Hour rises, the guilty will swear that they lived in this world no more than an hour, (and that they didn't have time to reform). In fact, they were wandering aimlessly through life.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ وَالْإِيمَانَ لَقَدْ لَبِثْتُمْ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْبَعْثِ فَهَٰذَا يَوْمُ الْبَعْثِ وَلَٰكِنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 30:56

But those who have been endowed with knowledge and conviction will say, "You did last within God's decree, until the Resurrection Day. (Your own 'self' never died.) Now, this is the Resurrection Day that you never acknowledged."

فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَّا يَنفَعُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَعْذِرَتُهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ 30:57

And so on that Day no apologies of the wrongdoers will avail them, nor will they be allowed to make amends. [36:51-52]

وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ وَلَئِن جِئْتَهُم بِآيَةٍ لَّيَقُولَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا مُبْطِلُونَ 30:58

Quran has many examples

We have given numerous examples in the Qur'an for mankind. But even if you came with a miracle, the opponents of truth would say, "You are only falsifiers."

كَذَٰلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **30:59**

In this way does God seal the hearts of those who wish not to learn.

فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَلَا يَسْتَخِفَّنَّكَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُوقِنُونَ **30:60**

Remain then, steadfast and remember that God's promise is always True. So let not those who lack conviction perturb you.

Chapter 31

Luqman - Locomon

This is the 31st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 34 verses. The reader is once again reminded that the Qur´an sticks with its style of unity in diversity, and the title does not restrict a whole Surah. Again, it is to be noted that the timing and the place of the revelation of a Sur´ah is absolutely of no significance since the Book of God transcends temporal and spatial bonds. Long, contradictory and futile argumentation between the commentators about the Shan-e-Nuzool (the circumstance of a particular revelation) are sheer waste of time and energy, and more noxiously, this exercise tends to shackle the Glorious Book to certain events of no significance. This point is proven to The Qur´an As It Explains Itself readers by the fact that at no point anywhere in the Mighty Book will they miss what ´caused´ a certain Surah or verses to be revealed. Wisdom and knowledge transcend temporal, geographical and racial boundaries. Historically Luqman lived around 200 BC in an oasis in the Nubian desert of Northern Sudan. He was an emancipated slave of African descent. "Rahib Luqman Mua´ammar Nubi the Hakeem, Suqrat Thani - (Sage Locomon, the Aged, the Nubean, the Wise, Socrates the second" was his full name along with titles. Luqman is famous as Aesop, his Greek name. He had been taken captive to Greece from NE Sudan in one of their Viking like raids through the Red Sea. Lugman used to work in NE Sudan as a carpenter building boats. As a child Luqman used to herd sheep, then as a young adult he had become a noted craftsman in carpentry. And that was the main reason for his abduction by the Greek pirates. Given the name Aesop, he lived in Greece under captivity for fifteen years serving his masters while writing his fabulous and world famous Aesop´s Tales. An affluent businessman bought from him his collection in return for his emancipation. Luqman lived to be 110 years old and died in his village in Nubia. He was a very wise man, and copies of his notebook known as Saheefah Luqman (The Scrolls of Luqman, produced in Greece) existed in the times of the exalted Messenger. Legend has it that a man read a few passages from that notebook to the exalted Messenger. He liked them and said, "Shall I now narrate to you a higher wisdom?" Upon hearing a few verses of Surah Luqman that fan of Luqman instantly embraced Islam; and is now remembered as Hazrat Suwaid bin Saamit. Historians have speculated whether Luqman was a Prophet of God. But his famous quote implies that he was an intellectually and morally gifted man. When asked how and wherefrom he attained his outstanding wisdom, he responded, "From the ignorant!" [Yes, we can learn from any person, even from a child. And we can learn from our mistakes as well as from the mistakes of others]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **31:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, states that),

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْحَكِيمِ **31:2**

These are the verses of the Book, full of wisdom.

هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّلْمُحْسِنِينَ 31:3

Providing guidance and mercy to those who wish to live a balanced life and do good to humanity.

الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ 31:4

Such people strive to establish the Divine System and set up the Economic Order of Zakaat. For, it is they who have conviction in the eternity of the human 'self' and therefore, in the life to come.

أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَىٰ هُدًى مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ 31:5

They are the ones who are on the guided path of their Lord and they are the ones who will be ultimately successful.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ 31:6

But among people, there are those who invest their time in Hadith which is unfounded, so as to lead those without knowledge away from the path of God, making mockery of it (the Qur'an). For such there is a humiliating punishment in store. [In order to defend the 'Imams' of Hadith, some commentators try to explain away Lahwal Hadith as music. This obviously makes no linguistic or contextual sense]

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا وَلَّىٰ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا كَأَنَّ فِي أُذُنَيْهِ وَقْرًا فَبَشِّرْهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ 31:7

Whenever Our verses are conveyed to such a purchaser of Hadith, he turns away in arrogance as if he never heard them - as if there were deafness in his ears. So give him the tidings of a painful doom.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ النَّعِيمِ 31:8

Whereas those who believe in the Word of God and fulfill the needs of others, for them are the Gardens of delight.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقًّا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ 31:9

To abide therein according to God's true promise. For, He is the Mighty, the Wise.

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ بِغَيْرِ عَمَدٍ تَرَوْنَهَا وَأَلْقَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَن تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ وَبَثَّ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ دَابَّةٍ وَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ **31:10**

He has created the skies without any pillars and supports that you can see, and has placed firm mountains upon the earth, lest it sway with you, and He has dispersed therein all kinds of creatures. And We send down water from the sky, and thus We cause plants of every goodly kind to grow therein. [Mountains came into being millions of years ago as the earth was cooling off and the earth crust was shrinking 16:15, 78:7]

هَٰذَا خَلْقُ اللَّهِ فَأَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقَ الَّذِينَ مِن دُونِهِ بَلِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **31:11**

Such is the creation of God. Now show Me what others besides Him have created. Nay, but those who relegate the truth are obviously lost in error. [Zaalim = Wrongdoer = Oppressor = One who displaces something from its rightful place = One who relegates the truth = Violator of human rights]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا لُقْمَانَ الْحِكْمَةَ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِلَّهِ وَمَن يَشْكُرْ فَإِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ **31:12**

Be grateful to God
Thankful

We granted this wisdom to Luqman, "Be grateful to God, for whoever is grateful is but grateful for the good of his own 'self'. And whoever chooses to be ungrateful, must know that God is Absolutely Independent, Owner of all praise." [He is in no need of your praises on rosary-beads and chanting. Gratefulness is not limited to verbal acknowledgement of gratitude. Divine bounties must be shared with fellow humans for true gratitude]

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ **31:13**

Luqman, enlightening his son, said this to him, "O My dear son! Never associate anyone with God, for assigning 'partners' to Him is a tremendous wrong."

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ وَفِصَالُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ **31:14**

"(And O My dear son! God says): We have ordained upon man goodness to his parents. His mother bore him by bearing strain upon strain, and his utter dependence on

Be Grateful to parents

her lasted no less than two years. So, be grateful to Me and to your parents, and remember that your ultimate destination is with Me." [2:233, 46:15]

وَإِن جَاهَدَاكَ عَلَىٰ أَن تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبْهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **31:15**

Treating parents

"Yet, if they strive to make you ascribe partners to Me, you will have no such knowledge, so obey them not. However, bear them company in this world with kindness. And follow the path of those who turn toward Me. In the end, all of you will return to Me. And thereupon I will make you understand all that you did."

يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِن تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُن فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ **31:16**

"O My dear son! Something even as tiny as a mustard seed, deep inside a rock, or in the Highs or in the Lows, God will bring it forth. God is Sublime, Aware."

يَا بُنَيَّ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ **31:17**

Salat

"O My dear son! Live by the Divinely Prescribed System of Life, and advocate the right and discourage the wrong. And remain steadfast in the face of whatever (tribulation) may befall you. All this requires strong determination."

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ **31:18**

"And never be arrogant with people, and do not walk haughtily on earth. God does not love any bragging boaster. [17:37, 57:23]

وَاقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ وَاغْضُضْ مِن صَوْتِكَ إِنَّ أَنكَرَ الْأَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ **31:19**

Walk humbly and lower your voice in humility. For, the harshest of voices is the voice of a donkey."

أَلَمْ تَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُم مَّا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَأَسْبَغَ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعَمَهُ ظَاهِرَةً وَبَاطِنَةً وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يُجَادِلُ فِي اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ وَلَا هُدًى وَلَا كِتَابٍ مُّنِيرٍ **31:20**

(This was a glimpse of the wisdom Luqman was endowed with.) Do you not realize that God has made of service to you all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth? And He has granted you His blessings in abundance, tangible and intangible. And yet, among people there are those who dispute about God without exploring the realm of knowledge, without any guidance and without a light-giving scripture.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا أَوَلَوْ كَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ يَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ **31:21**

Following parents blindly

And when such people are told to follow what God has revealed, they say, "Nay, we follow what we have found our fathers doing." What! Even though Satan had invited them to the doom of Flames¿'

وَمَن يُسْلِمْ وَجْهَهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ **31:22**

Whoever submits his whole being to God and is a doer of good to others, has grasped the Strongest Bond. And God's laws determine the end of all things and actions. [2:256. Wajh = Face = Countenance = Whole being]

وَمَن كَفَرَ فَلَا يَحْزُنكَ كُفْرُهُ إِلَيْنَا مَرْجِعُهُمْ فَنُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا عَمِلُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **31:23**

And let not the disbelief of the rejecters grieve you. To Us is their return, and then We shall explain to them all they truly accomplished. God is Knower of all that is in the hearts.

نُمَتِّعُهُمْ قَلِيلًا ثُمَّ نَضْطَرُّهُمْ إِلَىٰ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ **31:24**

We will let them enjoy themselves for a little while - but ultimately We shall drive them to a heavy doom.

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **31:25**

And thus it is: If you ask them, "Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth¿' They will answer, "God". Say, "All praise is due to God - for, most of them do not know (that His laws are worth implementing in your lives 29:61)

لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ **31:26**

To God belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. (His law is operative in the entire Universe.) God is Free of all wants, Owner of all praise (and the Universe is a living witness to that).

وَلَوْ أَنَّمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مِن شَجَرَةٍ أَقْلَامٌ وَالْبَحْرُ يَمُدُّهُ مِن بَعْدِهِ سَبْعَةُ أَبْحُرٍ مَّا نَفِدَتْ كَلِمَاتُ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ **31:27**

God does not have a shortage of words

And if all the trees on earth were pens, and the sea were ink, with seven more seas yet added, the Words of God would not be exhausted. God is Almighty, Wise. [18:109]

مَّا خَلْقُكُمْ وَلَا بَعْثُكُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ **31:28**

Your creation or your resurrection is only as that of a single life cell. God is the Hearer, the Knower.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **31:29**

Do you not see that it is God Who makes the night grow longer by shortening the day, and makes the day longer by shortening the night? And that He has subjected the sun and the moon to His laws, each running along its course for an appointed term? Is He not Aware of all you do? [13:2]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ الْبَاطِلُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ **31:30**

God is truth

This is because God, He is the truth, and whatever they call upon instead of Him is falsehood. And because God, He is the Exalted, the Great.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ الْفُلْكَ تَجْرِي فِي الْبَحْرِ بِنِعْمَتِ اللَّهِ لِيُرِيَكُم مِّنْ آيَاتِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ **31:31**

Have you not seen how the ships speed through the sea carrying God's blessed provisions - so that He might show you some of His signs? Herein are messages for everyone who would patiently observe the nature and be grateful for learning.

وَإِذَا غَشِيَهُم مَّوْجٌ كَالظُّلَلِ دَعَوُا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ فَلَمَّا نَجَّاهُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ فَمِنْهُم مُّقْتَصِدٌ وَمَا يَجْحَدُ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَّا كُلُّ خَتَّارٍ كَفُورٍ **31:32**

And so, when violent waves surround them like shadows of gloom, they call to God, sincere in their faith in Him (and work according to Divine laws). But as soon as We save them ashore, some of them compromise (with falsehood). Yet none could knowingly reject Our messages unless he is a betrayer to his own 'self', ungrateful for such blessing.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ وَاخْشَوْا يَوْمًا لَّا يَجْزِي وَالِدٌ عَن وَلَدِهِ وَلَا مَوْلُودٌ هُوَ جَازٍ عَن وَالِدِهِ شَيْئًا إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغَرُورُ **31:33**

O Mankind! Be mindful of your Lord, and fear a Day when a father cannot help his son, nor a son can help his father. Certainly, the promise of God is true. Therefore, do not be distracted by the life of this world. And let not any deceiver distract you from God. [Gharoor = Deceiver = Satan = Satanic people = Evil companions = Deceptive thoughts = Illusion]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِندَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ **31:34**

Only God knows

With God alone rests the knowledge of the Hour. He is the One Who sends down rain, and He alone knows what is (being nourished) in the wombs. No one knows what he or she will reap tomorrow, and no one knows in what land (circumstance) he or she will die. God is Knower, Aware. [Hour = The Great Revolution = Resurrection = Day of Judgment. Rain = Also alludes to resurgence of humanity. What is in the wombs = What is being nourished therein = In the wombs of any female creatures = Fate of the embryo = Spurious pregnancy = Uterine tumors, moles etc. Reap tomorrow = What one does or happens to him in the future]

Chapter 32

As-Sajdah - Adoration

This is the 32nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 30 verses. By reminding us of our humble origin, this Surah shows us the way to attain self-actualization by following Divine light.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الم **32:1**

A.L.M. Alif-Laam-Meem. (Allah, Lateef the Unfathomable, Majeed the Magnificent, states that),

تَنزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ مِن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **32:2**

This Book is, beyond any doubt, a revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ بَلْ هُوَ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أَتَاهُم مِّن نَّذِيرٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ **32:3**

And yet they assert, “He has invented it.” Nay, it is but the truth from your Lord, for you to warn a people to whom no warner has come before you, so that they may be guided. [Prophet Ishmael was the ancestor of, and not a Prophet to, the Arabs who became a community long after he passed on. See note 2:125, 28:46, 36:6. And the message is to fan out from Arabia to all mankind 2:185, 3:3, 3:137, 6:19, 6:91, 10:2, 14:1, 25:1, 30:58, 39:41, 68:52]

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ مَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا شَفِيعٍ أَفَلَا تَتَذَكَّرُونَ **32:4**

God is the One Who has created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in Six Eras, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme

No intercession

Control (41:9-12, 34:12). You have no patron and no intercessor beside Him. Will you not, then, bear this in mind? [Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4]

يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يَعْرُجُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ مِّمَّا تَعُدُّونَ **32:5**

He governs all that exists, from the celestial Highs to the Lows. And all things evolve higher to what they are meant to be in such stages where a single Day before Him equals a thousand years according to your count. [22:47, 35:10. And some of these stages span fifty thousand years each, of your count. 70:4]

ذَٰلِكَ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ **32:6**

Such is the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, the Mighty, the Merciful,

الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقَهُ وَبَدَأَ خَلْقَ الْإِنسَانِ مِن طِينٍ **32:7**

Who created everything in perfect balance. Thus He initiated the creation of the humans from hydrated inorganic matter.

ثُمَّ جَعَلَ نَسْلَهُ مِن سُلَالَةٍ مِّن مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ **32:8**

Then He made him to be reproduced out of the essence of a mere fluid. [The inorganic matter was hydrated and life was initiated from its extract. Eventually, the evolution reached a point when procreation with male and female gametes was established. 37:11]

ثُمَّ سَوَّاهُ وَنَفَخَ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِهِ وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ **32:9**

(Then emergent evolution took place that distinguished humans from the animal kingdom.) He shapes him in accordance with what he is meant to be, and breathes into him of His Energy. And thus (O Mankind) He gives you the faculties of hearing, sight, reasoning and feelings. Yet, how seldom are you grateful by making the best use of your perceptual and conceptual faculties! [Af'idah = Minds = Intellect = Faculty of reasoning including feelings. 17:36, 45:23, 46:26]

وَقَالُوا أَإِذَا ضَلَلْنَا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَإِنَّا لَفِي خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ بَلْ هُم بِلِقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ كَافِرُونَ **32:10**

And they say, "What! After we vanish into the earth, do we get created anew?" Thus they deny the meeting with their Lord. [They are in denial concerning Resurrection]

قُلْ يَتَوَفَّاكُم مَّلَكُ الْمَوْتِ الَّذِي وُكِّلَ بِكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ **32:11**

Say, "The angel of death who is assigned to you, will collect you, and then you will be returned to your Lord." [The 'self' lives on after physical death]

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الْمُجْرِمُونَ نَاكِسُو رُءُوسِهِمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ رَبَّنَا أَبْصَرْنَا وَسَمِعْنَا فَارْجِعْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا إِنَّا مُوقِنُونَ **32:12**

If only you could see the guilty when they lower their heads before their Lord, "Our Lord! We have now seen and heard. Return us, then, that we may do good works, for, now we are sure."

وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَآتَيْنَا كُلَّ نَفْسٍ هُدَاهَا وَلَٰكِنْ حَقَّ الْقَوْلُ مِنِّي لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ **32:13**

Had We so willed, We could have imposed Our guidance upon every human being (driven by instincts like other creatures). But the Word from Me will come true that I will fill Hell with people, rural and urban all together. [A great many people will succumb to their desires. 15:39-40, 38:84-85]

فَذُوقُوا بِمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا إِنَّا نَسِينَاكُمْ وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْخُلْدِ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **32:14**

It will be said, "Taste then, for you remained oblivious of this Day of yours, and so, now We forget you. Taste the lasting doom for what you used to do."

إِنَّمَا يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهَا خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَسَبَّحُوا بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ **32:15**

Prostate to glorify God

Only they truly believe in Our messages who, when they are reminded of them, fall into complete submission adoring, and strive hard to manifest their Sustainer's praise. (They establish the Divine System that is the living evidence of how benevolent His guidance is.) And they are never given to false pride.

تَتَجَافَىٰ جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **32:16**

They forsake their 'comfort zone' in calling people to their Lord, fearing that they have not done enough and hoping to do better. And they keep open for the needy the provision that We have given them. [Madhaaje' = Beds = Present circumstances = Comfort zone]

فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُم مِّن قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **32:17**

And no human being can imagine what blissful delights are kept hidden for them as a reward for what they used to do.

أَفَمَن كَانَ مُؤْمِنًا كَمَن كَانَ فَاسِقًا لَّا يَسْتَوُونَ **32:18**

Is he, then, who was a believer like the one who drifted away from the Permanent Values? Nay, these two are not alike.

أَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَلَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْمَأْوَىٰ نُزُلًا بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **32:19**

Acknowledge God

For those who choose to believe, and serve the society, are Gardens of retreat, a welcome for what they used to do.

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فَسَقُوا فَمَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ كُلَّمَا أَرَادُوا أَن يَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا أُعِيدُوا فِيهَا وَقِيلَ لَهُمْ ذُوقُوا عَذَابَ النَّارِ الَّذِي كُنتُم بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ **32:20**

But as for those who drifted away from the truth, their retreat will be the fire. As often as they try to come out of it, they will be returned into it. It will be said to them, "Taste the torment of the fire that you used to deny."

وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُم مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَدْنَىٰ دُونَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَكْبَرِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **32:21**

We will make them taste the punishment closer at hand before the Greater punishment, so that they might return to righteousness.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن ذُكِّرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ ثُمَّ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا إِنَّا مِنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُنتَقِمُونَ **32:22**

Who does a greater wrong than he who is reminded of his Lord's messages, then turns away from them? We will requite all those who violate human rights by stealing the fruit of others' labor. [Mujrim = Guilty = One who steals the fruit of others' labor]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ فَلَا تَكُن فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّن لِّقَائِهِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **32:23**

We had given Moses the scripture. So do not be in doubt of his receiving it, and We appointed it a guidance for the Children of Israel. [17:6-7. Therein is a lesson for deniers of Divine revelation]

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ **32:24**

We appointed among them leaders who led them by Our command since they were steadfast in their commitment and had conviction in Our revelations.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **32:25**

Your Lord will decide between them on the Resurrection Day, regarding everything they disputed.

أَوَلَمْ يَهْدِ لَهُمْ كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّنَ الْقُرُونِ يَمْشُونَ فِي مَسَاكِنِهِمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ أَفَلَا يَسْمَعُونَ **32:26**

Is it not a guidance for them to realize how many generations We annihilated before them, in whose dwelling places they now go to and fro? In that are signs. Will they not, then, listen?

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا نَسُوقُ الْمَاءَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الْجُرُزِ فَنُخْرِجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا تَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ أَنْعَامُهُمْ وَأَنفُسُهُمْ أَفَلَا يُبْصِرُونَ **32:27**

Have they not seen how We lead water onto barren land, and thereby bring forth crops providing food for their cattle and for themselves? Do they have no vision? [20:54]

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْفَتْحُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **32:28**

But they keep saying, “When will that decision be, if you are truthful?”

قُلْ يَوْمَ الْفَتْحِ لَا يَنفَعُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِيمَانُهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنظَرُونَ **32:29**

Say, “On the Day of decision (when the rejecters of the truth will be overwhelmed), pronouncement of belief shall be of no avail to the rejecters then, nor will they be given further respite.”

فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهُمْ وَانتَظِرْ إِنَّهُم مُّنتَظِرُونَ **32:30**

So turn away from them and wait (for the truth to unfold). They too are waiting.

Chapter 33

Al-Ahzab - The Confederates

This is the 33rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 73 verses. The Surah derives its name from different Clans of Madinah and places around it as well as the Makkans all of whom made a coalition to eliminate the believers once and for all. They laid a siege around Madinah in 627 CE where the Prophet had sought asylum since July 16, 622. In order to defend the City, the exalted Prophet, in consultation with his noble companions had dug a trench. Hence, this defense tactic gave it the name of the Battle of the Trench in addition to the Battle of Ahzab (Clans). The Surah defines social responsibilities and etiquette of men and women. As usual it embraces other concepts and, most importantly declares that the exalted Prophet Muhammad is the last message- bearer to mankind. Let us walk through the meadow.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ اتَّقِ اللَّهَ وَلَا تُطِعِ الْكَافِرِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا **33:1**

O Prophet! Be mindful of God and do not heed the deniers of the truth and the hypocrites. Surely, God is Knower, Wise. [Knower, Wise: Adopt His attributes in your human capacity. 2:138]

وَاتَّبِعْ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا **33:2**

Follow what is revealed

And follow what is revealed to you from your Lord. God is Aware of all you do.

وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا **33:3**

And put your trust in God, for, God is Sufficient as Guardian.

مَّا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِرَجُلٍ مِّن قَلْبَيْنِ فِي جَوْفِهِ وَمَا جَعَلَ أَزْوَاجَكُمُ اللَّائِي تُظَاهِرُونَ مِنْهُنَّ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ أَدْعِيَاءَكُمْ **33:4**

أَبْنَاءَكُمْ ذَٰلِكُمْ قَوْلُكُم بِأَفْوَاهِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَقُولُ الْحَقَّ وَهُوَ يَهْدِي السَّبِيلَ

God did not give any man two hearts in his chest. (One cannot be a believer and a disbeliever at the same time.) And He never regards your wives as your mothers because of your senseless utterances, such as your declaring them as your mothers. Nor does He regard your adopted sons as your biological sons. These are mere words that you utter with your mouths, but God declares the truth and shows the way. [2:226, 58:2-4]

ادْعُوهُمْ لِآبَائِهِمْ هُوَ أَقْسَطُ عِندَ اللَّهِ فَإِن لَّمْ تَعْلَمُوا آبَاءَهُمْ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَمَوَالِيكُمْ وَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ فِيمَا أَخْطَأْتُم بِهِ وَلَٰكِن مَّا تَعَمَّدَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **33:5**

Name and call your adopted children after their fathers. That is more just in the Sight of God. If you do not know who their ancestors were, then they are your brothers and sisters in Faith. You shall treat them as family members. There is no blame on you for an unintentional mistake. What counts is the intentions of your hearts, for, God is Forgiving, Merciful. [Unintentional mistake: For example, coming to know their real parents rather early. Will that instantly render them "strangers"? 2:220]

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ وَأُولُو الْأَرْحَامِ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلَىٰ بِبَعْضٍ فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ إِلَّا أَن تَفْعَلُوا إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَائِكُم مَّعْرُوفًا كَانَ ذَٰلِكَ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَسْطُورًا **33:6**

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers. Relatives have rights on one another in accordance with the Book of God. Thus, the believers shall take care of their relatives who immigrate to them, while they have taken care of their immediate family members first. And you shall treat your friends in all kindness. Such is the writing in this Book (of God). [2:180, 4:11, 9:111, 33:53, 48:10. Awliya includes immediate family members as well as close friends, in the context]

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ وَمِنكَ وَمِن نُّوحٍ وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ وَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُم مِّيثَاقًا غَلِيظًا **33:7**

And remember, We did take a solemn pledge from all the Prophets, and from you (O Prophet), as well as from Noah, and Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus son of Mary. We took from them a very solemn pledge. [3:81]

لِّيَسْأَلَ الصَّادِقِينَ عَن صِدْقِهِمْ وَأَعَدَّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **33:8**

That God may ask the truthful about their truthfulness. And He has readied an awful suffering for the rejecters. [In the Hereafter, the truthful shall stand as witnesses how the Prophets conveyed their messages and how their people received them. Also see 3:81. The Covenant: Each Prophet will clearly convey the revelation to his people, live by the revelation and try to establish the System. And that he would support the mission of the previous Prophets. 2:83, 3:81, 3:187, 5:7, 7:169-171, 42:13. Since there will be no Prophet after Muhammad (S), his people will be questioned how well they conveyed the Qur'an]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَّمْ تَرَوْهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا **33:9**

Acknowledge God

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember God's blessing on you, when there came down on you armies (from different clans laying siege around Madinah). But We sent against them a violent wind, and forces that you did not see (courage, resolve, steadfastness and discipline). God is ever Seer of whatever you do.

إِذْ جَاءُوكُم مِّن فَوْقِكُمْ وَمِنْ أَسْفَلَ مِنكُمْ وَإِذْ زَاغَتِ الْأَبْصَارُ وَبَلَغَتِ الْقُلُوبُ الْحَنَاجِرَ وَتَظُنُّونَ بِاللَّهِ الظُّنُونَا **33:10**

They came upon you from above you and from below you, and when eyes were terrified, and hearts quivered to throats, and you began to entertain doubts about God. [2:214, 3:141, 9:16, 29:2]

هُنَالِكَ ابْتُلِيَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَزُلْزِلُوا زِلْزَالًا شَدِيدًا **33:11**

There and then were the believers tried, and shaken with a mighty shock.

وَإِذْ يَقُولُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ مَّا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ إِلَّا غُرُورًا **33:12**

And recall when the hypocrites and those who had doubt in their hearts, said to one another, "God and His Messenger promised us nothing but delusion."

وَإِذْ قَالَت طَّائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ لَا مُقَامَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا وَيَسْتَأْذِنُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمُ النَّبِيَّ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ بُيُوتَنَا عَوْرَةٌ وَمَا هِيَ بِعَوْرَةٍ إِن يُرِيدُونَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا **33:13**

A group among them said, "O You people of Yathrib! There is no stand possible for you, so, go back." And some of them even sought permission of the Prophet, saying, "Our homes are exposed (to the enemy)." (With the believers firmly entrenched around the town) their homes were not exposed to danger. They wanted nothing but to flee. [Yathrib = Madinah]

وَلَوْ دُخِلَتْ عَلَيْهِم مِّنْ أَقْطَارِهَا ثُمَّ سُئِلُوا الْفِتْنَةَ لَآتَوْهَا وَمَا تَلَبَّثُوا بِهَا إِلَّا يَسِيرًا **33:14**

If the enemy had invaded the town from all sides and these hypocrites were asked to inflict harm on the believers, they would have done so without hesitation.

وَلَقَدْ كَانُوا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ مِن قَبْلُ لَا يُوَلُّونَ الْأَدْبَارَ وَكَانَ عَهْدُ اللَّهِ مَسْئُولًا **33:15**

Although before that they had pledged to God that they would not turn their backs (to faith and against invasion). And a pledge to God must be answered for.

قُل لَّن يَنفَعَكُمُ الْفِرَارُ إِن فَرَرْتُم مِّنَ الْمَوْتِ أَوِ الْقَتْلِ وَإِذًا لَّا تُمَتَّعُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **33:16**

Say, "Flight will not avail you if you flee from death or from being killed. You may enjoy life but for a little while."

قُلْ مَن ذَا الَّذِي يَعْصِمُكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَ بِكُمْ سُوءًا أَوْ أَرَادَ بِكُمْ رَحْمَةً وَلَا يَجِدُونَ لَهُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا **33:17**

Say, "Who can prevent if God intends any adversity for you, or if He intends any blessing for you?" And they will find for themselves no patron or helper other than God.

قَدْ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ الْمُعَوِّقِينَ مِنكُمْ وَالْقَائِلِينَ لِإِخْوَانِهِمْ هَلُمَّ إِلَيْنَا وَلَا يَأْتُونَ الْبَأْسَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **33:18**

God already knows those of you who hinder, and those who say to their groups, "Come here to us!" And rarely do they mobilize for defense.

أَشِحَّةً عَلَيْكُمْ فَإِذَا جَاءَ الْخَوْفُ رَأَيْتَهُمْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَيْكَ تَدُورُ أَعْيُنُهُمْ كَالَّذِي يُغْشَىٰ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ فَإِذَا ذَهَبَ الْخَوْفُ سَلَقُوكُم بِأَلْسِنَةٍ حِدَادٍ أَشِحَّةً عَلَى الْخَيْرِ أُولَٰئِكَ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا فَأَحْبَطَ اللَّهُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا **33:19**

They are miserly in dealing with you (believers). But when danger threatens, you can see them looking to you (for help, O Prophet), their eyes rolling in fear like one who is overshadowed by death. Yet, once the fear has gone, they assail you believers with sharp tongues in their greed for wealth (from the spoil of war). These have never known belief, and, therefore, God makes all their deeds fruitless. That is easy for God. [His Law of Requital is ever vigilant]

يَحْسَبُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ لَمْ يَذْهَبُوا وَإِن يَأْتِ الْأَحْزَابُ يَوَدُّوا لَوْ أَنَّهُم بَادُونَ فِي الْأَعْرَابِ يَسْأَلُونَ عَنْ أَنبَائِكُمْ وَلَوْ كَانُوا فِيكُم مَّا قَاتَلُوا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **33:20**

They think that the enemy clans have not withdrawn. And if the confederate clans come back, these (hypocrites) would prefer to be in the desert with the Bedouins, asking for news about you, from far away. And if they were among you, they would only pretend to fight.

لَّقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا **33:21**

In the Messenger of God you have a most excellent example, for everyone who looks forward to God and the Last Day, and remembers God much (keeping in mind His commands). [60:4]

وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَٰذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا **33:22**

And when the believers saw the clans, they said, "This is what God and His Messenger had promised us, and God and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only increased their faith and their zeal in submission.

مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُم مَّن قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَنتَظِرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا **33:23**

Among believers there are men who have been true in what they pledged with God. Some of them have fulfilled their vow by laying their lives, and some of them stand ready, unwavering. [9:111]

لِّيَجْزِيَ اللَّهُ الصَّادِقِينَ بِصِدْقِهِمْ وَيُعَذِّبَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ إِن شَاءَ أَوْ يَتُوبَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **33:24**

That God may reward the truthful for having been true to their word, and cause the hypocrites to suffer - or accept their repentance according to His laws. God is Forgiving, Merciful. [33:8]

وَرَدَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِغَيْظِهِمْ لَمْ يَنَالُوا خَيْرًا وَكَفَى اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الْقِتَالَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ قَوِيًّا عَزِيزًا **33:25**

And God repulsed the disbelievers in their fury and they gained no advantage. God sufficed the believers in the battle. God is Strong, Almighty.

وَأَنزَلَ الَّذِينَ ظَاهَرُوهُم مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مِن صَيَاصِيهِمْ وَقَذَفَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الرُّعْبَ فَرِيقًا تَقْتُلُونَ وَتَأْسِرُونَ فَرِيقًا **33:26**

Those People of the Scripture who allied with the clans (despite having a treaty with you), He took them down from their forts, and cast panic in their hearts. Some of them you killed (in hostilities) and some you made captive. [The Jewish tribe, Bani Quraizah had violated the treaty, but another Jewish tribe, Bani Nadhir/Nuzair of Khyber had also been among the confederates]

وَأَوْرَثَكُمْ أَرْضَهُمْ وَدِيَارَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ وَأَرْضًا لَّمْ تَطَئُوهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرًا **33:27**

And He made you inherit their lands, their houses, and their wealth and land you have not trodden. God has Supreme Control over all things, and all events take place according to His laws. [24:55]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُل لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ إِن كُنتُنَّ تُرِدْنَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا فَتَعَالَيْنَ أُمَتِّعْكُنَّ وَأُسَرِّحْكُنَّ سَرَاحًا جَمِيلًا **33:28**

O Prophet! Tell your wives, “If you desire the life of this world and its glitter - well, then, I shall provide you to your contentment and let you go in a becoming manner.”

[The Prophet had chosen to keep a standard of living of the poorest of Madinah, and the mothers of believers were seeing other women living in relative affluence]

وَإِن كُنتُنَّ تُرِدْنَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَالدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَعَدَّ لِلْمُحْسِنَاتِ مِنكُنَّ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا **33:29**

"But if you desire God and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, then certainly, God has prepared for those among you who benefit humanity, an immense reward."

يَا نِسَاءَ النَّبِيِّ مَن يَأْتِ مِنكُنَّ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُّبَيِّنَةٍ يُضَاعَفْ لَهَا الْعَذَابُ ضِعْفَيْنِ وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرًا **33:30**

O Wives of the Prophet! (You will be seen as role models for other women, therefore), if any of you shows unseemly conduct, double would be her suffering, for, that is easy for God.

وَمَن يَقْنُتْ مِنكُنَّ لِلَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا نُّؤْتِهَا أَجْرَهَا مَرَّتَيْنِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهَا رِزْقًا كَرِيمًا **33:31**

And whoever of you is devoted in the service of God and His Messenger, and helps improve the society, We will give her reward twice over. We have readied for her a most excellent sustenance.

يَا نِسَاءَ النَّبِيِّ لَسْتُنَّ كَأَحَدٍ مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ إِنِ اتَّقَيْتُنَّ فَلَا تَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعَ الَّذِي فِي قَلْبِهِ مَرَضٌ وَقُلْنَ قَوْلًا مَّعْرُوفًا **33:32**

O Wives of the Prophet! You are not like other women. If you seek to live upright, then, be not overly soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease aspire (to you). But speak in customary kindness.

وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْأُولَىٰ وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتِينَ الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِعْنَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا **33:33**

And when you abide in your homes, do so in quiet dignity, and do not make a dazzling display like that of the former Times of Ignorance. Help establish the Divine System and the Just Economic Order, and obey God and His Messenger. God wishes to keep away vice from you, O Members of the Household! And to purify you to utmost purity (of character).

وَاذْكُرْنَ مَا يُتْلَىٰ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ لَطِيفًا خَبِيرًا **33:34**

And bear in mind all that is recited in your homes of God's verses and wisdom, for, God is Sublime, Aware.

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْقَانِتَاتِ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْخَاشِعِينَ وَالْخَاشِعَاتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّائِمِينَ وَالصَّائِمَاتِ وَالْحَافِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ وَالْحَافِظَاتِ وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا **33:35**

Surely, for Muslim men and Muslim women, believing men and believing women, devoted men and devoted women, truthful men and truthful women, steadfast men and steadfast women, humble men and humble women, charitable men and charitable women, abstinent men and abstinent women (abstaining from all vices), chaste men and chaste women, men who remain mindful of God and women who remain mindful (of God), for them, God has readied forgiveness and an immense reward. [3:194, 4:124. Maghfirah = Forgiveness = Protection against detriment = Erasing the imprints of faults = Absolving imperfections]

وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَن يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ وَمَن يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا مُّبِينًا **33:36**

It is not fitting for a believing man or a believing woman, when a matter has been decided by God and His Messenger, to claim freedom of choice concerning themselves. And whoever disobeys God and His Messenger, he has obviously gone astray.

وَإِذْ تَقُولُ لِلَّذِي أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْسِكْ عَلَيْكَ زَوْجَكَ وَاتَّقِ اللَّهَ وَتُخْفِي فِي نَفْسِكَ مَا اللَّهُ مُبْدِيهِ وَتَخْشَى النَّاسَ وَاللَّهُ أَحَقُّ أَن تَخْشَاهُ فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ زَيْدٌ مِّنْهَا وَطَرًا زَوَّجْنَاكَهَا لِكَيْ لَا يَكُونَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ حَرَجٌ فِي أَزْوَاجِ أَدْعِيَائِهِمْ إِذَا قَضَوْا مِنْهُنَّ وَطَرًا وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ **33:37**

مَفْعُولًا

(In personal matters you may respectfully disagree with Muhammad in the capacity of a human being 3:79. As an example) Recall that you did tell the one to whom God had blessed and you had blessed, “Hold on to your wife and be mindful of God. You seek to conceal within yourself what God intends to reveal. You fear people whereas it is more appropriate to fear God.” But when Zaid had concluded the marriage and divorced her, We gave her to one of you in marriage, so that henceforth there may be no blame on the believers in respect of marrying the spouses of their adopted children when they have come to the dissolution of their union. The commandment of God must be fulfilled. [Zaid cannot be the exalted Prophet’s adopted son since, as a rule, no companion or family member has been mentioned in the Qur’an by name. ‘Zaid’ has been used as an abstract like John Doe in English]

مَّا كَانَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ مِنْ حَرَجٍ فِيمَا فَرَضَ اللَّهُ لَهُ سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ **33:38**

Gods Sunna فِي الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِن قَبْلُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ قَدَرًا مَّقْدُورًا

There could be no difficulty to any Prophet in what God has assigned to him as a duty. That was God’s law for those who passed on before. And the commandment of God is a determined decree. [God helps His Messengers and they consider none of their duties difficult in spite of all the strife involved. Sunnatillah = Laws of God. In the World of command He makes laws as He wills. Then He implements these laws in the World of Creation (the Universe). And then He neither changes them, nor makes any exceptions. 7:54, 17:77, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23]

الَّذِينَ يُبَلِّغُونَ رِسَالَاتِ اللَّهِ وَيَخْشَوْنَهُ وَلَا يَخْشَوْنَ أَحَدًا إِلَّا **33:39**
اللَّهَ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ حَسِيبًا

Revere God only

(And such will be His way with all) those who convey the messages of God and fear Him, and fear none but God. (They know that) none can take account as God does.

مَّا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَٰكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ **33:40**
وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is God’s Messenger and the Closing Seal of all Prophets. God is Knower of all things.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا **33:41**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember God with much remembrance. [Be ever mindful of God’s messages. Now it will be up to you to carry His message to mankind. 3:110, 35:32]

وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا **33:42**

Glorify God morning and evening

And strive to establish His glory on earth morning and night. [48:9]

هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّي عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا **33:43**

He is the One Who bestows His blessings upon you, as do His angels, that He may bring you forth from the depths of darkness into the light. And He is Compassionate to those who choose to believe. [2:155-157, 9:103, 14:1, 14:15, 33:56]

تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا **33:44**

Their salutation on the Day they meet Him is, "Peace!" And He has readied for them a generous reward.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا **33:45**

Prophet as a warner and witness

O Prophet! We have sent you as a witness and a herald of good news and a warner. [The Divine System that you establish will be a watcher over humanity to ensure international justice and peace. Give them the good news of what the System can accomplish, and warn them of the harm otherwise. 2:143]

وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُّنِيرًا **33:46**

And as one who invites to God by His Leave, and as a beacon of light.

وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِأَنَّ لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا **33:47**

So, convey the glad tiding to the believers that they will have a great bounty from God.

وَلَا تُطِعِ الْكَافِرِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ وَدَعْ أَذَاهُمْ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا **33:48**

And heed not the rejecters and the hypocrites. Disregard their insults, and put your trust in God. God is Sufficient as Guardian.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نَكَحْتُمُ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ طَلَّقْتُمُوهُنَّ مِن قَبْلِ أَن تَمَسُّوهُنَّ فَمَا لَكُمْ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ عِدَّةٍ تَعْتَدُّونَهَا فَمَتِّعُوهُنَّ وَسَرِّحُوهُنَّ سَرَاحًا جَمِيلًا **33:49**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you wed believing women, and divorce them before you have intimately touched them, then there is no waiting period for them (to marry another man). Make decent provision for them and let them go in a becoming manner. [2:228-241, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَحْلَلْنَا لَكَ أَزْوَاجَكَ اللَّاتِي آتَيْتَ أُجُورَهُنَّ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ يَمِينُكَ مِمَّا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ وَبَنَاتِ عَمِّكَ وَبَنَاتِ عَمَّاتِكَ وَبَنَاتِ خَالِكَ وَبَنَاتِ خَالَاتِكَ اللَّاتِي هَاجَرْنَ مَعَكَ وَامْرَأَةً مُّؤْمِنَةً إِن وَهَبَتْ نَفْسَهَا لِلنَّبِيِّ إِنْ أَرَادَ النَّبِيُّ أَن يَسْتَنكِحَهَا خَالِصَةً لَّكَ مِن دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ قَدْ عَلِمْنَا مَا فَرَضْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ فِي أَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ لِكَيْلَا يَكُونَ عَلَيْكَ حَرَجٌ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **33:50**

O Prophet! We have made lawful to you your wives to whom you have given their due share of property, and those women who have sought asylum with you and signed the marital contract (60:10). Also lawful for you in marriage were daughters of your paternal uncles and aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and aunts who had migrated with you. And lawful is a believing woman who wishes to marry the Prophet, forfeiting her due share and the Prophet is willing to marry her. This forfeiting of dowry applies to you only, and not to other believers. We have already decreed their rights regarding their wives and women who have sought asylum in their homes. This arrangement is designed to ease any social difficulties on you (as Head of the State). God is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

تُرْجِي مَن تَشَاءُ مِنْهُنَّ وَتُؤْوِي إِلَيْكَ مَن تَشَاءُ وَمَنِ ابْتَغَيْتَ مِمَّنْ عَزَلْتَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكَ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَن تَقَرَّ أَعْيُنُهُنَّ وَلَا يَحْزَنَّ وَيَرْضَيْنَ بِمَا آتَيْتَهُنَّ كُلُّهُنَّ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَلِيمًا **33:51**

You may let any of your wives leave amicably if they so wish, and likewise you may keep close those who accept the extra responsibilities as the mothers of believers. If you reconcile with anyone you had estranged, you commit no error. This will gladden their eyes, their grief will disappear and all of them will be content with whatever you give them. God alone knows what is in your hearts, and God is Knower, Clement. [33:6, 33:28]

لَّا يَحِلُّ لَكَ النِّسَاءُ مِن بَعْدُ وَلَا أَن تَبَدَّلَ بِهِنَّ مِنْ أَزْوَاجٍ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَكَ حُسْنُهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا مَلَكَتْ يَمِينُكَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ **33:52**

How can we see the beauty if the face is covered

عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ رَّقِيبًا

Henceforth, no other women shall be lawful to you (O Prophet), nor can you substitute anyone with other wives even if you find them attractive. None beyond those you already have. Surely, God is Watchful over all things.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتَ النَّبِيِّ إِلَّا أَن يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ إِلَىٰ طَعَامٍ غَيْرَ نَاظِرِينَ إِنَاهُ وَلَٰكِنْ إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَادْخُلُوا فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ فَانتَشِرُوا وَلَا مُسْتَأْنِسِينَ لِحَدِيثٍ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ يُؤْذِي النَّبِيَّ فَيَسْتَحْيِي مِنكُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَاعًا فَاسْأَلُوهُنَّ مِن وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ ذَٰلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ وَمَا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَن تُؤْذُوا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُوا أَزْوَاجَهُ مِن بَعْدِهِ أَبَدًا إِنَّ ذَٰلِكُمْ كَانَ عِندَ اللَّهِ عَظِيمًا **33:53**

Prophet did not like Hadith

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not enter the Prophet's homes unless permission is given to you. When invited to dine, do not arrive too early waiting for preparation of the meal. When you are invited, come at the appointed time, and when you have taken your meal, disperse, without engaging him in lengthy conversation. This used to hurt the Prophet, and he was shy to tell you. But God does not shy away from the truth. If you have to ask his wives for something, ask them from behind the curtain. This is purer for your hearts and for theirs. It is not for you to hurt the Messenger of God. You shall not marry his wives after him. For, this would be a great offense in the Sight of God. [They are mothers of the believers. 33:6]

إِن تُبْدُوا شَيْئًا أَوْ تُخْفُوهُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا **33:54**

Whether you reveal anything or conceal it, God is Knower of all things and events.

لَّا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِنَّ فِي آبَائِهِنَّ وَلَا أَبْنَائِهِنَّ وَلَا إِخْوَانِهِنَّ وَلَا أَبْنَاءِ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ وَلَا أَبْنَاءِ أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ وَلَا نِسَائِهِنَّ وَلَا مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ وَاتَّقِينَ اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدًا **33:55**

There is no blame on women to relax their dress code around their fathers, their sons, their brothers, sons of their brothers, sons of their sisters, their women, or their

servants. But, O Women! Be mindful of God. God is Witness to everything. [24:31]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا **33:56**

Blessings an greetings to prophet

When alive

Verily, God and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet and support his Mission. O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Salute him and give yourself up to him and his Mission in complete submission. [4:65, 7:157, 33:43. 'Support the Prophet' includes supporting his Mission. 4:65, 7:157, 33:43, 49:2. For salutations to other Prophets, see Surah 37:79,109,120, 130, 181]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا **33:57**

Surely, those who malign God and His Messenger, God will deprive them of His grace in this world and in the Hereafter. He has readied for them a humiliating punishment.

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ بِغَيْرِ مَا اكْتَسَبُوا فَقَدِ احْتَمَلُوا بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا **33:58**

And those who malign the believing men and the believing women undeservedly, they bear the guilt of slander and manifestly drag down their own humanity.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُل لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِن جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَن يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **33:59**

Hijab

O Prophet! Tell your wives, your daughters, and women of the believers that they should draw loose-fitting garments around their body (when in public). This is easy and proper, so that they may be recognized and not be bothered. God is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful. (24:31)[Jalbab = Outer garment = Overcoat = Lengthened dress = Chadar = Shawl = Loose-fitting garment = Modest dress. Body Parts Women Can Show In Public: Face, hands and forearms, heads, feet and ankles as during ablution. See 5:6. A Hadith that agrees with the Qur'an: Ibn Umar said that during the times of Rasoolullah (S) men and women used to do Wudhu together. - Bukhari, Kitabil Wudhu] RAPE: Most people think that the Qur'an prescribes no punishment for the rapist. But the Qur'an claims to be a well perfected Book and that it covers all things that were necessary to be revealed (Tibiyaanan likulli shayi 16:89). The Qur'an does not use Zina-bil-Jabr (forced sex) for good reason since it prescribes grievous punishment even for harassing or bothering women. The term used in 33:60 derives from Rajf = Creating alarm = Bothering = Frightening = Harassing = Causing to tremble = Inciting fear. The punishment for men creating Rajf among women could vary from exile to slaying depending on the extent of Rajf caused by the accused]

لَّئِن لَّمْ يَنتَهِ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ وَالْمُرْجِفُونَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ لَنُغْرِيَنَّكَ بِهِمْ ثُمَّ لَا يُجَاوِرُونَكَ فِيهَا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **33:60**

Thus it is: If the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is disease, and those who create turmoil in the City do not desist (from maligning women), We shall give you control over them (O Prophet). And then they will be your neighbors for no more than a short while.

مَّلْعُونِينَ أَيْنَمَا ثُقِفُوا أُخِذُوا وَقُتِّلُوا تَقْتِيلًا **33:61**

Accursed, they shall be seized wherever found and slain one and all. [This is the penalty for men who keep annoying innocent women on the street, assault them or rape them]

سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ فِي الَّذِينَ خَلَوْا مِن قَبْلُ وَلَن تَجِدَ لِسُنَّةِ اللَّهِ تَبْدِيلًا **33:62**

That was the way of God among those who lived before. And never will you find any change in God's way.

يَسْأَلُكَ النَّاسُ عَنِ السَّاعَةِ قُلْ إِنَّمَا عِلْمُهَا عِندَ اللَّهِ وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ تَكُونُ قَرِيبًا **33:63**

Only God knows the hour

People ask you about the Hour. Say, "The knowledge of the Hour is with God alone. Yet for your purposes, the Hour may be near."

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَعَنَ الْكَافِرِينَ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ سَعِيرًا **33:64**

Surely, God rejects those who reject the truth, and has readied for them a Blazing Fire.

خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا لَّا يَجِدُونَ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا **33:65**

Therein to abide forever, they will find then no patron nor helper.

يَوْمَ تُقَلَّبُ وُجُوهُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ يَقُولُونَ يَا لَيْتَنَا أَطَعْنَا اللَّهَ وَأَطَعْنَا الرَّسُولَا **33:66**

On the Day when their faces shall be tossed about in the fire, they will say, "Oh, We wish we had obeyed God, and obeyed the Messenger!"

وَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّا أَطَعْنَا سَادَتَنَا وَكُبَرَاءَنَا فَأَضَلُّونَا السَّبِيلَا **33:67**

And they will say, "Our Lord! We obeyed our clergy and the leaders and it is those who led us astray from the path." [Saadatana = Our masters = Our clergy = Our scared ones]

رَبَّنَا آتِهِمْ ضِعْفَيْنِ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ وَالْعَنْهُمْ لَعْنًا كَبِيرًا **33:68**

"Our Lord! Give them double punishment and banish them from your grace." [14:28, 16:25, 34:31-33]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ آذَوْا مُوسَىٰ فَبَرَّأَهُ اللَّهُ مِمَّا قَالُوا وَكَانَ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَجِيهًا **33:69**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never be like those who hurt Moses. Then God proved his innocence of what they alleged. He was honorable in the Sight of God. [2:55, 5:24-26, 33:57. According to the Bible, Numbers 12:1-13, the family of Moses had spoken against him for marrying an Ethiopian woman]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا **33:70**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of God and speak words straight to the point.

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا **33:71**

He will adjust your works for you, and protect you from trailing behind in humanity. Surely, one who obeys God and His Messenger has gained a signal victory. [4:31, 42:37, 53:32]

إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَبَيْنَ أَن يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحَمَلَهَا الْإِنسَانُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا **33:72**

Surely, We did offer the trust of compliance to the heavens and the earth, and the mountains and they, being fearful, breach not what is entrusted upon them. Yet man, with his free will, is the only one who breaches this trust of compliance. He wrongs himself without knowing it. [Haml = Accept = Bear = Interestingly, also the opposite meaning: Betraying the trust. This can compare well with Haraam = Forbidden = And the opposite, Sacred. A good example in English is the word CLIP meaning cutting as well as joining!]

لِّيُعَذِّبَ اللَّهُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ وَالْمُشْرِكَاتِ وَيَتُوبَ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **33:73**

And so it is. (After making the laws clear, and giving them the free will, God holds mankind accountable for their actions.) God imposes suffering on the hypocrite men and hypocrite women, and the idolaters and idolatresses. And so it is, God pardons believing men and believing women, and God is Forgiving, Merciful.

Chapter 34

Saba - Sheba

This is the 34th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 54 verses. Queen Bilqees of the Kingdom of Sheba had a strong and prosperous Empire but they worshiped the sun along with smaller deities, therefore, their social system was not without inequities. They also liked to invade other lands. King Solomon, the Prophet, subdued the hostility of her Kingdom without a fight and she saw the Divine truth. That was around 950 BC. Sheba is the name of the Kingdom that once prospered in today´s Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia. This impoverished region of today was the wealthiest Kingdom at its zenith, which was the time of Queen Bilqees of Sheba. For a little more account of their history, please see Surah 27, An-Naml. After Bilqees, the Kingdom of Sheba lasted, with ups and downs, until 115 BC when they were over-run by a Southern warrior people, Bihair. This Surah mentions the history of this Kingdom shortly before their annihilation in 115 BC. As usual the Surah touches upon diverse concepts. The Qur´an being a Book of guidance refers to history only enough to provide us with lessons. It is worth noting that the Qur´an describes especially the stories of David, Solomon and Sheba in allegorical terms since the Arab poetry and folklore spoke of them as such and the allegorical expression of the Qur´an instantly struck a chord with the initial addressees.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ **34:1**

All praise is due to God to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. The entire Universe manifests His praise in its design, action, discipline and splendor. And for Him is the praise in the Hereafter, and He is Wise, Aware.

يَعْلَمُ مَا يَلِجُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَنزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَمَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا وَهُوَ الرَّحِيمُ الْغَفُورُ **34:2**

He knows all that enters the earth, and all that comes out of it, and what descends from the high atmosphere and what ascends to it. And He is Merciful, Forgiving. [He nourishes the entire Cosmos and absolves imperfections]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَأْتِينَا السَّاعَةُ قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْهُ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أَصْغَرُ مِن ذَٰلِكَ وَلَا أَكْبَرُ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ **34:3**

And yet the disbelievers say, "Never will the Hour come upon us." Say, "Nay, by my Lord, it is coming to you. By the Knower of the Unseen, it will most certainly come upon you. (The Great Revolution in this world and the Hour of Resurrection are bound to come.) Not an atom's weight in the heavens and the earth, escapes His knowledge, nor is hidden anything smaller or larger, but it is recorded in a clear Database.

لِّيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ **34:4**

That He may reward those who attain belief and serve others with wealth and person, and thus grow their own 'self'. For them is the protection of forgiveness and honorable provision of mind and body."

وَالَّذِينَ سَعَوْا فِي آيَاتِنَا مُعَاجِزِينَ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مِّن رِّجْزٍ أَلِيمٌ **34:5**

Whereas those who strive against Our revelations trying to defeat their purpose, theirs will be a suffering of an incapacitating doom. [Rijz = Incapacity]

وَيَرَى الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِن رَّبِّكَ هُوَ الْحَقَّ وَيَهْدِي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ **34:6**

Those who make use of the (perceptual and conceptual) knowledge that they have been given, see that the revelation to you (O Prophet) from your Lord, is the truth. And that it leads to the path of the Almighty, the Owner of praise.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هَلْ نَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ يُنَبِّئُكُمْ إِذَا مُزِّقْتُمْ كُلَّ مُمَزَّقٍ إِنَّكُمْ لَفِي خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ **34:7**

But those who are bent upon denying the truth, say, "May we show you a man who says that after you are dispersed in dust completely, you will be created anew?"

أَفْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَم بِهِ جِنَّةٌ بَلِ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ فِي الْعَذَابِ وَالضَّلَالِ الْبَعِيدِ **34:8**

"Has he invented a lie against God or is he a madman¿' Nay, but those who disbelieve in the life to come are wandering in the wilderness of thought and in a profound error.

أَفَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَىٰ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِن نَّشَأْ نَخْسِفْ بِهِمُ الْأَرْضَ أَوْ نُسْقِطْ عَلَيْهِمْ كِسَفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّكُلِّ عَبْدٍ مُّنِيبٍ **34:9**

Have they not observed the heaven and the earth however little lies open before them, and however much is hidden from them? If We so willed, We could have caused the earth to swallow them, or caused masses from the sky fall down upon them. Therein, is a sign for every servant who turns to his Lord.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ مِنَّا فَضْلًا يَا جِبَالُ أَوِّبِي مَعَهُ وَالطَّيْرَ وَأَلَنَّا لَهُ الْحَدِيدَ **34:10**

We bestowed upon David bounties from Us, and commanded thus, "O Tribes of the Mountains! Join him in establishing My glory on earth." And so were commanded the fierce riders of the Taer Tribe. And We made the iron soft for him. [David mastered iron technology. 21:79, 27:15-16]

أَنِ اعْمَلْ سَابِغَاتٍ وَقَدِّرْ فِي السَّرْدِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **34:11**

(And We said to him), "Set up means for making coats of armor, and design a strong defense (with infantry and cavalry) linked in command. And (O People of David) you all shall use this power to serve humanity. Surely, I am Seer of whatever you do."

وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ غُدُوُّهَا شَهْرٌ وَرَوَاحُهَا شَهْرٌ وَأَسَلْنَا لَهُ عَيْنَ الْقِطْرِ وَمِنَ الْجِنِّ مَن يَعْمَلُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِ وَمَن يَزِغْ مِنْهُمْ عَنْ أَمْرِنَا نُذِقْهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ السَّعِيرِ **34:12**

And to Solomon, We committed the wind at his disposal. (He mastered the science of sailing and his ships sailed much faster than the others.) They sailed one month going and one month coming back. And We gave him abundance in mining of copper and minerals and subdued for him the Wild Tribes who worked for him by his Lord's leave. (Solomon established the Divine System such that) whoever

turned aside from Our command, We made him taste a severe punishment. [21:82, 38:37]

يَعْمَلُونَ لَهُ مَا يَشَاءُ مِن مَّحَارِيبَ وَتَمَاثِيلَ وَجِفَانٍ كَالْجَوَابِ وَقُدُورٍ رَّاسِيَاتٍ اعْمَلُوا آلَ دَاوُودَ شُكْرًا وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّكُورُ **34:13**

Statues, sculptures etc

They worked for him as he desired, making forts, statues, sculptures, paintings and images, pools, instruments of music, and boilers well-dug into the ground. We said, "Labor O Children of David, in gratitude for what you have been given. Few of My servants are truly grateful in practice." [Please note a Prophet of God decorating his kingdom with statues, sculptures, paintings and images. Muslim orthodoxy, unfortunately, declares all this as Forbidden. 17:101, 27:12]

فَلَمَّا قَضَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَوْتَ مَا دَلَّهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَوْتِهِ إِلَّا دَابَّةُ الْأَرْضِ تَأْكُلُ مِنسَأَتَهُ فَلَمَّا خَرَّ تَبَيَّنَتِ الْجِنُّ أَن لَّوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ الْغَيْبَ مَا لَبِثُوا فِي الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ **34:14**

When We decreed death for him (Solomon), nothing showed his death to the Wild Tribes until a creature of the earth ate away the strength he had mustered. (The incompetent successor Rehoboam destroyed the Kingdom's strength.) When the power base fell, the Wild Tribes rebelled regretting that they should have done it sooner only if they knew the new unjust King. [The 'creature of the earth' was the highly incompetent Rehoboam, son of, and successor to, Solomon 38:34. Historically, ten of the Israelite Tribes also broke away from the Kingdom at that point]

لَقَدْ كَانَ لِسَبَإٍ فِي مَسْكَنِهِمْ آيَةٌ جَنَّتَانِ عَن يَمِينٍ وَشِمَالٍ كُلُوا مِن رِّزْقِ رَبِّكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لَهُ بَلْدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَرَبٌّ غَفُورٌ **34:15**

The People of Sheba had a homeland that was a marvel, with gardens everywhere on the right and the left (Yemen-Somalia-Abyssinia). "Enjoy what your Sustainer has provided for you, and render thanks to Him for a goodly land and a Sustainer Absolver of imperfections."

فَأَعْرَضُوا فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَيْلَ الْعَرِمِ وَبَدَّلْنَاهُم بِجَنَّتَيْهِمْ جَنَّتَيْنِ ذَوَاتَيْ أُكُلٍ خَمْطٍ وَأَثْلٍ وَشَيْءٍ مِّن سِدْرٍ قَلِيلٍ **34:16**

But they turned away from Permanent Moral Values and We sent on them the Flood of the Aarim released from water dams. And We turned their Gardens into 'gardens' producing wild bitter fruit, and a thorny Lote-tree here and there. [The ruins of the greatest of these dams Ma'aarib exist in Yemen indicating that it was at least two miles long and 120 ft. high]

ذَٰلِكَ جَزَيْنَاهُم بِمَا كَفَرُوا وَهَلْ نُجَازِي إِلَّا الْكَفُورَ **34:17**

This was Our requital for their ingratitude. Do We ever punish anyone but the ungrateful? [Ingratitude = Refusing to share God's bounties in equity. It appears that in the Kingdom of Sheba people were divided into two classes, the very rich and the very poor]

وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ الْقُرَى الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا قُرًى ظَاهِرَةً وَقَدَّرْنَا فِيهَا السَّيْرَ سِيرُوا فِيهَا لَيَالِيَ وَأَيَّامًا آمِنِينَ **34:18**

And We had set, between them and the towns We had blessed (Syria-Palestine), many oases with townships within sight of one another, and thus We had made traveling easy, "Travel safely in this land by night or by day." [Before the destruction of the Sheba Empire, there were beautiful oases and towns from Ethiopia-Somalia-Yemen to Syria-Palestine, and business flourished through the highways and international trade through land and sea. Journey had been made easy for them with secured rest areas day and night. On the highway from Yemen to Jerusalem they had built 700 luxurious rest areas for the busy caravan route. Their trade extended to India in the East, Egypt-Sudan in the West, Kenya-Uganda in the South and Syria-Palestine in the North]

فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا بَاعِدْ بَيْنَ أَسْفَارِنَا وَظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَحَادِيثَ وَمَزَّقْنَاهُمْ كُلَّ مُمَزَّقٍ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ **34:19**

But now they would say, "Our Lord has made our journey-stages very distant." They wronged people and thus harmed themselves. Consequently, We made them and their formidable empire, history, dispersing them in fragments (as diasporas). Herein are signs for individuals and communities who would patiently draw lessons from history and be grateful (for what they learn).[The population of Ma'aarib, the capital, and the whole of Yemen, the Center of their Empire, got dispersed as wandering tribes Northward in the Arabian Peninsula and Southward in Africa]

وَلَقَدْ صَدَّقَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِبْلِيسُ ظَنَّهُ فَاتَّبَعُوهُ إِلَّا فَرِيقًا مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **34:20**

Iblees found them meeting his expectations. All of them followed their selfish desires, barring a few who had remained believers in moral values. [7:17, 17:62]

وَمَا كَانَ لَهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّن سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَ مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِالْآخِرَةِ مِمَّنْ هُوَ مِنْهَا فِي شَكٍّ وَرَبُّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيظٌ **34:21**

And yet he (Iblees) had no power at all over them (15:38-41). But We thus distinguish between those who believe in the life to come and those who keep doubting it. Your Lord is Watcher over all things. [Those who deny the Hereafter and the Law of Requital easily succumb to desires]

قُلِ ادْعُوا الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَهُمْ فِيهِمَا مِن شِرْكٍ وَمَا لَهُ مِنْهُم مِّن ظَهِيرٍ **34:22**

Say, "Call upon those whom you imagine beside God! They do not have an atom's weight of power either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor does He need any of them as a helper."

وَلَا تَنفَعُ الشَّفَاعَةُ عِندَهُ إِلَّا لِمَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُزِّعَ عَن قُلُوبِهِمْ قَالُوا مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ قَالُوا الْحَقَّ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ **34:23**

Intercession

No intercession is of any avail with Him except that one stands up as a witness of law in His Court. When their hearts are calmed down, they will ask, "What did your Lord decide?" The witnesses will say, "The decisive truth." He is the Most High, Most Great.

قُلْ مَن يَرْزُقُكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قُلِ اللَّهُ وَإِنَّا أَوْ إِيَّاكُمْ لَعَلَىٰ هُدًى أَوْ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **34:24**

Say, "Who grants you provision from the heavens and earth?" Say, "God" and see for yourself who is rightly guided and who is in error, we or you?" [You wish to keep the God-given resources to yourselves and we insist on an equitable distribution]

قُل لَّا تُسْأَلُونَ عَمَّا أَجْرَمْنَا وَلَا نُسْأَلُ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **34:25**

Say, "You will not be asked of our wrongs, nor will we be called to account for what you are doing."

قُلْ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا رَبُّنَا ثُمَّ يَفْتَحُ بَيْنَنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَهُوَ الْفَتَّاحُ الْعَلِيمُ **34:26**

Say, "Our Lord will bring us all together, then He will lay open the truth between us. Surely, He is the Exponent of truth, Knower."

قُلْ أَرُونِيَ الَّذِينَ أَلْحَقْتُم بِهِ شُرَكَاءَ كَلَّا بَلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **34:27**

Say, "Point out to me those whom you associate with Him as partners. Nay, but He alone is God, the Almighty, the Wise."

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **34:28**

(O Messenger) We have sent you as a bringer of glad news and as a warner to mankind at large, but most people are (at this time) unaware of this fact.

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **34:29**

They keep saying, “When will the promise be fulfilled, if you (believers) are truthful?”

قُل لَّكُم مِّيعَادُ يَوْمٍ لَّا تَسْتَأْخِرُونَ عَنْهُ سَاعَةً وَلَا تَسْتَقْدِمُونَ **34:30**

Say, “There is an appointed day for you which you can neither postpone nor hasten it by an hour.”

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَن نُّؤْمِنَ بِهَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ وَلَا بِالَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ مَوْقُوفُونَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ يَرْجِعُ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ الْقَوْلَ يَقُولُ الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لَوْلَا أَنتُمْ لَكُنَّا مُؤْمِنِينَ **34:31**

And the rejecters say, “We will not believe in this Qur’an, nor in the previous scriptures.” If you could only see these transgressors when they are made to stand before their Lord, how they blame one another. The followers will tell their proud leaders, “If it were not for you, we would have been believers.”

قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا أَنَحْنُ صَدَدْنَاكُمْ عَنِ الْهُدَىٰ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَكُم بَلْ كُنتُم مُّجْرِمِينَ **34:32**

The arrogant leaders will say to the weak masses, “Why! Did we drive you away from the guidance when it had come to you? Nay, it is you who were guilty (of blind following).”

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا بَلْ مَكْرُ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ إِذْ تَأْمُرُونَنَا أَن نَّكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَنَجْعَلَ لَهُ أَندَادًا وَأَسَرُّوا النَّدَامَةَ لَمَّا رَأَوُا الْعَذَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا الْأَغْلَالَ فِي أَعْنَاقِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هَلْ يُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **34:33**

The weak masses will say to the arrogant ones, “Nay, you were the ones who schemed night and day to set up systems that you forced us to follow, and be ungrateful to God, and to attribute equals to Him.” Both parties will be filled with remorse when they see the doom. We will put shackles around the necks of all those who rejected the truth. Are they rewarded for anything but what they used to do?

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُم بِهِ كَافِرُونَ **34:34**

Whenever We sent a warner to any community its rich elite declared, “We reject the message you are sent with.”

وَقَالُوا نَحْنُ أَكْثَرُ أَمْوَالًا وَأَوْلَادًا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ **34:35**

They further said, “We are more abundant in wealth and children and we cannot be overpowered.”

قُلْ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **34:36**

Say, “Behold! My Lord enlarges the provision and narrows it for any and all according to His laws. But most people remain unaware.” [Ad-Deen, the Prescribed System of Life, ordained in this Book ensures prosperity for all]

وَمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُم بِالَّتِي تُقَرِّبُكُمْ عِندَنَا زُلْفَىٰ إِلَّا مَنْ آمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ جَزَاءُ الضِّعْفِ بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَهُمْ فِي الْغُرُفَاتِ آمِنُونَ **34:37**

And it is not your wealth nor your children and party that will bring you closer to Us in degree, but he who truly believes and helps others. It is those who will have a twofold reward for their deeds. And they will dwell in secure mansions. [25:75]

وَالَّذِينَ يَسْعَوْنَ فِي آيَاتِنَا مُعَاجِزِينَ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُحْضَرُونَ **34:38**

Whereas those who strive against Our revelations trying to make them ineffective, will be given over to retribution.

قُلْ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَقْدِرُ لَهُ وَمَا أَنفَقْتُم مِّن شَيْءٍ فَهُوَ يُخْلِفُهُ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ **34:39**

Say, “My Lord enlarges or narrows provision for His servants according to His laws. Whatever you spend on others, He replaces it. For, He is the Best of providers.” [2:261, 20:124]

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ أَهَٰؤُلَاءِ إِيَّاكُمْ كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ **34:40**

The Day He gathers all people He will ask the angels, “Did they worship you?” [Did they think that the God’s forces in Nature randomly run the Universe?]

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ أَنتَ وَلِيُّنَا مِن دُونِهِم بَلْ كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ الْجِنَّ أَكْثَرُهُم بِهِم مُّؤْمِنُونَ **34:41**

They will answer, “Glory is Yours! You are our Master, not them. Nay, they used to worship the invisible guises of their selfish desires. Most of them were believers therein.” [9:51, 10:30. Jinns = Hidden from sight. Generally this term in the Qur’an applies to nomads rarely appearing in townships. It is also used to describe rebellious desires, emotions and fiery temperament like Satan. 6:101, 18:50, 37:158, 55:15]

فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يَمْلِكُ بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ نَّفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا وَنَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا ذُوقُوا عَذَابَ النَّارِ الَّتِي كُنتُم بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ **34:42**

That Day you will have no power to help or harm one another and We will tell the transgressors, “Taste the doom of fire which you used to deny.”

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالُوا مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا رَجُلٌ يُرِيدُ أَن يَصُدَّكُمْ عَمَّا كَانَ يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَقَالُوا مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا إِفْكٌ مُّفْتَرًى وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **34:43**

When Our verses are conveyed to them in all clarity, they say, “This is only a man who wants to divert you from what your ancestors used to worship.” And they say, “This is nothing but an invented lie.” Those who disbelieve say of the truth when it reaches them, “This is nothing but an obvious magic.”

وَمَا آتَيْنَاهُم مِّن كُتُبٍ يَدْرُسُونَهَا وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ قَبْلَكَ مِن نَّذِيرٍ **34:44**

But We never gave them any scriptures that they study, nor did We send to them before you any warner.

وَكَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَمَا بَلَغُوا مِعْشَارَ مَا آتَيْنَاهُمْ فَكَذَّبُوا رُسُلِي فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ **34:45**

Thus too, those before them had denied. These (people) have not received a tenth of what We had granted to those. Yet, when they denied My Messengers, (see) how awesome was My rejection!

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَعِظُكُم بِوَاحِدَةٍ أَن تَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ مَثْنَىٰ وَفُرَادَىٰ ثُمَّ تَتَفَكَّرُوا مَا بِصَاحِبِكُم مِّن جِنَّةٍ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ لَّكُم بَيْنَ يَدَيْ عَذَابٍ شَدِيدٍ **34:46**

Say, "I ask you to do just one thing: For the sake of God! Stand up in pairs and singly, and then think. There is no madness in your companion. He is only a warner to you in the face of a terrible doom."

قُلْ مَا سَأَلْتُكُم مِّنْ أَجْرٍ فَهُوَ لَكُمْ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ **34:47**

Say, "I have never asked you any reward but (all my effort) is in your interest. My reward rests with none but God, and He is Witness to everything."

قُلْ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَقْذِفُ بِالْحَقِّ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ **34:48**

Say, "Surely, my Lord makes the truth prevail - He Who is the Profound Knower of the Unseen."

قُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَمَا يُبْدِئُ الْبَاطِلُ وَمَا يُعِيدُ **34:49**

Say, "The truth has now come. And falsehood can neither initiate anything, nor repeat it." [17:81. True ideas are inherently creative. falsehood, being itself an illusion, cannot really create anything]

قُلْ إِن ضَلَلْتُ فَإِنَّمَا أَضِلُّ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِي وَإِنِ اهْتَدَيْتُ فَبِمَا يُوحِي إِلَيَّ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ **34:50**

Say, "When I was searching for the truth, I was searching for the truth for myself. And now I am rightly guided because of what my Lord has revealed to me. He is the Hearer, Near." [93:7]

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ فَزِعُوا فَلَا فَوْتَ وَأُخِذُوا مِن مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ **34:51**

If you could but see when they will quake with terror. But there will be no escape and they will soon be seized. [Makaanin qareeb = A place nearby = Soon = Close to their homes]

وَقَالُوا آمَنَّا بِهِ وَأَنَّىٰ لَهُمُ التَّنَاوُشُ مِن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ **34:52**

They will cry, "We now believe in it." But how could they attain it when it will be far too late. [Makaanim ba'eed = A place far away = Point of no return = Far too late]

وَقَدْ كَفَرُوا بِهِ مِن قَبْلُ وَيَقْذِفُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ مِن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ **34:53**

They did reject the truth in the past, and they used to shoot arrows of conjecture in the darkness. [They aimed at what they could not see and worked for what was futile]

وَحِيلَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ مَا يَشْتَهُونَ كَمَا فُعِلَ بِأَشْيَاعِهِم مِّن قَبْلُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا فِي شَكٍّ مُّرِيبٍ **34:54**

A barrier will be set between them and their desires, as was done in the past for people of their kind. They too were lost in doubt and suspicion.

Chapter 35

Al-Faatir - The Originator

This is the 35th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 45 verses. God is the Creator and the Originator of all things, meaning that He creates from nothing. He Initiates matter.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فَاطِرِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَاعِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا أُولِي أَجْنِحَةٍ مَّثْنَىٰ وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ يَزِيدُ فِي الْخَلْقِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **35:1**

All praise is due to God, the Originator of all Highs and Lows. He appoints His Universal forces, having multiple functions, as message-bearers. He increases in creation as He wills. Certainly, God has appointed due measure for all things and events. [Faatir = Originator-Cleaver of new creation. Malaaekah = Angels mentioned here, are the forces that evolve the Universe. Ajniha = Powers = Functions = Wings = Abilities = Strength]

مَّا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِن رَّحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكْ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِن بَعْدِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **35:2**

Whatever grace God opens for mankind, none can withhold it. And whatever He withholds, none can release it, for He is the Almighty, the Wise. [He uses His Might with grace and wisdom]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ هَلْ مِنْ خَالِقٍ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَرْزُقُكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّىٰ تُؤْفَكُونَ **35:3**

O Mankind! Think of the blessings of God upon you. Is there any creator other than God Who provides for you from the heaven and earth? There is no god but He. How could you be wandering?

وَإِن يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **35:4**

(O Messenger) if they deny you, Messengers before you were also denied. But all affairs ultimately end up in His Court.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغَرُورُ **35:5**

O Mankind! God's promise is true. So let not the present life deceive you, nor let the Deceiver deceive you about God. [Al-Gharoor = Deceiver = Satan = Selfish desires = Devil = Satanic people = Those who mislead]

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُو حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ **35:6**

Satan is a foe to you, so treat him as a foe. He only calls his party to become companions of the Blazing fire.

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ **35:7**

For those who are bent on rejecting the truth, is a severe retribution. And for those who accept the truth and work for the welfare of others, is the protection of forgiveness and a great reward.

أَفَمَن زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ فَرَآهُ حَسَنًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ فَلَا تَذْهَبْ نَفْسُكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسَرَاتٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ **35:8**

Can you think of him whose persistence in evil (blunts his sensitivity) so that he looks upon it as good? Surely, God lets go astray only him who wills to go astray, just as He guides him who wills to be guided. Therefore, do not waste yourself in sorrowing over them. Surely, God is Aware of all they contrive. [laws of guidance, 4:88]

وَاللَّهُ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيَاحَ فَتُثِيرُ سَحَابًا فَسُقْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ بَلَدٍ مَّيِّتٍ فَأَحْيَيْنَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا كَذَٰلِكَ النُّشُورُ **35:9**

And God is the One Who sends the winds and they raise a cloud; then We lead it to a dead land and revive the earth after it had been lifeless. Thus is the Resurrection (and revival of individuals and communities with Divine Guidance is an appropriate similitude).

مَن كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ وَالَّذِينَ يَمْكُرُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَكْرُ أُولَٰئِكَ هُوَ يَبُورُ **35:10**

Whoever desires dignity should know that to God belongs all Dignity and He is the Source of all dignity. Unto Him attain loftiness all noble words and ideas, and He exalts every act of beneficence. (That is how individuals and communities can rise in honor.) But those who plot to disrupt others' lives, for them is dire retribution, and their plotting is bound to come to naught. [14:24 Kalimatan Tayyebah = Goodly Word = Noble Ideology]

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُم مِّن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ وَمَا يُعَمَّرُ مِن مُّعَمَّرٍ وَلَا يُنقَصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ **35:11**

(Recall your common humble origin.) God created you from dust, then from male and female gametes, and then He makes you pairs. And no female becomes pregnant, nor gives birth without His knowledge (according to His appointed laws in nature, without exceptions). No one lives long, and no one lives short, but by His laws. All this is easy for God. [3:144. Nutfah = Gamete, male or female. Commonly misunderstood as sperm or semen, it is a common gender]

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْبَحْرَانِ هَٰذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ سَائِغٌ شَرَابُهُ وَهَٰذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ وَمِن كُلٍّ تَأْكُلُونَ لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُونَ حِلْيَةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا وَتَرَى الْفُلْكَ فِيهِ مَوَاخِرَ لِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ **35:12**

Eat from the sea

(Observe the diversity in nature.) Thus the two seas are not alike. One is fresh, good to drink, the other undrinkable, salty. Yet, from either of them you eat tender meat

and extract ornament that you may wear. And you see ships sailing through the waves seeking His bounty, so that you may have reason to be grateful. [25:53]

يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِن قِطْمِيرٍ **35:13**

He makes the night grow longer by shortening the day, and makes the day grow longer by shortening the night. And He has committed the sun and the moon to service, each running to an appointed term. Such is God, your Lord - to Him belongs all Dominion. And those whom you call upon instead of Him, do not own so much as the husk of a date-stone. [4:53, 4:124]

إِن تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دُعَاءَكُمْ وَلَوْ سَمِعُوا مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُونَ بِشِرْكِكُمْ وَلَا يُنَبِّئُكَ مِثْلُ خَبِيرٍ **35:14**

The dead cannot help you

When you call them (the dead 'saints'), they do not even hear your call, and even if they were to hear they would not be able to respond to you. On the Day of Resurrection they will disown your 'partnership'. And none can inform you like the One Who is Aware.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ **35:15**

O Mankind! It is you who stand in need of God. And God! He is Absolutely Independent, the Owner of praise.

إِن يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَأْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ **35:16**

If He wills, He can do away with you and bring some new creation. [4:133]

وَمَا ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ بِعَزِيزٍ **35:17**

This is not at all difficult for God.

وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَإِن تَدْعُ مُثْقَلَةٌ إِلَىٰ حِمْلِهَا لَا يُحْمَلْ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ إِنَّمَا تُنذِرُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَمَن تَزَكَّىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَتَزَكَّىٰ لِنَفْسِهِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ **35:18**

And no person, being already burdened with his own doings, will be made to carry the burden of another. And if a laden one calls for help with his load, none can carry part of it even if he is a close relative. So, you can warn only those who understand their Lord's Law of Recompense knowing that even their actions done in secrecy have consequences. So, such people follow the Divine Commands closely. Whoever grows in virtue does so for the good of his own 'self'. And the destination of all is to God.

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ **35:19**

The blind of reason and the seeing are not equal.

وَلَا الظُّلُمَاتُ وَلَا النُّورُ **35:20**

Nor are the darkness and the light.

وَلَا الظِّلُّ وَلَا الْحَرُورُ **35:21**

Nor are the cooling shade and the scorching heat.

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَحْيَاءُ وَلَا الْأَمْوَاتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسْمِعُ مَن يَشَاءُ **35:22**
وَمَا أَنتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَّن فِي الْقُبُورِ

Dead cannot hear

Nor are the living equal with the dead. God makes him hear who wants to hear. You cannot make the dead of heart hear just like those who are in the graves.

إِنْ أَنتَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ **35:23**

You are but a warner.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِن مِّنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ **35:24**

Surely, We have sent you with the truth, as a bearer of good news, and as a warner. And there is not a community but a warner has lived among them.

وَإِن يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم **35:25**
بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَبِالزُّبُرِ وَبِالْكِتَابِ الْمُنِيرِ

(O Prophet) if they deny you, those before them also denied. Their Messengers came to them with all evidence of the truth, and with Books of Divine wisdom, and the light giving scripture.

ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ **35:26**

Then I seized the rejecters of the truth, and how intense was My rejection!

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ ثَمَرَاتٍ مُّخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهَا وَمِنَ الْجِبَالِ جُدَدٌ بِيضٌ وَحُمْرٌ مُّخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهَا وَغَرَابِيبُ سُودٌ **35:27**

Have you not seen that God causes water to fall from the height. Then, with it We produce fruit of different colors and kinds. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of diverse colors, and raven-black.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ وَالدَّوَابِّ وَالْأَنْعَامِ مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ كَذَٰلِكَ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ غَفُورٌ **35:28**

And of human beings, the crawling creatures and related animals, and the cattle have diverse colors and properties. This is why of all His servants only those with knowledge of sciences can get some idea of the glory of God (by examining the wonders in nature). Surely, God is Almighty, Absolver of imperfections. [Dawwab = Crawling creatures and insects. Ulama = Scientists = Men and women of scientific knowledge. The above two verses clearly define 'Ulama'. Please reflect how many sciences are mentioned here: Meteorology, Water Cycle, Botany, Geology, Topography, Anthropology, Human soma and psyche, Biology, Zoology, Nematology, Parasitology, Livestock, Nutrition etc! The term does not apply to the clergy (Mullahs) who can only relate false, fabricated traditions and tell us about vain, petty rituals; things such as which side to sleep on and not to sleep on, prayers to recite when you wake up or step in and out of home, how to rinse your nose and mouth, do wudhu or wash the private parts, and so on. 2:164]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ **35:29**

Those who read the scripture of God (in Nature) and follow God's commands, and spend on others the provision We have given them, secretly and openly, are conducting business that will never perish. [9:111, 61:10, 62:11]

لِيُوَفِّيَهُمْ أُجُورَهُمْ وَيَزِيدَهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ **35:30**

He will pay their wages and give them yet more of His bounty. He is Absolver of imperfections, Responsive to gratitude.

وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ هُوَ الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِعِبَادِهِ لَخَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ **35:31**

Quran is truth

And (O Prophet) all that We have revealed in this Book to you is the very truth, confirming (the surviving truth in) what was revealed before it. God is Aware,

Seer of His servants (knowing their physical and intellectual needs). [2:101, 3:78, 5:48]

ثُمَّ أَوْرَثْنَا الْكِتَابَ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَيْنَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا فَمِنْهُمْ ظَالِمٌ لِّنَفْسِهِ وَمِنْهُم مُّقْتَصِدٌ وَمِنْهُمْ سَابِقٌ بِالْخَيْرَاتِ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ **35:32**

And so, We gave the scripture as inheritance to those whom We elected of Our servants. And there are those who (ignore it and thus) hurt themselves. Others will have a lukewarm attitude toward it, and some who, by God's leave, will be foremost in attaining all the good in it. That! Certainly that is, the great bounty.

جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِن ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ **35:33**

So, the Gardens of Eden of eternal bliss will they enter, therein to be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and therein to be dressed in garments of silk. [And right here in this world they will establish a society in which life will be pleasant and honorable. 22:23]

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزَنَ إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ **35:34**

And they will say, "All praise to God Who has removed grief from us. Surely, Our Lord is Absolver of imperfections, Responsive to gratitude.

الَّذِي أَحَلَّنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا لُغُوبٌ **35:35**

Who, out of His bounty, has settled us in the mansion of Eternity. Neither do we experience toil herein, nor any sense of weariness." [20:118]

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَهُمْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ لَا يُقْضَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ فَيَمُوتُوا وَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُم مِّنْ عَذَابِهَا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي كُلَّ كَفُورٍ **35:36**

But for those who reject the truth, is fire of Hell. Therein they neither end up dying nor is the torment lightened for them. Thus We requite all those who remain ungrateful (for the guidance). [14:17, 20:74, 87:13]

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِخُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَن تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ **35:37**

النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ

And in that suffering they will cry, "Our Lord! Bring us out. We will do right, not what we used to do." What! Did We not grant you a life-long opportunity, with frequent reminders, for those who would reflect? Moreover, the warner came to you. Taste then, (the fruit of your transgressions). So, for those who relegate the truth, there is no helper. [Zaalim = Wrongdoer = Oppressor = One who displaces something from its rightful place = One who relegates the truth = Violator of human rights]

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَالِمُ غَيْبِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **35:38**

Surely, God is Knower of the Unseen of the heavens and the earth and He is Knower of what is in the hearts.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَن كَفَرَ فَعَلَيْهِ كُفْرُهُ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا مَقْتًا وَلَا يَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرُهُمْ إِلَّا خَسَارًا **35:39**

He is the One Who has given you supremacy on the earth (2:30). So whoever denies this blessing, his denial is upon him. Their denial increases their deprivation according to the laws of their Lord, and their denial only increases their own loss (making them content with a subhuman existence).

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ شُرَكَاءَكُمُ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ أَمْ آتَيْنَاهُمْ كِتَابًا فَهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَتٍ مِّنْهُ بَلْ إِن يَعِدُ الظَّالِمُونَ بَعْضُهُم بَعْضًا إِلَّا غُرُورًا **35:40**

Say, "Have you seen your 'partners' whom you call upon besides God? Show me what they created of the earth! Or have they any share in the heavens? Or have We given them a scripture as evidence to prove their fallacies?" Nay, those who exploit the weak, support one another with delusions.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُمْسِكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ أَن تَزُولَا وَلَئِن زَالَتَا إِنْ أَمْسَكَهُمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِّن بَعْدِهِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا **35:41**

Surely, it is God Who upholds the celestial bodies and the earth, so they deviate not from their course. And if they were to deviate, there is none, no one whatsoever

that can uphold them after He ceases to uphold them. Surely, He is Clement, Absolver of imperfections.

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِن جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ لَّيَكُونُنَّ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْ إِحْدَى الْأُمَمِ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ مَّا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا نُفُورًا **35:42**

Thus it is, yet - they used to swear by God with their most solemn oaths that if a warner came to them, they would follow his guidance better than any community ever did. But now that a warner has come to them, it arouses in them nothing but aversion.

?

اسْتِكْبَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَكْرَ السَّيِّئِ وَلَا يَحِيقُ الْمَكْرُ السَّيِّئُ إِلَّا بِأَهْلِهِ فَهَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا سُنَّتَ الْأَوَّلِينَ فَلَن تَجِدَ لِسُنَّتِ اللَّهِ تَبْدِيلًا وَلَن تَجِدَ لِسُنَّتِ اللَّهِ تَحْوِيلًا **35:43**

No change in Gods Sunna, law

Their arrogance in the land and their evil schemes! Yet an evil scheme engulfs its designers. Are they waiting for anything but the way the ancients were dealt with? Yes! No change you will ever find in the laws of God, and no deviation you will ever find in the laws of God.

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَكَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُعْجِزَهُ مِن شَيْءٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيمًا قَدِيرًا **35:44**

Have they not traveled in the land and seen what happened to those before them? And they were greater in might than these are. God is not such that anything in the heavens and earth could foil His authority, for He is Knower, Supreme Controller.

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَىٰ ظَهْرِهَا مِن دَابَّةٍ وَلَٰكِن يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا **35:45**

If God took mankind to task for what they earn by their deeds, He would not leave a creature on its surface. However, He grants them respite to an appointed term. And when their term comes to an end, then, they come to know that God is ever Seer of His servants. ['Not leave a creature': Life on the planet earth manifests itself in the highest form as the humans. 2:30, 16:61, 35:39]

Chapter 36

Ya-Seen - O Human Being!

This is the 36th Surah of the Qur´an. Among the Arabian Tribes Seen was in use as the abbreviation of Insaan = Human being, therefore, Ya-Seen = O Human being! And since it is addressing the Prophet, one of his honored titles is Yaseen. This Surah has 83 verses. Along with its conceptual diversity, it sheds light on the relationship between God and His creation and the ongoing changes that take place in nature. This Surah makes use of a beautiful parable from verse 13 To 30. We will see it unfold as we go long. The verses probably do not relate an account of history. Unfortunately, it has been a common practice among the ignorant to open the Qur´an only to recite this Surah beside a dying person hoping that this would ease the process of dying! Some fabricated Ahadith lead them into this error. But the Qur´an is a Guide for the living to journey through life in its light. And it is not a book of mantras or magic.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يس **36:1**

Y.S. Ya-Seen! (O Human being to whom this Divine Writ is revealed!)

وَالْقُرْآنِ الْحَكِيمِ **36:2**

The Wise Qur'an is a witness in itself that:

إِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **36:3**

Surely, you are one of the Messengers.

عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **36:4**

On a straight path.

تَنزِيلَ الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ **36:5**

It is a revelation of the Almighty, the Merciful.

لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أُنذِرَ آبَاؤُهُمْ فَهُمْ غَافِلُونَ **36:6**

That you may warn a people whose ancestors were not warned, and are, therefore, unaware of what is right and what is wrong. [2:125, 7:158, 28:46, 32:3]

لَقَدْ حَقَّ الْقَوْلُ عَلَىٰ أَكْثَرِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **36:7**

Already the word has come true for most of them, that they do not believe.

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ أَغْلَالًا فَهِيَ إِلَى الْأَذْقَانِ فَهُم مُّقْمَحُونَ **36:8**

Around their necks We (Our laws) have put shackles, reaching their chins so that they cannot bend their heads. Their heads are forced up in arrogance (like the agitated camel who keeps his head high refusing to drink the life-giving water).

وَجَعَلْنَا مِن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ سَدًّا فَأَغْشَيْنَاهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ **36:9**

And We have set a bar before them and a bar behind them, and thus have covered them so that they cannot see. [They neither look to the future nor derive any lesson from history]

وَسَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أَأَنذَرْتَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تُنذِرْهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **36:10**

Whether you warn them or warn them not, it is the same for them. [Their attitude bars them from attaining faith]

إِنَّمَا تُنذِرُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ الذِّكْرَ وَخَشِيَ الرَّحْمَٰنَ بِالْغَيْبِ فَبَشِّرْهُ بِمَغْفِرَةٍ وَأَجْرٍ كَرِيمٍ **36:11**

You can only warn him who reflects, and fears (violating the universal laws of) the Beneficent even in privacy. Unto such give the good news of forgiveness and a most honorable reward.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَنَكْتُبُ مَا قَدَّمُوا وَآثَارَهُمْ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَاهُ فِي إِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ **36:12**

Surely, We give life to the dead, and We record all they send before them and their legacies. And all things and events are recorded in a clear Record. [Whatever the humans do, their actions leave permanent imprints on their own 'self']

وَاضْرِبْ لَهُم مَّثَلًا أَصْحَابَ الْقَرْيَةِ إِذْ جَاءَهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ **36:13**

Give them an example, the example of the people of the township when Messengers came to them.

إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْهِمُ اثْنَيْنِ فَكَذَّبُوهُمَا فَعَزَّزْنَا بِثَالِثٍ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا إِلَيْكُم مُّرْسَلُونَ **36:14**

When We sent to them two Messengers, they denied them. We then strengthened them with a third and they said, "Surely, We have been sent to you."

قَالُوا مَا أَنتُمْ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا وَمَا أَنزَلَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ مِن شَيْءٍ إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا تَكْذِبُونَ **36:15**

But the people said, "You are nothing but human beings like us. The Beneficent has never revealed anything. You are but lying." [6:91, 34:31]

قَالُوا رَبُّنَا يَعْلَمُ إِنَّا إِلَيْكُمْ لَمُرْسَلُونَ **36:16**

Said the Messengers, "Our Lord knows that we have been sent to you.

وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **36:17**

And our duty is only to convey the message clearly."

قَالُوا إِنَّا تَطَيَّرْنَا بِكُمْ لَئِن لَّمْ تَنتَهُوا لَنَرْجُمَنَّكُمْ وَلَيَمَسَّنَّكُم مِّنَّا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **36:18**

The people said, "We consider you bad omens. If you do not desist, we will stone you, and grievous punishment will befall you at our hands."

قَالُوا طَائِرُكُم مَّعَكُمْ أَئِن ذُكِّرْتُم بَلْ أَنتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ **36:19**

The Messengers replied, "Your destiny rests with yourselves, now that you have been reminded. (There is no such thing as a bad omen 17:13.) Nay, but you are a people who are wasting away your potentials." (10:12) [The Symbolism used here is most aptly applicable to Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (salutations to them all). All three were commissioned in a similar cultural environment, therefore, the Town. All three upheld strict Monotheism, were denied, threatened and persecuted or migrated. And the first two were strengthened by the Final Messenger of God to carry the Divine message to people of all times and places]

وَجَاءَ مِنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ يَسْعَىٰ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اتَّبِعُوا الْمُرْسَلِينَ **36:20**

At that, a man came running from the farthest end of the Town and said, "O My people! Follow these Messengers. [This man from the farthest end represents the believers who journeyed a long way from the falsehood to the truth]

اتَّبِعُوا مَن لَّا يَسْأَلُكُمْ أَجْرًا وَهُم مُّهْتَدُونَ 36:21

Follow those who ask you no reward, and who are rightly guided.“

وَمَا لِيَ لَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ 36:22

He continued, “Why should I not serve Him Who has originated me, and to Whom you all will be returned.

أَأَتَّخِذُ مِن دُونِهِ آلِهَةً إِن يُرِدْنِ الرَّحْمَٰنُ بِضُرٍّ لَّا تُغْنِ عَنِّي شَفَاعَتُهُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا يُنقِذُونِ 36:23

No intercession

Should I take gods instead of Him? But, then, if the Beneficent intends to harm me, their intercession cannot help me at all, nor can they save me.

إِنِّي إِذًا لَّفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ 36:24

Then, I would be lost in manifest error.

إِنِّي آمَنتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ فَاسْمَعُونِ 36:25

Surely, I have come to believe in your Lord. Listen, then, to me!”

قِيلَ ادْخُلِ الْجَنَّةَ قَالَ يَا لَيْتَ قَوْمِي يَعْلَمُونَ 36:26

It was said, “You shall enter the Garden.” He said, “Ah, I wish my people knew,

بِمَا غَفَرَ لِي رَبِّي وَجَعَلَنِي مِنَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ 36:27

(How benevolently) my Lord has pardoned me and made me of the honored ones.”

وَمَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ مِن بَعْدِهِ مِن جُندٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَمَا كُنَّا مُنزِلِينَ 36:28

Then, after him, We did not send down any army from the heavens against his people, nor do We ever send.

إِن كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ خَامِدُونَ 36:29

It was no more than a single mighty blast, and they were ashes, still and silent.

يَا حَسْرَةً عَلَى الْعِبَادِ مَا يَأْتِيهِم مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ 36:30

Ah, the anguish for the servants, they have to bear! Never has a Messenger come to them, but they did mock him!

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُم مِّنَ الْقُرُونِ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ **36:31**

Have they not reflected how many a generation We (Our Law of Requital) annihilated before them. They did not turn to their Messengers and, therefore, never returned to their lost glory.

وَإِن كُلٌّ لَّمَّا جَمِيعٌ لَّدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ **36:32**

All of them, all together, will be presented before Us.

وَآيَةٌ لَّهُمُ الْأَرْضُ الْمَيْتَةُ أَحْيَيْنَاهَا وَأَخْرَجْنَا مِنْهَا حَبًّا فَمِنْهُ يَأْكُلُونَ **36:33**

And yet, there is a sign for them in the lifeless earth which We revive and We bring forth from it grain so that they eat thereof. [Divine revelation can, likewise, revive dead communities and make them blessings for all humanity]

وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا جَنَّاتٍ مِّن نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ وَفَجَّرْنَا فِيهَا مِنَ الْعُيُونِ **36:34**

And We produce therein gardens of date palm and grapevines, and We cause springs to gush forth therein,

لِيَأْكُلُوا مِن ثَمَرِهِ وَمَا عَمِلَتْهُ أَيْدِيهِمْ أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ **36:35**

That they may enjoy the fruit thereof, although their hands did not make it. Will they not then be grateful?

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنبِتُ الْأَرْضُ وَمِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **36:36**

Glory to Him Who has created pairs of everything that the earth grows, and of themselves, and of things they have no knowledge yet. [This discovery of all things existing in pairs earned the British physicist Paul Dirac the Nobel Prize in 1933]

وَآيَةٌ لَّهُمُ اللَّيْلُ نَسْلَخُ مِنْهُ النَّهَارَ فَإِذَا هُم مُّظْلِمُونَ **36:37**

And a sign for them is the night. We withdraw from it the day, and they are in darkness.

وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَّهَا ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ **36:38**

And the sun: it is running to its appointed destination. That is the measure of the Almighty, the Knower. [Until the 19th century, it was thought that the sun was static. But, the celebrated Russian philosopher, astronomer and mystic, P.D. Ouspensky (1878-1947, author of Tertium Organum), had maintained that any science that contradicted the Qur'an would turn out to be false. Then, during Ouspensky's lifetime, it was discovered that the sun is moving toward a specified destination at 12 miles per second, 43,200 miles per hour! This destination has even been assigned names, the Solar Apex, the Constellation of Hercules]

وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَّرْنَاهُ مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ **36:39**

And the moon: We have measured for it phases until it becomes (a crescent) like an old curved date-stalk.

لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنبَغِي لَهَا أَن تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ **36:40**

It is not for the sun to overtake the moon, nor can the night outrun the day. All of them swim along in their orbits. [The sun cannot pull the moon to itself and the night and the day cannot lengthen or shorten other than the appointed measure. 21:33, 22:61, 25:62, 31:29, 41:37, 57:6]

وَآيَةٌ لَّهُمْ أَنَّا حَمَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ فِي الْفُلْكِ الْمَشْحُونِ **36:41**

Another sign for them is that We carry the Children of Adam on the loaded ship. [Zurriatahum = Their generations = Their seed = Children of Adam = May refer to Prophet Noah's people, and parents letting their children sail in confidence]

وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُم مِّن مِّثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ **36:42**

And We have created for them similar things to ride on. [And We will create things of which you have no knowledge yet. 16:8]

وَإِن نَّشَأْ نُغْرِقْهُمْ فَلَا صَرِيخَ لَهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنقَذُونَ **36:43**

And if We will We could drown them, with none to respond to their cry of help, nor could they be saved. [Nashaa = As We will = According to Our laws]

إِلَّا رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا وَمَتَاعًا إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **36:44**

But as a mercy from Us, We let them enjoy life for a while.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّقُوا مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَمَا خَلْفَكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ **36:45**

And yet, when it is said to them, "Be careful about what lies open before you now and what remains hidden to you, so that you may attain mercy" (they turn back).

[Live a life upright learning from every day, so that you may build a future worthy of grace]

وَمَا تَأْتِيهِم مِّنْ آيَةٍ مِّنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ **36:46**

No message of the messages of their Lord comes to them without them turning away from it.

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ أَنفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنُطْعِمُ مَن لَّوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ أَطْعَمَهُ إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **36:47**

And when it is said to them, "Spend on others of the provision God has given to you", the rejecters say to the believers, "Shall we feed anyone whom God could have fed if He so willed? You are obviously lost in error." [6:149, 16:35, 43:20]

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **36:48**

Further, they (change the subject and) ask, "When will this warning (of annihilation) be fulfilled, if you are truthful?"

مَا يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً تَأْخُذُهُمْ وَهُمْ يَخِصِّمُونَ **36:49**

Well, nothing awaits them but a single blast that will overtake them while they keep disputing.

فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ تَوْصِيَةً وَلَا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **36:50**

And they shall not even have time to utter their last wish, nor will they be able to return to their families and their people. [Ahl = Family = Own people]

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَإِذَا هُم مِّنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَنسِلُونَ **36:51**

And when the Trumpet is blown, out of their disintegrated states to their Lord they will run. [Ajdaath = Bodily remains = Physical remains in the graves or scattered anywhere = Disintegrated states]

قَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا مَن بَعَثَنَا مِن مَّرْقَدِنَا هَٰذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ **36:52**

They will say, "Oh, woe to us! Who has awakened us from our beds of sleep? This is what the Beneficent promised, and the Messengers spoke the truth." [Marqad = Bed of sleep = Resting place. These two verses strongly dismiss the clergy-peddled false concept of punishment in the grave. And how would God punish people after death before the Day of Judgment. Moreover, many kinds of suffering ('Azaab) are named in the Qur'an, but not once is mentioned 'Azaabil Qabr. In

fact, God never punishes people. We only face His Law of Just Recompense, "As you sow, so shall you reap."]

إِن كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ جَمِيعٌ لَّدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ **36:53**

Nothing but a single blast, no more, and before Us all of them will be presented.

فَالْيَوْمَ لَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَلَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **36:54**

"This Day no person will face the least injustice, nor will you be rewarded for other than what you had been doing."

إِنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغُلٍ فَاكِهُونَ **36:55**

"Those who merit Paradise, this Day are enjoying the new life."

هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلَالٍ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَّكِئُونَ **36:56**

They and their spouses in pleasant shades, on thrones of honor reclining.

لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُم مَّا يَدَّعُونَ **36:57**

Theirs are the fruits of their good deeds, and all that they ask.

سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِّن رَّبٍّ رَّحِيمٍ **36:58**

Greetings from a Lord Merciful, "Peace!"

وَامْتَازُوا الْيَوْمَ أَيُّهَا الْمُجْرِمُونَ **36:59**

"But stand aside Today, you violators of human rights who thrived on others' toil!"

أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَن لَّا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **36:60**

Did I not warn you O Children of Adam! That you shall not worship Satan since it is an open enemy to you.

وَأَنِ اعْبُدُونِي هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ **36:61**

And that you serve Me alone? This is the straight path.

وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنكُمْ جِبِلًّا كَثِيرًا أَفَلَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ **36:62**

Yet he led astray a great many of you. Did you not, then, have any sense?

هَٰذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ **36:63**

This is the Hell you were warned about again and again.

اصْلَوْهَا الْيَوْمَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ **36:64**

Burn in it now for you adamantly rejected the truth.

الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَىٰ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **36:65**

This Day We seal their mouths, but their hands speak to Us, and their feet bear witness to what they earned. [17:13, 75:14]

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَطَمَسْنَا عَلَىٰ أَعْيُنِهِمْ فَاسْتَبَقُوا الصِّرَاطَ فَأَنَّىٰ يُبْصِرُونَ **36:66**

If it had been Our will, We could have veiled their eyes, and thus, when they seek the path, they would not see it (and stumble on every step as they stumble on the way of truth).

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَمَسَخْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِهِمْ فَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا مُضِيًّا وَلَا يَرْجِعُونَ **36:67**

And if it had been Our will, We could have transformed them in their places, making them powerless to go forward or turn back.

وَمَن نُّعَمِّرْهُ نُنَكِّسْهُ فِي الْخَلْقِ أَفَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ **36:68**

Such as, whomever We grant long life, We cause him to revert to weakness. Will they not then use their intellect? [Do good when you are fit to do so. This also alludes to the rise and fall of nations]

وَمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ الشِّعْرَ وَمَا يَنبَغِي لَهُ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ وَقُرْآنٌ مُّبِينٌ **36:69**

(Know about the Prophet that) We have not taught him poetry, nor does it befit his dignity. This is no less than a Divine reminder and an Articulate Qur'an clear in itself and clearly showing the way. [26:224]

لِّيُنذِرَ مَن كَانَ حَيًّا وَيَحِقَّ الْقَوْلُ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ **36:70**

That it may warn everyone who is living of heart and that the Word may prove True concerning the rejecters. [That violation of the Divine laws brings misery in both lives]

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا خَلَقْنَا لَهُم مِّمَّا عَمِلَتْ أَيْدِينَا أَنْعَامًا فَهُمْ لَهَا مَالِكُونَ **36:71**

Have they never envisioned how We have created for them of Our handiwork, the domestic animals of which they are now masters?

وَذَلَّلْنَاهَا لَهُمْ فَمِنْهَا رَكُوبُهُمْ وَمِنْهَا يَأْكُلُونَ **36:72**

And that We have made them submissive to humans so that some of them they use for riding and others they use for food.

وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ وَمَشَارِبُ أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ **36:73**

And may derive yet other benefits from them and milk to drink. Will they not, then, be grateful?

وَاتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ آلِهَةً لَّعَلَّهُمْ يُنصَرُونَ **36:74**

But, nay, they have chosen gods other than God hoping that they might be helped.

لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُندٌ مُّحْضَرُونَ **36:75**

It is beyond their power to help them, and in effect such people will end up guarding their false gods like committed hosts.

فَلَا يَحْزُنكَ قَوْلُهُمْ إِنَّا نَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ **36:76**

So let not their utterances grieve you. We know what they conceal and what they declare.

أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الْإِنسَانُ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ خَصِيمٌ مُّبِينٌ **36:77**

Does not man realize that We created him from male and female gametes? Yet, he stands forth as an open contender of truth! [Nutfah = Gamete, male or female, sperm or ovum]

وَضَرَبَ لَنَا مَثَلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ قَالَ مَن يُحْيِي الْعِظَامَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ **36:78**

And he makes comparisons for Us and forgets the process of his own creation, saying, "Who will revive these bones when they have crumbled to dust?" [37:16, 73:3]

قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ **36:79**

Say, "He Who brought them into being in the first instance, will revive them again. He is the Profound Knower of all creation.

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الشَّجَرِ الْأَخْضَرِ نَارًا فَإِذَا أَنتُم مِّنْهُ تُوقِدُونَ **36:80**

(The same Creator) Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, so that you kindle from it. [The flames are 'hidden' within the green branches! When the branch is ignited we can see this fire with our own eyes. Can He not preserve life in a similar manner?]

أَوَلَيْسَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِقَادِرٍ عَلَىٰ أَن يَخْلُقَ مِثْلَهُم بَلَىٰ وَهُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ **36:81**

Is not He Who created the heavens and earth Able to create the like of them? Yes indeed! For, He is the Creator, Knower of all acts of creation.

إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَن يَقُولَ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ **36:82**

When He intends a thing, His only command to it is "Be" and it is.

فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **36:83**

Glorified is He in Whose Hand rests the Mighty Dominion over all things, and to Him you will be brought back. [37:16, 73:3]

Chapter 37

As-Saffaat - Soldiers In Ranks

This is 37th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 182 verses. The diversity of concepts in this Surah is remarkable. It clarifies the relationship between the life of the world and the life to come. It slates the ´occult sciences´, clairvoyants, Diviners, soothsayers and the fortunetellers. It tells us what the great sacrifice of Prophets Abraham and Ishmael truly was, contrary to the mythical stories found outside the Qur´an. It also clarifies for us the legend of ´Jonah and the Whale´.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالصَّافَّاتِ صَفًّا **37:1**

Those vanguards who set up ranks (in order to defend the Divine System).

فَالزَّاجِرَاتِ زَجْرًا **37:2**

And those officers of the state who keep law and order.

فَالتَّالِيَاتِ ذِكْرًا **37:3**

And those believers who convey the reminder.

إِنَّ إِلَٰهَكُمْ لَوَاحِدٌ **37:4**

(Are the living witnesses that) - Most certainly, your God is One.

رَّبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَرَبُّ الْمَشَارِقِ **37:5**

He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them (the intergalactic material). And the Lord of the sunrises (and of the light-giving revelation).

إِنَّا زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِزِينَةٍ الْكَوَاكِبِ **37:6**

We have beautified the sky of the earth with ornaments of stars.

وَحِفْظًا مِّن كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ مَّارِدٍ **37:7**

And made them secure against every satanic force. [This revelation brings an end to the false claims of the diviners, fortune-tellers and astrologers. 15:16-18]

لَّا يَسَّمَّعُونَ إِلَى الْمَلَإِ الْأَعْلَىٰ وَيُقْذَفُونَ مِن كُلِّ جَانِبٍ **37:8**

Faraway from the truth, the claimants to 'occult sciences' cannot get a hint of the exalted assembly. They are cast away from every side. [15:7-8, 26:212, 38:69, 67:5, 72:8]

دُحُورًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ وَاصِبٌ **37:9**

Outcast! And theirs is a lasting torment.

إِلَّا مَنْ خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ ثَاقِبٌ **37:10**

Even if a thing of their conjecture comes to pass, they are pursued by a Flame of Brightness. [The Divine revelation exposes the claimants of the 'occult sciences'. 18:22, 26:210-212, 52:38, 67:5, 72: 8-9]

فَاسْتَفْتِهِمْ أَهُمْ أَشَدُّ خَلْقًا أَم مَّنْ خَلَقْنَا إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُم مِّن طِينٍ لَّازِبٍ **37:11**

Ask them, "Are they more difficult to create, or the other beings We have created? We created the humans from hydrated clay.

بَلْ عَجِبْتَ وَيَسْخَرُونَ **37:12**

While you marvel (at the Universe), they mock!

وَإِذَا ذُكِّرُوا لَا يَذْكُرُونَ **37:13**

They do not take to heart (the wonders of nature) when reminded.

وَإِذَا رَأَوْا آيَةً يَسْتَسْخِرُونَ **37:14**

And they turn into mockery every wonder that they see.

وَقَالُوا إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **37:15**

And (of the revelation) they say, "This is nothing but magical eloquence."

أَإِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظَامًا أَإِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ **37:16**

"What! When we are dead and have become dust and bones, will we then be raised again?

أَوَآبَاؤُنَا الْأَوَّلُونَ **37:17**

And even our forefathers?" [36:78, 75:3]

قُلْ نَعَمْ وَأَنتُمْ دَاخِرُونَ **37:18**

Say, "Yes, indeed. And you will be brought low."

فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ فَإِذَا هُمْ يَنظُرُونَ **37:19**

There will be a single rebuke, and then, they will begin to see.

وَقَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا هَٰذَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ **37:20**

And they will say, "Oh, woe unto us! This is the Day of Judgment."

هَٰذَا يَوْمُ الْفَصْلِ الَّذِي كُنتُم بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ **37:21**

Yes! This is the Day of decision you used to deny.

احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ **37:22**

It will be said, "Bring them up together, the transgressors, their companions and the leaders whom they obeyed,

مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ **37:23**

Besides God, and lead them onto the path to the Blazing fire. [Azwaaj in 37:22 = Companions]

وَقِفُوهُمْ إِنَّهُم مَّسْئُولُونَ **37:24**

Halt them! For, they must be questioned.

مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنَاصَرُونَ **37:25**

What is the matter with you that you do not help each other?

بَلْ هُمُ الْيَوْمَ مُسْتَسْلِمُونَ **37:26**

Nay, but this Day they make full submission.

وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **37:27**

And they will turn to one another asking, demanding.

قَالُوا إِنَّكُمْ كُنتُمْ تَأْتُونَنَا عَنِ الْيَمِينِ 37:28

Some will say, “You used to approach us in power.”

قَالُوا بَل لَّمْ تَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ 37:29

The leaders will reply, “Nay, you yourselves had no faith.

وَمَا كَانَ لَنَا عَلَيْكُم مِّن سُلْطَانٍ بَلْ كُنتُمْ قَوْمًا طَاغِينَ 37:30

And we had no power at all over you. Nay, you were a people of unrestrained conduct.”

فَحَقَّ عَلَيْنَا قَوْلُ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا لَذَائِقُونَ 37:31

But now the Word of our Lord has come to pass about all of us. Surely, we are bound to taste the fruit of our deeds.

فَأَغْوَيْنَاكُمْ إِنَّا كُنَّا غَاوِينَ 37:32

So then, if we misled you, we ourselves were astray.”

فَإِنَّهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ 37:33

And on that Day, they will be partners in a common doom. [14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 40:47]

إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَفْعَلُ بِالْمُجْرِمِينَ 37:34

This is how We deal with the guilty.

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ 37:35

Shahada

For when it was said to them, “There is no god but God”, they showed arrogance.

وَيَقُولُونَ أَئِنَّا لَتَارِكُو آلِهَتِنَا لِشَاعِرٍ مَّجْنُونٍ 37:36

And they used to say, “Shall we give up our gods for a mad poet?”

بَلْ جَاءَ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَدَّقَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 37:37

Nay, but he brought the truth, and he confirmed the previous Messengers.

إِنَّكُمْ لَذَائِقُو الْعَذَابِ الْأَلِيمِ 37:38

You will certainly taste the grievous suffering.

وَمَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **37:39**

And you are requited only for what you have done.

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **37:40**

But the sincere servants of God.

أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَّعْلُومٌ **37:41**

Theirs shall be a sustenance known to them. [2:25]

فَوَاكِهُ وَهُم مُّكْرَمُونَ **37:42**

As the fruits of their labor, and they shall be honored.

فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ **37:43**

In the Gardens of Delight.

عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ **37:44**

Facing one another upon thrones of happiness.

يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِم بِكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ **37:45**

A cup from a gushing spring of bliss brought around for them.

بَيْضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ لِّلشَّارِبِينَ **37:46**

Crystal clear, delicious to those who drink.

لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنزَفُونَ **37:47**

No headache or hangover in it, nor will they get drunk. [56:19]

وَعِندَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ عِينٌ **37:48**

And in their company will be mates of modest gaze, endowed with vision.

كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ **37:49**

Faultless like the hidden ostrich eggs (of unblemished character).

فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **37:50**

And they will all turn to one another asking (socializing).

قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ إِنِّي كَانَ لِي قَرِينٌ **37:51**

One of them speaks thus, “I had a close companion.”

يَقُولُ أَإِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُصَدِّقِينَ **37:52**

He used to ask me, “What! Are you of those who affirm?

أَإِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظَامًا أَإِنَّا لَمَدِينُونَ **37:53**

That after we have died and become mere dust and bones, we will be held accountable!”

قَالَ هَلْ أَنتُم مُّطَّلِعُونَ **37:54**

A voice will be heard, “Will you people like to look at him?”

فَاطَّلَعَ فَرَآهُ فِي سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ **37:55**

And then he looks and finds his companion in the midst of the Blazing Fire.

قَالَ تَاللَّهِ إِن كِدتَّ لَتُرْدِينِ **37:56**

He says to the companion in the fire, “By God! You had almost ruined me.

وَلَوْلَا نِعْمَةُ رَبِّي لَكُنتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ **37:57**

Had I not earned the blessing of my Lord, I would have been of those given over to punishment.

أَفَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَيِّتِينَ **37:58**

Are we then never to die?

إِلَّا مَوْتَتَنَا الْأُولَىٰ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ **37:59**

After our former death, we will never be among those who are suffering.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَهُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **37:60**

Surely, this is the Supreme Triumph.”

لِمِثْلِ هَٰذَا فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ **37:61**

For such an end all workers should endeavor.

أَذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ نُّزُلًا أَمْ شَجَرَةُ الزَّقُّومِ **37:62**

Is this better as a welcome, or the inedible cactus (the bitterness they gave to others)? [17:60, 44: 43-44, 56:52]

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا فِتْنَةً لِّلظَّالِمِينَ **37:63**

We have appointed it as a torment for the oppressors.

إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ الْجَحِيمِ **37:64**

It is a tree that springs in the heart of the Blazing Fire. [Hurting others, oppression and violation of human rights build one's own Hellfire. Likewise, humans earn Paradise with their own hands. 7:42, 16:32, 17:9, 29:55, 40:40, 47:2]

طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ **37:65**

Its growth are like cobra heads. [Shaiytaan Jaann = Serpent Cobra. 38:41-44. Hurting others hurts one's own 'self'. 25:43]

فَإِنَّهُمْ لَآكِلُونَ مِنْهَا فَمَالِئُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ **37:66**

From it they must eat, and fill their bellies with it. [37:68]

ثُمَّ إِنَّ لَهُمْ عَلَيْهَا لَشَوْبًا مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ **37:67**

Above all this they have a drink of burning despair.

ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَرْجِعَهُمْ لَإِلَى الْجَحِيمِ **37:68**

And once again, the Blazing Fire is their destination.

إِنَّهُمْ أَلْفَوْا آبَاءَهُمْ ضَالِّينَ **37:69**

For they had found their fathers on the wrong path.

فَهُمْ عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمْ يُهْرَعُونَ **37:70**

But they made haste to follow their footprints.

وَلَقَدْ ضَلَّ قَبْلَهُمْ أَكْثَرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **37:71**

This is how most of the earlier people had gone astray before them.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا فِيهِم مُّنذِرِينَ **37:72**

And We had sent warners among them.

فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُنذَرِينَ **37:73**

Reflect then, on what happened to those who had been warned.

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **37:74**

Except for the sincere servants of God.

وَلَقَدْ نَادَانَا نُوحٌ فَلَنِعْمَ الْمُجِيبُونَ **37:75**

And it was so when Noah cried to Us. How excellent are We as Responder.

وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ **37:76**

For, We saved him, his family and his followers from the great distress. [Ahl, in the sense of the family of a Prophet, includes his followers]

وَجَعَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُ هُمُ الْبَاقِينَ **37:77**

And made his progeny and followers survive.

وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ **37:78**

And We left his remembrance for later generations.

سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ نُوحٍ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ **37:79**

Peace and salutation to Noah in the worlds!

إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **37:80**

Surely, this is how We reward the benefactors of humanity.

إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **37:81**

He was one of Our believing servants.

ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخَرِينَ **37:82**

And We caused the others to drown.

وَإِنَّ مِن شِيعَتِهِ لَإِبْرَاهِيمَ **37:83**

To his group (of believers, later) belonged Abraham.

إِذْ جَاءَ رَبَّهُ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ **37:84**

When he came to his Lord with a noble heart.

إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَاذَا تَعْبُدُونَ **37:85**

And thus spoke to his father and his people, “What is it that you worship?”

أَئِفْكًا آلِهَةً دُونَ اللَّهِ تُرِيدُونَ **37:86**

It is a falsehood. Do you desire gods besides God?

فَمَا ظَنُّكُم بِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **37:87**

What do you think of the Lord of the Worlds?”

فَنَظَرَ نَظْرَةً فِي النُّجُومِ **37:88**

And he glanced at the stars. [6:76-78]

فَقَالَ إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ **37:89**

And said, “I am sick (of you worshiping false deities).” [60:4]

فَتَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ مُدْبِرِينَ **37:90**

At that they turned their backs and moved away from him.

فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ آلِهَتِهِمْ فَقَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ **37:91**

Then Abraham gently turned to their idols and said, “What! You do not eat?

مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنطِقُونَ **37:92**

What ails you that you do not speak?”

فَرَاغَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضَرْبًا بِالْيَمِينِ **37:93**

Then he turned upon them, striking them with the right hand (struck them hard).

فَأَقْبَلُوا إِلَيْهِ يَزِفُّونَ **37:94**

The people came running to him.

قَالَ أَتَعْبُدُونَ مَا تَنْحِتُونَ **37:95**

He said, “Do you worship what you carve with your own hands?

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ وَمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **37:96**

“But God has created you and your handicraft!”

قَالُوا ابْنُوا لَهُ بُنْيَانًا فَأَلْقُوهُ فِي الْجَحِيمِ **37:97**

They said, “Build a structure for him and fling him into the Blazing Fire.”

فَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَسْفَلِينَ **37:98**

But as they schemed against him, We brought them low.

وَقَالَ إِنِّي ذَاهِبٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ **37:99**

And he said, “I am going to my Lord Who will guide me best. [29:26]

رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **37:100**

(Abraham migrated to Syria and prayed), “My Lord! Grant me a healthy child.”

فَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِغُلَامٍ حَلِيمٍ **37:101**

So We gave him the good news of a clement son (Ishmael).

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَا بُنَيَّ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ قَالَ يَا أَبَتِ افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ **37:102**

And when he was old enough to strive along with him, Abraham said, “O My dear son! I have a vision that I must give you to a life of test and tribulation for a Noble cause (37:107). So look, what do you think?” He said, “O My father! Do what you are commanded. God willing, you will find me of the steadfast.” [Zibh and Zabh = Sacrifice = Disregard comfort for a Noble cause. Just as Qatl = To subdue, kill, fight, humiliate, bring low]

فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَبِينِ **37:103**

As both of them had surrendered themselves (to God), he made Ishmael further submit in gratitude. [Contrary to popular tradition, Abraham never envisioned or intended to slaughter his son. God does not play games with His servants. Literal 'forehead to ground' = complete submission in gratitude]

وَنَادَيْنَاهُ أَن يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ **37:104**

We called unto him, "O Abraham!

قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **37:105**

You have already affirmed the vision. We - This is so - We must reward the doers of good."

Sacrifice

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَهُوَ الْبَلَاءُ الْمُبِينُ **37:106**

This was a trial, clear in itself. [Leaving the prestigious office of Chief Priesthood in Babylon and now the comfort of Syria for the wilderness of Makkah]

وَفَدَيْنَاهُ بِذِبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ **37:107**

We exchanged his life for a Momentous Sacrifice. [Please notice here the absence of the Biblical and the traditional myth of a 'ram' sent from the heavens. Also, note that slaughtering of a sheep or goat, by no means, can be considered a Momentous Sacrifice. 14:37, 37:102]

وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ **37:108**

And We left for him remembrance among the later generations.

سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ **37:109**

Peace and salutation to Abraham!

كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **37:110**

Thus do We reward the benefactors of humanity.

إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **37:111**

He was one of Our truly believing servants.

وَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِإِسْحَاقَ نَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **37:112**

We gave him the good news of Isaac, a Prophet, among those who fulfilled their potentials.

وَبَارَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ إِسْحَاقَ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِهِمَا مُحْسِنٌ وَظَالِمٌ لِّنَفْسِهِ مُبِينٌ **37:113**

And We gave lasting felicity to him and Isaac. But among their progeny are the doers of good as well as those who, (by doing wrong to others) obviously wrong their own 'self'.

وَلَقَدْ مَنَنَّا عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ **37:114**

We bestowed excellence upon Moses and Aaron.

وَنَجَّيْنَاهُمَا وَقَوْمَهُمَا مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ **37:115**

And We saved them and their people from the awesome distress (of bondage).

وَنَصَرْنَاهُمْ فَكَانُوا هُمُ الْغَالِبِينَ **37:116**

And We helped them, so they became the victors.

وَآتَيْنَاهُمَا الْكِتَابَ الْمُسْتَبِينَ **37:117**

And We gave both of them the scripture that helped to distinguish the right from wrong. [Kitabal Mustabeen = The Book that helped to distinguish = The Torah. Kitabil Mubeen = The Book that distinguishes = The Qur'an]

وَهَدَيْنَاهُمَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ **37:118**

And showed both of them the straight path.

وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِمَا فِي الْآخِرِينَ **37:119**

And We left for them remembrance among the later generations.

سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ **37:120**

Peace and salutation to Moses and Aaron!

إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **37:121**

This is how We reward the benefactors of humanity.

إِنَّهُمَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **37:122**

Both of them were Our believing servants.

وَإِنَّ إِلْيَاسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **37:123**

Elias (Elijah) was one of Our Messengers. [6:85]

إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ **37:124**

When he said to his people, "Will you not seek to live upright?

أَتَدْعُونَ بَعْلًا وَتَذَرُونَ أَحْسَنَ الْخَالِقِينَ **37:125**

You call upon Ba'l, and disregard the Best of creators,

اللَّهَ رَبَّكُمْ وَرَبَّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **37:126**

God! Your Lord, and Lord of your forefathers." [Ba'l is the term used in the Qur'an for husband. During the times of Prophet Elijah the Tishbite (9th century BC), the Israelites had come to worship a god of masculinity, which was hand crafted to resemble the Lingum, the male organ, of the Hindu Mythology. King Ahab and his wife Jezebel had huge temples built for the worship of and sacrifices to Ba'l, and a dominant faction among the Israelites had disregarded the strict Monotheism of the Torah in favor of Ba'l]

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَإِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ **37:127**

But they denied him. And they will certainly be arraigned to give account.

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **37:128**

But the sincere servants of God (shall be saved).

وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ **37:129**

And we left for him remembrance among the later generations.

سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ إِلْ يَاسِينَ **37:130**

Peace and salutation to Elijah!

إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ **37:131**

Surely, this is how we reward the benefactors of humanity.

إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **37:132**

He was one of Our believing servants.

وَإِنَّ لُوطًا لَّمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **37:133**

And Lot was among the Messengers.

إِذْ نَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ أَجْمَعِينَ **37:134**

When We saved him and his household, everyone,

إِلَّا عَجُوزًا فِي الْغَابِرِينَ **37:135**

Except an old woman who was among those who stayed behind in belief.

ثُمَّ دَمَّرْنَا الْآخَرِينَ **37:136**

Then We destroyed the rest.

وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِم مُّصْبِحِينَ **37:137**

You pass by their sites by day.

وَبِاللَّيْلِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ **37:138**

And by night. Will you not, then, use your sense (to draw lessons)?

وَإِنَّ يُونُسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ **37:139**

Jonah was among the Messengers.

إِذْ أَبَقَ إِلَى الْفُلْكِ الْمَشْحُونِ **37:140**

When he fled like a runaway slave onto a laden ship. [Abaqa = Fled like a runaway slave. He migrated before God's command had come. 21:87]

فَسَاهَمَ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُدْحَضِينَ **37:141**

He had cast an arrow and missed the mark. [This indicates untimely action. Here, most translations are influenced by Biblical and other accounts. It is stated that the boat was overloaded and in order to save it, one man had to be cast into the sea. When the lots were thrown, it was Jonah who lost. But neither the verse means that, nor do Prophets throw lots, a form of gambling]

فَالْتَقَمَهُ الْحُوتُ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ **37:142**

Then the Fish grabbed him while he was blaming himself. [Again, usually a blue whale is mentioned in the legend. But the whale is a mammal and not a fish, and the Qur'an which is never inaccurate, speaks of Al-Hut = The Fish. Fa-altaqamahu = Grabbed him in its teeth, not 'swallowed'. Another interesting fact is that the blue whale only feeds on the tiniest plant particles, the planktons. So, her throat has been designed so narrow that it can't swallow even a little cat. The fiction of Jonah staying 40 days in the belly of a whale is demolished right thus]

فَلَوْلَا أَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُسَبِّحِينَ **37:143**

And had he not been a valiant swimmer,

لَلَبِثَ فِي بَطْنِهِ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ **37:144**

(The fish would have eaten him up and) he would have remained in her belly disintegrated there and further until the Day of Rising.

فَنَبَذْنَاهُ بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ سَقِيمٌ **37:145**

(He freed himself and swam to safety). Then We cast him on the shore, while he was exhausted. [68:49]

وَأَنبَتْنَا عَلَيْهِ شَجَرَةً مِّن يَقْطِينٍ **37:146**

We made him rest under a well-grown fruity tree.

وَأَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ مِائَةِ أَلْفٍ أَوْ يَزِيدُونَ **37:147**

And We sent him back to his people, a hundred thousand, even more.

فَآمَنُوا فَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ **37:148**

And this time they believed in him and so We let them enjoy this life.

فَاسْتَفْتِهِمْ أَلِرَبِّكَ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَهُمُ الْبَنُونَ **37:149**

(O Prophet) now ask them if your Lord has daughters whereas they have sons.[Jonah's people embraced the true belief but - Do they wish to live with Biblical dogmas, such as that Jonah lived in the belly of a fish for forty days. And that your Lord supposedly has offspring?]

أَمْ خَلَقْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِنَاثًا وَهُمْ شَاهِدُونَ **37:150**

Or is it that We have created angels female and they witnessed it?

أَلَا إِنَّهُم مِّنْ إِفْكِهِمْ لَيَقُولُونَ **37:151**

Attention! It is out of their own invention that they say,

وَلَدَ اللَّهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ **37:152**

"That God has begotten." And they tell a lie too,

أَصْطَفَى الْبَنَاتِ عَلَى الْبَنِينَ **37:153**

When they say, "He has chosen daughters over sons."

مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ **37:154**

What is amiss with you? How do you judge?

أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **37:155**

Will you not then reflect?

أَمْ لَكُمْ سُلْطَانٌ مُّبِينٌ **37:156**

Or do you have a clear authoritative evidence?

فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابِكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **37:157**

Then bring your Divine authority if you are truthful.

وَجَعَلُوا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْجِنَّةِ نَسَبًا وَلَقَدْ عَلِمَتِ الْجِنَّةُ إِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ **37:158**

And they imagine relationship between the unseen forces and their Lord. But the unseen forces know their assignments and constantly remain in His servitude.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **37:159**

Glorified is God from what they attribute to Him.

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **37:160**

But the sincere servants of God (refrain from S'hirk). ['Shirk' = Associating others with God = Ascribing partners to Him = Accepting authorities parallel to Divine revelation = Idol worship in any form = Obeying clergy instead of the Qur'an]

فَإِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ **37:161**

Surely, neither you nor what you worship,

مَا أَنتُمْ عَلَيْهِ بِفَاتِنِينَ **37:162**

Can tempt the sincere servants against Him.

إِلَّا مَنْ هُوَ صَالِ الْجَحِيمِ **37:163**

Only the one who rushes to the Blazing fire.

وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ مَّعْلُومٌ **37:164**

The sincere servants say, “Each one of us has an assignment.

وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الصَّافُّونَ **37:165**

We are soldiers in ranks.

وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الْمُسَبِّحُونَ **37:166**

And we are the ones who strive to establish His glory on earth. [Sabh = Swim with long strides. It is not the rolling of rosary-beads or uttering some ‘sacred’ words]

وَإِن كَانُوا لَيَقُولُونَ **37:167**

The disbelievers used to say,

لَوْ أَنَّ عِندَنَا ذِكْرًا مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ **37:168**

“If we only had before us a message from the old generations,

لَكُنَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **37:169**

We would certainly have been sincere servants of God.”

فَكَفَرُوا بِهِ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **37:170**

But now (that the Qur’an has come) they are rejecting it. Soon they will come to know (what they denied).

وَلَقَدْ سَبَقَتْ كَلِمَتُنَا لِعِبَادِنَا الْمُرْسَلِينَ **37:171**

Our Word has already gone forth to Our servant Messengers,

إِنَّهُمْ لَهُمُ الْمَنصُورُونَ **37:172**

That they would be helped.

وَإِنَّ جُندَنَا لَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ **37:173**

And that Our army, they will be the victors.

فَتَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ **37:174**

So (O Prophet) turn away from the disbelievers for a while.

وَأَبْصِرْهُمْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ **37:175**

And see them for what they do, and soon they will see what they now do not.

أَفَبِعَذَابِنَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ **37:176**

Do they really wish to hasten Our retribution?

فَإِذَا نَزَلَ بِسَاحَتِهِمْ فَسَاءَ صَبَاحُ الْمُنذَرِينَ **37:177**

But when it comes upon their front-yards, it will be a dreadful awakening for those who have been sufficiently warned.

وَتَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ **37:178**

So, turn aside from them for a while.

وَأَبْصِرْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ **37:179**

And see them for what they do, and soon they will see what they do not see now.

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **37:180**

Glory to your Lord, the Lord of Honor, He is free from what they ascribe to Him.

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ **37:181**

And salutations to all the message-bearers!

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **37:182**

And all praise is due to God, the Lord of the Worlds!

Chapter 38

Saad - Full Of Truth

This is the 38th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 88 verses. This Surah recaps several concepts, but as usual, from diverse vantage points. Using Tasreef (looking at the Divine messages in diverse verses), the central theme here is how false pride becomes a barrier between man and Reality.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

ص وَالْقُرْآنِ ذِي الذِّكْرِ **38:1**

S. Saad. (The Saadiq, Truthful God states that), This Qur'an stands witness (with internal evidence) that it is a profound reminder worth taking to heart and it can give you eminence. [21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44]

بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقٍ **38:2**

Nay, but those who disbelieve have plunged into arrogance and thus into opposition. [Shiqaaq = Opposition, schism, splitting. If they reflect on the Qur'an in all humility, they will accept the Divine truth rather than opposing it]

كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّن قَرْنٍ فَنَادَوا وَّلَاتَ حِينَ مَنَاصٍ **38:3**

How many a generation have We (Our Law of Requital) wiped out before them, and they cried out when it was too late to escape.

وَعَجِبُوا أَن جَاءَهُم مُّنذِرٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَقَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ هَٰذَا سَاحِرٌ كَذَّابٌ **38:4**

These people wonder that a warner has come to them from their own midst! And the disbelievers say, "This is a wizard, a liar.

أَجَعَلَ الْآلِهَةَ إِلَٰهًا وَاحِدًا إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ عُجَابٌ **38:5**

Does he blend all the gods into One God? This is a thing mind-boggling!"

وَانطَلَقَ الْمَلَأُ مِنْهُمْ أَنِ امْشُوا وَاصْبِرُوا عَلَىٰ آلِهَتِكُمْ إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ يُرَادُ **38:6**

Their leaders go about saying, "Walk away and hold on to your gods! This is the only course of action, since this (mind-boggling thing) seems to be designed against you with ulterior motives. [Lashayiun yuraad carries all the meanings rendered in the last sentence. 26:137]

مَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَٰذَا فِي الْمِلَّةِ الْآخِرَةِ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا اخْتِلَاقٌ **38:7**

We have never heard of this in the latest religion. This (concept of One God) is nothing but a made-up tale! [Even the Christians subscribe to a Triune God]

أَأُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ مِن بَيْنِنَا بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّن ذِكْرِي بَل لَّمَّا يَذُوقُوا عَذَابِ **38:8**

What! Has the reminder come down only to him among us¿' Nay, it is My Reminder that they distrust. They have not yet tasted My doom.

أَمْ عِندَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّكَ الْعَزِيزِ الْوَهَّابِ **38:9**

Are theirs the treasures of the grace of your Lord, the Mighty, the Grantor of bounties?

أَمْ لَهُم مُّلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَلْيَرْتَقُوا فِي الْأَسْبَابِ **38:10**

Or is it that theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them? If so, let them ascend to Supremacy by all means.

جُندٌ مَّا هُنَالِكَ مَهْزُومٌ مِّنَ الْأَحْزَابِ **38:11**

But here it is! Defeated confederates are these, however closely they might band together.

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَعَادٌ وَفِرْعَوْنُ ذُو الْأَوْتَادِ **38:12**

And before them denied the truth, the people of Noah, 'Aad and Pharaoh of the firm stakes. [Zil-awtaad = The lord of the Pyramids. It may also refer to Pharaoh's frequent crucifixion of his subjects on palm-tree stakes. 7:124, 20:71, 26:49]

وَثَمُودُ وَقَوْمُ لُوطٍ وَأَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ أُولَٰئِكَ الْأَحْزَابُ **38:13**

And Thamud, and the people of Lot, and the dwellers of the Wood-dales (of Midyan). And they were clans strongly banded.

إِن كُلٌّ إِلَّا كَذَّبَ الرُّسُلَ فَحَقَّ عِقَابِ **38:14**

All of them accused the Messengers of lying, and thus, My retribution was justified.

وَمَا يَنظُرُ هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً مَّا لَهَا مِن فَوَاقٍ **38:15**

These people only wait a single blast from which they would not recover.

وَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا عَجِّل لَّنَا قِطَّنَا قَبْلَ يَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ **38:16**

And they mock, “Our Lord! Bring for us our sentence before the Day of Account.”

اصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَاذْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا دَاوُودَ ذَا الْأَيْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **38:17**

Bear with patience whatever they may say, and remember Our servant David, the man of strength and resources. He always turned to Us (for guidance).

إِنَّا سَخَّرْنَا الْجِبَالَ مَعَهُ يُسَبِّحْنَ بِالْعَشِيِّ وَالْإِشْرَاقِ **38:18**

We subdued for him the strong Mountain Tribes that strove along with him night and day.

وَالطَّيْرَ مَحْشُورَةً كُلٌّ لَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **38:19**

And the nomad riders of Taa’er Tribe were all obedient to him. [21:79, 27:16, 34:10]

وَشَدَدْنَا مُلْكَهُ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْحِكْمَةَ وَفَصْلَ الْخِطَابِ **38:20**

We strengthened his Kingdom and gave him wisdom and good judgment. And We endowed him with the ability to make just decisions, and speak eloquently. [17:39, 43:63]

وَهَلْ أَتَاكَ نَبَأُ الْخَصْمِ إِذْ تَسَوَّرُوا الْمِحْرَابَ **38:21**

Have you heard of the story of the two disputing men when they climbed the wall into his private chamber?

إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَىٰ دَاوُودَ فَفَزِعَ مِنْهُمْ قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ خَصْمَانِ **38:22**
بَغَىٰ بَعْضُنَا عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَنَا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تُشْطِطْ
وَاهْدِنَا إِلَىٰ سَوَاءِ الصِّرَاطِ

When they breached his privacy, he was startled. They said, “Do not be startled!” We are both disputing with each other as to who has done wrong to the other.

Therefore, judge fairly between us. Do not deviate from equity and guide us to the even path."

إِنَّ هَٰذَا أَخِي لَهُ تِسْعٌ وَتِسْعُونَ نَعْجَةً وَلِيَ نَعْجَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ فَقَالَ أَكْفِلْنِيهَا وَعَزَّنِي فِي الْخِطَابِ **38:23**

One of them said, "This my brother has ninety nine farms, whereas I have only one. And yet he says, 'Give it over to me', and he dominates me in eloquence." [Na'jah = Ewe = Female sheep or deer = Agricultural farm]

قَالَ لَقَدْ ظَلَمَكَ بِسُؤَالِ نَعْجَتِكَ إِلَىٰ نِعَاجِهِ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْخُلَطَاءِ لَيَبْغِي بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَقَلِيلٌ مَّا هُمْ وَظَنَّ دَاوُودُ أَنَّمَا فَتَنَّاهُ فَاسْتَغْفَرَ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا وَأَنَابَ **38:24**

David said, "He has certainly wronged you in demanding your farm in addition to his farms. Many close associates and partners (in business) treat each other unfairly, except those who believe (in the Law of Recompense) and care for others. And how few are they?" Afterwards, David thought that We had tried him. (The economic system in his kingdom needed reform.) He asked forgiveness of his Lord, bowed in humility and turned to Him (for guidance).

فَغَفَرْنَا لَهُ ذَٰلِكَ وَإِنَّ لَهُ عِندَنَا لَزُلْفَىٰ وَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ **38:25**

So We granted him forgiveness for this lapse. We have granted him honor from Our Presence, and a beautiful abode. [Although mentioned by many ancient and modern commentators of the Qur'an, the Biblical story of David taking Uriah's beautiful wife, Bath-Sheba, finds no place in the Qur'an]

يَا دَاوُودُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ الْهَوَىٰ فَيُضِلَّكَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَضِلُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ بِمَا نَسُوا يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ **38:26**

(We said to him), "O David! We have made you a ruler on the earth therefore, establish the System of justice and equity for people. Never let your judgment be swayed by personal whims causing you to deviate from the path of God. For those who wander from the path of God, is a strict retribution for having forgotten the Day of Account."

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَاطِلًا ذَٰلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ النَّارِ **38:27**

(No action goes uncompensated since) We have not created the heavens and earth and all that is between them in vain, without meaning and purpose. Such is the assumption of those who disbelieve. There is destruction from the fire for those who oppose the truth. [10:4, 11:7, 45:22, 53:31]

أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَالْمُفْسِدِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الْمُتَّقِينَ كَالْفُجَّارِ **38:28**

Shall We treat those who believe and improve the society as We treat those who spread corruption in the land? Or shall We treat the guardians of the law as the law-breakers?

كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ **38:29**

This is a scripture that We have revealed to you (O Prophet), full of lasting bliss that they may ponder its messages and that people of understanding may take them to heart.

وَوَهَبْنَا لِدَاوُودَ سُلَيْمَانَ نِعْمَ الْعَبْدُ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **38:30**

And to David We granted Solomon, how excellent a servant! He would turn to Divine laws in every situation.

إِذْ عُرِضَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْعَشِيِّ الصَّافِنَاتُ الْجِيَادُ **38:31**

In the evenings he used to examine his cavalry of nicely-bred, swift-footed horses.

فَقَالَ إِنِّي أَحْبَبْتُ حُبَّ الْخَيْرِ عَن ذِكْرِ رَبِّي حَتَّىٰ تَوَارَتْ بِالْحِجَابِ **38:32**

He would say, “Surely, I love all that is good since it reminds me of my Lord”, (as the horses raced away) until hidden by the veil of the sunset.

رُدُّوهَا عَلَيَّ فَطَفِقَ مَسْحًا بِالسُّوقِ وَالْأَعْنَاقِ **38:33**

“Bring them back to me!” - and he would lovingly stroke their legs and their necks. [Solomon loved his cavalry since they helped him glorify his Lord’s name. But, many ancient exponents of the Qur’an (and in their following some modern ones too) have, unfortunately, contrived most fantastic stories here. They assert,

without any grounds, that one day Solomon got engrossed in his horses and thus his evening prayer was delayed. So, he called back the twenty thousand of his horses and single-handedly slaughtered them with his sword!]

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا سُلَيْمَانَ وَأَلْقَيْنَا عَلَىٰ كُرْسِيِّهِ جَسَدًا ثُمَّ أَنَابَ **38:34**

(That was Solomon and) We tried him, and set upon his throne a mere body, and thereupon he turned to Us. [His son, the crown prince Rehoboam was just a hopeless presence. (34:14). Until that point in history, the Kingdom of Israel was inherited among the generations of Prophet Jacob]

قَالَ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَهَبْ لِي مُلْكًا لَّا يَنبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِّن بَعْدِي إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْوَهَّابُ **38:35**

Solomon prayed, "O My Lord! Absolve my imperfections and bestow upon me the gift of a kingdom that may not suit anyone (incompetent) after me. Surely, You are the Grantor of bounties." [He did not wish to leave his great kingdom in incompetent hands and in all probability was thinking of merit in preference over lineage. 34:14, 38:34]

فَسَخَّرْنَا لَهُ الرِّيحَ تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ رُخَاءً حَيْثُ أَصَابَ **38:36**

So We gave him the science of making the wind serve him and it carried his ships wherever he intended. [34:12]

وَالشَّيَاطِينَ كُلَّ بَنَّاءٍ وَغَوَّاصٍ **38:37**

And We made subservient to him the wild unruly men, every kind of builder and diver. [21:82, 34:13]

وَآخَرِينَ مُقَرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ **38:38**

And others linked together in chains of discipline.

هَٰذَا عَطَاؤُنَا فَامْنُنْ أَوْ أَمْسِكْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **38:39**

We told him, "All this is Our Gift for you. Give freely or withhold, in matters of the State, according to your best judgment. It is given to you beyond count."

وَإِنَّ لَهُ عِندَنَا لَزُلْفَىٰ وَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ **38:40**

We have granted him honor from Our Presence, and a beautiful abode.

وَاذْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا أَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الشَّيْطَانُ بِنُصْبٍ وَعَذَابٍ **38:41**

And remember Our servant Job, when he called upon his Lord, “The serpent has bitten me and I am in distress and suffering.” [’Satan has touched me’, as a metonym = Serpent has bitten me. Satan denotes Serpent in the Bible and other ancient writings. Job was left alone from his caravan and family, ran out of the essential supplies, and now this happened. 4:163, 6:84, 21:83-84]

ارْكُضْ بِرِجْلِكَ هَٰذَا مُغْتَسَلٌ بَارِدٌ وَشَرَابٌ **38:42**

(He was told), “Strike the ground with your foot (move away a little bit). And here is cool water to wash with and a refreshing drink.”

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُم مَّعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا وَذِكْرَىٰ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ **38:43**

And We gave him back his family and followers and, in time, doubled their numbers as a grace from Us. And herein is a reminder for people of understanding (on the virtue of patience). [At this point, we read weird stories that his one dozen children had died and two dozens ’new’ children were given to him in exchange. That is too many labor pains for his aging wife! Ah! The poor women. And then every child being a unique presence, is irreplaceable]

وَخُذْ بِيَدِكَ ضِغْثًا فَاضْرِب بِّهِ وَلَا تَحْنَثْ إِنَّا وَجَدْنَاهُ صَابِرًا نِّعْمَ الْعَبْدُ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ **38:44**

(And finally We told him,) “Now gather your strength and travel the land and do not break your pledge.” We found him steadfast. How excellent a servant! In every situation he turned to Our laws. [Hold the grass in your hand and strike with it = Collect your senses and go ahead on your Mission. Under Biblical influence, some ‘experts’ have interpreted this verse to mean that Prophet Job is being commanded to strike his wife with one hundred stripes or a broomstick with a hundred twigs, since she had asked her husband to curse God for his afflictions!]

وَاذْكُرْ عِبَادَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ أُولِي الْأَيْدِي وَالْأَبْصَارِ **38:45**

And also remember Our servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, men of strength and vision.

إِنَّا أَخْلَصْنَاهُم بِخَالِصَةٍ ذِكْرَى الدَّارِ **38:46**

Surely, We endowed them with sincerity of purpose and with exceptional foresight. So, in all their efforts they never lost sight of the desired destination.

وَإِنَّهُمْ عِندَنَا لَمِنَ الْمُصْطَفَيْنَ الْأَخْيَارِ **38:47**

In Our Sight, they are of the elect, the excellent, foremost in benefiting people.

وَاذْكُرْ إِسْمَاعِيلَ وَالْيَسَعَ وَذَا الْكِفْلِ وَكُلٌّ مِّنَ الْأَخْيَارِ **38:48**

Also mention Ishmael, Al-Yasa' (Elisha), and Zal-Kifl (Ezekiel). For, all of them were foremost in serving humanity.

هَٰذَا ذِكْرٌ وَإِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ لَحُسْنَ مَآبٍ **38:49**

This is a reminder, and there is a most beautiful destination for the righteous.

جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ مُّفَتَّحَةً لَّهُمُ الْأَبْوَابُ **38:50**

Gardens of Eden, the perpetual bliss, with gates wide-open for them.

مُتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ وَشَرَابٍ **38:51**

Relaxing therein, they will be hosted with all kinds of food and drink.

وَعِندَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ أَتْرَابٌ **38:52**

And with them are well-matched companions of modest gaze.

هَٰذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ **38:53**

This is what you are promised for the Day of Account.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَرِزْقُنَا مَا لَهُ مِن نَّفَادٍ **38:54**

This is Our never ending provision.

هَٰذَا وَإِنَّ لِلطَّاغِينَ لَشَرَّ مَآبٍ **38:55**

Yes, this is so. But, for those who kept trespassing the Moral Values, is a destination with no good in it.

جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَوْنَهَا فَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ **38:56**

Hell that is! Wherein they burn, a miserable bed to lie on!

هَٰذَا فَلْيَذُوقُوهُ حَمِيمٌ وَغَسَّاقٌ **38:57**

So let them taste, a drink of burning distress and brave a freezing cold wind. [Distress they caused others and insensitivity they showed toward oppression and injustice. 78:25]

وَآخَرُ مِن شَكْلِهِ أَزْوَاجٌ **38:58**

And other penalties in pairs. [Heat-cold, glare-darkness, noise-isolation, anxiety-depression, desire-hopelessness, etc]

هَٰذَا فَوْجٌ مُّقْتَحِمٌ مَّعَكُمْ لَا مَرْحَبًا بِهِمْ إِنَّهُمْ صَالُو النَّارِ **38:59**

It will be said to the ringleaders, "Here is your group going with you headlong. There is no welcome for them, for only the fire is here to embrace them."

قَالُوا بَلْ أَنتُمْ لَا مَرْحَبًا بِكُمْ أَنتُمْ قَدَّمْتُمُوهُ لَنَا فَبِئْسَ الْقَرَارُ **38:60**

The followers will say to the leaders, "Nay, but you - There is no welcome for you either! It is you who sent forth this torment for us! What a station of plight!" [14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 37:29, 40:47]

قَالُوا رَبَّنَا مَن قَدَّمَ لَنَا هَٰذَا فَزِدْهُ عَذَابًا ضِعْفًا فِي النَّارِ **38:61**

Then the followers will say, "Our Lord! Whoever has brought this upon us, double for him the suffering of the fire."

وَقَالُوا مَا لَنَا لَا نَرَىٰ رِجَالًا كُنَّا نَعُدُّهُم مِّنَ الْأَشْرَارِ **38:62**

Then they will say, "What is amiss with us? We do not see people whom we counted among evil.

أَتَّخَذْنَاهُمْ سِخْرِيًّا أَمْ زَاغَتْ عَنْهُمُ الْأَبْصَارُ **38:63**

The ones we used to ridicule. (Are they not here) or is it that our eyes are missing them?"

إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ لَحَقٌّ تَخَاصُمُ أَهْلِ النَّارِ **38:64**

Such will be the argumentation between people of the fire.

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا مُنذِرٌ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَٰهٍ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ **38:65**

Say, "I am only a warner, and there is no god but God, the One, the Irresistible,

رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفَّارُ **38:66**

Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, the Mighty, the Forgiving."

قُلْ هُوَ نَبَأٌ عَظِيمٌ **38:67**

Say, "That is a Tremendous News,

أَنتُمْ عَنْهُ مُعْرِضُونَ **38:68**

From which you turn away!"

مَا كَانَ لِيَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ بِالْمَلَإِ الْأَعْلَىٰ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ **38:69**

Say! "I have no knowledge of the exalted chiefs of the past when they disputed. [15:17-18, 37:8. Mala-ul-A'la = Exalted chiefs. This term applies to worldly leaders as well as to the assembly of angels. The latter would not dispute, so this verse is alluding to the worldly leaders of the past]

إِن يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ إِلَّا أَنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **38:70**

It is revealed to me that I am only a plain warner."

إِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي خَالِقٌ بَشَرًا مِّن طِينٍ **38:71**

(The disputations began ever since mankind divided themselves for selfish tribal gains.) When your Lord said to the angels, "I am about to create a human being out of inorganic matter. [Angels = God's forces in nature. 15:26-41]

فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ **38:72**

And when I have designed him, and breathed into him of My Energy (given him free will) then be submissive to him."

فَسَجَدَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَجْمَعُونَ **38:73**

Thereupon the angels agreed to be subservient to him, all of them together. [Sajdah = Literally prostration, is due to God alone. So, the allegorical meaning here]

إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ اسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ **38:74**

Except Iblees - he acted arrogantly and denied the command. [Iblees = Satan = Selfish desires. 2:34. See the author's note before Surah 1]

قَالَ يَا إِبْلِيسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَن تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتُ بِيَدَيَّ أَسْتَكْبَرْتَ أَمْ كُنتَ مِنَ الْعَالِينَ **38:75**

Said He, "O Iblees! What has kept you from being submissive to what I have created with My Hands? Are you too proud or are you of the rebellious?"

قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِن نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِن طِينٍ **38:76**

Iblees replied, "I am better than he. You created me of fire while you created him of clay." [Emotions are fiery in relation to the 'cool' higher controls]

قَالَ فَاخْرُجْ مِنْهَا فَإِنَّكَ رَجِيمٌ **38:77**

Satans arrogance

Said He, “Go away from here, for you are rejected.

وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكَ لَعْنَتِي إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ **38:78**

And My condemnation is on you until the Day of Judgment.”

قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنظِرْنِي إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ **38:79**

Iblees said, “Then, My Lord! Give me respite until the Day when they are raised.”

قَالَ فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ **38:80**

Answered He, “Certainly, you shall be among those who are given respite. [15:36-38]

إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُومِ **38:81**

Until the Day of the appointed time.”

قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **38:82**

Satan will mislead us

Iblees said, “I swear by Your Honor, I will certainly lead them all astray.

إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ **38:83**

Except such of them as are Your sincere servants.”

قَالَ فَالْحَقُّ وَالْحَقَّ أَقُولُ **38:84**

He said, “This is the truth, and I state this truth,

لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنكَ وَمِمَّن تَبِعَكَ مِنْهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **38:85**

That I will certainly fill Hell with you and with such of them as follow you, together.”

قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُتَكَلِّفِينَ **38:86**

(O Messenger) say to them, “I ask of you no reward for this message, nor am I a pretender.

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **38:87**

This (Qur’an) is no less than a reminder for all people.

وَلَتَعْلَمُنَّ نَبَأَهُ بَعْدَ حِينٍ **38:88**

And in time you will know the truth of it.”

Chapter 39

Az-Zumar - The Communities

This is the 39th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 75 verses. Besides other concepts, this Surah underscores collective life of people as tribes, nations and communities. It indicates that people will enter their worldly or Afterlife Paradise or Hellfire in groups. This confirms the sociological observation that societies are made for individuals but individuals are not made for societies. It also confirms that a benevolent social order facilitates the development of the ´self´ toward actualization.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

تَنزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ **39:1**

The revelation of this Book issues from God, the Almighty, the Wise.

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَّهُ الدِّينَ **39:2**

Devotion

We have revealed this Book to you (O Prophet) setting forth the truth. Therefore, serve God sincere in your faith in Him alone.

أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ **39:3**

Setting up allies

Wow

Is it not to God alone that all sincere faith is due? And yet, those who take patrons besides Him say, "We worship them for no other reason than that they bring us nearer to God." God will judge between them (the clergy and the masses) concerning that wherein they differed (from the truth). God does not guide anyone who is bent on lying to himself, stubbornly ingrate. [4:88, 5:35, 10:18, 17:57]

لَّوْ أَرَادَ اللَّهُ أَن يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا لَّاصْطَفَىٰ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ سُبْحَانَهُ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ **39:4**

And if God had willed to take to Himself a son, He could have chosen what He would out of what He has created. Infinite is He in His glory! He is God, the One, Supreme.

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ يُكَوِّرُ اللَّيْلَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى أَلَا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفَّارُ **39:5**

He is the One Who has created the heavens and earth with a definite purpose. He rolls the night over the day, and rolls the day over the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon, each running along its course for a term appointed. Is He not the Almighty, the Absolver of Imperfections? [Yukawwir = 'He rolls' comes from the word Kurah = Ball. In 79:30 an additional point is given that the earth is egg-shaped with its north and south poles compressed. This was unknown and even impossible to know in the 7th century]

خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَأَنزَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الْأَنْعَامِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَزْوَاجٍ يَخْلُقُكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِّن بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّىٰ تُصْرَفُونَ **39:6**

He has created you all out of one living entity (from a single life cell) - and fashioned similarly its mate, male and female (6:99). And He has bestowed upon you livestock of eight kinds in pairs. (Sheep, goat, camel, cow - male and female, the common permissible livestock 6:144-146). He creates you in the bellies of your mothers, creation after creation, in threefold depths of darkness (the abdominal wall, the uterine wall and the embryonic sac). Such is God, your Lord! Unto Him belongs the Kingdom. There is no god but He. How, then, can you sway like errant winds! [Nafs = Self, Mind, Psyche, Soul, Human being, Living entity, Person, Humankind, Essence of life, Personality, Mental faculty, Ego, I, Me, I-am-ness, Personal identity, Animate object. Nafsinwwaahidah = A single life-cell. Minha zawjaha = Mate out of its own kind = Mate, male and female = Companions very much alike = Similar in essence. 49:13]

إِن تَكْفُرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنكُمْ وَلَا يَرْضَىٰ لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ وَإِن تَشْكُرُوا يَرْضَهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُم مَّرْجِعُكُمْ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **39:7**

If you are ungrateful, God is in no need of you. He does not like ingratitude from His

servants. And if you are grateful, He is pleased with you. No laden one will bear the burden of another. Ultimately, to your Lord is your return. Then He will inform you of what you accomplished (in this life). Surely, He is Knower of what is in the hearts.

وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَا رَبَّهُ مُنِيبًا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلَهُ نِعْمَةً مِّنْهُ نَسِيَ مَا كَانَ يَدْعُو إِلَيْهِ مِن قَبْلُ وَجَعَلَ لِلَّهِ أَندَادًا لِّيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِهِ قُلْ تَمَتَّعْ بِكُفْرِكَ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ **39:8**

When some trouble touches the humans, they call upon their Lord turning to Him in humility. But as soon as He bestows a blessing upon them from Himself, they forget what they called for before, and they choose 'rivals' to God, thus misleading others from His path. Say, "Enjoy your disbelief for a little while. You are among the dwellers of the fire." [Choosing rivals: So and so was saved by a saint, clergy, diviner, magic, amulet etc. Insaan = Human being, is usually translated here as man and then the verse is rendered in third person singular. But Insaan includes men and women, therefore, my rendition in third person plural]

أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَانِتٌ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ **39:9**

Night prayer

Is it not better to be one of those who are humble, adoring Him, even in the hours of the night, and sitting, standing, keeping in mind the life to come, and hoping for his Lord's grace? Say, "Are those who know (that that the 'self' can evolve) equal to those who do not know?" But, only those who develop their insight will take this to heart.

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَٰذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةٌ إِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُم بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **39:10**

Convey to them, "O You servants of Mine who have attained belief! Be mindful of your Lord. Good is the reward for those who do good in this world, and spacious is God's earth. The steadfast will be given their reward in full, beyond count."

قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَّهُ الدِّينَ **39:11**

Say, "I am commanded to serve God sincerely for the establishment of His System.

Serve God alone

وَأُمِرْتُ لِأَنْ أَكُونَ أَوَّلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ 39:12

And I have been commanded to be the foremost among those who surrender to Him."

قُلْ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ 39:13

Say, "If I disobey my Lord, I fear the doom of a Tremendous Day."

قُلِ اللَّهَ أَعْبُدُ مُخْلِصًا لَّهُ دِينِي 39:14

Say, "I serve God sincerely to establish His System.

فَاعْبُدُوا مَا شِئْتُم مِّن دُونِهِ قُلْ إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَا ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ 39:15

You may worship whatever you wish besides Him." Say, "The real losers are those who lose their own 'self' and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Ah, that is the obvious loss." [Mubeen = Open = Obvious = Clear = Without any doubt]

لَهُم مِّن فَوْقِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ مِّنَ النَّارِ وَمِن تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلَلٌ ذَٰلِكَ يُخَوِّفُ اللَّهُ بِهِ عِبَادَهُ يَا عِبَادِ فَاتَّقُونِ 39:16

They will have fire and ashes above them, and beneath them a dais of hot ashes. In this way does God alert His servants: O My servants! Be mindful of My laws.

وَالَّذِينَ اجْتَنَبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ أَن يَعْبُدُوهَا وَأَنَابُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ لَهُمُ الْبُشْرَىٰ فَبَشِّرْ عِبَادِ 39:17

For those who shun false 'authorities' (Taaghoot) and refrain from idol-worship in all forms, and turn to God alone, there is good news. So, announce the good news to My servants. [Taaghoot, 2:256]

الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ 39:18

Follow Quran

Those who listen to the Word, and follow the best of its application (in a given situation), such are the ones whom God has guided, and they are the ones endowed with insight.

أَفَمَنْ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ أَفَأَنتَ تُنقِذُ مَن فِي النَّارِ 39:19

But there is he who has inevitably deserved suffering (for his persistence in following false 'authorities'). Can you save the one already committed to fire?

لَٰكِنِ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ لَهُمْ غُرَفٌ مِّن فَوْقِهَا غُرَفٌ مَّبْنِيَّةٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ لَا يُخْلِفُ اللَّهُ الْمِيعَادَ **39:20**

But those who are mindful of their Lord, for them are lofty and honorable mansions built for them with rivers flowing beneath. This is God's promise. Never does God fail His promise.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَسَلَكَهُ يَنَابِيعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا مُّخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهُ ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ فَتَرَاهُ مُصْفَرًّا ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ حُطَامًا إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَذِكْرَىٰ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ **39:21**

Have you not realized that it is God Who sends down water from the height, and then leads it through the earth to form wells and springs? And then He brings forth a variety of colorful vegetation. Then you see the crops ripen turning golden yellow, and in the end He makes them crumble away (with grain aside). Surely, therein is a reminder to those who wish to develop their insight.

أَفَمَن شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَىٰ نُورٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ فَوَيْلٌ لِّلْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُم مِّن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **39:22**

If God renders one's chest open to Submission (Islam) he will be following a light from his Sustainer. But those whose hearts are hardened against God's reminder only harm themselves. They are most obviously lost in error.

اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُّتَشَابِهًا مَّثَانِيَ تَقْشَعِرُّ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُدَى اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ **39:23**

Hadith

God has now revealed the best Hadith, a Book fully consistent within itself. It marks out both ways (to success and failure) repeating its messages in diverse forms. Herewith shiver the skins of those who have some idea of the glory of their Lord, and then, their skins and their hearts soften at God's reminder. This is the Guidance of God, and with it He guides one who seeks guidance. Whereas one

who follows a path that God has declared to be wrong, goes astray and he cannot find a guide. [4:88, 15:87. Hadith = Narration]

أَفَمَن يَتَّقِي بِوَجْهِهِ سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَقِيلَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ ذُوقُوا مَا كُنتُمْ تَكْسِبُونَ **39:24**

Oh, think of him who defends himself against the suffering on the Resurrection Day, only with his face! And it will be said to the violators of permanent Values, "Taste now what you had sown!"

كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَأَتَاهُمُ الْعَذَابُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ **39:25**

Those who lived before their times, also denied the truth. So the punishment befell them from directions they could not have imagined.

فَأَذَاقَهُمُ اللَّهُ الْخِزْيَ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **39:26**

Thus God gave them a taste of humiliation in the world. Yet, much greater will be the suffering in the life to come. They could understand if they made good use of what they knew.

وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِن كُلِّ مَثَلٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ **39:27**

We have explained this Qur'an to mankind with all kinds of examples so that they might reflect and understand.

قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا غَيْرَ ذِي عِوَجٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ **39:28**

This Qur'an in Arabic is a Monograph in plain language free of all deviousness so that they might learn and live by the Values ordained in it. [7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7]

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا رَّجُلًا فِيهِ شُرَكَاءُ مُتَشَاكِسُونَ وَرَجُلًا سَلَمًا لِّرَجُلٍ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **39:29**

God gives you another example: There is a man who deals with several disputing supervisors, compared to a man who deals with only one consistent supervisor. Are these two equal as regards their condition? All praise is due to God. But most of them do not know. [The majority of people fail to grasp a simple rule:

Belief in Monotheism confers unity among mankind as one single community since their Creator is One. 12:39]

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُم مَّيِّتُونَ **39:30**

(O Prophet) you will die, and they will die. [What counts is how people live their lives]

ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِندَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ **39:31**

On the Resurrection Day all of you shall present your disputes before your Lord for settlement.

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّن كَذَبَ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَكَذَّبَ بِالصِّدْقِ إِذْ جَاءَهُ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْكَافِرِينَ **39:32**

(Here is a forewarning.) Who does a greater wrong than the one who tells a lie against God and denies the truth when it reaches him? Is not Hell the proper home of those who oppose the truth and choose to live in darkness? [Kufr = Denying or opposing the truth, choosing to live in the darkness of ignorance, living without Divine Guidance, being ungrateful, concealing the truth]

وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصِّدْقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ **39:33**

But the one who brings the truth and the one who accepts it as true - it is those who are righteous. [Note that the statements in this verse and the preceding one allude to the Messenger and the recipients of the message]

لَهُم مَّا يَشَاءُونَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **39:34**

With their Lord, they have all that they could ever desire. Such is the reward of the doers of good to others.

لِيُكَفِّرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَهُمْ أَجْرَهُم بِأَحْسَنِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **39:35**

God will blot out the imprints of their faults and will give them a reward par excellence, more than befitting for the best of their deeds.

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبْدَهُ وَيُخَوِّفُونَكَ بِالَّذِينَ مِن دُونِهِ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ **39:36**

Is not God Sufficient for His servant? And yet, they try to intimidate you with others besides Him. He whom violation of God's law of guidance sends astray, for him there is no guide. [He who follows what God has declared to be wrong, goes astray. 39:23]

وَمَن يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن مُّضِلٍّ أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِعَزِيزٍ ذِي انتِقَامٍ **39:37**

And he whom God guides, for him there can be none to mislead. Is not God Exalted in power, Lord of requital?

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَرَأَيْتُم مَّا تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ أَرَادَنِيَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ هَلْ هُنَّ كَاشِفَاتُ ضُرِّهِ أَوْ أَرَادَنِي بِرَحْمَةٍ هَلْ هُنَّ مُمْسِكَاتُ رَحْمَتِهِ قُلْ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ يَتَوَكَّلُ الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ **39:38**

If you ask them, “Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth?” They will definitely answer, “God”. Say, ”Have you, then, ever reflected on whom you call upon besides God? If God wills some affliction for me, can they relieve His affliction? Or if He wills some grace for me, can they withhold His grace¿‘ Say, ”God is Sufficient for me! In Him alone place their trust all those who trust (in His Almightiness).” [29:61]

قُلْ يَا قَوْمِ اعْمَلُوا عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِكُمْ إِنِّي عَامِلٌ فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **39:39**

Say, “O My people! Do all that is in your control. As for me, I will continue my work. But soon you will find out -

مَن يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَيَحِلُّ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ **39:40**

As to who faces the torment of humiliation and deserves the lasting doom.” [6:136, 11: 93-121, 20:135, 39:39]

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْهِم بِوَكِيلٍ **39:41**

(O Prophet) We have revealed to you this Book expounding the truth for all mankind. Then whoever chooses guidance benefits his own ‘self’. And whoever chooses to be lost, he strays only to his own detriment. You are not a custodian over them, nor can you determine their fate. [Wakeel = Advocate, guardian, warder, warden, defender, custodian, responsible for the outcome]

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **39:42**

(Only the living of the mind and heart can make choices in this world.) It is God Who takes their consciousness upon death, and of the living during their sleep. He withholds it for those upon whom He has passed the decree of death, and restores the others until an appointed time (according to His laws). Herein are signs for people who think. [39:6]

أَمِ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ شُفَعَاءَ قُلْ أَوَلَوْ كَانُوا لَا يَمْلِكُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ **39:43**

What! Do they contrive mediators side by side with God? Say, "Why! Even though they have power over nothing and have no intelligence¿'

قُل لِّلَّهِ الشَّفَاعَةُ جَمِيعًا لَّهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **39:44**

Intercession belongs to God

Say, "All intercession belongs to God! Unto Him belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth. Then to Him you will be returned." [Through His laws He shall blot out the imprints of human faults. 3:195, 29:7, 39:35]

وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ اشْمَأَزَّتْ قُلُوبُ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ وَإِذَا ذُكِرَ الَّذِينَ مِن دُونِهِ إِذَا هُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ **39:45**

And yet, when God alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who believe not in the life to come, shrink with aversion. But, when others (such as their 'holy men') are mentioned besides Him, they rejoice. [Belief in the Hereafter essentially involves belief in the unwavering Law of Recompense where all actions have their repercussions]

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاطِرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ عَالِمَ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ أَنتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ فِي مَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **39:46**

Say, "O God! Originator of the heavens and earth, Knower of the Invisible and the Visible! It is You Who will judge between Your servants wherein they differ."

وَلَوْ أَنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا وَمِثْلَهُ مَعَهُ لَافْتَدَوْا بِهِ مِن سُوءِ الْعَذَابِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَبَدَا لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يَكُونُوا يَحْتَسِبُونَ **39:47**

If the violators of human rights owned everything on the earth, and twice as much, they would readily offer it as ransom for the awful retribution of the Resurrection Day. But there will appear to them from God what they never expected. [They will realize that Paradise and Hellfire are but natural consequences of their own deeds]

وَبَدَا لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **39:48**

The very deeds they committed to disrupt the lives of others, will confront them. And they will be surrounded by what they used to ridicule. [79:36]

فَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنسَانَ ضُرٌّ دَعَانَا ثُمَّ إِذَا خَوَّلْنَاهُ نِعْمَةً مِّنَّا قَالَ إِنَّمَا أُوتِيتُهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ بَلْ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **39:49**

When adversity touches the human, he calls upon Us. But as soon as We grant him a blessing from Us, he says, "I have been given this because of a certain knowledge." Nay, this affords them a test (of character), but most of them do not know.

قَدْ قَالَهَا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **39:50**

Those before them said the same thing, but what they earned did not avail them in the least. [28:78]

فَأَصَابَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَالَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ سَيُصِيبُهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا كَسَبُوا وَمَا هُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ **39:51**

They destabilized the lives of others, and their very deeds fell back upon themselves. And the same will happen to the oppressors always - their deeds falling back upon themselves, and they will never be able to evade the Law of Requital. [Sayyeh = Causing imbalance in the lives of others. Unfortunately, terms such as 'Sayyeh', 'Zanb', 'Ithm' all are frequently translated as the vague term 'Sin'. Zanb = Tail = Trailing behind like the tail of an animal trails behind its body =Trailing behind in humanity. Ithm = Any action that depletes individual or communal energy. Likewise, Zulm is almost always rendered as wrongdoing or transgression, while it denotes displacing something from its rightful place. So, Zulm will carry a specific meaning according to the context. The terms such as Saalehaat, Birr, Khair, Hasanah, Taqwa are made to lose their powerful specific impact through vague term 'Righteousness'. Saalehaat = Actions that increase the capabilities of a person or the society = Setting things right = Helping others. Birr = Works that lead to exponential growth of the 'self' = Creating room for advancement of all. Khair = A deed or act that endows a person and others with true inner happiness. Taqwa = Journeying through life in security = Being observant]

أَوَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ **39:52**

Do they not know that God increases and decreases provision according to His laws? Herein are lessons for people who believe in the Divine laws. [Ayaat = Lessons per context = Messages = Verses = Signs]

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **39:53**

God forgives

Convey to them, "O You servants of Mine who have so far wasted your own 'self'! Do not despair of the mercy of God. God absolves your imperfections and protects you from the detriment of all that caused you to trail behind in humanity - For, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

وَأَنِيبُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ وَأَسْلِمُوا لَهُ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ ثُمَّ لَا تُنصَرُونَ **39:54**

So, turn to your Lord and surrender to Him before the period of respite is over and the doom befalls you. Then you will not be helped.

وَاتَّبِعُوا أَحْسَنَ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُم مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْعَذَابُ بَغْتَةً وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ **39:55**

And follow the best teaching (the Qur'an) that has been revealed to you by your Lord before the Doom comes upon you suddenly without your perceiving of the why, how and whence of it. [39:18]

أَن تَقُولَ نَفْسٌ يَا حَسْرَتَا عَلَىٰ مَا فَرَّطتُ فِي جَنبِ اللَّهِ وَإِن كُنتُ لَمِنَ السَّاخِرِينَ **39:56**

Lest any person should say, "Ah! My grief that I was unmindful of God, and I was among the mockers."

أَوْ تَقُولَ لَوْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ هَدَانِي لَكُنتُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ **39:57**

Or lest he should say, "If only God had guided me, I would have been among the righteous!"

أَوْ تَقُولَ حِينَ تَرَى الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي كَرَّةً فَأَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ **39:58**

Or lest he should say, when he sees the requital, "I wish I had a second chance so that I could be among those who do good to others!"

بَلَىٰ قَدْ جَاءَتْكَ آيَاتِي فَكَذَّبْتَ بِهَا وَاسْتَكْبَرْتَ وَكُنتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ **39:59**

Nay! My messages did come to you, but you denied them in false pride and so you became rejecters of the truth.

وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تَرَى الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ وُجُوهُهُم مُّسْوَدَّةٌ أَلَيْسَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ مَثْوًى لِّلْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ **39:60**

Those who lied about God

Saddened in gloom you will see, on the Resurrection Day, the faces of those who lied concerning God. Is not Hell the proper home for those given to false pride?

وَيُنَجِّي اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا بِمَفَازَتِهِمْ لَا يَمَسُّهُمُ السُّوءُ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **39:61**

But God will deliver the righteous for successfully journeying through life. No harm will touch them, nor will they grieve.

اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ **39:62**

God is the Creator of all things, and He alone determines the destiny of all things. [God carries through evolution all things to what they are meant to be. 3:184]

لَّهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **39:63**

To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth. Those who deny the Signs of God (in the Universe) - it is those who are the losers. [God has made His forces in nature subservient to mankind, thus enabling them to explore the Universe through science. 2:30]

قُلْ أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ تَأْمُرُونِّي أَعْبُدُ أَيُّهَا الْجَاهِلُونَ **39:64**

Say, “Is it other than God that you bid me to serve, O you ignorant ones?”

وَلَقَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **39:65**

It has already been revealed for you as well as for those before you, “If you fall for idolatry in any form, all your works will be nullified, and you will be among the losers.”

بَلِ اللَّهَ فَاعْبُدْ وَكُن مِّنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ **39:66**

Nay, but you shall serve God alone and be among those who show gratitude for His guidance and bounties by sharing them with others. [Shukr = Gratitude = Keeping God's bounties open for the benefit of others thus obtaining the best possible and collective results. It does not end with verbal thanks alone]

وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَبْضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ مَطْوِيَّاتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **39:67**

And they (mankind) do not esteem God as He should be esteemed. When mankind stand at their feet, His law will be held Supreme in the human society as it is in the Universe. (As an allegory) on the Resurrection Day the entire earth will be as a mere handful to Him, and the skies will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorious is He, Sublimely Exalted above all that they associate with Him. [6:92, 21:20-23, 22:75, 43:84. Belief in the Day of Judgment is one of the five Articles of faith (2:177). However, many verses of the Qur'an refer to recompense in both worlds: For example, individual success and failure, rise and fall of nations, Hell and Paradise. Verses 39:67-75 may apply to both lives especially when we consider 39:69 and 39:74 describing the earth shining with the light of its Lord, and the inheritance of the earth by those who believe in Him]

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَن شَاءَ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ نُفِخَ فِيهِ أُخْرَىٰ فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنظُرُونَ **39:68**

When the Trumpet is sounded, all who are in the heavens and all who are on earth will fall unconscious as decreed by God. And then it will sound again, and they will be standing and looking on. [27:87, 83:6. For Illa, see 11:107-108, 55:33, 73:2, 87:6-7. For Yasha, see Preface]

وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجِيءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **39:69**

And the earth will shine with the Light of its Lord. The Book will be placed open. The Prophets and the witnesses will come forward. And a just decision will prevail between people. And no one shall be wronged.

وَوُفِّيَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ **39:70**

For, every human being will be repaid in full for whatever he has done. And He knows best whatever they do.

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَٰكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ **39:71**

Those who oppose the truth will be led to Hell as communities until they reach it and its gates are opened. The keepers of Hell will ask them, "Did not come to you Messengers from among yourselves conveying to you the messages of your Lord and warning you of the meeting of this your Day?" They will say, "Yes, indeed!" But at that time the sentence of punishment would have already been announced against the deniers of the truth.

قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ **39:72**

It will be said to them, "Enter the gates of Hell to abide therein." How miserable is the destination of the arrogant!

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ **39:73**

And those who are mindful of their Lord will be escorted into the Garden as communities until they reach it and its gates are opened. The keepers of the Garden will say to them, "Peace be upon you! You have done well! Enter, then, herein to abide."

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَبَوَّأُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ **39:74**

And they will say, "All praise is due to God Who has fulfilled His promise to us, and made us inherit the land. We can live in beautiful dwellings of our choice in this Garden." How bounteous is the reward of sincere workers! [24:55, 33:27]

وَتَرَى الْمَلَائِكَةَ حَافِّينَ مِنْ حَوْلِ الْعَرْشِ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **39:75**

And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne of Almighty's Supreme Control, extolling the glory of their Lord. The judgment between people will be in absolute justice. And they will say altogether, "All praise is due to God, the Lord of the

****

Worlds." [God's forces in nature will help mankind establish the Divine Rule on earth, as it is in the Cosmos. And the Divine System will make people realize that the Giver of such supreme guidance is Worthy of all praise. This verse applies to both lives]

Chapter 40

Al-Mu´min - The Believer

This is the 40th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 85 verses. This Surah highlights the speech of a believer in the court of Pharaoh. As per style of the Qur´an, it takes us along the pleasant journey to God´s signs in the Book of nature, in the history of nations, and within ourselves. Some ´authorities´ call this Surah as ´Al-Ghafir´, but QXP is committed to the original titles of all Surahs.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **40:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

تَنزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ **40:2**

The revelation of this Book is from God, the Almighty, the Knower.

غَافِرِ الذَّنبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ ذِي الطَّوْلِ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ إِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ **40:3**

Absolver of actions that cause you to trail behind in humanity, Acceptor of repentance, Stern in grasping, Infinite in authority - there is no god but He. Unto Him is the destination of all journeying.

مَا يُجَادِلُ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَلَا يَغْرُرْكَ تَقَلُّبُهُمْ فِي الْبِلَادِ **40:4**

None but those who are determined to deny the truth will dispute the messages of God. Let not their thump and thud in the towns impress you.

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَالْأَحْزَابُ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ وَهَمَّتْ كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ بِرَسُولِهِمْ لِيَأْخُذُوهُ وَجَادَلُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ لِيُدْحِضُوا بِهِ **40:5**

الْحَقَّ فَأَخَذْتُهُمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عِقَابِ

Before their times, the people of Noah and generations after them too banded together in opposing the message. And every community endeavored to seize its Messenger, and disputed with him with falsehood in order to refute the truth. But it was I Who seized them, and how awesome was My grasping!

وَكَذَٰلِكَ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَتُ رَبِّكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ **40:6**

Thus was fulfilled the Word of your Lord concerning the rejecters, and so they are dwellers of the fire.

الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ **40:7**

Those who bear the Throne of Almightiness as well as those who are near it, strive to manifest the glory of their Lord. They have full conviction in Him and they support the believers against the detrimental effects of their faults. (They say), "Our Lord! You embrace all things in Your grace and knowledge. Absolve then, the imperfections of those who make amends and follow Your way, and guard them against the suffering of fire." [This verse makes much use of allegories. 7:54, 27:8. 'Arsh = Throne = God's Throne of Almightiness = Some idea of His glory = Supreme Control. Yahmiloon-al-'Arsh = Those who bear the Throne = They manifest God's glory = Keep absolute harmony in the Universe = Angels and humans that manifest the glory of God = Have conviction that the Divine System is a blessing for humanity = Show that the system of life on earth can be run as smoothly as the rest of the Universe = Carry out His commands = Strive to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Hawlahu = Around it = Near it = Being mindful of God's will. Ghafarah = Protection = Helmet and armor = Forgiveness = Absolving imperfections = Protection against the detriment of faults. Taabu from Taubah = Those who repent = They make amends = Those who return to the right road. Jaheem = Insurmountable Barrier to development = Fire of regret = Blazing Fire]

رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدتَّهُمْ وَمَن صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **40:8**

"Our Lord! Admit them into the Gardens of Eden that you have promised them, and the righteous among their ancestors, their spouses and their descendants. Surely, You, are the Mighty, the Wise."

وَقِهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَن تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَحِمْتَهُ وَذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **40:9**

"Protect them against the detriment of their faults, for, anyone whom You protect on that Day, on them You have bestowed mercy. And that is the Supreme Triumph." [Sayyeh = Disrupting others' lives = Causing imbalance in the society = Faults = Transgressions]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُنَادَوْنَ لَمَقْتُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ مِن مَّقْتِكُمْ أَنفُسَكُمْ إِذْ تُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ فَتَكْفُرُونَ **40:10**

As for those who deny the truth, they will be so addressed, "Greater than your disapproval of yourselves this Day was God's disapproval when you were invited to faith but you went on denying (and screened yourselves off from the light.)" [Kufr = Denying the truth = Concealing the truth = Ingratitude for guidance = Choosing to live in darkness]

قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَتَّنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ فَاعْتَرَفْنَا بِذُنُوبِنَا فَهَلْ إِلَىٰ خُرُوجٍ مِّن سَبِيلٍ **40:11**

They will say, "Our Lord, twice You have made us die, just as twice You have made us live. But now we confess that we did trail behind in making progress. Is there any way out of this (second death)?" [First death: In the worldly life. Second death: Lack of further progress in the Hereafter, which is mere survival in Hell. Most commentators lean toward ascribing the first death to the non-existence of human beings before being born into this world. But it is difficult to equate non-existence with death i.e. dying before being born. 2:28, 14:17, 20:74, 35:36, 37:58, 44:56, 87:12-13. The Qur'an vividly portrays life as a journey with the propensity of further evolution and progress even in the Hereafter]

ذَٰلِكُم بِأَنَّهُ إِذَا دُعِيَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ كَفَرْتُمْ وَإِن يُشْرَكْ بِهِ تُؤْمِنُوا فَالْحُكْمُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيرِ **40:12**

Invoke God alone

It will be said to them, "This is your plight because when God alone was invoked you denied the message, but when others (such as your 'holy' men) were included besides Him, you believed. But the command belongs only to God, the Sublime, the Majestic." [39:45]

هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُنَزِّلُ لَكُم مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ رِزْقًا وَمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ إِلَّا مَن يُنِيبُ **40:13**

He is the One Who shows you His signs in the Universe and sends down sustenance for you from the sky. Yet none learns a lesson except those who turn to seek the truth.

فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ 40:14

Call, then, upon God, sincere in your faith in Him alone, however hateful this may be to those who deny the truth (by invoking their 'holy' men besides Him).

رَفِيعُ الدَّرَجَاتِ ذُو الْعَرْشِ يُلْقِي الرُّوحَ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ لِيُنذِرَ يَوْمَ التَّلَاقِ 40:15

Exalted He is in His Attributes, and Exalter of ranks He is, the Lord of the Throne of His Almightiness, Master of Supreme Control. By His command He has sent the revelation to whomever He chose from among His servants, in order that He may warn mankind of the Day of Mutual Meeting. [The Day when all of them meet together and meet their Lord. Rafiuddarajat and Zul'arsh carry double connotation in my opinion as rendered]

يَوْمَ هُم بَارِزُونَ لَا يَخْفَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْهُمْ شَيْءٌ لِّمَنِ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ 40:16

On that Day when they come forth, not a thing of them will be hidden from God. Whose will be the Kingdom that Day? God's, the One, the Dominating.

الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ لَا ظُلْمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ 40:17

That Day every 'self' will be rewarded for whatever it has earned. No injustice will be done on that Day. Surely, God is Swift in taking account.

وَأَنذِرْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْآزِفَةِ إِذِ الْقُلُوبُ لَدَى الْحَنَاجِرِ كَاظِمِينَ مَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ حَمِيمٍ وَلَا شَفِيعٍ يُطَاعُ 40:18

So, warn them of the Day which draws near, when the hearts will come right up the throats, choking them. No bosom friend will be there for the violators of human rights, nor will any mediator be granted audience.

يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ 40:19

He knows the treachery of the eyes, and all that the hearts would conceal. [Treachery of the eyes = To look at others with temptation. See but not observe. To convey hearsay as if one has seen. Not lowering the gaze. Not using senses to full potential. Not learning from daily observation. Not using sight to develop the vision]

وَاللَّهُ يَقْضِي بِالْحَقِّ وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ لَا يَقْضُونَ بِشَيْءٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ **40:20**

God alone judges with truth, but those whom they call instead of Him, cannot judge at all. God is Hearer, Seer. [God's omniscience described in the end explains why only He can be the Infallible Judge]

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا هُمْ أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَآثَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَا كَانَ لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَاقٍ **40:21**

Have they, then, never traveled in the land and seen the end of those who lived before their times? They were mightier than these, and in the impact they have left on earth (as evident from their ruins). But God took them to task for their trailing behind in humanity. And then they had no defender against God. [30:9]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانَت تَّأْتِيهِمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَكَفَرُوا فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ قَوِيٌّ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **40:22**

This is so because their Messengers had come to them with all evidence of the truth, and yet they rejected it. So God seized them. He is Strong, Strict in grasping.

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **40:23**

Then We sent Moses with Our messages and a clear authority.

إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَقَارُونَ فَقَالُوا سَاحِرٌ كَذَّابٌ **40:24**

To Pharaoh, Haman and Qaroon, but they said, "A spellbinding liar he is." [28:6, 29:39. Saahir = Magician = Trickster = An eloquent, spellbinding speaker = A deceitful liar = One who stuns the intellect. Pharaoh, Haman and Qaroon (Korah) are the archetypes of tyranny, priesthood and wealth respectively. It is important to note from this verse that Moses was sent to all three elements of this 'unholy trinity'. From this infers the mutual dependence of the forces of tyranny, priesthood and hoarding. These three elements have always worked in concert against the forces of justice and equity. Haman was the chief priest as well as chief of Pharaoh's armies. The wealthy Qaroon belonged to the Israelites, the people of Moses. But he was Pharaoh's slave-driver. He represents Capitalism, pursuit of wealth with its associated inequities]

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم بِالْحَقِّ مِنْ عِندِنَا قَالُوا اقْتُلُوا أَبْنَاءَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ وَاسْتَحْيُوا نِسَاءَهُمْ وَمَا كَيْدُ الْكَافِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ **40:25**

When he brought them the truth from Our Presence, they said, “Kill the sons of those who have come to believe with him and spare their women (for slavery and shameful acts).” But the scheme of the rejecters came to naught. [2:49, 7:127]

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ ذَرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَىٰ وَلْيَدْعُ رَبَّهُ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَن يُبَدِّلَ دِينَكُمْ أَوْ أَن يُظْهِرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْفَسَادَ **40:26**

Pharaoh said, “Leave it up to me to kill Moses and let him call upon his Lord. I am afraid He will change your religion and life-style and cause uprising in the land.”

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُم مِّن كُلِّ مُتَكَبِّرٍ لَّا يُؤْمِنُ بِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ **40:27**

Moses replied, “I have found refuge with my Lord and the Lord of you all from every arrogant one who does not believe in the Day of Account.”

وَقَالَ رَجُلٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ مِّنْ آلِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَكْتُمُ إِيمَانَهُ أَتَقْتُلُونَ رَجُلًا أَن يَقُولَ رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ وَقَدْ جَاءَكُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ مِن رَّبِّكُمْ وَإِن يَكُ كَاذِبًا فَعَلَيْهِ كَذِبُهُ وَإِن يَكُ صَادِقًا يُصِبْكُم بَعْضُ الَّذِي يَعِدُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ كَذَّابٌ **40:28**

A believing man among Pharaoh’s people who had thus far concealed his faith, exclaimed, “Would you kill a man because he says, ‘My Lord is God’, and brought you all evidence of the truth from your Lord? If he is a liar, then his lie will fall back upon him. (He will soon be exposed.) But if he is truthful, then some of the punishment he warns you against, will certainly befall you. Surely, God does not guide any who transgresses and lies. [Musrif = A waster = Who transgresses beyond limits = Prodigal = One who wastes resources or own ‘self’]

يَا قَوْمِ لَكُمُ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ ظَاهِرِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَن يَنصُرُنَا مِن بَأْسِ اللَّهِ إِن جَاءَنَا قَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ مَا أُرِيكُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَرَىٰ وَمَا أَهْدِيكُمْ إِلَّا سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ **40:29**

O My people! Yours is the kingdom today, and most eminent are you on earth. But who will help us against God’s strike, once it hits us¿‘ Pharaoh said, ”I want you

to see what I see. And I would never show you but the right way."

وَقَالَ الَّذِي آمَنَ يَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُم مِّثْلَ يَوْمِ الْأَحْزَابِ 40:30

Thereupon the believer said, "O My people! I fear for you the disaster that befell the factions of old,

مِثْلَ دَأْبِ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَالَّذِينَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ظُلْمًا لِّلْعِبَادِ 40:31

The condition of Noah's people, 'Aad and Thamud, and those who came after them. God never intends injustice for His servants.

وَيَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَوْمَ التَّنَادِ 40:32

O My people! I fear for you a day when you will cry to one another in distress.

يَوْمَ تُوَلُّونَ مُدْبِرِينَ مَا لَكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ عَاصِمٍ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ 40:33

A day when you will turn around to flee, but you will have no defender from God. Whomever God lets go astray (through His law of guidance), for him there is no guide. [4:88]

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ يُوسُفُ مِن قَبْلُ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا زِلْتُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا جَاءَكُم بِهِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا هَلَكَ قُلْتُمْ لَن يَبْعَثَ اللَّهُ مِن بَعْدِهِ رَسُولًا كَذَٰلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ مُّرْتَابٌ 40:34

And it was to you that Joseph had come with all evidence of the truth. But, you incessantly cast suspicion on what he had brought. And when he died, you said, 'God will never send another Messenger after him. Thus God lets go astray any who is a waster of 'self', given to suspicion.

الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَانٍ أَتَاهُمْ كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِندَ اللَّهِ وَعِندَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كَذَٰلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ قَلْبِ مُتَكَبِّرٍ جَبَّارٍ 40:35

They argue against God's revelations, without any basis. This attitude is strongly disapproved in the Sight of God and of those who believe. Thus God sets a seal on every arrogant, brutal heart." [40:56. According to Divine law, when someone sticks to false beliefs and persistently refuses to listen to the truth, one loses the ability to perceive reality. God assigns to Himself all that happens in the Universe. Humans, however, have free will to choose their course. For example, the 'sealing of heart' is a natural consequence of one's own actions. For Taba' and Khatam, See 2:7]

وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَا هَامَانُ ابْنِ لِي صَرْحًا لَّعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ الْأَسْبَابَ **40:36**

(Thus spoke the believer among Pharaoh's people.) And Pharaoh remarked, "O Haman! Build for me a lofty tower that I may have enough means,

أَسْبَابَ السَّمَاوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَىٰ إِلَٰهِ مُوسَىٰ وَإِنِّي لَأَظُنُّهُ كَاذِبًا وَكَذَٰلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَصُدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ **40:37**

The means of access to the heavens, and to look at the God of Moses, though, I consider him a liar." Thus, goodly seemed to Pharaoh the evil of his own deeds, and so he was barred from the path. In the end all plotting of Pharaoh led him to nothing but ruin.

وَقَالَ الَّذِي آمَنَ يَا قَوْمِ اتَّبِعُونِ أَهْدِكُمْ سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ **40:38**

Still, the man who had believed, went on, "O My people! Follow me. I will show you the right way.

يَا قَوْمِ إِنَّمَا هَٰذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتَاعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ **40:39**

My people! The life of this world is but a brief enjoyment, whereas, the Hereafter, that is the Lasting Home.

مَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَلَا يُجْزَىٰ إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ يُرْزَقُونَ فِيهَا بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ **40:40**

Whoever has destabilized another person's life, will not be repaid but the like of it. And whoever has helped others, whether male or female, and is a believer, such will enter the Garden wherein they will be blessed with sustenance without measure.

وَيَا قَوْمِ مَا لِي أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى النَّجَاةِ وَتَدْعُونَنِي إِلَى النَّارِ **40:41**

O My people! What is my personal benefit that I call you to freedom from grief whereas you invite me to the fire?

تَدْعُونَنِي لِأَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَأُشْرِكَ بِهِ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَأَنَا أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى الْعَزِيزِ الْغَفَّارِ **40:42**

You call me to disbelieve in God and ascribe to Him partners of whom I have no knowledge, while I invite you to the Almighty, the Forgiving.

لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّمَا تَدْعُونَنِي إِلَيْهِ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَعْوَةٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَأَنَّ مَرَدَّنَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ هُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ **40:43**

No doubt, what you invite me to call upon is futile in this world and in the Hereafter. To God is our return, and those who waste their human potential will be dwellers of the fire.

فَسَتَذْكُرُونَ مَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ وَأُفَوِّضُ أَمْرِي إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ **40:44**

Sometime in the future you will remember what I am saying to you now. I commit my affair to God. God is Seer of His servants."

فَوَقَاهُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِ مَا مَكَرُوا وَحَاقَ بِآلِ فِرْعَوْنَ سُوءُ الْعَذَابِ **40:45**

And God protected him from their evil scheming while suffering was to surround Pharaoh's people,

النَّارُ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا غُدُوًّا وَعَشِيًّا وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ أَدْخِلُوا آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَشَدَّ الْعَذَابِ **40:46**

The fire, which they had been warned of day and night. On the Day when the Hour dawns, it will be said, "Cast Pharaoh's people into the toughest penalty." [7:133, 28:42]

وَإِذْ يَتَحَاجُّونَ فِي النَّارِ فَيَقُولُ الضُّعَفَاءُ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا لَكُمْ تَبَعًا فَهَلْ أَنتُم مُّغْنُونَ عَنَّا نَصِيبًا مِّنَ النَّارِ **40:47**

They will dispute with each other in the fire. The commoners will say to the leaders, "We were following you. Can you, then, take away some of the fire from us?" [14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 37:27-29, 38:60]

قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا كُلٌّ فِيهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ حَكَمَ بَيْنَ الْعِبَادِ **40:48**

The leaders will respond, “We are all in it together. Surely, God has judged between His servants.”

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ فِي النَّارِ لِخَزَنَةِ جَهَنَّمَ ادْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ يُخَفِّفْ عَنَّا يَوْمًا مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ **40:49**

And those in the fire will say to the keepers of Hell, “Ask your Lord on our behalf to lighten for us one day of this torment.”

قَالُوا أَوَلَمْ تَكُ تَأْتِيكُمْ رُسُلُكُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ قَالُوا فَادْعُوا وَمَا دُعَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ **40:50**

But (the keepers) will say, “Is it not that your Messengers came to you with all evidence of the truth?” They will answer, “Yes, indeed.” And the keepers will respond, “Pray, then! But the prayer of those without faith is nothing but wandering in error.”

إِنَّا لَنَنصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْأَشْهَادُ **40:51**

We do help Our Messengers and those who truly attain belief, in this world and on the Day when the witnesses shall stand up. [On the Resurrection Day, humans will have a newly awakened consciousness within themselves]

يَوْمَ لَا يَنفَعُ الظَّالِمِينَ مَعْذِرَتُهُمْ وَلَهُمُ اللَّعْنَةُ وَلَهُمْ سُوءُ الدَّارِ **40:52**

The Day their excuses will not avail the oppressors, and theirs will be a removal from Divine grace, and for them is but the home of misery.

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْهُدَىٰ وَأَوْرَثْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْكِتَابَ **40:53**

And such was the history of Moses whom We gave the guidance and thus made the Children of Israel inherit the scripture.

هُدًى وَذِكْرَىٰ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ **40:54**

As a guide and a reminder for people of understanding.

فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنبِكَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ بِالْعَشِيِّ وَالْإِبْكَارِ **40:55**

So, (O Prophet) remain patient in adversity. God's promise always comes true. And guard yourself against slanders intended to cause dissension. And strive to manifest the praise of your Lord, night and day. [47:19, 48:2. Wa sabbih bihamd ... = Strive to live by His code of conduct that people may realize the glory of the Supreme Guide. Zanb = Tail = Trailing behind in humanity = Sticking a blame or slander behind one's back = Character assassination = Often translated as the vague 'sin']

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَانٍ أَتَاهُمْ إِن فِي صُدُورِهِمْ إِلَّا كِبْرٌ مَّا هُم بِبَالِغِيهِ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ **40:56**

Those who dispute the messages of God without any basis, are displaying the arrogance that is hidden in their chests and they do not even perceive it. Seek refuge, then, with God (to dispel their treacheries). He is the Hearer, the Seer. [7:146, 40:35. Bighayiri sultan ataahum = Without any authoritative evidence bestowed on them = Without any basis for them]

لَخَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ خَلْقِ النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **40:57**

Surely, greater than the creation of the humans, is the creation of the heavens and the earth. But most people never know (what it implies). [The entire Universe submits to Divine laws, and so should mankind. 29:61]

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَلَا الْمُسِيءُ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَتَذَكَّرُونَ **40:58**

But then, the blind of reason and the seer at heart are not equal. And neither are those who attain faith, and help others, equal to those who create imbalance in people's lives. How seldom do you use your mind!

إِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَآتِيَةٌ لَّا رَيْبَ فِيهَا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **40:59**

Surely, the Hour is coming; of this there is no doubt. Yet most people do not believe. [That the Revolution will come on this earth and finally, in the Cosmos. 9:33]

وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمُ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ 40:60

Your Lord has said, "Call upon Me and I shall respond to you. Surely, those who are too proud to serve Me, will enter Hell, disgraced." [Whenever you need guidance, turn to My Book and you will find the answer]

اللَّهُ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَالنَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ 40:61

Blessings of God

God is the One Who has made the night for you, so that you may rest therein, and the day to make you see. God is the Lord of bounty for mankind, but most people are ungrateful. [They fail to make proper use of His bounties, keeping them exclusively to themselves]

ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنَّىٰ تُؤْفَكُونَ 40:62

Such is God, your Lord, the Creator of all things. There is no god but He. How can you, then, deviate? [29:61]

كَذَٰلِكَ يُؤْفَكُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ يَجْحَدُونَ 40:63

Thus it is. Those who contend with the messages of God are but straying.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَصَوَّرَكُمْ فَأَحْسَنَ صُوَرَكُمْ وَرَزَقَكُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ 40:64

God is the One Who rendered the earth a dwelling place for you and the atmosphere a canopy, and formed you, and formed you so well, and provided you with decent things of life. Such is God, your Lord. Most Exalted, then, is God, the Lord of the Worlds. [Samaa = Sky = Canopy = Atmosphere that protects against extremes of heat and cold and meteorites. 21:32]

هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 40:65

He is the Ever-Living; there is no god but He. Call then, upon Him alone, sincere in Deen (the Divine System of Life). All praise is due to God, Lord of all the worlds! ['No god but He' = God alone is the Sovereign in the heavens and earth = God

alone is Worthy of obedience and service = Only His laws are operational in the Universe = He is the ultimate Law-Giver to humanity]

قُلْ إِنِّي نُهِيتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَمَّا جَاءَنِيَ الْبَيِّنَاتُ مِن رَّبِّي وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أُسْلِمَ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **40:66**

Say, "I am forbidden to obey those to whom you call upon instead of God, since all evidence of the truth has come to me from my Lord and I am commanded to submit to the Lord of the Worlds."

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا ثُمَّ لِتَبْلُغُوا أَشُدَّكُمْ ثُمَّ لِتَكُونُوا شُيُوخًا وَمِنكُم مَّن يُتَوَفَّىٰ مِن قَبْلُ وَلِتَبْلُغُوا أَجَلًا مُّسَمًّى وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **40:67**

He is the One Who created you from dust, then from the gametes, then from an embryo, and then He brings you forth as an infant. And then you attain full strength and afterward you grow old; though some of you die earlier. All this He ordains so that you reach a term appointed, and along the way, develop your insight. [22:5]

هُوَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ فَإِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُن فَيَكُونُ **40:68**

He is the One Who grants life and causes death. The moment He decrees a thing, He says to it only "Be!" and it is.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ أَنَّىٰ يُصْرَفُونَ **40:69**

Have you, then, seen those who contend against God's revelations, and, therefore, sway like errant winds?

الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِالْكِتَابِ وَبِمَا أَرْسَلْنَا بِهِ رُسُلَنَا فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **40:70**

Those who reject the Book (Al-Qur'an), are in fact, denying all revelations with which We sent Our Messenger. But, in time they will come to know (what they had denied.) [Qur'an is the watcher over previous revelations. 5:48]

إِذِ الْأَغْلَالُ فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ وَالسَّلَاسِلُ يُسْحَبُونَ **40:71**

When they will have shackles around their necks, and the chains (of their own making), they will be dragged along,

فِي الْحَمِيمِ ثُمَّ فِي النَّارِ يُسْجَرُونَ 40:72

Into the boiling fluid (as they were floating from desire to desire), and, then, they are cast into the fire (of their own making).

ثُمَّ قِيلَ لَهُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ 40:73

And then, they will be asked, "Where are those whom you made partners,

مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالُوا ضَلُّوا عَنَّا بَل لَّمْ نَكُن نَّدْعُو مِن قَبْلُ شَيْئًا كَذَٰلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الْكَافِرِينَ 40:74

Besides God¿' They will groan, "They have failed us miserably. Nay, rather, we were calling upon what never existed." This is how God leaves to stray, those who deny the truth. [Kaafireen = Deniers or opponents of the truth = Those who choose to remain in darkness = Those who are ungrateful for the Divine Guidance = Those who conceal the truth]

ذَٰلِكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَفْرَحُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَبِمَا كُنتُمْ تَمْرَحُونَ 40:75

This is because in your life on the earth you used to take delight in what was not True, and roamed about haughtily with your false doctrines.

ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ 40:76

Enter the gates of Hell to abide therein. What a miserable abode for the arrogant!

فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَإِمَّا نُرِيَنَّكَ بَعْضَ الَّذِي نَعِدُهُمْ أَوْ نَتَوَفَّيَنَّكَ فَإِلَيْنَا يُرْجَعُونَ 40:77

Then, (O Prophet) remain patient. God's promise always comes true. Whether We let you witness some of what We promise them, or cause you to die, still to Us they will be brought back. [10:46, 23:95, 43:42]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُم مَّن قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُم مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ وَمَا كَانَ لِرَسُولٍ أَن يَأْتِيَ بِآيَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ قُضِيَ بِالْحَقِّ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْمُبْطِلُونَ 40:78

Prior Messengers were sent

We sent Messengers before you. Some of them We have mentioned to you, and some of them We have not mentioned to you. And none of the Messengers was given the authority to bring a message or a sign but by God's leave. But when (the period of respite was over and) the command of God came, the matter was decided in truth and justice. Thus, right then, perished the upholders of falsehood.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَنْعَامَ لِتَرْكَبُوا مِنْهَا وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ **40:79**

[Those who ask for miracles, must know that God has placed signs in the Universe, for example] God is the One Who has made for you the quadrupeds, that you may ride some of them and from some you derive food.

وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ وَلِتَبْلُغُوا عَلَيْهَا حَاجَةً فِي صُدُورِكُمْ وَعَلَيْهَا وَعَلَى الْفُلْكِ تُحْمَلُونَ **40:80**

And you find yet other benefits from them. That through them you may fulfill your desirable needs (of travel, food, milk, labor and defense). And that you may be carried on them (on the land) as upon the ships (in the sea).

وَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَأَيَّ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُنكِرُونَ **40:81**

And thus He shows you His Wonders! Then which of the Wonders of God will you deny?

أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا أَكْثَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ قُوَّةً وَآثَارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **40:82**

Have they not, then, journeyed about the earth and seen what happened in the end to those who lived before them? They were more numerous than these, and greater in power than these are, and stronger in the impact they left upon earth. Yet, all their achievements eventually failed to help them in the least.

فَلَمَّا جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَرِحُوا بِمَا عِندَهُم مِّنَ الْعِلْمِ وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **40:83**

For when their Messengers came to them with all evidence of the truth, they took delight in the knowledge they possessed. And the very thing they used to mock came on to pay a visit to them. [They took pride in their knowledge and skill and ridiculed the warnings of the Messengers that wrong systems crash down however smartly they might be run]

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْا بَأْسَنَا قَالُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَحْدَهُ وَكَفَرْنَا بِمَا كُنَّا بِهِ مُشْرِكِينَ **40:84**

And then, as they saw Our strike, they cried, “We believe in God, the One God only and reject all that we used to associate with Him.” [We will dismiss false ‘authorities’ and submit to God alone]

فَلَمْ يَكُ يَنفَعُهُمْ إِيمَانُهُمْ لَمَّا رَأَوْا بَأْسَنَا سُنَّتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي قَدْ خَلَتْ فِي عِبَادِهِ وَخَسِرَ هُنَالِكَ الْكَافِرُونَ **40:85**

But their proclamation of faith could not help them, once they saw Our Blow. This is the law of God that has always applied to His servants. And so, there and then, lost were the rejecters of the changeless Divine laws.

Allah's Sunna

Chapter 41

Fussilat - A Book Clearly Spelled Out

This is the 41st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 54 verses narrating the impact of belief and disbelief in the individual and collective lives of the human beings. The Surah concludes with a powerful announcements that all people on the face of the earth will eventually recognize that this Qur´an is the Final Word of God and it solves all the problems that mankind does and ever will face. Some historians have called this Surah, ´Ha-Mim AS-Sajdah´. QXP (The Qur´an As It Explains Itself) once again, would stick to the original unanimity. Additionally, in this particular case, Fussilat is not only a simpler and highly expressive term, but furthermore avoids getting this Surah mixed up with Surah 32, As-Sajdah, in the reader´s mind.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **41:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

تَنزِيلٌ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ **41:2**

This is a revelation from the Beneficent, the Merciful.

كِتَابٌ فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ **41:3**

A scripture whose verses are clearly explained in detail, a Lecture in Arabic, for people who would learn. [7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 42:7]

بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا فَأَعْرَضَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ **41:4**

Good news and a warning. Yet, most of them turn away so that they do not hear.

وَقَالُوا قُلُوبُنَا فِي أَكِنَّةٍ مِّمَّا تَدْعُونَا إِلَيْهِ وَفِي آذَانِنَا وَقْرٌ وَمِن بَيْنِنَا وَبَيْنِكَ حِجَابٌ فَاعْمَلْ إِنَّنَا عَامِلُونَ **41:5**

HIJAB

Hijab = barrier

And so they say, "Our hearts are veiled from what you invite us to, and (consider) there is deafness in our ears, and that between us and you is a barrier. So, do as you will, and we do as we will."

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَاسْتَقِيمُوا إِلَيْهِ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ وَوَيْلٌ لِّلْمُشْرِكِينَ **41:6**

Don't equate the prophet to Allah

(O Prophet) say to them, "I am only a human being like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is one and the same; the One and only God. So, take the straight path to Him and seek His forgiveness. There is great loss for those who choose gods besides God, [Mushrikeen = = Idolaters = Those who worship their own desires. Wayl = Woe = Ultimate loss = Destruction]

الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُم بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ **41:7**

Those who do not contribute toward Zakaat and even deny the Hereafter." [Disbelieving the Law of Just Recompense equals denying the Eternal life. Zakaat = The Just Economic Order. Aakhirah = Life to come = Life Hereafter = Future = The Ultimate Abode]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ **41:8**

But those who accept the Divine revelation and contribute toward improvement of the society, shall have a reward unending.

قُلْ أَئِنَّكُمْ لَتَكْفُرُونَ بِالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَتَجْعَلُونَ لَهُ أَندَادًا ذَٰلِكَ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ **41:9**

Say, "What! Do you deny Him Who has created the earth in Two Eras? And would you still ascribe rivals to Him? He is the One, the Sustainer of the worlds." [36:40, 79:30. Yaumayn = Two days = Two stages = Two Eras = Two Aeons = Indefinitely long periods]

وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ مِن فَوْقِهَا وَبَارَكَ فِيهَا وَقَدَّرَ فِيهَا أَقْوَاتَهَا فِي أَرْبَعَةِ أَيَّامٍ سَوَاءً لِّلسَّائِلِينَ **41:10**

Time is relevant

And He is the One Who placed therein firm mountains towering above it, and bestowed enduring bliss upon it. And He measured therein its sustenance in Four Eras, alike for all who (invariably) need it. [39:67, 56:63-73. Six Eras or Stages: 41:9 Says 'Two Eras', 41:12 says 'Two Eras'. Thus, according to the Qur'an, the creation of the heavens and earth took place in Two Eras. The word Yaum here means a very long period. (A thousand years of your reckoning (32:5) or it may be fifty thousand years in certain cases (70:4). In scientific terms, the period of creation of the material world is called 'Azoic' or Lifeless. The Qur'an however, divides this period into two and calls it Two Eras. Modern scientific research throws some light on the division of Azoic Era into two: To begin with, the entire space was full of smoke (41:11). Smoke, as we know, is a mixture of gases

and solid particles. Areas of condensation appeared later in this gas and the dust cloud, resulting in the formation of Prostars which further developed into stars. Some big meteorites became planets and smaller heavenly bodies. The division of one complete whole of Smoke to Prostars is a great event. Thus we may call the period before the division of the whole Smoke as Era-I of the creation of the Universe; and the period after this division until the appearance of life as Era-II. The Qur'an divides the time of creation after the appearance of life on the earth into Four Eras. Two plus Four makes 'Six Eras' of evolution. 32:4]

ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَهِيَ دُخَانٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا وَلِلْأَرْضِ ائْتِيَا طَوْعًا أَوْ كَرْهًا قَالَتَا أَتَيْنَا طَائِعِينَ **41:11**

Likewise, He is the One Who designed well the Sky when it was Smoke (Nebulae of gas). And He said to it and the earth, "Come both of you willingly or unwillingly." They said, "We do come, obedient." [Thumm = Afterward, then, so, likewise, similarly, in the like manner. The Cosmic bodies coming into their orbits willingly or unwillingly indicates their being inherently subservient to Divine laws, unlike humans who have been granted free will. 3:82, 13:15]

فَقَضَاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَأَوْحَىٰ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرَهَا وَزَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ وَحِفْظًا ذَٰلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ **41:12**

And He is the One Who ordained that they become seven heavens in Two Eras and assigned to each heaven its function. And We decorated the sky of the world with shining lamps, and made them secure (that they do not clash in their orbits 41:9). That is the Design of the Almighty, the Knower.

فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا فَقُلْ أَنذَرْتُكُمْ صَاعِقَةً مِّثْلَ صَاعِقَةِ عَادٍ وَثَمُودَ **41:13**

But if they turn away, then tell them, "I warn you of a thunder like the thunder of 'Aad and Thamud."

إِذْ جَاءَتْهُمُ الرُّسُلُ مِن بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ قَالُوا لَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّنَا لَأَنزَلَ مَلَائِكَةً فَإِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُم بِهِ كَافِرُونَ **41:14**

The Messengers came to them in their former and latter generations, saying, "Serve none but God!" They replied, "If our Lord had willed, He would have sent down angels. So, we disbelieve in the message you are sent with."

فَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَقَالُوا مَنْ أَشَدُّ مِنَّا قُوَّةً أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُمْ هُوَ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً **41:15**

وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ

As for ‘Aad, they behaved in the land arrogantly against all right. And they used to say, “Who is mightier than us in power?” What! Could they not realize that God Who created them, is Mightier than they in power? But they went on denying Our messages, knowingly. [Yajhadoon = They knowingly strived against the truth. 27:14]

فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَرًا فِي أَيَّامٍ نَّحِسَاتٍ لِّنُذِيقَهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَخْزَىٰ وَهُمْ لَا يُنصَرُونَ **41:16**

And so We sent upon them a raging windstorm for days of misfortune, that We let them taste a punishment of humiliation in the life of this world. But the punishment of the Hereafter is far more humiliating and they will have none to help them.

وَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ فَاسْتَحَبُّوا الْعَمَىٰ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَأَخَذَتْهُمْ صَاعِقَةُ الْعَذَابِ الْهُونِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **41:17**

And as for Thamud, We showed them the way, but they preferred blindness over the light of guidance. So, the thunder of a degrading punishment seized them for what they used to earn.

وَنَجَّيْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ **41:18**

And We saved those who believed and took precaution. [The believers heeded the forewarning of their Messenger and followed him to safety. See Taqwa 2:41]

وَيَوْمَ يُحْشَرُ أَعْدَاءُ اللَّهِ إِلَى النَّارِ فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ **41:19**

The Day when the enemies of God are gathered together to the fire, and are driven forward.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا مَا جَاءُوهَا شَهِدَ عَلَيْهِمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَأَبْصَارُهُمْ وَجُلُودُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **41:20**

Till, when they reach it, their hearing and their sight and their skins will bear witness against them, about all they had been doing.

وَقَالُوا لِجُلُودِهِمْ لِمَ شَهِدتُّمْ عَلَيْنَا قَالُوا أَنطَقَنَا اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنطَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ خَلَقَكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **41:21**

And they will ask their skins, “Why did you testify against us?” They will say, “God has given us the power to speak as He has given speech to all things. For, He created you for the first time and to Him you are brought back. [17:13, 75:14]

وَمَا كُنتُمْ تَسْتَتِرُونَ أَن يَشْهَدَ عَلَيْكُمْ سَمْعُكُمْ وَلَا أَبْصَارُكُمْ وَلَا جُلُودُكُمْ وَلَٰكِن ظَنَنتُمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَعْلَمُ كَثِيرًا مِّمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ **41:22**

And you did not hide yourselves that your hearing, your sight or your skins would bear witness against you. Nay, but you thought that God never knew much of what you were doing!

وَذَٰلِكُمْ ظَنُّكُمُ الَّذِي ظَنَنتُم بِرَبِّكُمْ أَرْدَاكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُم مِّنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ **41:23**

And that very assumption that you thought about your Lord has brought you to ruin, and so now you find yourselves among the losers.”

فَإِن يَصْبِرُوا فَالنَّارُ مَثْوًى لَّهُمْ وَإِن يَسْتَعْتِبُوا فَمَا هُم مِّنَ الْمُعْتَبِينَ **41:24**

And even if they bear with patience, the fire will be their home. And if they ask to be allowed to make amends, their request will not be granted. [16:84]

وَقَيَّضْنَا لَهُمْ قُرَنَاءَ فَزَيَّنُوا لَهُم مَّا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَحَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ فِي أُمَمٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا خَاسِرِينَ **41:25**

(In the life of the world) We assigned them comrades who made pleasing to them their present and past actions. And so, the Word has come to pass for them as it did concerning the communities that lived before them, among the rural and the urban. They all are losers. [The Divine law so applied to them. 43:36. ‘Birds of the same feather flock together’]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَسْمَعُوا لِهَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ وَالْغَوْا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَغْلِبُونَ **41:26**

Those who adamantly deny the truth, say, “Do not listen to this Qur’an, but drown it in uproar so that you might dominate.”

Does Hadith override Quran

فَلَنُذِيقَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَسْوَأَ الَّذِي كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **41:27**

But We shall make these deniers taste an awful suffering, and We shall requite them for the worst of their deeds.

ذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ أَعْدَاءِ اللَّهِ النَّارُ لَهُمْ فِيهَا دَارُ الْخُلْدِ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يَجْحَدُونَ **41:28**

That is the reward of God's enemies - the fire. Therein will be their eternal home. A befitting reward, for they knowingly opposed Our messages.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا رَبَّنَا أَرِنَا اللَّذَيْنِ أَضَلَّانَا مِنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ نَجْعَلْهُمَا تَحْتَ أَقْدَامِنَا لِيَكُونَا مِنَ الْأَسْفَلِينَ **41:29**

And the deniers will say, "Our Lord! Show us those, among the nomads and the urban, who misled us. We will trample them under our feet so that they become utterly disgraced."

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ **41:30**

As for those who say, "Our Lord is God", and then remain steadfastly upright; upon them descend angels, saying, "Fear not, and grieve not, but hear good news of the Paradise that you are promised. ['Angels descending and saying' = Divine laws supporting the steadfastly upright who submit to God alone. 3:124-125, 8:10-12, 33:43, 46:13]

نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَاؤُكُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِي أَنفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدَّعُونَ **41:31**

We are close to you in the life of the world and in the Hereafter. In it (Paradise), you shall have all that you may desire and in it you shall have all that you ever prayed for.

نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ رَّحِيمٍ **41:32**

A gift of welcome from Him Who is All Protecting, Nourishing." [Ghafoor = Forgiving = Protecting = Guarding against detriment. Raheem = Merciful = Beneficent = He Who nourishes the entire Universe without any returns]

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّن دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ 41:33

And who is better in speech than one who invites people to God, tries to grow himself in goodness, fulfills the needs of others and declares, "I am one of those who submit to Him?"

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ 41:34

Since good and evil cannot be alike, repel evil with what is decent. Then he, between whom and you there was enmity, may become close friend.

وَمَا يُلَقَّاهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَمَا يُلَقَّاهَا إِلَّا ذُو حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ 41:35

Yet, none is granted this quality but those who exercise patience and restraint. And none is granted it except those who become worthy of great happiness and good fortune. This quality can make you outstandingly successful, winning. [Zu-hazzin 'azeem = Extremely fortunate, includes the two meanings given here]

وَإِمَّا يَنزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 41:36

Seek refuge with God

(This quality is difficult to attain because Satan, the impulsive emotions and rogue people, will try to instigate.) So, if a prompting from Satan stirs you up into anger, seek refuge with God (recalling this admonition immediately). He is Hearer, Knower.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ 41:37

Yield, prostate to God

(Divine Guidance helps people live a balanced life as seen in the Universe.) Among His Signs are the night and the day as well as the sun and the moon. Adore neither the sun nor the moon, but adore God Who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve.

فَإِنِ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فَالَّذِينَ عِندَ رَبِّكَ يُسَبِّحُونَ لَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْأَمُونَ 41:38

But if they are too proud, those who are with your Lord, extol His glory night and day, and tire not. [All things in the Universe are working to manifest His glory]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنَّكَ تَرَى الْأَرْضَ خَاشِعَةً فَإِذَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ إِنَّ الَّذِي أَحْيَاهَا لَمُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **41:39**

And among His signs is this: You see the earth barren. As soon as We send down water upon it, it thrills and vibrates with life. He Who revives it, certainly is the Reviver of the dead. For, He has power over all things. [His laws can revive the dead of heart and nations in misery]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا لَا يَخْفَوْنَ عَلَيْنَا أَفَمَن يُلْقَىٰ فِي النَّارِ خَيْرٌ أَم مَّن يَأْتِي آمِنًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ اعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ إِنَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **41:40**

Those who distort Our messages are not hidden from Us. So, is he who is cast into the fire better, or he who comes secure on the Resurrection Day? Do what you will, He is ever Seer of all you do.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِالذِّكْرِ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُ لَكِتَابٌ عَزِيزٌ **41:41**

Think of those who fail to see the power in this reminder when it comes to them. Certainly, it is a Tremendous Scripture.

لَّا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَاطِلُ مِن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ تَنزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ **41:42**

No falsehood can ever approach it openly or in stealth, in the past, present or future, a revelation from all Wise, Owner of praise.

مَّا يُقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ قِيلَ لِلرُّسُلِ مِن قَبْلِكَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو مَغْفِرَةٍ وَذُو عِقَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **41:43**

What is being said to you (O Messenger) is what was said to all Messengers before you. Your Lord owns the protection against the detrimental effects of faults, and also owns a painful grasp. [Ghafarah = Helmet of armor = Protecting from hurt = Absolving imperfections = Guarding against detriment]

وَلَوْ جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا أَعْجَمِيًّا لَّقَالُوا لَوْلَا فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ أَأَعْجَمِيٌّ وَعَرَبِيٌّ قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هُدًى وَشِفَاءٌ وَالَّذِينَ لَا **41:44**

يُؤْمِنُونَ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرٌ وَهُوَ عَلَيْهِمْ عَمًى أُولَٰئِكَ يُنَادَوْنَ مِن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ

If We had made it a non-Arabic Qur'an they would have said, "Why is it that its messages have not been spelled out clearly? Why - a foreign tongue and an Arab?" Say, "It is a guide and a healing to those who believe. But for those who disbelieve (Arabs or non-Arabs), there is a deafness in their ears, and it is blindness in their eyes (it remains obscure to them). They are as if being called from too far away. [26:200]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ فَاخْتُلِفَ فِيهِ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مُرِيبٍ **41:45**

We had given Moses the scripture too (in their language), and it was also disputed. But, for a Word from your Lord that had gone forth, all disputes between them would have been judged immediately. They keep lingering in doubt amounting to suspicion concerning this revelation as well! [The Word gone forth = The Law of Free will. 2:256, 11:118-119]

مَّنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِظَلَّامٍ لِّلْعَبِيدِ **41:46**

(This revelation shows mankind how to grow their own 'self'.) Whoever does good to others, does good to his own 'self', and whoever causes imbalance in the lives of others, hurts his own 'self'. Your Lord is never unjust to His servants.

إِلَيْهِ يُرَدُّ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَمَا تَخْرُجُ مِن ثَمَرَاتٍ مِّنْ أَكْمَامِهَا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِي قَالُوا آذَنَّاكَ مَا مِنَّا مِن شَهِيدٍ **41:47**

Only God knows the hour

In Him alone is vested the knowledge of the Hour. And no fruit emerges from its sheath, and no female ever conceives, nor gives birth, but according to His laws. And so, on the Day He will call them, "Where are now those 'partners' of Mine?" They will say, "We confess to You; none of us sees them around here." [Actions reach their logical consequence in stages. 'Ilm = Knowledge = Skill = Science]

وَضَلَّ عَنْهُم مَّا كَانُوا يَدْعُونَ مِن قَبْلُ وَظَنُّوا مَا لَهُم مِّن مَّحِيصٍ **41:48**

And thus, those whom they used to call upon before, will utterly fail them. And they will realize that there is no way of escape.

لَّا يَسْأَمُ الْإِنسَانُ مِن دُعَاءِ الْخَيْرِ وَإِن مَّسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَيَئُوسٌ قَنُوطٌ **41:49**

The human does not tire of praying for good things, and if harm touches him, then he gets quickly disheartened, despondent. [100:8, 102:1-2]

وَلَئِنْ أَذَقْنَاهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنَّا مِن بَعْدِ ضَرَّاءَ مَسَّتْهُ لَيَقُولَنَّ هَٰذَا لِي وَمَا أَظُنُّ السَّاعَةَ قَائِمَةً وَلَئِن رُّجِعْتُ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي إِنَّ لِي عِندَهُ لَلْحُسْنَىٰ فَلَنُنَبِّئَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُم مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ **41:50**

And when We let him taste grace from Us after some hurt that has touched him, he says, "This is from, and for, me. I do not think that time will ever rise (to go against me). And if I am brought back before my Lord, then, with Him is even better return for me." (I shall be favored there as I am favored here.) But We certainly will tell the ungrateful all that they did. And certainly We will make them taste heavy punishment. [Ma li = For me, from me. As-Sa'ah = The Hour = Resurrection = Revolution = Turn of fortunes = Time. 18:36]

وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْإِنسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَذُو دُعَاءٍ عَرِيضٍ **41:51**

When We bestow bliss on the human being, he turns away and withdraws, but when a hurt touches him, then he comes full of long prayers. [17:83]

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ كَفَرْتُم بِهِ مَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ هُوَ فِي شِقَاقٍ بَعِيدٍ **41:52**

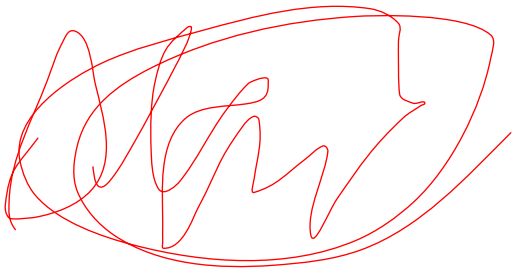
Say, "Think: If this (revelation) is from God, and then you reject it! Who is further astray than one who stubbornly opposes it?" [This Book is all about you. 21:10. Shiqaaqim ba'eed = Stubborn opposition = Far reaching schism]

سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ **41:53**

In time We will show them Our signs in the utmost Horizons and within themselves, so that it will become clear to them that this Qur'an is certainly the truth. Is it not enough for them to know that your Lord is Witness to all things (including this proclamation)? [9:31-33, 13:31, 14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّن لِّقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ أَلَا إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطٌ **41:54**

Why! Are they still in doubt about the meeting with their Lord? Is He not Omnipresent surrounding everything?



Chapter 42

Ash-Shura - Mutual Consultation

This is the 42nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 53 verses. The Title of this Surah, and the admonition that comes forth in it, emphasize that any community of believers must resort to mutual consultation in all matters of collective significance and individual benefit.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **42:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

عسق **42:2**

'A.S.Q. 'Ain-Seen-Qaaf. ('Aleem the Knower, Samee' the Hearer, Qaadir the Almighty, proclaims that),

كَذَٰلِكَ يُوحِي إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **42:3**

Thus it is: Revealing to you (O Prophet) as He did to those before you, is God, the Almighty, Wise.

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ **42:4**

Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. And the Most Exalted, the Tremendous He is.

تَكَادُ السَّمَاوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِن فَوْقِهِنَّ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ أَلَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **42:5**

The skies above them would shatter (if the Universe were to run like the humans run their lives 19:88-91.) But angels extol their Lord's glory by protecting the Order

in the Universe. Certainly, God! He alone is the Absolver of imperfections, the Merciful. [Malaekah = Angels = Forces in Nature. Yastaghfirun = They help protect like a helmet protects the head. Sabh = Swim in strides = Doing one's best]

وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهُ حَفِيظٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْهِم بِوَكِيلٍ **42:6**

As for those who take patrons besides Him, God is Watcher over them, and you are not a pleader on their behalf.

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لِّتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَىٰ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَتُنذِرَ يَوْمَ الْجَمْعِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ فَرِيقٌ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَفَرِيقٌ فِي السَّعِيرِ **42:7**

And thus: We have revealed to you a Monograph in Arabic so that you may warn the Foremost of all towns and those who dwell around it, and may warn of the Day of Gathering, which is beyond all doubt. One group will be in the Garden, and one group will be in the Flames. [Such will happen in this world and in the life to come. The first addressees are the people of Makkah and the dwellers around it, hence the Arabic Language in its Makkan Quraish dialect. And from there the Final Word of God is to fan out and embrace the entire humankind. 44:58: "(O Prophet) We have made this Qur'an easy in your tongue, in order that they might take it to heart." 7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7]

وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَهُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَٰكِن يُدْخِلُ مَن يَشَاءُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمُونَ مَا لَهُم مِّن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **42:8**

Had God willed He could have made all of them one single community. But God brings into His grace him who so wills (making himself worthy), whereas for the violators of human rights there shall be no patron and no helper.

أَمِ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ فَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْوَلِيُّ وَهُوَ يُحْيِي الْمَوْتَىٰ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **42:9**

Allies----

Or have they chosen patrons besides Him? But God, He alone is the Patron, since it is He alone Who revives the dead. He has power over all things. [And His laws can revive the dead of heart]

وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِن شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبِّي عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ **42:10**

And in whatever you humans may differ, the decision rests with God. (Say), “Such is God, my Lord. In Him I trust and to Him I always turn.” [42:8. Turning to God = Seeking His guidance = Turn to the right path = Turning to His Book]

فَاطِرُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَمِنَ الْأَنْعَامِ أَزْوَاجًا يَذْرَؤُكُمْ فِيهِ لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ **42:11**

Originator of the heavens and the earth! He has given you mates of your own kind; and mates among the cattle. By this means He multiplies you (creation). However, there is nothing whatsoever like Him, not even a similitude that would come close. And He is the Hearer, the Seer.

لَهُ مَقَالِيدُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **42:12**

His are the Keys of the heavens and the earth. He grants abundant provision, or gives it in scant measure according to His laws (of Economics given in the Qur’an). He is the Knower of all things. [Mankind can open His Treasures only using His Keys (by following His laws). 7:96, 28:77, 41:10]

شَرَعَ لَكُم مِّنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّىٰ بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ كَبُرَ عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَن يُنِيبُ **42:13**

He has ordained for you all, the same System of Life that He enjoined upon Noah - And We have revealed to you (O Prophet) the same message as We enjoined upon Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: “Establish the Divine System of Life and make no sects in it.” (O Prophet) the unity you call to, it is hard upon the idolaters. God draws to Himself everyone who is willing, and guides to Himself everyone who turns to Him for guidance.” [Sects vs. Unity: 3:32, 3:104, 6:160, 30:31, 42:13, 45:17-18]

وَمَا تَفَرَّقُوا إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى لَّقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُورِثُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن بَعْدِهِمْ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ مُرِيبٍ **42:14**

Divisions due to resentment

And they became sects for no reason but through rivalry among themselves, after the knowledge had come to them. Had it not been for a Word that has already gone forth from your Lord for an appointed term, all matters would have been decided among them at once. The later generations who inherited the scripture of the old still keep harboring doubts about it. [The Word = The Law of Free will = The Law of Respite]

فَلِذَٰلِكَ فَادْعُ وَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَقُلْ آمَنتُ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ مِن كِتَابٍ وَأُمِرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمُ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ لَا حُجَّةَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمُ اللَّهُ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ **42:15**

Because of this (O Messenger) call them (to the truth), stand firm as you are commanded and do not follow their wishes. But announce, "I believe in the Book that God has revealed, and I am commanded to be just among you. God is our Lord and your Lord. We are responsible for our deeds and you are responsible for your deeds. There is no contention between us and you! God will bring us together, and to Him is our destination." [109:6]

وَالَّذِينَ يُحَاجُّونَ فِي اللَّهِ مِن بَعْدِ مَا اسْتُجِيبَ لَهُ حُجَّتُهُمْ دَاحِضَةٌ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ وَعَلَيْهِمْ غَضَبٌ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ **42:16**

As for those who argue about God after He has been accepted (and the Divine System has been established as a living witness to the truth), futile is their argument at their Lord. And upon them is condemnation and theirs will be a severe retribution.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْمِيزَانَ وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّ السَّاعَةَ قَرِيبٌ **42:17**

God is the One Who has revealed the Book setting forth the truth, and the Balance (that distinguishes right from wrong). And what will make you realize that the Hour (the ultimate recompense of actions) might be close?

يَسْتَعْجِلُ بِهَا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهَا وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مُشْفِقُونَ مِنْهَا وَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهَا الْحَقُّ أَلَا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُمَارُونَ فِي السَّاعَةِ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ **42:18**

Only those who deny it seek to hasten it. But the believers remain conscious of the Law of Requital knowing that it is the truth. Those who call the Hour in question have gone far astray. ['As you sow so shall you reap' resonates well with free will and the Law of Requital]

اللَّهُ لَطِيفٌ بِعِبَادِهِ يَرْزُقُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ 42:19

God is Sublime, Aware of the minutest needs of His servants. He provides for them (even if they deny Him) according to His laws. And He is the Strong, the Mighty.

مَن كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الْآخِرَةِ نَزِدْ لَهُ فِي حَرْثِهِ وَمَن كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِن نَّصِيبٍ 42:20

Whoever desires the harvest of the life to come, We increase his harvest. And whoever desires only the harvest of this world, We give him something thereof, but he will have no share in the life to come. [Individuals and communities attain prosperity in both lives only by submitting to the Permanent Values. 17:19-21]

أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُم مِّنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَن بِهِ اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةُ الْفَصْلِ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ 42:21

Man made laws
Following rituals not decreed by God

Oh! They have idols (clergy) who decree for them religious laws never authorized by God. Had it not been for the decree of Judgment, the matter would have been decided concerning them immediately. There is an awful doom for the transgressors.

تَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا كَسَبُوا وَهُوَ وَاقِعٌ بِهِمْ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فِي رَوْضَاتِ الْجَنَّاتِ لَهُم مَّا يَشَاءُونَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ 42:22

You will see the transgressors in fear about what they have earned, and (the requital of) that must befall them. But those who believe and do good works (that improve the society), will be in flowering meadows of the Gardens. For them is whatever they wish from their Lord. This is the magnificent bounty.

ذَٰلِكَ الَّذِي يُبَشِّرُ اللَّهُ عِبَادَهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ قُل لَّا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَمَن يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ 42:23

This is the good news from God to His servants who believe and lead a righteous life. Say, "No reward do I ask you for this other than that you show loving kindness to the ones near in the human bond. For, anyone who benefits people, We shall grant him additional good. God is Forgiving (absolving imperfections), Appreciative of gratitude. [Fil Qurba = The near ones in human bond = Family, friends,

neighbors, co-workers, employees. It does not mean relatives only, or the family of the exalted Prophet, as suggested by some people. The terms for relatives are Zil-Qurba and Aqraba]

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا فَإِن يَشَإِ اللَّهُ يَخْتِمْ عَلَىٰ قَلْبِكَ وَيَمْحُ اللَّهُ الْبَاطِلَ وَيُحِقُّ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **42:24**

What! Do they say, "He has invented a falsehood about God"? But if God willed, He could seal up your heart (O Prophet). And God blots out falsehood and affirms the truth by His Words (laws). He is the Knower of all that is in the hearts. [10:16]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ **42:25**

And He is the One Who accepts repentance from His servants, and pardons their misdeeds and He knows all you do. [Taubah = Repentance = Returning to the right course. Pardon = Blotting out the unfavorable imprints on the human 'self']

وَيَسْتَجِيبُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَيَزِيدُهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ وَالْكَافِرُونَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ **42:26**

And He accepts all those who attain belief and help others, and He increases for them His bounty. But for those who oppose the truth, is a severe retribution.

وَلَوْ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ الرِّزْقَ لِعِبَادِهِ لَبَغَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَٰكِن يُنَزِّلُ بِقَدَرٍ مَّا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ **42:27**

And if God made His provision unlimited for His servants, they would create more disorder on earth (by increasing in pride and greed). But, He bestows His provision in due measure according to His laws. He is fully Cognizant, Seer of His servants (and their societies). [96:6]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا وَيَنشُرُ رَحْمَتَهُ وَهُوَ الْوَلِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ **42:28**

And He is the One Who sends down rain after they have despaired and He spreads out His grace widely. And He is the Protecting Friend, the Owner of all praise.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَثَّ فِيهِمَا مِن دَابَّةٍ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ جَمْعِهِمْ إِذَا يَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ **42:29**

And among His signs is the creative design of the heavens and the earth, and the living creatures which He has dispersed throughout them. And He is Able to gather them together when He wills. [Here is an allusion to the existence of life in other celestial bodies, and to man meeting with the 'aliens' some day. 16:49]

وَمَا أَصَابَكُم مِّن مُّصِيبَةٍ فَبِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَيَعْفُو عَن كَثِيرٍ **42:30**

Whatever calamity befalls you, is a consequence of your own actions and He pardons a great deal. [If mankind establish the Divine System on earth, their societies will function as orderly as the rest of the Universe. Most calamities befall people because of the wrong manmade systems. 'Afw = Forgiveness = The capacity to absolve imperfections. Divine laws in nature have the capacity to absolve imperfections]

وَمَا أَنتُم بِمُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ **42:31**

Neither can you evade Him on earth, nor do you have any patron or helper besides God.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ الْجَوَارِ فِي الْبَحْرِ كَالْأَعْلَامِ **42:32**

And among His signs are the ships that sail like bannered mountains through the seas.

إِن يَشَأْ يُسْكِنِ الرِّيحَ فَيَظْلَلْنَ رَوَاكِدَ عَلَىٰ ظَهْرِهِ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ **42:33**

And if He so wills, He calms the winds so that they come to a halt on its surface. Herein, are signs for everyone who is patient (in reading the Book of nature) and grateful (for what he learns).

أَوْ يُوبِقْهُنَّ بِمَا كَسَبُوا وَيَعْفُ عَن كَثِيرٍ **42:34**

Or that He may cause them to perish as a consequence of their deeds, but He forgives a great deal. [The human 'self' may progress like ships that sail freely through the sea, suffer stagnancy, or perish to a subhuman existence]

وَيَعْلَمَ الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا مَا لَهُم مِّن مَّحِيصٍ **42:35**

And let them know, those who dispute about Our messages, that for them there is no escape.

فَمَا أُوتِيتُم مِّن شَيْءٍ فَمَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا عِندَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ **42:36**

Whatever you are given is but a fleeting enjoyment of the life of this world. And what is with God is far better and more lasting. It is for those who choose to believe and trust in their Lord.

وَالَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبَائِرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ وَإِذَا مَا غَضِبُوا هُمْ يَغْفِرُونَ **42:37**

And those who desist from actions that drag down the human potential, and from indecencies. And when angered they readily forgive. [4:31, 53:32]

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ **42:38**

They respond to their Lord by establishing Salaat, and conduct their affairs by mutual consultation, and they keep open for the welfare of others what We have given them. [Establishing Salaat = Establishing the System where following of the Divine Commands is facilitated. Nafaq = Open-ended tunnel = No hoarding]

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْيُ هُمْ يَنتَصِرُونَ **42:39**

And whenever gross injustice is inflicted upon them, they defend themselves and stand up for their rights. [In the Divine System, the oppressed is helped and the oppressor is requited. Yastansiroon carries the meanings of defending and standing up for rights]

وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ **42:40**

But requiting evil may become an evil in itself! So, whoever pardons and makes peace, his reward rests with God. He does not love the violators of human rights.

وَلَمَنِ انتَصَرَ بَعْدَ ظُلْمِهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَا عَلَيْهِم مِّن سَبِيلٍ **42:41**

And those who stand up for their rights and defend themselves, when they have been wronged, for such, there is no blame.

إِنَّمَا السَّبِيلُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَظْلِمُونَ النَّاسَ وَيَبْغُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **42:42**

The blame is on those who oppress people and cause disorder on earth resorting to aggression, unprovoked. They are the ones for whom there is an awful doom.

وَلَمَن صَبَرَ وَغَفَرَ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ لَمِنْ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ **42:43**

Whoever is patient and forgives, that is from the strength of character.

وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن وَلِيٍّ مِّن بَعْدِهِ وَتَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ لَمَّا رَأَوُا الْعَذَابَ يَقُولُونَ هَلْ إِلَىٰ مَرَدٍّ مِّن سَبِيلٍ **42:44**

And he whom God lets go astray has no protector then. And you will notice the oppressors, how they exclaim as soon as they see the doom, "Is there any way of return?" ['God lets go astray' = People only go astray by defying the laws of guidance 4:88. In fact, God does not send anyone astray. He ascribes all things and actions to Himself since they happen through His laws]

وَتَرَاهُمْ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا خَاشِعِينَ مِنَ الذُّلِّ يَنظُرُونَ مِن طَرْفٍ خَفِيٍّ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَا إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ فِي عَذَابٍ مُّقِيمٍ **42:45**

And you will see them facing it, humiliated, looking and yet not looking. And those who believe will say, "Lost on this Day of Resurrection are those who had wasted their own 'self' and their families." The oppressors will have a lasting torment.

وَمَا كَانَ لَهُم مِّنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ يَنصُرُونَهُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَمَن يُضْلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِن سَبِيلٍ **42:46**

They will have no patrons to help them besides God. One who goes astray by violating God's laws of guidance, for him there is no way (to success). [42:44]

اسْتَجِيبُوا لِرَبِّكُم مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ يَوْمٌ لَّا مَرَدَّ لَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَكُم مِّن مَّلْجَإٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن نَّكِيرٍ **42:47**

So, respond to your Lord before there comes to you from God a Day which cannot be averted. There will be no shelter for you on that Day nor will you have any rebuttal to what you did.

You are responsible for your self

فَإِنْ أَعْرَضُوا فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا إِنْ عَلَيْكَ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ وَإِنَّا إِذَا أَذَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِنَّا رَحْمَةً فَرِحَ بِهَا وَإِن تُصِبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَإِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ كَفُورٌ 42:48

But if they turn away, We have not sent you as a guardian over them. Your duty is to convey the message. When We cause humans to taste of grace form Us, they exult in it. But if a calamity befalls them as a consequence of what their hands have sent forth, then, man is ungrateful. [They say that God had so willed]

لِّلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ يَهَبُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ إِنَاثًا وَيَهَبُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ الذُّكُورَ 42:49

To God belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. He creates and designs all things according to His laws. He bestows the gift of daughters according to His laws and the gift of sons according to His laws.

أَوْ يُزَوِّجُهُمْ ذُكْرَانًا وَإِنَاثًا وَيَجْعَلُ مَن يَشَاءُ عَقِيمًا إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ قَدِيرٌ 42:50

Or He bestows both males and females, and He leaves infertile some according to His laws. He is Knower, Omnipotent.

Barrier

وَمَا كَانَ لِبَشَرٍ أَن يُكَلِّمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِن وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ أَوْ يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِيَ بِإِذْنِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّهُ عَلِيٌّ حَكِيمٌ 42:51

God speaks to us through inspiration

And it is not for any human being that God should speak to him other than through direct revelation (on the hearts of His Messengers) or from behind a barrier (such as at Mount Sinai to Moses) or by sending a Messenger to convey His Words with His Permission (as all Messengers did). He is the Most High, Wise. [2:97, 2:253, 4:164]

وَكَذَٰلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ رُوحًا مِّنْ أَمْرِنَا مَا كُنتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ وَلَٰكِن جَعَلْنَاهُ نُورًا نَّهْدِي بِهِ مَن نَّشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا وَإِنَّكَ لَتَهْدِي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ 42:52

So, We have revealed to you (O Prophet) a life-giving message, by Our command. You did not know what a revealed Book is, nor what Faith implies. But now We have made it a Light through which We guide those of Our servants who will to be guided. (O Prophet) you guide them to the straight path.

صِرَاطِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَلَا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَصِيرُ الْأُمُورُ **42:53**

The path that leads to God, to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. With God is the beginning and with Him is the end of all affairs. [All things go back to Him as their Source, and all things pursue their course according to His laws]

Chapter 43

Az-Zukhruf - Ornaments Of Gold

This is the 43rd Surah of the Qur´an and it has 89 brief verses. The title reflects upon a deplorable tendency of mankind, that of seeing the woman as an article of beauty and adornment. All along history man has victimized woman making her a subject of his desires. Ancient religions and even modern philosophies have depicted the woman having been created for man´s pleasure. This flawed idea has been so forcefully and consistently propagated that even to this day one half of mankind is consciously or unconsciously assigned a secondary role in the worlds of thought and action. And the woman, in general, has happily accepted this relegation! The Qur´an was the first-ever effective voice against this exploitation of women bringing them equal to men in all respects. This Divine Writ recognizes the special roles women have in the society and brings them at par with men concerning all human rights. Ironically, fabricated Ahadith came two centuries after the Qur´an to shackle the poor woman back into the same chains that the Qur´an had broken. So, we see the violation of women´s rights in the so-called Muslim societies no less than other cultures until this day!

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **43:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ **43:2**

Witness to itself is this scripture that is clear in itself and shows the truth clearly.

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **43:3**

We have made it a Monograph in clear Arabic language that you may fully understand.
[7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7]

وَإِنَّهُ فِي أُمِّ الْكِتَابِ لَدَيْنَا لَعَلِيٌّ حَكِيمٌ **43:4**

In the Database with Us, it is sublime, decisive.

أَفَنَضْرِبُ عَنكُمُ الذِّكْرَ صَفْحًا أَن كُنتُمْ قَوْمًا مُّسْرِفِينَ **43:5**

Should We withdraw the reminder from you just because you are a people bent upon wasting yourselves? [Ummul Kitaab = Book of decrees = Literally, 'Mother of books' = Tablet of Divine laws = Divine Database]

وَكَمْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِن نَّبِيٍّ فِي الْأَوَّلِينَ **43:6**

And how many a Prophet did We send to the previous generations!

وَمَا يَأْتِيهِم مِّن نَّبِيٍّ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **43:7**

But never came to them a Prophet, but they mocked him.

فَأَهْلَكْنَا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُم بَطْشًا وَمَضَىٰ مَثَلُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **43:8**

And so, We annihilated men stronger in power than these. And the very image of the previous communities became a thing of the past. [Madha mathal = An image of the past, lost and gone]

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ لَيَقُولُنَّ خَلَقَهُنَّ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ **43:9**

If you ask them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?" They will answer, "The Almighty, the Knower created them."

الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ مَهْدًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ فِيهَا سُبُلًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ **43:10**

He is the One Who has made the earth a cradle for you and has made roads therein and ways of subsistence, so that you may find ways to your destination. [Subula = Ways and means]

وَالَّذِي نَزَّلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً بِقَدَرٍ فَأَنشَرْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا كَذَٰلِكَ تُخْرَجُونَ **43:11**

And He is the One Who sends down water from the sky in due measure. And We revive with it many a dead land, thus will you be brought forth. [See 23:18]

وَالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الْفُلْكِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ مَا تَرْكَبُونَ **43:12**

And He is the One Who has created all things in pairs and He is the One Who has given you all those ships and quadrupeds on which you ride, [See 36:36]

لِتَسْتَوُوا عَلَىٰ ظُهُورِهِ ثُمَّ تَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ رَبِّكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَوَيْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ **43:13**

So that you may have control of the means of transport, and that upon gaining control of them you may remember your Lord's blessings, and say, "Glorified is He Who has committed all this to our service. (Against His laws) we would not have been able to attain this control. ['Alayehi: The singular form here refers to 'transport' including ships, the quadrupeds, and all else]

وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا لَمُنقَلِبُونَ **43:14**

So, it is to Him that we must always turn (for help and guidance)."

وَجَعَلُوا لَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ جُزْءًا إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَكَفُورٌ مُّبِينٌ **43:15**

And yet they 'make' some of His servants to be a part of Him. Human being is clearly ungrateful.

أَمِ اتَّخَذَ مِمَّا يَخْلُقُ بَنَاتٍ وَأَصْفَاكُم بِالْبَنِينَ **43:16**

What! Has He taken daughters out of what He Himself created and makes you feel honored with sons?

وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُم بِمَا ضَرَبَ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ مَثَلًا ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ **43:17**

Yet if any of them is given the glad tiding of what he likens to the Beneficent, his face saddens and he is filled with hidden anger.

أَوَمَن يُنَشَّأُ فِي الْحِلْيَةِ وَهُوَ فِي الْخِصَامِ غَيْرُ مُبِينٍ **43:18**

(He says), "What! That which has to be raised in ornament?" And then he finds himself in an inner conflict (whether to let the daughter live or bury her in the dust!)[Wa huwa fil khisam is commonly rendered to mean that the baby girl would grow up to be less eloquent in a conflict. But, after much reflection, I find myself in agreement with Muhammad Asad, since Huwa is a male pronoun referring to the father and not to the baby-girl. Moreover, 16:58-59 Support the translation done here]

وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَٰنِ إِنَاثًا أَشَهِدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ سَتُكْتَبُ شَهَادَتُهُمْ وَيُسْأَلُونَ **43:19**

And they 'make' the angels who are servants of the Beneficent, females. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony is recorded and they will be held accountable (for their false claims).

وَقَالُوا لَوْ شَاءَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ مَا عَبَدْنَاهُم مَّا لَهُم بِذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ **43:20**

Yet they say, "If it had been the will of the Beneficent, we would not have worshiped them." But of that, they have no knowledge. They only wander in the valley of conjecture. [There is no room for fatalism in Divine laws. Humans have been endowed with free will. 6:149, 36:47]

أَمْ آتَيْنَاهُمْ كِتَابًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ فَهُم بِهِ مُسْتَمْسِكُونَ **43:21**

What! Have We given them a scripture before this to which they are holding fast?

بَلْ قَالُوا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّهْتَدُونَ **43:22**

Following blindly

Nay, but they say, "We found our fathers following a certain religion, and we find our way in their footprints."

وَكَذَٰلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّقْتَدُونَ **43:23**

Likewise, whenever We sent before you a warner to any township, its wealthy ones said, "Behold! We have found our forefathers following a certain religion, and we will follow in their footsteps." [Ummah = A community with common beliefs = Those who share a common religion. Mutrifeen = The wealthy = Those given to material possessions = The social and financial elite = Those steeped in luxury = Those who are used to enjoying the fruit of others' labor = Those who thrive on easy money = Who get wealthy without hard work]

قَالَ أَوَلَوْ جِئْتُكُم بِأَهْدَىٰ مِمَّا وَجَدتُّمْ عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَكُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُم بِهِ كَافِرُونَ **43:24**

He said, "What! Even though I bring you better guidance than that you found your ancestors following¿' They replied, "We deny that there is any truth in what you (Prophets) are sent with."

فَانتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ **43:25**

And so We requited them. Then see the end of the rejecters.

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ **43:26**

And when Abraham declared to his father and his people, "I do free myself of what you worship.

إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي فَإِنَّهُ سَيَهْدِينِ **43:27**

None (shall I serve) but He Who brought me into being, and He is the One Who will guide me."

وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقِبِهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **43:28**

And he left an enduring lesson for subsequent generations that they may seek inspiration from it. [Take a firm stand against blind following]

بَلْ مَتَّعْتُ هَٰؤُلَاءِ وَآبَاءَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ وَرَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ **43:29**

Nay, but I allowed them and their ancestors to enjoy life until the truth should come to them through a Messenger who would make all things clear. [Them = The people of Arabia. Previously, they could freely enjoy life without any moral obligations since God does not take people to task before He has sent a Messenger. 6:131, 21:44]

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ قَالُوا هَٰذَا سِحْرٌ وَإِنَّا بِهِ كَافِرُونَ **43:30**

But when the truth has come to them, they say, "This is sorcery, and we do reject it."

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنُ عَلَىٰ رَجُلٍ مِّنَ الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ عَظِيمٍ **43:31**

And they say, "Why was not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns." [Makkah and Taaif]

أَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَتَ رَبِّكَ نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُم مَّعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُم بَعْضًا سُخْرِيًّا وَرَحْمَتُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ **43:32**

Are they the ones who distribute your Lord's grace? Nay, it is We Who distribute among them even their material needs in the life of the world. And We raise some of them by degrees above others, so that they might help one another (with different skills). But this grace of your Lord (the revealed guidance) is better than all (the treasures) that they may amass. [10:57-58,16:53, 16:71]

وَلَوْلَا أَن يَكُونَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً لَّجَعَلْنَا لِمَن يَكْفُرُ بِالرَّحْمَٰنِ لِبُيُوتِهِمْ سُقُفًا مِّن فِضَّةٍ وَمَعَارِجَ عَلَيْهَا يَظْهَرُونَ **43:33**

If mankind were intended to become one community (through wealth and not through Ideology), We might have made all those who disbelieve in the Beneficent super rich, giving them roofs of silver for their houses and stairs of silver to climb.

وَلِبُيُوتِهِمْ أَبْوَابًا وَسُرُرًا عَلَيْهَا يَتَّكِئُونَ **43:34**

And for their houses doors of silver and couches of silver to recline on.

وَزُخْرُفًا وَإِن كُلُّ ذَٰلِكَ لَمَّا مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةُ عِندَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ **43:35**

And also adornments of gold. Yet all this would have been but a fleeting delight of the life of the world. But the Hereafter, in the Sight of your Lord, is for the righteous.

وَمَن يَعْشُ عَن ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ نُقَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ **43:36**

Whoever closes his eyes to the remembrance of the Beneficent, to him We assign a Satan as an intimate companion. [His desires overtake him]

وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَصُدُّونَهُمْ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُم مُّهْتَدُونَ **43:37**

Such (satanic forces) hinder them from the Path, but (rationalizing their actions) they think that they are rightly guided.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَنَا قَالَ يَا لَيْتَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ بُعْدَ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ فَبِئْسَ الْقَرِينُ **43:38**

But in the end when he comes to Us, He will say (to his split self), “Ah! I wish I were far apart from you as the East is from the West. Ah! What a miserable companion.”

وَلَن يَنفَعَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ إِذ ظَّلَمْتُمْ أَنَّكُمْ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ **43:39**

It will not console you on that Day that after doing wrong together, you are now partners in punishment!

أَفَأَنتَ تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ أَوْ تَهْدِي الْعُمْيَ وَمَن كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **43:40**

But, can you make the deaf of heart hear or show the way to the blind of heart, or such as obviously wander off the road.

فَإِمَّا نَذْهَبَنَّ بِكَ فَإِنَّا مِنْهُم مُّنتَقِمُونَ 43:41

(O Prophet) even if We take you away, We will requite them.

أَوْ نُرِيَنَّكَ الَّذِي وَعَدْنَاهُمْ فَإِنَّا عَلَيْهِم مُّقْتَدِرُونَ 43:42

Or, We may show you what We promise them. We have full power over them. [If they accept the message, they will be blessed with Divine bounties, instead of getting to suffer. 10:46, 13:40, 23:95, 40:78]

فَاسْتَمْسِكْ بِالَّذِي أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ 43:43

* So hold fast unto what is revealed to you. You are on a straight path.

وَإِنَّهُ لَذِكْرٌ لَّكَ وَلِقَوْمِكَ وَسَوْفَ تُسْأَلُونَ 43:44

This (Qur'an) is a reminder for you and your people. In time, all of you will be brought to account (for what you have done with it). [21:10, 21:24, 25:30]

وَاسْأَلْ مَنْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ مِن رُّسُلِنَا أَجَعَلْنَا مِن دُونِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ آلِهَةً يُعْبَدُونَ 43:45

Ask the Messengers We sent before you (through their messages). Did We ever appoint gods to be worshiped other than the Most Gracious?

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ فَقَالَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 43:46

Thus We sent Moses with Our messages to Pharaoh and his chiefs, and he said, "I am a Messenger of the Lord of the Worlds."

فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم بِآيَاتِنَا إِذَا هُم مِّنْهَا يَضْحَكُونَ 43:47

But when he presented them Our messages, they laughed at them.

وَمَا نُرِيهِم مِّنْ آيَةٍ إِلَّا هِيَ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ أُخْتِهَا وَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِالْعَذَابِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ 43:48

We showed them sign after sign, each greater than the previous like of it, and We took them to task with suffering so that they may turn (to make amends). [7:133]

وَقَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَ السَّاحِرُ ادْعُ لَنَا رَبَّكَ بِمَا عَهِدَ عِندَكَ إِنَّنَا لَمُهْتَدُونَ 43:49

But they kept saying, “O Wizard! Pray for us to your Lord according to His covenant with you. We will now accept guidance.”

فَلَمَّا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابَ إِذَا هُمْ يَنكُثُونَ **43:50**

But as soon as we relieved their affliction, they broke their word.

وَنَادَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ فِي قَوْمِهِ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَلَيْسَ لِي مُلْكُ مِصْرَ وَهَٰذِهِ الْأَنْهَارُ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِي أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ **43:51**

(As Moses was being widely accepted,) Pharaoh kept announcing to his people, “O My people! Is not mine the kingdom of Egypt, and these streams flowing beneath me? Why! Do you not see then, (that I am your Lord Supreme?) [79:24]

أَمْ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْ هَٰذَا الَّذِي هُوَ مَهِينٌ وَلَا يَكَادُ يُبِينُ **43:52**

Am I not better than this despicable fellow who can hardly make his point?

فَلَوْلَا أُلْقِيَ عَلَيْهِ أَسْوِرَةٌ مِّن ذَهَبٍ أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ مُقْتَرِنِينَ **43:53**

And then, why have no golden armlets been bestowed on him? Or why have no angels come along escorting him¿‘ [Aswirah = Armlets of gold, which were considered a sign of honor, stature and royalty in many civilizations]

فَاسْتَخَفَّ قَوْمَهُ فَأَطَاعُوهُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ **43:54**

Thus he stupefied his people and they obeyed him. They were a community that readily drifted away from the truth.

فَلَمَّا آسَفُونَا انتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ **43:55**

So when they continued to challenge Us, We requited them and drowned them all.

فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ سَلَفًا وَمَثَلًا لِّلْآخِرِينَ **43:56**

And so We made them history and an example for later generations.

وَلَمَّا ضُرِبَ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ مَثَلًا إِذَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْهُ يَصِدُّونَ **43:57**

When the son of Mary is mentioned as an example (O Prophet) your people raise an outcry (of ridicule) about it.

وَقَالُوا أَآلِهَتُنَا خَيْرٌ أَمْ هُوَ مَا ضَرَبُوهُ لَكَ إِلَّا جَدَلًا بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ خَصِمُونَ **43:58**

They say, “Which is better, our gods or he?” They set forth this comparison only to argue with you. They are a contentious people.

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا عَبْدٌ أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ مَثَلًا لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ **43:59**

Jesus

He was none but a servant whom We had graced (with revelation) and whom We made an example for the Children of Israel.

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَا مِنكُم مَّلَائِكَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ يَخْلُفُونَ **43:60**

Had We so willed We could have made you humans into angels succeeding one another on earth. [Verses 43:57-60: The idolaters in this instance are referring to angels being their gods, and claim that angels are better than Jesus who was a mortal human being according to the Qur’an. Furthermore, angels being devoid of free will are obviously sinless, whereas humans, endowed with free will, are accountable for their actions. These verses are refuting divinity of angels by stating that they succeed one another. Also being refuted is the Doctrine of Atonement whereby mere acceptance of Jesus as the ‘Savior’ is believed to render humans sinless like angels. But God willed the earth to be populated by the imperfect humans given the capacity to make their own choices]

وَإِنَّهُ لَعِلْمٌ لِّلسَّاعَةِ فَلَا تَمْتَرُنَّ بِهَا وَاتَّبِعُونِ هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ **43:61**

This (Qur’an) gives knowledge of the oncoming Revolution. So, bear no doubt about it, and follow Me. This alone is the straight path. [Many commentators regard Innahu in this verse as relating to Jesus and then postulate that Jesus is the sign of the Resurrection Day. In my opinion, this fallacy is the result of: 1. Missing the context of free will in the last few verses. 2. Taking the Hour only to mean the Resurrection Day. But ’The Hour’ is frequently mentioned in the Qur’an to indicate Revolution, the ultimate outcome, and the culmination of the Law of Requital. The Revolution alluded to here points to the advent of Prophet Muhammad (S). 3. Losing sight of the capital format of M in ‘follow Me’, that is God. There is no ‘Qul’, say to them, or tell them O Prophet, in this verse. ’Follow Me’ would then clearly signify ’Follow God’s revelation, the Qur’an’. It is not Jesus asking to follow him. Here is my understanding of the verse: ‘Jesus has already foretold the advent of Muhammad (S) and a benevolent revolution at his hands. So, follow My commands given in this Book’]

وَلَا يَصُدَّنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ **43:62**

And let not Satan bar you from it. He is your open enemy.

وَلَمَّا جَاءَ عِيسَىٰ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالَ قَدْ جِئْتُكُم بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَلِأُبَيِّنَ لَكُم بَعْضَ الَّذِي تَخْتَلِفُونَ فِيهِ فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُونِ 43:63

Obey Jesus

When Jesus came with the evident truth, he said, “Now I have come to you with wisdom and to make clear to you some of the issues on which you differ. So, be mindful of God and heed me.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَٰذَا صِرَاطٌ مُّسْتَقِيمٌ 43:64

God, He is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him alone. This is a straight way.“

فَاخْتَلَفَ الْأَحْزَابُ مِن بَيْنِهِمْ فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمٍ أَلِيمٍ 43:65

(This was the true Monotheism he had brought but) factions among them began to hold different views. Then anguish of an awful Day awaits those who wrongfully deviated.

هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَن تَأْتِيَهُم بَغْتَةً وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ 43:66

Do they only wait for the Hour that will come upon them all of a sudden while they perceive not? [In the above verses, we find the answer raised about idols and Jesus in 43:58]

الْأَخِلَّاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ إِلَّا الْمُتَّقِينَ 43:67

Friends on that Day will be foes to one another, except the righteous. [The Divine Ideology will keep them close]

يَا عِبَادِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْكُمُ الْيَوْمَ وَلَا أَنتُمْ تَحْزَنُونَ 43:68

(And God will say,) O My servants! No fear shall be on you today nor shall you grieve.

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِآيَاتِنَا وَكَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ 43:69

You who believed in Our messages and surrendered to Us.

ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ أَنتُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ تُحْبَرُونَ 43:70

Enter the Garden, you and your spouses, rejoicing and singing. [Hibr = Singing in delight, lovely music]

Hibr

يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِم بِصِحَافٍ مِّن ذَهَبٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ وَفِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهِيهِ الْأَنفُسُ وَتَلَذُّ الْأَعْيُنُ وَأَنتُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ 43:71

Therein they will be served around in trays and goblets of gold. And therein is all that a person might desire and the eyes might delight in. And you are immortal therein.

وَتِلْكَ الْجَنَّةُ الَّتِي أُورِثْتُمُوهَا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 43:72

Such is the Paradise that you shall have inherited by virtue of your deeds.

لَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ كَثِيرَةٌ مِّنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ 43:73

You will have plenty of the fruits of your good deeds.

إِنَّ الْمُجْرِمِينَ فِي عَذَابِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدُونَ 43:74

Those who stole the fruit of others' labor will abide in the suffering of Hell.

لَا يُفَتَّرُ عَنْهُمْ وَهُمْ فِيهِ مُبْلِسُونَ 43:75

It will not be relaxed for them, and they will be in despair.

وَمَا ظَلَمْنَاهُمْ وَلَكِن كَانُوا هُمُ الظَّالِمِينَ 43:76

And it is not We Who wrong them, but it is they who used to hurt their own 'self' by doing wrong to others.

وَنَادَوْا يَا مَالِكُ لِيَقْضِ عَلَيْنَا رَبُّكَ قَالَ إِنَّكُم مَّاكِثُونَ 43:77

And they will cry, "O Keeper (of Hell)! Let your Lord finish us!" He will answer, "You must live on."

لَقَدْ جِئْنَاكُم بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَكُمْ لِلْحَقِّ كَارِهُونَ 43:78

We have brought to you the truth, but most of you resent the truth.

أَمْ أَبْرَمُوا أَمْرًا فَإِنَّا مُبْرِمُونَ 43:79

What! Have they devised a plan? Nay, We determine the outcome.

أَمْ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّا لَا نَسْمَعُ سِرَّهُمْ وَنَجْوَاهُم بَلَىٰ وَرُسُلُنَا لَدَيْهِمْ يَكْتُبُونَ 43:80

Or do they think that We do not hear their secret plans and private meetings? Yes indeed, We do, and Our envoys are with them, recording. [10:21]

قُلْ إِن كَانَ لِلرَّحْمَٰنِ وَلَدٌ فَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْعَابِدِينَ **43:81**

Say (O Prophet), "The Beneficent One has no son. I am the foremost to serve Him alone." [Contrary to many translations, it is 'Him' = God alone, rather than 'him' = Jesus. I cannot believe in a god who has children, as the idolaters do. 43:82]

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ **43:82**

Glorified is the Lord of the heavens and earth, the Lord of Supreme Control, above what they ascribe to Him.

فَذَرْهُمْ يَخُوضُوا وَيَلْعَبُوا حَتَّىٰ يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ **43:83**

So let them chatter and play until they meet their Day which they have been promised.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاءِ إِلَٰهٌ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَٰهٌ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ **43:84**

He is the One Who is God in the heaven and God on the earth. And He is the Wise, the Knower.

وَتَبَارَكَ الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَعِندَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ **43:85**

And Blessed is He to Whom belongs the Kingdom of the highs and the lows and all that is between them. And with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, and to Him you shall be returned. [He knows when mankind will rally around the Divine Ideology, and every step of yours is getting closer to it]

وَلَا يَمْلِكُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ الشَّفَاعَةَ إِلَّا مَن شَهِدَ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **43:86**

Intercession

And those whom they call instead of Him possess no power of intercession, except such who stand up to witness in truth and they know. [2:255]

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ فَأَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ **43:87**

And if you ask them who created them, they will say, "God." Why then do they deviate (and refuse to acknowledge His sovereignty in their lives)? [43:9]

وَقِيلِهِ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ **43:88**

And he (the Prophet) exclaims, “O My Lord! These are people who do not accept the truth.” [His call will be heard. 18:6, 26:3]

فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ **43:89**

Then bear with them, and say, “Peace!” In time, they will come to know what they do not know now.

Chapter 44

Ad-Dukhaan - The Smoke

This is the 44th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 59 verses. The Surah derives its name from the air pollution that will become wide spread in the world as nations industrialize. 41:11 also mentions Smoke, the nebulae of gas out of which the Universe was shaped billions of years ago. The brief verses in this Surah take us along with Tasreef and powerful concepts. Verse 44:3 has been subjected to much conjecture through conflicting Ahadith. Many people believe that in this night, called as ´Lailat-il-Nisf Sha´baan´ (Night of the middle of the month of Sha´baan) or ´Shab-e-Bar´at´, the destinies of individuals are written down. Also, that the Prophet (S) used to visit the graveyard praying for the forgiveness of the dead. These notions are certainly non-Qur´anic. There is no such thing as pre-destiny of people. "Every person deserves what he has earned." And "No person will bear the load of another." (Surah Najm)

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **44:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

وَالْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ **44:2**

By this Divine Writ that is clear in itself and makes things clear.

Quran? Revealed at once

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُّبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ **44:3**

We have revealed it on a Blessed Night. We have always been warning. [The entire Qur'an was revealed (down-loaded on the Prophet's heart) in a Blessed Night in the month of Ramadhan, 610 CE, and then conveyed to mankind in stages over a period of 23 years. 2:185, 97:1]

فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ **44:4**

In it is made distinct every matter of wisdom.

أَمْرًا مِّنْ عِندِنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ **44:5**

By command from Our Presence. We have been sending (commands).

رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ 44:6

A grace from your Lord. He is the Hearer, the Knower.

رَبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِن كُنتُم مُّوقِنِينَ 44:7

Lord of the heavens and earth and all that is between them, if you could ever attain conviction.

لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ 44:8

There is no god but He. He is the One Who gives life and gives death; your Lord and the Lord of your earliest ancestors.

بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ يَلْعَبُونَ 44:9

Nay, but they are toying with their doubts.

فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُّبِينٍ 44:10

Wait, then, for the Day when the sky will bring forth visible smoke.

يَغْشَى النَّاسَ هَٰذَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ 44:11

That will envelop the people (and they will say), “This is a painful torment.”

رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ 44:12

Our Lord! Relieve us of this torment. Now we are believers.”

أَنَّىٰ لَهُمُ الذِّكْرَىٰ وَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ 44:13

How can there be another reminder for them when a Messenger had already come to them, clearly expounding the truth? [And this Qur’an is the eternal reminder]

ثُمَّ تَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا مُعَلَّمٌ مَّجْنُونٌ 44:14

Whereupon they had turned away from him, and said, “Taught and tutored he is, a madman.”

إِنَّا كَاشِفُو الْعَذَابِ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ عَائِدُونَ 44:15

(Aforetimes) whenever We relieved the torment for a while, you reverted to the same old ways.

يَوْمَ نَبْطِشُ الْبَطْشَةَ الْكُبْرَىٰ إِنَّا مُنتَقِمُونَ 44:16

On the Day when We seize with a mighty grasp, We shall be dispensing Our retribution.

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَجَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ كَرِيمٌ **44:17**

We put to test before them Pharaoh's people, for there came to them an honorable Messenger.

أَنْ أَدُّوا إِلَيَّ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ **44:18**

(He said), "Release to me the servants of God! I am a faithful Messenger to you.

وَأَن لَّا تَعْلُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنِّي آتِيكُم بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **44:19**

Exalt not yourselves against God, for I have come to you with a clear authority (Divine revelation).

وَإِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ أَن تَرْجُمُونِ **44:20**

I have sought refuge with my Lord and your Lord, lest you stone me. [Rajm = Stone to death, revile, expel, insult, oppose, humiliate, curse, deride, mock, ridicule, belittle]

وَإِن لَّمْ تُؤْمِنُوا لِي فَاعْتَزِلُونِ **44:21**

And if you do not believe in me, then simply leave me alone." [Allow me to take my people with me. Thereupon Pharaoh and his chiefs denied him]

فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ قَوْمٌ مُّجْرِمُونَ **44:22**

So he cried to his Lord, "These are a guilty people." [Mujrim = One who thrives on the fruit of others' toil = Guilty = Exploitative]

فَأَسْرِ بِعِبَادِي لَيْلًا إِنَّكُم مُّتَّبَعُونَ **44:23**

(And his Lord commanded), "Take away My servants by night. But you will be followed.

وَاتْرُكِ الْبَحْرَ رَهْوًا إِنَّهُمْ جُندٌ مُّغْرَقُونَ **44:24**

And leave the ebbed, becalmed sea behind. They are an army destined to be drowned." [Idhrib bi'asak = Strike with your staff = Seek for them a dry path (20:77, 26:59-63). Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night (Exodus xiv, 21). Moses crossed the Red Sea at the northwest extremity of today's Gulf of Suez, the bed wherein was that of reeds]

كَمْ تَرَكُوا مِن جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **44:25**

How many gardens did they leave behind, and water-springs,

وَزُرُوعٍ وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ **44:26**

And fields of grain, and grand palaces,

وَنَعْمَةٍ كَانُوا فِيهَا فَاكِهِينَ **44:27**

And blessings that they enjoyed.

كَذَٰلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا قَوْمًا آخَرِينَ **44:28**

Thus it was! And We made another people heirs. [26:59-63]

فَمَا بَكَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَا كَانُوا مُنظَرِينَ **44:29**

Neither the heaven nor the earth wept over them, nor were they reprieved again.

وَلَقَدْ نَجَّيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ **44:30**

We delivered the Children of Israel from the humiliating suffering (of bondage).

مِن فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَالِيًا مِّنَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ **44:31**

From Pharaoh, for he glorified himself to the extent of wasting his own 'self.'

وَلَقَدِ اخْتَرْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **44:32**

We chose them among the contemporary nations because of the knowledge (of revelation given to them). [Historically, the Israelites were the only Monotheistic people in the world in that era]

وَآتَيْنَاهُم مِّنَ الْآيَاتِ مَا فِيهِ بَلَاءٌ مُّبِينٌ **44:33**

We gave them signs in which there was a manifest trial. [Signs: revelation through Moses, freedom and prosperity, the fertile and blessed land of Can'aan (Palestine), a chosen status, the great Kingdoms of David and Solomon, the Prophets of the Tribes, the advent of Jesus. Trial = To believe and live a life upright. When they failed the tests, they were left to wander in bewilderment and lost their chosen status]

إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ لَيَقُولُونَ **44:34**

As for these (idolater of Arabia), they say,

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا مَوْتَتُنَا الْأُولَىٰ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُنشَرِينَ **44:35**

"There is nothing but our first death, and we shall not be raised again.

فَأْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ 44:36

So then, bring back our forefathers if you are men of truth."

أَهُمْ خَيْرٌ أَمْ قَوْمُ تُبَّعٍ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ 44:37

Are they, then, by any means better than the people of Tubba' and those before them? (Yet) We annihilated them for their violation of human rights. [50:14] [The Himairi (Himayar) Tribe had gained control of the Kingdom of Sheba in 115 BC and ruled until 300 CE. (For their times, see Surah 27, An-Naml and Surah 34, Saba). Tubba" was the most prominent of their kings, and he was a Unitarian Christian as were most Christians before the Roman Conference of Nicea in 325 CE]

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَاعِبِينَ 44:38

For, We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in idle sport.

مَا خَلَقْنَاهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 44:39

We have not created them without purpose. But most of them know not. [They fail to realize that the human 'self' lives on after death and must be recompensed for its deeds in the Hereafter]

إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ مِيقَاتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ 44:40

The Day of decision is appointed for them all.

يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي مَوْلًى عَن مَّوْلًى شَيْئًا وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ 44:41

Each one for himself

The Day when no friend shall be of any avail to his friend, and none shall be helped.

إِلَّا مَن رَّحِمَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ 44:42

Except those who made themselves worthy of God's mercy. He, He alone, is the Mighty, the Merciful.

إِنَّ شَجَرَتَ الزَّقُّومِ 44:43

The tree of bitter deeds.

طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ 44:44

It (will be) the food of one who hampered progress of the 'self' (by violating Permanent Values). [17:60, 37:62-65]

كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلِي فِي الْبُطُونِ **44:45**

Like molten brass will it boil in the belly.

كَغَلْيِ الْحَمِيمِ **44:46**

As the boiling, burning despair. [102:1-2]

خُذُوهُ فَاعْتِلُوهُ إِلَىٰ سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ **44:47**

Take him and drag him into the midst of Hell. [That is what the endless greed does. 104:1-9]

ثُمَّ صُبُّوا فَوْقَ رَأْسِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْحَمِيمِ **44:48**

Then pour upon his head the boiling anguish.

ذُقْ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْكَرِيمُ **44:49**

Taste! You considered yourself so mighty, so noble. [But the Law of Requital is absolutely just. 56:52]

إِنَّ هَٰذَا مَا كُنتُم بِهِ تَمْتَرُونَ **44:50**

This is the very thing you doubted (and therefore, trampled Permanent Values).

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ **44:51**

Those who guarded themselves against straying, will find themselves in a secure state. [Taqwa 2:41]

فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **44:52**

Amid gardens and water springs.

يَلْبَسُونَ مِن سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ **44:53**

Dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, facing one another.

كَذَٰلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُم بِحُورٍ عِينٍ **44:54**

Hur

Thus shall it be. And We shall pair them with virtuous companions of beautiful vision.

No mention of female

يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ آمِنِينَ 44:55

In that Paradise they shall enjoy all kinds of fruits, in blissful contentment.

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ الْأُولَىٰ وَوَقَاهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ 44:56

True immortality! They do not taste death again after the first death. Thus will He save them from getting stuck at the Insurmountable Barrier. [Jaheem 2:28, 40:11. See NOTES at the end of the book]

فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ 44:57

A bounty from your Lord! That is the Supreme Triumph.

فَإِنَّمَا يَسَّرْنَاهُ بِلِسَانِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ 44:58

Quran made easy

(O Prophet) We have made this Qur'an easy in your tongue, in order that they may take it to heart.

فَارْتَقِبْ إِنَّهُم مُّرْتَقِبُونَ 44:59

So wait and watch. They too have to wait.

Chapter 45

Al-Jaathia - Kneeling Down

This is the 45th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 37 verses. The brief verses in this Surah take us along powerful concepts with Tasreef. All peoples, eventually, will kneel down before the laws of their Lord.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **45:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

تَنزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ **45:2**

The revelation of the Book is from God, the Mighty, the Wise.

إِنَّ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **45:3**

In the heavens and earth are signs for all who are willing to attain conviction.

وَفِي خَلْقِكُمْ وَمَا يَبُثُّ مِن دَابَّةٍ آيَاتٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ **45:4**

And in your own creative design, and in all the animals which He has spread widely, there are signs for those who explore and attain certainty.

وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ وَمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مِن رِّزْقٍ فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا وَتَصْرِيفِ الرِّيَاحِ آيَاتٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ **45:5**

And in the alternation of the night and the day, and in the means of sustenance which God sends down from the height, reviving the earth which had been lifeless, and in the change of winds and seasons - in all this are signs for people who use their reason.

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ نَتْلُوهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَبِأَيِّ حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَ اللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ يُؤْمِنُونَ 45:6

Hadith

These are the verses of God We convey to you with truth. Then, in what HADITH, if not in God and His verses, will they believe?

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ أَفَّاكٍ أَثِيمٍ 45:7

Woe to every fabricating impostor! [26:222. This draws our attention to forged Ahadith]

يَسْمَعُ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ يُصِرُّ مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَأَن لَّمْ يَسْمَعْهَا فَبَشِّرْهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ 45:8

(The impostor) who hears God's verses conveyed to him, yet he is haughtily obstinate, as though he never heard them. So, announce to him grievous punishment.

وَإِذَا عَلِمَ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا شَيْئًا اتَّخَذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ 45:9

For when he learns anything of Our verses, he belittles them. Theirs is a humiliating punishment in store.

مِّن وَرَائِهِمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُم مَّا كَسَبُوا شَيْئًا وَلَا مَا اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ 45:10

Ahead of them is Hell, and what they have earned will not avail them, nor will the 'awlia' (saints, sufis, 'imams', clegy) whom they had chosen besides God. Theirs will be an awesome suffering. [29:24, 79:36, 82:16]

هَٰذَا هُدًى وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مِّن رِّجْزٍ أَلِيمٌ 45:11

This is a beacon. And for those who reject the revelations of their Lord, is a painful retribution.

اللَّهُ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الْبَحْرَ لِتَجْرِيَ الْفُلْكُ فِيهِ بِأَمْرِهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِهِ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ 45:12

God is the One Who has made the sea of service to you that the ships may run thereon by His command, and that you may seek of His bounty, and that you may be grateful.

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُم مَّا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مِّنْهُ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **45:13**

And He has made subservient to you, from Himself, all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. Therein, are signs for people who reflect.

قُل لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يَغْفِرُوا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ أَيَّامَ اللَّهِ لِيَجْزِيَ قَوْمًا بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **45:14**

Tell those who have chosen to believe, to forgive the ones who do not hope for the Days of God. It is for Him alone to recompense each people for what they have earned. [Yaghfir, Ghafarah and derivatives = Forgive = Guarding against detriment = Protect from the harmful effects of misdeeds. Days of God = Life Hereafter = The Day of Resurrection, Judgment, Reckoning = When people establish the Divine Rule on earth. 14:5]

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَلِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَسَاءَ فَعَلَيْهَا ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ **45:15**

You do good for yourself

Whoever helps others, helps his own 'self'. And whoever hurts others, hurts his own 'self'. And in the end all of you will be brought back to your Lord. ['Amal-e-Saaleh = A good deed = Fulfilling others' needs = Increase human potential = Take corrective action = Help the individual or society = Doing collective good = Grow in goodness. 'Amal-e-Su = An evil deed = Disrupting someone's life = Hurting others = Causing imbalance = Promoting injustice and inequity]

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنُّبُوَّةَ وَرَزَقْنَاهُم مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ **45:16**

We gave to the Children of Israel the scripture, the rule, and a succession of Prophets, and provided them with decent things and bestowed upon them bounties more than other nations of the time. [3:78, 6:90]

وَآتَيْنَاهُم بَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ **45:17**

And We gave them a clear set of commandments. Yet, they fell for differences through rivalry among themselves after knowledge had come to them. Your Lord will judge between them on the Resurrection Day concerning all they differed.

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ عَلَىٰ شَرِيعَةٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ فَاتَّبِعْهَا وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **45:18**

Follow the path of Quran

And finally, We appointed you (O Messenger) to establish clear commandments about all matters. So you shall follow this (way), and do not follow the whims of those who do not know (the truth). [42:13. Shari'ah = The way to a watering place = A flowing stream of pure water = Clear commandments. The flowing stream indicates that the commandments are not stagnant. While the basics remain unchanged, minor details will be flexible with changing times and needs]

إِنَّهُمْ لَن يُغْنُوا عَنكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَإِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ **45:19**

They cannot avail you in the least against God. The wrongdoers are friends to one another, while God is the protecting Friend of those who are observant in their journey of life.

هَٰذَا بَصَائِرُ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ **45:20**

The messages right before you are a means of vision and insight for mankind, and a guidance and a grace for people who wish to live by conviction rather than uncertainty.

أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ اجْتَرَحُوا السَّيِّئَاتِ أَن نَّجْعَلَهُمْ كَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَوَاءً مَّحْيَاهُمْ وَمَمَاتُهُمْ سَاءَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ **45:21**

What! Do those who disrupt others' lives think that We will treat them, in life and death, like believers and helpers of humanity? Evil is the judgment they make!

وَخَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَلِتُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ **45:22**

God has created the heavens and earth with a definite purpose, and in order that every 'self' may be compensated for what it has earned. And no injustice will be done to them.

أَفَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً فَمَن يَهْدِيهِ مِن بَعْدِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **45:23**

Have you ever noted him who makes his desires his god? Consequently, God lets him go astray despite his knowledge, seals up his hearing and his heart, and places a veil on his sight. Then who will lead him after he has left God? Will you not then remember (this admonition)? [17:36, 32:9, 46:26]

وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ وَمَا لَهُم بِذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ **45:24**

And yet they say, "There is nothing beyond our life of this world. We die as we come to life (per chance) and nothing destroys us but Time." But of that they have no knowledge. They do nothing but make a wild guess.

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ مَّا كَانَ حُجَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا أَن قَالُوا ائْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **45:25**

And when Our revelations are conveyed to them in all clarity, their only argument is this, "Bring back our forefathers if you are truthful."

قُلِ اللَّهُ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يَجْمَعُكُمْ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **45:26**

Say, "It is God Who gives you life, and then causes you to die. And He will gather all of you together on the Resurrection Day, the advent of which is beyond doubt." But most people do not know [that the human 'self' survives physical death and that they be held accountable for all their deeds]

وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَخْسَرُ الْمُبْطِلُونَ **45:27**

For, to God belongs the Dominion of the heavens and earth. And on the Day when the Hour stands - on that Day the followers of falsehood will be at loss.

وَتَرَىٰ كُلَّ أُمَّةٍ جَاثِيَةً كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ تُدْعَىٰ إِلَىٰ كِتَابِهَا الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **45:28**

And you will see every nation kneeling down, each nation called to its record. (And it will be said), "This Day you shall be paid for all that you ever did."

هَٰذَا كِتَابُنَا يَنطِقُ عَلَيْكُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّا كُنَّا نَسْتَنسِخُ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **45:29**

"This Our record tells the truth about you. We arranged for all your doings to be meticulously recorded.

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَيُدْخِلُهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْمُبِينُ **45:30**

God acknowledges all that do good work

As for those who accepted the message and helped the society, their Lord will admit them into His grace. That! That is the Obvious Triumph.

وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَفَلَمْ تَكُنْ آيَاتِي تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ وَكُنتُمْ قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمِينَ **45:31**

As for those who rejected the truth (they will be told), "Were not My messages conveyed to you? But you took an arrogant stance since you were an exploitative people."

وَإِذَا قِيلَ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَالسَّاعَةُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهَا قُلْتُم مَّا نَدْرِي مَا السَّاعَةُ إِن نَّظُنُّ إِلَّا ظَنًّا وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُسْتَيْقِنِينَ **45:32**

And when it was said, "God's promise always comes true and there is no doubt about the Hour - you would reply, "We do not know what the Hour is. We think it could be conjecture, however, we are not certain!"

وَبَدَا لَهُمْ سَيِّئَاتُ مَا عَمِلُوا وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **45:33**

And their disruptive actions will become obvious to them and the very thing they used to mock will surround them.

وَقِيلَ الْيَوْمَ نَنسَاكُمْ كَمَا نَسِيتُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا وَمَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ وَمَا لَكُم مِّن نَّاصِرِينَ **45:34**

And it will be said, "This Day We forget you, just as you forgot the meeting of this your Day. And your abode is the fire, and there is none to help you.

ذَٰلِكُم بِأَنَّكُمُ اتَّخَذْتُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ هُزُوًا وَغَرَّتْكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُخْرَجُونَ مِنْهَا وَلَا هُمْ يُسْتَعْتَبُونَ **45:35**

This is because you ridiculed God's messages, having allowed the vanities of the life of this world to deceive you." This Day, therefore, they will not be taken out of it, nor can they make amends.

فَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ رَبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَرَبِّ الْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **45:36**

Then, all praise is due to God, Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earth, Lord of all the worlds! [For, He has designed the Universe such that no action goes without a just recompense]

وَلَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **45:37**

And His alone is all Majesty in the Universe, and He alone is Almighty, Most Wise.

Chapter 46

Al-Ahqaaf - The Sand-Dunes

This is the 46th Surah of the Qur´an, and it has 35 verses. The Surah derives its name from the sand dunes that were a part of the landscape inhabited by the second generation of the powerful tribe of ´Aad in the Southeastern Arabian Peninsula. To the mightier first generation ´Aad was sent Prophet Hud, perhaps next in line only to Noah who was the first ever apostle of God. Contrary to popular belief Adam is the allegorical use of Adami or the human being. The Qur´an does not refer to him as a Prophet. Dispelling the Biblical and Muslim traditional influence, 4:163 confirms that Noah was the first ever Prophet of God as do 6:85, 10:74, 57:26-27. Historically, the times of Noah and ´Aad have only been estimates - perhaps 5000-6000 BC. ´Aad were however, the descendants of Iram son of Sam son of Noah. The Divine Law of Requital is inevitable, unchangeable and completely impartial for all individuals and nations. Requital in fact stands for Just Recompense (Jaza), and not for chastisement. Simply put, the Law of Requital is, "As you sow, so shall you reap." Our actions carry along with them their built-in logical consequences. So, as the Qur´an frequently reminds, we begin to make our Hell or Paradise with our own hands right in this world. "Pie in the Sky" is a dogma foreign and alien to the Qur´an.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

حم **46:1**

H.M. Ha-Meem (Hakeem the Wise, Majeed the Glorious, states that),

تَنزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ **46:2**

The revelation of this Book is from God, the Almighty, the Wise.

مَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَمَّا أُنذِرُوا مُعْرِضُونَ **46:3**

We have not created the heavens and earth and all that is between them but for a specific purpose, and for a term appointed. And yet, those who are determined to deny the truth turn away from what they are warned against. [Bil-Haqq = In truth = For a specific purpose = With a definite Plan]

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُم مَّا تَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ ائْتُونِي بِكِتَابٍ مِّن قَبْلِ هَٰذَا أَوْ أَثَارَةٍ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **46:4**

Say, "Have you ever given thought to what it is that you call upon instead of God? Show me what they have created of the earth. Or do they have a share in the heavens? Bring me (authority) from even a previous scripture, or even some remains of knowledge if you are truthful."

وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَن لَّا يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَهُمْ عَن دُعَائِهِمْ غَافِلُونَ **46:5**

And who could be further astray than one who invokes, instead of God, such as do not respond to him even until the Day of Resurrection, and, in fact, are totally unaware of their call.

وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ **46:6**

And when mankind are gathered together, the false deities will become enemies to those who worshiped them, and will utterly reject their worship.

وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ هَٰذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **46:7**

But when Our clear messages are conveyed to them, the rejecters say of the truth as soon as it reaches them, "This is obviously a magical lie." [Sihr = Magic = Lie = Delusion = Spellbinding eloquence = Amazing = Incredible]

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ إِنِ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَلَا تَمْلِكُونَ لِي مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ كَفَىٰ بِهِ شَهِيدًا بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكُمْ وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ **46:8**

Or do they say, "He has invented all this?" Say, "If I have invented it, still you have no power to support me against God. He is fully Aware of your reckless flight of imagination. He suffices as a Witness between me and you. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful." [You shall come to know what you now do not. And the Forgiving, the Merciful God has ordained the Law of Respite for you 37:175, 39:39]

Prophet follows Quran
Only knows what is in the Quran

Prophet doesn't know what will be done with you

قُلْ مَا كُنتُ بِدْعًا مِّنَ الرُّسُلِ وَمَا أَدْرِي مَا يُفْعَلُ بِي وَلَا بِكُمْ إِنْ أَتَّبِعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ وَمَا أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **46:9**

Say, "I am not the first of the Messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you. I do but follow what is revealed to me, and I am but a plain warner."

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَكَفَرْتُم بِهِ وَشَهِدَ شَاهِدٌ مِّن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِهِ فَآمَنَ وَاسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **46:10**

Say, "What if it is from God and you rejected it! A witness from the Children of Israel has already borne witness to the advent of one like himself. And he has believed while you are showing arrogance. God does not guide people who relegate the truth." [A witness from the Children of Israel = Moses, in Deuteronomy xviii, 15-18, "A Prophet like unto me." Some commentators mention a hadith referring to Hazrat Abdullah bin Salam, a convert from Judaism, as being the witness. But that proposition is obviously too weak to find a place in the Qur'an]

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَوْ كَانَ خَيْرًا مَّا سَبَقُونَا إِلَيْهِ وَإِذْ لَمْ يَهْتَدُوا بِهِ فَسَيَقُولُونَ هَٰذَا إِفْكٌ قَدِيمٌ **46:11**

And the deniers speak thus of the believers, "If this message were any good, these people would not have accepted it before us." But since they choose not to be guided by it, they say, "This has been a fabrication since ancient times."

وَمِن قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً وَهَٰذَا كِتَابٌ مُّصَدِّقٌ لِّسَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لِّيُنذِرَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُحْسِنِينَ **46:12**

Quran is authentic

And yet, before this was the scripture of Moses, an example and a grace. And this (Qur'an) is a Book confirming the truth (in Torah), in the Arabic Tongue, to warn the wrongdoers, and a herald of glad tiding for the doers of good.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ **46:13**

Those who say, "Our Lord is God," and thereafter stand firm and live upright, no fear will come upon them nor shall they grieve.

أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **46:14**

Such are the rightful dwellers of the Garden, immortal therein, as a reward for all they have done.

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ إِحْسَانًا حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا وَحَمْلُهُ وَفِصَالُهُ ثَلَاثُونَ شَهْرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَبَلَغَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِي فِي ذُرِّيَّتِي إِنِّي تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ **46:15**

We have enjoined upon the human kindness to his parents. In pain his mother did bear him, and in pain she did give him birth. The carrying of the child and his total dependence on her took thirty months. And so, when he attains maturity and reaches forty years, he should say, "My Lord! Enable me to be grateful for the blessings You have given me and to my parents, and that I may do works that meet Your approval, and make my generations righteous as well. To You I turn, and I am of those who surrender to You." [2:233, 7:189, 31:14]

Dua

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ نَتَقَبَّلُ عَنْهُمْ أَحْسَنَ مَا عَمِلُوا وَنَتَجَاوَزُ عَن سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ فِي أَصْحَابِ الْجَنَّةِ وَعْدَ الصِّدْقِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ **46:16**

Such are those from whom We accept the best of their deeds and We shall absolve their imperfections. They are among the dwellers of Paradise. This is the True promise that is made to them. ['Best of their deeds' indicates God's reward surpassing the best of the best]

وَالَّذِي قَالَ لِوَالِدَيْهِ أُفٍّ لَّكُمَا أَتَعِدَانِنِي أَنْ أُخْرَجَ وَقَدْ خَلَتِ الْقُرُونُ مِن قَبْلِي وَهُمَا يَسْتَغِيثَانِ اللَّهَ وَيْلَكَ آمِنْ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَيَقُولُ مَا هَٰذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **46:17**

Whoever says to his parents, "Disgusting it is for you that you promise me re-emergence even though generations have passed away before me (without coming forth after death)?" Then they seek God's help and say, "Sad is your state! Believe in the truth. God's promise always comes true." But he replies, "This is nothing but fables of the ancient."

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ فِي أُمَمٍ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا خَاسِرِينَ 46:18

Such are the ones against whom the Word came to pass among the previous generations of the rural and the urban. They will surely be lost!

وَلِكُلٍّ دَرَجَاتٌ مِّمَّا عَمِلُوا وَلِيُوَفِّيَهُمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ 46:19

And for all there will be ranks according to what they did so that He may recompense their actions. And they will face no injustice.

وَيَوْمَ يُعْرَضُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَلَى النَّارِ أَذْهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا وَاسْتَمْتَعْتُم بِهَا فَالْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَبِمَا كُنتُمْ تَفْسُقُونَ 46:20

And on the Day when the deniers are exposed to the fire, it will be said, "You squandered your good things in your life of the world and only sought immediate comfort therein. This Day you are rewarded with a humiliating doom because of your unjust pride, and because you drifted away from humanity. [Fisq = To drift away as the date stone breaks out of its fruit]

وَاذْكُرْ أَخَا عَادٍ إِذْ أَنذَرَ قَوْمَهُ بِالْأَحْقَافِ وَقَدْ خَلَتِ النُّذُرُ مِن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ 46:21

And remember the brother of 'Aad when he warned his people in their Land of Sand-dunes. Warners came and went before and after him, saying, "Serve none but God. I fear for you the retribution of a Tremendous Day."

قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِتَأْفِكَنَا عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِن كُنتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ 46:22

They answered, "Have you come to turn us away from our gods?" Bring us, then, what you are threatening us with, if you are of the truthful."

قَالَ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَأُبَلِّغُكُم مَّا أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ وَلَٰكِنِّي أَرَاكُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ **46:23**

Delivers message only

He said, "That knowledge is with God alone. I announce to you the Mission on which I have been sent. But I see that you are a people who prefer to live in the darkness of ignorance."

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُّسْتَقْبِلَ أَوْدِيَتِهِمْ قَالُوا هَٰذَا عَارِضٌ مُّمْطِرُنَا بَلْ هُوَ مَا اسْتَعْجَلْتُم بِهِ رِيحٌ فِيهَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **46:24**

And so, when they saw a dense cloud approaching their valleys, they said, "Here is a dense cloud bringing us the needed rain." Nay, this is the very thing you were asking to be hastened - a wind wherein is a grievous torment,

تُدَمِّرُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِأَمْرِ رَبِّهَا فَأَصْبَحُوا لَا يُرَىٰ إِلَّا مَسَاكِنُهُمْ كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **46:25**

Bound to destroy everything by its Lord's command. And the morning found them so that nothing could be seen but their empty dwellings. Thus We reward the guilty.

وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِيمَا إِن مَّكَّنَّاكُمْ فِيهِ وَجَعَلْنَا لَهُمْ سَمْعًا وَأَبْصَارًا وَأَفْئِدَةً فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُمْ سَمْعُهُمْ وَلَا أَبْصَارُهُمْ وَلَا أَفْئِدَتُهُم مِّن شَيْءٍ إِذْ كَانُوا يَجْحَدُونَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَحَاقَ بِهِم مَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ **46:26**

We had established them in the land better than We ever established you, and We had given them keen faculties of hearing, sight and intellect. But their hearing and sight and intellect did not avail them when they went on knowingly rejecting God's messages. And so, the very thing they used to mock, surrounded them. [Fuaad, plural Af'idah = The faculty of intellect, reasoning and insight. 17:36, 32:9, 45:23]

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا مَا حَوْلَكُم مِّنَ الْقُرَىٰ وَصَرَّفْنَا الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ **46:27**

Thus We have annihilated many townships all around you, after We had explained Our messages from different vantage points that they might return (to the truth). [Townships and communities mentioned: 'Aad, Thamud, Sheba, Tubba", Midyan, Sodom, Gomorrah, Ninevah]

فَلَوْلَا نَصَرَهُمُ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ قُرْبَانًا آلِهَةً بَلْ ضَلُّوا عَنْهُمْ وَذَٰلِكَ إِفْكُهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ **46:28**

Why did then no help come to them from those whom they idolized besides God, as a means of nearness (to Him)? Nay, their idols abandoned them, for that was their falsehood and fabrication.

وَإِذْ صَرَفْنَا إِلَيْكَ نَفَرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقُرْآنَ فَلَمَّا حَضَرُوهُ قَالُوا أَنصِتُوا فَلَمَّا قُضِيَ وَلَّوْا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِم مُّنذِرِينَ **46:29**

(O Messenger) We turned toward you a company of the nomads so that they may listen to the Qur'an. And as soon as they were in its presence, they said, "Listen in silence!" And when it was over, they hurried to their people as warners. [72:1]

قَالُوا يَا قَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِن بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ وَإِلَىٰ طَرِيقٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **46:30**

They said, "O Our people! We have heard a scripture that has been revealed after Moses, confirming the (truth in) what came before it. It guides to the truth and to a straight road." [For my interpolation of 'truth in', see 2:101, 3:78, 5:48. These nomads were obviously followers of the Jewish faith since they make no mention of Jesus]

29-31 Jinn

يَا قَوْمَنَا أَجِيبُوا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَآمِنُوا بِهِ يَغْفِرْ لَكُم مِّن ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُجِرْكُم مِّنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **46:31**

"O Our people! Respond to the one who invites to God and believe in Him. He will absolve your fault of trailing behind and guard you against an awful suffering."

وَمَن لَّا يُجِبْ دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ فَلَيْسَ بِمُعْجِزٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مِن دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءُ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **46:32**

"And whoever fails to respond to God's caller, cannot evade Him on earth, nor can he find patrons other than Him. Such people are obviously lost in error."

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَمْ يَعْيَ بِخَلْقِهِنَّ بِقَادِرٍ عَلَىٰ أَن يُحْيِيَ الْمَوْتَىٰ بَلَىٰ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **46:33**

Do they not realize that God Who created the heavens and earth, and wearied not with their creation, is Able to revive the dead? Yes, indeed, He has power over all things. [50:15]

وَيَوْمَ يُعْرَضُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا عَلَى النَّارِ أَلَيْسَ هَٰذَا بِالْحَقِّ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّنَا قَالَ فَذُوقُوا الْعَذَابَ بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ **46:34**

And on the Day when the rejecters are exposed to the fire (they will be asked), "Is it not for real?" They will answer, "Yes indeed, by our Lord!" He will say, "Taste, then, this punishment for your rejection."

فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُو الْعَزْمِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ وَلَا تَسْتَعْجِل لَّهُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ مَا يُوعَدُونَ لَمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا سَاعَةً مِّن نَّهَارٍ بَلَاغٌ فَهَلْ يُهْلَكُ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ **46:35**

And so, patiently persevere, as did all Messengers of firm resolve. And be in no haste about them. On the Day when they see what they are promised, it will seem to them as if they had not lived in the world more than an hour of a day. Herein is a clear message. Shall anyone perish except those who drift away from the right path? ['What they are promised': blissful end if they choose to live upright. Grievous suffering if they persist in their opposition of the truth]

Chapter 47

Muhammad - Muhammad

This is the 47th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 38 verses. Herein we find the command that prisoners of war must be freed as soon as the hostilities are over. This command eradicated, in one stroke, the biggest source of slavery and freed mankind from bondage. Along with other concepts, the Surah emphasizes that going through life without a Noble Ideology is not becoming of a human being.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَضَلَّ أَعْمَالَهُمْ **47:1**

Those who oppose the truth and bar others from the way of God, He renders their actions vain. [Even their good deeds will carry no weight against this mountain load of infringements. 47:8]

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَآمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَهُوَ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ كَفَّرَ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَأَصْلَحَ بَالَهُمْ **47:2**

Whereas those who believe, do acts of social welfare, and believe in what has been revealed to Muhammad - for it is the truth from their Lord - He will absolve their imperfections, erase the imprints of their faults, and direct their hearts and minds to rightful contentment. [The word Aamanoo (those who believe) has been repeated again, indicating that believers in the previous scriptures must believe in the Qur'an as well. Baal = State, condition. Salhil baal = Improvement of condition along with inner contentment]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا اتَّبَعُوا الْبَاطِلَ وَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّبَعُوا الْحَقَّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ كَذَٰلِكَ يَضْرِبُ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ أَمْثَالَهُمْ **47:3**

This is because those who deny the truth (have no choice but to) follow falsehood, and those who believe follow the truth from their Lord. This is how God exemplifies concepts to people from within their own composition. [Amthalahum = Their own examples = Illustrations from within themselves = Typify from their own]

Don't follow other sources, Like Hadith

فَإِذَا لَقِيتُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَضَرْبَ الرِّقَابِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَثْخَنتُمُوهُمْ فَشُدُّوا الْوَثَاقَ فَإِمَّا مَنًّا بَعْدُ وَإِمَّا فِدَاءً حَتَّىٰ تَضَعَ الْحَرْبُ أَوْزَارَهَا ذَٰلِكَ وَلَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ لَانتَصَرَ مِنْهُمْ وَلَٰكِن لِّيَبْلُوَ بَعْضَكُم بِبَعْضٍ وَالَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَلَن يُضِلَّ أَعْمَالَهُمْ **47:4**

Don't kill
Killing is in
Old Testament

If you meet the disbelievers in battle, strike at their command centers, until you have subdued them, then, bind them firmly. And thereafter, there must be an act of kindness or ransom when the battle lays down its weapons. If God willed, He could punish them Himself, but that He may let you be tested by means of one another (as to which people remains vigilant.) As for those who are slain in the way of God, He does not render their actions vain. [8:37, 38:40. Free the captives as an act of kindness or ransom, such as in exchange for your men in their captivity. There is no third option. Fadharb ar-riqaab is usually rendered as 'smite their necks.' A little contemplation, however, makes it plain that in a battle of swords and arrows no commander would order his soldiers to aim for the necks alone. Therefore, the term has been used idiomatically, indicating knocking out the command centers. It is interesting to note that even in today's encounters with high technology this principle is given a top priority]

سَيَهْدِيهِمْ وَيُصْلِحُ بَالَهُمْ **47:5**

He will instantly guide them (straight to Paradise) and bless them with contentment. [47:6]

وَيُدْخِلُهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ عَرَّفَهَا لَهُمْ **47:6**

And will bring them into the Garden that He has made known to them.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ **47:7**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you help God, He will help you and He will strengthen your foothold. [Helping God indicates that His servants must take the first step]

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَتَعْسًا لَّهُمْ وَأَضَلَّ أَعْمَالَهُمْ **47:8**

All those who journey through life in the darkness of ignorance, trip and fall on their faces. And He brings their deeds to naught. [Ta's = Trip and fall on the face = Destruction = Missing the mark. 47:1]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَرِهُوا مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ **47:9**

This is so because they detest what God has revealed, and so He renders all their actions fruitless. [13:17, 47:1, 47:8. Habt = Undigested food that fails to provide nourishment]

أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ دَمَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ أَمْثَالُهَا **47:10**

Have they not, then, traveled in the land and seen what eventually happened to those who lived before them? God wiped them out, and for these deniers of truth shall be the like thereof.

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ مَوْلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَأَنَّ الْكَافِرِينَ لَا مَوْلَىٰ لَهُمْ **47:11**

This is so, because God is the Patron of those who accept His commands, whereas there is no patron for those who deny the truth.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْخِلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَتَمَتَّعُونَ وَيَأْكُلُونَ كَمَا تَأْكُلُ الْأَنْعَامُ وَالنَّارُ مَثْوًى لَّهُمْ **47:12**

God will admit all those who accept His message and fulfill the needs of others into Gardens beneath which rivers flow. But those who deny the truth, may partake of life and eat like the cattle (live and) eat, and the fire will be their abode. [Living without a Noble Ideology reduces human beings to a subhuman existence]

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ هِيَ أَشَدُّ قُوَّةً مِّن قَرْيَتِكَ الَّتِي أَخْرَجَتْكَ أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ فَلَا نَاصِرَ لَهُمْ **47:13**

And how many a township stronger than your township, which has evicted you (O Prophet) have We annihilated! And they had no helper.

أَفَمَن كَانَ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ كَمَن زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَهْوَاءَهُم **47:14**

Is he, then, who lives by self-evident truth from his Lord like the one to whom his disruptive behavior seems pleasing, while such people are only following their own desires?

مَّثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وُعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا أَنْهَارٌ مِّن مَّاءٍ غَيْرِ آسِنٍ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّن لَّبَنٍ لَّمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ طَعْمُهُ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّنْ خَمْرٍ لَّذَّةٍ **47:15**

لِّلشَّارِبِينَ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِّنْ عَسَلٍ مُّصَفًّى وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ
الثَّمَرَاتِ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ كَمَنْ هُوَ خَالِدٌ فِي النَّارِ
وَسُقُوا مَاءً حَمِيمًا فَقَطَّعَ أَمْعَاءَهُمْ

Paradise

In allegorical terms the Paradise that the righteous are promised is this: Therein are rivers of ever fresh water, and rivers of ever fresh milk, and rivers of delicious wine, and rivers of clear-run honey. Therein are all kinds of fruit (of their good deeds), with a life secure from deterioration bestowed upon them from their Lord. Are they like the ones who abide in the fire and are given drinks of burning despair that tears their insides? [Maghfirah here denotes protection from deterioration. Note that the Paradise is described in allegorical terms since we can only understand some of it by way of similitude and metaphor at our current level of intellect and understanding. The wine therein is refreshing with no trace of beclouding of the mind or hangover 52:23, 56:19]

وَمِنْهُم مَّن يَسْتَمِعُ إِلَيْكَ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا خَرَجُوا مِنْ عِندِكَ قَالُوا **47:16**
لِلَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ مَاذَا قَالَ آنِفًا أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ
عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَهْوَاءَهُمْ

(O Messenger) there are some among them who pretend to listen to you, and then, as soon as they leave your presence, they ask others who have received knowledge, "What was it that he just said?" Such are the ones whose hearts God has sealed, for their minds are always contemplating ways to fulfill their vain desires. [4:155, 10:74, 16:106, 17:45, 47:24, 83:14]

وَالَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا زَادَهُمْ هُدًى وَآتَاهُمْ تَقْوَاهُمْ **47:17**

As for those who wish to walk in the light, He shows them the way all along, and secures for them their journey through life. [Huda = Brightness, light, guidance, beacon, showing the way, leading right]

فَهَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّا السَّاعَةَ أَن تَأْتِيَهُم بَغْتَةً فَقَدْ جَاءَ أَشْرَاطُهَا **47:18**
فَأَنَّىٰ لَهُمْ إِذَا جَاءَتْهُمْ ذِكْرَاهُمْ

Edip

Are they, then, waiting for the Hour that may come upon them suddenly? And the signs of confrontation have already appeared. And when it comes to them, how could their understanding (of the truth) then help them?

Shahada

فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ **47:19**
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلَّبَكُمْ وَمَثْوَاكُمْ

So (O Prophet) remain constantly aware that there is no 'power' but God, and guard yourself, and the believing men, and the believing women against any slander. Devise means to counter whatever may cause your community to lag behind in their Mission. For, God knows how you move about in your daily lives and what your destination is. [Wastaghfir = And protect. Zanb = Tail = Rumor and slander in backbiting = Lagging behind like the tail lags behind an animal's body]

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَتْ سُورَةٌ فَإِذَا أُنزِلَتْ سُورَةٌ مُّحْكَمَةٌ وَذُكِرَ فِيهَا الْقِتَالُ رَأَيْتَ الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَيْكَ نَظَرَ الْمَغْشِيِّ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ فَأَوْلَىٰ لَهُمْ **47:20**

Those who have believed, say, "Why is not an injunction revealed (permitting us to fight in self-defense?") But when a decisive injunction has been revealed about fighting, you find the hypocrites looking at you as if death had already come to them. The most befitting for them would have been -

طَاعَةٌ وَقَوْلٌ مَّعْرُوفٌ فَإِذَا عَزَمَ الْأَمْرُ فَلَوْ صَدَقُوا اللَّهَ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ **47:21**

Obedience and righteous utterance. Once a matter has been determined, it would be best for them if they were true to God.

فَهَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ أَن تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتُقَطِّعُوا أَرْحَامَكُمْ **47:22**

Would you then, rather turn back (to the old ways of Ignorance) and work corruption in the land, and break the common bond of humanity and your ties of mutual relationships?

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ فَأَصَمَّهُمْ وَأَعْمَىٰ أَبْصَارَهُمْ **47:23**

Such are the ones whom God deprives of His grace, makes them deaf, and blinds their sight.

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا **47:24**

Will they not then reflect on the Qur'an, or is it that they have locks on their hearts (which bar them from reason? [4:82]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ارْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِهِم مِّن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْهُدَى الشَّيْطَانُ سَوَّلَ لَهُمْ وَأَمْلَىٰ لَهُمْ **47:25**

Those who slide back after the guidance has been made clear to them, Satan has charmed them into utopia and given them long rein. [Sawwal = Entice = Instigate. Aml = Long rope = False hopes = Respite = Rein]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُوا لِلَّذِينَ كَرِهُوا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ سَنُطِيعُكُمْ فِي بَعْضِ الْأَمْرِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِسْرَارَهُمْ **47:26**

This, because they say to those who resent the Qur'an, "We will be with you in part of your plans." And God fully knows their secret consultations.

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا تَوَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ **47:27**

Then how will it be when the angels gather them in death, smiting their faces and backs? [They leave the world in agony and regret for not having readied themselves for the life to come]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمُ اتَّبَعُوا مَا أَسْخَطَ اللَّهَ وَكَرِهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ **47:28**

This, because they followed what brings God's disapproval, and detested the actions that win His approval. And so, He renders all their actions fruitless.

أَمْ حَسِبَ الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ أَن لَّن يُخْرِجَ اللَّهُ أَضْغَانَهُمْ **47:29**

Or do the hypocrites think that God will not reveal their malice?

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَأَرَيْنَاكَهُمْ فَلَعَرَفْتَهُم بِسِيمَاهُمْ وَلَتَعْرِفَنَّهُمْ فِي لَحْنِ الْقَوْلِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ أَعْمَالَكُمْ **47:30**

Had We so willed, We could have pointed them out to you and you would have identified them by their faces. But you will recognize them by the tone of their speech. And God knows all that you do. [9:64]

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ حَتَّىٰ نَعْلَمَ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ مِنكُمْ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَنَبْلُوَ أَخْبَارَكُمْ **47:31**

And certainly We shall try you all in order to distinguish the valiant among you and the steadfast. And We shall put your reputation to test.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَشَاقُّوا الرَّسُولَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْهُدَىٰ لَن يَضُرُّوا اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيُحْبِطُ أَعْمَالَهُمْ 47:32

Those who oppose the truth and hinder (people) from the way of God, and oppose the Messenger after the guidance has been made clear to them, cannot harm God in the least. And He will make all their works come to naught.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَلَا تُبْطِلُوا أَعْمَالَكُمْ 47:33

Obey

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey God, and obey the Messenger, and render not your actions vain.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ مَاتُوا وَهُمْ كُفَّارٌ فَلَن يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ 47:34

Those who oppose the truth and hinder (people) from the path of God, and then die as disbelievers, God will not pardon them.

فَلَا تَهِنُوا وَتَدْعُوا إِلَى السَّلْمِ وَأَنتُمُ الْأَعْلَوْنَ وَاللَّهُ مَعَكُمْ وَلَن يَتِرَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ 47:35

So, do not falter crying for peace, for you are bound to prevail. God is with you and He will never waste your efforts. [3:139]

إِنَّمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَإِن تُؤْمِنُوا وَتَتَّقُوا يُؤْتِكُمْ أُجُورَكُمْ وَلَا يَسْأَلْكُمْ أَمْوَالَكُمْ 47:36

The life of this world is but a sport and amusement. But if you believe and live upright, He will give you your rewards, and will not ask you to give up your wealth.

إِن يَسْأَلْكُمُوهَا فَيُحْفِكُمْ تَبْخَلُوا وَيُخْرِجْ أَضْغَانَكُمْ 47:37

If He were to demand and compel you for it, you would cling to it in stinginess, and He would thus reveal your shortcomings.

هَا أَنتُمْ هَٰؤُلَاءِ تُدْعَوْنَ لِتُنفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَمِنكُم مَّن يَبْخَلُ وَمَن يَبْخَلْ فَإِنَّمَا يَبْخَلُ عَن نَّفْسِهِ وَاللَّهُ الْغَنِيُّ 47:38

وَأَنتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ وَإِن تَتَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَالَكُم

You are those who are called upon to spend (your wealth and person) in the cause of God. Yet, among you there are such who turn stingy. Anyone who is miser is miser against his own 'self'. God is the Rich, and you are the poor. And if you turn away, He will replace you with another people, and they will not be like you.

Chapter 48

Al-Fath - Victory

This is the 48th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 29 verses. The Surah derives its name from the fulfillment of God´s promise to His Messenger of a signal Victory. And the promise that the Final Word of God will prevail over all other systems of life on the planet. The pledge of allegiance to the Prophet during his lifetime meant allegiance to God, and after him the same will hold true about the Central Authority of the Divine System whenever established.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِينًا **48:1**

(O Prophet) We have opened for you the gates of a manifest victory,

لِّيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِن ذَنبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَيَهْدِيَكَ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيمًا **48:2**

That God may protect you against whatever could have caused you to lag behind in the past and in the future. He perfects His blessings on you and takes you along a straight path. [24:55, 40:55, 47:19. Ghafarah = Helmet = Protection. Zanb = Tail = Lagging behind = A slander stuck behind a person]

وَيَنصُرَكَ اللَّهُ نَصْرًا عَزِيزًا **48:3**

And thus God supports you with a mighty support.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لِيَزْدَادُوا إِيمَانًا مَّعَ إِيمَانِهِمْ وَلِلَّهِ جُنُودُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا **48:4**

He is the One Who sends down peace of reassurance into the hearts of the believers to increase their faith to conviction. To God belongs the armies of the heavens and the earth. God is Knower, Wise. [9:26, 45:22, 53:31]

لِّيُدْخِلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَيُكَفِّرَ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَكَانَ ذَٰلِكَ عِندَ اللَّهِ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا **48:5**

Thus He will admit the believing men and the believing women into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they shall abide. And He will absolve their faults and imperfections. And that is, in the Sight of God, the Supreme Triumph. [11:115]

وَيُعَذِّبَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ وَالْمُشْرِكَاتِ الظَّانِّينَ بِاللَّهِ ظَنَّ السَّوْءِ عَلَيْهِمْ دَائِرَةُ السَّوْءِ وَغَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَنَهُمْ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا **48:6**

And He will punish the hypocrite men and the hypocrite women and the idolater men and idolater women who hold evil assumptions and plans against God. Around them is a circle of their disruptive deeds, and God's Disapproval is upon them and He deprives them of His grace. For them He has readied Hell, and how miserable is that as a destination!

وَلِلَّهِ جُنُودُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا **48:7**

God's are the forces of the heavens and earth, and God is Mighty, Wise. [45:22]

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا **48:8**

(O Prophet) We have sent you as a witness (to the truth and to people), as a bringer of good news, and as a warner. [2:143]

لِّتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُعَزِّرُوهُ وَتُوَقِّرُوهُ وَتُسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا **48:9**

Glorify God morning and evening

So that you mankind may believe in God and His Messenger. Therefore, support the Messenger and honor him and do your best to establish the glory of God from morning to evening. [33:41-42]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَمَن نَّكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنكُثُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهُ اللَّهَ فَسَيُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا **48:10**

Those who pledge allegiance to you (O Prophet), in fact pledge allegiance to God. God's hand is over their hands. So, whoever shatters his pledge, shatters his own 'self'.

And whoever keeps his pledge with God, to him He will grant a supreme reward. [9:111]

سَيَقُولُ لَكَ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ مِنَ الْأَعْرَابِ شَغَلَتْنَا أَمْوَالُنَا وَأَهْلُونَا فَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَنَا يَقُولُونَ بِأَلْسِنَتِهِم مَّا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ قُلْ فَمَن يَمْلِكُ لَكُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا إِنْ أَرَادَ بِكُمْ ضَرًّا أَوْ أَرَادَ بِكُمْ نَفْعًا بَلْ كَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا **48:11**

The Bedouins, who were left behind, will tell you, "Our properties and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us!" They will utter with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say, "Who has the power to intervene on your behalf with God, whether He wills to give you some loss or He wills to give you some profit?" Nay, but God is Aware of all that you do.

بَلْ ظَنَنتُمْ أَن لَّن يَنقَلِبَ الرَّسُولُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِيهِمْ أَبَدًا وَزُيِّنَ ذَٰلِكَ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَظَنَنتُمْ ظَنَّ السَّوْءِ وَكُنتُمْ قَوْمًا بُورًا **48:12**

Nay, you thought that the Messenger and the believers would never come back to their people and families. And it was made pleasing in your hearts that you did think evil, for, you are a people devoid of virtue."

وَمَن لَّمْ يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ فَإِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ سَعِيرًا **48:13**

Acknowledge

As for him who denies God and His Messenger, We have prepared a Flame for such deniers.

وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا **48:14**

To God belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth. He forgives and punishes according to His Law of Requital. God is Absolver of imperfections, Compassionate.

سَيَقُولُ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ إِذَا انطَلَقْتُمْ إِلَىٰ مَغَانِمَ لِتَأْخُذُوهَا ذَرُونَا نَتَّبِعْكُمْ يُرِيدُونَ أَن يُبَدِّلُوا كَلَامَ اللَّهِ قُل لَّن تَتَّبِعُونَا كَذَٰلِكُمْ قَالَ اللَّهُ مِن قَبْلُ فَسَيَقُولُونَ بَلْ تَحْسُدُونَنَا بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَفْقَهُونَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **48:15**

If you go forth to a battle that holds promise of spoils of war, those who had stayed behind before, will say, "Allow us to follow you." They seek to change the verdict of God. Say, "You shall by no means go with us. This is what God has decreed already." Then they will say, "You are envious of us." Nay, but very little it is that they understand (of selfless service). [Battle is no longer a means of winning booty as it was in the Age of Ignorance. It is permitted only against persecution and in self-defense. 2:167, 2:193, 3:140, 8:1, 60:8-9]

قُل لِّلْمُخَلَّفِينَ مِنَ الْأَعْرَابِ سَتُدْعَوْنَ إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ أُولِي بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ تُقَاتِلُونَهُمْ أَوْ يُسْلِمُونَ فَإِن تُطِيعُوا يُؤْتِكُمُ اللَّهُ أَجْرًا حَسَنًا وَإِن تَتَوَلَّوْا كَمَا تَوَلَّيْتُم مِّن قَبْلُ يُعَذِّبْكُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **48:16**

Say to these desert Arabs who had stayed behind, "Soon you will be called against a people mighty in warfare, to fight them until they surrender. And if you obey, God will give you a beautiful reward. But if you turn away, as you did turn away before, He will requite you with grievous suffering."

لَّيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَىٰ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْأَعْرَجِ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْمَرِيضِ حَرَجٌ وَمَن يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ يُعَذِّبْهُ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **48:17**

There is no blame for the blind, nor is there blame for the disabled, nor is there blame for the sick (if they do not go forth in self-defense). Whoever obeys God and His Messenger, He will admit him in the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. And whoever turns back, He will punish him with a painful doom. [9:91]

لَّقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا **48:18**

War

God was pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you (O Messenger) under that shady tree. For, He knew what was in their hearts, and so He sent down upon them inner peace, and rewarded them by opening the gates to a swift victory. [48:10]

وَمَغَانِمَ كَثِيرَةً يَأْخُذُونَهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا **48:19**

And many gains will they achieve in addition, for, God is Almighty, Most Wise.

وَعَدَكُمُ اللَّهُ مَغَانِمَ كَثِيرَةً تَأْخُذُونَهَا فَعَجَّلَ لَكُمْ هَٰذِهِ وَكَفَّ أَيْدِيَ النَّاسِ عَنكُمْ وَلِتَكُونَ آيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَيَهْدِيَكُمْ صِرَاطًا مُّسْتَقِيمًا 48:20

God promises you a great many gains that you shall acquire, and has given you these ones just to begin with. And He has restrained the aggressive hands of people from you that it may be a sign for the believers (of all times) and so that He may light up for you a straight path. [Huda and derivatives = To lead, guide, show the way, enlighten, light up the way, walk ahead, be a beacon]

وَأُخْرَىٰ لَمْ تَقْدِرُوا عَلَيْهَا قَدْ أَحَاطَ اللَّهُ بِهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرًا 48:21

And there are yet other gains which are beyond your power at this time, but God has already encompassed them for you. For, God has Power over all things.

وَلَوْ قَاتَلَكُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوَلَّوُا الْأَدْبَارَ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُونَ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا 48:22

If the unbelievers fight you, they will certainly turn their backs in flight, and then they will find no protecting friend nor helper.

سُنَّةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلُ وَلَن تَجِدَ لِسُنَّةِ اللَّهِ تَبْدِيلًا 48:23

Gods Sunna

This is God's law that has been in force since older times. And you will never find any change in God's laws. [Sunnatillah = God's laws in practice. Kalimatillah = God's Word = God's laws in theory 3:139, 17:77, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23]

وَهُوَ الَّذِي كَفَّ أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَنكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ عَنْهُم بِبَطْنِ مَكَّةَ مِن بَعْدِ أَنْ أَظْفَرَكُمْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرًا 48:24

And He is the One Who has withheld their hands against you, and your hands against them in the Valley of Makkah after He has given you victory over them. And God was Watcher over all your actions.

هُمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوكُمْ عَنِ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَالْهَدْيَ مَعْكُوفًا أَن يَبْلُغَ مَحِلَّهُ وَلَوْلَا رِجَالٌ مُّؤْمِنُونَ وَنِسَاءٌ مُّؤْمِنَاتٌ لَّمْ تَعْلَمُوهُمْ أَن تَطَئُوهُمْ فَتُصِيبَكُم مِّنْهُم مَّعَرَّةٌ 48:25

بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ لِّيُدْخِلَ اللَّهُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ لَوْ تَزَيَّلُوا لَعَذَّبْنَا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا

These are the very people who denied the message, and barred you from the Sacred Masjid, and prevented your gifts from reaching their destination. Therein were believing men and believing women whom you did not know, and you could have harmed them. And on their account you could have carried guilt without knowing it. Thus God admits into His grace whoever seeks it. If the rejecters persist in aggression, We shall clearly separate them (from the believers) and punish them with an awesome doom.

إِذْ جَعَلَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْحَمِيَّةَ حَمِيَّةَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ فَأَنزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَلْزَمَهُمْ كَلِمَةَ التَّقْوَىٰ وَكَانُوا أَحَقَّ بِهَا وَأَهْلَهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا **48:26**

Just when the unbelievers had their hearts filled with zeal, the zeal of the Age of Ignorance, right then God sent down His blessing of inner contentment upon His Messenger and upon the believers, and empowered them to ward off this kind of zealotry. For, they truly deserved this virtue and it was befitting for them to own it. God is Knower of all things. [Hamiyyah = Zeal. Hamiyyat-il-Jaahiliyah = Zeal of the Age of Ignorance = Zeal for revenge]

لَّقَدْ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ رَسُولَهُ الرُّؤْيَا بِالْحَقِّ لَتَدْخُلُنَّ الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ آمِنِينَ مُحَلِّقِينَ رُءُوسَكُمْ وَمُقَصِّرِينَ لَا تَخَافُونَ فَعَلِمَ مَا لَمْ تَعْلَمُوا فَجَعَلَ مِن دُونِ ذَٰلِكَ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا **48:27**

God has vindicated His Messenger's vision of solidarity. You shall enter the Masjid-al-Haraam (the Sacred Masjid), God willing, perfectly secure, having unburdened your heads of all fear. And He knows what you do not know, and He has granted you a swift victory. [Halqirras = Relief of burden = Idiom for relief, - 'Imams' Jurjani, Hasan Basari, Shehristani. 2:196]

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَكَفَىٰ بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا **48:28**

Guidance

He is the One Who has sent His Messenger with Enlightenment and the Religion of truth that He may cause it to prevail over all other systems of life. God is Sufficient as Witness (to this Pronouncement). [9:31-33, 13:31,14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

مُّحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ تَرَاهُمْ رُكَّعًا سُجَّدًا يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا سِيمَاهُمْ فِي وُجُوهِهِم مِّنْ أَثَرِ السُّجُودِ ذَٰلِكَ مَثَلُهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَمَثَلُهُمْ فِي الْإِنجِيلِ كَزَرْعٍ أَخْرَجَ شَطْأَهُ فَآزَرَهُ فَاسْتَغْلَظَ فَاسْتَوَىٰ عَلَىٰ سُوقِهِ يُعْجِبُ الزُّرَّاعَ لِيَغِيظَ بِهِمُ الْكُفَّارَ وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنْهُم مَّغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

48:29

Muhammad is God's Messenger. And those who are with him are stern towards the rejecters of truth, and full of compassion towards one another. You can see them bowing (to commands), adoring (Him), as they seek God's bounty and Acceptance. Their signs (of belief) are on their faces, the effects of adoration. Such is their likeness in the Torah and their likeness in the Gospel. They are like a seed that brings forth its shoot, and then He strengthens it, so that it grows stout, and then stands firm on its stem, delighting those who have sown it. (Thus the believers grow in strength,) so that through them He might confound with rage the rejecters. But to those who may yet attain belief and benefit others, God promises protection of their own 'self' and an immense reward. [The very first sentence in this verse says, Muhammad-ur-Rasoolullah (Muhammad is God's Messenger.) Recently, some factions that try to belittle the exalted Prophet, have been falsely claiming that this utterance is ascribed in the Qur'an only to the hypocrites in verse 63:1. How can they miss 48:29? Athar-is-sujood is frequently mistranslated as the physical mark on the forehead resulting from regular prostration. But Wajh = Countenance = Whole being = Face, and not forehead. In addition, the verses of the Bible that the Qur'an is referring to, make no mention of any physical marks on the foreheads or faces. Sujood = Adoration = Prostrations = Complete submission. 'Signs on their faces' = Reflection of faith in the believer's mannerism. Torah and Gospel: Numbers 16:22. Mark 4: 27-28 - Mathew 13:3-9]

Chapter 49

Al-Hujurat - The Private Apartments

This is the 49th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 18 verses. The Surah primarily deals with social manners, respect of privacy and our behavior in general that leads to success in both lives. It includes a most revolutionary Injunction that it is only the character and nothing else that can make a human being superior to another.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُقَدِّمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ **49:1**

Heed God
See Edip

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not be forward in the presence of God and His Messenger, and be mindful of God. God is Hearer, Knower. [Refrain from holding your opinions above what God has revealed to His Messenger]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَرْفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَكُمْ فَوْقَ صَوْتِ النَّبِيِّ وَلَا تَجْهَرُوا لَهُ بِالْقَوْلِ كَجَهْرِ بَعْضِكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ أَن تَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَأَنتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ **49:2**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet, and you must not speak loudly to him, as you would speak loudly to one another, lest your works be rendered vain while you perceive not. [In my opinion, this verse applies today as well. We must be respectful whenever we speak of him. 33:56]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَغُضُّونَ أَصْوَاتَهُمْ عِندَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ امْتَحَنَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ **49:3**

Those who lower their voices in the presence of the Messenger of God, it is those whose hearts God has primed for righteousness. For them will be the protection through forgiveness and a supreme reward.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُنَادُونَكَ مِن وَرَاءِ الْحُجُرَاتِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ 49:4

Those who call out to you from behind the private apartments, most of them lack understanding.

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ صَبَرُوا حَتَّىٰ تَخْرُجَ إِلَيْهِمْ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 49:5

If they only had patience until you came out to them, it would certainly be better for them. God is Forgiving, Merciful (and so shall you be).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَإٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْبِحُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ 49:6

Don't spread rumours

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If an indiscreet person comes to you with any news, verify it lest you hurt some people in ignorance and then regret what you have done.

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ فِيكُمْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَوْ يُطِيعُكُمْ فِي كَثِيرٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْرِ لَعَنِتُّمْ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَكَرَّهَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكُفْرَ وَالْفُسُوقَ وَالْعِصْيَانَ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الرَّاشِدُونَ 49:7

Gods grace to us

And be constantly aware that in your midst is God's Messenger. If he were to obey you in much of the governance, you would certainly be in chaos. But as it is, God has made belief dear to you and has beautified it in your hearts. And He has made disbelief, immoral conduct and disobedience detestable to you. Such are those who are rightly guided.

فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَنِعْمَةً وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ 49:8

A bounty and bliss from God, and God is Knower, Wise.

وَإِن طَائِفَتَانِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ اقْتَتَلُوا فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا فَإِن بَغَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا عَلَى الْأُخْرَىٰ فَقَاتِلُوا الَّتِي تَبْغِي حَتَّىٰ تَفِيءَ إِلَىٰ 49:9

أَمْرِ اللَّهِ فَإِن فَاءَتْ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا بِالْعَدْلِ وَأَقْسِطُوا إِنَّ
اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

Reconciliation is better

And if two groups of believers engage in fighting, make peace between them. But then, if one of the two transgresses against the other, fight the one that transgresses until it complies with God's command (the decision that was made by the Central Authority). Once they comply, make peace between them with justice, and act equitably. God loves the equitable. 9-12

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ **49:10**
لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

The believers are but a single Brotherhood. So, make peace between your brothers and sisters. And be mindful of God so that you may attain mercy. [They are members of one family, brothers and sisters to one another]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرْ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا **49:11**
خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ
وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الِاسْمُ
الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَن لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

Don't ridicule

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! No people shall make mockery of other people, for they may be better than they are. Nor shall any women ridicule other women, for they may be better than they are. And neither shall you defame nor be sarcastic to one another. And do not call each other by (offensive) nicknames. After attaining faith, evil is (calling by) names that are far from decency. Those who do not return to the right way are the wrongdoers. [Taubah = Returning to the right path = Repentance]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ **49:12**
إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَيُحِبُّ
أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Don't gossip or spy

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Avoid much suspicion and guesswork. For, Behold! Some of such suspicion and guesswork drag down your own 'self'. And spy not upon one another, nor shall you back-bite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay, you would detest it! Be mindful of God. Certainly, God is Relenting, Merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُم مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ **49:13**

All are equal in the eyes of God

O Mankind! We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes so that you may come to know one another. Certainly, the most honored among you, in the Sight of God, is the one who is best in conduct. God is Knower, Aware. [Even today, national or tribal origin is an important part of a person's identity. Min zakarinwwa untha = Of a kind that is male, and of a kind that is female = Male and female = Some of you are men and some of you are women. On this note I find myself in agreement with M. Pickthall 39:6]

قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ آمَنَّا قُل لَّمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَٰكِن قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَإِن تُطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَا يَلِتْكُم مِّنْ أَعْمَالِكُمْ شَيْئًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **49:14**

The Bedouins say, "We have attained belief." Say (O Prophet), "You have not yet attained belief, but rather say, 'We have submitted (to the System)', for the faith has not yet entered your hearts. Yet, if you obey God and His Messenger, He will not diminish (the reward of) any of your works. God is Forgiving, Merciful."

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ **49:15**

The believers are only those who have attained conviction in God and His Messenger, have left all doubt behind, and strive in the way of God with their possessions and their persons. Such are true to their word. [2:8, 4:136]

قُلْ أَتُعَلِّمُونَ اللَّهَ بِدِينِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **49:16**

Say, "Do you inform God of your religiousness when God knows all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth?" And God is Knower of all things.

يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُل لَّا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ إِسْلَامَكُم بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ هَدَاكُمْ لِلْإِيمَانِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **49:17**

Some people act as if they are doing you a favor by embracing Islam. Say, "Do not think that your Islam is a favor upon me. Nay, it is God Who bestows a favor upon you that He has guided you to faith, if you are true to your word."

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **49:18**

God knows the Unseen of the heavens and earth, and God is Seer of all that you do.

Chapter 50

Qaaf - Qaaf

This is the 50th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 45 verses. Along with other concepts, this Surah underscores that God is Omnipresent, He is not resting in the heavens, and He is closer to us than our lifeline, the Vena cava.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

ق وَالْقُرْآنِ الْمَجِيدِ **50:1**

Q. Qaaf. (Qif! Stop and think! Qaadir, the Omnipotent, presents) this Glorious Qur'an as a witness to itself.

بَلْ عَجِبُوا أَن جَاءَهُم مُّنذِرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَقَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ هَٰذَا شَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ **50:2**

But, they wonder that a warner from among their own has come to them! So these deniers are saying, "This is a strange thing!

أَإِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا ذَٰلِكَ رَجْعٌ بَعِيدٌ **50:3**

What! After we have died and become dust? Such a return seems far-fetched!"

قَدْ عَلِمْنَا مَا تَنقُصُ الْأَرْضُ مِنْهُمْ وَعِندَنَا كِتَابٌ حَفِيظٌ **50:4**

We know what the earth takes of them. And with Us is a Book of Record. [It is only their physical body that becomes dust. Their own 'self' lives on. Kitaabun Hafeez = Divine Database]

بَلْ كَذَّبُوا بِالْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ فَهُمْ فِي أَمْرٍ مَّرِيجٍ **50:5**

Nay, but they denied the truth as soon as it came to them. And so, they are in a state of utter confusion.

أَفَلَمْ يَنظُرُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَوْقَهُمْ كَيْفَ بَنَيْنَاهَا وَزَيَّنَّاهَا وَمَا لَهَا مِن فُرُوجٍ **50:6**

Do they not look at the height above them how We have built it and beautified it, and there are no flaws therein? [67:3]

وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ وَأَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِن كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ **50:7**

And the earth. We have spread it out, and set mountains standing firm on it, and produced therein every kind of beautiful plants in pairs. [This gives us a scenario of a huge ball with carpets spread out on it held in place with heavy pegs. The mountains also serve as great water reservoirs that help grow the vegetation. 13:3, 15:19, 31:10, 39:5, 79:28-30, 88:20]

تَبْصِرَةً وَذِكْرَىٰ لِكُلِّ عَبْدٍ مُّنِيبٍ **50:8**

An insight and an enlightening reminder for every servant who wishes to turn (to God).

وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً مُّبَارَكًا فَأَنبَتْنَا بِهِ جَنَّاتٍ وَحَبَّ الْحَصِيدِ **50:9**

And We send down from the high atmosphere blessed water whereby We cause to grow colorful gardens and fields of grains.

وَالنَّخْلَ بَاسِقَاتٍ لَّهَا طَلْعٌ نَّضِيدٌ **50:10**

And lofty palm-trees with their thickly clustered fruit.

رِّزْقًا لِّلْعِبَادِ وَأَحْيَيْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا كَذَٰلِكَ الْخُرُوجُ **50:11**

A provision for My servants. And with all this We give new life to a dead land. Thus will be the Resurrection.

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَأَصْحَابُ الرَّسِّ وَثَمُودُ **50:12**

Before them denied the message, the people of Noah, the dwellers of the valley of Ar-Rass and Thamud. [25:38]

وَعَادٌ وَفِرْعَوْنُ وَإِخْوَانُ لُوطٍ **50:13**

And the tribe of ‘Aad, and Pharaoh, and the brethren of Lot.

وَأَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ وَقَوْمُ تُبَّعٍ كُلٌّ كَذَّبَ الرُّسُلَ فَحَقَّ وَعِيدِ **50:14**

And the dwellers in the wooded dales (of Midyan), and the people of King Tubba'. All of them denied their Messengers, and so, My warning came to pass. [44:37][The Himairi Tribe had gained control of the Kingdom of Sheba in 115 BC and ruled until 300 CE. Tubba' was the most prominent of their kings, and he was a Unitarian Christian like the vast majority of Christians before the Conference of Nicea in Rome in 325 CE]

أَفَعَيِينَا بِالْخَلْقِ الْأَوَّلِ بَلْ هُمْ فِي لَبْسٍ مِّنْ خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ **50:15**

Were We then weary with the first creation that they should be lost in doubt about a new creation? [46:33]

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوَسْوِسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ **50:16**

We have created man and We know the whispering that goes on within his mind (all the intricacies of his thought process), for, We are nearer to him than his Vena cava. [Habl-il-wareed is usually translated as Jugular vein or neck-vein. But Habl = Rope = Cable = A thing that binds = Guarantee = Indispensable = Binding pledge = Holding from disintegration = Holding together. Wareed = Vein. So, my rendition of Habl-il-wareed to Vena cava, the great veins, superior and inferior. They ultimately return the blood from the brain and the body to the heart. The use of 'vein' in this verse, instead of 'artery', seems to allude to the superiority of mind over body. What is being carried from the brain to the heart is through veins]

إِذْ يَتَلَقَّى الْمُتَلَقِّيَانِ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ قَعِيدٌ **50:17**

? And so it may happen that two conflicting demands in his mind, positioned in opposite directions, pull him apart. [His reason and his emotions 50:21]

مَّا يَلْفِظُ مِن قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ **50:18**

Not even a word can he utter but there is an ever-vigilant watcher with him. [The Law of Requital makes a meticulous record]

وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَٰلِكَ مَا كُنتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ **50:19**

And then, the twilight of death brings with it the inevitable truth, "This is the very thing you would rather evade."

وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمُ الْوَعِيدِ **50:20**

(Then there is a long state of sleep 36:52.) And the Trumpet is blown. This is the Day promised.

وَجَاءَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّعَهَا سَائِقٌ وَشَهِيدٌ 50:21

And every person will come with his actions and their imprints on the 'self'.

لَّقَدْ كُنتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَٰذَا فَكَشَفْنَا عَنكَ غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ 50:22

Veil-covering

You were oblivious to this, but now We have removed your veil and your vision is sharp this Day.

وَقَالَ قَرِينُهُ هَٰذَا مَا لَدَيَّ عَتِيدٌ 50:23

And his other part (the subconscious) will say, "Here is the record ready with me."

أَلْقِيَا فِي جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ 50:24

It will be said, "Throw, throw into Hell every stubborn enemy of the truth!"

مَّنَّاعٍ لِّلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ مُّرِيبٍ 50:25

"Every withholder of charity - given to extremes - fomenter of distrust between people."

الَّذِي جَعَلَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ فَأَلْقِيَاهُ فِي الْعَذَابِ الشَّدِيدِ 50:26

"Whoever had set up another god along with God. Hurl, hurl him in the strong retribution."

قَالَ قَرِينُهُ رَبَّنَا مَا أَطْغَيْتُهُ وَلَٰكِن كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ 50:27

Man's comrade (satanic desires) will say, "Our Lord! I did not mislead him. He himself was far astray."

قَالَ لَا تَخْتَصِمُوا لَدَيَّ وَقَدْ قَدَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُم بِالْوَعِيدِ 50:28

He will respond, "Do not contend in My Presence! I had already sent the warning to you."

مَا يُبَدَّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ وَمَا أَنَا بِظَلَّامٍ لِّلْعَبِيدِ 50:29

"The Word does not change with Me, and I am not at all unjust to My servants."

يَوْمَ نَقُولُ لِجَهَنَّمَ هَلِ امْتَلَأْتِ وَتَقُولُ هَلْ مِن مَّزِيدٍ 50:30

On that Day We will ask Hell, "Are you filled?" And it will answer, "Is there yet more for me?"

وَأُزْلِفَتِ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ **50:31**

And the Paradise will be brought close to the righteous - not a thing distant.

هَٰذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِكُلِّ أَوَّابٍ حَفِيظٍ **50:32**

This is what you were promised. It is for everyone who turned to God and protected himself from straying. [Awwab = One who turns = Turns to God = One who repents and then walks the right path. Hafeez = Guard = Trustworthy = Responsible]

مَّنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَٰنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُّنِيبٍ **50:33**

And who fears (violating the laws of) the Beneficent even in privacy, and comes with a humble heart. [Muneeb = Oft returning = Repentant = Devoted = Humble]

ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُلُودِ **50:34**

Enter this Paradise in peace and security! This is a Day of Eternal Life.

لَهُم مَّا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ **50:35**

There they have all they desire, and therein is yet more with Us.

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُم مِّن قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُم بَطْشًا فَنَقَّبُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ هَلْ مِن مَّحِيصٍ **50:36**

(This is the Law of Requital in operation.) And how many a generation We annihilated before them, of greater might than theirs! But, then they wandered on the face of the earth asking, “Is there a place of refuge?”

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَذِكْرَىٰ لِمَن كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ وَهُوَ شَهِيدٌ **50:37**

Therein is a reminder for him who has a heart and listens with presence of mind. [50:21. ‘Aw’ = Or = That is = So that = As it is = And so. Heart has frequently been used in the Qur’an in the sense of mind. But, in general, heart points to qualities such as courage, sensitivity, determination, character. Nafs is the term for mind, ‘self’, personality, Ego. Shaheed = Witness = In presence]

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِن لُّغُوبٍ **50:38**

And (who believes that) for sure, We created the heavens and earth, and all that is between them, in six stages, and weariness did not even touch Us. [Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, 41:10]

فَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ الْغُرُوبِ **50:39**

Glorify God

So, bear with patience whatever they say. And strive to establish the glory and praise of your Lord, from before sunrise to before sunset. [Sabbih bihamd is usually translated as the ritualistic, 'praise the Lord', 'celebrate His praise', 'hymn His praises'. But Sabbih means 'strive hard', and it has nothing to do with Tasbeeh of rosary beads]

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ وَأَدْبَارَ السُّجُودِ **50:40**

And during part of the night too, strive to manifest His glory, and adore Him with constancy. [52:49, 73:20]

وَاسْتَمِعْ يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِن مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ **50:41**

And the day is coming when a caller will call from close-by. [The enemy will approach you for war]

يَوْمَ يَسْمَعُونَ الصَّيْحَةَ بِالْحَقِّ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُرُوجِ **50:42**

The day on which they will hear the real battle-cry. That is the day of coming forth (along with your companions, O Prophet).

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ وَإِلَيْنَا الْمَصِيرُ **50:43**

It is We Who grant life and dispense death, and to us is the destination. [8:42]

يَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ الْأَرْضُ عَنْهُمْ سِرَاعًا ذَٰلِكَ حَشْرٌ عَلَيْنَا يَسِيرٌ **50:44**

On that day, the earth will split asunder before them. This assembling of the forces is easy for Us.

نَّحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ وَمَا أَنتَ عَلَيْهِم بِجَبَّارٍ فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَن يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ **50:45**

We know full well what they say, but you shall not, by any means, force them (to believe). However, remind with this Qur'an, any who would fear My warning!

Chapter 51

Az-Zaariyat - Those Who Spread The Divine Word

This is the 51st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 60 verses. At no point do we find the Book of God demanding blind faith. Those who wish to attain conviction in the truth, for them are signs on earth and within their own persons. Mankind has been created to live by the Creator´s law, for their own good. In so doing, they would make the best use of the gift of life since it affords them the chance to achieve immortality and Eternal bliss.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالذَّارِيَاتِ ذَرْوًا **51:1**

Consider those who broadcast. [Individuals and communities that spread the Divine Word]

فَالْحَامِلَاتِ وِقْرًا **51:2**

And those who carry a great burden of responsibility.

فَالْجَارِيَاتِ يُسْرًا **51:3**

And those who glide gently (toward success).

فَالْمُقَسِّمَاتِ أَمْرًا **51:4**

And those who convey the command.

إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَصَادِقٌ **51:5**

What you are promised, will come to pass. [The Qur'an shall ultimately prevail. 9:33]

وَإِنَّ الدِّينَ لَوَاقِعٌ **51:6**

And the Divine System of Life will be established.

وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْحُبُكِ **51:7**

Witness is the sky full of stellar orbits.

إِنَّكُمْ لَفِي قَوْلٍ مُّخْتَلِفٍ **51:8**

It is you who deeply differ in what to believe.

يُؤْفَكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أُفِكَ **51:9**

Those who deceive themselves wander aimlessly.

قُتِلَ الْخَرَّاصُونَ **51:10**

Belittle themselves those who live by guesswork.

الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي غَمْرَةٍ سَاهُونَ **51:11**

Careless in an abyss, they know not that they know not.

يَسْأَلُونَ أَيَّانَ يَوْمُ الدِّينِ **51:12**

They ask (mockingly), “When is the Day of Judgment coming?”

يَوْمَ هُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ يُفْتَنُونَ **51:13**

It is the Day when they will be tormented at the fire.

ذُوقُوا فِتْنَتَكُمْ هَٰذَا الَّذِي كُنتُم بِهِ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ **51:14**

Taste the trial that you brought upon yourselves. This is what you asked to be hastened.

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ **51:15**

In the midst of Gardens and springs are those who chose to live upright.

آخِذِينَ مَا آتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَٰلِكَ مُحْسِنِينَ **51:16**

Enjoying all that their Lord grants them, for, aforetime they used to benefit others.

كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ **51:17**

And rarely did they fall asleep at night without reflection. [Haju’ = Fall asleep like an exhausted horse]

وَبِالْأَسْحَارِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ **51:18**

And whole-heartedly sought to be guarded against their imperfections. [Sahr = Morning = Being proactive = Early action = Core of the heart (Lisan-al-Arab). Ghafarah = Helmet = Guarding]

وَفِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ **51:19**

And in their wealth was the Divinely ordained right of those who ask and those who are deprived. [See 2:3, 6:141, Zakaat and the Day of the Harvest]

وَفِي الْأَرْضِ آيَاتٌ لِّلْمُوقِنِينَ **51:20**

And on earth are signs for those who wish to attain conviction, [Its resources must remain open for all. 15:20, 41:10, 55:11-12]

وَفِي أَنفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ **51:21**

And also in yourselves, your individual psyche and soma, your people and the unity in diversity among the human communities. Can you not then use your vision? [Anfusikum entails all the meanings rendered here. 9:31-33, 13:31,14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

وَفِي السَّمَاءِ رِزْقُكُمْ وَمَا تُوعَدُونَ **51:22**

And in the heaven is all your providence and all that you are promised. ['In the heaven' = A metaphor for God's Almightiness]

فَوَرَبِّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِّثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ تَنطِقُونَ **51:23**

And by the Lord of heaven and earth! This is the truth, as true as the fact that you speak.

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ **51:24**

And (as a historical evidence) has the story of Abraham's honored guests reached you?

إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ سَلَامٌ قَوْمٌ مُّنكَرُونَ **51:25**

When they visited him greeting him with "Peace!" He answered, "Peace to you strangers!"

فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ فَجَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ سَمِينٍ **51:26**

Then he went quietly to his household, and brought forth a well-bred roasted calf.

فَقَرَّبَهُ إِلَيْهِمْ قَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ **51:27**

And placed it before them, saying, “Will you not eat?”

فَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ وَبَشَّرُوهُ بِغُلَامٍ عَلِيمٍ **51:28**

Then he felt apprehensive of them. They said, “Fear not!” And they gave him the good news of a son who would be endowed with knowledge. [Abraham was concerned, since people with aggressive designs used to refuse hospitality. But they were hurrying to Sodom. 11:69-76, 15:50-55, 26:69, 29:31]

فَأَقْبَلَتِ امْرَأَتُهُ فِي صَرَّةٍ فَصَكَّتْ وَجْهَهَا وَقَالَتْ عَجُوزٌ عَقِيمٌ **51:29**

Then his wife came forward with a loud cry and struck her face in astonishment and said, “An old barren woman!”

قَالُوا كَذَٰلِكِ قَالَ رَبُّكِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ **51:30**

They said, “Thus your Lord has spoken. He, He alone is All Wise, All Knower.”

قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ **51:31**

Abraham said, “And now what is your task, O Messengers!”

قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ **51:32**

They replied, “We have been sent to a guilty people who violate human rights and choose to do wrong,

لِنُرْسِلَ عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن طِينٍ **51:33**

That we may shower them with stones of clay,

مُّسَوَّمَةً عِندَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ **51:34**

Marked out by your Lord for those who have wasted their own ‘self’.”

فَأَخْرَجْنَا مَن كَانَ فِيهَا مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **51:35**

We then brought forth safe all believers that were in town.

فَمَا وَجَدْنَا فِيهَا غَيْرَ بَيْتٍ مِّنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ **51:36**

But We found therein none but one Muslim household!

وَتَرَكْنَا فِيهَا آيَةً لِّلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ 51:37

And so We left therein a sign for those who fear a painful consequence (of their misdeeds).

وَفِي مُوسَىٰ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ 51:38

And in Moses too! We sent him to Pharaoh with a clear authority.

فَتَوَلَّىٰ بِرُكْنِهِ وَقَالَ سَاحِرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ 51:39

But he turned away proud of his might and said, “A wizard or a madman!”

فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ 51:40

So We seized him and his troops, and flung them in the sea, and he was blameworthy.

وَفِي عَادٍ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ 51:41

And in ‘Aad! When We sent upon them the devastating wind.

مَا تَذَرُ مِن شَيْءٍ أَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا جَعَلَتْهُ كَالرَّمِيمِ 51:42

It spared nothing that it blew on and smashed it to dust.

وَفِي ثَمُودَ إِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَمَتَّعُوا حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ 51:43

And in Thamud. They were told, “Enjoy life for a little while.”

فَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ وَهُمْ يَنظُرُونَ 51:44

But they defied their Lord’s commandment, whereupon the thunder seized them while they looked on.

فَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا مِن قِيَامٍ وَمَا كَانُوا مُنتَصِرِينَ 51:45

And they were unable even to rise up and could not help themselves a bit.

وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ مِّن قَبْلُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ 51:46

And the people of Noah aforetime! They were a community that drifted away from the truth.

وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ 51:47

The universe is still expanding

And it is We Who built the Universe with power, and certainly, it is We Who are steadily expanding it. [Samaa = Sky = Heaven = Allegorically the Universe. Bi-Ayidin = With both hands = With power. The expansion of the Universe was first proposed by the Belgian cosmologist Georges Lemaitre and the Russian scientist A. Friemann. In 1929, it was observed for the first time by the American astronomer Edwin Hubble. The Qur'an had given us this knowledge 14 centuries ago! 55:5, 36:38-40]

وَالْأَرْضَ فَرَشْنَاهَا فَنِعْمَ الْمَاهِدُونَ **51:48**

And We have spread out the earth, and how excellent a Spreader We are!

وَمِن كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ **51:49**

And all things We created in pairs and in opposites (such that one complements the other), so that you may reflect.

فَفِرُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُم مِّنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **51:50**

(Say), "Therefore, find your way to God alone. I am a plain warner to you from Him." [To emphasize the urgency to do good in this short, unpredictable human life, the word 'say' in this verse is merged with Fafirru = So flee = Therefore, rush = So, go forth now = So, escape = Find your way]

وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَٰهًا آخَرَ إِنِّي لَكُم مِّنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **51:51**

Set up no god or 'authority' along with God. I am a plain warner to you from Him.

كَذَٰلِكَ مَا أَتَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِم مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا قَالُوا سَاحِرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ **51:52**

But, thus it is. No Messenger came to those before their time, but they said, "A wizard or a madman!"

أَتَوَاصَوْا بِهِ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ **51:53**

Have they handed down this (behavior) as a last will from one to another? Nay, but they have been people who wished to live without moral bounds.

فَتَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ فَمَا أَنتَ بِمَلُومٍ **51:54**

Turn, then, away from them, and you shall not be blameworthy.

وَذَكِّرْ فَإِنَّ الذِّكْرَىٰ تَنفَعُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **51:55**

Yet continue reminding, for the believers will benefit from it and gain eminence.

Obey God alone

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ **51:56**

And I have not created the ‘jinn’ and the ‘ins’ but that they obey (serve) Me alone.

Obey God alone

[Jinn = Nomads. Ins = Urbanites. Check Surah 72 Al-Jinn, author’s note, for details. Ibadah is usually translated as worship but in that sense it applies better to idol-worship. And since the Qur’an consistently promotes action over ritual, Ibadah means obeying God by serving His creation]

مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُم مِّن رِّزْقٍ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَن يُطْعِمُونِ **51:57**

No sustenance do I ever require of them, nor do I ask that they feed Me.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ **51:58**

God is the Provider of sustenance, the Lord of might, Invincible.

فَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا ذَنُوبًا مِّثْلَ ذَنُوبِ أَصْحَابِهِمْ فَلَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونِ **51:59**

But the violators of human rights trail behind in humanity as their comrades did in the past. (They deserve the same fate as the previous ones.) So, they should not ask Me to hasten the retribution.

فَوَيْلٌ لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن يَوْمِهِمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ **51:60**

Anguish awaits the deniers of the truth on that their Day which they are promised.

Chapter 52

At-Toor - Mount Sinai

This is the 52nd Surah of the Qur´an and it has 49 verses. God watched very closely the person, the character, the actions and the Mission of the exalted Messenger. This Surah is a great example of Tasreef, how beautifully the Qur´an displays its Uniform message, repeating its verses from different vantage points and in diverse facets, filling our sight and mind with dcor rather than a colorless monotony.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالطُّورِ **52:1**

Mount Sinai stands witness. [That this Qur'an is a Divine Writ as was the scripture of law bestowed upon Moses]

وَكِتَابٍ مَّسْطُورٍ **52:2**

And a well-scored Book it is.

فِي رَقٍّ مَّنشُورٍ **52:3**

Written on fine parchment, unrolled, open for everyone to read, widely published. [Raqq = Deer skin = Parchment. Right here is the unequivocal negation of many accounts of fabricated Hadith that the Qur'an was written on bones, date-leaves, stones etc. Manshoor = Unfolded, unrolled, available to be seen and read, open to understanding, widely distributed]

وَالْبَيْتِ الْمَعْمُورِ **52:4**

And the Blessed House that is frequently visited (the Ka'bah) stands witness.

وَالسَّقْفِ الْمَرْفُوعِ **52:5**

By the exalted canopy (of the sky, this Book is exalted)!

وَالْبَحْرِ الْمَسْجُورِ **52:6**

And by the ocean bustling with ships and lights.

إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ لَوَاقِعٌ **52:7**

The retribution of your Lord is now inevitable.

مَّا لَهُ مِن دَافِعٍ **52:8**

There is none who can repel it.

يَوْمَ تَمُورُ السَّمَاءُ مَوْرًا **52:9**

On the day when the high elite will be shaken, and shaken hard. [Samaa = Sky, heaven, height, top and elite]

وَتَسِيرُ الْجِبَالُ سَيْرًا **52:10**

And the strong leaders will be moved with a movement. [Jibaal = Mountains, of firm standing, strong leaders, high and powerful, dominating]

فَوَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ **52:11**

Ultimately, then, is destruction on that Day for all who oppose the truth.

الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي خَوْضٍ يَلْعَبُونَ **52:12**

Who peddle the play of shallow rituals.

يَوْمَ يُدَعُّونَ إِلَىٰ نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعًّا **52:13**

The Day when they are thrust into the fire of Hell with a mighty thrust.

هَٰذِهِ النَّارُ الَّتِي كُنتُم بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ **52:14**

This is the fire that you used to deny.

أَفَسِحْرٌ هَٰذَا أَمْ أَنتُمْ لَا تُبْصِرُونَ **52:15**

Is it, then, magic, or is it that you never used your vision?

اصْلَوْهَا فَاصْبِرُوا أَوْ لَا تَصْبِرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنَّمَا تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **52:16**

Endure the heat herein. It is the same whether you bear it patiently or impatiently. This is only the built-in requital of what you used to do.

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَعِيمٍ 52:17

Those who chose to live upright, dwell in Gardens and in bliss.

فَاكِهِينَ بِمَا آتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ وَوَقَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ 52:18

Delighted in what their Lord has bestowed upon them. And their Lord has guarded them against the torment of the Blazing Fire.

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 52:19

Enjoy life, eat and drink happily for what you used to do.

مُتَّكِئِينَ عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مَّصْفُوفَةٍ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُم بِحُورٍ عِينٍ 52:20

Relaxing on well-decorated couches - And We will match them with neat companions, most beautiful of vision. Not maidens

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُم بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلَتْنَاهُم مِّنْ عَمَلِهِم مِّن شَيْءٍ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ 52:21

And those who attained belief, and whose children followed them in belief, We shall unite them with their children. We shall not let any of their deeds go to waste. Every human will be held responsible for his own doings. [Being the progeny of righteous ancestors alone will be of no avail. 74:38. Raheen = Held as pledge = Collateral]

وَأَمْدَدْنَاهُم بِفَاكِهَةٍ وَلَحْمٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ 52:22

And We shall bestow on them the fruits and the delicacies of their choice. [Lahmim-maa-yashtahoon = Literally, meat such as they desire = Delicacies of their choice]

يَتَنَازَعُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا لَّا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأْثِيمٌ 52:23

And therein they pass from hand to hand cups of delicious drinks that cause no idle talk nor a hangover. [Ithm = Any action that hurts human potential or dignity, hangover, harming the 'self', dragging down]

وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ غِلْمَانٌ لَّهُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لُؤْلُؤٌ مَّكْنُونٌ 52:24

And their children like pearls, playful, happy around them. [13:23, 52:21, 59:17]

وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ 52:25

They will socialize and reminisce among themselves (recalling how the previous life was).

قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلُ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ **52:26**

They will say, "We were kind and humble amidst our families."

فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَانَا عَذَابَ السَّمُومِ **52:27**

So God has graced us and guarded us against the suffering of scorching winds of requital.

إِنَّا كُنَّا مِن قَبْلُ نَدْعُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ **52:28**

Truly, We always used to call upon Him (for help and guidance). He is the Source of progress in societies, Merciful." [Birr = Making room for others to make progress]

فَذَكِّرْ فَمَا أَنتَ بِنِعْمَتِ رَبِّكَ بِكَاهِنٍ وَلَا مَجْنُونٍ **52:29**

So, (O Messenger) keep reminding, for, by the grace of your Lord, you are neither a soothsayer nor a madman.

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ نَّتَرَبَّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمَنُونِ **52:30**

What! Do they say, "A poet! Let us wait for some calamity to befall him in time!"

قُلْ تَرَبَّصُوا فَإِنِّي مَعَكُم مِّنَ الْمُتَرَبِّصِينَ **52:31**

Say to them, "Hope for what you hope for. I shall wait with you expecting what I expect."

أَمْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَحْلَامُهُم بِهَٰذَا أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ **52:32**

Is it their dreams that dictate their behavior, or are they bent upon crossing all moral bounds?

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ تَقَوَّلَهُ بَل لَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ **52:33**

Or do they say, "He himself has composed it?" Nay, they simply do not wish to believe. [The message hits at their interests. So, so many self-contradictory allegations]

فَلْيَأْتُوا بِحَدِيثٍ مِّثْلِهِ إِن كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ **52:34**

Quran is the best Hadith

Then let them produce a speech like this if they are truthful. [2:23, 10:38, 11:13, 17:88]

أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ **52:35**

Are they a product of spontaneous generation? Or were they their own creators?

أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَل لَّا يُوقِنُونَ **52:36**

Or did they create the heavens and earth? Nay, but they have no firm belief.

أَمْ عِندَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُصَيْطِرُونَ **52:37**

Do they possess the treasures of your Lord? Or are they in charge?

أَمْ لَهُمْ سُلَّمٌ يَسْتَمِعُونَ فِيهِ فَلْيَأْتِ مُسْتَمِعُهُم بِسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ **52:38**

Or do they climb a ladder to listen (to the Revelations)? Let their listeners bring their evidence. [The mystics are unable to show their 'experience'. After the select Messengers, anyone claiming to communicate with God is either deceiving or is deluded]

أَمْ لَهُ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَكُمُ الْبَنُونَ **52:39**

(Such is their ignorance, yet their claims!) What! He has daughters, whereas you would rather have only sons?

أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُم مِّن مَّغْرَمٍ مُّثْقَلُونَ **52:40**

Or is it that you (O Prophet) ask them for any wage so that they are plunged in debt?

أَمْ عِندَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ **52:41**

Or do they know the future so that they have it written down?

أَمْ يُرِيدُونَ كَيْدًا فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هُمُ الْمَكِيدُونَ **52:42**

Or do they intend a plot (to ensnare the Messenger)? But those who choose to live in darkness are the ones who will get entrapped. [Kufr has been rendered as living in darkness according to the context. Kufr also means = Denying or concealing the truth = Refusing to accept God's messages = Blind following = Rejecting Divine Guidance = Disregarding the revelation in favor of clergy]

أَمْ لَهُمْ إِلَٰهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **52:43**

Or do they have a god other than God? Glorified is God far above what they associate with Him.

وَإِن يَرَوْا كِسْفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ سَاقِطًا يَقُولُوا سَحَابٌ مَّرْكُومٌ **52:44**

Even if they were to see a fragment from the sky falling, they would say, "A dense cloud!" [Their lack of reasoning makes them oblivious to the Law of Requital. 26:187]

فَذَرْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي فِيهِ يُصْعَقُونَ 52:45

So, leave them alone until they meet that Day of theirs wherein they shall be thunder-struck.

يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ 52:46

The Day when none of their scheming will avail them, nor will they be helped.

وَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا عَذَابًا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 52:47

And for oppressors, violators of human rights and those who relegate the truth, there is a punishment beyond that. But most of them know not. [That their wrongdoing hurts their own 'self'. Three meanings of Zaalimeen given in the beginning of the verse]

وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ 52:48

(O Messenger) work patiently to establish the Rule of your Lord, for you are in Our eyes. Begin your day with a firm resolve and work to manifest the praise of your Lord. [In Our eyes = Under God's affectionate support and care]

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ وَإِدْبَارَ النُّجُومِ 52:49

And even at night do your best to manifest His praise, and at the setting of the stars.

Glorify God

Chapter 53

An-Najm - The Star

This is the 53rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 62 verses. We find the Qur´an at the heights of eloquence here. Very brief yet expressive verses abound herein. It is one of the most challenging Surahs to render into any language. Another fact of great import is the misinterpretation it has gone through over centuries. Translators and exponents in general, and especially in this instance, have been influenced by spurious accounts of Hadith and the Bible, confining God to a throne in the heights, conceiving of Him as a physical being. According to the Qur´an, God is Omnipresent, He is closer to us than our Vena cava and He is the Light of the heavens and earth. So, anyone going up to the heavens to meet with Him is out of the question.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالنَّجْمِ إِذَا هَوَىٰ **53:1**

Witness are the Stars that set along a course appointed. [They never misguide you. He Who commands them, commands the Messenger 6:98, 56:75. Wa = And = Consider = Witness = For = By. Najm is singular as well as plural in the form of a galaxy]

مَا ضَلَّ صَاحِبُكُمْ وَمَا غَوَىٰ **53:2**

Your honored companion is neither in error, nor is he misled.

وَمَا يَنطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ **53:3**

Nor does he utter the Word out of his desire.

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ **53:4**

This (Qur'an) is but a revelation that is being revealed to him.

عَلَّمَهُ شَدِيدُ الْقُوَىٰ **53:5**

He has been taught by the One Mighty in Powers.

ذُو مِرَّةٍ فَاسْتَوَىٰ 53:6

The Owner of authority and wisdom established him (the Prophet).

وَهُوَ بِالْأُفُقِ الْأَعْلَىٰ 53:7

At the highest horizon, [81:23]

ثُمَّ دَنَا فَتَدَلَّىٰ 53:8

Of human wisdom and knowledge as he drew near and approached (the point where the human intellect comes to a halt),

فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ 53:9

Till he was but two bow-lengths away, or even closer. [The Divine will and the will of the Messenger merged together, like the two of you join your bows as a token of friendship. 8:17]

فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَىٰ 53:10

Quran was revealed

And thus He revealed to His servant what He revealed.

مَا كَذَبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَىٰ 53:11

And never did he find contrary to reason what he learned. [2:285, 6:164. Raa = Saw, learned, observed, took to heart]

أَفَتُمَارُونَهُ عَلَىٰ مَا يَرَىٰ 53:12

Will you, then, contend with him concerning what he has learned (that you have not)?

وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَىٰ 53:13

He has recalled the revelation (on his heart) once again. [2:185]

عِندَ سِدْرَةِ الْمُنتَهَىٰ 53:14

At the Ultimate Mark. [Sidratil muntaha = The last Lote-tree = The state of bewilderment = The point where the human intellect is left with nothing but astonishment!]

عِندَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَىٰ 53:15

Near the Garden of Abode. [The revelation tells the Messenger how to establish a Paradise on earth]

إِذْ يَغْشَى السِّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَىٰ **53:16**

Overwhelming is the spectacle at the overwhelming Ultimate Mark!

مَا زَاغَ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَغَىٰ **53:17**

Yet, his sight wavered not and wandered not.

لَقَدْ رَأَىٰ مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَىٰ **53:18**

He has seen the great signs of his Lord. [The shackles of mental and physical bondage will be broken and humanity will emerge from darkness to light 7:157, 17:1, 20:23-24]

أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ وَالْعُزَّىٰ **53:19**

Have you thought about Lat, and ‘Uzza,

وَمَنَاةَ الثَّالِثَةَ الْأُخْرَىٰ **53:20**

And Manat the third other? [Three goddesses of yours]

أَلَكُمُ الذَّكَرُ وَلَهُ الْأُنثَىٰ **53:21**

Why - for yourselves you would prefer only sons, whereas to Him you assign daughters!

تِلْكَ إِذًا قِسْمَةٌ ضِيزَىٰ **53:22**

This indeed is a very unfair division (that you worship female idols and resent having daughters).

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُم مَّا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَانٍ إِن يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأَنفُسُ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُم مِّن رَّبِّهِمُ الْهُدَىٰ **53:23**

They are but names that you have named, you and your ancestors, for which God has revealed no authority. They follow nothing but conjecture and their fantasies. Now the guidance from their Lord has come to them (hence, they have no excuses). [7:71-72]

أَمْ لِلْإِنسَانِ مَا تَمَنَّىٰ **53:24**

Nay, should man get all that he covets and fancies?

فَلِلَّهِ الْآخِرَةُ وَالْأُولَىٰ 53:25

But to God belongs the Hereafter and the former life. [His are the Keys of the heavens and earth. 7:96, 28:77, 39:63, 41:10, 42:12]

وَكَم مِّن مَّلَكٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ لَا تُغْنِي شَفَاعَتُهُمْ شَيْئًا إِلَّا 53:26
مِن بَعْدِ أَن يَأْذَنَ اللَّهُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَرْضَىٰ

No intercession

And how many forces there are in the Universe whose company avails not except whom God permits. This is so, because such a person works by His laws and thus obtains His approval. [Science can only be mastered by understanding God's physical laws in nature. Malaaikah = Angels = Physical laws and forces in the Universe. Shafa'ah = Company = Intercession = Stand with = Stand up in court as witness. 2:30, 2:255]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ لَيُسَمُّونَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَسْمِيَةَ 53:27
الْأُنثَىٰ

Only those who do not believe in the Hereafter consider the forces in Nature as flying female beings and name them with female names. [Even many Muslims, under the influence of fabricated Hadith, think of angels as beautiful physical beings flying on wings here and there. Moreover they imagine that these beings pray for them, prompt them to do good as opposed to 'Satan', the selfish desires, and that they will intercede on their behalf. Such people have practically denied the Hereafter since people's outcome depends on their actions. See 2:30]

وَمَا لَهُم بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِن يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنَّ الظَّنَّ لَا يُغْنِي 53:28
مِنَ الْحَقِّ شَيْئًا

They have no knowledge about it. They follow nothing but guesswork. But guesswork can never free anyone from the reality of things. [6:149]

فَأَعْرِضْ عَن مَّن تَوَلَّىٰ عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَلَمْ يُرِدْ إِلَّا الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا 53:29

Therefore, shun those who turn away from Our reminder and desire nothing but the life of the world. [Another shade of meaning: The prefer to blindly follow the false imageries prevalent in the society, disregarding Divine revelation]

ذَٰلِكَ مَبْلَغُهُم مِّنَ الْعِلْمِ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّ عَن 53:30
سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ

Such is the sum-total of their knowledge. Your Lord knows best him who strays from His way, and He knows best who goes right.

وَلِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا بِالْحُسْنَى **53:31**

To God belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. He will reward those who do evil according to their works. And He will give excellent reward to those who do good to others. [11:7, 45:22. He has designed the Universe such that no action goes without consequence. Su = Evil = Bad deed = Action that disrupts the lives of others = A deed that creates disorder in the society. Hasanah = Good deed = Benefiting people = Acts creating balance. Plural: Sayyiaat and Hasanaat]

الَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبَائِرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ إِلَّا اللَّمَمَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ وَاسِعُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِكُمْ إِذْ أَنشَأَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ وَإِذْ أَنتُمْ أَجِنَّةٌ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ فَلَا تُزَكُّوا أَنفُسَكُمْ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنِ اتَّقَىٰ **53:32**

Those who abstain from the greater transgressions that deplete the communal energy, and from shameful deeds and stinginess, even though they may sometimes waver, your Lord is of limitless forgiveness. He knows you best since He brings you into being from the earth, and when you were still hidden in the bellies of your mothers? Therefore, claim not piety for yourselves. He knows best as to who is righteous. [4:31, 7:202, 42:37, 91:7-10, 92:17-18 Ithm = Actions that deplete individual or communal energy. Fawahish = Shameful deeds = Lewdness = Unbecoming behavior = Immorality = Stinginess to the extent of shame]

أَفَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي تَوَلَّىٰ **53:33**

Have you, then, noticed him who turns away (from good deeds),

وَأَعْطَىٰ قَلِيلًا وَأَكْدَىٰ **53:34**

Gives a little, and so grudgingly?

أَعِندَهُ عِلْمُ الْغَيْبِ فَهُوَ يَرَىٰ **53:35**

What! Does he have the knowledge of the unseen (the future that he sees unfolded before him)?

أَمْ لَمْ يُنَبَّأْ بِمَا فِي صُحُفِ مُوسَىٰ **53:36**

Nay, did he never hear of what was in the Scrolls of Moses?

وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ الَّذِي وَفَّىٰ **53:37**

And of Abraham who fulfilled his obligations. [The Divine message has essentially been the same. Herein are mentioned some of those laws, Twelve Maxims of intense beauty from the Scrolls of Abraham]

أَلَّا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ **53:38**

i No laden one shall bear the load of another.

وَأَن لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَىٰ **53:39**

ii Every human being shall be responsible for his works, and compensated for, his labor.

وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَىٰ **53:40**

iii His effort (and not the results) will be seen.

ثُمَّ يُجْزَاهُ الْجَزَاءَ الْأَوْفَىٰ **53:41**

iv Then he will be fully rewarded for it.

وَأَنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الْمُنتَهَىٰ **53:42**

v To your Lord is the final destination. [79:44. Your goal shall be your Lord's Rule on earth]

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَضْحَكَ وَأَبْكَىٰ **53:43**

vi He is the One Who causes you to laugh, and to cry. [The basic principles that cause nations to live in prosperity versus misery, are being mentioned here]

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَمَاتَ وَأَحْيَا **53:44**

vii He is the One Who gives death and gives life. [The rise and fall of nations follow His laws. And these laws are most excellently expounded in the Qur'an]

وَأَنَّهُ خَلَقَ الزَّوْجَيْنِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ **53:45**

viii He is the One Who creates the two companions, the male and the female (pairs and opposites among His creation),

مِن نُّطْفَةٍ إِذَا تُمْنَىٰ **53:46**

From gametes that unite.

وَأَنَّ عَلَيْهِ النَّشْأَةَ الْأُخْرَىٰ **53:47**

ix He has promised to bring about a second life (the ultimate accountability).

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ أَغْنَىٰ وَأَقْنَىٰ 53:48

x He is the One Who gives wealth and contentment. [Only His laws can bestow true prosperity]

وَأَنَّهُ هُوَ رَبُّ الشِّعْرَىٰ 53:49

xi He is the One Who is the Lord of the brightest star, the human intellect. [Shi'ra = Sha'oor = Intellect. Shi'ra is also the Arabic name of the brightest star Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. It was widely worshiped in ancient Middle East]

وَأَنَّهُ أَهْلَكَ عَادًا الْأُولَىٰ 53:50

xii He is the One Who annihilated the former tribe of 'Aad. [They were men of intellect but refused to establish the Divine System. 7:65. A wrong system, however smartly run, is bound to collapse]

وَثَمُودَ فَمَا أَبْقَىٰ 53:51

And the tribe of Thamud, sparing no one. [7:73]

وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ مِّن قَبْلُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا هُمْ أَظْلَمَ وَأَطْغَىٰ 53:52

And the people of Noah before them. They were even more unjust and more rebellious.

وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَةَ أَهْوَىٰ 53:53

And He (His Law of Requital) annihilated the cities that were overthrown. [Reference to the people of Lot. 11:74-83]

فَغَشَّاهَا مَا غَشَّىٰ 53:54

So that there covered each of them what covered. [Covered them from sight for ever. Sodom and Gomorrah were buried under the Dead Sea. Also applies to other townships covered with Doom]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكَ تَتَمَارَىٰ 53:55

Then, which facet of your Lord's Power will you doubt or deny?

هَٰذَا نَذِيرٌ مِّنَ النُّذُرِ الْأُولَىٰ 53:56

This Prophet is a warner like the previous warners.

أَزِفَتِ الْآزِفَةُ 53:57

The Inevitable is now imminent. [The opponents of the Prophet (S) will soon be subdued]

لَيْسَ لَهَا مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ كَاشِفَةٌ **53:58**

None but God can dispel it. [Stop attacking the System]

أَفَمِنْ هَٰذَا الْحَدِيثِ تَعْجَبُونَ **53:59**

Do you, then, wonder at this statement?

وَتَضْحَكُونَ وَلَا تَبْكُونَ **53:60**

And will you laugh and not weep?

وَأَنتُمْ سَامِدُونَ **53:61**

Just amusing yourselves!

فَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ وَاعْبُدُوا **53:62**

Nay, rather humble yourselves before God and serve Him.

Chapter 54

Al-Qamar - The Full Moon

This is the 54th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 55 verses. Historically, the strong opponents of the Prophet, the Quraish Tribe of Makkah, had full moon on their banner as the logo. This Surah predicts their defeat at the hands of a few ill-equipped believers, while recapping some history as a forewarning. God reiterates that He is always with His Messengers as they are with Him. Unjust system in any society heralds its demise.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

Splitting of moon

اقْتَرَبَتِ السَّاعَةُ وَانشَقَّ الْقَمَرُ **54:1**

The Hour of Revolution is fast approaching. And the moon bearing banner is torn asunder. [The use of the past participle here and at many other points in the Qur'an reflects the certainty of things to happen. As-Saa'ah = The Hour = The Last Hour = The Revolution = The decisive moment = Resurrection. Shaqqal Qamar is usually given the literal translation = The moon is split. Then there are fabricated Ahadith which go on to say that the exalted Prophet split the moon into two halves pointing a finger at it! Additional reports want us to believe that one half of the moon then came down, entered the collar of the Prophet and exited through his sleeve. Not only all this is contrary to the Qur'an and to reason, the whole story defeats its own validity. It fails to name a single person present there who was awestruck by this 'miracle' and embraced the message as a result. The Qur'an is a Book consistent with itself and vehemently rejects any notions contrary to reason and to the changeless universal laws. Moreover, attainment of belief is a matter of choice. God does not will to compel or coerce anyone into believing. Stunning the human intellect by means of 'miracles' would counter this Divine law]

وَإِن يَرَوْا آيَةً يُعْرِضُوا وَيَقُولُوا سِحْرٌ مُّسْتَمِرٌّ **54:2**

But when they see a sign of the oncoming change, they turn away and say, "A persistent bewilderment." [46:11]

وَكَذَّبُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَكُلُّ أَمْرٍ مُّسْتَقِرٌّ **54:3**

They adamantly deny the truth and follow their desires. Yet, everything moves to its destination in stages.

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُم مِّنَ الْأَنبَاءِ مَا فِيهِ مُزْدَجَرٌ **54:4**

And there has come to them news sufficient to deter them from arrogance.

حِكْمَةٌ بَالِغَةٌ فَمَا تُغْنِ النُّذُرُ **54:5**

And profound wisdom! But all the warnings have been of no avail.

فَتَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ يَوْمَ يَدْعُ الدَّاعِ إِلَىٰ شَيْءٍ نُّكُرٍ **54:6**

Therefore, (O Messenger) ignore them for a while. The Day is coming when the caller will call them to a thing they have not perceived. [Utter humiliation when they come to attack the believers]

خُشَّعًا أَبْصَارُهُمْ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ كَأَنَّهُمْ جَرَادٌ مُّنتَشِرٌ **54:7**

They will come forth from their places of rest like a swarm of locusts, but will be thoroughly dispersed with their eyes downcast.

مُّهْطِعِينَ إِلَى الدَّاعِ يَقُولُ الْكَافِرُونَ هَٰذَا يَوْمٌ عَسِرٌ **54:8**

Running in bewilderment toward the caller, the same deniers will then say, “This is a difficult day.”

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ فَكَذَّبُوا عَبْدَنَا وَقَالُوا مَجْنُونٌ وَازْدُجِرَ **54:9**

Long before them, Noah’s people had denied the message, rejected Our servant and said, “Madman”, and he was rebuked. [11:25-48]

فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَانتَصِرْ **54:10**

Thereupon he cried to his Lord, “I am overwhelmed. Do help me, then.”

فَفَتَحْنَا أَبْوَابَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَاءٍ مُّنْهَمِرٍ **54:11**

And so, We opened the gates of the sky pouring down torrents of water.

وَفَجَّرْنَا الْأَرْضَ عُيُونًا فَالْتَقَى الْمَاءُ عَلَىٰ أَمْرٍ قَدْ قُدِرَ **54:12**

And caused the earth to gush forth springs so that the waters met together in due measure as decreed.

وَحَمَلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ ذَاتِ أَلْوَاحٍ وَدُسُرٍ **54:13**

And We carried him on a watercraft made of mere planks and nails.

تَجْرِي بِأَعْيُنِنَا جَزَاءً لِّمَن كَانَ كُفِرَ 54:14

And it floated before Our eyes, a reward for him who had been denied with ingratitude.

وَلَقَد تَّرَكْنَاهَا آيَةً فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ 54:15

We left this event as a lesson. Then, is there any who will learn?

فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ 54:16

Then see how was My requital after My warnings!

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ 54:17

We have made the Qur'an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

See Edip 22, 32, 40

كَذَّبَتْ عَادٌ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ 54:18

The tribe of 'Aad had also rejected the message. Then see how was My retribution after My warnings! [7:65]

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا صَرْصَرًا فِي يَوْمِ نَحْسٍ مُّسْتَمِرٍّ 54:19

We sent raging winds upon them on a day of relentless misery. [69:6-8]

تَنزِعُ النَّاسَ كَأَنَّهُمْ أَعْجَازُ نَخْلٍ مُّنقَعِرٍ 54:20

Tossing people around like empty, uprooted palm-trunks.

فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ 54:21

Then see how was My retribution after My warnings!

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ 54:22

We have made the Qur'an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِالنُّذُرِ 54:23

Thamud also rejected the warnings. [Prophet Saleh was sent to Thamud. 7:73-79, 11:61-68, 26:141:158]

فَقَالُوا أَبَشَرًا مِّنَّا وَاحِدًا نَّتَّبِعُهُ إِنَّا إِذًا لَّفِي ضَلَالٍ وَسُعُرٍ 54:24

And they said, “What! Shall we follow a solitary mortal among us? Then we would certainly fall into error and folly.

أَأُلْقِيَ الذِّكْرُ عَلَيْهِ مِن بَيْنِنَا بَلْ هُوَ كَذَّابٌ أَشِرٌ **54:25**

Why! Has the message been given to him alone among us? Nay, he is a flagrant liar.”

سَيَعْلَمُونَ غَدًا مَّنِ الْكَذَّابُ الْأَشِرُ **54:26**

Ah! They would come to know on the morrow who the flagrant liar is.

إِنَّا مُرْسِلُو النَّاقَةِ فِتْنَةً لَّهُمْ فَارْتَقِبْهُمْ وَاصْطَبِرْ **54:27**

We are sending the she-camel as a test for them. So watch them (O Saleh) and hold yourself in patience.

وَنَبِّئْهُمْ أَنَّ الْمَاءَ قِسْمَةٌ بَيْنَهُمْ كُلُّ شِرْبٍ مُّحْتَضَرٌ **54:28**

And let them know that the water must be shared by all. Every drinking will be witnessed. [The she-camel was a symbol for them from God for obedience or transgression]

فَنَادَوْا صَاحِبَهُمْ فَتَعَاطَىٰ فَعَقَرَ **54:29**

But they called their (most forward) comrade and he took charge and killed her.

فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ **54:30**

Then see how was My retribution after My warnings!

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَكَانُوا كَهَشِيمِ الْمُحْتَظِرِ **54:31**

We sent upon them a single mighty blast whereupon they crumbled like chaff.

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ **54:32**

We have made the Qur’an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ لُوطٍ بِالنُّذُرِ **54:33**

The people of Lot rejected the warnings. [11:69-83]

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حَاصِبًا إِلَّا آلَ لُوطٍ نَّجَّيْنَاهُم بِسَحَرٍ **54:34**

We sent a storm of fiery stones on them, except the family of Lot whom We saved at dawn. [51:32-34]

نِّعْمَةً مِّنْ عِندِنَا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي مَن شَكَرَ 54:35

As a bliss from Us. Thus it is, We reward the grateful.

وَلَقَدْ أَنذَرَهُم بَطْشَتَنَا فَتَمَارَوْا بِالنُّذُرِ 54:36

For he had truly warned them of Our Grasp, but they contended about the warning.

وَلَقَدْ رَاوَدُوهُ عَن ضَيْفِهِ فَطَمَسْنَا أَعْيُنَهُمْ فَذُوقُوا عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ 54:37

And demanded that he give up his guests. Whereupon We sealed their vision. Taste now My punishment after the warnings.

وَلَقَدْ صَبَّحَهُم بُكْرَةً عَذَابٌ مُّسْتَقِرٌّ 54:38

The inevitable punishment befell them early in the morning.

فَذُوقُوا عَذَابِي وَنُذُرِ 54:39

Now taste My retribution after My warnings.

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ 54:40

We have made the Qur'an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

وَلَقَدْ جَاءَ آلَ فِرْعَوْنَ النُّذُرُ 54:41

And warnings did come to Pharaoh's people.

كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا كُلِّهَا فَأَخَذْنَاهُمْ أَخْذَ عَزِيزٍ مُّقْتَدِرٍ 54:42

They, too, denied Our messages, every one. Thereupon We grasped them with the grasp of the Mighty, the Powerful.

أَكُفَّارُكُمْ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أُولَٰئِكُمْ أَمْ لَكُم بَرَاءَةٌ فِي الزُّبُرِ 54:43

Are your deniers better than those others, or do you have amnesty through the scriptures?

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ نَحْنُ جَمِيعٌ مُّنتَصِرٌ 54:44

Or do they say, "We are a united group bound to be victorious?"

سَيُهْزَمُ الْجَمْعُ وَيُوَلُّونَ الدُّبُرَ **54:45**

Yet, all these troops will be routed and will turn back and flee.

بَلِ السَّاعَةُ مَوْعِدُهُمْ وَالسَّاعَةُ أَدْهَىٰ وَأَمَرُّ **54:46**

Nay, the Hour is the time promised them, and the Hour will be most grievous with a most bitter defeat.

إِنَّ الْمُجْرِمِينَ فِي ضَلَالٍ وَسُعُرٍ **54:47**

The violators of human rights are in grave error and loss.

يَوْمَ يُسْحَبُونَ فِي النَّارِ عَلَىٰ وُجُوهِهِمْ ذُوقُوا مَسَّ سَقَرَ **54:48**

On the Day when they shall be dragged through the fire on their faces, "Taste the touch of Blaze!" [Wajh = Face = Countenance = Whole being = Whole person]

إِنَّا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَاهُ بِقَدَرٍ **54:49**

We have created all things in due measure and proportion. [And appointed laws for all things to become what they are meant to be]

وَمَا أَمْرُنَا إِلَّا وَاحِدَةٌ كَلَمْحٍ بِالْبَصَرِ **54:50**

And Our command is but a single Word, like the twinkling of an eye.

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا أَشْيَاعَكُمْ فَهَلْ مِن مُّدَّكِرٍ **54:51**

And in the past We have annihilated gangs like you. Then, is there any who will learn?

وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَعَلُوهُ فِي الزُّبُرِ **54:52**

And everything they did is in the scriptures.

وَكُلُّ صَغِيرٍ وَكَبِيرٍ مُّسْتَطَرٌ **54:53**

And everything, be it small or great, is recorded.

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَهَرٍ **54:54**

Those who guard themselves against straying will be in the midst of gardens and rivers.

فِي مَقْعَدِ صِدْقٍ عِندَ مَلِيكٍ مُّقْتَدِرٍ **54:55**

Seated honorably in the Presence of a Mighty King.

Chapter 55

Ar-Rahman - The Beneficent

This is the 55th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 78 brief, flowing and beautiful verses. Sublime Arabic eloquence! Very diverse concepts in this Surah are repeatedly punctuated by a verse that has often been mistranslated. "Fabi ayyi aalaai Rabbikumaa tukazzibaan?" The addressees of that verse are ´you both´. So, many commentators, always fond of degrading women, render it as, "O Jinns and men!" But, keeping in mind the Big Picture of the Qur´an, the correct rendition is, "O Men and women!" Another frequent error is translating ´Aala´ as blessing, bounty or favor. That meaning falls completely and repeatedly out of line in the Surah. How can the Hell be a bounty? Another meaning of ´Aala´ is authority, Power and Control, and that is what goes consistent throughout the Surah. So, the correct rendition of the verse will be: Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny? [Instead of: Then, O Jinn and men! Which bounty of your Lord will you deny?] The point will become more clear as we proceed.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الرَّحْمَٰنُ **55:1**

Ar-Rahman, the Beneficent, the Instant Source of all mercy and Kindness

عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ **55:2**

He is the One Who has made known and taught the Qur'an.

خَلَقَ الْإِنسَانَ **55:3**

He has created the human being (and taken care of his mental and physical needs).

عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ **55:4**

He has distinguished him with the ability to clearly express his feelings and thoughts . [Bayaan = Statement = Intelligent speech = Utterance = Clear expression of feelings and thoughts by signs, speech or writing. 2:256, 3:137, 16:89, 75:19. Bayaan is more versatile than Nutq = Expression in human speech or signs 21:63, 27:16, 41:21, 45:29. Saut = Voice or sound: human, animal or inanimate. 17:64, 31:19, 49:2]

الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ بِحُسْبَانٍ **55:5**

The sun and the moon run by a mathematical design. [Such are the changeless Divine laws]

وَالنَّجْمُ وَالشَّجَرُ يَسْجُدَانِ **55:6**

The stars and the trees all adore Him (and follow His laws).

وَالسَّمَاءَ رَفَعَهَا وَوَضَعَ الْمِيزَانَ **55:7**

The sky (atmosphere) He has raised high, and He has kept perfect balance in the Universe.

أَلَّا تَطْغَوْا فِي الْمِيزَانِ **55:8**

So that you too, never violate balance in your lives.

وَأَقِيمُوا الْوَزْنَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْمِيزَانَ **55:9**

Therefore, establish Balance in the society in absolute justice. And never belittle the Scale of Justice in the community and in all your transactions with your own 'self' and with others.

وَالْأَرْضَ وَضَعَهَا لِلْأَنَامِ **55:10**

And (know that) He has spread out the earth for all His creatures. [Anaam = All living beings]

فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَالنَّخْلُ ذَاتُ الْأَكْمَامِ **55:11**

Wherein are fruit and palms with clusters protected in sheaths.

وَالْحَبُّ ذُو الْعَصْفِ وَالرَّيْحَانُ **55:12**

And grain, corn, leaves, stalks, colorful herbs, vegetables, spices, sweet-smelling plants and fragrant flowers. [The three Arabic terms used in this verse include all the meanings rendered]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:13**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

خَلَقَ الْإِنسَانَ مِن صَلْصَالٍ كَالْفَخَّارِ **55:14**

He created the human (initially) out of sounding inorganic matter, like pottery. [Human evolution: 2:30, 6:2, 7:189, 15:26-27, 22:5, 23:12-13, 25:54, 32:7-9, 35:11, 37:11, 71:17]

وَخَلَقَ الْجَانَّ مِن مَّارِجٍ مِّن نَّارٍ **55:15**

And the Jinns: He has created out of a mixed flame of fire (with an unstable fiery disposition). [Jinns: 2:102,6:76, 6:100, 6:112, 6:128 -130, 7:12, 7:38, 8:27, 11:119, 15:17, 15:27, 21:82, 32:13, 34:12-14, 37:158, 38:76, 46:29-32, 72:1-15, 75:2-6, 114:6. Jinn pertains to something hidden, rarely seen, therefore, after using Tasreef, Al-Jinn = The nomads. Jannah from the same root word means a garden hidden in foliage. When the Jinns or the nomads move to dwell in towns and become civilized, they are referred to as Ins = Urbanites. Among the verses referred to above, Jinn, at times, denotes the hidden evil prompting that goes on in the human mind. In the sense of flashes of evil prompting, Jinn can be understood as Satan in minor forms. Satan = Selfish or rebellious desires works in concert with destructive emotions which have been described as being fiery in the Jahiliyah poetry. 'Emotions being fiery' stands up to reason. Verse 21:37 convincingly shows what the 'creation of Jinn out of fire' actually means. Using exactly the same terms khuliq and min it states Khuliq-al-insaanu min 'ajal. Literally that would translate as: He created man out of haste. Whereas the clear understanding is: Man has been created with a tendency to be hasty and looking for instant gains or results. Such is the case in 21:37 with Khulaq-al-jaanna mim-maarij-im-min naar - Breaking the sentence for clarity: Khulaq-al-jaanna min marijin min naar. He has given a fiery, emotional disposition to uncivilized human beings. 55:15]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:16**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ وَرَبُّ الْمَغْرِبَيْنِ **55:17**

Two easts
Two wests

Lord of the two Easts and the two Wests. [The East and West of the summer, and the East and West of the winter. The science of Astronomy will almost certainly learn more about the two Easts and Wests. 37:5, 70:40]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:18**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ **55:19**

He has let free the two seas. They meet. [25:53]

بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَّا يَبْغِيَانِ **55:20**

Yet, there is a Barrier between them that they cannot exceed. [The great bodies of salt water and fresh water meet but do not mix. Otherwise, we would not have the only 5 per cent drinkable of all water present on earth]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:21**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

يَخْرُجُ مِنْهُمَا اللُّؤْلُؤُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ **55:22**

From both of them come forth pearl and coral.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:23**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

وَلَهُ الْجَوَارِ الْمُنشَآتُ فِي الْبَحْرِ كَالْأَعْلَامِ **55:24**

And His are the bannered ships sailing through the sea, lofty as mountains. ['His ships' needs a comment. All creativity of human beings issues forth from the gifts of mind and body bestowed by God. So, God rightfully declares His Ownership of all things in the Universe, including those manufactured by people. In fact, I could only discern one Right that God assigns to Himself: Ownership of all things. But, unfortunately, the Muslim clergy has confused the masses into thinking that people owe two kinds of rights on themselves: Huqooqullah (God's rights) such as worshiping Him, praying five times a day and other rituals. And Huqooqul 'Ibaad (People's rights) such as treating them nicely, helping them in need, honoring elders etc. But this dichotomy, the so-called Huqooqullah and Huqooqul 'Ibaad are nowhere found in the Qur'an. The Book is replete with human rights all through. This huge blunder is not without consequence. A 'practicing Muslim' is thought to be the one who wears a particular style of garment, holds a rosary bead in hands, grows a beard, uses miswaak for cleaning the teeth, prays five times a day and so on. If it happens to be a female, a 'practicing Muslimah', in addition, uses veil, niqaab and, for perfection, dons a burka! All this happens while these 'practicing Muslims' keep violating human rights]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:25**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

كُلُّ مَنْ عَلَيْهَا فَانٍ **55:26**

All things therein (in the Universe) are ever changing. [Faani = Ever-changing = Mortal]

وَيَبْقَىٰ وَجْهُ رَبِّكَ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ **55:27**

But forever will abide the Countenance of your Lord of Majesty and Honor. [Baaqi = Remaining = Eternal = Survivor = Changeless. Baqa = To stay, remain. Wajh = Face = Countenance = Self = Whole being = Whole person. 28:88]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:28**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

يَسْأَلُهُ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ **55:29**

All creatures in the heavens and earth seek their needs from Him. And every day is He in a Marvelous Splendor. [14:34, 35:15]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:30**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

سَنَفْرُغُ لَكُمْ أَيُّهَ الثَّقَلَانِ **55:31**

Soon shall We free you, O Burdened men and women! [Thaql = Aghlal = Load, weight, burden = Shackles. Through His messages revealed to His Messenger, God will break all shackles men and women are carrying 7:157]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:32**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ إِنِ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ أَن تَنفُذُوا مِنْ أَقْطَارِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ فَانفُذُوا لَا تَنفُذُونَ إِلَّا بِسُلْطَانٍ **55:33**

O Communities of the nomads and the urban! If you can break through the fences of the heavens and earth, then, break through. Never can you break through without an authority (which you won't have). Can you bring any evidence? [Sultan = Evidence = Proof = Authority = Power 4:153, 14:11, 15:42, 17:80, 37:156, 69:29. 'Illa' here means never. Using Tasreef the simple understanding is this: You can only continue your evolution beyond the temporal and spatial bounds you now see, if you have primed your own 'self' for immortality, instead of mere survival of the unfit.]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:34**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

يُرْسَلُ عَلَيْكُمَا شُوَاظٌ مِّن نَّارٍ وَنُحَاسٌ فَلَا تَنتَصِرَانِ **55:35**

A blaze will be unleashed upon you, and thick smoke, and you will not be able to defend yourselves. [If you think that you can escape Divine laws, you will never find your way in the thick smoke of conjecture]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:36**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فَإِذَا انشَقَّتِ السَّمَاءُ فَكَانَتْ وَرْدَةً كَالدِّهَانِ **55:37**

And when the power of the high elite will shatter and they will burn in anguish. [Samaa allegorically rendered as the high elite]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ 55:38

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَّا يُسْأَلُ عَن ذَنبِهِ إِنسٌ وَلَا جَانٌّ 55:39

In that Era neither the civilized nor the uncivilized will be asked why they trailed behind.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ 55:40

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

يُعْرَفُ الْمُجْرِمُونَ بِسِيمَاهُمْ فَيُؤْخَذُ بِالنَّوَاصِي وَالْأَقْدَامِ 55:41

The violators of human rights will be clearly identified, firmly seized and held accountable. [Mujrim = Guilty = One who steals the fruit of others' labor = Violator of human rights]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ 55:42

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

هَٰذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ الَّتِي يُكَذِّبُ بِهَا الْمُجْرِمُونَ 55:43

This is Hell that the guilty deny.

يَطُوفُونَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ حَمِيمٍ آنٍ 55:44

They wander between it and their smoldering anguish.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ 55:45

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

وَلِمَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ جَنَّتَانِ 55:46

And for him who stands in fear of his Lord's Presence, are two Paradises - one here one there.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ 55:47

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

ذَوَاتَا أَفْنَانٍ 55:48

Abounding in two facets, art and science. [Afnan = Creative works, art and science]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:49**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ تَجْرِيَانِ **55:50**

Wherein flow two springs, creativity and aesthetics.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:51**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِمَا مِن كُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ زَوْجَانِ **55:52**

Wherein are two kinds of fruit, of their own labor and of the added reward. [50:35]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:53**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

مُتَّكِئِينَ عَلَىٰ فُرُشٍ بَطَائِنُهَا مِنْ إِسْتَبْرَقٍ وَجَنَى الْجَنَّتَيْنِ دَانٍ **55:54**

Reclining on luxurious carpets lined with rich brocade, the fruit of both Gardens at hand.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:55**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِنَّ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِثْهُنَّ إِنسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ **55:56**

Companions is correct

Maidens is not a translation

Therein women have a modest gaze, never touched by human vices or evil prompting.

[37:48, 38:52, 44:54, 52:20, 55:15, 55:72, 56:22 ... Jinn, Jann, Jaann, evil prompting ... Ins = Human, is often incorrectly translated in this verse as 'man'. The mistranslation then goes on to state that there are women whom no Jinn or man has ever touched. Women (and men) who qualify for Paradise have had all their faults remitted and absolved, therefore, untouched by vice]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:57**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

كَأَنَّهُنَّ الْيَاقُوتُ وَالْمَرْجَانُ **55:58**

Like rubies and pearls.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:59**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

هَلْ جَزَاءُ الْإِحْسَانِ إِلَّا الْإِحْسَانُ **55:60**

Is the reward of benevolence anything but benevolence itself? [10:26, 16:30, 39:10, 74:6, 76:9]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:61**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

وَمِن دُونِهِمَا جَنَّتَانِ **55:62**

And other than these two, shall be two more Gardens. [The human 'self' and the new Universe will keep evolving 69:17]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:63**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

مُدْهَامَّتَانِ **55:64**

Both ever-fresh, lush green, pleasing.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:65**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِمَا عَيْنَانِ نَضَّاخَتَانِ **55:66**

Therein are two springs gushing forth. [Personal delight and shared joy 52:25]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:67**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِمَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَنَخْلٌ وَرُمَّانٌ **55:68**

Therein are fruit, and palms and pomegranate. [Fruit within the fruit of reward]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:69**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

فِيهِنَّ خَيْرَاتٌ حِسَانٌ **55:70**

Therein are all things most excellent, symmetrical, beautiful. [Khair = Good thing = Beneficial = Excellent. Hisaan = Nicely balanced = Beautifully symmetrical = Symmetrically beautiful]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:71**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

حُورٌ مَّقْصُورَاتٌ فِي الْخِيَامِ **55:72**

Modest, intelligent companions in blessed shades. [Hoor = Houri = Modest, intelligent companions, male or female. Unfortunately, this word has been almost invariably translated as 'gorgeous women with big eyes'. Hoor applies to men and women both. The male gender is Ahwar and the female is Hawra. Again, Hoor = Men and women of vision who are modest and delightful companions. Khiyaam = Blessed shady environment, instead of the literal 'tents or pavilions']

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:73**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

لَمْ يَطْمِثْهُنَّ إِنسٌ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانٌّ **55:74**

Companions never touched by human vices or evil prompting. [55:15, 55:56]

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:75**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

مُتَّكِئِينَ عَلَىٰ رَفْرَفٍ خُضْرٍ وَعَبْقَرِيٍّ حِسَانٍ **55:76**

Relaxing on ever-fresh meadows and splendid carpets.

فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ **55:77**

Then, O Men and women! Which authority of your Lord will you deny?

تَبَارَكَ اسْمُ رَبِّكَ ذِي الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ **55:78**

Ever blissful is the Name of your Lord, the Lord of Majesty and Honor!

Chapter 56

Al-Waaqi´ah - The Inevitable Episode

This is the 56th Surah of the Qur´an with 96 brief, forceful, yet elegant verses. Along with reiteration of many glorious concepts in diverse ways, herein we find a powerful emphasis on the Law of Requital = The Law of Recompense = All actions have consequences = "As you sow, so shall you reap" = The Law of Cause and Effect. The Qur´an strongly negates the erroneous belief of Paradise located ´up there´ in the skies, and Hell existing in the deepest core of the earth. These fallacious dogmas which have kept countless people confused over the last ten centuries, find their source in the tragic ´Imamist´ blunders and fabrications. As expounded in the Qur´an repeatedly, men and women build their Hell or Paradise with their own hands, and therefore, the process begins right here in this life. Paradise encompasses the whole Universe as the following verses in Tasreef indicate. The description of Hell and Paradise is not to be taken literally since God Himself calls such verses allegorical. He explains them by examples because of our limited intellect in this life. 3:7, 3:132, 13:35, 32:17, 47:15, 57:21. In the life to come humans will be recreated in exponentially advanced forms, and in an entirely new Cosmic Order as we learn in 56:61 and elsewhere.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا وَقَعَتِ الْوَاقِعَةُ **56:1**

When the Inevitable Episode unfolds.

لَيْسَ لِوَقْعَتِهَا كَاذِبَةٌ **56:2**

None could, then, deny its unfolding.

خَافِضَةٌ رَّافِعَةٌ **56:3**

Lowering some, raising others, the great equalizer!

إِذَا رُجَّتِ الْأَرْضُ رَجًّا **56:4**

When the land is shaken with a hard shaking (popular uprising).

وَبُسَّتِ الْجِبَالُ بَسًّا **56:5**

And the tyrannical powers crumble,

فَكَانَتْ هَبَاءً مُّنبَثًّا **56:6**

Such that they scatter like sand in a sandstorm. [20:105, 28:20, 77:10, 81:3]

وَكُنتُمْ أَزْوَاجًا ثَلَاثَةً **56:7**

Then, you shall be three kinds.

فَأَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ **56:8**

So, (firstly) the blessed ones. Oh, how wonderful are the blessed ones! [Yumn = Blessing = Bliss = Grace = On the right side = Consequence of right actions. 19:52, 28:30, 56:27]

وَأَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ **56:9**

And (secondly) the unblessed ones. Ah, how unfortunate are the unblessed ones! [Mash'amah and Ash-Shimaal = Unblessed = On the left side = Consequence of wrong actions 18:17, 56:41, 69:25]

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ **56:10**

And (thirdly) the foremost are the foremost in doing good. [55:63, 57:10]

أُولَٰئِكَ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ **56:11**

They are the ones near (to their Lord), in both lives.

فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ **56:12**

In Gardens of Delight.

ثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ **56:13**

A good many of those who led in goodness.

وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ **56:14**

And some of those who followed them. [Verses 13 and 14 are usually rendered, under the influence of fabricated tradition, to mean that most of the dwellers of Paradise will come from generations of the old (before the advent of the exalted Prophet Muhammad) and a few from the later generations. That is evidently contrary to the Qur'an and to Divine Justice. And it certainly belittles the Perfected Final revelation of God]

عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مَّوْضُونَةٍ **56:15**

On decorated thrones.

مُّتَّكِئِينَ عَلَيْهَا مُتَقَابِلِينَ **56:16**

Reclining thereon, socializing.

يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ **56:17**

Their children immortal, going cheerfully around them. [13:23, 52:21-24, 76:19]

بِأَكْوَابٍ وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ **56:18**

With goblets, glistening beakers, and sparkling drinks.

لَّا يُصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا وَلَا يُنزِفُونَ **56:19**

Wherefrom they get no headache nor beclouding of mind. [37:47]

وَفَاكِهَةٍ مِّمَّا يَتَخَيَّرُونَ **56:20**

And fruit of their choice.

وَلَحْمِ طَيْرٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ **56:21**

The supreme delicacies of life.

وَحُورٌ عِينٌ **56:22**

And lovely, intelligent spouses of vision. [55:72] [Hoorun ‘Een = Lovely, modest companions of vision, male and female. This term carries special significance for the abuse it has been made to go through. Almost invariably translated as ‘gorgeous women with big black eyes’, that translation is neither linguistically correct nor does it fit into the Big Picture. Een and derivatives literally refer to eyes and as an allegory for vision and insight 23:27, 25:74, 33:51, 40:19, 52:48, 54:14]

كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكْنُونِ **56:23**

Like pearls well guarded, far from vice.

جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **56:24**

A reward for what they used to do. [The Qur’an is replete with the instruction that Paradise cannot be achieved through rites and rituals, any dogmas, prayers and lip-service, rather only by actions that benefit others and help improve the society]

لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا تَأْثِيمًا **56:25**

No vain talk will they hear therein, nor any call restraining from further development. [Ithm = Word or action that restrains, drags down or hurts human potential]

إِلَّا قِيلًا سَلَامًا سَلَامًا 56:26

Nothing but the greeting and tiding of Peace! [And on earthly Paradise individuals contribute toward peace and security of the society]

وَأَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الْيَمِينِ 56:27

And the blessed ones. Oh, how wonderful are the blessed ones!

فِي سِدْرٍ مَّخْضُودٍ 56:28

In orchards without thorns.

وَطَلْحٍ مَّنضُودٍ 56:29

And trees laden with fruit and flower.

وَظِلٍّ مَّمْدُودٍ 56:30

And cool expanded shades of abundant delight.

وَمَاءٍ مَّسْكُوبٍ 56:31

And water falls.

وَفَاكِهَةٍ كَثِيرَةٍ 56:32

And fruit abounding.

لَّا مَقْطُوعَةٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعَةٍ 56:33

Never interrupted, never too far.

وَفُرُشٍ مَّرْفُوعَةٍ 56:34

And on thrones, raised in honor.

إِنَّا أَنشَأْنَاهُنَّ إِنشَاءً 56:35

We have given the women among them a new being (wholly different from the Age of Ignorance 56:37.)

فَجَعَلْنَاهُنَّ أَبْكَارًا 56:36

And made them of unparalleled virtue. [Abkara = Of matchless virtue = Untouched by vice = Pure. The word Abkara has been restricted to virginity except by Allama G. A. Parwez. Qamoos and Raghib among the ancient experts of the

Quraish dialect give it the correct meaning rendered here, as they cite several examples from ancient Arabic poetry. Interestingly, this is very similar to the wrong translation of 'a maiden' to 'a virgin' from Greek to English relating to Mary]

عُرُبًا أَتْرَابًا **56:37**

Eloquent, made of the same mettle, harmonious, blending well in the society. ['Urub from 'Arabi = Eloquent. Turaab = Dust = Harmonious = Of the same mettle = Well-blended. 43:18, 78:33]

لِّأَصْحَابِ الْيَمِينِ **56:38**

For the companions of the right hand (the most blessed ones) -

ثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ **56:39**

A good many of those who led in goodness,

وَثُلَّةٌ مِّنَ الْآخِرِينَ **56:40**

And a good many of those who followed after them. [56:13-14]

وَأَصْحَابُ الشِّمَالِ مَا أَصْحَابُ الشِّمَالِ **56:41**

Then, the unblessed ones. Ah, how unfortunate are the unblessed ones! [56:9]

فِي سَمُومٍ وَحَمِيمٍ **56:42**

In scorching wind, smoldering anguish!

وَظِلٍّ مِّن يَحْمُومٍ **56:43**

Enshrouded in smoke, opaque.

لَّا بَارِدٍ وَلَا كَرِيمٍ **56:44**

Neither coolness of contentment nor honor of accomplishment.

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَٰلِكَ مُتْرَفِينَ **56:45**

Before this, they were sunk in luxury, exploiting the poor.

وَكَانُوا يُصِرُّونَ عَلَى الْحِنثِ الْعَظِيمِ **56:46**

And stubbornly persisted in their violations.

وَكَانُوا يَقُولُونَ أَئِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظَامًا أَإِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ **56:47**

And they used to say, "What! When we die and become dust and bones, shall we be raised?

أَوَآبَاؤُنَا الْأَوَّلُونَ **56:48**

And also our forefathers?"

قُلْ إِنَّ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ **56:49**

Say, "Surely, those of old, and those of later generations,

لَمَجْمُوعُونَ إِلَىٰ مِيقَاتِ يَوْمٍ مَّعْلُومٍ **56:50**

All will be gathered together at an appointed time on a Day well-known." [Ma'loom = Well known = Known to God alone. The word Ma'loom signifies the absolute truth about the Day of Resurrection]

ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ أَيُّهَا الضَّالُّونَ الْمُكَذِّبُونَ **56:51**

Then you, O You that go wrong and deny the truth!

لَآكِلُونَ مِن شَجَرٍ مِّن زَقُّومٍ **56:52**

You will eat from the tree of your bitter deeds. [37:62, 44:43, 56:52]

فَمَالِئُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ **56:53**

Then you will fill your bellies with it.

فَشَارِبُونَ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الْحَمِيمِ **56:54**

And drink burning anguish on top of it (that you gave to others).

فَشَارِبُونَ شُرْبَ الْهِيمِ **56:55**

And you will drink as the camels with false thirst drink." [Greed could never give inner contentment. 26:225, 102:1-2]

هَٰذَا نُزُلُهُمْ يَوْمَ الدِّينِ **56:56**

Such will be their welcome on the Day of Judgment.

نَحْنُ خَلَقْنَاكُمْ فَلَوْلَا تُصَدِّقُونَ **56:57**

We have created you. Will you not, then, admit the truth?

أَفَرَأَيْتُم مَّا تُمْنُونَ **56:58**

Have you ever considered the human seed?

أَأَنتُمْ تَخْلُقُونَهُ أَمْ نَحْنُ الْخَالِقُونَ **56:59**

Is it you who create it or are We the Creator?

نَحْنُ قَدَّرْنَا بَيْنَكُمُ الْمَوْتَ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَسْبُوقِينَ **56:60**

We have decreed death (designed the laws of death) among you. And there is nothing to prevent Us

عَلَىٰ أَن نُّبَدِّلَ أَمْثَالَكُمْ وَنُنشِئَكُمْ فِي مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ **56:61**

From changing your forms and making you in a manner, and in an environment, that is (as yet) unknown to you.

وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْتُمُ النَّشْأَةَ الْأُولَىٰ فَلَوْلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ **56:62**

Of course, you know the first coming into being. Why, then, do you not reflect?

أَفَرَأَيْتُم مَّا تَحْرُثُونَ **56:63**

Have you thought of the crops that you cultivate?

أَأَنتُمْ تَزْرَعُونَهُ أَمْ نَحْنُ الزَّارِعُونَ **56:64**

Is it you who grow it or are We the Grower?

لَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَاهُ حُطَامًا فَظَلْتُمْ تَفَكَّهُونَ **56:65**

If We willed, We could turn it into chaff, then you would be left to exclaim,

إِنَّا لَمُغْرَمُونَ **56:66**

“Ah, we are now under debt.

بَلْ نَحْنُ مَحْرُومُونَ **56:67**

Nay, we are deprived.”

أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ الْمَاءَ الَّذِي تَشْرَبُونَ **56:68**

Have you thought of the water you drink?

أَأَنتُمْ أَنزَلْتُمُوهُ مِنَ الْمُزْنِ أَمْ نَحْنُ الْمُنزِلُونَ **56:69**

Do you bring it down from the rain-clouds or do We?

لَوْ نَشَاءُ جَعَلْنَاهُ أُجَاجًا فَلَوْلَا تَشْكُرُونَ **56:70**

If We willed, We could make it salty. Why, then, do you not show gratitude? [By setting up an equitable system of provision for all]

أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ النَّارَ الَّتِي تُورُونَ **56:71**

Did you consider the fire you strike out?

أَأَنتُمْ أَنشَأْتُمْ شَجَرَتَهَا أَمْ نَحْنُ الْمُنشِئُونَ **56:72**

Is it you who grow its tree, or do We grow it? [41:10. 'Its tree' points to the plant origin of almost all the known fuels: mineral, petrified, the liquefied residue left by plant-nourished organisms]

نَحْنُ جَعَلْنَاهَا تَذْكِرَةً وَمَتَاعًا لِّلْمُقْوِينَ **56:73**

We, yes, We have made this (fire) a reminder, and a gift for all of you who need it. [The use of fire is one of the Divine gifts that distinguishes mankind from the Animal Kingdom]

فَسَبِّحْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الْعَظِيمِ **56:74**

Work hard, then, to establish the glory of your Lord's Supreme Name.

فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِمَوَاقِعِ النُّجُومِ **56:75**

Nay, I present the stellar orbits as witness. [Mawaqi' = Locations of the celestial bodies in their orbits]

وَإِنَّهُ لَقَسَمٌ لَّوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عَظِيمٌ **56:76**

This is a an awesome oath if your knowledge can encompass it.

إِنَّهُ لَقُرْآنٌ كَرِيمٌ **56:77**

That this Qur'an is a Noble Monograph.

فِي كِتَابٍ مَّكْنُونٍ **56:78**

In a well-guarded Book. [As conveyed to you]

لَّا يَمَسُّهُ إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ 56:79

This is a Book that none but the pure of mind can grasp. [Those who approach the Qur'an with minds contaminated with preconceived notions and extrinsic material, will never understand it. Mutahharoon = Those who rid their minds of blind following and false dogmas. (2:222). It is a common insult to say that men cannot touch it without wudhu (ablution) and women cannot touch it during menstruation. Why would God place hurdles in the way of approaching His guidance?]

تَنزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ 56:80

A revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

أَفَبِهَٰذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَنتُم مُّدْهِنُونَ 56:81

Hadith

Is it this Hadith that you would hold in low esteem? [And uphold manmade hadith]

وَتَجْعَلُونَ رِزْقَكُمْ أَنَّكُمْ تُكَذِّبُونَ 56:82

And make its denial your daily bread? [Making money by peddling conjecture, such as frightening people with the spurious dogmas of 'evil eye' or 'demon-possession' and claiming to cure them by blowing into knots or water to drink!]

فَلَوْلَا إِذَا بَلَغَتِ الْحُلْقُومَ 56:83

Why, then, as the last breath comes up to the throat,

وَأَنتُمْ حِينَئِذٍ تَنظُرُونَ 56:84

And at that moment you are looking.

وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنكُمْ وَلَٰكِن لَّا تُبْصِرُونَ 56:85

And We are closer to him (the dying person) than you are, although you see not.

فَلَوْلَا إِن كُنتُمْ غَيْرَ مَدِينِينَ 56:86

Why not then, if you are not fully dependent (on Us),

تَرْجِعُونَهَا إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ 56:87

Make the departing life return, if you are truthful? [God alone is the Giver of life and death, and man owes all his abilities to Him]

فَأَمَّا إِن كَانَ مِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ 56:88

If he is of those drawn near (for having lived a life upright),

فَرَوْحٌ وَرَيْحَانٌ وَجَنَّتُ نَعِيمٍ 56:89

(For him are) jubilation, inner fulfillment, and a Garden of bliss!

وَأَمَّا إِن كَانَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْيَمِينِ 56:90

And thus he is of the blessed ones,

فَسَلَامٌ لَّكَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْيَمِينِ 56:91

So, “Salutation of Peace for you¡‘ - from the blessed ones. [56:38]

وَأَمَّا إِن كَانَ مِنَ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ الضَّالِّينَ 56:92

But if he is of the rejecters, the straying,

فَنُزُلٌ مِّنْ حَمِيمٍ 56:93

Then the welcome will be a smoldering anguish.

وَتَصْلِيَةُ جَحِيمٍ 56:94

And scorching heat before the Insurmountable Barrier.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَهُوَ حَقُّ الْيَقِينِ 56:95

This a truth of certainty.

فَسَبِّحْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الْعَظِيمِ 56:96

Glorify

Strive, then, to glorify the Name of your Lord Supreme. [Follow His commands to manifest His glory on earth as it is in the heavens]

Chapter 57

Al-Hadeed - Iron

This is the 57th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 29 verses. The Surah derives its name from iron that serves mankind in various ways. God´s Messengers and their companions have had to defend the faith with power when necessitated. God never enjoined upon mankind monasticism, asceticism, ´Sufism´, ´yog´ or mysticism. They are human inventions. Herein we find further emphasis on the Supremacy of the Divine law following which the humans can achieve Eternal success. ´Kuffar´ are those who knowingly conceal, oppose or deny the truth. Belief bears its fruit when it is translated into action. Motivation without action is a bird without wings.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **57:1**

All things in the heavens and earth are working relentlessly to fulfill the Divine Plan. He is the Almighty, the Wise.

لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **57:2**

Gods greatness

Unto Him belongs the Dominion of the heavens and earth. His are the laws of life and death and He has Power over all things.

هُوَ الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **57:3**

He has no beginning and He has no ending. He is the Evident and the Hidden. And He is the Knower of all things. [He is Evident through His attributes and Hidden to the eyes]

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يَعْلَمُ مَا يَلِجُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا **57:4**

يَنزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَمَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ
وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

He is the One Who has created the heavens and earth in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control. He knows all that enters the earth and all that comes out of it, and all that descends from the sky, and all that ascends therein. And He is with you wherever you may be. God is Seer of what you do. [Six Stages or Eras: 7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 50:38, 57:4, 41:10]

لَّهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الْأُمُورُ **57:5**

Unto Him belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth and to God return all affairs. [All things find their Source in Him and His laws determine the final end of all actions]

يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَهُوَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ **57:6**
الصُّدُورِ

He merges the night into the day, and merges the day into the night. He is Knower of all that is in the hearts.

آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَأَنفِقُوا مِمَّا جَعَلَكُم مُّسْتَخْلَفِينَ فِيهِ **57:7**
فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَأَنفَقُوا لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ

Believe in God and His Messenger. And spend on others of what He has made you trustees of (your wealth and persons). Those of you who believe and spend on fellow humans, theirs will be a Great reward. [Nafaq = Keeping open = Spending on others = Not hoarding]

وَمَا لَكُمْ لَا تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولُ يَدْعُوكُمْ لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ **57:8**
وَقَدْ أَخَذَ مِيثَاقَكُمْ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ

And what is amiss with you that keeps you from having conviction in God? And the Messenger invites you to believe in your Sustainer and he has taken your pledge, if you are believers. [5:7]

هُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ عَلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ لِّيُخْرِجَكُم مِّنَ **57:9**
الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُمْ لَرَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

He is the One Who sends down clear messages to His servant, to bring you out from the depths of darkness to the splendorous light. For you, God is Compassionate, Merciful.

وَمَا لَكُمْ أَلَّا تُنفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلِلَّهِ مِيرَاثُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا يَسْتَوِي مِنكُم مَّنْ أَنفَقَ مِن قَبْلِ الْفَتْحِ وَقَاتَلَ أُولَٰئِكَ أَعْظَمُ دَرَجَةً مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أَنفَقُوا مِن بَعْدُ وَقَاتَلُوا وَكُلًّا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحُسْنَىٰ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **57:10**

And why should you not spend in the cause of God when to God belongs the heritage of the heavens and earth? Those who spend and fight before the victory are not at the same level as the rest of you. They have a greater rank than those who spend and fight after the victory. Unto each God has promised good. He is Aware of what you do. [55:62, 56:8-12]

مَّن ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضَاعِفَهُ لَهُ وَلَهُ أَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ **57:11**

Who is it that will lend to God a goodly loan that He may increase it manifold, and his may be a generous reward?

يَوْمَ تَرَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَسْعَىٰ نُورُهُم بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَبِأَيْمَانِهِم بُشْرَاكُمُ الْيَوْمَ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **57:12**

On the Day when you will see the believing men and the believing women, their lights shining forth before them, blessing them, (it will be said), “A happy news for you this Day - Gardens beneath which rivers flow, (for you) to abide therein. This, this is the Supreme Triumph¡‘ [57:9]

يَوْمَ يَقُولُ الْمُنَافِقُونَ وَالْمُنَافِقَاتُ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا انظُرُونَا نَقْتَبِسْ مِن نُّورِكُمْ قِيلَ ارْجِعُوا وَرَاءَكُمْ فَالْتَمِسُوا نُورًا فَضُرِبَ بَيْنَهُم بِسُورٍ لَّهُ بَابٌ بَاطِنُهُ فِيهِ الرَّحْمَةُ وَظَاهِرُهُ مِن قِبَلِهِ الْعَذَابُ **57:13**

On that Day the hypocrite men and the hypocrite women will say to the believers, “Wait, look at us. Let us borrow from your light!” It will be said, “Go back behind and seek light.” Then a barrier will be erected with a gate therein. On the inner side of it will be grace, and on the outer side of it the doom.

يُنَادُونَهُمْ أَلَمْ نَكُن مَّعَكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَٰكِنَّكُمْ فَتَنتُمْ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَتَرَبَّصْتُمْ وَارْتَبْتُمْ وَغَرَّتْكُمُ الْأَمَانِيُّ حَتَّىٰ جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَغَرَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغَرُورُ **57:14**

They will cry to them, "Were we not with you?" The others (believers) will answer, "Yes, certainly! But you let your own 'self' succumb to temptation. And you tempted one another, and you were ever hesitant (watching which side was prevailing), and doubted (God's promise). And your wishful thinking misled you until God's command came to pass. Your own deceptions concerning God deceived you. [The hypocrites used to tell lies about God and His Messenger. Their wishful thinking: That they would never be exposed. 3:179]

فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُؤْخَذُ مِنكُمْ فِدْيَةٌ وَلَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مَأْوَاكُمُ النَّارُ هِيَ مَوْلَاكُمْ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **57:15**

So this Day no ransom can be accepted from you, nor from the open rejecters. Your home is the fire. That is your caretaker and a miserable destination it is.

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَن تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلُ فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ **57:16**

Is it not yet time for the believers that their hearts humble at the remembrance of God, reflecting on the truth that has been revealed? Do not be like those who were given the scripture before, and whose hearts were hardened with time. And so, a great many of them have drifted away from truth.

اعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا قَدْ بَيَّنَّا لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ **57:17**

Know all of you that God gives life to the land after it has been dead. We have made Our messages clear for you so that you might use your intellect.

إِنَّ الْمُصَّدِّقِينَ وَالْمُصَّدِّقَاتِ وَأَقْرَضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا يُضَاعَفُ لَهُمْ وَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَرِيمٌ **57:18**

Men and women who stand true to their proclamations of belief and lend a goodly loan to God, they will be repaid manifold. And theirs will be a generous reward.

Reward multiplied

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصِّدِّيقُونَ وَالشُّهَدَاءُ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ لَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ وَنُورُهُمْ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ **57:19**

Those who believe in God and His Messengers, they are the truthful, as well as the witnesses to the truth in the Sight of their Lord. For them is their reward and their light. But, those who oppose or deny Our revelations, they are the companions of the Blazing Fire.

اعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا لَعِبٌ وَلَهْوٌ وَزِينَةٌ وَتَفَاخُرٌ بَيْنَكُمْ وَتَكَاثُرٌ فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ كَمَثَلِ غَيْثٍ أَعْجَبَ الْكُفَّارَ نَبَاتُهُ ثُمَّ يَهِيجُ فَتَرَاهُ مُصْفَرًّا ثُمَّ يَكُونُ حُطَامًا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانٌ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ **57:20**

Know all of you that (in comparison to Eternity) the life of this world is only play and a fleeting delight, and your mutual bragging, and pursuit of riches and children. It is like abundant rain that brings forth plantation and pleases the farmers. But then the plantation withers and you can see it turn into yellow hay. And in the end it crumbles into dust! But in the Hereafter it is either grievous suffering or forgiveness from God and His approval. And what is the life of this world, but an enjoyment of illusion? [Therefore, invest in the life to come for lasting rewards. 3:14-15, 10:24-25, 16:92, 18:45-46, 14:18, 24:39, 83:26, 102:1. Kuffar in this verse, very uniquely, has been used in the very literal sense. Contrary to the popular translations, Kuffar here does not mean 'disbelievers' or 'unbelievers'. It refers to those who conceal the truth. This is the only verse in the Qur'an where Kuffar is indicating those who hide something - specifically, the farmers who cover the seed with soil. While that in itself is a laudable work, in the given similitude the verse is talking about a crop that quickly turns into useless chaff. However, in this instance Kuffar = Farmers. In general, the term indicates those who conceal the truth, and actively and knowingly hide or deny it. Also those who 'hide gratitude' or refuse to be grateful for any blessings bestowed upon them, including the blessing of guidance]

سَابِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا كَعَرْضِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أُعِدَّتْ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ **57:21**

Be foremost in seeking the protection from your Lord, and a Garden as vast as the heaven and the earth. It has been readied for those who choose to believe in God

Plural

and His Messengers. Such is God's bounty that He bestows upon him who wills it. God is the Lord of abounding bounty. [The Paradise encompasses the entire Universe. 3:133]

Plural

مَا أَصَابَ مِن مُّصِيبَةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي أَنفُسِكُمْ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مِّن قَبْلِ أَن نَّبْرَأَهَا إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ 57:22

No disaster befalls the earth, nor yourselves but according to the laws that We have already recorded in the Book of decrees. Surely, all this is easy for God.

لِّكَيْلَا تَأْسَوْا عَلَىٰ مَا فَاتَكُمْ وَلَا تَفْرَحُوا بِمَا آتَاكُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ 57:23

So, despair not over whatever has left you, nor exult for whatever you have been given. For, God does not love those who are boastful, proud.

الَّذِينَ يَبْخَلُونَ وَيَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبُخْلِ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ 57:24

They are stingy and enjoin people to be stingy. But if anyone turns away, then (he should know that) God is free of want, Worthy of all praise.

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَنزَلْنَا الْحَدِيدَ فِيهِ بَأْسٌ شَدِيدٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيَعْلَمَ اللَّهُ مَن يَنصُرُهُ وَرُسُلَهُ بِالْغَيْبِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ 57:25

We sent Our Messengers with the evident truth and revealed with them the law and the Standard of right and wrong that mankind may deal in justice. And We have bestowed on from high the iron in which there is awesome power and many benefits for people. For, God marks out those who help Him and His Messengers although the victory may initially be obscure to them. Surely, God is Strong, Almighty. [Meezaan = Balance of measure = Standard of justice. As proven by modern science, the iron is not native to earth. It has come down from higher celestial bodies, the Nova stars. In 1920, Charles Edouard Guillaume was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in recognition of the service he had rendered to this research.]

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَجَعَلْنَا فِي ذُرِّيَّتِهِمَا النُّبُوَّةَ وَالْكِتَابَ فَمِنْهُم مُّهْتَدٍ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ 57:26

We sent Noah and Abraham and granted Prophethood and scripture to their progeny. Some of them remained rightly guided, but a great many of them drifted away.

ثُمَّ قَفَّيْنَا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم بِرُسُلِنَا وَقَفَّيْنَا بِعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ وَآتَيْنَاهُ الْإِنجِيلَ وَجَعَلْنَا فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ رَأْفَةً وَرَحْمَةً وَرَهْبَانِيَّةً ابْتَدَعُوهَا مَا كَتَبْنَاهَا عَلَيْهِمْ إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ رِضْوَانِ اللَّهِ فَمَا رَعَوْهَا حَقَّ رِعَايَتِهَا فَآتَيْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ **57:27**

Then, in succession, We followed them up with (other of) Our Messengers. We caused them to be followed by Jesus son of Mary and gave him the Gospel. And We placed kindness and compassion in the hearts of those who followed him. As for monastic asceticism - We had never ordained it to them. They invented it themselves to seek God's approval. But then, they did not uphold the Gospel with right observance. And so those who truly believed among them, We gave them their reward. But, a great many of them have been drifting away.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَآمِنُوا بِرَسُولِهِ يُؤْتِكُمْ كِفْلَيْنِ مِن رَّحْمَتِهِ وَيَجْعَل لَّكُمْ نُورًا تَمْشُونَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **57:28**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of God and put faith in His Messenger. And He will bestow on you a double reward of His grace. He will appoint for you a light by which you shall walk, and He will absolve your faults. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

لِّئَلَّا يَعْلَمَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ أَلَّا يَقْدِرُونَ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ مِّن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ الْفَضْلَ بِيَدِ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ **57:29**

And the People of the Scripture should know that they have no power whatsoever over the bounty of God. All bounty is in God's hand and He grants it according to His laws. God is the Lord of a tremendous bounty. [He is the Lord of the Worlds and the Lord of all mankind and He does not discriminate between people. 1:1, 114:1]

Chapter 58

Al-Mujadilah - The Pleading

This is the 58th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 22 verses. This Surah shines with a beautiful example of freedom of expression in the court of God and the Prophet. Every time we seek guidance from the Book of God we must remind ourselves to do some act of kindness. Confidential meetings of any sort must not disregard collective good. Believers must make room for one another to succeed in the society.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّتِي تُجَادِلُكَ فِي زَوْجِهَا وَتَشْتَكِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَسْمَعُ تَحَاوُرَكُمَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ **58:1**

God has heard her who pleads with you (O Prophet) concerning her husband, and complains to God. And God has heard your mutual dialogue. God is Hearer, Seer.

الَّذِينَ يُظَاهِرُونَ مِنكُم مِّن نِّسَائِهِم مَّا هُنَّ أُمَّهَاتِهِمْ إِنْ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ إِلَّا اللَّائِي وَلَدْنَهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَقُولُونَ مُنكَرًا مِّنَ الْقَوْلِ وَزُورًا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَعَفُوٌّ غَفُورٌ **58:2**

Those of you who 'divorce' their wives by calling them their mothers, they, by no means, become their mothers. Their mothers are only those who gave birth to them. And so they only utter what is contrary to reason, and thus, false. God is Absolver of faults, Forgiving. [The procedure of divorce has been clearly given in 2:228-230, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:4, 65:1-2. Zihr = Extra = Redundant = Sundry = Putting away = Senseless word or action. Zihaar = Addressing the wife as mother and thinking that it nullifies the wedlock. Implicitly this encompasses similar meaningless utterances under any circumstances]

وَالَّذِينَ يُظَاهِرُونَ مِن نِّسَائِهِمْ ثُمَّ يَعُودُونَ لِمَا قَالُوا فَتَحْرِيرُ رَقَبَةٍ مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَتَمَاسَّا ذَٰلِكُمْ تُوعَظُونَ بِهِ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا **58:3**

تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

So, those of you who have made senseless declarations about their wives, estranged them, and then wish to go back on their utterance - they should free a human being from bondage before the couple may have intimate relations with each other. This you are admonished to perform. God is aware of all you do. [Freeing from bondage includes relieving someone from any kind of oppression and from a crushing burden of debt]

فَمَن لَّمْ يَجِدْ فَصِيَامُ شَهْرَيْنِ مُتَتَابِعَيْنِ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَتَمَاسَّا **58:4**
فَمَن لَّمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَإِطْعَامُ سِتِّينَ مِسْكِينًا ذَٰلِكَ لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ
وَرَسُولِهِ وَتِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

However, he who cannot find a bonded person, let him observe daytime Abstinence (from food, drink and sex as in the month of Ramadhan) for two consecutive months before the couple may intimately touch each other. And if he is unable to do that either, he should arrange the feeding of sixty needy ones. This is so that you may be true to your faith in God and His Messenger. These are the bounds ordained by God. For the deniers is a painful doom. [2:183. The State will help if the violator is old, sick or poor. 4:64]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحَادُّونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ كُبِتُوا كَمَا كُبِتَ الَّذِينَ مِن **58:5**
قَبْلِهِمْ وَقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ

Those who oppose God and His Messenger will be disgraced as were disgraced those before their times. Thus, We have sent down clear messages, and the rejecters will have a humiliating doom.

يَوْمَ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا عَمِلُوا أَحْصَاهُ اللَّهُ وَنَسُوهُ **58:6**
وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ

On the Day when God will raise all of them together, He will inform them of what they truly accomplished. God keeps a meticulous record even though they may have forgotten it. God is Witness over all things.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَا **58:7**
يَكُونُ مِن نَّجْوَىٰ ثَلَاثَةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ رَابِعُهُمْ وَلَا خَمْسَةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ
سَادِسُهُمْ وَلَا أَدْنَىٰ مِن ذَٰلِكَ وَلَا أَكْثَرَ إِلَّا هُوَ مَعَهُمْ أَيْنَ
مَا كَانُوا ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا عَمِلُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ

شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

Do you not realize that God knows all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. There is no secret meeting of three but He is their fourth, nor of five but He is their sixth, nor of less than that or more but He is with them wherever they may be. And ultimately, on the Day of Resurrection, He will make them understand what they really accomplished. God is Knower of all things and events.

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ نُهُوا عَنِ النَّجْوَىٰ ثُمَّ يَعُودُونَ لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَيَتَنَاجَوْنَ بِالْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَمَعْصِيَتِ الرَّسُولِ وَإِذَا جَاءُوكَ حَيَّوْكَ بِمَا لَمْ يُحَيِّكَ بِهِ اللَّهُ وَيَقُولُونَ فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ لَوْلَا يُعَذِّبُنَا اللَّهُ بِمَا نَقُولُ حَسْبُهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ يَصْلَوْنَهَا فَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **58:8**

Have you not noticed those who were forbidden to hold secret meetings, and yet they revert to what they were forbidden? They hold secret meetings for hampering progress, creating dissension in the society, and disobeying the Messenger. And when they come to you (O Messenger), they do not greet you in the way that God greets you. And they say to themselves, "Why does not God punish us for what we say?" Sufficient for them is Hell wherein they will burn. And how miserable is that destination! [Ithm = Hampering progress. 'Udwaan = Wedges of discord]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا تَنَاجَيْتُمْ فَلَا تَتَنَاجَوْا بِالْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَمَعْصِيَتِ الرَّسُولِ وَتَنَاجَوْا بِالْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **58:9**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you have to confer secretly, never do it for hampering progress, dissension or disobedience of the Messenger. But confer to expand opportunities in the society and consolidate the gains you have made. And remain mindful of God to Whom you all shall be gathered. [Birr = Usually translated as the vague and mundane 'good' = Creating room for fellow humans to make progress = Virtue = Make expanse = Make room for others in the society = Help people to adjust and make progress in a new environment = Exponential growth. Taqwa = Seeking to journey through life in security = Protect oneself from disintegration of the personality = Being observant = Journeying in security = Being careful = Getting empowered against evil = Avoid overstepping the laws = Consolidating the gains = Exercising caution = Guarding oneself against deterioration = Good conduct = Building character = Choosing to live upright = Fear the consequences of violating Divine Commands = Being mindful of the Creator = Remaining conscious of the Divinely ordained Values = Taking precaution]

إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَىٰ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ لِيَحْزُنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَيْسَ بِضَارِّهِمْ شَيْئًا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **58:10**

Secret counsels are inspired by Satan (the selfish desires), in order to cause grief to the believers. But he cannot harm them in the least contrary to the laws of God. So, in God should the believers put their trust. [Satan, the selfish desires, cannot harm the believers unless they forsake Divine Commands. 15:42, 17:65, 38:83. In these verses, 9 and 10, the terms Ithm, 'Udwaan, Birr, Taqwa have been translated in their broad and exact Qur'anic sense]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُزُوا فَانشُزُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **58:11**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you are told to make room in the assemblies (and accommodate one another in your society), do make room. God will open up His resources for you. And when you are told to rise up, do rise up (to the occasion). God will exalt to high ranks those of you who choose to believe and who attain knowledge. God is Aware of all you do. [Fas'h = Open up = Make room = Accommodate others. Nushooz, 4:34]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نَاجَيْتُمُ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدِّمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ نَجْوَاكُمْ صَدَقَةً ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَطْهَرُ فَإِن لَّمْ تَجِدُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **58:12**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Whenever you wish to confer with the Messenger by yourself, give something in charity to the needy or do an act of benevolence. That will be for your own good and erase the imprints of your faults on your own 'self'. But if you have no opportunity, then, remember, God is Forgiving, Merciful. [He absolves faults and rewards good deeds and intentions]

أَأَشْفَقْتُمْ أَن تُقَدِّمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ نَجْوَاكُمْ صَدَقَاتٍ فَإِذْ لَمْ تَفْعَلُوا وَتَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **58:13**

Is it that you are afraid of a transgression if you are not able to do such an act of kindness before you confer with the Messenger? Yet if you fail to find an opportunity to do it, God has already accepted your repentance. So, stay focused on establishing the Divine System, and setting up the Just Economic Order. Obey God and *

His Messenger. God is Aware of all you do. [58:12. The command in these two verses, 12 and 13 is fully applicable even today. Whenever we 'confer' with God and His Messenger through studying the Qur'an, we should remind ourselves to do an act kindness to someone. This act of kindness certainly includes conveying even one verse to one person. 'Each one teach one'. It is unfortunate that some of the traditional commentators consider these two verses abrogated after the exalted Prophet's lifetime! The very thought of abrogation of any verses of the Qur'an is absolutely untenable and non-Qur'anic. 2:106]

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ تَوَلَّوْا قَوْمًا غَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِم مَّا هُم مِّنكُمْ وَلَا مِنْهُمْ وَيَحْلِفُونَ عَلَى الْكَذِبِ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ **58:14**

Have you not seen those who befriend a people whom God disapproves? They are neither of you nor of them, and they knowingly swear on falsehood.

أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا إِنَّهُمْ سَاءَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **58:15**

God has readied for them a severe suffering. For their behavior is certainly very disruptive.

اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً فَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ **58:16**

They use their oaths as cover and bar others from the path of God. For them will be a humiliating doom.

لَّن تُغْنِيَ عَنْهُمْ أَمْوَالُهُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ **58:17**

Their wealth and their children and party will avail them not against God. It is those who are dwellers of the fire, therein to abide.

يَوْمَ يَبْعَثُهُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا فَيَحْلِفُونَ لَهُ كَمَا يَحْلِفُونَ لَكُمْ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْكَاذِبُونَ **58:18**

On the Day, when God will raise them all together, they will swear to Him then as they swear to you now, and they fancy that they have some standing. Nay! They are liars.

اسْتَحْوَذَ عَلَيْهِمُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَأَنسَاهُمْ ذِكْرَ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ حِزْبُ الشَّيْطَانِ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ الشَّيْطَانِ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **58:19**

Their selfish desires have overpowered them, and made them oblivious to God's reminder. Such as these are the party of the Satan. It is they, the Satan's party, who are the ultimate losers.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحَادُّونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ فِي الْأَذَلِّينَ **58:20**

Those who oppose God and His Messenger, will be among the most humiliated ones.

Victors

كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَأَغْلِبَنَّ أَنَا وَرُسُلِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ **58:21**

For, God has decreed, "It is I and My Messengers who must prevail." God is Strong, Exalted in power.

لَّا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ **58:22**
اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ
عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ
مِّنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ
فِيهَا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَٰئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ أَلَا
إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

You will not find those who truly believe in God and the Last Day endear anyone who opposes God and His Messengers, even though they be their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their tribe. God has inscribed conviction on their hearts, and has strengthened them with Energy from Himself. So, He will admit them into Gardens underneath which rivers flow. Well pleased is God with them, and well pleased are they with Him. Certainly, they are the party of God. It is they, the party of God, who are truly successful.

Chapter 59

AL-Hashr - The Gathering

This is the 59th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 24 verses. The title refers to the gathering of forces and peaceful exile in 5 Hijrah (627 CE) of the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadhir near Madinah. They were banished from there after they had repeatedly violated the peace treaties they had signed with the exalted Prophet. They kept joining hands with the Makkan idolaters, the hypocrites and some clans committed to annihilate the believers. For their treachery, Banu Nadhir lost their citizenship and got exiled according to the treaty. They were allowed to take with them all movable property except weapons of war. With 600 camels laden with their belongings, the tribe was allowed to migrate peacefully to any place of their choosing and thereupon they relocated themselves in Syria. Whenever we reflect upon the Book of God in all sincerity, we cannot fail to perceive the truth of this Divine allegory: "Had We sent down this Qur´an upon a mountain, you would have seen it humble itself and rent asunder from the awe of God." [59:21]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **59:1**

All that is in the heavens and all that is on earth strives to manifest the glory of God. For, He is Almighty, the Wise.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ مِن دِيَارِهِمْ لِأَوَّلِ الْحَشْرِ مَا ظَنَنتُمْ أَن يَخْرُجُوا وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُم مَّانِعَتُهُمْ حُصُونُهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ فَأَتَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَمْ يَحْتَسِبُوا وَقَذَفَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الرُّعْبَ يُخْرِبُونَ بُيُوتَهُم بِأَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَيْدِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَاعْتَبِرُوا يَا أُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ **59:2**

He is the One Who evicted the disbelievers among the People of the Book from their homes at the first gathering (of the forces). You never thought that they would leave and they thought that their strongholds would defend them against God.

But God's requital came to them from directions they little expected, and caused fear in their hearts. So, they dismantled their dwellings with their own hands and (got them dismantled) at the hands of the believers. Learn a lesson, then, O You who are endowed with insight! ['God came' = His requital came. They dismantled their immovable property to prevent the believers from benefiting from it]

وَلَوْلَا أَن كَتَبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْجَلَاءَ لَعَذَّبَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابُ النَّارِ **59:3**

And if God had not decreed banishment for them, He would have punished them harder in this world, yet for them is suffering of the fire in the life to come.

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ شَاقُّوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَمَن يُشَاقِّ اللَّهَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **59:4**

This is because they opposed God and His Messenger. If anyone opposes God, certainly, God is Stern in grasping.

مَا قَطَعْتُم مِّن لِّينَةٍ أَوْ تَرَكْتُمُوهَا قَائِمَةً عَلَىٰ أُصُولِهَا فَبِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَلِيُخْزِيَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **59:5**

Whatever palm-trees you cut down or left standing on their roots, it was by God's leave, in order that He may disgrace those who drifted away from their treaties. [3:159. Lina = Softness, gentleness = Soft young palm-tree. Faasiq = One who drifts away]

وَمَا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ مِنْهُمْ فَمَا أَوْجَفْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ خَيْلٍ وَلَا رِكَابٍ وَلَٰكِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسَلِّطُ رُسُلَهُ عَلَىٰ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **59:6**

And whatever God has turned over to His Messenger, you did not toil on any horse or camel for it. But God gives His Messengers authority over any according to His laws. God has appointed due measure for all things and events.

مَّا أَفَاءَ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْقُرَىٰ فَلِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ وَلِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ كَيْ لَا يَكُونَ دُولَةً بَيْنَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ مِنكُمْ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ **59:7**

Whatever God has turned over to His Messenger from those communities belongs to God and His Messenger (the Central Authority). [The Messenger will spend it on] The Central Government (The Central Authority) - The welfare of the families of the believers. - The orphans. - Those who still feel left alone in the society. - The widows. - Those who have no means of earning their livelihood. - The disabled who cannot move around looking for the bounty of God. - The homeless son of the street. - Those who are on their way to join you, and - Those who travel a distance to seek help. So that it may not keep revolving between the wealthy among you. So, take what the Messenger gives you, and abstain from what he forbids you. Be mindful of God. Surely, God is Stern in grasping.

لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا وَيَنصُرُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ **59:8**

And it is for the poor refugees who have been expelled from their homelands and their property. They seek God's bounty and approval, and support God and His Messenger. They are the ones true to their faith.

وَالَّذِينَ تَبَوَّءُوا الدَّارَ وَالْإِيمَانَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ يُحِبُّونَ مَنْ هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ فِي صُدُورِهِمْ حَاجَةً مِّمَّا أُوتُوا وَيُؤْثِرُونَ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَلَوْ كَانَ بِهِمْ خَصَاصَةٌ وَمَن يُوقَ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **59:9**

Also, (true are) those who resided in the city (Madinah) before them and attained faith. They love those who immigrated to them, and find no hesitation in their hearts in helping them. They give them preference over themselves, even though poverty be their own lot. And whoever is saved from greediness of the heart, such are the ones who truly prosper.

وَالَّذِينَ جَاءُوا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ **59:10**

And those who came after them, say, "Our Lord! Forgive us and our brothers and sisters who preceded us in faith. And let not be any malice in our hearts toward those who have chosen to believe. Our Lord! You are truly Compassionate, Merciful."

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ نَافَقُوا يَقُولُونَ لِإِخْوَانِهِمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَئِنْ أُخْرِجْتُمْ لَنَخْرُجَنَّ مَعَكُمْ وَلَا نُطِيعُ **59:11**

فِيكُمْ أَحَدًا أَبَدًا وَإِن قُوتِلْتُمْ لَنَنصُرَنَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ

Have you not noted the hypocrites how they told their disbelieving brethren among the People of the Scripture, “If you are driven out, we certainly will go forth with you, and shall never heed anyone against you. And if you are attacked, certainly we shall help you.” But God bears witness that they are liars.

لَئِنْ أُخْرِجُوا لَا يَخْرُجُونَ مَعَهُمْ وَلَئِن قُوتِلُوا لَا يَنصُرُونَهُمْ وَلَئِن نَّصَرُوهُمْ لَيُوَلُّنَّ الْأَدْبَارَ ثُمَّ لَا يُنصَرُونَ **59:12**

If they (Banu Nadhir) are driven away, they (the hypocrites) will not go forth with them, and if they are attacked they will not help. And even if they try to help them, they will turn their backs in flight, and themselves find no help.

لَأَنتُمْ أَشَدُّ رَهْبَةً فِي صُدُورِهِم مِّنَ اللَّهِ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَفْقَهُونَ **59:13**

Nay, you believers arouse a fear in their hearts more intense than even the fear of God. This is because they are a people who do not understand (that all strength derives from following Divine laws).

لَا يُقَاتِلُونَكُمْ جَمِيعًا إِلَّا فِي قُرًى مُّحَصَّنَةٍ أَوْ مِن وَرَاءِ جُدُرٍ بَأْسُهُم بَيْنَهُمْ شَدِيدٌ تَحْسَبُهُمْ جَمِيعًا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ شَتَّىٰ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَّا يَعْقِلُونَ **59:14**

They will never fight you, even if they form a coalition, other than from within the fortified strongholds or from behind walls. They have great adversity in their own ranks. You may think they are united but their hearts are far apart. This is so, because they are a people who do not use their intellect. [Their alliances are based on selfishness rather on a noble ideology]

كَمَثَلِ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ قَرِيبًا ذَاقُوا وَبَالَ أَمْرِهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **59:15**

Their example is the same as of those who lately preceded them. They tasted the calamity for their (wrong) decisions, and theirs is the awful doom.

كَمَثَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِذْ قَالَ لِلْإِنسَانِ اكْفُرْ فَلَمَّا كَفَرَ قَالَ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّنكَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ **59:16**

They (the hypocrites) are like Satan when he says to man, “Reject the truth.” But as soon as man has rejected the truth, he says, “I am free of you. I do fear God, the Lord of the Worlds.”

فَكَانَ عَاقِبَتَهُمَا أَنَّهُمَا فِي النَّارِ خَالِدَيْنِ فِيهَا وَذَٰلِكَ جَزَاءُ الظَّالِمِينَ **59:17**

Thus, the end for both is in the fire, therein to abide. Such is the reward of those who relegate the truth. [Both = The person and his selfish desires]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **59:18**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of God and watch everyday what you have invested for your own ‘self’ for tomorrow. Again, remain conscious of God (today and every day). God is fully Aware of all your actions.

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنسَاهُمْ أَنفُسَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ **59:19**

And be not like those who forgot God, therefore, He (His law) made them forget themselves. It is those who have drifted away (from the road to success).

لَا يَسْتَوِي أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ وَأَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ **59:20**

Not equal are the dwellers of the fire and the dwellers of the Garden. Dwellers of the Garden, they are the ones crowned with honor.

لَوْ أَنزَلْنَا هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَىٰ جَبَلٍ لَّرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا مُّتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ **59:21**

Had We sent down this Qur’an upon a mountain, you would have seen it humble itself and rent asunder for awesomeness of God. Such examples We cite for mankind, so that they might think.

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ الرَّحِيمُ **59:22**

He is God; there is no god besides Him. Knower of all that is secret or open. He is the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ **59:23**

He is God; there is no god besides Him (no deity, no law-giver and none worthy of worship or obedience)! The King Supreme, the Impeccable, the Peace and the Source of all peace, the Guardian of faith and security, the Watcher over all things, the Majestic, All Powerful, the Superb. Glorious is God, far above what they ascribe to Him.

هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **59:24**

He is God, the Supreme Creator, the Shaper out of nothing, the Designer. His Names are the most beautiful Names, and His alone are the attributes of perfection. All things in the heavens and earth strive to manifest His glory. And He is Almighty, the Wise. [He runs the Universe in His Infinite power with His Infinite wisdom]

Chapter 60

Al-Mumtahinah - The Lady Under Oath

This is the 60th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 13 verses. This Surah has some brand new concepts not yet expounded in the previous chapters. God enjoins upon believers kindness and compassion toward all human beings. He permits them to fight those who attack them on account of faith or evict them from their homelands. In Prophet Abraham and his blessed companions is an excellent pattern of conduct for all humanity.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا عَدُوِّي وَعَدُوَّكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ تُلْقُونَ إِلَيْهِم بِالْمَوَدَّةِ وَقَدْ كَفَرُوا بِمَا جَاءَكُم مِّنَ الْحَقِّ يُخْرِجُونَ الرَّسُولَ وَإِيَّاكُمْ أَن تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ رَبِّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ خَرَجْتُمْ جِهَادًا فِي سَبِيلِي وَابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِي تُسِرُّونَ إِلَيْهِم بِالْمَوَدَّةِ وَأَنَا أَعْلَمُ بِمَا أَخْفَيْتُمْ وَمَا أَعْلَنتُمْ وَمَن يَفْعَلْهُ مِنكُمْ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ **60:1**

Love your enemies?

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take My enemies - who are your enemies as well - for friends. Do you extend love and friendship to them when they reject the truth that has come to you, driving out the Messenger and you because you believe in God, your Lord? If you are committed to strive in My way and to seek My approval, befriend them not. Do you show them friendship in secret, though I am best Aware of what you conceal and what you reveal? And whoever among you does that, he has certainly strayed from the right way. [3:117]

إِن يَثْقَفُوكُمْ يَكُونُوا لَكُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَيَبْسُطُوا إِلَيْكُمْ أَيْدِيَهُمْ وَأَلْسِنَتَهُم بِالسُّوءِ وَوَدُّوا لَوْ تَكْفُرُونَ **60:2**

If they ever overcome you, they will divide you, and smite you with their hands and tongues causing much disruption. For, they will love to see you reject the truth. ['Idia = Wedge = Wedge of division = Enmity = Dissension = Distance. Su = Disruption = Imbalance = Evil = Inequity]

لَن تَنفَعَكُمْ أَرْحَامُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **60:3**

(Divine Ideology comes first. Know that) Your family, relatives and your children will not avail you on the Resurrection Day. He will decide between you on individual merit alone. God is Seer of all that you do.

قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ إِذْ قَالُوا لِقَوْمِهِمْ إِنَّا بُرَآءُ مِنكُمْ وَمِمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ كَفَرْنَا بِكُمْ وَبَدَا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةُ وَالْبَغْضَاءُ أَبَدًا حَتَّىٰ تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَحْدَهُ إِلَّا قَوْلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ لَأَسْتَغْفِرَنَّ لَكَ وَمَا أَمْلِكُ لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِن شَيْءٍ رَّبَّنَا عَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ أَنَبْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ **60:4**

You can make dua, but no guarantee

There is an excellent pattern for you in Abraham, and his companions. They said to their people, "Truly, we stay clear of you and of what you worship instead of God. We reject you. And between us and you has arisen absolute distance and aversion until you believe in God alone." The only exception was Abraham's saying to his father, "I will pray for your forgiveness, although I own nothing for you from God." Then he prayed, "Our Lord! In You we place our trust, to You we turn for guidance, and unto You is the journey's end. [9:113, 14:41, 19:47, 33:21, 58:22]

رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **60:5**

Dua

Our Lord! Let us not be made a target of persecution at the hands of the rejecters. And protect us, our Lord! Surely, You are Mighty, Wise." [Ghafarah = Helmet, armor = Protection = Forgiveness = Guarding against detriment = Absolution of faults = Protection against intrinsic or extrinsic loss]

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِيهِمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ **60:6**

In them, you have an excellent pattern, for anyone whose hope is in God and in the Last Day. And whoever turns away, then God is Absolutely Independent, Worthy of all praise.

عَسَى اللَّهُ أَن يَجْعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَ الَّذِينَ عَادَيْتُم مِّنْهُم مَّوَدَّةً وَاللَّهُ قَدِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ 60:7

It may well be that God will bring about affection between you and those whom you now consider enemies. God is Able to do all things and God is Forgiving, Merciful.

7-9

لَّا يَنْهَاكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ أَن تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ 60:8

Kindness to all

God does not forbid you from being kind, and fully equitable to those who do not fight you on account of Religion, and do not evict you from your homelands. God loves those who lead a just, balanced life.[Deen = Divinely Prescribed System of Life = Way of Life = Collective system of living = Religion]

إِنَّمَا يَنْهَاكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ قَاتَلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَأَخْرَجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ وَظَاهَرُوا عَلَىٰ إِخْرَاجِكُمْ أَن تَوَلَّوْهُمْ وَمَن يَتَوَلَّهُمْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ 60:9

God forbids you from befriending only those who fight you on account of Religion and evict you from your homelands, or help others in evicting you. Those who befriend them will be wrongdoers.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا جَاءَكُمُ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ مُهَاجِرَاتٍ فَامْتَحِنُوهُنَّ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِإِيمَانِهِنَّ فَإِنْ عَلِمْتُمُوهُنَّ مُؤْمِنَاتٍ فَلَا تَرْجِعُوهُنَّ إِلَى الْكُفَّارِ لَا هُنَّ حِلٌّ لَّهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحِلُّونَ لَهُنَّ وَآتُوهُم مَّا أَنفَقُوا وَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ أَن تَنكِحُوهُنَّ إِذَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ وَلَا تُمْسِكُوا بِعِصَمِ الْكَوَافِرِ وَاسْأَلُوا مَا أَنفَقْتُمْ وَلْيَسْأَلُوا مَا أَنفَقُوا ذَٰلِكُمْ حُكْمُ اللَّهِ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ 60:10

Believing women

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When believing women come to you as immigrants, investigate their case, although only God is best Aware of their faith. Once you establish that they are truly believers, do not return them to the rejecters of the truth. They are not lawful for the rejecters, nor are the rejecters lawful for them. Give the rejecters what they have spent on them (as dowry). And there is no blame on you if you marry these women, when you have given them their due marital gift. And do not hold on to wedlock with women who continue to deny the truth. And you may ask them for the dowry you had paid, just as the rejecters have the right to ask the return of what they spent. This is the Judgment of God. He judges between you, for God is All Knower, All Wise.

وَإِن فَاتَكُمْ شَيْءٌ مِّنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ إِلَى الْكُفَّارِ فَعَاقَبْتُمْ فَآتُوا الَّذِينَ ذَهَبَتْ أَزْوَاجُهُم مِّثْلَ مَا أَنفَقُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنتُم بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ **60:11**

If the dower of a believer's immigrant wife has gone to the disbelievers, at your turn (when a believing woman comes to you for asylum, the government will) compensate your men from what they had given (to their disbelieving wives as dower). Be mindful of God in Whom you are believers.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتُ يُبَايِعْنَكَ عَلَىٰ أَن لَّا يُشْرِكْنَ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَسْرِقْنَ وَلَا يَزْنِينَ وَلَا يَقْتُلْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ وَلَا يَأْتِينَ بِبُهْتَانٍ يَفْتَرِينَهُ بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِنَّ وَأَرْجُلِهِنَّ وَلَا يَعْصِينَكَ فِي مَعْرُوفٍ فَبَايِعْهُنَّ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُنَّ اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **60:12**

See Edip

O Prophet! When the believing women come to you to take oath of allegiance that they will neither associate anyone with God, nor steal the rights of others, nor commit immodesty, nor kill their children, nor deprive them of good rearing, nor indulge in fabricating slander - either covertly or covertly - nor disobey you in the Qur'anic Values; accept their allegiance and ask God to bestow upon them the protection of forgiveness. God is Forgiving, Merciful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَوَلَّوْا قَوْمًا غَضِبَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ قَدْ يَئِسُوا مِنَ الْآخِرَةِ كَمَا يَئِسَ الْكُفَّارُ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْقُبُورِ **60:13**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not befriend a people whom God has condemned. Of the Hereafter they are already in despair - just as the deniers of the truth despair (the resurrection) of those who are in the graves.

Chapter 61

As-Saff - The Rank

This is the 61st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 14 verses. A believer should say what he means, and mean what he says. And never promise what he does not or will not do.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **61:1**

All things in the heavens and all things on earth are striving to manifest the glory of God and to fulfill His plan. For, He is the Almighty, the Wise.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ **61:2**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Why do you say what you do not do?

كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِندَ اللَّهِ أَن تَقُولُوا مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ **61:3**

It is despicable in the Sight of God that you say what you do not do.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ صَفًّا كَأَنَّهُم بُنْيَانٌ مَّرْصُوصٌ **61:4**

Truly, God loves those who fight in His cause in columns as if they were a rock solid wall. [Fighting in His cause, see 2:190, 60:8-9]

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ يَا قَوْمِ لِمَ تُؤْذُونَنِي وَقَد تَّعْلَمُونَ أَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ فَلَمَّا زَاغُوا أَزَاغَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **61:5**

(The people of Moses frequently said what they did not do, so) Moses had to tell them, "O My people! Why do you hurt me, even though you know that I am God's Messenger to you?" But when they kept deviating, God let their hearts deviate. God does not guide those who keep drifting away from their word. [Faasiq = One who drifts away - from? - depends on the context. 61:3]

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُم مُّصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَاةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِن بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَٰذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ **61:6**

Jesus

(The same happened when) Jesus son of Mary said, "O Children of Israel! I am a Messenger of God to you. I confirm (the truth in) the Torah, and give you the good news of a Messenger to come after me whose name shall be Ahmad (The praised One)." But when he does come to them with self-evident truth, the People of the Scripture will say, "This is obvious magic (a spellbinding utterance)." [Gospel of John: 14:16, 15:26, 16:7 Paracletos = Comforter, from original Greek Periclytos = The praised one. In Aramaic, Mawhamana = The praised one]

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ يُدْعَىٰ إِلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ **61:7**

Who does greater wrong than he who invents a lie against God when he is invited to Islam? God does not guide the wrongdoing people. [Zaalimeen = Those who relegate the truth = Oppressors = Those who displace something from its rightful place = Violators of human rights = Wrongdoers = Those who disregard moral Values]

يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ **61:8**

They aim to put out God's light with their mouths (utterances), but God has willed to spread His light in all its fullness, however hateful this may be to the deniers.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ **61:9**

He is the One Who has sent forth His Messenger with the guidance, and the Religion of truth, that He may make it prevail over all religions (and other systems of life) however hateful this may be to those who ascribe partners to Him. [9:31-33, 13:31, 14:48, 18:48, 41:53, 48:28, 51:20-21, 61:9]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ تِجَارَةٍ تُنجِيكُم مِّنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **61:10**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Shall I tell you of a trade that will save you from a painful doom (in both lives)?

تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنفُسِكُمْ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **61:11**

That you put your faith in God and His Messenger and strive in the cause of God with your wealth and person. This is for your own good, if you but knew. [9:111]

يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَيُدْخِلْكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **61:12**

He will guard you from trailing behind in humanity, and admit you into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, and into beautiful mansions in the Gardens of Eden, (Gardens of Eternal bliss). That is the Supreme Triumph.

وَأُخْرَىٰ تُحِبُّونَهَا نَصْرٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَفَتْحٌ قَرِيبٌ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ **61:13**

And yet another thing that you so dearly love! Help from God and imminent victory (soon in this very life). So give good news to the believers (O Prophet).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا أَنصَارَ اللَّهِ كَمَا قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ لِلْحَوَارِيِّينَ مَنْ أَنصَارِي إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ نَحْنُ أَنصَارُ اللَّهِ فَآمَنَت طَّائِفَةٌ مِّن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَكَفَرَت طَّائِفَةٌ فَأَيَّدْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَىٰ عَدُوِّهِمْ فَأَصْبَحُوا ظَاهِرِينَ **61:14**

O You who have chosen to be blessed with belief! Be God's helpers. As an example - Jesus son of Mary said to the disciples, "Who are my helpers for God?" They said, "We are God's helpers." Thus a group from the Children of Israel accepted him, and another group rejected him. Then We strengthened those who believed, against their foe, and they became triumphant.

Chapter 62

Al-Jumu´ah - The Congregation

This is the 62nd Surah of the Qur´an and it has 11 verses. This Surah emphasizes that the Book of God must be understood and acted upon. Merely reciting or showing reverence is not enough. Friday must not be equated with Sabbath since we find in 62:10 That Muslims are expected to work seeking God´s bounty on this day as on other days of the week.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ الْمَلِكِ الْقُدُّوسِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ **62:1**

All that is in the heavens and all that is on earth strive to manifest the glory of God, the King Supreme, the Impeccable, the Almighty, the Wise.

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **62:2**

Ummi

He is the One Who has sent a Messenger among those who had never before received a scripture - to convey to them His messages, to make them grow in humanity, to instruct them in the scripture and wisdom, Judgment and establishment of God's Rule on earth - whereas before that they were obviously lost in error, [Ummi = Gentile = Non-Israelite = Unlettered = A people (the Arabs) that had never received a scripture before. Zaku, Tazkiah = Growth = Purity from vice = Development of the 'self' = Self-actualization. Hikmah = Wisdom = Judgment = Governance = Political Rule]

وَآخَرِينَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا يَلْحَقُوا بِهِمْ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **62:3**

Along with others who have not yet joined them (in time and place). He is Mighty, Wise.

ذَٰلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ 62:4

Such is God's bounty - which He bestows upon him who is willing to receive it. (His light is available to whoever turns it on.) God is the Lord of the magnificent bounty.

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَاةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا بِئْسَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ 62:5

(The Book of God is to be read and understood, and not placed in high niches.) The example of those who were entrusted with Torah, and did not apply it in their daily lives, is that of the donkey that carries a load of books. Evil is the example of people who deny God's revelations by their misdeeds. God does not guide people who choose to do wrong (and displace the revelation from its rightful status). [Kizb = Belie = Give lie = Deny in practice. Kufr = Reject openly = Darkness = Denial = Ingratitude = Concealing. Zulm = Dislodge from the rightful place = Relegate the truth = Give preference to conjecture = Oppression = Wrongdoing = Violation of human rights]

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ هَادُوا إِن زَعَمْتُمْ أَنَّكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ لِلَّهِ مِن دُونِ النَّاسِ فَتَمَنَّوُا الْمَوْتَ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ 62:6

Say, "O You who are Jewish! If you claim that you are friends to God to the exclusion of the rest of mankind, then long for death if you are truthful!" (And hope to meet with your Lord for eternal bliss.)

وَلَا يَتَمَنَّوْنَهُ أَبَدًا بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ 62:7

But they will never long for it because of what their hands have sent ahead. God is fully Aware of the wrongdoers. [2:94-96. See Zulm, 62:5]

قُلْ إِنَّ الْمَوْتَ الَّذِي تَفِرُّونَ مِنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مُلَاقِيكُمْ ثُمَّ تُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 62:8

Say, "The death which you fear so much is bound to overtake you, and then you will be returned to the Knower of the Invisible and Visible. Then He will make you understand what you used to do."

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِن يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ 62:9

تَعْلَمُونَ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When the call for Salaat (carrying out Divine commands) is announced on the Day of the Congregation, hasten to the remembrance of God (through the Qur'an) and leave your commerce. That is for your own good if you use your knowledge to understand.

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ **62:10**

And when the commands have been understood, disperse freely in the land and seek to implement God's bounty (His commands). And remember God (His laws) often so that you may prosper. [62:4]

وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا قُلْ مَا عِندَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ مِّنَ اللَّهْوِ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ **62:11**

Yet when they see some bargain or entertainment, they rush to it, and leave you standing. Say, "What is with God is better than all entertainment and all bargain. God is the Best of providers."

Chapter 63

Al-Munaafiqoon - The Hypocrites

This is the 63rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 11 verses. Hypocrisy is a personality disorder. It not only indicates a difference in word and action, but it is the antithesis to Conviction. A person with Conviction can be trusted in his word and action. On the contrary a hypocrite cannot be trusted. Linguistically the term Munaafiq is interesting. It refers to a person who, upon entering a situation, habitually looks for a way out. That is how rats in the wild dig their tunnels with one real opening and the other a fake opening just superficially covered with dust, in order to escape a predator. At places, the Qur´an terms their state as "a disease of the hearts." It is to be noted that the hypocrites are not necessarily a group of people. They walked around the exalted Prophet as they do in every community today.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا نَشْهَدُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُهُ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ **63:1**

Hypocrites shahada

When the hypocrites come to you (O Prophet), they say, "We bear witness that you are God's Messenger." Yes, God knows that you are truly His Messenger, but God bears witness that the hypocrites are liars. [48:29. They say what they don't mean]

اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً فَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُمْ سَاءَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ **63:2**

They make their oaths and proclamation of faith a cover so that they may bar others from the path of God. Their deeds are disruptive to the society. [Saa, Su = Disruptive behavior]

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا ثُمَّ كَفَرُوا فَطُبِعَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ فَهُمْ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ **63:3**

This, because they profess (before you) that they have believed whereas afterward they reject the truth. And so a seal has been set upon their hearts, thus they understand not. [Variation between utterance and action hampers the power of reasoning within human psyche 61:2-5]

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ تُعْجِبُكَ أَجْسَامُهُمْ وَإِن يَقُولُوا تَسْمَعْ لِقَوْلِهِمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ خُشُبٌ مُّسَنَّدَةٌ يَحْسَبُونَ كُلَّ صَيْحَةٍ عَلَيْهِمْ هُمُ الْعَدُوُّ فَاحْذَرْهُمْ قَاتَلَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ **63:4**

When you see them, their looks may impress you. And if they speak, you are inclined to listen to their speech. But they are like wooden logs propped up. They think that every call is directed against them. These are the real enemies, so beware of them. God condemns them. How are they deluded! [Wooden logs = Empty of inner strength, unable to stand at their own feet]

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَعَالَوْا يَسْتَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ لَوَّوْا رُءُوسَهُمْ وَرَأَيْتَهُمْ يَصُدُّونَ وَهُم مُّسْتَكْبِرُونَ **63:5**

And when it is said to them, "Come! God's Messenger will ask for your forgiveness", they shake their heads, and you see them pause, and then draw back in false pride. [Istighfar = Protection of forgiveness = Absolving the faults through good deed = Guarding of the 'self' = Guarding against detriment]

سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْهِمْ أَسْتَغْفَرْتَ لَهُمْ أَمْ لَمْ تَسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ لَن يَغْفِرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ **63:6**

No intercession

It is the same for them whether you pray for their forgiveness, or not pray for their forgiveness. God will not forgive them. God does not guide people who keep drifting away. [Fisq = Drifting away = Slip out of sense = Move away from reason = = Drift away from discipline = Defy Divine Commands]

هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ لَا تُنفِقُوا عَلَىٰ مَنْ عِندَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ حَتَّىٰ يَنفَضُّوا وَلِلَّهِ خَزَائِنُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَٰكِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ **63:7**

They are the ones who say, "Do not spend anything on those who are with God's Messenger, so that they leave." However, to God belongs the treasures of the heavens and earth, but the hypocrites cannot grasp this truth. [Ansar, the helping hosts, Muslim residents of Madinah, were supporting the needy Mahaajireen or immigrants from Makkah]

يَقُولُونَ لَئِن رَّجَعْنَا إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ لَيُخْرِجَنَّ الْأَعَزُّ مِنْهَا الْأَذَلَّ وَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَٰكِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ **63:8**

And they say, "When we return to Madinah, the honored ones will expel from there the contemptible ones." However, all honor belongs to God, to His Messenger and

to the believers. But the hypocrites do not realize this. [The hypocrites, holding the believers in contempt, said that upon returning from Banu Musta'liq in 5 AH]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ عَن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَن يَفْعَلْ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ **63:9**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Let not your wealth or your children distract you from the remembrance of God. Those who do this are the losers.

وَأَنفِقُوا مِن مَّا رَزَقْنَاكُم مِّن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَ أَحَدَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ فَيَقُولَ رَبِّ لَوْلَا أَخَّرْتَنِي إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ فَأَصَّدَّقَ وَأَكُن مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **63:10**

And spend on others of what We have provided you with, before death comes to one of you. And he then says, "My Lord! If only You would delay this for a short while, so that I could give in charity and be among the righteous."

وَلَن يُؤَخِّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهَا وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ **63:11**

But never does God grant delay to a person when the time appointed has arrived. God is well Aware of all you do.

Chapter 64

At-Taghaabun - The Ultimate Loss And Gain

This is the 64th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 18 verses. ´Taghabun´ pertains to mutual loss and gain in daily lives, business or battle. It also indicates the Ultimate Loss and Gain on the Day of Judgment.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **64:1**

Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth relentlessly strive to fulfill God's plan, and manifest His glory. To Him belongs the Supreme Kingdom, and all Universe is a living witness of His praise. And He is Able to do all things. [7:31, 14:1-2, 16:5-6, 18:7, 67:1-5. God has appointed due measure for all things and events]

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ فَمِنكُمْ كَافِرٌ وَمِنكُم مُّؤْمِنٌ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ **64:2**

He is the One Who created you (and endowed you with free will). So, one of you is a denier of the truth and one of you chooses to be graced with belief. God is Seer of all you do.

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَوَّرَكُمْ فَأَحْسَنَ صُوَرَكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ * **64:3**

He created the heavens and earth in truth and with a Sublime purpose. And He formed you and formed you so well with beautiful potentials. And to Him is the Final destination. [Life has a sublime purpose and keeps evolving like everything else in the Cosmos. So, the death of the human body is only a transition to a higher form of life]

يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُسِرُّونَ وَمَا تُعْلِنُونَ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **64:4**

He knows every detail in the highs and the lows and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal. God is Knower of what is in the hearts.

أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَبَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِن قَبْلُ فَذَاقُوا وَبَالَ أَمْرِهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **64:5**

Has not the news reached you of those who denied the truth in the earlier times, and so they did taste the calamity for their (wrong) decisions? And for them was a painful chastisement.

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُ كَانَت تَّأْتِيهِمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَقَالُوا أَبَشَرٌ يَهْدُونَنَا فَكَفَرُوا وَتَوَلَّوا وَّاسْتَغْنَى اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيدٌ **64:6**

This was because their Messengers kept coming to them with self-evident truth, but they said, “Shall mere human beings guide us?” And they rejected them and turned away but God being free of want (is in no need of them). God is Absolutely Independent, Owner of praise.

زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن لَّن يُبْعَثُوا قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا عَمِلْتُمْ وَذَٰلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ **64:7**

Those who reject the truth think that they will never be raised again. Say, “By my Lord! You will be raised again. And then you will be informed of what you really accomplished. For, this is easy for God.”

فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَالنُّورِ الَّذِي أَنزَلْنَا وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ **64:8**

So believe in God, His Messenger and the Light which We have revealed. God is fully Aware of what you do. [And how actions affect the ‘self’ according to the Law of Cause and Effect]

يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُكُمْ لِيَوْمِ الْجَمْعِ ذَٰلِكَ يَوْمُ التَّغَابُنِ وَمَن يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ وَيَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا يُكَفِّرْ عَنْهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِ وَيُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ **64:9**

The Day when He shall gather you all on the Day of Gathering, that will be the Day of loss and gain. And whoever chooses to be graced with belief, and helps others,

God will blot out the imprints of his faults and admit him into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide forever. That is the Supreme Triumph.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **64:10**

But those who oppose and deny Our messages, such are dwellers of the fire. They will abide therein - what a miserable destination!

مَا أَصَابَ مِن مُّصِيبَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَمَن يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ قَلْبَهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ **64:11**

(Nothing happens haphazardly in the Universe.) No calamity befalls but according to Divine laws. Whoever has conviction in God, He guides his heart in the right direction. God is the Knower of all things and events. [Nations that understand the laws in nature are better equipped to take preventive measures against natural disasters. Izn = Leave = Permission = Laws]

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ فَإِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَإِنَّمَا عَلَىٰ رَسُولِنَا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ **64:12**

Obey God and obey the Messenger. But if you turn away, the duty of Our Messenger is only to convey the message clearly. [Obeying God and His Messenger would mean obeying the Central Authority. 3:32]

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ **64:13**

God! There is no deity but Him. On God, then, let the believers put their trust. [They know that His laws never change]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ مِنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ وَأَوْلَادِكُمْ عَدُوًّا لَّكُمْ فَاحْذَرُوهُمْ وَإِن تَعْفُوا وَتَصْفَحُوا وَتَغْفِرُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **64:14**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Among your spouses and your children may be those who distance you from your higher objectives. So be careful about them. But if you pardon and overlook, and forgive them their faults, (remember that) God is Forgiving, Merciful. [Then the whole family will strive for the noble Mission. 2:85, 2:98, 60:2. ‘Idia, ‘Udwaan, ‘Adu = Wedge = Creating distance between hearts = Discord = Opposition = Enmity = Schism = Division = Remoteness. Safh = Overlook = Create room in the heart = ‘Afw = Forgo = Absolve = Pardon]

إِنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عِندَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ **64:15**

Your wealth and children provide you with a test. (If you keep balance), with God is a tremendous reward. [64:14, 2:221]

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ وَاسْمَعُوا وَأَطِيعُوا وَأَنفِقُوا خَيْرًا لِّأَنفُسِكُمْ وَمَن يُوقَ شُحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ **64:16**

So be mindful of God as best as you can. Listen, and obey, and keep your resources open for others. That is good for your own 'self'. Those who are saved from their own greediness are truly successful.

إِن تُقْرِضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا يُضَاعِفْهُ لَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ شَكُورٌ حَلِيمٌ **64:17**

If you lend to God a goodly loan, He will multiply it for you and will grant you the protection of forgiveness. God is Appreciative, Clement.

عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ **64:18**

Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, the Mighty, the Wise.

Chapter 65

At-Talaq - Divorce

This is the 65th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 12 verses. God holds man accountable only to the extent what He has given to him. Some very important laws for divorce are propounded in this Surah in addition to 2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4. According to the Qur´an, there is absolutely no room for an instant divorce. The process must take months in order to allow reconsideration on the part of the husband and wife. It is highly unfortunate and shameful that Muslim jurists have been ignoring and practically revoking these clear verses of the Book of God for centuries, in favor of their own conjecture. According to their erroneous edicts if a husband utters the word ´Divorce´ three times in anger or under any kind of duress or even in a stage drama or movie, divorce takes effect instantly. What a mockery of the Qur´an! It is interesting to note that the so called Fuqaha (Jurists and Mullahs) who otherwise uphold Hadith in preference to the Word of God, conveniently disregard even their ´treasure´ whenever it suits their purpose. They even ´abrogate´ the Qur´anic verses against Hadith! In this instance, there is a Hadith in Ibn Majah. The exalted Prophet is reported to have said, "La talaqa fil Ighlaq" = There is absolutely no divorce under any kind of duress, coercion, suddenness, anger etc. This Hadith which is in total harmony with the Qur´an remains obscure to the ´Ulama´. Incidentally, there is another beautiful Hadith that strikes a chord with 65:2. The exalted Prophet is reported to have said: O People! Just this verse of the Qur´an should suffice you: Anyone who is mindful of God (His commands), He will grant a way out for him (from difficult situations).

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِذَا طَلَّقْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَطَلِّقُوهُنَّ لِعِدَّتِهِنَّ وَأَحْصُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ رَبَّكُمْ لَا تُخْرِجُوهُنَّ مِن بُيُوتِهِنَّ وَلَا يَخْرُجْنَ إِلَّا أَن يَأْتِينَ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُّبَيِّنَةٍ وَتِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَمَن يَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ ظَلَمَ نَفْسَهُ لَا تَدْرِي لَعَلَّ اللَّهَ يُحْدِثُ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ أَمْرًا **65:1**

O Prophet! When you men intend to divorce women, make sure that the waiting period is observed. Keep precise account of this interim. Be mindful of God, your Lord. Never expel them from THEIR homes, nor shall they themselves leave their homes unless they commit open immorality. These are, then, the limits imposed by God. And whoever crosses God's limits, hurts one's own 'self'. You do not know that God may bring about thereafter a new situation (help create reconciliation).[Note

Adultery
Waiting period before marrying

that homes belong to women. The waiting period before a divorced woman or a widow can remarry, has been explained before and reiterated now. (65:4, 2:228, 2:234). There is no waiting period for women with whom husbands have had no intimate relations. 33:49]

فَإِذَا بَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ فَارِقُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَأَشْهِدُوا ذَوَيْ عَدْلٍ مِّنكُمْ وَأَقِيمُوا الشَّهَادَةَ لِلَّهِ ذَٰلِكُمْ يُوعَظُ بِهِ مَن كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَن يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَل لَّهُ مَخْرَجًا **65:2**

And so when they have reached their waiting term, either retain them in kindness or part with them in kindness. And let there be two just persons among you to witness, and establish the evidence straight for God. This exhortation is for him who believes in God and the Last Day. And anyone who is mindful of God, He will grant a way out for him (from difficult situations).

وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَن يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَالِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا **65:3**

And will provide for him in a manner he never expected. And whoever places his trust in God, He will suffice him. God always brings His command to pass. For all things God has appointed a due proportion.

وَاللَّائِي يَئِسْنَ مِنَ الْمَحِيضِ مِن نِّسَائِكُمْ إِنِ ارْتَبْتُمْ فَعِدَّتُهُنَّ ثَلَاثَةُ أَشْهُرٍ وَاللَّائِي لَمْ يَحِضْنَ وَأُولَاتُ الْأَحْمَالِ أَجَلُهُنَّ أَن يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ وَمَن يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَل لَّهُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ يُسْرًا **65:4**

And those of your women who no longer expect menstruation, as well as those women who do not habitually menstruate (for any reason), to resolve your doubts, their waiting period is ordained to be three months. For those who are pregnant, the waiting period ends when they deliver their burden. Anyone who is mindful of God, He will make his condition easy for him. [Note the word Hamlahunna = Their burden = What they carry, - instead of 'their baby or child'. So, the term includes abortion, conditions such as moles, and all kinds of abnormal pregnancies and outcomes]

ذَٰلِكَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ أَنزَلَهُ إِلَيْكُمْ وَمَن يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يُكَفِّرْ عَنْهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِ وَيُعْظِمْ لَهُ أَجْرًا **65:5**

That is the commandment of God that He reveals to you. Anyone who is mindful of God, He will absolve his faults and increase his reward.

أَسْكِنُوهُنَّ مِنْ حَيْثُ سَكَنتُم مِّن وُجْدِكُمْ وَلَا تُضَارُّوهُنَّ لِتُضَيِّقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ وَإِن كُنَّ أُولَاتِ حَمْلٍ فَأَنفِقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ حَتَّىٰ يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَرْضَعْنَ لَكُمْ فَآتُوهُنَّ أُجُورَهُنَّ وَأْتَمِرُوا بَيْنَكُم بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَإِن تَعَاسَرْتُمْ فَسَتُرْضِعُ لَهُ أُخْرَىٰ 65:6

Let them (the divorced women) live where you live with the same standard of living that you have, and according to your best means. Harass them not to make life difficult for them. And if they are pregnant, spend on them freely until they deliver their burden. Then, if they nurse your baby, give them their due recompense. And frequently consult together amicably. And if both of you find it difficult, let another woman suckle the baby on his behalf. [The husband will pay for the services of a foster mother]

لِيُنفِقْ ذُو سَعَةٍ مِّن سَعَتِهِ وَمَن قُدِرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقُهُ فَلْيُنفِقْ مِمَّا آتَاهُ اللَّهُ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا مَا آتَاهَا سَيَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ عُسْرٍ يُسْرًا 65:7

Let the affluent man give according to his affluence, and the poor man give according to what resources God has given him. God puts no burden on any person beyond what He has given him/her. (He does not hold accountable any human being with more than what He has given him.) God will soon bestow relief after hardship.

وَكَأَيِّن مِّن قَرْيَةٍ عَتَتْ عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهَا وَرُسُلِهِ فَحَاسَبْنَاهَا حِسَابًا شَدِيدًا وَعَذَّبْنَاهَا عَذَابًا نُّكْرًا 65:8

And how many a community revolted against the command of its Lord and of His Messengers! We called each of them to a stern account and requited it with a dire requital.

فَذَاقَتْ وَبَالَ أَمْرِهَا وَكَانَ عَاقِبَةُ أَمْرِهَا خُسْرًا 65:9

And thus it tasted the calamitous end of its own doing. For, the consequence of their deeds was an utter loss.

أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قَدْ أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكُمْ ذِكْرًا 65:10

God has readied for them awful suffering (in the Hereafter as well). So always be mindful of God, O People of understanding who have chosen to be graced with belief! Certainly, God has sent down to you a reminder,

رَّسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ مُبَيِّنَاتٍ لِّيُخْرِجَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَمَن يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ وَيَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا قَدْ أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ لَهُ رِزْقًا **65:11**

(Reminder through) a Messenger who conveys to you clear messages of God so that he may lead those who believe and set things right, from the depths of darkness into the light. And those who believe in God and work for the good of others, He will admit them into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide forever. God has readied for them a most excellent provision. [5:15-16, 7:157, 76:4]

اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ وَمِنَ الْأَرْضِ مِثْلَهُنَّ يَتَنَزَّلُ الْأَمْرُ بَيْنَهُنَّ لِتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا **65:12**

God is He who has created seven cosmic systems, and like them, of the lows. Through all of them descends His command that you may know that God has power over all things. And that God encompasses all things in His knowledge. [Sab'a = Seven = Several. Every high has its low, hence every heaven or sky has its 'earth']

Chapter 66

At-Tahreem - Prohibition

This is the 66th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 12 verses. A Noble Ideology must form the basis of lasting relationships. God alone has the authority of declaring something lawful or unlawful. And these laws are given in the Qur´an. The Surah has no room for the contradictory and irrational stories of the exalted Prophet prohibiting honey for himself or of divorcing Maria, the Coptic. Among the historical accounts the one that stands up to reason is this: The exalted Prophet had mentioned to his wife Hafsah r.a. that Abu Bakr r.a. would likely be his successor followed by Umar r.a. Then, Hafsah r.a. shared this confidential information with another wife Ayesha r.a. (It is a well-known saying that a secret between more than two persons is no more a secret.) The exalted Prophet probably did not wish to announce his foresight in order to let the believers mutually consult and elect their leader after him.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ لِمَ تُحَرِّمُ مَا أَحَلَّ اللَّهُ لَكَ تَبْتَغِي مَرْضَاتَ أَزْوَاجِكَ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **66:1**

Only God prohibits

O Prophet! Would you prohibit something that God has made lawful for you, even to please your wives? God is Absolver of (their) imperfections, Merciful. [The big question: What would the exalted Prophet ban on himself that is lawful and that would please his wives? My humble understanding: In his compassion, the Prophet wished to promise his wives that he would not divorce any of them under any circumstances. (He never did anyhow.) Divorce, although a very unpleasant last resort, is not prohibited by God. To my knowledge, no exponent of the Qur'an has answered the big question as stated above, however, it sounds reasonable keeping in view the context and the flow of the verses. The conjecture of Shaan-e-Nuzool (circumstances of a revelation) leads people into thinking of weird situations such as: One night, the Prophet (S) stayed a bit too long with a wife since she offered him honey. Then Hazrat Ayesha and Hazrat Hafsah became jealous and told him that his mouth had an odor. The Prophet (S) then declared honey Haraam for himself. What an insult!]

Only God prohibits

قَدْ فَرَضَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ تَحِلَّةَ أَيْمَانِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ مَوْلَاكُمْ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ **66:2**

Maula

God has already decreed for you believers the procedure for dealing with your oaths. God is your Master, and He is the Knower, the Wise. [2:225, 5:89] Edip

Allah is the only Maula

وَإِذْ أَسَرَّ النَّبِيُّ إِلَىٰ بَعْضِ أَزْوَاجِهِ حَدِيثًا فَلَمَّا نَبَّأَتْ بِهِ وَأَظْهَرَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَرَّفَ بَعْضَهُ وَأَعْرَضَ عَن بَعْضٍ فَلَمَّا نَبَّأَهَا بِهِ قَالَتْ مَنْ أَنبَأَكَ هَٰذَا قَالَ نَبَّأَنِيَ الْعَلِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ **66:3**

Allah's Hadith

[Family life must be a relation of mutual trust. Now follows an example for the believers] The Prophet confided a certain statement to one of his wives but then she divulged it. And God made this known to him. He then informed his wife of part of the issue and disregarded part. She asked him, "Who informed you of this?" He said, "The Knower, the Aware has informed me."

إِن تَتُوبَا إِلَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ صَغَتْ قُلُوبُكُمَا وَإِن تَظَاهَرَا عَلَيْهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ مَوْلَاهُ وَجِبْرِيلُ وَصَالِحُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ ظَهِيرٌ **66:4**

Maula

You two should turn in repentance to God, since your hearts had deviated. But if you back up each other against him (in divulging family matters), then, remember, God is with him, and so is Gabriel (who brings the revelation in truth), and the righteous believers. Also angels are his helpers. ['Angels' here denotes perseverance, restraint, courage, resolve, contentment 3;126, 8:9, 9:26, 33:56] [Here is the absolute refutation of the Hadith collectors who obnoxiously try to spy into fabricated accounts of the Prophet's private life]

عَسَىٰ رَبُّهُ إِن طَلَّقَكُنَّ أَن يُبْدِلَهُ أَزْوَاجًا خَيْرًا مِّنكُنَّ مُسْلِمَاتٍ مُّؤْمِنَاتٍ قَانِتَاتٍ تَائِبَاتٍ عَابِدَاتٍ سَائِحَاتٍ ثَيِّبَاتٍ وَأَبْكَارًا **66:5**

Hadith Muhammad

33:53
66:3

If he divorces any of you, his Lord may substitute other wives in your stead who are better than you, completely submissive to God, staunch in faith, strongly devoted to Divine Ideology, quick to turn toward making amends, serving God by helping His creation, picking up lessons from history when they travel, whether widows or maidens.

Sayihat

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَّا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ **66:6**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! (Family life must be a matter of trust and confidence.) Guard yourselves and your families against a fire whose fuel is people and their stone hearted leaders. The guardians of this fire are the invincible, changeless Divine laws that never fail to execute God's ordinance, and carry it out without exception.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَعْتَذِرُوا الْيَوْمَ إِنَّمَا تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ **66:7**

O You rejecters of the truth! Make no excuses for yourselves this Day. You are only being paid for what you used to do.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يَوْمَ لَا يُخْزِي اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ نُورُهُمْ يَسْعَىٰ بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَبِأَيْمَانِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَتْمِمْ لَنَا نُورَنَا وَاغْفِرْ لَنَا إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **66:8**

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Turn to God in sincere repentance. Your Lord will then remit from you your misdeeds, and admit you into the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. That will be a Day when God will not let His Prophet and those who are with him in belief be degraded. Their light will radiate in front of them and to their right. They will say, "Our Lord! Perfect our light for us, and absolve our imperfections. You have power over all things and events." ['To their right' is a metaphor of Divine grace]

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاهِدِ الْكُفَّارَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ وَاغْلُظْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَمَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **66:9**

O Prophet! Strive against the rejecters of the truth and the hypocrites, and be stern with them. Hell will be their home - how pathetic a journey's end!

ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا امْرَأَتَ نُوحٍ وَامْرَأَتَ لُوطٍ كَانَتَا تَحْتَ عَبْدَيْنِ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا صَالِحَيْنِ فَخَانَتَاهُمَا فَلَمْ يُغْنِيَا عَنْهُمَا مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَقِيلَ ادْخُلَا النَّارَ مَعَ الدَّاخِلِينَ **66:10**

God cites an example for those who deny the truth. The wife of Noah and the wife of Lot, they were wedded to two of Our righteous servants yet each one betrayed her husband so that neither of them (their husbands) could avail them at all against God. And it was said, "Enter the fire along with others who enter it."

وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا امْرَأَتَ فِرْعَوْنَ إِذْ قَالَتْ رَبِّ ابْنِ لِي عِندَكَ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَنَجِّنِي مِن فِرْعَوْنَ وَعَمَلِهِ **66:11**

وَنَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

And God gives an example for those who have chosen to be graced with belief: The wife of Pharaoh when she said, “My Lord! Build for me a mansion in Paradise, and save me from Pharaoh and his doings, and save me from the oppressors.”

وَمَرْيَمَ ابْنَتَ عِمْرَانَ الَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِنَا وَصَدَّقَتْ بِكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّهَا وَكُتُبِهِ وَكَانَتْ مِنَ الْقَانِتِينَ **66:12**

And Mary, daughter of Imran, who guarded her chastity, and We breathed into her (baby) from Our Energy. And she put faith in the Words of her Lord and His revelations, and was of the most devoted servants. [In very adverse circumstances, Mary guarded her chastity and revolted against the non-Divine institution of monasticism, and got married adopting the natural family life. ‘from Our Energy’ = Free will, as all human beings are granted. 2:30]

Chapter 67

Al-Mulk - The Supreme Kingdom

This is the 67th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 30 verses. The Surah drives home the point that the Creator of the Universe is Impeccable and we can see His Perfection in His creation. The Book sent by such Perfect Creator has to be perfect. Having said that, it is up to us, anyone of us, to read the Book and see for ourselves the truth of this statement. Verse 5 of this Surah has frequently been misinterpreted giving the impression as if there are some invisible creatures, Jinns and Satans who ascend to the sky and try to listen to God´s secret conference with angels. Then missiles in the form of meteorites are thrown upon them. This fallacy arises from the Biblical and fabricated Hadith concept of God sitting on a throne in the skies. According to the Qur´an God is Omnipresent. He is High above anthropomorphism (a physical form). And Satan is nothing but our own selfish desires. Satans are people who succumb to their selfish desires or incite others into wrongdoing. And Jinns denote the uncivilized nomads living distant from Ins, the urban people. Contrary to the Bible, the Qur´an does not acknowledge the existence of any demons either. It is tragic that the ancient and the modern commentators of the Qur´an have only rarely been able to free their minds of the Israelite, or the Judeo-Christian traditions. Furthermore, they disregard a reported saying of the exalted Prophet, "La Ghoul" = There is no such thing as demons, witches, Dracula, evil spirits, mysterious beings possessing humans or harassing them.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ **67:1**

Eternally Blessed is He in Whose hand is the Supreme Kingdom of the Universe, and He is the Powerful Designer of His laws for everything.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ **67:2**

He has created death and life to let you go through diverse circumstances and, thus, distinguish for yourselves who would do better. [The real existence on earth is of the one who benefits humankind 13:17. Men and women who create balance in the society, help the needy, and strive for the betterment of humanity with their God-given resources of wealth and person, advance their own 'self'. Such men and women have made themselves eligible for the higher form of life in Paradise, attaining immortality. Men and women that fail to develop their own 'self', find the Insurmountable Barrier in front of them. This lack of progress makes them eligible only for mere survival in Hellfire. Life without progress is a Hell in itself

11:7, 18:7] The Almighty, the Absolver of imperfections, has designed this System in His Infinite wisdom.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا مَّا تَرَىٰ فِي خَلْقِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ مِن تَفَاوُتٍ فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ تَرَىٰ مِن فُطُورٍ **67:3**

He has created seven Cosmic Systems in great harmony, one above the other. Look! No fault will you see in the creation of the Beneficent. Turn your vision upon it once more. Can you see any flaw? [Tabaq = Layer = Plane = Ascending height]

ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ **67:4**

Then look again and yet again, and every time your vision will fall back upon you, dazzled and defeated.

وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ وَجَعَلْنَاهَا رُجُومًا لِّلشَّيَاطِينِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابَ السَّعِيرِ **67:5**

And We have beautified the sky of the world with shining lamps. And made them objects of futile guesses for the Satans. And for them We have prepared the doom of blazing flames. [15:17, 37:6-9, 72:8. Astrologers, fortune-tellers, clairvoyants, mystics, and Sufis who, for selfish gains, claim knowledge of the Unseen and the future, are either themselves deceived or deceive others. Rajm also denotes speaking out of conjecture like throwing stones randomly, or shooting in the dark]

وَلِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ **67:6**

Suffering in Hell awaits all those who reject their Sustainer. What a miserable destination!

إِذَا أُلْقُوا فِيهَا سَمِعُوا لَهَا شَهِيقًا وَهِيَ تَفُورُ **67:7**

When they are flung into Hell, they will hear and feel its fury as it fumes.

تَكَادُ تَمَيَّزُ مِنَ الْغَيْظِ كُلَّمَا أُلْقِيَ فِيهَا فَوْجٌ سَأَلَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَذِيرٌ **67:8**

As if it would burst with rage. Whenever a group is cast in it, the guardians of Hell will ask them, “Did you not receive a warner?”

قَالُوا بَلَىٰ قَدْ جَاءَنَا نَذِيرٌ فَكَذَّبْنَا وَقُلْنَا مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ مِن شَيْءٍ إِنْ أَنتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ كَبِيرٍ **67:9**

They will say, “Yes, a warner did come to us but we denied him saying that God has not revealed anything! You are but lost in a great error.”

وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ **67:10**

And they will say, “If we really listened and used our sense, we would not be among the dwellers of the Flames.” [7:179]

فَاعْتَرَفُوا بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسُحْقًا لِّأَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ **67:11**

They will acknowledge that they did trail behind in humanity. Thus, far removed are the dwellers of the Flames from Divine grace.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ **67:12**

Those who fear (violating the laws of) their Lord even in privacy, for them is the protection of forgiveness and a great Reward. [They keep in mind that every action has a consequence, even though it may not be immediately apparent]

وَأَسِرُّوا قَوْلَكُمْ أَوِ اجْهَرُوا بِهِ إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ **67:13**

Whether you hide your word and thought or make it known, He is the Knower of what is in the hearts. [Qaul = Word = Saying = Utterance. It also signifies thought, opinion, belief and idea]

أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ **67:14**

How could it be that He Who has created all should not know all things and events? For, He is the Unfathomable, the Aware.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ ذَلُولًا فَامْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِن رِّزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ **67:15**

He is the One Who has made the earth humble at your service. So move through its tracts and enjoy His provisions. Bear in mind that the revival to New Life will again be in His Dominion.

أَأَمِنتُم مَّن فِي السَّمَاءِ أَن يَخْسِفَ بِكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فَإِذَا هِيَ تَمُورُ **67:16**

Can you ever feel secure that the High Sovereign will not cause the earth to swallow you up when it begins to quake? [Life of the world is too brief and unpredictable to postpone the good until tomorrow 67:21, 67:30, 80:25. Mun fis Sama = He Who is in the heaven = Since God is Omnipresent, the correct understanding is ‘The High Sovereign’ = Lord Supreme]

أَمْ أَمِنتُم مَّن فِي السَّمَاءِ أَن يُرْسِلَ عَلَيْكُمْ حَاصِبًا فَسَتَعْلَمُونَ كَيْفَ نَذِيرِ **67:17**

Or can you ever feel secure that the High Sovereign will not let loose on you a deadly hurricane? But you shall know how strict My Warning was.

وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ **67:18**

And certainly peoples before them rejected, then, how awesome was My rejection of them!

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَافَّاتٍ وَيَقْبِضْنَ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا الرَّحْمَٰنُ إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ بَصِيرٌ **67:19**

Have they, then, never seen the birds above them spreading their wings and drawing them in? Nothing holds them but the Beneficent. He is ever Seer of all things.

أَمَّنْ هَٰذَا الَّذِي هُوَ جُندٌ لَّكُمْ يَنصُرُكُم مِّن دُونِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ إِنِ الْكَافِرُونَ إِلَّا فِي غُرُورٍ **67:20**

Nay, who is there to help you besides the Beneficent, even if it were a formidable army? The unbelievers are but lost in delusion.

أَمَّنْ هَٰذَا الَّذِي يَرْزُقُكُمْ إِنْ أَمْسَكَ رِزْقَهُ بَل لَّجُّوا فِي عُتُوٍّ وَنُفُورٍ **67:21**

Who is there to provide for you if He should withhold His providence? Nay, they are victims of their own pride and hatred (for the poor).

أَفَمَن يَمْشِي مُكِبًّا عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ أَهْدَىٰ أَمَّن يَمْشِي سَوِيًّا عَلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ **67:22**

But then, is he who goes upon his face better guided or he who walks upright on a straight path? [Going upon one's face draws our attention to the earthworm; a lowly inhuman existence. It also alludes to preoccupation with immediate, worldly concerns only, without rising to higher objectives of life]

قُلْ هُوَ الَّذِي أَنشَأَكُمْ وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ **67:23**

Say, “He is the One Who brought you into being and gave you hearing, sight and the faculty of understanding. But how seldom are you grateful!” (By using them to full potential.)

قُلْ هُوَ الَّذِي ذَرَأَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ **67:24**

Say, “He is the One Who has multiplied you throughout the earth, and to Him shall you be gathered.” [You will always remain within His Supreme Kingdom 23:79]

وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَىٰ هَٰذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ **67:25**

But they say, “When will this promise be fulfilled if you are men of truth?”

قُلْ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِندَ اللَّهِ وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **67:26**

Only God knows the hour

Say, “This knowledge rests with God alone and I am only a plain warner.”

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ زُلْفَةً سِيئَتْ وُجُوهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَقِيلَ هَٰذَا الَّذِي كُنتُم بِهِ تَدَّعُونَ **67:27**

But when they see it close at hand, grieved will be the faces of the rejecters, and they will be told, “This is what you were calling for.”

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَهْلَكَنِيَ اللَّهُ وَمَن مَّعِيَ أَوْ رَحِمَنَا فَمَن يُجِيرُ الْكَافِرِينَ مِنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **67:28**

Say, (O Messenger) “Whether God destroys me and those with me, or whether He bestows His grace on us, who is there to protect the rejecters from a painful retribution?”

قُلْ هُوَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ آمَنَّا بِهِ وَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا فَسَتَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ هُوَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ **67:29**

Say, “He is the Beneficent. In Him we believe and in Him we place our trust, (so our Mission will succeed). And soon you will come to know who it is that is in obvious error.”

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَصْبَحَ مَاؤُكُمْ غَوْرًا فَمَن يَأْتِيكُم بِمَاءٍ مَّعِينٍ **67:30**

Say, “Have you thought? What if all your water sinks away, who will, then, give you fresh water?” [56:63-74, 67:21]

Chapter 68

Al-Qalam - The Pen

This is the 68th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 52 brief verses. No Messenger ever asked of his people any wages. God in His Infinite mercy, grants the individuals and nations a period of respite to mend their behavior before they meet chastisement. Verses 68:10-16 are traditionally made to refer to a particular enemy of the exalted Prophet. But the Qur´anic verses are timeless and must not be tied, and thus limited, to the conjecture of Shaan-e-Nuzool (Circumstances of the revelation of a particular verse). This practice not only limits the message but, furthermore, becomes an issue of futile argumentation among the exponents. This Qur´an is a reminder that can give eminence to any nation that, consciously or unconsciously, follows its laws.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

ن وَالْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ **68:1**

N. Noon. The Inkpot and the Pen, and all that they write, stand witness. (The high domain of knowledge will bear out that),

مَا أَنتَ بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِمَجْنُونٍ **68:2**

You (O Messenger), by the grace of your Lord, are not a madman.

وَإِنَّ لَكَ لَأَجْرًا غَيْرَ مَمْنُونٍ **68:3**

And yours will be an everlasting reward.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ **68:4**

For, you have sublime morals.

فَسَتُبْصِرُ وَيُبْصِرُونَ **68:5**

And soon you will see and they will see.

بِأَيِّيكُمُ الْمَفْتُونُ **68:6**

Which of you is the demented. [Superb knowledge and sublime character can only indicate a great man]

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّ عَن سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ **68:7**

Your Lord knows best him who strays from His way, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.

فَلَا تُطِعِ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ **68:8**

So, pay no heed to the rejecters.

وَدُّوا لَوْ تُدْهِنُ فَيُدْهِنُونَ **68:9**

They wish that you strike a deal with them so that they can strike a deal. [and compromise on a middle grounds between truth and falsehood. 10:15, 11:113, 17:74]

وَلَا تُطِعْ كُلَّ حَلَّافٍ مَّهِينٍ **68:10**

Do not yield to any feeble oath-monger. [Repeated swearing hurts the credibility of a person]

هَمَّازٍ مَّشَّاءٍ بِنَمِيمٍ **68:11**

Or to a defamer that goes about spreading slander.

مَّنَّاعٍ لِّلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ **68:12**

Hinderer of the good, transgressing beyond limits, harming the community.

عُتُلٍّ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ زَنِيمٍ **68:13**

Or to one greedy to the extent of insensitivity, and who has also made himself worthless to the society. [Zanama = Folds of skin beneath the ears of a goat that serve no known practical purpose. Zaneem = A man who makes himself worthless to the society]

أَن كَانَ ذَا مَالٍ وَبَنِينَ **68:14**

Or he who, because of his riches and party,

إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا قَالَ أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **68:15**

Says, “Fables of ancient times”, whenever Our messages are conveyed to him.

سَنَسِمُهُ عَلَى الْخُرْطُومِ **68:16**

We shall brand such a person with manifest disgrace! ['Branding the snout' = Bringing to clear disgrace one who chooses to live at the subhuman level]

إِنَّا بَلَوْنَاهُمْ كَمَا بَلَوْنَا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ إِذْ أَقْسَمُوا لَيَصْرِمُنَّهَا مُصْبِحِينَ **68:17**

We have tried such people as We tried the owners of the garden who swore that they would pluck its fruit in the morning. [18:32-44]

وَلَا يَسْتَثْنُونَ **68:18**

And made no exception (for the needy poor).

فَطَافَ عَلَيْهَا طَائِفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَهُمْ نَائِمُونَ **68:19**

Then a tornado from your Lord struck it while they slept.

فَأَصْبَحَتْ كَالصَّرِيمِ **68:20**

So that by the morning it was barren, bleak.

فَتَنَادَوْا مُصْبِحِينَ **68:21**

In the morning, they called out one another.

أَنِ اغْدُوا عَلَىٰ حَرْثِكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ صَارِمِينَ **68:22**

"Go early to your field if you want to pick the fruit."

فَانطَلَقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَافَتُونَ **68:23**

So they went off whispering to one another.

أَن لَّا يَدْخُلَنَّهَا الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُم مِّسْكِينٌ **68:24**

"Let not a single poor come near you today."

وَغَدَوْا عَلَىٰ حَرْدٍ قَادِرِينَ **68:25**

And early they went strong in their resolve (to keep the poor away).

فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهَا قَالُوا إِنَّا لَضَالُّونَ **68:26**

But when they saw it, they said, "Oh, we have lost our way."

بَلْ نَحْنُ مَحْرُومُونَ **68:27**

(Then they realized), “Ah! Now we are destitute.”

قَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ أَلَمْ أَقُل لَّكُمْ لَوْلَا تُسَبِّحُونَ **68:28**

The most balanced among them said, “Did I not tell you? Why did you not strive (to help the poor)?” [Sabh = Swim in strides = Work hard = Labor for a noble cause]

قَالُوا سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ **68:29**

They said, “Glorified is our Lord! It is we who have been offenders.” [Refusing the Divinely ordained right of the needy]

فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَلَاوَمُونَ **68:30**

And then they confronted one another, blaming.

قَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا طَاغِينَ **68:31**

They said, “Sorry for us! We have rebelled (against our own ‘self’).”

عَسَىٰ رَبُّنَا أَن يُبْدِلَنَا خَيْرًا مِّنْهَا إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا رَاغِبُونَ **68:32**

It may be that our Lord grants us something better than this. We turn to our Lord with hope. [This was an example that only the System of Life based on collective good shall endure. God does not punish people out of rage, and reward and punishment are built-in our own actions]

كَذَٰلِكَ الْعَذَابُ وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ **68:33**

Such is the suffering! But far greater is the suffering of the Hereafter - if they knew it.

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ **68:34**

For the righteous are Gardens of bliss with their Lord.

أَفَنَجْعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ **68:35**

Shall We, then, treat those who submit (to Our laws) like the guilty?

مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ **68:36**

What is the matter with you? How do you judge (the right and wrong and their logical consequences)?

? Hadith

أَمْ لَكُمْ كِتَابٌ فِيهِ تَدْرُسُونَ 68:37

Or do you have a scripture wherein you learn -

إِنَّ لَكُمْ فِيهِ لَمَا تَخَيَّرُونَ 68:38

That you shall have through it whatever you choose?

أَمْ لَكُمْ أَيْمَانٌ عَلَيْنَا بَالِغَةٌ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّ لَكُمْ لَمَا تَحْكُمُونَ 68:39

Or do you have a solemn oath, binding on Us until the Resurrection Day, that you shall have all that you demand?

سَلْهُمْ أَيُّهُم بِذَٰلِكَ زَعِيمٌ 68:40

Ask them which of them guarantees it.

أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ فَلْيَأْتُوا بِشُرَكَائِهِمْ إِن كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ 68:41

Do they have 'partners'? Then let them bring their 'partners' if they are truthful.

يَوْمَ يُكْشَفُ عَن سَاقٍ وَيُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ 68:42

On the Day when they are confronted with the stark reality and are summoned to submit, they shall not be able to show sincere submission. [It will be too late]

خَاشِعَةً أَبْصَارُهُمْ تَرْهَقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ وَقَدْ كَانُوا يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ وَهُمْ سَالِمُونَ 68:43

Their eyes drooping, humiliation will overwhelm them. And they had been repeatedly invited to submit when they were able.

فَذَرْنِي وَمَن يُكَذِّبُ بِهَٰذَا الْحَدِيثِ سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُم مِّنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ 68:44

Allah's Hadith

So leave his affair to Me, him who denied this message. We shall lead them step by step to a reprisal from directions they had never conceived. [39:23]

وَأُمْلِي لَهُمْ إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ 68:45

Though I give them respite, My Plan is unwavering.

أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُم مِّن مَّغْرَمٍ مُّثْقَلُونَ **68:46**

Or is it that you ask them any reward so that they are burdened?

أَمْ عِندَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ **68:47**

Or is it that theirs is the future that they have written down?

فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تَكُن كَصَاحِبِ الْحُوتِ إِذْ نَادَىٰ وَهُوَ مَكْظُومٌ **68:48**

(O Prophet) go ahead steadfastly in establishing your Lord's command. And be not like him (Jonah) of the fish who cried out in distress. [21:87, 37:139]

لَّوْلَا أَن تَدَارَكَهُ نِعْمَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ لَنُبِذَ بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ مَذْمُومٌ **68:49**

If it were not for the bliss of his Lord, he would have been cast into the wilderness and in the wilderness of thought. [37:146]

فَاجْتَبَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَجَعَلَهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ **68:50**

But his Lord elected him and included him among those who worked for reform, and thus, actualized their own 'self'.

وَإِن يَكَادُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَيُزْلِقُونَكَ بِأَبْصَارِهِمْ لَمَّا سَمِعُوا الذِّكْرَ وَيَقُولُونَ إِنَّهُ لَمَجْنُونٌ **68:51**

Quran is truth

Those who deny the truth, attack you (O Prophet) with their eyes when they hear the reminder. And they say, "He is a madman."

وَمَا هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **68:52**

Nay, this is no less than a reminder for all people (and a giver of eminence to them). [Zikr = Remembrance = Reminder = Giver of eminence. 21:10]

Chapter 69

Al-Haaqqah - The Inevitable Reality

This is the 69th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 52 brief verses. Many verses in the Qur´an pertain simultaneously to this life as well as to the next life. For example, Qiyamah, Resurrection or Apocalypse involves a great Cosmic Metamorphosis. And Qiyamah or Resurrection also refers to humanity standing at its feet or to awakening of an individual or nation. In the first instance ´mountains´ would be understood in the literal sense. In the second instance ´mountains´ would mean the great ones or the leaders. Life here and life there is a process continuum. Many previously given concepts are presented herein again in different shades of eloquence and meaning. Again, it is always helpful to bear in mind that many verses portraying Paradise and Hell, Cosmic events and great revolutions in this world easily apply to both situations.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْحَاقَّةُ **69:1**

The Inevitable Reality.

مَا الْحَاقَّةُ **69:2**

How awesome is the Inevitable Reality?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحَاقَّةُ **69:3**

Ah, what can give you an idea what the Inevitable Reality is!

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ وَعَادٌ بِالْقَارِعَةِ **69:4**

Thamud and ‘Aad denied the day of Catastrophe (Resurrection, 101:1).

فَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَأُهْلِكُوا بِالطَّاغِيَةِ **69:5**

As for Thamud, they were destroyed by a thunderous blast.

وَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَأُهْلِكُوا بِرِيحٍ صَرْصَرٍ عَاتِيَةٍ **69:6**

And as for ‘Aad, they were annihilated with raging hurricane winds.

سَخَّرَهَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَبْعَ لَيَالٍ وَثَمَانِيَةَ أَيَّامٍ حُسُومًا فَتَرَى الْقَوْمَ فِيهَا صَرْعَىٰ كَأَنَّهُمْ أَعْجَازُ نَخْلٍ خَاوِيَةٍ **69:7**

Which He made it rage upon them for seven long nights and eight long days. Such that you could imagine those people as uprooted hollow palm-trunks. [54:20]

فَهَلْ تَرَىٰ لَهُم مِّن بَاقِيَةٍ **69:8**

Can you see any remnants of them?

وَجَاءَ فِرْعَوْنُ وَمَن قَبْلَهُ وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَاتُ بِالْخَاطِئَةِ **69:9**

And there came Pharaoh, and many others before him, and the townships that were overthrown. All of them committed fault upon fault.

فَعَصَوْا رَسُولَ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذَهُمْ أَخْذَةً رَّابِيَةً **69:10**

For, they disobeyed the respective Messengers of their Lord. Consequently, He grasped them with a firm grasp.

إِنَّا لَمَّا طَغَى الْمَاءُ حَمَلْنَاكُمْ فِي الْجَارِيَةِ **69:11**

Behold! When waters topped the levels, We carried you upon the watercraft. [‘You’ denotes the remote ancestors of the Israelites and the Arabs. It also indicates ‘Your brethren in faith’ among Noah’s people]

لِنَجْعَلَهَا لَكُمْ تَذْكِرَةً وَتَعِيَهَا أُذُنٌ وَاعِيَةٌ **69:12**

(These events are conveyed to you) so that We might make it a lesson for you, and that any attentive ear might take it to memory.

فَإِذَا نُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ نَفْخَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ **69:13**

So, think when the Trumpet is sounded with a single blast.

وَحُمِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ فَدُكَّتَا دَكَّةً وَاحِدَةً **69:14**

And the earth is moved and the mountains struck with a stroke.

فَيَوْمَئِذٍ وَقَعَتِ الْوَاقِعَةُ **69:15**

Then, on that Day when the Episode will come to pass.

وَانشَقَّتِ السَّمَاءُ فَهِيَ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَاهِيَةٌ **69:16**

And when the sky will be rent asunder, so frail will it be that Day.

وَالْمَلَكُ عَلَىٰ أَرْجَائِهَا وَيَحْمِلُ عَرْشَ رَبِّكَ فَوْقَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ ثَمَانِيَةٌ **69:17**

And the Divine laws in nature will rally around and your Lord's Supreme Control will reign over eight Universes that Day. [Instead of the currently conceived seven]

يَوْمَئِذٍ تُعْرَضُونَ لَا تَخْفَىٰ مِنكُمْ خَافِيَةٌ **69:18**

On that Day you will be exposed; not a secret of you will remain hidden.

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ فَيَقُولُ هَاؤُمُ اقْرَءُوا كِتَابِيَهْ **69:19**

Then he who is given his record in his right hand, will say, "Come all of you around! Read this my record.

إِنِّي ظَنَنتُ أَنِّي مُلَاقٍ حِسَابِيَهْ **69:20**

I did really think that my account would eventually reach me."

فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ **69:21**

Then he will be in a state of bliss.

فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ **69:22**

In a lofty Garden.

قُطُوفُهَا دَانِيَةٌ **69:23**

With its fruit at hand.

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الْخَالِيَةِ **69:24**

Eat and drink happily for what you did in the days past.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِشِمَالِهِ فَيَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي لَمْ أُوتَ كِتَابِيَهْ **69:25**

But as for him who is given his record in his left hand, He will say, "Oh, I wish I was never given my record.

وَلَمْ أَدْرِ مَا حِسَابِيَهْ **69:26**

And knew not my account.

يَا لَيْتَهَا كَانَتِ الْقَاضِيَةَ **69:27**

Oh, could this be the end of me!

مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنِّي مَالِيَهْ **69:28**

Of no help is my wealth.

هَلَكَ عَنِّي سُلْطَانِيَهْ **69:29**

Vanquished is all my control."

خُذُوهُ فَغُلُّوهُ **69:30**

Take him and shackle him! [Halt from further development]

ثُمَّ الْجَحِيمَ صَلُّوهُ **69:31**

And then hurl him in the blazing flame of his deeds.

ثُمَّ فِي سِلْسِلَةٍ ذَرْعُهَا سَبْعُونَ ذِرَاعًا فَاسْلُكُوهُ **69:32**

And then make him a link in the very long chain of people like him. [Seventy cubits = 70 arm-lengths = Very long]

إِنَّهُ كَانَ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ **69:33**

This was one who did not believe in God, the Tremendous.

وَلَا يَحُضُّ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ **69:34**

And arranged not to feed the needy.

فَلَيْسَ لَهُ الْيَوْمَ هَاهُنَا حَمِيمٌ **69:35**

And so, he has no friend here today.

وَلَا طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ غِسْلِينٍ **69:36**

Nor any food but the discarded shreds he gave to others.

لَّا يَأْكُلُهُ إِلَّا الْخَاطِئُونَ **69:37**

Which none eat but those who faulted through life.

فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِمَا تُبْصِرُونَ **69:38**

But nay, I call to witness all that you see [that actions have consequences of their like]

وَمَا لَا تُبْصِرُونَ **69:39**

And all that you see not [the subtle progression of the Law of Requital.]

إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلُ رَسُولٍ كَرِيمٍ **69:40**

This is the revealed Word in the dialect of a noble Messenger. [44:58]

وَمَا هُوَ بِقَوْلِ شَاعِرٍ قَلِيلًا مَّا تُؤْمِنُونَ **69:41**

This is not the utterance of a poet. Seldom do you choose to believe.

وَلَا بِقَوْلِ كَاهِنٍ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ **69:42**

Nor is it the word of a soothsayer. Little of your intellect do you bring to use.

تَنزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **69:43**

It is a revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

وَلَوْ تَقَوَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضَ الْأَقَاوِيلِ **69:44**

And if he had ascribed his sayings to Us,

لَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُ بِالْيَمِينِ **69:45**

We would have taken him by the right hand,

ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ **69:46**

And would have cut off his Aorta. ['Wateen' = Artery of the heart = Life line = Life-artery = Strength = Revelation to the Prophet. This implies that no true Prophet could possibly propagate falsehood]

فَمَا مِنكُم مِّنْ أَحَدٍ عَنْهُ حَاجِزِينَ **69:47**

And none of you could stop Us from doing that.

وَإِنَّهُ لَتَذْكِرَةٌ لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ **69:48**

But, it is a reminder and a giver of eminence to those who seek to live upright.

وَإِنَّا لَنَعْلَمُ أَنَّ مِنكُم مُّكَذِّبِينَ **69:49**

We know well that among you will be deniers.

وَإِنَّهُ لَحَسْرَةٌ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ **69:50**

And this denial will become a source of regret for the rejecters.

وَإِنَّهُ لَحَقُّ الْيَقِينِ **69:51**

Quran is truth

It is the absolute truth.

فَسَبِّحْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الْعَظِيمِ **69:52**

Strive to manifest the glory of your Lord's Tremendous Name.

Chapter 70

Al-Ma´aarij - The Stairways Of Ascent

This is the 70th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 44 verses. God is the Supreme Controller of the Universe. Individuals and nations can attain great heights in both lives if they live by His laws in this world.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سَأَلَ سَائِلٌ بِعَذَابٍ وَاقِعٍ **70:1**

A questioner might ask about the catastrophe that is bound to fall.

لِّلْكَافِرِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَافِعٌ **70:2**

Upon those who oppose the truth. None can repel it.

مِّنَ اللَّهِ ذِي الْمَعَارِجِ **70:3**

From God, Lord of the stairways of Ascent. [He enables all things to ascend, evolve and become what they are destined to be]

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ **70:4**

The Universal forces and the Divine Energy ascend to Him in a Day the measure of which is fifty thousand years. [All things in the Universe evolve in stages to fulfill the Divine Plan. Some of these stages take one thousand years each, and others fifty thousand years by the human calendar. The Big Picture of the Qur'an does allude to the Divine Plan. As I understand, it is the origination of a brand new Cosmos in which all things including the humans will be brought into being in incredibly higher forms, and the evolution will go on indefinitely. God stresses upon us again and again to prime our 'self' for further development in the life to come and achieve true Immortality, the Paradise, the Eternal bliss. That contrasts

with mere survival where there is no progress. An existence without progress is worse than death, and the Qur'an terms it Hell. The only way to prime our 'self' is to be of benefit to God's creation. 22:47, 32:5, 35:10, 78:38, 97:4. References too many to enumerate, but any student of the Qur'an who bears in mind the development or actualization of the 'self' will find this point highlighted very frequently in the Mighty Book. No amount and no kind of ritualism can help that 'priming' of the 'self'. According to the Qur'an, no community ever faced decline or annihilation for a deficiency or lack of rituals]

فَاصْبِرْ صَبْرًا جَمِيلًا **70:5**

Therefore, persevere with a gracious patience.

إِنَّهُمْ يَرَوْنَهُ بَعِيدًا **70:6**

They see it far away.

وَنَرَاهُ قَرِيبًا **70:7**

But We see it near.

يَوْمَ تَكُونُ السَّمَاءُ كَالْمُهْلِ **70:8**

The Day when the sky will melt away.

وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ **70:9**

And the mountains will become as flakes of wool.

وَلَا يَسْأَلُ حَمِيمٌ حَمِيمًا **70:10**

And a friend will not ask about his friend.

يُبَصَّرُونَهُمْ يَوَدُّ الْمُجْرِمُ لَوْ يَفْتَدِي مِنْ عَذَابِ يَوْمِئِذٍ بِبَنِيهِ **70:11**

Even though they will be within sight of one another. The guilty will desire to give his own children to ransom himself from suffering of the Day.

وَصَاحِبَتِهِ وَأَخِيهِ **70:12**

And his wife and his brother.

وَفَصِيلَتِهِ الَّتِي تُؤْوِيهِ **70:13**

And his whole family and the tribe that raised and sheltered him.

وَمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ يُنجِيهِ **70:14**

And all who lived on earth - all of them if then it might save him.

كَلَّا إِنَّهَا لَظَىٰ **70:15**

Nay, it is a raging flame.

نَزَّاعَةً لِّلشَّوَىٰ **70:16**

That burns all coverings and defenses.

تَدْعُو مَنْ أَدْبَرَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ **70:17**

It calls him who turned and fled from truth.

وَجَمَعَ فَأَوْعَىٰ **70:18**

And hoarded wealth, and withheld it.

إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا **70:19**

Man is created with an anxious disposition.

إِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا **70:20**

Despondent when harm touches him.

وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا **70:21**

And stingy when good reaches him.

إِلَّا الْمُصَلِّينَ **70:22**

Except the Musalleen (from Salaat - are not the so-called ritualistic praying ones, but)

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ دَائِمُونَ **70:23**

Those who always follow the Divine System.

وَالَّذِينَ فِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ مَّعْلُومٌ **70:24**

Those in whose wealth and possessions is a known right.

لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ **70:25**

For him who asks for help, and for him who is deprived.

وَالَّذِينَ يُصَدِّقُونَ بِيَوْمِ الدِّينِ **70:26**

Those who have conviction in the Day of Judgment. [And therefore, in the Law of Recompense]

وَالَّذِينَ هُم مِّنْ عَذَابِ رَبِّهِم مُّشْفِقُونَ **70:27**

Those who are fearful of their Lord's requital.

إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّهِمْ غَيْرُ مَأْمُونٍ **70:28**

(They know that) none can feel secure against their Lord's requital.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفُرُوجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ **70:29**

(Still Musalleen are also) Those men and women who maintain their chastity.

إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ **70:30**

They have intimate relations only with their spouses - that is, those who are rightfully theirs through wedlock. For such relationship they are free of blame. ['Aw' = Or = That is = And. 23:5-7]

فَمَنِ ابْتَغَىٰ وَرَاءَ ذَٰلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْعَادُونَ **70:31**

But anyone who seeks beyond this, those are the transgressors.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ **70:32**

(And Musalleen are) Those who guard their trusts and duties assigned to them, and their pledges, as a shepherd guards his flock.

وَالَّذِينَ هُم بِشَهَادَاتِهِمْ قَائِمُونَ **70:33**

Those who are truthful as witness and stand by their testimony.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ **70:34**

Those who consolidate and protect the Divine System.

أُولَٰئِكَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ مُّكْرَمُونَ **70:35**

(Musalleen are the ones who collectively build Paradise on earth and inherit that in the Hereafter.) They will be the honored ones dwelling in the Gardens of bliss.

فَمَالِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا قِبَلَكَ مُهْطِعِينَ **70:36**

What then, is the matter with the rejecters that they rush to and fro before you, confused? [Instead of joining hands]

عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ عِزِينَ **70:37**

On the right and on the left, in groups.

أَيَطْمَعُ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَن يُدْخَلَ جَنَّةَ نَعِيمٍ **70:38**

Does everyone of them hope to enter the Garden of bliss with this attitude?

كَلَّا إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُم مِّمَّا يَعْلَمُونَ **70:39**

Nay! They know with what We created them. [They know that humans have been created like other members of the animal kingdom. Intellect and free will make humans different. Thus they can strive for the Garden of bliss]

فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِرَبِّ الْمَشَارِقِ وَالْمَغَارِبِ إِنَّا لَقَادِرُونَ **70:40**

But nay! I call to Witness the Lord of all points in the East and all points in the West, We are Able

عَلَىٰ أَن نُّبَدِّلَ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَسْبُوقِينَ **70:41**

To replace them by others better than they are. There is nothing to prevent Us.

فَذَرْهُمْ يَخُوضُوا وَيَلْعَبُوا حَتَّىٰ يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ **70:42**

Let them chat and play until they meet their Day which they are promised.

يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَاعًا كَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ نُصُبٍ يُوفِضُونَ **70:43**

The Day that they shall come forth in haste from their disintegrated states, as if racing toward a goal post.

خَاشِعَةً أَبْصَارُهُمْ تَرْهَقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ **70:44**

With their eyes subdued in shame, humiliation overwhelming them. Such is the Day which they were promised again and again.

Chapter 71

Nooh - Noah

This is the 71st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 28 verses. It is a common misconception that Adam was the first Prophet of God. Adam is an allegory for mankind. It is obvious from the Qur´an that Noah was the first ever Prophet of God. [2:30-39, 6:84-87 7:10-26, 15:28-33, 20:116-121, 30:20, 38:71-73]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ أَنْ أَنذِرْ قَوْمَكَ مِن قَبْلِ أَن يَأْتِيَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ **71:1**

We sent Noah to his people, “Warn your people before an awful doom comes to them.”

قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ **71:2**

He said, “O My people! I am a plain warner to you,

أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاتَّقُوهُ وَأَطِيعُونِ **71:3**

That you serve God and be mindful of Him. Now, do pay heed to me.

يَغْفِرْ لَكُم مِّن ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُؤَخِّرْكُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى إِنَّ أَجَلَ اللَّهِ إِذَا جَاءَ لَا يُؤَخَّرُ لَوْ كُنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ **71:4**

He will then protect you from the detriment of trailing behind in humanity and respite you until a term appointed. When the term appointed by God comes, it cannot be delayed, if you but knew this.“

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُ قَوْمِي لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا **71:5**

He said, “My Lord! I have been calling unto my people night and day.

فَلَمْ يَزِدْهُمْ دُعَائِي إِلَّا فِرَارًا 71:6

But my call only increases their fleeing.

وَإِنِّي كُلَّمَا دَعَوْتُهُمْ لِتَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ جَعَلُوا أَصَابِعَهُمْ فِي آذَانِهِمْ وَاسْتَغْشَوْا ثِيَابَهُمْ وَأَصَرُّوا وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا اسْتِكْبَارًا 71:7

Doesn't refer to hijab

Whenever I call to them to be forgiven by You, they thrust their fingers in their ears - and veil themselves in their garments. And they persist in this behavior glorifying themselves in pride. [11:5]

ثُمَّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُهُمْ جِهَارًا 71:8

Then I called unto them aloud.

ثُمَّ إِنِّي أَعْلَنتُ لَهُمْ وَأَسْرَرْتُ لَهُمْ إِسْرَارًا 71:9

I addressed them in gatherings and spoke to them individually in private."

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا 71:10

And I have said, "Seek forgiveness of your Lord. He is ever Forgiving. [Forgiveness in the context indicates halting the behavior that is detrimental to the society, and turning to Divine Guidance in order to protect oneself from the logically harmful consequences of evil deeds]

يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُم مِّدْرَارًا 71:11

He will shower upon you heavenly blessings.

وَيُمْدِدْكُم بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَيَجْعَل لَّكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَل لَّكُمْ أَنْهَارًا 71:12

And will help you with goods and riches and flourishing families, and will grant you gardens and will bestow upon you flowing streams." [Baneen = Sons = Children = Tribal unity and strength = Party = Flourishing families]

مَّا لَكُمْ لَا تَرْجُونَ لِلَّهِ وَقَارًا 71:13

What is the matter with you that you fail to acknowledge the majesty of God? [And that His Book can give you eminence. 21:10]

وَقَدْ خَلَقَكُمْ أَطْوَارًا 71:14

He is the One Who has created you in successive stages.

أَلَمْ تَرَوْا كَيْفَ خَلَقَ اللَّهُ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا **71:15**

Do you not realize (not willing to reflect and research) how God has created the seven heavens in great harmony?

وَجَعَلَ الْقَمَرَ فِيهِنَّ نُورًا وَجَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ سِرَاجًا **71:16**

And made the moon a light therein, and made the sun a radiant lamp.

وَاللَّهُ أَنبَتَكُم مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ نَبَاتًا **71:17**

And God has caused you to grow as a growth from the earth. [Recall the beginning of life out of water and organic matter, and the stages of evolution. 22:5]

ثُمَّ يُعِيدُكُمْ فِيهَا وَيُخْرِجُكُمْ إِخْرَاجًا **71:18**

Then He returns you into the earth and He will bring you forth again, a new bringing.

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ بِسَاطًا **71:19**

And God has made the earth a wide expanse for you.

لِّتَسْلُكُوا مِنْهَا سُبُلًا فِجَاجًا **71:20**

That you may travel thereon on spacious valley-ways.

قَالَ نُوحٌ رَّبِّ إِنَّهُمْ عَصَوْنِي وَاتَّبَعُوا مَن لَّمْ يَزِدْهُ مَالُهُ وَوَلَدُهُ إِلَّا خَسَارًا **71:21**

Then Noah said, “My Lord! They have opposed me throughout, for they follow him whose wealth and children have led him increasingly into ruin.

وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا كُبَّارًا **71:22**

And they plot tremendous schemes,

وَقَالُوا لَا تَذَرُنَّ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَلَا تَذَرُنَّ وَدًّا وَلَا سُوَاعًا وَلَا يَغُوثَ وَيَعُوقَ وَنَسْرًا **71:23**

And keep telling one another, “Do not abandon your gods! And forsake not Wadd, nor Suw’a, nor Yaghuth and Ya’uq and Nasr.“ [They had set up idols: Wadd, the god of masculinity. Suw’a, the goddess of femininity. Yaghuth, the lion god of power. Ya’uq, the horse god for travel and battle. Nasr, the eagle god for flying in to ‘steal’ the news of the Unseen]

وَقَدْ أَضَلُّوا كَثِيرًا وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا ضَلَالًا **71:24**

They have already misled a great many, therefore, let the wrongdoers increase in straying."

مِّمَّا خَطِيئَاتِهِمْ أُغْرِقُوا فَأُدْخِلُوا نَارًا فَلَمْ يَجِدُوا لَهُم مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنصَارًا **71:25**

And so, because of faults upon faults, they were drowned, and then destined to enter the fire. They found out that they had no helpers besides God.

وَقَالَ نُوحٌ رَّبِّ لَا تَذَرْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ دَيَّارًا **71:26**

And Noah said, "My Lord! Leave not any of these rejecters to dwell in this valley,

إِنَّكَ إِن تَذَرْهُمْ يُضِلُّوا عِبَادَكَ وَلَا يَلِدُوا إِلَّا فَاجِرًا كَفَّارًا **71:27**

If you should leave them, they will mislead Your servants and they will only beget division and ingratitude.

رَّبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِمَن دَخَلَ بَيْتِيَ مُؤْمِنًا وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَلَا تَزِدِ الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا تَبَارًا **71:28**

My Lord! Grant me the protection of forgiveness and to my parents and whoever enters my house (the ideology of submission to One God) in faith, and to all the believing men and the believing women (of all times). And increase the oppressors in ruin for their violation of human rights." [Zaalimeen = Oppressors = Violators of human rights = Wrongdoers]

Chapter 72

Al-Jinn - The Unseen Beings

This is the 72nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 28 verses. The term ´Jinn´ is often misunderstood. It is supposed that they are unseen fiery creatures that live on earth and in the atmosphere and that they can possess people. The Qur´an does not condone the existence of any such thing as ´demons´. And there is a reported saying of the exalted Prophet, "La Ghoul" = There is no such thing as ghoul, demons, Dracula, vampires, fairies, witches and wizards etc. All such things fall into the domain of superstition. "And the Jinns He has created from a confused flame of fire (with a fiery disposition 55:15). [References to Jinns: 2:102,6:76, 6:100, 6:112, 6:128-130, 7:12, 7:38, 8:27, 11:119, 15:17, 15:27, 21:82, 32:13, 34:12-14, 37:158, 38:76, 46:29-32, 55:15, 72:1-15, 75:2-6, 114:6 Jinn, in fact, implies something hidden, rarely seen. So, after using Tasreef, Al-Jinn = The nomads. Jannah from the same root means a garden hidden in foliage. When the Jinns or nomads move to dwell in towns and become civilized, they are referred to as Ins = Urbanites. Among the verses referred to above, Jinn, at times, denotes the hidden evil prompting that goes on in the human mind. In the sense of flashes of evil prompting, Jinn can be understood as Satan in minor forms. Satan = Selfish or rebellious desires, works in concert with evil emotions which have been described as being fiery in the Jahilyah poetry. ´Emotions being fiery´ stands up to reason. Where is Satan? The exalted Prophet once said that everyone has a Satan/Iblis within. Sahaba Kiraam respectfully asked, "Even you O Rasullullah¿' He said, "Yes, I have made him a Muslim (made the desires submit to God.)" This proves further that Satan is not an extrinsic entity. Verse 21:37 convincingly shows what the ´creation of Jinn out of fire´ actually means. Using exactly the same terms ´khuliq´ and ´min´ it states "KHULIQAL insanu MIN ´ajal". Literally that would translate as: He created man out of haste. Whereas the clear understanding is: Man has been created with a tendency to be hasty and looking for instant gains or results. Such is the case with, "KHULAQAL jaanna MIN marijin MIN naar". He created the nomads with a fiery disposition. (55:15) This Surah beautifully illustrates another very important point. Wherever in the Qur´an we come across the utterance or behavior of people that is not condemned by other verses, it stands confirmed by God as right and truthful]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قُلْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّهُ اسْتَمَعَ نَفَرٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ فَقَالُوا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا قُرْآنًا عَجَبًا **72:1**

Say (O Prophet): It has been revealed to me that a tribe of nomads listened, and then they said, "We have heard a marvelous recital. [46:29]

يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ فَآمَنَّا بِهِ وَلَن نُّشْرِكَ بِرَبِّنَا أَحَدًا **72:2**

It shows the way to Enlightenment, so we have come to believe in it. And we shall never again ascribe a partner to our Lord.

وَأَنَّهُ تَعَالَىٰ جَدُّ رَبِّنَا مَا اتَّخَذَ صَاحِبَةً وَلَا وَلَدًا 72:3

And Exalted is the Majesty of our Lord. He has taken neither a wife, nor a son.

وَأَنَّهُ كَانَ يَقُولُ سَفِيهُنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ شَطَطًا 72:4

The foolish among us uttered such outrageous lies about God.

وَأَنَّا ظَنَنَّا أَن لَّن تَقُولَ الْإِنسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا 72:5

We used to think that people, whether civilized or uncivilized, would never utter a lie about God.

وَأَنَّهُ كَانَ رِجَالٌ مِّنَ الْإِنسِ يَعُوذُونَ بِرِجَالٍ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ فَزَادُوهُمْ رَهَقًا 72:6

Some people of towns used to seek shelter with some of the nomads and increased them in confusion.

وَأَنَّهُمْ ظَنُّوا كَمَا ظَنَنتُمْ أَن لَّن يَبْعَثَ اللَّهُ أَحَدًا 72:7

And they thought as you nomads thought that God would never again send forth anyone. [As His Messenger, and so, the claimants to the 'occult sciences' would carry on with their deceptions]

وَأَنَّا لَمَسْنَا السَّمَاءَ فَوَجَدْنَاهَا مُلِئَتْ حَرَسًا شَدِيدًا وَشُهُبًا 72:8

And we tried to feel the skies but found it well attended by mighty guards and flames." [The shining knowledge in the Qur'an dismisses all conjecture of the astrologers, fortune-tellers, and other claimants of occult sciences]

وَأَنَّا كُنَّا نَقْعُدُ مِنْهَا مَقَاعِدَ لِلسَّمْعِ فَمَن يَسْتَمِعِ الْآنَ يَجِدْ لَهُ شِهَابًا رَّصَدًا 72:9

(The nomads continued), "And we used to sit on places listening to the 'lofty news'. But now whoever listens will find a flame waiting for him. [The brilliant flame of Divine revelation is now ready to torch the conjecture of the astrologers. 37:6-9, 67:5]

وَأَنَّا لَا نَدْرِي أَشَرٌّ أُرِيدَ بِمَن فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ أَرَادَ بِهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ رَشَدًا 72:10

And we know not whether harm is intended for the inhabitants of the earth, or whether their Lord wills for them Enlightenment." [It remains to be seen how people will react to this revolutionary message]

وَأَنَّا مِنَّا الصَّالِحُونَ وَمِنَّا دُونَ ذَٰلِكَ كُنَّا طَرَائِقَ قِدَدًا 72:11

(The nomads continued their conversation), "And some of us are righteous and others are far from that, and we follow varying paths.

وَأَنَّا ظَنَنَّا أَن لَّن نُّعْجِزَ اللَّهَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَن نُّعْجِزَهُ هَرَبًا 72:12

We know that wherever we are on earth, we cannot defy God, nor can we flee to escape.

وَأَنَّا لَمَّا سَمِعْنَا الْهُدَىٰ آمَنَّا بِهِ فَمَن يُؤْمِن بِرَبِّهِ فَلَا يَخَافُ بَخْسًا وَلَا رَهَقًا 72:13

And as soon as we heard the Enlightenment, we believed in it. And whoever chooses to be graced with belief in his Lord, need not fear a diminished return, nor unfairness.

وَأَنَّا مِنَّا الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَمِنَّا الْقَاسِطُونَ فَمَنْ أَسْلَمَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ تَحَرَّوْا رَشَدًا 72:14

And some of us have submitted (to God) while there are others who make compromises (between the right and wrong). Those who submit (to God), they have found the path to right guidance.

وَأَمَّا الْقَاسِطُونَ فَكَانُوا لِجَهَنَّمَ حَطَبًا 72:15

And those who make compromises (between the right and wrong,) they are but fuel for the Hell."

وَأَن لَّوِ اسْتَقَامُوا عَلَى الطَّرِيقَةِ لَأَسْقَيْنَاهُم مَّاءً غَدَقًا 72:16

(Such was their conversation.) If they take an unwavering stand on the Highest Discipline, We will shower them with abundant bounties. [Tareeqah = Layer upon layer arranged in great harmony = Discipline = The Way = Course. At-Tareeqah = The Highest Discipline = Divine revelation. Maa = Water, heavenly blessings = Bounties]

لِّنَفْتِنَهُمْ فِيهِ وَمَن يُعْرِضْ عَن ذِكْرِ رَبِّهِ يَسْلُكْهُ عَذَابًا صَعَدًا 72:17

That We may test them (let them try their own mettle) thereby. And whoever turns away from his Sustainer's reminder, He will cause him to undergo an ever-increasing retribution. [20:124]

وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا 72:18

Know that all Masjids (and temples of worship) are for God. ([Adoration, prostration, submission are due to God alone.) So, do not call upon anyone along with God. [Masjid = Mosque = Places of worship = Collective acts of submission = Ways

Temples for the worship Of God alone

of adoration = Obedience of Divine Commands = Centers of administering the Divine System. 9:17)

وَأَنَّهُ لَمَّا قَامَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ يَدْعُوهُ كَادُوا يَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِ لِبَدًا **72:19**

Yet whenever a servant of God stands up with invitation to Him, they crowd on him in hostility. [22:72]

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَدْعُو رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ أَحَدًا **72:20**

No allies

Say, "I call upon my Lord alone and associate no one with Him" [I do not heed religious 'authorities']

قُلْ إِنِّي لَا أَمْلِكُ لَكُمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا رَشَدًا **72:21**

Say, "I do not own the power to harm you or enforce right guidance upon you."

قُلْ إِنِّي لَن يُجِيرَنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ أَحَدٌ وَلَنْ أَجِدَ مِن دُونِهِ مُلْتَحَدًا **72:22**

Say, "No one can shelter me from (the consequences of violating the laws of) God, nor can I find a hide-out from Him,

إِلَّا بَلَاغًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِسَالَاتِهِ وَمَن يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَّ لَهُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا **72:23**

If I fail to convey to people what I receive from God and make His messages known." Whoever disobeys God and His Messenger; for him is Hellfire, to abide therein forever.

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا رَأَوْا مَا يُوعَدُونَ فَسَيَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ أَضْعَفُ نَاصِرًا وَأَقَلُّ عَدَدًا **72:24**

Until they see what they are promised. And so, soon will they find out who is really helpless and counts for less!

قُلْ إِنْ أَدْرِي أَقَرِيبٌ مَّا تُوعَدُونَ أَمْ يَجْعَلُ لَهُ رَبِّي أَمَدًا **72:25**

Say, "I do not know whether the promise made to you is near or if my Lord will delay it."

عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَىٰ غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا **72:26**

Knower of the Unseen (and the future), and He makes known to none His secret,

إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِن رَّسُولٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِن بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا **72:27**

Except as He wills to a Messenger whom He has elected, and to him He reveals from the past and the future, and ensures that the revelation is guarded. [God Himself guards the Perfected Final revelation, hence no more apostles will come. Al-Qur'an is now the Messenger for all times.15:9]

لِّيَعْلَمَ أَن قَدْ أَبْلَغُوا رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَحَاطَ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ وَأَحْصَىٰ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عَدَدًا **72:28**

That He may make manifest that it is but their Lord's messages that these Messengers deliver. For, He is the One Who encompasses all the revelation they have, and takes account of all things.

Chapter 73

Al-Muzammil - The Great Caravan Leader

This is the 73rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 20 verses. ´Zameel´ = A close companion. ´Tazmeel´ = Selecting the best companions. Al-Muzammil denotes the most competent selector of virtuous human beings. He admits the best into his company and takes them along toward a Noble Mission. He is a great leader. Unfortunately, Al-Muzammil has been given a very feeble translation in most works as someone who is shivering and covering himself in a blanket! How do such grievous insults endure? - Because of the conjectural drama of "Shan-e-Nuzool". Historians and traditionalists first come up with or follow a fabricated account of some event that "caused the revelation" of such and such verse. Then they try to conform the meaning of that particular verse to that supposed "event". The later Mullahs keep the myth alive by repeating it through their mouths and pens. This is only one of the ways the Qur´an is made Mahjoor, left alone as a disabled slave of tradition! (25:30)

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُزَّمِّلُ **73:1**

O You (Prophet) the great selector of companions, the best caravan leader!

قُمِ اللَّيْلَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا **73:2**

Stay vigilant even by night, and never fall short on it - [As Head of the State the Prophet is responsible for arranging peace and security for all citizens (17:79, 76:26). 'Illa' here, as in many other verses, represents 'never', and not 'except' (11:107-108, 55:33, 87:6-7). "Al-Manar" vol 1 Pg 414]

نِّصْفَهُ أَوِ انقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا **73:3**

Half of it, or a little less.

أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا **73:4**

Or, you shall increase it whenever warranted. And convey the Qur'an in a calm distinctive manner, stage by stage.

Convey Quran stage by stage

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِي عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيلًا **73:5**

We are charging you with a substantial declaration (a lofty mission).

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْئًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلًا **73:6**

The vigil of the night impresses the minds most strongly, and the speech is most upright. [Mutual consultation with companions is better done in the silence of night]

إِنَّ لَكَ فِي النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيلًا **73:7**

By day you are engaged in continued strife.

وَاذْكُرِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا **73:8**

Keep eminent the Name of your Lord and detach yourself from needless pursuits for His sake.

رَّبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا **73:9**

Lord of the East and the West! There is no god but He. So, hold on to Him as Dispenser of affairs.

وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَاهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا **73:10**

Endure with patience whatever people may say, and leave them graciously. [5:13, 15:85]

وَذَرْنِي وَالْمُكَذِّبِينَ أُولِي النَّعْمَةِ وَمَهِّلْهُمْ قَلِيلًا **73:11**

And leave to Me the deniers who enjoy the blessings of life. And bear with them for a little while.

إِنَّ لَدَيْنَا أَنكَالًا وَجَحِيمًا **73:12**

With Us are shackles and a Blazing Fire.

وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **73:13**

And a choking food and an awful doom.

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَكَانَتِ الْجِبَالُ كَثِيبًا مَّهِيلًا **73:14**

The Day is coming when the masses and the wealthy tyrants will shake and the leaders will become heaps of sand.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ رَسُولًا شَاهِدًا عَلَيْكُمْ كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ رَسُولًا **73:15**

We have sent to you a Messenger to be a witness concerning you, just as We had sent to Pharaoh a Messenger.

فَعَصَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ الرَّسُولَ فَأَخَذْنَاهُ أَخْذًا وَبِيلًا **73:16**

But Pharaoh rebelled against the Messenger, whereupon We seized him with a calamitous seizing.

فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِن كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمًا يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا **73:17**

So, how, if you keep rejecting, will you guard yourselves on a Day which will turn children gray. [A horrifying Day]

السَّمَاءُ مُنفَطِرٌ بِهِ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَفْعُولًا **73:18**

The very sky will then be rent asunder. His promise always comes to pass. ['Sky getting asunder' may also mean the fall of the arrogant leaders]

إِنَّ هَٰذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ فَمَن شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا **73:19**

This Qur'an is a reminder, a giver of eminence. So, whoever wills, let him set out on a way to his Lord.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِن ثُلُثَيِ اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ وَاللَّهُ يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ عَلِمَ أَن لَّن تُحْصُوهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ عَلِمَ أَن سَيَكُونُ مِنكُم مَّرْضَىٰ وَآخَرُونَ يَضْرِبُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَبْتَغُونَ مِن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَآخَرُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنْهُ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَقْرِضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُم مِّنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِندَ اللَّهِ هُوَ خَيْرًا وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ **73:20**

(O Messenger) your Lord is fully Aware that you stay up working two thirds of the night, one half of it, or one third of it, together with some of your companions. But God has designed the night and the day, and He knows that you and your companions will not even keep count of your vigil. So He turns to you in kindness. Recite to them as much of the Qur'an that you can do with ease. He knows that in time some of you may be ill, and others have to travel seeking God's bounty - And others who will have to fight in the cause of God. Therefore, recite and convey as much of the Qur'an as may be easy for all. You have to establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order. And lend to God a goodly loan. Whatever good you send forth for your own 'self' you will find with God, better and more excellent in reward. And seek the protection of forgiveness of God for imperfections. Certainly, God is Forgiving, Merciful.

Chapter 74

Al-Muddaththir - Founder Of The Benevolent Order

This is the 74th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 56 verses. Like the previous Surah, Al-Muddaththir is usually given a very feeble meaning unbecoming of the exalted Prophet - that Al-Muddaththir is the man who cloaks himself in hiding. In fact, it is a title of great honor. Muddaththir signifies a man who sets things in order beyond regional and spatial boundaries.. It also indicates a man of impeccable character. In addition, it refers to a fearless rider who jumps upon a moving horse. Keeping all these meanings in mind Al-Muddaththir is the title of Muhammad (S) - A man of flawless character who has been entrusted with setting the house of humanity to order. And He will do it fast (jumping on the moving horse). The matchless personality of the exalted Prophet was entrusted with establishing a most Benevolent Social Order in the world. He achieved the results with lightening speed and the entire humanity since then has been consciously or unconsciously moving along with the Qur´anic Principles. This Surah has the characteristic of embracing almost all the basic tenets of Islam, giving us a glimpse of the Big Picture of the Qur´an.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ **74:1**

O You founder of the most Benevolent Order!

قُمْ فَأَنذِرْ **74:2**

Rise up to the occasion and post danger signs on the highway of Life.

وَرَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ **74:3**

Establish the greatness of your Lord on earth!

وَثِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ **74:4**

Keep a spotless character! [Literally but erroneously here, purify your garments]

وَالرُّجْزَ فَاهْجُرْ **74:5**

Leave alone the opponents. And leave alone friends who are unable to stand up straight in one motion. ('Rujz' = A neurological disease in the cattle and camels that

prevents them from rising from a sitting position to standing in one smooth, quick and sharp movement).

وَلَا تَمْنُن تَسْتَكْثِرُ **74:6**

Seek not rivalry in material gains. [30:39, 76:9]

وَلِرَبِّكَ فَاصْبِرْ **74:7**

And be steadfast for the Mission of your Sustainer.

فَإِذَا نُقِرَ فِي النَّاقُورِ **74:8**

For when the Trumpet is sounded,

فَذَٰلِكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَوْمٌ عَسِيرٌ **74:9**

That will be the Day - A Day of hardship,

عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ غَيْرُ يَسِيرٍ **74:10**

Not of ease, for all who deny the truth.

ذَرْنِي وَمَنْ خَلَقْتُ وَحِيدًا **74:11**

Leave it to Me (My law) alone to decide about him whom I alone have created. [This is another verse forbidding worldly punishment for deniers of the truth or 'apostates']

وَجَعَلْتُ لَهُ مَالًا مَّمْدُودًا **74:12**

And then granted him abundant wealth and resources. [73:11]

وَبَنِينَ شُهُودًا **74:13**

And children and party abiding in his presence.

وَمَهَّدتُّ لَهُ تَمْهِيدًا **74:14**

And made life comfortable for him like a cradle.

ثُمَّ يَطْمَعُ أَنْ أَزِيدَ **74:15**

But he keeps increasing in greed, desiring more and more.

كَلَّا إِنَّهُ كَانَ لِآيَاتِنَا عَنِيدًا **74:16**

Nay, he has been a stubborn opponent of Our revelations.

سَأُرْهِقُهُ صَعُودًا 74:17

I will cause him to walk an exhausting uphill climb.

إِنَّهُ فَكَّرَ وَقَدَّرَ 74:18

He thought and he determined.

فَقُتِلَ كَيْفَ قَدَّرَ 74:19

Woe to him! How he determined.

ثُمَّ قُتِلَ كَيْفَ قَدَّرَ 74:20

Woe to him again! How he determined.

ثُمَّ نَظَرَ 74:21

And then he looked around.

ثُمَّ عَبَسَ وَبَسَرَ 74:22

Then he frowned and glared.

ثُمَّ أَدْبَرَ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ 74:23

And then he turned away in pride.

فَقَالَ إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ يُؤْثَرُ 74:24

And said, “All this is a remnant of ancient magic.

إِنْ هَٰذَا إِلَّا قَوْلُ الْبَشَرِ 74:25

Edip

This is nothing but the speech of a human.”

سَأُصْلِيهِ سَقَرَ 74:26

I shall soon cast him into Saqar.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سَقَرُ 74:27

Ah, what will convey to you what Saqar is!

لَا تُبْقِي وَلَا تَذَرُ 74:28

A fire that lets not live and lets not die. [fire of Regret, Remorse, Anguish]

لَوَّاحَةٌ لِّلْبَشَرِ **74:29**

Visibly written on the tablet of an individual's life.

عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ **74:30**

Over it are nineteen. [On the tablet of human life are inscribed nineteen patterns of behavior that lead to the fire. They could be the telltale signs written on the tablet of an individual's life. The intelligent reader may reflect on those patterns and reach one's own conclusions. According to my humble understanding, the nineteen patterns of behavior that lead to the Hellfire are these: 1. Shirk = Associating others with God. Accepting human authorities parallel to Divine revelation. Sectarianism. Idol worship in any form. Being content with man-made systems. Worshiping graves, saints, ancestors or one's own desires. Blind following or accepting religious information without discernment. Failing to use the Divine Word as the Criterion. 2. Ithm = Actions that deplete individual and collective potential. Destroying human lives. Lewd behavior. Discouraging productive work. Causing fear or grief by any means. Indulgence in pursuit of pleasure. 3. 'Udwan = Creating wedges of discord between people. Causing dissension. Spreading disorder and corruption. Promoting racial, sectarian and nationalistic hatred. 4. Israaf = Wasting resources or one's own 'self'. Crossing limits. Moving away from moderation. Committing excesses in any aspect of life including Religion. Defying Moral Values given in the Qur'an. Using intoxicants that waste the human 'self'. 5. M'asiah = Rebelling against God and the rightly guided Central Authority. Bloody crimes on earth. Disruptive behavior. Disobedience of the Word of God and the Messenger as embodied in the Qur'an. Gambling and usury. 6. Sayyeh = Destabilizing the lives of others. Failing to fulfill the rights of others. Injustice. Inequity. Deceiving in business or other dealings. Falling short in discharging duties. favoritism. 7. Zulm = Relegating the truth or displacing anything from its rightful place. Oppressing people. Violating human rights. Hurting others or one's own 'self'. Doing wrong to God's creatures and environment. Enslaving bodies and minds. 8. Ifk = Backbiting. Evil scheming. Defaming. Undue criticism. Fault finding. Slander. Presenting the 'heard' as 'seen'. Alarmist behavior. 9. Zann = False assumptions about people. Condemnation without investigation. Slander. Falling for superstitions. Belittling the truth. Following conjecture. Staying out of touch with reality. 10. Jurm = Stealing the fruit of others' labor. Violating human rights. Being guilty of living subhuman life. Witnessing for falsehood. Depriving others from their rights. Devouring others' possessions. Not giving share where it is due. 11. Takabbur = False pride. Arrogance. Self-glorification. Holding others in contempt. Refusing to learn and unlearn. Insisting on blind following. Refusing to admit fault. Being forward before the messages of God. Mocking the truth. Deeming to 'know it all'. Considering material goods higher than moral virtue. 12. Ghill = Harboring malice in the heart. Failing to forgive people. Looking forward to take revenge. Plotting to hurt physically, financially or emotionally. Being hateful. Opposition for the sake of opposition. Incriminating others for personal grudge. 13. Ghadhab = Anger. Letting loose virulent emotions. Succumbing to desires. Yelling at others. Intimidating the weak. Losing self-control. Impulsive attitude. 14: Takzeeb = Belying the Truth. Denying verbal proclamation of Faith with actions.15. Bhukhl = Stinginess. Hoarding. Withholding own wealth and person from serving humanity. Apathy toward the needy. Being greedy. 16. Laghw = Wasting precious time. Idle talk. Meaningless assemblies. Conspiring. Senseless play and pastime. 17. Sadd = Barring oneself or others from the path of God. Putting forward human thoughts above the Divine revelation. Hindering immigration from the domain of evil. Antagonizing the Word of God. Presenting falsehood as truth. Misleading people with conjecture. Hindering the way

to the Divinely ordained System of Life. 18. Jadal = Disputation = Argument for the sake of argument. Opposing Divine messages. Confusing human thought. Confounding the truth with rhetoric. 19. Kufr = Stubborn denial of the truth. Ingratitude. Concealing the truth. Choosing to live in the darkness of ignorance. Knowingly oppose the truth. Uncritical adherence to ancestral views. Trying to be with the majority without discernment]

وَمَا جَعَلْنَا أَصْحَابَ النَّارِ إِلَّا مَلَائِكَةً وَمَا جَعَلْنَا عِدَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِّلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيَسْتَيْقِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَيَزْدَادَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِيمَانًا وَلَا يَرْتَابَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَلِيَقُولَ الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِم مَّرَضٌ وَالْكَافِرُونَ مَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِهَٰذَا مَثَلًا كَذَٰلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ جُنُودَ رَبِّكَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَمَا هِيَ إِلَّا ذِكْرَىٰ لِلْبَشَرِ **74:31**

We have appointed none but angelic powers (universal laws) to be the keepers of the fire. And We have made their number a trial for those who are bent upon denying the truth. This admonition should grant certainty to those who received the scripture before while the believers shall increase in faith. The believers and those who have been given the scripture before shall harbor no doubt about this declaration. And the hypocrites and the deniers may say, "What does God mean by this parable?" Thus, God lets go astray him who wills to go astray, and guides him who wills to be guided. And no one knows the forces of your Lord but He. And this is nothing but a reminder to humans. [2:26]

كَلَّا وَالْقَمَرِ **74:32**

Nay! The Moon stands witness.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذْ أَدْبَرَ **74:33**

And the Night when it departs.

وَالصُّبْحِ إِذَا أَسْفَرَ **74:34**

And the Dawn as it shines forth.

إِنَّهَا لَإِحْدَى الْكُبَرِ **74:35**

This (the fore-going) is one of the greatest allegories (that the revolution is coming in all its splendor).

نَذِيرًا لِّلْبَشَرِ **74:36**

This is a fore-warning for every human being.

لِمَن شَاءَ مِنكُمْ أَن يَتَقَدَّمَ أَوْ يَتَأَخَّرَ **74:37**

To everyone of you, whether he chooses to advance or to lag behind.

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِينَةٌ **74:38**

Every person is held in pledge for all that he has done. [52:21]

إِلَّا أَصْحَابَ الْيَمِينِ **74:39**

But those who will stand on the right hand side. [Those who have succeeded for their righteousness. Yameen = A metaphor for righteousness and success. They have actualized their own 'self' by doing good to others]

فِي جَنَّاتٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **74:40**

In Gardens they will ask,

عَنِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ **74:41**

Of those who used to steal the fruit of others' toil.

مَا سَلَكَكُمْ فِي سَقَرَ **74:42**

"What has led you into Saqar?" [A fire that lets not live and lets not die. Fire of Regret 74:28]

قَالُوا لَمْ نَكُ مِنَ الْمُصَلِّينَ **74:43**

They will reply, "We were not of the Musalleen." [Who are Musalleen? 70:22-35. The Musalleen (from Salaat - are not the so called ritualistic praying ones, but) Those who always follow the Divine System. Those in whose wealth and possessions is a known right. For him who asks for help, and for him who is deprived. Those who have conviction in the Day of Judgment. Those who are fearful of their Lord's requital. (They know that) none can feel secure against their Lord's requital. (Still Musalleen are also) Those men and women who maintain their chastity. They have intimate relations only with their spouses - that is, those who are rightfully theirs through wedlock. For such relationship they are free of blame. But anyone who seeks beyond this, those are the transgressors. (And Musalleen are) Those who guard their trusts and duties assigned to them, and their pledges, as a shepherd guards his flock. Those who are truthful as witness and stand by their testimony. Those who consolidate and protect the Divine System. (Musalleen are the ones who collectively build Paradise on earth and inherit that in the Hereafter.) They will be the honored ones dwelling in the Gardens of bliss]

وَلَمْ نَكُ نُطْعِمُ الْمِسْكِينَ 74:44

"Neither did we feed the hungry, nor did we take part in helping those who had lost their jobs, those whose businesses had stalled, and those whose hard-earned income was insufficient to meet their basic needs."

وَكُنَّا نَخُوضُ مَعَ الْخَائِضِينَ 74:45

"And we were among those who used to say what they did not do."

وَكُنَّا نُكَذِّبُ بِيَوْمِ الدِّينِ 74:46

"And we used to deny the Day of Judgment and that the Divine System will eventually prevail"

حَتَّىٰ أَتَانَا الْيَقِينُ 74:47

"Till the inevitable truth came to us."

فَمَا تَنفَعُهُمْ شَفَاعَةُ الشَّافِعِينَ 74:48

Intercession

Then no mediation of any mediator will help.

فَمَا لَهُمْ عَنِ التَّذْكِرَةِ مُعْرِضِينَ 74:49

What, then, is the matter with them that they are turning away from a clear Advisory?

كَأَنَّهُمْ حُمُرٌ مُّسْتَنفِرَةٌ 74:50

As if they were frightened zebras.

فَرَّتْ مِن قَسْوَرَةٍ 74:51

Fleeing from a lion!

بَلْ يُرِيدُ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَن يُؤْتَىٰ صُحُفًا مُّنَشَّرَةً 74:52

Nay, each of them wants to be given the scrolls of revelation personally, unfolded.

كَلَّا بَل لَّا يَخَافُونَ الْآخِرَةَ 74:53

They do not fear the Hereafter.

كَلَّا إِنَّهُ تَذْكِرَةٌ 74:54

Nay, this is an Advisory.

فَمَن شَاءَ ذَكَرَهُ **74:55**

So whoever wills may take it to heart.

وَمَا يَذْكُرُونَ إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ هُوَ أَهْلُ التَّقْوَىٰ وَأَهْلُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ **74:56**

But they will not take it to heart but according to God's laws (of guidance). He is the Source of righteousness, and the Source of forgiveness. [4:88, 76:30, 81:29]

Chapter 75

Al-Qiyamah - The Resurrection

This is the 75th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 40 verses. The Book of God emphasizes the unwavering Law of Requital as the pivotal Reality in human lives and in the entire Universe. And that the Universe has been created with a definite purpose. "There is a coherent plan in the Universe, though I do not know what it´s a plan for." [British astronomer-author, Sir Fred Hoyle] The Universe has been created to fulfill the Divine Plan the hallmarks of which, according to the Qur´an, appear to be: 1 - All actions have their logical consequences. 2 - All things must become what they are meant to be. 3 - The Almighty Creator will bring into being another Cosmos to replace the one we now see and understand in our limited capacity. 4 - The humans will be given new higher forms. 5 - The evolution of the human ´self´ (or ´soul´) will continue in the life Hereafter. 6 - The new Cosmos will be even more wondrous. 7 - The life to come will be magnificent beyond our current imagination for those who have tried to develop their own ´self´. It will entail true felicitous immortality with exponentially advanced capabilities. This is termed the Garden or the Paradise and explained in the Qur´an by way of allegories - allegories since the exact comprehension thereof is beyond our current level of understanding. And that is why the life of this world is a Divine Gift of opportunity, yet, in comparison, a ´fleeting delight´. 8 - Those who fail to use their God-given potentials to grow their own ´self´ will merely survive in a state of ´neither living nor dying´. The Book of God calls that state as Hellfire. Once again, it has been described in allegories like other things that belong to the World of the Unseen. 9 - It is the mercy of God that people will be accountable only for their endeavor, and not for the results they achieve. The individual capacities that God has given them will be duly considered in the Final Judgment. God does not task any person beyond his scope and beyond what He has given him. A sincere effort made in a noble cause is always rewarded even if it did not succeed, since it leaves its positive imprints on the ´Self". Qiyamah literally means ´Standing up or rising up.´ So, in addition to the Final Resurrection, the Qur´an frequently uses the term to indicate people, nations, and mankind in general standing up on their feet - in terms of establishing the Divine Order or the Kingdom of God on earth. In the same sense it means a Benevolent Revolution.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ **75:1**

Nay! I call to witness the Day of Resurrection. [We can see this in our daily lives in the Law of Cause and Effect, "As you sow so shall you reap", the Law of Recompense. What goes around comes around. And, in how the dead earth comes to new life with rains. Also, in our sleep-wake cycle where our consciousness is withdrawn during sleep and restored as we wake up. 6:60]

وَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِالنَّفْسِ اللَّوَّامَةِ **75:2**

Nay, I call to witness the person who shows remorse after wrongdoing. [Notice the law taking the first step instantly. 12:53]

أَيَحْسَبُ الْإِنسَانُ أَلَّن نَّجْمَعَ عِظَامَهُ **75:3**

Does the human being think that We will not assemble his bones? [36:78, 37:16. Life goes on with its essence, the 'self', surviving disintegration]

بَلَىٰ قَادِرِينَ عَلَىٰ أَن نُّسَوِّيَ بَنَانَهُ **75:4**

We have the power to restore his very finger tips. [Science came to know about the uniqueness of the fingerprints only in the 19th century. Even the twins have their own uniquely different fingerprints]

بَلْ يُرِيدُ الْإِنسَانُ لِيَفْجُرَ أَمَامَهُ **75:5**

But man is after subverting his own future.

يَسْأَلُ أَيَّانَ يَوْمُ الْقِيَامَةِ **75:6**

(Yet) he asks, "When will this Day of Resurrection be?"

فَإِذَا بَرِقَ الْبَصَرُ **75:7**

But when the sight is dazzled,

وَخَسَفَ الْقَمَرُ **75:8**

And the moon is darkened. [The banner of the Age of Ignorance bearing the moon logo goes down]

وَجُمِعَ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ **75:9**

And the sun and the moon are brought together. [Persia and Arabia come under one Rule. Sun being the logo on the Persian banner]

يَقُولُ الْإِنسَانُ يَوْمَئِذٍ أَيْنَ الْمَفَرُّ **75:10**

On that Day man will wonder, "Where to flee!" [In this life and in the life to come. verses 7-10 could easily allude to the merging of the super power of the times, Persia with the newly enlightened Arabia in 642 CE, 10 years after the exalted Prophet's death]

كَلَّا لَا وَزَرَ **75:11**

But, nay! No height to mount above the turmoil!

إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْمُسْتَقَرُّ **75:12**

Unto your Lord that Day is the resting place.

يُنَبَّأُ الْإِنسَانُ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِمَا قَدَّمَ وَأَخَّرَ **75:13**

On the Day when man is apprised of all his acts of commission and omission. [All he has done and left undone. All deeds that advanced him and kept him behind]

بَلِ الْإِنسَانُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ بَصِيرَةٌ **75:14**

Oh, but man is a telling witness against himself.

وَلَوْ أَلْقَىٰ مَعَاذِيرَهُ **75:15**

Even though he were to put forward all his excuses.

لَا تُحَرِّكْ بِهِ لِسَانَكَ لِتَعْجَلَ بِهِ **75:16**

(Whenever you recite the Qur'an) do not recite in haste stirring your tongue. [20:114]

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا جَمْعَهُ وَقُرْآنَهُ **75:17**

It is up to Us to gather and preserve it and the reading of it. [He will bless whatever effort we put into its learning]

فَإِذَا قَرَأْنَاهُ فَاتَّبِعْ قُرْآنَهُ **75:18**

Follow Quran

Thus, when We read it, follow the reading. [Although these verses are addressed to the exalted Prophet, every believer can sense as if the Qur'an is talking to him/her]

ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا بَيَانَهُ **75:19**

Then, it is for Us to explain it. [The Qur'an is its own best commentary. It explains itself]

كَلَّا بَلْ تُحِبُّونَ الْعَاجِلَةَ **75:20**

Nay, but you love instant results,

وَتَذَرُونَ الْآخِرَةَ **75:21**

And give little thought to the long term. [Aakhirah = Hereafter = Life to come = Future = Long term = What follows = Subsequent = Enduring. Tomorrow is today's Aakhirah]

وُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاضِرَةٌ **75:22**

Some faces that Day will beam with happiness.

إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ 75:23

Is God seen in paradise

Looking up to their Lord.

وَوُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ بَاسِرَةٌ 75:24

And some faces on that Day will be despondent.

تَظُنُّ أَن يُفْعَلَ بِهَا فَاقِرَةٌ 75:25

Expecting a back breaking calamity.

كَلَّا إِذَا بَلَغَتِ التَّرَاقِيَ 75:26

Nay, when the last breaths come up to the throat.

وَقِيلَ مَنْ رَاقٍ 75:27

And those around cry, “Is there any charmer?”

وَظَنَّ أَنَّهُ الْفِرَاقُ 75:28

But he knows that this is the parting.

وَالْتَفَّتِ السَّاقُ بِالسَّاقِ 75:29

And it is pang upon pang.

إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْمَسَاقُ 75:30

That day the drive is to your Lord.

فَلَا صَدَّقَ وَلَا صَلَّىٰ 75:31

For he neither stood by the truth, nor did he follow it. [Sall = To follow, like the runners-up horse closely follows the winner, Saabiq = To closely follow the commands of God]

وَلَٰكِن كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ 75:32

Rather, he used to deny and turn away.

ثُمَّ ذَهَبَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ يَتَمَطَّىٰ 75:33

And then used to go to his family gleefully.

أَوْلَىٰ لَكَ فَأَوْلَىٰ 75:34

This is the most befitting for you - now this is the most befitting.

ثُمَّ أَوْلَىٰ لَكَ فَأَوْلَىٰ **75:35**

Again! This is the most befitting for you - now this is the most befitting. [The impending requital befits the behavior]

أَيَحْسَبُ الْإِنسَانُ أَن يُتْرَكَ سُدًى **75:36**

Does man think he will be left alone like a broken musical string?

أَلَمْ يَكُ نُطْفَةً مِّن مَّنِيٍّ يُمْنَىٰ **75:37**

Was he not gametes that moved to join?

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقَ فَسَوَّىٰ **75:38**

Then he became a zygote. And He shaped and fashioned him in due proportion.

فَجَعَلَ مِنْهُ الزَّوْجَيْنِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ **75:39**

And He has made of humans pairs, male and female.

أَلَيْسَ ذَٰلِكَ بِقَادِرٍ عَلَىٰ أَن يُحْيِيَ الْمَوْتَىٰ **75:40**

Is He not, then, Able to bring the dead to life?

Chapter 76

Ad-Dahr - The Time

This is the 76th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 31 verses. This Surah tells us about our creation and evolution, lays down the purpose of our life and clearly shows us the way toward a destination of bliss. Many verses herein apply to both lives. Be kind to His creation and God will be Kind to you. This Surah has also been called "Al-Insan" by later historians. That, in my opinion, is a needless use of questionable traditions. There are a few other Surahs that have been given dual names as pointed out in QXP (The Qur´an As It Explains Itself).

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

هَلْ أَتَىٰ عَلَى الْإِنسَانِ حِينٌ مِّنَ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يَكُن شَيْئًا مَّذْكُورًا **76:1**

Has there not passed over man an era when he was not even worth mentioning?

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِن نُّطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَّبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا **76:2**

We have created the human being from marked out cells, male and female gametes, that joined. Then We passed him through subtle changes. And then We made him a being endowed with hearing and sight.

إِنَّا هَدَيْنَاهُ السَّبِيلَ إِمَّا شَاكِرًا وَإِمَّا كَفُورًا **76:3**

We have shown him the way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.

إِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ سَلَاسِلَ وَأَغْلَالًا وَسَعِيرًا **76:4**

For those who oppose the truth We have readied chains and shackles and a blazing flame. [Chains and shackles of conjecture, blind following and superstition, and the fire of confusion and regret are the logical consequences of relegating the truth. 7:157]

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِن كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا **76:5**

The truly virtuous will drink from a cup sweetened with nectar of flowers. [Kaafoor = Camphor = Cool temperament = Nectar from the calyx of grape as it flowers = Sweet and fragrant drink of Divine bliss]

عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ يُفَجِّرُونَهَا تَفْجِيرًا **76:6**

A spring whereof the servants of God drink - it is they who make it flow in abundance. [The true servants of God achieve His blessings of guidance and all that is good, and share them with fellow human beings]

يُوفُونَ بِالنَّذْرِ وَيَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا كَانَ شَرُّهُ مُسْتَطِيرًا **76:7**

They fulfill their vows and pledges and fear (and therefore, guard against) the times when chaos and corruption might sweep the society.

وَيُطْعِمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا وَأَسِيرًا **76:8**

And they arrange the feeding (and basic needs of life), for the love of nobility, of the indigent, the orphan and the captive. [They help establish the System where the first ones to receive the provisions of God are the ones who are needy, who have lost their jobs, whose lives have stalled, the widows, the orphans, the ones who feel left alone in the society, the captives and those who are stranded on earth for any reason]

إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لِوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا **76:9**

(They do all this selflessly) saying, “We provide for you for the sake of God alone. We want no return from you, not even a word of thanks.

إِنَّا نَخَافُ مِن رَّبِّنَا يَوْمًا عَبُوسًا قَمْطَرِيرًا **76:10**

We stand in awe of our Lord to ward off the times when the society might become a picture of frown and distress.“

فَوَقَاهُمُ اللَّهُ شَرَّ ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمِ وَلَقَّاهُمْ نَضْرَةً وَسُرُورًا **76:11**

So, God wards off from them the chaos of those times, and showers on them inner splendor and delight. [Yaum = Day = Stage = Times = Era = Eventuality = The Resurrection Day] ***

وَجَزَاهُم بِمَا صَبَرُوا جَنَّةً وَحَرِيرًا **76:12**

And for their steadfastness He rewards them with a Garden of bliss and garments of silk (granting honor). ***

مُّتَّكِئِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ لَا يَرَوْنَ فِيهَا شَمْسًا وَلَا زَمْهَرِيرًا **76:13**

Relaxing therein on beautiful furnishings, they neither find a hot sun nor chill.

وَدَانِيَةً عَلَيْهِمْ ظِلَالُهَا وَذُلِّلَتْ قُطُوفُهَا تَذْلِيلًا 76:14

Pleasant shades close upon them and clusters of fruits reach them low.

وَيُطَافُ عَلَيْهِم بِآنِيَةٍ مِّن فِضَّةٍ وَأَكْوَابٍ كَانَتْ قَوَارِيرَا 76:15

And they are served with goblets of silver and cups of crystal.

قَوَارِيرَ مِن فِضَّةٍ قَدَّرُوهَا تَقْدِيرًا 76:16

Silver trays shining as crystal - all this design they have determined (with their good deeds).

وَيُسْقَوْنَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا زَنجَبِيلًا 76:17

And delicious invigorating drinks they shall be given. (43:71, 76:5, 83:27. Camphor: an allegory for cool relaxation, and ginger: warmth and action)

عَيْنًا فِيهَا تُسَمَّىٰ سَلْسَبِيلًا 76:18

From therein a spring named Salsabeel. The water thereof seeks its own way to them. [88:12. Salsabeel = The stream that finds its way to them]

وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ إِذَا رَأَيْتَهُمْ حَسِبْتَهُمْ لُؤْلُؤًا مَّنثُورًا 76:19

And their children, immortal, playing around, lovely as pearls when you see them.

وَإِذَا رَأَيْتَ ثَمَّ رَأَيْتَ نَعِيمًا وَمُلْكًا كَبِيرًا 76:20

And whenever you look around there you see bliss and a Magnificent Kingdom.

عَالِيَهُمْ ثِيَابُ سُندُسٍ خُضْرٌ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٌ وَحُلُّوا أَسَاوِرَ مِن فِضَّةٍ وَسَقَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ شَرَابًا طَهُورًا 76:21

Upon them will be garments of green silk with gold embroidery, and they will be honored with bracelets of silver. And their Lord will give them pure refreshing drinks.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا كَانَ لَكُمْ جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيُكُم مَّشْكُورًا 76:22

Behold! All this is your reward since your effort has found a befitting Acceptance.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ تَنزِيلًا 76:23

Most certainly, We have revealed to you the Qur'an from Our Presence. [I tend to agree with Muhammad Asad that this verse addresses any sincere student of the Qur'an]

فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تُطِعْ مِنْهُمْ آثِمًا أَوْ كَفُورًا **76:24**

Therefore, hold on to your Lord's command unwaveringly. And do not heed any sinner or unbeliever. [Aathim = 'Sinner' from Ithm = One who depletes individual or communal energy]

وَاذْكُرِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا **76:25**

Raise the Name of your Lord morning and evening. [Zikr = Remembrance = Commemoration = Raise = Celebrate = Magnify = Give eminence = Taking to heart = Keeping in mind]

وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَاسْجُدْ لَهُ وَسَبِّحْهُ لَيْلًا طَوِيلًا **76:26**

Remembrance of God

Adore Him even at night and strive to establish His glory on earth through long nights (as you do morning and evening).

إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ يُحِبُّونَ الْعَاجِلَةَ وَيَذَرُونَ وَرَاءَهُمْ يَوْمًا ثَقِيلًا **76:27**

But there are those who love the instant gains and neglect the remembrance of a grievous day.

نَّحْنُ خَلَقْنَاهُمْ وَشَدَدْنَا أَسْرَهُمْ وَإِذَا شِئْنَا بَدَّلْنَا أَمْثَالَهُمْ تَبْدِيلًا **76:28**

(Who gave them the mind and body to behave the way they choose?) We created them, and strengthened their frame. But whenever We will, We can substitute others in their place. [Peoples that will use their human potentials better. 70:41]

إِنَّ هَٰذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ فَمَن شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا **76:29**

This is an Advisory that whoever wills, may choose a way to his Lord.

وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا **76:30**

Yet, you cannot will it unless you align your will with the will of God. God is Knower, Wise. [Guidance can only be achieved according to Divine laws. 4:88]

يُدْخِلُ مَن يَشَاءُ فِي رَحْمَتِهِ وَالظَّالِمِينَ أَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا **76:31**

He admits into His grace everyone who wills to be admitted. But, for those who wrong their own 'self', He has prepared an awful doom. [Zulm = Wrongdoing = Being unjust to others or to one's own 'self' = Oppression = Relegation of truth

= Displacing something from its rightful place = Violation of human rights = Transgression]

Chapter 77

Al-Mursalaat - The Messages Sent Forth

This is the 77th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 50 brief verses. This Surah captivates the heart with sheer eloquence, yet without compromising the Majesty and Power of the Divine Word.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالْمُرْسَلَاتِ عُرْفًا **77:1**

Witness are these messages sent forth one after another.

فَالْعَاصِفَاتِ عَصْفًا **77:2**

As they gain strength like a tempest.

وَالنَّاشِرَاتِ نَشْرًا **77:3**

And spread (the truth) far and wide.

فَالْفَارِقَاتِ فَرْقًا **77:4**

While distinguishing the Right from Wrong with a clear distinction.

فَالْمُلْقِيَاتِ ذِكْرًا **77:5**

In order to deliver the reminder.

عُذْرًا أَوْ نُذْرًا **77:6**

Whether one erases his faults or sees the danger signs. [‘Uzr = Excuse = Justification = Good news = Reasoning = Attempt to get rid of one’s shortcomings. Nuzr = Warning = Posting danger signs]

إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَوَاقِعٌ **77:7**

All that you are promised in this Writ will come to pass.

فَإِذَا النُّجُومُ طُمِسَتْ **77:8**

So when the stars lose their luster. [The small groups of opponents fade away]

وَإِذَا السَّمَاءُ فُرِجَتْ **77:9**

And when the sky is rent asunder. [Every high tyrant is decimated]

وَإِذَا الْجِبَالُ نُسِفَتْ **77:10**

And when the mountains are blown away as dust. [The great ones who enslave the weak float around like flakes of wool. 20:105, 56:5]

وَإِذَا الرُّسُلُ أُقِّتَتْ **77:11**

And when all Messengers are summoned at the time appointed. [The unanimity of the message of all Messengers will become evident. Guidance can only be achieved according to Divine laws. 4:88]

لِأَيِّ يَوْمٍ أُجِّلَتْ **77:12**

For what Day is the term delayed?

لِيَوْمِ الْفَصْلِ **77:13**

For the Day of decision!

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا يَوْمُ الْفَصْلِ **77:14**

And what will enlighten you what that Day of decision is?

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ **77:15**

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth! [Kizb = Lie = Belie = Deny the truth in practical dealings = Deny by action. Kufr = Frank denial in word and action]

أَلَمْ نُهْلِكِ الْأَوَّلِينَ **77:16**

Did We not annihilate the former generations?

ثُمَّ نُتْبِعُهُمُ الْآخِرِينَ **77:17**

Then We made them followed by later generations.

كَذَٰلِكَ نَفْعَلُ بِالْمُجْرِمِينَ 77:18

Thus do We always deal with the guilty.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:19

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

أَلَمْ نَخْلُقكُّم مِّن مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ 77:20

Did We not create you from a humble fluid? [How, then, you forget your common origin and being humble to one another?]

فَجَعَلْنَاهُ فِي قَرَارٍ مَّكِينٍ 77:21

Which We then kept in a safe place. [23:13]

إِلَىٰ قَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ 77:22

For a term appointed.

فَقَدَرْنَا فَنِعْمَ الْقَادِرُونَ 77:23

Thus We have determined (all things). How excellent is Our determination! [Appointing due measure of all things]

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:24

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ كِفَاتًا 77:25

Have We not made the earth a vessel -

أَحْيَاءً وَأَمْوَاتًا 77:26

Both for the living and the dead? [The cycle of life and death goes on right here. 3:27, 6:95, 10:31, 30:19]

وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ شَامِخَاتٍ وَأَسْقَيْنَاكُم مَّاءً فُرَاتًا 77:27

And placed therein firm lofty mountains (serving as water reservoirs), and given you fresh water to drink.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:28

But anguish is on that Day for the deniers of truth.

انطَلِقُوا إِلَىٰ مَا كُنتُم بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ **77:29**

(It will be said to them), “Walk to the doom you used to deny.

انطَلِقُوا إِلَىٰ ظِلٍّ ذِي ثَلَاثِ شُعَبٍ **77:30**

Walk to the threefold darkness (of fear, grief and hopelessness).

لَّا ظَلِيلٍ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنَ اللَّهَبِ **77:31**

Giving neither cooling shade nor shelter from the Flame.”

إِنَّهَا تَرْمِي بِشَرَرٍ كَالْقَصْرِ **77:32**

It throws up sparks huge as castles.

كَأَنَّهُ جِمَالَتٌ صُفْرٌ **77:33**

Moving like the caravans of bright yellow camels.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ **77:34**

Anguish is on that Day for those who deny the truth.

هَٰذَا يَوْمُ لَا يَنطِقُونَ **77:35**

This is a Day when they are not able to speak.

وَلَا يُؤْذَنُ لَهُمْ فَيَعْتَذِرُونَ **77:36**

Nor will they be allowed to make excuses.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ **77:37**

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

هَٰذَا يَوْمُ الْفَصْلِ جَمَعْنَاكُمْ وَالْأَوَّلِينَ **77:38**

This is the Day of decision. We have brought you and the generations of old all together.

فَإِن كَانَ لَكُمْ كَيْدٌ فَكِيدُونِ **77:39**

If you have a scheme, go ahead and scheme.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:40

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth.

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي ظِلَالٍ وَعُيُونٍ 77:41

The righteous are amid shades and springs.

وَفَوَاكِهَ مِمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ 77:42

And fruit as they desire.

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ 77:43

Enjoy, eat and drink. Welcome for what you have accomplished!

إِنَّا كَذَٰلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ 77:44

Thus do We reward the doers of good.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:45

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

كُلُوا وَتَمَتَّعُوا قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُم مُّجْرِمُونَ 77:46

You guilty ones! Enjoy and take your ease for a little while.

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:47

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ ارْكَعُوا لَا يَرْكَعُونَ 77:48

And now when they are told to bow down, they do not bow down. [They do not submit to Divine Commands]

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ 77:49

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

فَبِأَيِّ حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَهُ يُؤْمِنُونَ 77:50

What Hadith

In what Hadith, after this, will they believe?

Chapter 78

An-Naba - The News

This is the 78th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 40 verses. An-Naba means The News. The News given here is that of a Divine Revolution in this world and on the Resurrection Day. The timing of each has been well-appointed but known to God alone.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

عَمَّ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ **78:1**

What are they asking about?

عَنِ النَّبَإِ الْعَظِيمِ **78:2**

About the Great News!

الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ مُخْتَلِفُونَ **78:3**

On which they disagree.

كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ **78:4**

Nay, they will soon come to know.

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ **78:5**

Nay, again, they will soon come to know. [Man will learn with time that the current Universe is not Eternal and that after the Apocalypse a new Cosmos will be brought into being]

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهَادًا **78:6**

Did We not make the earth a cradle?

وَالْجِبَالَ أَوْتَادًا **78:7**

And the mountains as pegs?

وَخَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا **78:8**

Have We not created you in pairs?

وَجَعَلْنَا نَوْمَكُمْ سُبَاتًا **78:9**

And made your sleep for rest?

وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا **78:10**

And made the night as a cloak?

وَجَعَلْنَا النَّهَارَ مَعَاشًا **78:11**

And made the day for seeking livelihood? [Ma'aash = Economy = Subsistence = All activities of life = The state of living]

وَبَنَيْنَا فَوْقَكُمْ سَبْعًا شِدَادًا **78:12**

And (have We not) built above you seven Cosmic Systems?

وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَّاجًا **78:13**

And placed therein a dazzling lamp?

وَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ الْمُعْصِرَاتِ مَاءً ثَجَّاجًا **78:14**

And do We not send down from the rain clouds abundant water?

لِّنُخْرِجَ بِهِ حَبًّا وَنَبَاتًا **78:15**

Thereby to bring forth grain and plant?

وَجَنَّاتٍ أَلْفَافًا **78:16**

And gardens of dense foliage?

إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ كَانَ مِيقَاتًا **78:17**

Certainly, the Day of Decision is a thing appointed.

يَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ فَتَأْتُونَ أَفْوَاجًا **78:18**

A Day when the Trumpet is blown and you come in throngs.

وَفُتِحَتِ السَّمَاءُ فَكَانَتْ أَبْوَابًا **78:19**

When the gates of the sky are flung open. [Mankind learn about the high space]

وَسُيِّرَتِ الْجِبَالُ فَكَانَتْ سَرَابًا **78:20**

And the 'great ones' lose power as if they were mirage. [20:105, 56:5, 77:10, 81:3]

إِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ كَانَتْ مِرْصَادًا **78:21**

Hell lurks in ambush.

لِّلطَّاغِينَ مَآبًا **78:22**

A home for the transgressors.

لَّابِثِينَ فِيهَا أَحْقَابًا **78:23**

They will abide in it for ages. [Hell is not forever. God's grace comes to rescue the dwellers of the Hellfire. 6:128, 7:156, 11:107, 40:12. The abode of Paradise is Eternal]

لَّا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا بَرْدًا وَلَا شَرَابًا **78:24**

Therein they taste not coolness of comfort nor drink of satisfaction.

إِلَّا حَمِيمًا وَغَسَّاقًا **78:25**

Only burning anguish and ice-cold darkness. [38:37]

جَزَاءً وِفَاقًا **78:26**

A befitting requital.

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ حِسَابًا **78:27**

They never expected to be held accountable.

وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا كِذَّابًا **78:28**

And they called Our messages false with an adamant denial.

وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَاهُ كِتَابًا **78:29**

But We place on Record everything.

فَذُوقُوا فَلَن نَّزِيدَكُمْ إِلَّا عَذَابًا 78:30

So, now, taste nothing but increasing punishment.

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا 78:31

There is supreme fulfillment for those who chose to live upright.

حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا 78:32

Beautiful gardens and vineyards.

وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا 78:33

Companions
Not maidens

And splendid companions, well-matched. [56:37]

وَكَأْسًا دِهَاقًا 78:34

And a cup of delight overflowing.

لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كِذَّابًا 78:35

They shall hear no senseless talk, nor falsification therein.

جَزَاءً مِّن رَّبِّكَ عَطَاءً حِسَابًا 78:36

reward from your Lord, a generous gift.

رَّبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا الرَّحْمَٰنِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْهُ خِطَابًا 78:37

Lord of the heavens and earth and all that is in between them, the Beneficent. None has the power to lecture Him.

يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا لَّا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا 78:38

On the Day when the Divine Energy and the Universal forces stand forth in ranks, none will speak but he whom the Beneficent allows and says only what is right.

ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمُ الْحَقُّ فَمَن شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ مَآبًا 78:39

That Day will be the Moment of truth. So whoever wills, let him take the path that leads toward his Sustainer.

إِنَّا أَنذَرْنَاكُمْ عَذَابًا قَرِيبًا يَوْمَ يَنظُرُ الْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنتُ تُرَابًا **78:40**

We have warned you of the suffering near at hand, the Day when humans clearly see what their hands have sent ahead. And when the denier of truth will say, "Oh, would that I were mere dust¡' [69:27]

Chapter 79

An-Nazi´aat - Those Who Dive

The is the 79th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 46 verses. “Nazi´aat” indicates the noble group who join hands in freeing people from mental and physical bondage. Organized movements can change the fate of a nation. History is replete with oppression of the masses at the hands of three groups: 1 - Political tyrants, autocrats, monarchs, dictators, kings and tribal leaders. 2 - Hoarders of wealth, the rich elite, the greedy feudal lords, accumulators of illicit money, those who thrive on the toil of others. 3 - Religious leaders, priesthood, clergy of any religion including the mystic. Almost invariably, these three exploitative forces work in concert and support each other. The best example given in the Qur´an is that of Pharaoh, Korah and Haman.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالنَّازِعَاتِ غَرْقًا **79:1**

Consider those who dive to bring up. [Pearls from the ocean, people from repression]

وَالنَّاشِطَاتِ نَشْطًا **79:2**

And move steadily in jubilation, releasing (the oppressed from bondage).

وَالسَّابِحَاتِ سَبْحًا **79:3**

And working hard, like swimming in strides.

فَالسَّابِقَاتِ سَبْقًا **79:4**

And then together racing to progress.

فَالْمُدَبِّرَاتِ أَمْرًا **79:5**

And thus taking charge of their matters.

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الرَّاجِفَةُ **79:6**

The Day when the violent quake causes commotion.

تَتْبَعُهَا الرَّادِفَةُ **79:7**

To be followed by the jolter. [The oppressors are shaken up again and again]

قُلُوبٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ وَاجِفَةٌ **79:8**

On that Day hearts tremble.

أَبْصَارُهَا خَاشِعَةٌ **79:9**

And the eyes are subdued.

يَقُولُونَ أَإِنَّا لَمَرْدُودُونَ فِي الْحَافِرَةِ **79:10**

They say, “What! Are we to be restored to our former state,

أَإِذَا كُنَّا عِظَامًا نَّخِرَةً **79:11**

Even after we have become crumbling bones¿‘ [These two verses can also be understood pertaining to this life. Former state and crumbling bones: As they were before getting rich on others’ labor]

قَالُوا تِلْكَ إِذًا كَرَّةٌ خَاسِرَةٌ **79:12**

And they add, “In that case, then, it would be a great loss of investment!”

فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ **79:13**

But finally, it is a single swift call.

فَإِذَا هُم بِالسَّاهِرَةِ **79:14**

And they will be fully awakened to the truth.

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ مُوسَىٰ **79:15**

Has the story of Moses reached you? [Such a Revolution occurred in his times. 20:9-98]

إِذْ نَادَاهُ رَبُّهُ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى **79:16**

When his Lord called him in the Sacred Valley of revelation. [18:60-64, 20:12]

اذْهَبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ **79:17**

“Go to Pharaoh. He has transgressed all bounds.”

فَقُلْ هَل لَّكَ إِلَىٰ أَن تَزَكَّىٰ **79:18**

And ask him, “Are you willing to reform?” [Zaku = Grow in goodness = Develop the ‘self’ = Get rid of evil behavior = Attain purity = Improve in conduct = Prime the ‘self’ for actualization]

وَأَهْدِيَكَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَتَخْشَىٰ **79:19**

Then I will guide you to your Lord so that you will have some idea of His awesome glory.“

فَأَرَاهُ الْآيَةَ الْكُبْرَىٰ **79:20**

And then he presented to him the tremendous evidence of the truth. [20:23]

فَكَذَّبَ وَعَصَىٰ **79:21**

But he denied and haughtily rejected.

ثُمَّ أَدْبَرَ يَسْعَىٰ **79:22**

Then he turned away briskly.

فَحَشَرَ فَنَادَىٰ **79:23**

Then gathered (his chiefs) and called (his people).

فَقَالَ أَنَا رَبُّكُمُ الْأَعْلَىٰ **79:24**

And proclaimed, “I am your Lord, the Highest!”

فَأَخَذَهُ اللَّهُ نَكَالَ الْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَىٰ **79:25**

So God took him to task, and made him an example for the later generations and the ones who soon followed.

إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّمَن يَخْشَىٰ **79:26**

Herein is a lesson for him who fears (violating the law).

أَأَنتُمْ أَشَدُّ خَلْقًا أَمِ السَّمَاءُ بَنَاهَا **79:27**

What! Are you the more difficult to create or is the heaven that He built?

رَفَعَ سَمْكَهَا فَسَوَّاهَا **79:28**

He raised high its canopy, and shaped it perfect.

وَأَغْطَشَ لَيْلَهَا وَأَخْرَجَ ضُحَاهَا **79:29**

And He made dark its night and brings out its splendor.

وَالْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ دَحَاهَا **79:30**

And after that, He made the earth shoot out from the Cosmic Nebula and spread it out oval (flattened at its poles). [Dhahaha entails all the meanings rendered. 21:30, 41:11]

أَخْرَجَ مِنْهَا مَاءَهَا وَمَرْعَاهَا **79:31**

And produced from it its own water and pasture.

وَالْجِبَالَ أَرْسَاهَا **79:32**

And the mountains He firmly fixed.

مَتَاعًا لَّكُمْ وَلِأَنْعَامِكُمْ **79:33**

A means of livelihood for you and your cattle.

فَإِذَا جَاءَتِ الطَّامَّةُ الْكُبْرَىٰ **79:34**

And so, when there comes the Great Event,

يَوْمَ يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنسَانُ مَا سَعَىٰ **79:35**

On that Day man will remember all that he has ever done. [53:39, 56:63-73]

وَبُرِّزَتِ الْجَحِيمُ لِمَن يَرَىٰ **79:36**

And the Insurmountable Barrier will stand before him to see. ['Jaheem' = Insurmountable Barrier. He failed to prime his own 'self' for continued progress. 29:54, 39:48, 82:16]

فَأَمَّا مَن طَغَىٰ **79:37**

Then, the one who rebelled against the Divine laws,

وَآثَرَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا **79:38**

And fell for instant gratifications, [Hayat-id-duniya = Life of this world = Short term = Instant gains = Disregard of the life to come]

فَإِنَّ الْجَحِيمَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ **79:39**

Then the Blazing fire will be his home.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ وَنَهَى النَّفْسَ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ **79:40**

But the one who feared standing before his Sustainer and restrained his selfish desires,

فَإِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ هِيَ الْمَأْوَىٰ **79:41**

The Paradise will be his home.

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ السَّاعَةِ أَيَّانَ مُرْسَاهَا **79:42**

They ask you of the Hour, “When will it come to pass?”

فِيمَ أَنتَ مِن ذِكْرَاهَا **79:43**

Why? What do you have to tell them about it? [7:187, 33:63, 42:17]

إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ مُنتَهَاهَا **79:44**

Unto your Lord is the final end of it. [53:42]

إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مُنذِرُ مَن يَخْشَاهَا **79:45**

You are but a warner to him who stands in awe of it.

كَأَنَّهُمْ يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَهَا لَمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا عَشِيَّةً أَوْ ضُحَاهَا **79:46**

On the Day when they see it, it will be as if they had lived no longer than an evening or its morning.

Chapter 80

´Abasa - Someone Frowned

This is the 80th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 42 verses. Unfortunately, most commentators maintain that the exalted Messenger frowned upon a blind, poor but sincere seeker of the truth. The reason for this grievous mistake is, once again, blind following of false traditions, and the conjecture of Shan-e-Nuzool (the so-assumed circumstances of a revelation). Surah ´Abasa does not name the person who frowned. Through Tasreef, it becomes obvious that a proud Qureshite leader was in the habit of frowning at people (74:22). ´Abasa (80:1), then, actually addresses the arrogant and all those who would like to invite people to God. Assigning this incident to the exalted Messenger is one of the old conspiracies against Islam. God´s Messengers invariably paid special attention to the poor, the disabled, the deprived, and always refused to turn them away even though pressured by the elite to do so. [6:52, 8:62-64, 11:27, 18:28, 26:111-114] Another example of such a fallacy is found in most expositions of Surah 24, An-Nur, in which no names or even a hint is given, yet most exponents insist that it was the mother of believers, Ayesha r.a. who was slandered! - Again because of the ´Shane Nuzool´ conjecture.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

عَبَسَ وَتَوَلَّىٰٓ **80:1**

Would he (the caller to truth) frown and turn away,

أَن جَآءَهُ ٱلْأَعْمَىٰ **80:2**

If the blind (to the truth) approached him?

وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّهُۥ يَزَّكَّىٰٓ **80:3**

How could you know that he might have grown in goodness,

أَوْ يَذَّكَّرُ فَتَنفَعَهُ ٱلذِّكْرَىٰٓ **80:4**

Or that he be enlightened and the reminder might benefit him?

أَمَّا مَنِ ٱسْتَغْنَىٰ **80:5**

As for him who considers himself in no need of guidance,

فَأَنتَ لَهُ تَصَدَّىٰ 80:6

To him you give attention.

وَمَا عَلَيْكَ أَلَّا يَزَّكَّىٰ 80:7

Yet it is not your responsibility if he does not grow in goodness.

وَأَمَّا مَن جَاءَكَ يَسْعَىٰ 80:8

But as for him who came to you in all eagerness,

وَهُوَ يَخْشَىٰ 80:9

And feared straying. [2:2]

فَأَنتَ عَنْهُ تَلَهَّىٰ 80:10

You did disregard him.

كَلَّا إِنَّهَا تَذْكِرَةٌ 80:11

Nay, this is an Advisory.

فَمَن شَاءَ ذَكَرَهُ 80:12

So let him pay heed who wills.

فِي صُحُفٍ مُّكَرَّمَةٍ 80:13

In Scrolls Dignified.

مَّرْفُوعَةٍ مُّطَهَّرَةٍ 80:14

Exalted, Purified.

بِأَيْدِي سَفَرَةٍ 80:15

By the hands of scribes.

كِرَامٍ بَرَرَةٍ 80:16

Honorable and virtuous.

قُتِلَ الْإِنسَانُ مَا أَكْفَرَهُ 80:17

Human being destroys himself by what makes him reject the truth.

مِنْ أَيِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقَهُ **80:18**

From what stuff has He created him?

مِن نُّطْفَةٍ خَلَقَهُ فَقَدَّرَهُ **80:19**

From the male and the female gametes He created him, and then fashioned him in due proportion.

ثُمَّ السَّبِيلَ يَسَّرَهُ **80:20**

And then makes the way easy for him. [Endowed him with faculties]

ثُمَّ أَمَاتَهُ فَأَقْبَرَهُ **80:21**

Then causes him to die and brings him to disintegrated states. [Qabr = Grave = Disintegrated state = The prolonged state of sleep between physical death and Resurrection. 36:52]

ثُمَّ إِذَا شَاءَ أَنشَرَهُ **80:22**

Then, when He wills, He shall raise him to life again.

كَلَّا لَمَّا يَقْضِ مَا أَمَرَهُ **80:23**

Nay, man did not fulfill what He enjoined upon him.

فَلْيَنظُرِ الْإِنسَانُ إِلَىٰ طَعَامِهِ **80:24**

Let man consider his food. [His own food has involved so many hands from the soil to the mouth. He must share the provision with others]

أَنَّا صَبَبْنَا الْمَاءَ صَبًّا **80:25**

For that We pour down water in abundance.

ثُمَّ شَقَقْنَا الْأَرْضَ شَقًّا **80:26**

And then We split the earth, split and cleave.

فَأَنبَتْنَا فِيهَا حَبًّا **80:27**

And cause the grain to grow therein.

وَعِنَبًا وَقَضْبًا **80:28**

And vineyards, and fresh vegetation.

وَزَيْتُونًا وَنَخْلًا **80:29**

And olive trees and palm trees.

وَحَدَائِقَ غُلْبًا **80:30**

And dense beautiful gardens.

وَفَاكِهَةً وَأَبًّا **80:31**

And fruits and grasses.

مَّتَاعًا لَّكُمْ وَلِأَنْعَامِكُمْ **80:32**

Provision for you and your cattle.

فَإِذَا جَاءَتِ الصَّاخَّةُ **80:33**

But when comes the Call,

يَوْمَ يَفِرُّ الْمَرْءُ مِنْ أَخِيهِ **80:34**

On the Day when man will flee even from his brother,

وَأُمِّهِ وَأَبِيهِ **80:35**

And his mother and his father,

وَصَاحِبَتِهِ وَبَنِيهِ **80:36**

And his wife and his children.

لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مِّنْهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ شَأْنٌ يُغْنِيهِ **80:37**

To everyone on that Day will be enough his own concern.

وُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ مُّسْفِرَةٌ **80:38**

Some faces on that Day will be bright as dawn.

ضَاحِكَةٌ مُّسْتَبْشِرَةٌ **80:39**

Laughing, rejoicing at good news.

وَوُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَلَيْهَا غَبَرَةٌ **80:40**

And some faces on that Day will have dust upon them,

تَرْهَقُهَا قَتَرَةٌ **80:41**

With gloom overspread.

أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَفَرَةُ الْفَجَرَةُ **80:42**

These, these will be the ones who denied the truth and divided humanity.

Chapter 81

At-Takweer - The Folding Up

This is the 81st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 29 verses. This Surah portrays the drastic changes in the mode of governments. The revelation of the Qur´an literally heralded the folding up of monarchy. The Persian Empire which was the super power of the times, represented monarchy in every sense of the word - kingdom, princes, princesses and the crown-prince, dynasty of one family with genealogical inheritance of rule, repression of the masses, division of people into the elite and the poor, expansionist designs, the ruling class banding together with the religious mafia and men of riches etc. The Persian Empire had the sun as its logo that also appeared on her banner. And the very first verse refers to that most powerful and well known symbol of Monarchy in that era. Unfortunately, after the demise of the noble companions of the exalted Prophet, Muslims fell into the very system Islam had so effectively eradicated. Their rule had been that of mutual counsel and simple way of living with a laborer having the same rights as the Caliph. Nonetheless the world has been slowly marching away from autocracy to democracy in the last many centuries. While the currently popular democracy is relatively closer to the system of government ordained by the Qur´an, it is not exactly Qur´anic. According to the Book of God, no parliament or assembly is authorized to devise legislation against this Divine Writ. The laws given in the Book are Eternal and yet amazingly ever modern and timeless. The fine tuning can be easily undertaken by the Central Authority as necessitated with changing times. Taken literally, the verses in this Surah also refer to the Great Revolution that will take place in the Cosmos, with the current Universe being replaced with a brand new Cosmology. Of Eschatology, the Science of Universal metamorphosis, some glimpses are given in this Surah as a recurring theme in the Qur´an.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا الشَّمْسُ كُوِّرَتْ **81:1**

When the Sun is folded up. [Monarchies come to an end]

وَإِذَا النُّجُومُ انكَدَرَتْ **81:2**

And when the stars lose their glow. [Tribal dictatorships fall]

وَإِذَا الْجِبَالُ سُيِّرَتْ **81:3**

When the mountains are moved. [The ‘great ones’ lose their stronghold on the masses. 20:105, 56:5, 78:20]

وَإِذَا الْعِشَارُ عُطِّلَتْ **81:4**

When the she-camels, ten months with the young, are abandoned. [A she-camel about to deliver the young has been a precious commodity, but the camel will lose much importance, and means of transportation will change]

وَإِذَا الْوُحُوشُ حُشِرَتْ **81:5**

When the wild beasts are herded together. [The nomads and even the cannibals civilize and lead an organized collective life]

وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ سُجِّرَتْ **81:6**

When the seas bustle with ships.

وَإِذَا النُّفُوسُ زُوِّجَتْ **81:7**

When the people intermingle. [The world becomes small]

وَإِذَا الْمَوْءُودَةُ سُئِلَتْ **81:8**

When the little girl that was buried alive is made to ask -

بِأَيِّ ذَنبٍ قُتِلَتْ **81:9**

For what crime she was slain. [Women's rights will be restored]

وَإِذَا الصُّحُفُ نُشِرَتْ **81:10**

And when the papers are published widely.

وَإِذَا السَّمَاءُ كُشِطَتْ **81:11**

When the sky is unveiled. [The space sciences advance]

وَإِذَا الْجَحِيمُ سُعِّرَتْ **81:12**

When the Blazing fire is increased in ferocity. [The guilty are swiftly apprehended]

وَإِذَا الْجَنَّةُ أُزْلِفَتْ **81:13**

When the Paradise is brought near. [A glimpse of it shows in the earthly life]

عَلِمَتْ نَفْسٌ مَّا أَحْضَرَتْ **81:14**

(Then) every 'self' will see what it has prepared.

فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِالْخُنَّسِ **81:15**

Oh, but I call to witness the revolving planets.

الْجَوَارِ الْكُنَّسِ **81:16**

The stars which rise and set in their orbits.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا عَسْعَسَ **81:17**

And the Night as it slowly closes upon.

وَالصُّبْحِ إِذَا تَنَفَّسَ **81:18**

And the fresh breath of the morning.

إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلُ رَسُولٍ كَرِيمٍ **81:19**

This is the revealed Word in the dialect of a noble Messenger. [44:58, 69:40]

ذِي قُوَّةٍ عِندَ ذِي الْعَرْشِ مَكِينٍ **81:20**

Strengthened by Him Who is enthroned in His Almightiness of Supreme Control.

مُّطَاعٍ ثَمَّ أَمِينٍ **81:21**

(The Messenger is) to be obeyed and trusted.

وَمَا صَاحِبُكُم بِمَجْنُونٍ **81:22**

This fellow-man of yours is not a madman.

وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ بِالْأُفُقِ الْمُبِينِ **81:23**

He has found wisdom at the highest horizon. [53:1-7]

وَمَا هُوَ عَلَى الْغَيْبِ بِضَنِينٍ **81:24**

And he withholds not in secret the least bit of the revelation.

وَمَا هُوَ بِقَوْلِ شَيْطَانٍ رَّجِيمٍ **81:25**

Nor is it the utterance of a rejected satanic force. [Such as selfish desires]

فَأَيْنَ تَذْهَبُونَ **81:26**

Which way, then, are you going?

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ **81:27**

This message is no less than a reminder and giver of eminence to all mankind.

لِمَن شَاءَ مِنكُمْ أَن يَسْتَقِيمَ **81:28**

Unto everyone of you who wills to live upright. [1:5]

وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَن يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ **81:29**

But you cannot will it unless you abide by the laws of the Lord of the Worlds. [4:88, 74:56, 76:30]

Chapter 82

Al-Infitaar - The Shattering

This is the 82nd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 19 verses. The Qur´an is not a Book of prophecies, but since it is the Divine Word, whenever it alludes to the future, those statements must come to pass and many have. The Universe has been so designed by the Almighty that no action falls into nothingness. Every single event and action is recorded and meets with its logical consequence. This is the Law of Requital which is the hallmark of the Divine Rule. The ultimate judgment of humans has been planned by Him on a Day (Time) that He calls Yaumiddeen = The Day of Judgment.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انفَطَرَتْ **82:1**

When the high atmosphere is shattered. [The conquest of Space will begin]

وَإِذَا الْكَوَاكِبُ انتَثَرَتْ **82:2**

When the planets are dispersed. [Many of them are counted and named]

وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ فُجِّرَتْ **82:3**

When the oceans overflow with traffic.

وَإِذَا الْقُبُورُ بُعْثِرَتْ **82:4**

And when the hidden things on earth are overturned. [The earth will be excavated for Archaeology. 100:9]

عَلِمَتْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ وَأَخَّرَتْ **82:5**

Every Nafs ('self') will know what it has done and what it has left undone. [Psychology will make long strides]

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنسَانُ مَا غَرَّكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ **82:6**

O Man! What has lured you away from your Sustainer, the Bountiful?

الَّذِي خَلَقَكَ فَسَوَّاكَ فَعَدَلَكَ **82:7**

Who created you, then fashioned you, then proportioned you? [95:4]

فِي أَيِّ صُورَةٍ مَّا شَاءَ رَكَّبَكَ **82:8**

Having shaped you and put you together well in accordance with His laws. (59:24)

كَلَّا بَلْ تُكَذِّبُونَ بِالدِّينِ **82:9**

Nay, but you deny the Judgment and the Divine System of life. [Deen = Divine System = Final Judgment = The Prescribed Way of Life = Any religion]

وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ **82:10**

There are above you guardians ever vigilant.

كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ **82:11**

Noble, recording.

يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ **82:12**

They know whatever you do. [verses 10, 11, 12, refer to the Divine Law of Requital]

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ **82:13**

The virtuous who create room for others in the society, will be in bliss.

وَإِنَّ الْفُجَّارَ لَفِي جَحِيمٍ **82:14**

Those who split humanity will be in Fire. [Faajir = One who creates schism = One who breaks unity]

يَصْلَوْنَهَا يَوْمَ الدِّينِ **82:15**

They will be visibly exposed to it on the Day of Judgment. [2:27]

وَمَا هُمْ عَنْهَا بِغَائِبِينَ **82:16**

And will not be absent from there. [79:36]

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ **82:17**

And what will enlighten you about the Day of Judgment?

ثُمَّ مَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ **82:18**

Again, what will enlighten you about the Day of Judgment?

يَوْمَ لَا تَمْلِكُ نَفْسٌ لِّنَفْسٍ شَيْئًا وَالْأَمْرُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلَّهِ **82:19**

That is the Day when no one will have the power to help another. On that Day (it will become obvious) that all command belongs to God alone.

Chapter 83

At-Tatfeef - Dealing In Fraud

This is the 83rd Surah of the Qur´an. It has 36 verses. The title refers to cheating or defrauding others. Cheating people in business transactions violates human rights. Another title given to the Surah is Al-Mutaffifin meaning the cheaters or the defrauders. "Tatfif" also denotes unfair dealings, not doing justice to one´s duties, failing to show gratitude respect or honor where it is due. And in general, it signifies being deficient in fulfilling human rights.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَيْلٌ لِّلْمُطَفِّفِينَ **83:1**

Woe to the dealers in fraud!

الَّذِينَ إِذَا اكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ **83:2**

Those who demand full measure when receiving from people.

وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَو وَّزَنُوهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ **83:3**

But give less than due when giving them by measure or weight. (Or diminish the recompense of the laborer)

أَلَا يَظُنُّ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنَّهُم مَّبْعُوثُونَ **83:4**

Do they not realize that they are bound to be raised again?

لِيَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ **83:5**

Unto an Awesome Day.

يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ **83:6**

The Day when all mankind will stand before the Lord of the Worlds. [And before that, the humanity will stand up at its feet in this world rallying around the Divine System. 45:36-37, 84:6-8, 89:16-22]

كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْفُجَّارِ لَفِي سِجِّينٍ **83:7**

Nay, the record of the dividers of humanity is in Sijjeen.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سِجِّينٌ **83:8**

Ah! What will convey to you what Sijjeen is!

كِتَابٌ مَّرْقُومٌ **83:9**

A record indelibly inscribed. [Sijjeen = Indelible, guarded record]

وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِّلْمُكَذِّبِينَ **83:10**

Anguish on that Day for those who deny the truth!

الَّذِينَ يُكَذِّبُونَ بِيَوْمِ الدِّينِ **83:11**

Those who deny the Day of Judgment.

وَمَا يُكَذِّبُ بِهِ إِلَّا كُلُّ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ **83:12**

And none denies it but he who drags down his own progress by crossing the bounds of reason. (The Law of Cause and Effect easily appeals to reason.)

إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا قَالَ أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ **83:13**

When Our messages are conveyed to him, he says, “These are stories of the bygones.”

كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِم مَّا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ **83:14**

Nay, but their hearts get corroded by what they have earned. (2:7)

كَلَّا إِنَّهُمْ عَن رَّبِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَّمَحْجُوبُونَ **83:15**

Veiled

Nay, on that Day they will be veiled from (the light of) their Lord.

ثُمَّ إِنَّهُمْ لَصَالُو الْجَحِيمِ **83:16**

Then, they will enter the Blazing fire. [Jaheem = Insurmountable barrier = Bar to progress = Obstruction that halts = Halting of evolution = Mere survival = Hellfire = Flames of anguish = Fire of regret]

ثُمَّ يُقَالُ هَٰذَا الَّذِي كُنتُم بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ **83:17**

And it will be said, “This is what you used to deny.”

كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ لَفِي عِلِّيِّينَ **83:18**

Nay, the record of those who made room for others in the community is in 'Illiyyeen. [Birr = Virtue = Make expanse = Make room for others in the society = Help people to adjust and make progress in a new environment = Exponential growth]

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا عِلِّيُّونَ **83:19**

Ah! What will convey to you what 'Illyyoon is!

كِتَابٌ مَّرْقُومٌ **83:20**

A record indelibly inscribed. ['Illyyeen = 'Illyyoon = Loftiness upon loftiness]

يَشْهَدُهُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ **83:21**

Those near ones (to God) find it open before them.

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ لَفِي نَعِيمٍ **83:22**

Those who made room in the society for others, they are in blissful delight.

عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنظُرُونَ **83:23**

On beautiful thrones, they will look up (to the Magnificent Kingdom. 76:20).

تَعْرِفُ فِي وُجُوهِهِمْ نَضْرَةَ النَّعِيمِ **83:24**

You will see their faces glitter with Delight.

يُسْقَوْنَ مِن رَّحِيقٍ مَّخْتُومٍ **83:25**

They will be given a refreshing drink of pure nectar, sealed.

خِتَامُهُ مِسْكٌ وَفِي ذَٰلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَافَسِ الْمُتَنَافِسُونَ **83:26**

The seal of it is musk. For all this, then, let every aspirant aspire. [57:20, 102:1]

وَمِزَاجُهُ مِن تَسْنِيمٍ **83:27**

For, it consists of nobility. [Tasneem = Tashreef = Nobility = Raising in rank and honor = Hosting with respect = Exalting]

عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا الْمُقَرَّبُونَ **83:28**

A Spring from which the nearest (to God) drink. [76:17][Hue of God = We take our hue from God. Nearest to God are those who have adopted His Sibghah =

Hue or Color = His attributes in the human capacity. (2:138, 83:28). That means adopting the Divine Attributes in our limited human capacity such as: kindness - empathy - creativity - mercy - forgiveness - turning to people in love and affection - (attaining) wisdom - kindness - effort - concealment of sins - justice - bounteousness - generosity - greatness - love - glory - dignity - insight - and all other goodness and beauty are attributes of God. Knowledge (learning) - compassion - clemency - taking care - peacefulness - remaining aware - sense of duty - determination - honesty - protecting others - generosity - unity - self-control - leniency - approachability - appreciation - moral strength - patience - showing light - guiding - independence - truthfulness - maintenance of people and things - keeping pledges - resolve - benefiting others - beautiful designing - providing - listening - observing - being worthy of trust - nobility of character - giving - and sense of responsibility. Interestingly, people can make a self-assessment by this spectrum as to where they stand on the ascending ladder of (Tazkiah) self-actualization or personal development]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أَجْرَمُوا كَانُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يَضْحَكُونَ **83:29**

Those who thrived on others' toil used to laugh at those who had attained belief.

وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِهِمْ يَتَغَامَزُونَ **83:30**

And whenever they passed by the believers they winked at each other in sarcasm. (Look, these people 'waste' their wealth and person on strangers)

وَإِذَا انقَلَبُوا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمُ انقَلَبُوا فَكِهِينَ **83:31**

And when they returned to their own people, they used to tell jokes about them.

وَإِذَا رَأَوْهُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّ هَٰؤُلَاءِ لَضَالُّونَ **83:32**

And whenever they saw the believers they said, "These people have gone astray (wandering in unmarked valleys of life)."

وَمَا أُرْسِلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ حَافِظِينَ **83:33**

Yet, they have not been sent as watchers over them.

فَالْيَوْمَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفَّارِ يَضْحَكُونَ **83:34**

That Day those who have chosen to be graced with belief will be in a position to laugh at the deniers. [7:43, 15:47]

عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ يَنظُرُونَ **83:35**

On beautiful thrones, they will look up (to the Magnificent Kingdom 76:20).

هَلْ ثُوِّبَ الْكُفَّارُ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ **83:36**

Are these deniers of the truth being returned anything but their own doings? [Thawaab = Return on an investment]

Chapter 84

Al-Inshiqaaq - The Sundering

This is the 84th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 25 verses. It is common to find the exponents of the Qur´an applying too much emphasis on the Hereafter, Eschatology and Apocalypse. This is especially so concerning the 30th and the last section of the Qur´an. The Qur´an being a Book of guidance deals more with life on this earth than with death and the Hereafter. Resurrection and the Day of Judgment are unquestionably extremely significant and oft-repeated themes in the Book, but they invariably connect with how we spend our life on this planet. Moreover, numerous verses in the Qur´an apply simultaneously to the revolutions among nations and to the Ultimate Great Revolution in the Cosmos. Likewise, the Qur´an repeatedly emphasizes that Paradise and Hell begin right here, in this life. A benevolent society is a Paradise on earth and a chaotic society is a Hell on earth. Mankind can build their Paradise by establishing the Divine System and then ´inherit´ it in the Hereafter. On an individual basis, whoever lives by the Divine Commands attains a state of inner peace and contentment and, in the process, primes his or her ´self´ for Immortality, the ever-lasting Gardens of bliss. This Surah briefly touches upon the advancement of mankind in science and technology.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا السَّمَاءُ انشَقَّتْ **84:1**

When the sky is rent asunder. [Space will be explored and Astronomy will bring amazing knowledge of the Cosmos]

وَأَذِنَتْ لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتْ **84:2**

Attentive to its Lord as commanded.

وَإِذَا الْأَرْضُ مُدَّتْ **84:3**

And when the earth is spread out. [It is widely populated]

وَأَلْقَتْ مَا فِيهَا وَتَخَلَّتْ **84:4**

And casts out whatever is in it and becomes void. [The earth will bring forth its fossils and minerals through Archaeology, drilling and mining]

وَأَذِنَتْ لِرَبِّهَا وَحُقَّتْ **84:5**

Attentive to its Lord as commanded.

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدْحًا فَمُلَاقِيهِ **84:6**

O You human being! You have been toiling on towards your Lord - painfully toiling - then you shall meet Him. [Wittingly or unwittingly, mankind is working their way toward the Divine System. Trial and Error can make them advance only to an imperfect and fragile system of life. But Divine revelation economizes human effort, saves them centuries of pursuit in toil, and ensures for them a perfect, enduring System of Life]

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ **84:7**

Then whoever is given his book in his right hand,

فَسَوْفَ يُحَاسَبُ حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا **84:8**

His account will be made easy. [17:71]

وَيَنقَلِبُ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا **84:9**

And he returns rejoicing to his people (family, and ideologically synchronous minds).

وَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ وَرَاءَ ظَهْرِهِ **84:10**

But as for him who is given his Book behind his back (he who has turned his back to the Book, looking back to the ancestral traditions),

فَسَوْفَ يَدْعُو ثُبُورًا **84:11**

He will be inviting upon himself, chaos!

وَيَصْلَىٰ سَعِيرًا **84:12**

And He will enter a Blazing Flame.

إِنَّهُ كَانَ فِي أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا **84:13**

He used to enjoy the company of his own kind.

إِنَّهُ ظَنَّ أَن لَّن يَحُورَ **84:14**

He thought that he would never return (to God).

بَلَىٰ إِنَّ رَبَّهُ كَانَ بِهِ بَصِيرًا **84:15**

Nay, his Lord sees all his mettle. [Bihi = In him = With him = His true worth = His mettle]

فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِالشَّفَقِ **84:16**

Oh, I call to witness the rosy afterglow of sunset.

وَاللَّيْلِ وَمَا وَسَقَ **84:17**

And the night and all that it enshrouds.

وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا اتَّسَقَ **84:18**

And the moon as it steadily grows to her fullness.

لَتَرْكَبُنَّ طَبَقًا عَن طَبَقٍ **84:19**

That you will traverse higher and higher from one plane to another. [87:13] [Civilizations will keep advancing in sciences, and individuals will always have a chance to grow in goodness. Furthermore, evolution of the 'self' will carry on in the life to come]

فَمَا لَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ **84:20**

What, then, is the matter with them that they believe not (in a higher form of life?)

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقُرْآنُ لَا يَسْجُدُونَ **84:21**

And when the Qur'an is recited to them, they do not humble themselves. [Callousness, inattention and arrogance make them insensitive to the eloquence, wisdom and majesty of the Divine revelation]

بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُكَذِّبُونَ **84:22**

On the contrary, the unbelievers (with preconceived denial) reject it.

وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يُوعُونَ **84:23**

And God is best Knower of what they hide. [70:18. Their idols, peer pressure, traditions, malice, schemes, selfish interests]

فَبَشِّرْهُم بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ **84:24**

So give them the tiding of an awful doom. [9:34, 104:1-9]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ **84:25**

Except to those who choose to be graced with belief and do acts that help people - for them is a reward unending.

Chapter 85

Al-Burooj - The Great Constellations

This is the 85th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 22 verses. The Supreme Control of God over the cosmic systems and all the Universe in itself requires that He must send His guidance to mankind as well. All things in the Universe follow the Divine laws, therefore, it is only logical that man, too, must be shown his way. And that is what the Divine revelation is all about. "He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself."

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْبُرُوجِ **85:1**

The sky full of constellations stands witness.

وَالْيَوْمِ الْمَوْعُودِ **85:2**

And the promised Day (of Resurrection).

وَشَاهِدٍ وَمَشْهُودٍ **85:3**

He Who watches and those who are being watched,

قُتِلَ أَصْحَابُ الْأُخْدُودِ **85:4**

Those who dig ditches for others, destroy themselves.

النَّارِ ذَاتِ الْوَقُودِ **85:5**

Igniting the fire of rage.

إِذْ هُمْ عَلَيْهَا قُعُودٌ **85:6**

They contemplate and wait in anticipation.

وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَفْعَلُونَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ شُهُودٌ **85:7**

And they are well aware of what they are doing to the believers.

وَمَا نَقَمُوا مِنْهُمْ إِلَّا أَن يُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ **85:8**

Whom they hate for no other reason than that they believe in God, the Almighty, the Owner of praise. (5:59, 22:40)

الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ **85:9**

And to Whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and earth. But God is Watcher over all things.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا فَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ الْحَرِيقِ **85:10**

Those who persecute the believing men and the believing women, and then do not repent by taking corrective action, theirs is the doom of (the ditch) Hell and theirs is the doom of burning.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْكَبِيرُ **85:11**

Those who choose to be graced with belief and do works that help people, theirs are the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. That is the great eminence.

إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ **85:12**

Yet, strong is the grip of your Lord!

إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِئُ وَيُعِيدُ **85:13**

He is the One Who originates (life) and He does restore.

وَهُوَ الْغَفُورُ الْوَدُودُ **85:14**

And He is the Forgiving, the Loving.

ذُو الْعَرْشِ الْمَجِيدُ **85:15**

Lord of the Supreme Throne.

فَعَّالٌ لِّمَا يُرِيدُ **85:16**

Carrying out His Plan according to His laws. [Fe'l = Doing = Carrying out. Ma Yureed = As He plans = As He wills = In accordance with His laws) [In the World of command He makes laws as He wills. Then He implements these laws in the World of Creation - the Universe (7:54) And then He neither changes them, nor makes any exceptions. [17:77, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23. His Rule is the Rule of law and not of haphazard tantrums]

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْجُنُودِ **85:17**

Has the story reached you of the great troops?

فِرْعَوْنَ وَثَمُودَ **85:18**

Of Pharaoh and Thamud.

بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي تَكْذِيبٍ **85:19**

And yet the rejecters knowingly live in denial.

وَاللَّهُ مِن وَرَائِهِم مُّحِيطٌ **85:20**

But God surrounds them without them perceiving it. [Minwwaraihim = From behind them = Without them conceiving it = From beyond their comprehension]

بَلْ هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مَّجِيدٌ **85:21**

Nay, but this is Sublime Qur'an.

فِي لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍ **85:22**

(Inscribed) upon Tablet Imperishable. [God Himself guards it against corruption. It is preserved in minds and hearts in addition to parchment and paper, and its laws are indelibly inscribed in the Book of nature 15:9, 56:78. Interestingly, 85:22 is unique in using Lauh-im-Mahfooz, the Imperishable Tablet, for the Qur'an. Elsewhere it relates to the Divine Database about the Universe]

Chapter 86

At-Taariq - The Brightest Star

This is the 86th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 17 short verses. ´Taariq´ literally means a night-visitant who arrives with a lamp in his hand and knocks at the door. [Taraq = Knock at the door] Metaphorically, it applies to any star that shines at night, and also the brightest star on the horizon at any given time that ´knocks´ at the darkness. Keeping these meanings in mind, it dawns upon us that ´At-Tariq´ = The Tariq, is very fittingly applicable to the exalted Messenger who arrived when the world was sunk in the Darkness of Ignorance. With the Radiant Lamp of the Qur´an in his hand this noble visitant knocked at the doors of minds and hearts and gave light that has been spreading over the entire planet earth. [We find a similar but much less dignified statement about Jesus Christ in the Gospel, Mathew. 24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming - 43 But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into - 44 Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَالطَّارِقِ **86:1**

The sky and the brightest star are witness to what is being said.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الطَّارِقُ **86:2**

And what will enlighten you as to what the Tariq is!

النَّجْمُ الثَّاقِبُ **86:3**

The Brightest Star! The noble night-visitant with the Radiant Lamp of the Qur'an in his hand knocking at the doors of minds and hearts, giving light.

إِن كُلُّ نَفْسٍ لَّمَّا عَلَيْهَا حَافِظٌ **86:4**

There is no person without a watch being kept over him. [The Law of Requital is ever-vigilant]

فَلْيَنظُرِ الْإِنسَانُ مِمَّ خُلِقَ **86:5**

Let the human being, then, consider out of what he has been created. [And realize the common origin of all mankind. Has there not passed over man an era when he was not even worth mentioning? 76:1]

خُلِقَ مِن مَّاءٍ دَافِقٍ **86:6**

He has been created from turbulent water. [21:30, 24:25]

يَخْرُجُ مِن بَيْنِ الصُّلْبِ وَالتَّرَائِبِ **86:7**

That issued from between tough rocks and mingled dust. [Sulb = Hard = Tough = Strong, Rocky, as given in Taajil 'Uroos and Muheet. Turaab = Dust, with Turaaib as its plural in Taajil Urus. Mountains, rocky as pegs, along with the glacier systems and snow tops and sources of rivers, have been described as water reservoirs in many verses: 13:3, 15:19, 31:10, 39:5, 77:27, 79:28-30, 88:20. For the origin of life on the planet and creation of the human being, including the beginning of life through water, dust, hydrated inorganic matter etc, here are given some important references for the research minded reader: 4:1, 6:2, 6:38, 6:99, 7:11, 11:6, 11:61, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12-14, 24:45, 25:54, 30:20, 31:28, 32:7-9, 35:11, 36:77, 39:6, 40:64-67, 51:49, 53:45, 55:14, 71:14, 76:2-3, 86:5-7, 96:1-2. My rendition of three terms used in 86:6-7 respectfully differs from other translations. We know how valuable the principle of Tasreef-il-Ayaat is. Now, here are those three terms along with their erroneous translations: - 'Ma-in-Dafiq': A drop emitted, seminal fluid or gushing fluid. - 'Sulb': Man's ribs, man's loins. - 'Turaib': Pelvic arch of woman, back-bone and the ribs, spine and the viscera of man and/or woman, sacrum of man or woman. But keeping in view the lexicon and the Tasreef given above, my humble rendition of these verses is probably more sound and reflects the original Magnificence to an extent]

إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ رَجْعِهِ لَقَادِرٌ **86:8**

He (Who has thus created man), is well Able to bring him back.

يَوْمَ تُبْلَى السَّرَائِرُ **86:9**

On the Day when all secrets will be revealed.

فَمَا لَهُ مِن قُوَّةٍ وَلَا نَاصِرٍ **86:10**

Then he will have no power, nor a helper.

وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الرَّجْعِ **86:11**

Witness is the high atmosphere that keeps returning (its water, gases and other composition.)

وَالْأَرْضِ ذَاتِ الصَّدْعِ **86:12**

And witness is the earth which cracks open for springs and plants.

إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلٌ فَصْلٌ **86:13**

This (Qur'an) is a Conclusive Word. [That can give you a new life. 40:29]

وَمَا هُوَ بِالْهَزْلِ **86:14**

It is not an amusing idle talk.

إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا **86:15**

Yet, they plot and scheme (to refute the truth 34:33).

وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا **86:16**

But I work My Own design.

فَمَهِّلِ الْكَافِرِينَ أَمْهِلْهُمْ رُوَيْدًا **86:17**

Therefore give the rejecters some time. Leave them alone for a while.

Chapter 87

Al-A´la - The Most High

This is the 87th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 19 verses. The Surah is adorned with eloquence, TASREEF and a few brand new concepts in a captivating style so typical of this Mighty Book of God.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

سَبِّحِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى **87:1**

Strive to raise the Name of your Lord, the Most High. [Establish His glory on earth. 56:96]

الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّىٰ **87:2**

Who creates and proportions. [So that all things might become what they are meant to be]

وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَىٰ **87:3**

The One Who appoints due measure and then shows the way (to all things as to their functions.)

وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَىٰ **87:4**

The One Who brings forth the lush pasture.

فَجَعَلَهُ غُثَاءً أَحْوَىٰ **87:5**

And then turns it into rust-brown residue. [18:45]

سَنُقْرِئُكَ فَلَا تَنسَىٰ **87:6**

(O Messenger) We shall teach you by degrees that you will never forget. [Mankind need guidance like all things in the Universe do]

إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَىٰ **87:7**

And God wills that you should never forget. He knows all that is open to human perception as well as all that is hidden. [17:86. He is Aware of man's manifest actions and his hidden potentials which can best be developed under Divine Guidance. Therefore, the Prophet will never forget what God teaches him. 73:2. Illa = Except = Save = But. It means 'Never' when applied to Divine will. So Illa here, as in many other verses, represents 'never', and not 'except'. 11:107-108, 39:68, 55:33, 87:6-7. Tafseer Al-Manar Vol 1 Pg 414]

وَنُيَسِّرُكَ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ **87:8**

And thus We shall ease your way to the ultimate ease (that you will establish the Divine Order in the society).

فَذَكِّرْ إِن نَّفَعَتِ الذِّكْرَىٰ **87:9**

Therefore, keep reminding as long as it is beneficial.

سَيَذَّكَّرُ مَن يَخْشَىٰ **87:10**

He will heed who fears (the consequences of his misdeeds).

وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَشْقَى **87:11**

And only the most unfortunate will avoid it.

الَّذِي يَصْلَى النَّارَ الْكُبْرَىٰ **87:12**

He who will be cast into the great fire.

ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ **87:13**

Wherein he neither dies nor lives. [Mere survival] [Without Permanent Values people live an unlived life. And in both lives their own 'self' fails to make progress. The Qur'an terms as 'Hell' a life that is stagnant, and as 'Paradise' a life that is ever progressive. That is 'Immortality' as distinct from 'Survival' 14:17, 20:74, 74:28-29]

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن تَزَكَّىٰ **87:14**

Successful is he who primes his own 'self' for development (by living a life upright, helping others).

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّىٰ **87:15**

And keeps foremost in mind the Name and the Attributes of his Lord and then follows through. ['Ism' = Name = Attributes. 'Salu' = Follow closely. In the context here: trying to adopt the 'Hue' of God - absorb Divine attributes in one's personality, of course, in the limited human capacity 2:138, 83:28]

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا **87:16**

But nay, you prefer the life of this world (given to instant gains instead of benefiting others that ensures success in both lives). [2:201, 3:147, 4:134, 7:156, 10:64,17:72, 28:77, 42:22]

وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ **87:17**

Although the Hereafter is better and more enduring.

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَىٰ **87:18**

This has been said in the former revelations as well. [Suhuf = Scrolls = Revelations]

صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ **87:19**

The revelations of Abraham and Moses.

Chapter 88

Al-Ghaashiyah - The Great Covering

This is the 88th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 26 verses. Ghashiyah is something that covers like a blanket. Al-Ghashiyah implies a dominating or overwhelming event that overshadows other things, and thus, refers to the Great Cosmic Revolution, often termed as ´the Apocalypse´. reward and punishment are built-in in our actions. God´s Law of Requital returns what a person has earned and everyone determines his own destiny by what he does with his human capacities. So, recompense is only a logical culmination of one´s own deeds. Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal d.1938, echoed this Qur´anic theme beautifully in one of his poems: The Hellfire is nothing but a cool place. It is people that carry their own fire to Hell.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْغَاشِيَةِ **88:1**

Has the news of the Dominating Event reached you?

وُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَاشِعَةٌ **88:2**

Some faces on that Day will be downcast.

عَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ **88:3**

Laboring, exhausted. [They were in motion without action and toiled without direction]

تَصْلَىٰ نَارًا حَامِيَةً **88:4**

As they enter a sizzling fire.

تُسْقَىٰ مِنْ عَيْنٍ آنِيَةٍ **88:5**

Given to drink from a spring of burning anguish.

لَّيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِن ضَرِيعٍ **88:6**

No food for them but the bitter thorny plant. [They hurt others in the worldly life]

لَّا يُسْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِن جُوعٍ 88:7

Which nourishes not, nor relieves hunger.

وُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاعِمَةٌ 88:8

On that Day some faces will shine with bliss.

لِّسَعْيِهَا رَاضِيَةٌ 88:9

Happy with the fruit of their effort.

فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ 88:10

In a Garden exalted in honor.

لَّا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَاغِيَةً 88:11

Wherein you hear not senseless speech.

فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ 88:12

Therein is an ever-flowing Spring (of grace 76:16-17).

فِيهَا سُرُرٌ مَّرْفُوعَةٌ 88:13

Therein are thrones of honor.

وَأَكْوَابٌ مَّوْضُوعَةٌ 88:14

And shiny glasses set at hand.

وَنَمَارِقُ مَصْفُوفَةٌ 88:15

And cushions set in rows.

وَزَرَابِيُّ مَبْثُوثَةٌ 88:16

And silken carpets spread out.

أَفَلَا يَنظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ 88:17

Will they not, then, reflect on: - the water-laden clouds, how they are made? [15:22]

وَإِلَى السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ رُفِعَتْ 88:18

- And at the sky, how it is raised high? [Without visible pillars. 13:2]

وَإِلَى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ **88:19**

- And at the mountains, how they are entrenched?

وَإِلَى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ **88:20**

- And at the earth, how it is spread out? [That you do not even feel the curvature, nor feel its speedy rotations 31:10, 39:5, 79:28-30]

فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنتَ مُذَكِّرٌ **88:21**

(This is some evidence, O Messenger.) So remind them, for, you are one to remind.

لَّسْتَ عَلَيْهِم بِمُصَيْطِرٍ **88:22**

You are not a task master over them.

إِلَّا مَن تَوَلَّىٰ وَكَفَرَ **88:23**

But whoever turns away and denies the truth,

فَيُعَذِّبُهُ اللَّهُ الْعَذَابَ الْأَكْبَرَ **88:24**

God will requite him with a great requital.

إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ **88:25**

Indeed, to Us is their return.

ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُم **88:26**

Then it is for Us to call them to account.

Chapter 89

Al-Fajr - The Daybreak

This is the 89th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 30 Short verses. The Qur´an brings Dawn to the Night of Ignorance. Any society that is oblivious to the welfare of the deprived, will inevitably fail to flourish. Material advancement of a nation is no guarantee of its durability. verses 1, 2 and 3 of this Surah are often grossly misinterpreted for failing to look at the Qur´an in its Big Picture.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالْفَجْرِ **89:1**

Witness is the Daybreak. [As it shines through the deep darkness of the night. So does the Qur'an bring light through the Darkness of Ignorance]

وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ **89:2**

And ten Nights. [Believers have noticed the benevolent transformation the Pilgrimage has undergone. From the first to the tenth of the month of Zilhijjah, they used to indulge in all kind of obscenity. They had departed from the way of Abraham, with Hajj consisting of whistling, clapping, circumambulating the Ka'bah in complete nudity. The sublime purpose of the Pilgrimage had been reduced to senseless rituals and abomination 2:125-127, 2:197]

وَالشَّفْعِ وَالْوَتْرِ **89:3**

And the Even and the Odd. [Recall your gambling in those ten nights with the even and odd numbers of arrows and the related numeric superstitions in the society]

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرِ **89:4**

And Witness to the truth is the departing of the Night of Ignorance.

هَلْ فِي ذَٰلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِّذِي حِجْرٍ **89:5**

Is not all this a solemn evidence for every thinking person?

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِعَادٍ **89:6**

Have you noted how your Lord dealt with ‘Aad? [They had refused to listen to their prophets on equitable treatment with the poor and violated human rights. 7:65-72]

إِرَمَ ذَاتِ الْعِمَادِ **89:7**

Those whose capital was Iram, the city of towers and lofty mansions. [Iram were the generation of Iram son of Sam son of Noah. The capital of the tribe of ‘Aad bears the same name, Iram, and now lies buried in Al-Ahqaf, the Sand-dunes of Southern Arabia. 46:21]

الَّتِي لَمْ يُخْلَقْ مِثْلُهَا فِي الْبِلَادِ **89:8**

The like of which (the towers and castles) were never built in other cities. [26:128-134]

وَثَمُودَ الَّذِينَ جَابُوا الصَّخْرَ بِالْوَادِ **89:9**

And with Thamud, who carved out rocks for dwellings in the valley. [Wadi-al-Qura. 7:74, 15:82]

وَفِرْعَوْنَ ذِي الْأَوْتَادِ **89:10**

And with Pharaoh, lord of the pyramids. [20:43, 38:12, 43:78-79. Zil-awtad = Lord of stakes = A mighty emperor = Owner of many tents with pegs well-dug into the ground = Owner of the Pyramids. God’s law is also the law of nature and the rise and fall of nations is fully subject to it]

الَّذِينَ طَغَوْا فِي الْبِلَادِ **89:11**

They all played God in towns and cities. [Tagha = Crossing limits = Transgressing the laws = Trespassing = Being rebellious = Ignoring Permanent Values = Behaving arrogantly = Being Taaghoot or false god = Playing God. 2:256, 4:60, 4:76, 16:36]

فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهَا الْفَسَادَ **89:12**

And increased corruption and crime therein.

فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ **89:13**

And so, your Lord chastised them with a whipping punishment.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ **89:14**

Indeed, your Lord is ever on the watch!

فَأَمَّا الْإِنسَانُ إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَأَكْرَمَهُ وَنَعَّمَهُ فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَكْرَمَنِ **89:15**

As for man, whenever his Lord lets his life take a turn by giving him honor and bliss, he says, "My Lord has honored me." [Honor and disgrace are subject to Divine laws]

وَأَمَّا إِذَا مَا ابْتَلَاهُ فَقَدَرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقَهُ فَيَقُولُ رَبِّي أَهَانَنِ **89:16**

But when He lets his life take a turn by restricting his provision, he says, "My Lord has disgraced me."

كَلَّا بَل لَّا تُكْرِمُونَ الْيَتِيمَ **89:17**

Nay, nay, you do not honor the orphan. [You forget to realize your acts of commission and omission. Yateem = Orphan = Widow = Left alone in the society = Helpless. A benevolent society makes room for the 'Yateem']

وَلَا تَحَاضُّونَ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ **89:18**

And you fail to encourage one another to feed the needy (and establish a benevolent society). [The term used for 'feeding' is highly inclusive. Here it indicates failing to establish the ideal society that takes care of all individuals. Miskeen = Poor = Needy = Whose life is stranded for any reason = Whose business has stalled = Who has lost his job = Whose life has been hampered by circumstances. Ta'aam = Feeding = Food = Provision = Basic needs of life. A benevolent society takes care of the basic needs of life. None would sleep hungry therein]

وَتَأْكُلُونَ التُّرَاثَ أَكْلًا لَّمًّا **89:19**

And you devour the inheritances with greed.

وَتُحِبُّونَ الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا **89:20**

And you love wealth with boundless love.

كَلَّا إِذَا دُكَّتِ الْأَرْضُ دَكًّا دَكًّا **89:21**

Nay, when the earth is pounded into rubble.

وَجَاءَ رَبُّكَ وَالْمَلَكُ صَفًّا صَفًّا **89:22**

And your Lord comes, and His angels, rank upon rank. [A great Revolution will come and the Divine System will be established. The Universal forces will line up to that end]

Is God seen in paradise

وَجِيءَ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِجَهَنَّمَ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَذَكَّرُ الْإِنسَانُ وَأَنَّىٰ لَهُ الذِّكْرَىٰ **89:23**

And Hell is brought close that Day. On that Day man will heed the Advisory, but of what avail will then be the remembrance?

يَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي قَدَّمْتُ لِحَيَاتِي **89:24**

He will say, “Ah, I wish I had sent forth some good for my life!”

فَيَوْمَئِذٍ لَّا يُعَذِّبُ عَذَابَهُ أَحَدٌ **89:25**

None chastises as He will chastise on that Day.

وَلَا يُوثِقُ وَثَاقَهُ أَحَدٌ **89:26**

And none binds as He binds. [The logical result of disregarding the Creator’s guidance is getting bound by shackles of mental slavery. 7:157]

يَا أَيَّتُهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ **89:27**

But Oh! You human beings that have attained inner peace! [By living a life upright 13:28, 91:9]

ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً **89:28**

Return to your Lord, pleased and approved.

فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي **89:29**

Enter, then, together with My servants.

وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي **89:30**

Yes, enter My Paradise! [9:119]

Chapter 90

Al-Balad - The Town

This is the 90th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 20 Short verses. The Town refers to Makkah, the birthplace of the exalted Messenger. The way to Success is like a steep hill, tiring but rewarding, taking one to new heights. God has shown man the two ways, one of virtue and the other of vice, and given him free will to make his choices. ´Wa´ in many Surahs and verses is most commonly rendered as - God says, "I swear!" - The alternative meanings in the Quraish dialect are, ´Witness´, ´Reflect´, ´Consider´. Adopted by some outstanding commentators these latter meanings are not only much more fitting to the context in every single instance, but beautifully blend with the Big Picture of the Qur´an.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَٰذَا الْبَلَدِ **90:1**

Nay, I present this very Town as witness.

وَأَنتَ حِلٌّ بِهَٰذَا الْبَلَدِ **90:2**

The Town where (O Prophet) you have lived.

وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ **90:3**

And where your ancestors have multiplied. [A Sanctuary of Peace for everyone]

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ **90:4**

We have created the human being for struggle and toil. [This is the Town where Abraham and Ishmael labored, and where you began your strife to raise the Name of your Lord. 2:125-127]

أَيَحْسَبُ أَن لَّن يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ **90:5**

Does he think that none has Power over him?

يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَالًا لُّبَدًا **90:6**

He keeps boasting, "I have wasted so much wealth!"

أَيَحْسَبُ أَن لَّمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ **90:7**

What! Does he think that no one sees him? [How much and where he spends it]

أَلَمْ نَجْعَل لَّهُ عَيْنَيْنِ **90:8**

Did We not give him two eyes? [‘Ainain = Two physical eyes = The sense of sight and vision of the heart = Sight and insight]

وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ **90:9**

And a tongue and a pair of lips? [The ability to speak and converse meaningfully]

وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ **90:10**

And shown him the two highways? [Of virtue and vice]

فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ **90:11**

But he seldom tries the uphill road, the Ascent.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ **90:12**

Ah, what will convey to you what that Ascent is!

فَكُّ رَقَبَةٍ **90:13**

Freeing others from bondage, physical or mental, and from any social, economic or political oppression. [Freeing the neck includes all the above meanings and establishing the System wherein the only Master is God]

أَوْ إِطْعَامٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ **90:14**

Feeding in times of hunger, famine, wars and natural disasters.

يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ **90:15**

Taking special care of those who, despite being a part of the community, feel left out. [Za maqrabah = Near one = Relative = Part of the community]

أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ **90:16**

Helping him who remains needy though he toils in the dust.

ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ **90:17**

Being of those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and become living reminders of perseverance and living reminders of compassion.

أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ **90:18**

Such are the companions of the right hand (immersed in bliss).

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ **90:19**

And those who deny Our messages, such are the companions of the left hand (immersed in despondence). [Right Hand and Left Hand indicate the tropical significance of Mayimanah = Those on the side of righteousness. Mash'amah = Those on the side of evil]

عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُّؤْصَدَةٌ **90:20**

With fire all around them. [The Hellfire is such that its flames originate in the hearts and engulf the hearts. The fire of regret, anguish and despair. 104:6-8]

Chapter 91

Ash-Shams - The Sun

This is the 91st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 15 short verses. Human beings are endowed with a NAFS = ´Self´ termed differently as Soul, Personality, Ego, I-am-ness, I, Me, etc. This NAFS is in a ´raw´ form when we are born and it is up to us to refine it, and develop it. The body is only a vehicle to bring to use our will or ´self´. The person who has primed his own ´self´ by living according to Permanent Values, becomes a candidate for true Immortality and Paradise in the Hereafter. Whereas he who fails to prime his own ´self´ this way, can only be a candidate for mere survival which the Qur´an terms as SAQAR. A life of fire that neither lets live, nor lets die. The fire of regret, anguish and despair. No further evolution is possible for such a ´self´ - a mere existence of stagnation. That is what Hell is with unrelenting grief and regret on having wasted the great opportunity in the short worldly life.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا **91:1**

Witness is the Sun and its radiant splendor.

وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَاهَا **91:2**

And the Moon that goes after to borrow its light.

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا جَلَّاهَا **91:3**

Witness is the day as it brightens the world.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا **91:4**

And the night that cloaks it.

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا **91:5**

And the sky and its wondrous design.

وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَاهَا **91:6**

And the earth and its vast expanse.

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا **91:7**

Consider the human 'self' and Him Who endowed it with the capacity to balance itself.

فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا **91:8**

And how it is inspired with the capacity to disintegrate or become protected against detriment.

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن زَكَّاهَا **91:9**

Successful is he who grows the 'self'.

وَقَدْ خَابَ مَن دَسَّاهَا **91:10**

And failure is he who keeps it buried (under ignorance and superstition).

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُودُ بِطَغْوَاهَا **91:11**

[Disregarding this principle] Thamud rejected (Saleh) as they played God. [Tagha = Being Taaghoot = Playing God = Transgressing = Rebelling = Crossing limits = Being arrogant]

إِذِ انبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا **91:12**

Indeed, the most forward among them was picked up for defiance.

فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ نَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَسُقْيَاهَا **91:13**

Although God's Messenger had told them, "It is a she-camel belonging to God, so let her drink!" [The land belongs to God, and the she-camel represented the weak among them. 7:73, 26:155]

فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَعَقَرُوهَا فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُم بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسَوَّاهَا **91:14**

But they denied him and they killed her. So, their Lord destroyed them all alike for their lagging behind in humanity.

وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبَاهَا **91:15**

None of them had any fear of what might befall them.

Chapter 92

Al-Lail - The Night

This is the 92nd Surah of the Qur´an and it has 21 verses. The Surah underscores the unity of mankind in diversity of their effort and occupations. Actions speak louder than words, so people must try to become living examples of a noble character.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَىٰ **92:1**

Witness is the Night as it cloaks in darkness.

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّىٰ **92:2**

And the Day as it shines in splendor.

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ **92:3**

Witness is creation of the male and the female.

إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّىٰ **92:4**

Indeed, your efforts are diverse. [Your occupations and earnings are different. Let not this be a cause of division among you]

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ **92:5**

And so, he who gives and remains watchful against wrong. [92:18-19]

وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ **92:6**

And makes his life an example of benevolence,

فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ **92:7**

We will ease his way to the ultimate ease.

وَأَمَّا مَن بَخِلَ وَاسْتَغْنَىٰ **92:8**

But he who withholds and considers himself self-sufficient,

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ **92:9**

And denies all that is good.

فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْعُسْرَىٰ **92:10**

We will ease his way to hardship.

وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰ **92:11**

And what could his wealth avail when he himself falls! [69:28, 111:2]

إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَىٰ **92:12**

It is for Us to show you the way (through this revelation).

وَإِنَّ لَنَا لَلْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَىٰ **92:13**

To Us belongs the End and the Beginning. [93:4]

فَأَنذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ **92:14**

And so I warn you of a raging fire.

لَا يَصْلَاهَا إِلَّا الْأَشْقَى **92:15**

That only the most wicked must endure.

الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ **92:16**

He who denies and turns away.

وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا الْأَتْقَى **92:17**

But far removed from it is he who guards against error.

الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّىٰ **92:18**

Who gives his wealth that he may grow in goodness to self-actualization. [9:111]

وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِندَهُ مِن نِّعْمَةٍ تُجْزَىٰ **92:19**

Not that he is returning any favors. [76:9]

إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَىٰ **92:20**

But only to seek the approval of his Lord, the Most High.

وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَىٰ **92:21**

And soon he will be pleased.

Chapter 93

Ad-Duha - The Daylight

This is the 93rd Surah of the Qur´an, it has 11 verses. Numerous verses in the Qur´an addressing a second person singular apply to every reader, since the Book is timeless and meant for every human being at all times and places. Of course, there are verses elsewhere which explicitly state, "O Prophet! O Messenger!" And there are verses that by context clearly and most appropriately are directed to him. Apart from those verses the second person singular is better understood as: O Human being!

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالضُّحَىٰ **93:1**

[O Human being!] Consider the Daylight.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَىٰ **93:2**

And the night when it is still with its darkness prevailing. [There is light at the end of the tunnel. With hardship is ease, like there is Daybreak after the Night. 89:1, 92:1-2, 94:5-6]

مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَىٰ **93:3**

Your Lord has never forsaken you, nor did He ever forget you. [Qalaa = Forget things unattended in a cooking pan. God has always provided mankind with their mental and physical needs and He ensures that they do not trail behind in the process of Evolution]

وَلَلْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَىٰ **93:4**

And certainly, the future is better for you than the present. [Aakhirah = Future = Life to come = Long term = Tomorrow = The time and state to follow = Outcome. 'Ula' = First = Close = Instant = Now = Immediate gains = Life of this world = Near]

وَلَسَوْفَ يُعْطِيكَ رَبُّكَ فَتَرْضَىٰ **93:5**

Soon will your Lord grant you (the success) so that you will be well-pleased.

أَلَمْ يَجِدْكَ يَتِيمًا فَآوَىٰ **93:6**

Did He not find you an orphan and gave you shelter? [Yateem = Orphan = Lonely state. Left out in the society. 6:95, 19:95]

وَوَجَدَكَ ضَالًّا فَهَدَىٰ **93:7**

And He found you fervently looking for guidance, and He showed you the way. [Dhall = Wandering = Looking for guidance = Lost = Drifting from the road]

وَوَجَدَكَ عَائِلًا فَأَغْنَىٰ **93:8**

And He found you dependent, and made you independent. [Dependence of infancy to early youth]

فَأَمَّا الْيَتِيمَ فَلَا تَقْهَرْ **93:9**

Therefore, never treat harshly any orphan, widow, the helpless and he who feels left out in the society.

وَأَمَّا السَّائِلَ فَلَا تَنْهَرْ **93:10**

And never repulse him who seeks help.

وَأَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ **93:11**

But proclaim the blessings of your Lord by sharing with others. [Haddith = Convey and share what you have learned and gained]

Chapter 94

Ash-Sharh - The Expansion

This is the 94th Surah of the Qur´an and it has eight verses. Although primarily addressed to the exalted Messenger, some of these verses apply to every human.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ **94:1**

Did We not expand your chest? [Endowed you with magnanimity, resilience, and courage to accomplish the Mission. 20:25]

وَوَضَعْنَا عَنكَ وِزْرَكَ **94:2**

And eased you of the burden, [Made the journey through life easy by bestowing the perceptual and intellectual faculties. 80:20]

الَّذِي أَنقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ **94:3**

That weighed down your back.

وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ **94:4**

And We exalted your renown (O Prophet). [And through the revelation to him, gave eminence to mankind! 21:10]

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا **94:5**

With hardship comes ease.

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا **94:6**

Indeed, with hardship comes ease.

فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانصَبْ **94:7**

So, whenever you are free from the immediate task, embark upon the next strife.

وَإِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ فَارْغَب **94:8**

And turn all your attention to your Lord. [Remain focused on the Mission entrusted upon you]

Chapter 95

At-Teen - The Fig

This is the 95th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 8 verses. God presents here four things as evidence to the truth and the unanimity of His messages. The Fig, the Olive, the Mount Sinai and the town of Makkah. The last two being places, the first two infer as places as well. During the times of the Qur´an´s revelation, Syria and Palestine were the top producers of fig and olive. And that is where the chain of ´ISBAT´ or the Israelite Prophets of the Tribes and their ancestor Prophets had lived. The last one of them was Jesus, son of Mary. Therefore, the first three verses of this Surah are connecting Muhammad (S), the last apostle of God, with the previous links in one blessed chain of Divine revelation. "Monographs of W.W. Hunter", 1878 indicates that "— the valley of Mount Ararat (Al-Jodi 11:44) was also known as "The Valley of Figs". "The Ark came to rest at Judea, in the hills of Ararat, east of the Tigris River." - W.W. Hunter. Olive is symbolically mentioned in the Qur´an, 23:20, 24:35. Jesus Christ delivered his sermon on Divine Judgment at the Mount of Olives just outside the walls of Jerusalem. [Mathew 24:3-4] Fig is figuratively mentioned in Mathew 21:18-20, 24:32-35 and in Jeremiah 24:1-10.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالتِّينِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ **95:1**

Witnesses are the Fig and the Olive. [The call of God's Messengers, the history, the places and the reaction of their people]

وَطُورِ سِينِينَ **95:2**

And Mount Sinai. [p19:52, 20:9-36, 52:1. Exodus 3:1-18 and 4:1-17]

وَهَٰذَا الْبَلَدِ الْأَمِينِ **95:3**

And now, (O Messenger) this land of security and peace. [Makkah where the Final revelation has begun. 2:126]

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ **95:4**

Indeed, We have created the human being in the best design (and with the potential to grow the 'self'.)

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ **95:5**

Then We turn him to the lowest of low. [Whoever rejects Permanent Values, reduces himself to a subhuman existence. 91:7-10]

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ **95:6**

Except those who choose to be graced with belief, and work to increase the human potential - theirs is a reward unending.

فَمَا يُكَذِّبُكَ بَعْدُ بِالدِّينِ **95:7**

What, then, can make you deny the Divine System and the Final Judgment?

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَاكِمِينَ **95:8**

Is not God the Sovereign of the sovereigns, the Wisest of the wise, the Best of all judges? [Hukm carries all three meanings]

Chapter 96

Al-´Alaq - The Zygote

This is the 96th Surah of the Qur´an and it has 19 verses. ´Alaq´ and ´Alaqah´ have frequently been translated as ´clot´, ´leech-like flesh´, ´something that clings´, ´like chewed flesh´ etc. However, ´Alaq´ also means the Germ cell or the Zygote which is the ovum from the female ovary that has been fertilized by the male sperm. I prefer this last meaning since the Qur´an very scientifically mentions the union of male and female gametes (Nutfah) resulting in the formation of Alaqa = The Germ cell or Zygote. Historical accounts written two hundred years later claim that this was the very first revelation to the exalted Messenger, but we find this proposition of no practical importance at all. In fact, these fabricated accounts portray a picture of the exalted Messenger having been terrified by his encounter with the Angel Gabriel in the Cave of Hira! Then he comes back home shivering in fright and his wife Khadijah r.a. reassures and covers him with a blanket. Then she takes him to her cousin Waraqah bin Nawfil who was a Christian scholar, and amazingly, he is portrayed as the first one confirming that the exalted Messenger had indeed received a revelation from God, and yet he himself does not embrace Islam! The story in itself concedes the ´secret´ that it was fabricated by some Christians long after the era of the Prophet (S). I think, QXP reasonably proves that the circumstances of a particular revelation, the when and where of it, carry no importance at all. On the contrary, this exercise only attempts to bind the Timeless Qur´an to some supposed events of the past and, in addition to spicing the revelation with some insults, it seeks to hamper the directness of the message to us. The verses of this Surah, although addressed to the exalted Messenger, equally apply to all human beings. Rejecters of the revelation have been symbolized in some verses of this Surah in the form of one man whom history reports to be Abu Jahl. But the phenomenon is timeless in that while some people simply reject the truth, others will actively fight against it.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ **96:1**

Read! With the Name of your Lord Who created.

خَلَقَ الْإِنسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ **96:2**

Created man from a zygote. [And passed him through the embryonic stages 23:13-14. Endowed him with perceptual and conceptual faculties 32:7-9. Gave him the free will 76:2-3, 90:8-10. Distinguished him from the rest of the Animal Kingdom 47:12. For a comprehensive overview of man's creation from the very beginning, water and the inorganic matter, and onward please see 22:5]

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ **96:3**

Read! For, your Lord is Most Generous. [He has blessed humans with the capacity to learn and teach]

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ **96:4**

Who has taught the use of the pen.

عَلَّمَ الْإِنسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ **96:5**

Taught man what he knew not. [The Pen symbolizes the transmission and exchange of knowledge through written records, unique to man. Since this is a Divine gift to mankind, "It is He Who taught."]

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَيَطْغَىٰ **96:6**

Nay, man tries to play God! [Tagha = Trying to be supreme = Being a false god = Grossly overweening = Arrogance beyond limits = Creating rebellion = Trespassing Permanent Values. Taaghoot = A false god = Tyrant = Humans claiming Divine powers = Priesthood]

أَن رَّآهُ اسْتَغْنَىٰ **96:7**

(And) in that he considers himself self-sufficient (forgetting how indebted he is to the Creator and the society for all his mental and physical resources.)

إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرُّجْعَىٰ **96:8**

Indeed, to your Lord is the return. [Everything that exists goes back to the Creator as its Source and is bound by His law. All people will be returned to Him for Judgment. Mankind will eventually return to the Divinely Ordained System of Life]

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يَنْهَىٰ **96:9**

Have you seen the kind of man who forbids

عَبْدًا إِذَا صَلَّىٰ **96:10**

A servant when he follows the Divine Commands?

أَرَأَيْتَ إِن كَانَ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ **96:11**

Have you considered if such a person is on the road of guidance?

أَوْ أَمَرَ بِالتَّقْوَىٰ **96:12**

Or his affairs are leading him to security?

أَرَأَيْتَ إِن كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ **96:13**

Do you see him denying the truth and turning away from all that is good?

أَلَمْ يَعْلَم بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرَىٰ **96:14**

Does he not know that God sees everything?

كَلَّا لَئِن لَّمْ يَنتَهِ لَنَسْفَعًا بِالنَّاصِيَةِ **96:15**

Let him beware! If he does not desist, We will seize him by the forelock (to a state of humiliation). [Forelock, pointing to the frontal lobes of the brain, indicates all cognitive abilities. 11:56]

نَاصِيَةٍ كَاذِبَةٍ خَاطِئَةٍ **96:16**

A forelock that is given to denial and committing fault upon fault.

فَلْيَدْعُ نَادِيَهُ **96:17**

Let him, then, call upon his advisory council.

سَنَدْعُ الزَّبَانِيَةَ **96:18**

We shall summon the apprehending forces.

كَلَّا لَا تُطِعْهُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِب **96:19**

Nay, never be intimidated by a man like this! But humble yourself in adoration to Divine Commands, and let every step of yours bring you closer (to your Lord).

Chapter 97

Al-Qadr - The Majesty

This is the 97th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 5 verses. The Night of Majesty is when the entire Qur´an was revealed through Gabriel on the exalted Messenger´s heart in the month of Ramadhan in the year 610 CE. Its order and arrangement was exactly as we see today. Thereafter, it was revealed to mankind in stages over a period of 23 years. Contrary to popular belief, Iqra was not the first word revealed to the exalted Prophet. The Qur´an came as the Ultimate Criterion between the Right and the Wrong and ushered in a Splendor that has been spreading on earth during the last 14 centuries. 2:87-97, 2:185, 9:32-33, 14:1, 16:2, 17:85-86, 26:193, 42:52, 44:1-4, 70:4, 78:38, 81:17-19]

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ **97:1**

Indeed, We have revealed it in the Night of Majesty. [44:3]

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ **97:2**

Ah, what will enlighten you what it is, the Night of Majesty!

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ **97:3**

The Night of Majesty is better than a thousand months. [A day of enlightenment is better than a life-time of ignorance]

تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِم مِّن كُلِّ أَمْرٍ **97:4**

The Universal forces and the Divine revelation have descended therein, by their Lord's Leave and shall work in concert with every decree to carry out His plan.

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ **97:5**

Peace! It is a message of Peace and Security, and inevitably, a new Morning of Enlightenment shall dawn. [39:69]

Chapter 98

Al-Bayyinah - The Clear Evidence

This is the 98th Surah and it has 8 verses. The people who were endowed with previous scriptures, and the idolaters do need to reflect on the Final revelation, Al-Qur´an in order to see the light and walk the right path.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنفَكِّينَ حَتَّىٰ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ **98:1**

It is inconceivable that those who are denying the truth, whether they are among the People of the Scripture or the idolaters, could come out of error until the clear evidence reaches them, [The Qur'an liberates them from the shackles of their manmade dogmas and brings them from darkness to light. 7:157]

رَسُولٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ يَتْلُو صُحُفًا مُّطَهَّرَةً **98:2**

(The evidence that) a Messenger from God is conveying to them in purified Scrolls. [That are well-scored and well-written on parchment by honored scribes. 52:2-3, 80:13-16]

فِيهَا كُتُبٌ قَيِّمَةٌ **98:3**

Wherein are Authoritative scriptures.

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِن بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ **98:4**

The People of the Scripture had divided themselves even when the evidence of truth had already come to them.

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَٰلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ **98:5**

And they were commanded no more than to serve God being sincere in Religion for Him, turning away from all that is false, establishing the Divine System and setting up the Economic Order of Zakaat. That is the Perfect System of Life. [Deen = Divinely Prescribed Way of Life. Religion does not convey the exact meaning]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ **98:6**

Those who conceal the truth, be they among the People of the Scripture or the idol worshipers, will abide in Hellfire. They are schismatic among all created beings.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ **98:7**

And those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and help others, they are the best of all created beings.

جَزَاؤُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَٰلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ **98:8**

Their reward is with their Lord, Gardens of Eden (of perpetual bliss) to abide therein forever; underneath which rivers flow. Well pleased is God with them and well-pleased are they with Him. All this awaits him who fears (violating the commands of) his Lord.

Chapter 99

Az-Zilzal - The Quake

This is the 99th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 8 verses. As mentioned earlier, many of the verses and especially the last several Surahs of the Qur´an relate to the life of the world as well as to the Hereafter, and similarly to Revolutions in the world and to the Great Cosmic Metamorphosis (Apocalypse).

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا **99:1**

When the earth is shaken with her mighty quaking. [A mighty Revolution will overtake the world]

وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَثْقَالَهَا **99:2**

And the earth yields up her burdens. [Archaeology and mining will make long strides. Tyrants will be thrown out of power]

وَقَالَ الْإِنسَانُ مَا لَهَا **99:3**

And mankind cries out, “What has happened to her?” [People will be stunned at the speed of unfolding events]

يَوْمَئِذٍ تُحَدِّثُ أَخْبَارَهَا **99:4**

At that time she will relate her stories. [The history of revolutions will repeat itself on a massive scale]

بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا **99:5**

Your Lord will have sent His command to her. [Progressive unfolding of the Divine decree]

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصْدُرُ النَّاسُ أَشْتَاتًا لِّيُرَوْا أَعْمَالَهُمْ **99:6**

On that Day will all people come forth as separate entities, to be shown their deeds. [The guilty will stand apart from the innocent. 36:59]

فَمَن يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ **99:7**

Then whoever has done an atom's weight of good, will see it.

وَمَن يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ **99:8**

And whoever has done an atom's weight of evil, will see it. [The Justice system will improve on earth. And, finally, the Day of Judgment will deliver Divine Justice]

Chapter 100

Al-´Aadiyat - The Gallopers

This is the 100th Surah of the Qur´an. It has 11 verses. With spellbinding eloquence the Qur´an hereby very forcefully condemns all kind of looting, plunder and raids. Armed robberies have been a scourge of humanity since times immemorial.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالْعَادِيَاتِ ضَبْحًا **100:1**

Oh, the panting galloping horses of the raiders.

Jets , planes??

فَالْمُورِيَاتِ قَدْحًا **100:2**

Sparks of fire striking (with their gallops).

فَالْمُغِيرَاتِ صُبْحًا **100:3**

Charging, ambushing at dawn.

فَأَثَرْنَ بِهِ نَقْعًا **100:4**

Therewith raising clouds of dust.

فَوَسَطْنَ بِهِ جَمْعًا **100:5**

Storming into any community.

إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنُودٌ **100:6**

Man is ungrateful to his Lord.

وَإِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ لَشَهِيدٌ **100:7**

He himself is a witness to that.

وَإِنَّهُ لِحُبِّ الْخَيْرِ لَشَدِيدٌ **100:8**

And, in the love of wealth, he is zealous. [102:1-2]

أَفَلَا يَعْلَمُ إِذَا بُعْثِرَ مَا فِي الْقُبُورِ **100:9**

Does he not know that all hidden things will be dug out? [Intentions, secret actions and material things that were robbed, and the disintegrated forms will be resurrected]

وَحُصِّلَ مَا فِي الصُّدُورِ **100:10**

And the secrets of the hearts will be laid bare? [Sadr = Chest = Breast = Heart]

إِنَّ رَبَّهُم بِهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَّخَبِيرٌ **100:11**

(They will find out) on that Day that their Lord is Well-acquainted with them.

Chapter 101

Al-Qaari´ah - The Catastrophe

This is the 101st Surah of the Qur´an. It has 11 verses. This Surah briefly portrays the eventual Great Transformation of the current Cosmology and the Resurrection.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

الْقَارِعَةُ **101:1**

The Catastrophe!

مَا الْقَارِعَةُ **101:2**

What is the Catastrophe?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْقَارِعَةُ **101:3**

Ah, What will convey to you what it is, the Catastrophe!

يَوْمَ يَكُونُ النَّاسُ كَالْفَرَاشِ الْمَبْثُوثِ **101:4**

The Day when people will be like moths scattered in confusion.

وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ الْمَنفُوشِ **101:5**

And the mountains will be like flakes of wool.

فَأَمَّا مَن ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ **101:6**

And then, he whose scales are heavy (with good deeds),

فَهُوَ فِي عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ **101:7**

Will live in happiness and contentment.

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُ **101:8**

As for him whose scales are light,

فَأُمُّهُ هَاوِيَةٌ **101:9**

He will be embraced by an Abyss.

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا هِيَهْ **101:10**

Ah, what will convey to you what that is!

نَارٌ حَامِيَةٌ **101:11**

Raging fire!

Chapter 102

At-Takaathur - The Relentless Greed

This is the 102nd Surah and it has 8 verses. ´Takathur´ indicates the greed of amassing more and more wealth and material possessions, the mutual rivalry and show-off therewith, and racing for ´things´ rather than virtue.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

أَلْهَاكُمُ التَّكَاثُرُ **102:1**

The relentless greed of material gains distracts you (from the real purpose of life). [57:20, 83:26]

حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ **102:2**

Until you go down to your graves.

كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **102:3**

Nay! But you will come to know!

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ **102:4**

Again, Nay! You will come to know.

كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ **102:5**

Nay, only if you could have certain knowledge.

لَتَرَوُنَّ الْجَحِيمَ **102:6**

You would see it now, the Insurmountable Barrier (in the way of your personal development). [29:54, 79:36, 82:16]

ثُمَّ لَتَرَوُنَّهَا عَيْنَ الْيَقِينِ **102:7**

Finally, you will see it with sure vision.

ثُمَّ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ **102:8**

Then, on that Day you will be questioned what you did with the boon of life. [21:13]

Chapter 103

Al-´Asr - Time That Flies

This 103rd Surah is one of the two shortest ones in the Qur´an. Like Surah Al-Kauthar (108), it has only three verses. But the message here is no less profound. Al-´Asr denotes "Time that flies" as different from Dahr (Surah 76) which denotes "Time through ages".

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَالْعَصْرِ **103:1**

Time that flies and has flown, bears witness.

إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ **103:2**

That man is, and has been, in a state of loss.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ **103:3**

Except those who have chosen to be graced with belief, do works that help others and exemplify truth and exemplify perseverance. [Individuals and nations that are exception to the Rule of mankind being in a state of loss, have four qualities. a. They believe in the Divine laws operative in nature, and not that things happen around them haphazardly. In other words they are pragmatic people. b. They do works of collective good, helping those who lag behind, and improving the individual and collective potentials of humanity. c. They uphold Al-Haqq (the truth) instead of hearsay and conjecture. They refrain from violating Haqq (human rights) which is always the first casualty of an order based upon falsehood. d. They know that the benefit of the individual and the benefit of the society are strongly interwoven. Therefore, they are patient in times of ease and prosperity by not falling for rivalry in material possessions. And they are steadfast in times of adversity, natural disasters and armed confrontation]

Chapter 104

Al-Humazah - The Slanderer

This is the 104th Surah and it has 9 verses. Slander, fault-finding, backbiting, criticizing, is a full-time job. Born out of envy, idleness, malice and rationalized self-interest, this is a negative indulgence in itself that leaves no room for working any goodness.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ **104:1**

Woe to every slanderer, fault-finder! [He himself does little but spends a lot of energy detracting the doers]

الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ **104:2**

Whose efforts revolve around gathering material possessions and counting them. [Lacking a higher goal, he opposes any semblance of reform 70:18]

يَحْسَبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ **104:3**

He thinks that his wealth will make him immortal.

كَلَّا لَيُنبَذَنَّ فِي الْحُطَمَةِ **104:4**

Nay, He will be flung into the Shredder. [9:35]

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطَمَةُ **104:5**

Ah, what will convey to you what the Shredder is?

نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمُوقَدَةُ **104:6**

A fire kindled by God. [The law: “As you sow, so shall you reap.” 53:39]

الَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ عَلَى الْأَفْئِدَةِ **104:7**

That originates in, and engulfs, the hearts.

إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِم مُّؤْصَدَةٌ **104:8**

It closes upon them (as they had kept their possessions closed up in vaults).

فِي عَمَدٍ مُّمَدَّدَةٍ **104:9**

In extended columns.

Chapter 105

Al-Feel - The Elephant

Good planning and timely action can ward off a strong invasion. This brief Surah with five verses has a very interesting history behind it. As we have seen in the history of the Empire of Sheba (Surahs An-Naml 27, Saba 34, and Qaaf 50), the Kingdom of Sheba had collapsed in 115 BC. They were overtaken by the Himairis who ruled until 300 CE when other tribes overtook the control of Yemen. They were in turn defeated by the Christian Kingdom of Ethipoia-Abyssinia when they invaded Yemen in 525 CE. Abrahah was then appointed Viceroy of Yemen. The Roman and the Abyssinian Christians longed for converting the idolaters of Arabia to Christianity. They also sought control of the trade routes between Arabia, Persia and the Western Roman Empire. They saw Ka´bah in Makkah as a hindrance to their imperialistic and religious designs. Abrahah, the Viceroy of Yemen made a smart move. Between 550 and 555 CE he built a gorgeous cathedral EKKLESIA in San´aa, Yemen, and invited people and neighboring countries to come for pilgrimage there instead of going to Makkah. When Ekklesia remained unpopular, Abrahah decided to invade Makkah and demolish the Ka´bah. Since he correctly anticipated the presence of hostile tribes en-route, he came up with a 60,000 Strong army aided by thousands of horses, camels and thirteen elephants. I agree with the research of Hamiduddin Farahi, Amin Ahsan Islahi and G.A.Parwez on what eventually happened. As Abrahah´s army approached Makkah, the Makkans who had been alerted by some travelers beforehand, saw flocks of birds that normally fly over caravans in search for food. The Makkans mounted the hills around and threw stones on the troops. The elephants, and in turn, other rides panicked and trampled the soldiers. This incident took place in 570 CE when the exalted Messenger was born. The event carried such significance that the Arabs, in their Calendar, marked it as the "Year of the Elephant" (´Aam-il-Feel) as a point of reference in history.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ **105:1**

Are you not aware of how your Lord dealt with the Army of the Elephant?

أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ **105:2**

Did He not bring their strategy to utter failure?

وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ **105:3**

And sent upon them swarms of flying creatures.

تَرْمِيهِم بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ **105:4**

Then you showered them with hard stones earmarked with requital. [Sijjeel = Inscribed = Marked out]

فَجَعَلَهُمْ كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ **105:5**

And made them like a field of grain eaten down to stubble. [An interesting footnote here might be appropriate. Three Arabs had guided Abrahah on his way to Makkah through the desert. The pre-Islamic Makkans humiliated the traitors and made out three statutes of them in today's plains of Mina outside Makkah. Then they used to stone those statues every year at the time of Pilgrimage. This ritual was 'Islamized' by Muslim historians naming them as three places where the 'Satan' tried to prompt Prophet Abraham to defy God's command to 'sacrifice' his son. And so, to this day during Pilgrimage, Muslims stone the three pillars calling them the Great, the Medium, and the Small Satan!]

Chapter 106

Quraish - The Tribe Of Quraish

This Surah has just four yet highly eloquent verses. Being honored by the servants of God is a great blessing that can best be returned by serving Him. And the way to serve Him is to serve His creation. Quraish were the most prominent tribe in all Arabia for being the custodians of the Blessed Shrine of Ka´bah in Makkah. They were honored by all the tribes, and their caravans remained secure from raids which were otherwise a common occurrence. Makkah itself was a bustling trade center in the middle of some great caravan routes. It was known as the Town of Peace and security even before the call to Islam by the exalted Prophet who was born in that tribe and Town in 570 CE.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

لِإِيلَافِ قُرَيْشٍ **106:1**

For the privilege (of security) cherished by Quraish.

إِيلَافِهِمْ رِحْلَةَ الشِّتَاءِ وَالصَّيْفِ **106:2**

Enjoying their winter and summer caravans. [To Yemen and Syria respectively, that makes them affluent]

فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَٰذَا الْبَيْتِ **106:3**

It infers, then, that they ought to serve the Lord of this House alone. [2:125-126]

الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُم مِّن جُوعٍ وَآمَنَهُم مِّنْ خَوْفٍ **106:4**

Who has given them freedom from want, and has made them secure against fear. [Ta'm = Feeding = Taking care = Fulfilling needs = Granting freedom from want]

Chapter 107

Al-Maa´oon - The Spring Of Sustenance

This Surah most vividly distinguishes Salaat as a Collective System closely tied to social welfare, from the empty individual ritualism. Al- Ma´oon is frequently but erroneously translated as ´assistance´, ´small kindness´, ´neighborly needs´ etc. Linguistically, and in the context it means, "The Spring of Sustenance."

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

أَرَأَيْتَ الَّذِي يُكَذِّبُ بِالدِّينِ **107:1**

Have you seen him who proclaims allegiance to the Divine System, but denies it in action? [53:33, 75:32-33, 95:7. Takzeeb = To give lie = Deny in practice = Reject in daily life]

فَذَٰلِكَ الَّذِي يَدُعُّ الْيَتِيمَ **107:2**

He is the one who repels the orphan, the widow, the helpless, the one in a lonely state. [89:10, 69:34]

وَلَا يَحُضُّ عَلَىٰ طَعَامِ الْمِسْكِينِ **107:3**

And urges not the feeding of the needy. And participates not in helping those who have lost their jobs, whose businesses have stalled, and whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs.

فَوَيْلٌ لِّلْمُصَلِّينَ **107:4**

Ah, woe to the praying ones!

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَن صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ **107:5**

Those who know not what their prayer is meant to be.

الَّذِينَ هُمْ يُرَاءُونَ **107:6**

They only want to be seen and praised. [9:54. They go through the motions of prayer and keep announcing it]

وَيَمْنَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ **107:7**

And, with all this, they hinder the flow of sustenance (by hoarding). [Ma'n = Running water. Mu'eein = Source of sustenance with plenty of fresh water springs. 23:50]

Chapter 108

Al-Kauthar - The Abundant Good

This Surah, along with 103, Al-´Asr, is the shortest Chapter of the Qur´an with only three, yet profound, verses in it. Most commentators, impressed by traditions, think that these verses are addressed to the exalted Prophet alone. This practice is an obvious disservice to the Sublime and Timeless message of the Qur´an which is a guidance and light for all humanity. Not to mention is a heap of conjecture portraying Al-Kauthar as a stream up there in the skies.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ **108:1**

Indeed, We have bestowed upon you Abundant Good. [The ever flowing stream of wisdom and knowledge in this Qur'an. 13:35, 14:24-25]

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ **108:2**

Therefore, follow the commands of your Lord and convey them to others so that they might follow as well. And sacrifice your comfort for the welfare of the community. [Sall = Follow closely. Nahr = Sacrifice = Sacrificing a camel = Sacrificing one's own comfort and resources for a noble cause]

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ **108:3**

It is your opponent that will be cutting himself off from the Abundant Good.

Chapter 109

Al-Kaafiroon - Those Who Deny The Truth

In six brief verses this Surah expounds an Eternal law. The Noble Ideology given to all humanity by the Lord of the Worlds, the Lord of all mankind is absolutely non-negotiable. The word Ibadah and its derivatives used in this little Surah must be understood in their most elegant and intensive meanings. Ibadah is usually and correctly translated as worship, service or obedience. ´Ma´bud´ is usually and correctly rendered as something or someone who is worshiped, served or obeyed. Concerning both these terms, worship is better applicable to idols, instead of God. The proper understanding of this glorious Surah requires us to think of these terms in a much wider spectrum.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الْكَافِرُونَ **109:1**

Say, “O You who deny the truth, and, thus, by remaining ungrateful to the Creator’s ultimate guidance, choose to live in darkness!

لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ **109:2**

I do not worship what you worship. [Neither your idols, nor your tenets, nor your moral values, Way of Life, nor your holy men or leaders]

وَلَا أَنتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ **109:3**

Nor do you worship what I worship. [You do not subscribe to my Divinely revealed Ideology and System of Life]

وَلَا أَنَا عَابِدٌ مَّا عَبَدتُّمْ **109:4**

And I will never worship what you have ever worshiped.

وَلَا أَنتُمْ عَابِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ **109:5**

Nor (unless you acknowledge the truth) will you worship what I worship. [Our ways are apart and there is no room for compromise. falsehood remains falsehood even

though it may compromise, but the truth cannot remain the truth when mixed up with falsehood. ‘A half-truth is a whole-lie.’]

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ **109:6**

For you your way, and for me my way.” [Results will tell who was on the right track. 6:136, 10:41, 15:85, 42:15, 60:4, 73:10]

Chapter 110

An-Nasr - The Help

Traditional commentaries, in this instance, show us God admonishing the exalted Messenger, after completing His Noble mission, to relax, sit down on a prayer-rug, hold on to a rosary bead, hymn His praises and ask forgiveness for his sins! All this is the consequence of disregarding the original Qur´anic dialect, the Big Picture of the Qur´an, and succumbing to unfounded traditions.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ **110:1**

When God's help and the Victory comes.

وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا **110:2**

And you see the people enter God's Religion in throngs. [19:96]

فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَاسْتَغْفِرْهُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا **110:3**

(Think not that your job is done.) Then strive hard to make the Divine System a living witness to the glory and praise of your Lord. And you shall remain vigilant to guard the System as a helmet guards the head. Indeed, He is ever Responsive to your efforts. [47:38, 94:7-8]

Chapter 111

Al-Lahab - The Flame

Here is the solitary instance where an opponent of the exalted Prophet is mentioned in the Qur´an by name. Perhaps because he symbolized leadership, power, tyranny, wealth and priesthood all in one. So, this Surah as all others has Eternal application. Historically, Abi-Lahab was an inoffensive Kunniyah (family title) of Abd- al-Uzza, a paternal uncle of the exalted Prophet. He was a very good looking man with a glowing face and a fiery temper, hence known as Abu Lahab, ´Father of Flame´. Unfortunately for them, he and his wife ´Arwa Umm Jamil bint Harb bin Umayyah (a sister of Abu Sufyan) took a very hostile stance against Islam and the exalted Prophet and persecuted him in Makkah. They were the next door neighbors to him. ´Arwa used to spread out thorny branches at the exalted Messenger´s door by night, and ran a defamation campaign against him. She had a most beautiful and expensive necklace that she always was proud of. The ornament of palm-fiber in her neck probably has a subtle allusion to that in the Surah. Abi Lahab was the chief priest of the holy Shrine of Ka´bah which at that time hosted 360 idols. He was a wealthy and arrogant man and therefore, he could foresee that God´s message of human equality threatened his high status and special interests. In short, he was a symbol of opposition to the Divine message. The Surah has also been titled by historians as "Tabbat" and "Al-Masad". I have tried after due to research to stay with the titles of the Surahs as they were in the sacred lifetime of Muhammad (S).

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ **111:1**

Perished is the power of Abi Lahab, and perished is he!

مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا كَسَبَ **111:2**

His wealth and gains will avail him not! [69:27-28, 92:11, 96:7]

سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ **111:3**

He shall have to endure a fire blazing, glowing.

وَامْرَأَتُهُ حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ **111:4**

And his wife, that carrier of slanderous tales, the firewood hauler.

فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ **111:5**

Will have her neck ornamented with a rope of palm-fiber. [17:13. Jeed = A neck decorated with an ornament. Here, we have a lesson that color, nationality, tribe, family, wealth, status etc have no bearing in the Divine System. The most honored in the Sight of God is he who is best in conduct. 49:13]

Chapter 112

Al-Ikhlas - The Pure Monotheism

This a very brief Surah that very forcefully and clearly expounds strict Monotheism, nothing confusing about it as Trinity, Dualism or any shade of Polytheism.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ **112:1**

Say, "He is God, the One! [He is Unique in His Essence and Attributes and He alone is the Sovereign Law-Giver in the Universe]

اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ **112:2**

God is Absolutely Independent. [Samad = Absolute, Eternal, Unique, Absolutely Independent Sustainer, Absolutely Independent, Perfect, the Uncaused Cause of all that exists]

لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ **112:3**

He begets not, nor is He begotten.

وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ **112:4**

And there is absolutely none like Him."

Chapter 113

Al-Falaq - The Rising Dawn

The last two Surahs of the Qur´an have unfortunately been given the name of Mu´awwazatain by the so-called "authorities", conveying to the reader that they are supposed to guard against "occult powers" such as magic, evil-eye, witchcraft, demons, jealousy, the ´unseen beings´ omens and amulets etc. The most pragmatic Book on earth, the Qur´an, strongly negates the real existence of witchcraft, black magic, soothsaying, astrology, palm- reading, psychic prowess of telling the future, crystal balls, fortune- telling, clairvoyance, and all superstition - reiterating again and again that the entire Universe is being run by Divine laws. We may call these as God´s physical laws in the Universe, and according to the Book of God these laws never change. The exalted Messenger is reported to have said that there is no such thing as Ghoul (Occult creatures like demons, evil spirits and witches etc). He is also reported to have said that Nasharah (the pretense of expelling demons from the human body) is a deceptive, Satanic act. The exalted Prophet is also reported to have said that everyone has a Satan/Iblis within. Sahaba Kiraam respectfully asked, "Even you O Rasullullah?" He said, "Yes, I have made him a Muslim" (made the desires submit to God.) So, Satan is not an extrinsic entity. It is, then, amazing that Muslim scholars as well as the masses who revere Hadith, conveniently ignore such reported sayings of the exalted Messenger when they conflict with their false beliefs, and embrace those reports that clearly contradict the Qur´an, but support their erroneous whims! Let us not reduce the Glorious revelations of God to the irrational propositions of people, however big their names may be.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ **113:1**

Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord of the Rising Dawn, the enlightenment,

مِن شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ **113:2**

From the evil aspects of created things.

وَمِن شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ **113:3**

And from the evils of the darkness of Ignorance whenever and wherever it is encountered.

وَمِن شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي الْعُقَدِ **113:4**

And from the covert activities of people who try to put knots and complicate the simple.

113:5 وَمِن شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ

And from the evil of the envious when he envies (and tries to harm)."

Chapter 114

An-Naas - Mankind

It is refreshing and heart warming to note that the Book of God begins by calling Him, “Lord of the Worlds” and ends by calling Him, “Lord of Mankind.” The Creator of all is One, therefore, mankind must be one community.

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

With the Glorious Name of God, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ **114:1**

Say, “I seek refuge with the Lord of Mankind.

مَلِكِ النَّاسِ **114:2**

The King of mankind.

إِلَٰهِ النَّاسِ **114:3**

The God of mankind.

مِن شَرِّ الْوَسْوَاسِ الْخَنَّاسِ **114:4**

From the evil of the whisperer who withdraws (after prompting one to do evil).

الَّذِي يُوَسْوِسُ فِي صُدُورِ النَّاسِ **114:5**

That whispers in the hearts of people.

مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ **114:6**

(And) from the hidden psyche that rationalizes the evil, as well as the temptations that come from people.”

Self-actualization and Human Destiny

Al-Hamdulillah, THE QUR'AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF fourth edition (QXPiv) reaches completion here.

This is only a humble effort by a life-long student of the Qur'an, an ordinary servant of God. Of course, with human knowledge constantly evolving, our understanding of the Qur'an will keep improving with each generation. And the last word may not be said even by the last inhabitants of the planet. It is one of the eternal miracles of the Qur'an that every sincere person can derive knowledge, wisdom and guidance from the Glorious Book according to his or her intellectual capacity. Accept from us our labor, O Our Sustainer, Cherisher Lord!

With profound gratitude to the Almighty and His sincere servants,

Shabbir Ahmed, M.D.
6440 NW 53 ST
Lauderhill, Florida 33319 USA

Paradise And Hellfire

The Qur'an describes Paradise and Hellfire in such metaphors and allegories that can be understood by different people according to their intellectual levels. While the body dies the 'self' lives on and its destiny, whether Anguish or bliss, is a logical consequence and a built-in recompense of its doings.

A 'self' that has actualized or primed itself by leading a life upright, respecting the Permanent Values, and thus being a useful member of society, belongs to Paradise. This process of self-actualization is facilitated by a benevolent society. The development of a primed or actualized 'self' goes on in the Hereafter in blissful Immortality.

However, a 'self' that has stunted itself by succumbing to selfish desires, fails to prime itself for further development. It merely survives in the 'Hell' of Anguish as opposed to the blissful Immortality of Paradise. In this sense, stagnation is Hell, and progress is Paradise.

So, we can understand the Qur'anic description of Hell and Paradise to some but sufficient extent for our intellectual needs. To put it very briefly, here is my humble understanding:

Paradise

Men, women and children are brought into a new being in exponentially higher physical and mental forms. Aging, pain, illness, death, grief, fear, fatigue, negative emotions have no place in that blissful Realm. It is perpetual Delight with ongoing growth of the 'self'. [84:19]

The new human forms have intensely advanced capacities to do things they want, even see a replay of their earthly lives and the entire world history. They instantly get all they desire, and more! They get to meet with their families and friends and any personalities that lived before or after them. They are provided all they need and want without the least bit of toil.

Hellfire

A life where the resurrected humans in the new higher physical and mental forms have a life of Anguish. They are in a state of neither living nor dying since their personalities make no progress. Yet, they see the truth more clearly. Jaheem (the Insurmountable Barrier) keeps them from advancing. They are in a relentless state of Regret that they should have done works to become worthy of Paradise.

The Qur'an categorically states, "The Hellfire originates in and engulfs the hearts." In that light, Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal correctly notes that 'people carry their fire to Hell'. God does not punish anyone. Reward & Punishment are logical consequences of our deeds.

So, the understanding we get of the life Hereafter, although described metaphorically in the Qur'an and not exactly comparable to what we know in this life, is sufficiently clear for our mental and emotional needs. An important note must be made here that the Hell or Paradise of a person begins right here in this life.

Furthermore, the Divine System (in Biblical terms, the Kingdom of God) established in a society ensures the earthly Paradise, whereas an individual or a collective life that is lived contrary to Divine laws only builds a Hell in this world as well. In that sense, tomorrow is the Hereafter of today.

The following verses are just a few among those that will support my humble submission: 2:119, 3:11, 3:132, 5:86, 8:36, 9:49, 13:35, 18:100, 26:91, 29:55, 32:13-17, 35:36, 36:53-67, 36:78-79, 47:15, 57:21, 74:30, 78:26.

Historically: The word JAHANNAM derives from an old valley south of Jerusalem. Jahannam comes from the Hebrew "ge-hinnom" which means "Valley of Hinnom." People, especially children, used to be sacrificed there to idols. Later, the Vallley was used as an execution ground for criminals. Bodies and clothing of those dying of a contagious disease, were burned there. In Jesus' time it was still used for

burning the rubbish and garbage of Jerusalem. This in itself gives the idea that Jahannam is a metaphor for a state of a stagnant existence with no development.