

## 31. LUQMAN

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> *Alif Lam Mim*

<sup>2</sup> These are the verses of the Book of wisdom, <sup>3</sup> a guide and a mercy for those who do good, <sup>4</sup> for those who attend to their prayers and pay the *zakat* and who have firm faith in the Hereafter: <sup>5</sup> these are rightly guided by their Lord: and these are the ones who will prosper.

<sup>6</sup> But among men there are some who spend their time in idle diversions only to lead people astray from the path of God, and without knowledge, hold it up to ridicule: for such there is a humiliating punishment in store. <sup>7</sup> Whenever Our messages are conveyed to such a person, he turns away in his arrogance, as though he had not heard them—as though his ears were sealed: give him, then, the tidings of grievous suffering [in the life to come]. <sup>8</sup> Surely, those who believe and do good works shall enter gardens of bliss, <sup>9</sup> wherein they will abide forever. That is God's true promise; He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

<sup>10</sup> He has created the skies without any support that you could see, and has placed firm mountains upon the earth, lest it sway with you, and has caused all manner of living creatures to multiply thereon. And We sent

down water from the skies, and thus We made every kind of excellent plant grow there: <sup>11</sup> this is God's creation. Show me then what those besides Him have created! The wrongdoers are in manifest error.

<sup>12</sup> We bestowed wisdom on Luqman, saying, 'Be grateful to God: he who is grateful, is grateful only for the good of his own soul. But if anyone is ungrateful, then surely God is self-sufficient and praiseworthy.'

<sup>13</sup> Luqman said to his son, counselling him, 'My son, do not associate anything with God. Associating others with Him is a terrible wrong.'

<sup>14</sup> We have enjoined man to show kindness to his parents—for his mother bears him, in hardship upon hardship, and his weaning takes two years. [We said] Give thanks to Me and to your parents; all will return to Me. <sup>15</sup> But if they press you to associate something with Me about which you have no knowledge, do not obey them. Yet be kind to them in this world and follow the path of those who turn to Me. You will all return to Me in the end, and I will tell you everything that you have done.

<sup>16</sup> [Luqman further said,] 'O my son! Though it be but the weight of a grain of mustard seed and though it be hidden in a rock, or in the heavens or on the earth, God will bring it forth. Truly, God is the knower of all subtleties and He is aware. <sup>17</sup> O my dear son! Say your prayers regularly, and enjoin good, and forbid evil, and endure patiently whatever may befall you. Surely,

this is something which requires firm resolve. <sup>18</sup> Do not avert your face from people out of haughtiness and do not walk with pride on the earth: for, behold, God does not love arrogant and boastful people. <sup>19</sup> Walk modestly and lower your voice, for the ugliest of all voices is the braying of the ass.'

<sup>20</sup> Have you not seen that God has subjected to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth, and has completed His favours to you, both seen and unseen? Yet there are some who dispute concerning God, without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening Book. <sup>21</sup> When they are told to follow the [Revelations] that God has sent down, they say, 'No, we shall follow the ways that we found our fathers [following].' Yes! Even though Satan is inviting them to the punishment of the burning Fire?

<sup>22</sup> He who submits himself completely to God, and is a doer of good, has surely grasped a strong handle, for the final outcome of all events rests with God. <sup>23</sup> But if any reject the Faith, let not his rejection grieve you: for to Us they shall return, and We shall tell them the truth about their deeds: for God knows well all that is in the human hearts—<sup>24</sup> We shall let them enjoy themselves for a little while, but then We shall drive them to a harsh punishment.

<sup>25</sup> If you should ask them, 'Who created the heavens and the earth?' They will surely answer, 'God.' Say, 'Praise be to God!' But most of them do not understand.

<sup>26</sup> Whatever is in the heavens and the earth belongs to God. Assuredly, God is self-sufficient and praiseworthy.

<sup>27</sup> If all the trees on earth were pens, and the sea [were] ink, with seven [more] seas added to it, the words of God would not be exhausted: for, truly, God is Almighty and Wise.

<sup>28</sup> Creating and resurrecting all of you is just like creating and resurrecting a single soul. Truly, God hears all and observes all. <sup>29</sup> Have you not seen that God makes the night pass into the day, and makes the day pass into the night, and that He has pressed the sun and the moon into His service, each pursuing its course for an appointed term, and that God is well aware of what you do? <sup>30</sup> That is because God is the Truth, and what they call upon besides Him is falsehood. God is the Most High, the Supreme One.

<sup>31</sup> Have you not seen how the ships sail on the sea by God's grace so that He may show you some of His signs? Surely therein are signs for every steadfast, thankful person. <sup>32</sup> When the waves engulf them like shadows [of death], they call to God, sincere [at that moment] in their faith in Him alone: but as soon as He has brought them safe ashore, only some of them take the right course. And none denies Our signs save the perfidious and ungrateful person.

<sup>33</sup> O men, seek protection with your Lord and fear the Day when neither will the father be of any avail to his son, nor will the son be of any avail to his father.

God's promise is surely true. So let not worldly life beguile you, nor let the Deceiver deceive you concerning God.<sup>34</sup> Truly, God alone has knowledge of the Hour. He sends down the rain, and He knows what is in the wombs. No soul knows what it will earn tomorrow, and no soul knows in what land it will die. Surely, God is all knowing, all-aware.

## 32. PROSTRATION (*AL-SAJDAH*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> *Alif Lam Mim*

<sup>2</sup> This Book has beyond all doubt been revealed by the Lord of the Universe. <sup>3</sup> Do they say, 'He has invented it himself.'? No indeed! It is the truth from your Lord to warn a people to whom, before you, no warner came, so that hopefully they may be rightly guided.

<sup>4</sup> It was God who created the heavens and the earth and whatsoever is in between in six Days, and then He established Himself on the throne. You have no patron nor any intercessor besides Him. So will you not pay heed? <sup>5</sup> He directs all affairs from heaven to earth. Then all will again ascend to Him on a Day whose length is a thousand years by the way you measure.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the Knower of the unseen and the visible, the Powerful, the Merciful, <sup>7</sup> who gave everything its perfect form. He originated the creation of man from clay, <sup>8</sup> then He made his progeny from an extract of a humble fluid. <sup>9</sup> Then He moulded him; He breathed His Spirit into him; He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts. How seldom you are grateful!

<sup>10</sup> They say, 'When we are lost in the earth, how can we then be recreated?' Indeed, they deny they will ever meet their Lord. <sup>11</sup> Say, 'The Angel of Death who has been given charge of you will gather in your souls. Then you will [all] be returned to your Lord.' <sup>12</sup> If only you could see the evil-doers hanging their heads in shame before their Lord, 'Our Lord, we have seen and we have heard, so send us back again and we will act rightly. For we do indeed now believe.' <sup>13</sup> Yet had We so willed, We could indeed have imposed Our guidance upon every human being: but My word shall come true: 'I will fill Hell with jinns and men all together.' <sup>14</sup> We shall say to them, 'Taste this—for you forgot you would ever meet this Day. We too will forget you—taste the chastisement of Eternity for your [evil] deeds!' <sup>15</sup> The people who truly believe in Our messages are those who fall to the ground in prostration when they are reminded of them, and glorify their Lord with praise and are not arrogant. <sup>16</sup> They forsake their beds, calling upon their Lord in fear and in hope, and spend out of what We have provided them with. <sup>17</sup> No soul

knows what joy is kept hidden in store for them as a reward for their labours.

<sup>18</sup> So, is someone who believes equal to someone who defies God? No, they are not equal. <sup>19</sup> Those who believe and do good deeds shall be lodged in the Gardens of Paradise as a reward for what they have done. <sup>20</sup> As for those who defy God, their home shall be the Fire. Whenever they try to escape it, they shall be driven back into it, and they shall be told, ‘Taste the torment of the Fire, which you have persistently denied.’ <sup>21</sup> And most surely We will make them taste a lesser punishment before the greater punishment, so that perhaps they may return to Us in repentance. <sup>22</sup> Who does greater wrong than someone who, when revelations of his Lord are recited to him, turns away from them? We shall inflict retribution on the guilty.

<sup>23</sup> We gave Moses the Scripture—so [Muhammad] do not doubt that you are receiving it—just as We made it a guide for the Children of Israel. <sup>24</sup> We appointed leaders from among them, guiding by Our command when they were steadfast and when they had firm faith in Our signs. <sup>25</sup> Surely your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that wherein they used to differ. <sup>26</sup> Does it not guide them [to see] how many generations We destroyed before them, among whose ruined dwellings they now walk about? There truly are signs in this—will they not listen?

<sup>27</sup> Have they not seen that We drive the water to the barren land and produce thereby crops of which their cattle and they themselves eat? Will they not then see?  
<sup>28</sup> And they say, ‘When will this judgement come, if you are telling the truth?’ <sup>29</sup> Say, ‘On the Day of Judgement it will be of no benefit to those who were bent on denying the truth, if they [then] believe! They will be granted no respite.’ <sup>30</sup> So turn away from them and wait. They too are waiting.

### 33. THE CONFEDERATES (*AL-AHZAB*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> O Prophet, have fear of God and do not yield to those who deny the truth and the hypocrites. God is all-knowing and all-wise. <sup>2</sup> Follow what is revealed to you from your Lord. God is aware of all that you do.  
<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in God; God is sufficient as a Guardian.

<sup>4</sup> God has not placed two hearts in any man’s body, nor has He made your wives—from whom you keep away by saying, ‘Be as my mother’s back’—your [real] mothers, neither He has made your adopted sons as your own sons. These are merely words which you utter with your mouths: but God speaks the truth and



gives guidance to the right path.<sup>5</sup> Call them after their own fathers; that is closer to justice in the sight of God. If you do not know their fathers, regard them as your brothers in faith and your protégés. You will not be blamed if you make a mistake, you will be held accountable only for what in your hearts you have done intentionally. God is forgiving and merciful.

<sup>6</sup> The Prophet has a higher claim on the believers than [they have on] their own selves, and his wives are their mothers. Blood relatives are closer to one another in God's Book than are believers and the Emigrants except that you want to show your friends a kindness. That is decreed in the Book.

<sup>7</sup> We took a solemn pledge from the prophets, from you and Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, the son of Mary—We took a solemn pledge from all of them.<sup>8</sup> So that God might ask those men of truth as to [what response] their truthfulness [had received on earth]. But for those who deny the truth, He has prepared a woeful punishment.

<sup>9</sup> You who have attained to faith, remember God's blessings upon you when mighty armies massed against you. We sent a violent wind against them and hosts that you could not see. God sees all that you do.

<sup>10</sup> When they came against you both from above you and from below you, your eyes rolled [with fear] and your hearts leapt up to your throats, and you entertained [ill] thoughts about God.<sup>11</sup> There the faithful were put

to the proof and they were shaken as if by an earthquake.

<sup>12</sup> The hypocrites and people with sickness in their hearts said, ‘God and His Messenger have promised us nothing but delusions.’ <sup>13</sup> Others said, ‘People of Yathrib, you cannot withstand [the enemy] here: so go back!’ Yet others asked leave of the Prophet, saying, ‘Our houses are exposed and [defenceless].’ They were in truth not exposed: they only wished to flee.

<sup>14</sup> If their town had been stormed, and they had been incited to sedition, they would have rebelled with little hesitation. <sup>15</sup> They had already vowed before God that they would never turn their backs: and a vow made to God must be answered for. <sup>16</sup> Say, ‘Flight shall not avail you: if you manage to escape from death or killing, you will enjoy life only for a short while.’<sup>a</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Say, ‘Who is there to shield you from God if He wishes to harm you? If God wishes to show you mercy, who can prevent Him.’ Besides God they shall find none to protect them, and none to bring them succour.

<sup>18</sup> God knows exactly who among you hold the others back, who say to their brethren, ‘Come over to our side,’ and they seldom take part in the fighting.

<sup>19</sup> Begrudging you all help, but when danger comes, you can see them looking at you with rolling eyes as if in their death throes; but once their fear has passed,

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<sup>a</sup> See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

they come to you and do glib-talking in their greed for wealth. Such men have no faith, so God has foiled their actions. This is indeed easy for God. <sup>20</sup> They thought the confederate tribes would never withdraw. Indeed, if the confederates should come again, they would prefer to be in the desert, among the Bedouins. There they would ask news of you [from a distance]. But if they were with you, they would take very little part in the fighting.

<sup>21</sup> You have indeed in the Prophet of God a good example for those of you who look to God and the Last Day, and remember God always. <sup>22</sup> When the believers saw the confederates, they said, 'This is what God and His Messenger have promised us. Surely the promise of God and His Messenger has come true.' It served to increase them in faith and submission. <sup>23</sup> Among the believers there are men who have been true to the pledge they made with God. Among them are such as have fulfilled their vow, and some who [still] wait, without having changed [their resolve] in the least. <sup>24</sup> God will surely reward the truthful for their truthfulness and punish the hypocrites, if He so wishes, or He may accept their repentance, for God is forgiving and merciful.

<sup>25</sup> God turned back those who denied the truth in their rage, without their having gained any advantage. God was enough to [protect] the believers in battle. God is strong and all-powerful. <sup>26</sup> He brought down

from their strongholds those People of the Book who supported the aggressors and filled their hearts with terror. Some of them you killed and others you took captive.<sup>27</sup> He made you heirs to their lands, and their houses, and their possessions and lands on which you had not set foot before. God has power over all things.

<sup>28</sup> O Prophet, say to your wives, 'If you seek the life of this world and all its finery then come, I will make provision for you, and release you honourably.<sup>29</sup> But if you seek God and His Messenger and the abode of the Hereafter, then know that God has prepared a great reward for those of you who do good deeds.'<sup>30</sup> Wives of the Prophet! Any one of you who commits a flagrant act of misconduct shall be doubly punished. That is easy enough for God.

<sup>31</sup> But those of you who obey God and His Messenger and do good deeds, shall be doubly rewarded. For them We have made an excellent provision.<sup>32</sup> Wives of the Prophet, you are not like any other women. If you fear God, do not be too soft-spoken in case the ill-intentioned should feel tempted. Speak in an appropriate manner.

<sup>33</sup> Stay in your homes and do not flaunt your charms as in the former times of ignorance. Attend to your prayers, pay the *zakat* and obey God and His Messenger. Women of the [Prophet's] Household, God seeks only to remove all impurity from you, and to make you completely pure.<sup>34</sup> Bear in mind all that is recited in

your homes of the revelations of God and of wisdom. God is all pervading and all aware.

<sup>35</sup> Surely, for men and women who have surrendered [to God]— believing men and believing women, obedient men and obedient women, truthful men and truthful women, patient men and patient women, humble men and humble women, charitable men and charitable women, fasting men and fasting women, men and women who guard their chastity, men and women who are ever mindful of God—God is ready with forgiveness and an immense reward. <sup>36</sup> It is not fitting for a believing man or woman to exercise any choice in his or her own affairs once God and His Messenger have reached a decision upon them. Anyone who disobeys God and His Messenger is in manifest error.

<sup>37</sup> You said to the man who had been favoured by God and by you, ‘Keep your wife to yourself and have fear of God.’ You sought to hide in your heart what God wished to reveal. You were afraid of people, whereas it would have been more proper to fear God. When Zayd divorced his wife, We gave her to you in marriage, so that there should be no restriction on believers marrying the spouses of their adopted sons when they have divorced them. The commandment of God must be fulfilled. <sup>38</sup> No blame shall be attached to the Prophet for doing what is sanctioned for him by God. This was God’s way with those who went before him—and the

command of God is a decree determined. <sup>39</sup> Those who conveyed God's messages and and feared Him, and feared none but God: God suffices as a Reckoner. <sup>40</sup> Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is God's Messenger and the seal of the Prophets. God has knowledge of all things.

<sup>41</sup> Believers, remember God often. <sup>42</sup> Glorify Him morning and evening. <sup>43</sup> It is He who sends blessings to you, as do His angels, so that He may bring you out of the darkness into the light. He is most merciful to the believers. <sup>44</sup> On the Day they meet Him, they will be welcomed with the greeting, 'Peace!' He has prepared an honourable reward for them.

<sup>45</sup> O Prophet, We have sent forth you as a witness, as a bearer of good news and a warner. <sup>46</sup> As one who calls people to God by His leave, and guides them like a shining light. <sup>47</sup> Convey to the believers the good news that God has bounteous blessings in store for them. <sup>48</sup> Do not yield to those who deny the truth and the hypocrites: ignore their hurtful talk. Put your trust in God; God is your all sufficient guardian.

<sup>49</sup> Believers, if you marry believing women, and divorce them before the marriage is consummated, you are not required to observe a waiting period: make provision for them and release them in an honourable way.

<sup>50</sup> Prophet, We have made lawful for you the wives to whom you have given their dowers, as well as those whom your right hand possesses from among the

captives of war whom God has bestowed upon you. and [We have made lawful to you] the daughters of your paternal uncles and aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and aunts, who have migrated with you; and any believing woman who gives herself to the Prophet, provided the Prophet wants to marry her. This applies only to you and not to the rest of the believers. We know what We have prescribed for them concerning their wives and those whom their right hands may possess, in order that there may be no blame on you. God is most forgiving, most merciful.

<sup>51</sup> You may defer [the turn of] any of them that you please, and you may receive any you please: and there is no blame on you if you invite one whose [turn] you have set aside. That is more proper, so that their eyes may be cooled, and so that they may not grieve, and so that they will be satisfied with what you have given them. God knows what is in your hearts; and God is all knowing, and forbearing. <sup>52</sup> It is not lawful for you to marry more women after this, nor to change them for other wives, even though their beauty may please you, except any that your right hand possesses. God is watchful over all things.

<sup>53</sup> Believers, do not enter the houses of the Prophet, unless you are invited for a meal. Do not linger until a meal is ready. When you are invited enter and when you have taken your meal, depart. Do not stay on, indulging in conversation. Doing that causes annoyance

to the Prophet, though he is too reticent to tell you so, but God is not reticent with the truth. When you ask [the wives of the Prophet] for anything, ask them from behind a curtain. That will be purer for your hearts as well as their hearts. It is not right for you to cause annoyance to the Messenger of God or for you ever to marry his wives after him. Indeed that would be an enormity in the sight of God. <sup>54</sup> Whether you reveal anything or hide it, God is aware of everything.

<sup>55</sup> There shall be no blame on them for appearing before their fathers, their sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women or those whom their right hands may possess. Women, fear God. God observes all things.

<sup>56</sup> God and His angels bestow blessings on the Prophet. O believers, you also should invoke blessings on him and give him greetings of peace. <sup>57</sup> Those who annoy God and His Messenger shall be cursed by God in this world and in the Hereafter. God has prepared for them a humiliating punishment. <sup>58</sup> Those who affront believing men and believing women without their having deserved it [done any wrong] shall bear the weight of slander and flagrant sin.

<sup>59</sup> O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and wives of the believers that they should draw over themselves some of their outer garments [when in public], so as to be recognized and not harmed. God is most forgiving and most merciful. <sup>60</sup> If the hypocrites



and those who have tainted hearts and the scandal mongers of Madinah do not desist, We shall surely give you authority over them and their days in that city will be numbered. <sup>61</sup> Accursed, wherever they are found, they will be seized and killed.<sup>a</sup> <sup>62</sup> Such has been God's way with those who have gone before them. You shall find no change in the ways of God.

<sup>63</sup> People will ask you about the Hour. Say, 'God alone has knowledge of it. Who knows? The Hour may well be near at hand.' <sup>64</sup> God has rejected those who deny the truth and prepared for them a blazing Fire. <sup>65</sup> There they will live forever, and they will find therein neither friend nor helper. <sup>66</sup> On the Day when their faces are turned over in the Fire, they shall say: 'Oh, would that we had obeyed God, and obeyed the Messenger!' <sup>67</sup> They shall say, 'Our Lord, we paid heed to our leaders and our elders, but they led us away from the right path. <sup>68</sup> Our Lord, give them double punishment and curse them with a mighty curse.'

<sup>69</sup> Believers, do not behave like those who slandered Moses. God cleared him of their allegations. He was honourable in the sight of God. <sup>70</sup> Believers, fear God, and say the right word. <sup>71</sup> He will bless your works for you and forgive you your sins. Whoever obeys God and His Messenger has indeed achieved a great success.

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<sup>a</sup> See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

<sup>72</sup> We offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they refused to bear it, because they were afraid of it. But man bore it: he surely proved unjust and ignorant. <sup>73</sup> God will punish the hypocrites, both men and women, and polytheists, both men and women, but God will turn in His mercy to believing men and believing women; God is most forgiving and most merciful.

### 34. SHEBA (*SABA'*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> Praise be to God, to whom belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain and praise be to Him in the Hereafter. He is the All Wise, the All Aware. <sup>2</sup> He knows whatever goes into the earth and whatever comes forth from it, and whatever descends from heaven and whatever ascends into it. He is the Merciful, the Forgiving.

<sup>3</sup> Those who deny the truth declare, 'The Hour will never come upon us.' Say, 'Yes, by my Lord, it will surely come upon you! Who knows the unseen. Not the smallest particle in the heavens or the earth, or anything less or greater than that escapes Him; all is recorded in an open Book. <sup>4</sup> He will surely reward

those who believe and do good deeds: they shall have forgiveness and an honourable provision.’<sup>5</sup> But those who strive against Our signs, trying to defeat them, will suffer a painful torment.<sup>6</sup> Those who have been given knowledge know that what has been revealed to you from your Lord is the truth, and that it guides to the path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy.

<sup>7</sup> Those who deny the truth say, ‘Shall we point out to you a man who will tell you that when you are broken up into particles, you will be put together again in a new creation?’<sup>8</sup> Has he invented a lie about God, or is he afflicted with madness?’ Indeed no. It is those who do not believe in the Hereafter who will suffer torment, for they have strayed far into error.<sup>9</sup> Do they not observe how they are encompassed by what is before them and what is behind them in heaven and on earth? We could, if We pleased, cause the earth to swallow them up, or cause a piece of the sky to fall upon them. In that certainly there is a sign for every servant of Ours who turns to us.

<sup>10</sup> We bestowed upon David great favour. We said, ‘O mountains and birds! Join with him in celebrating Our praise.’ We softened iron for him, saying,<sup>11</sup> ‘Make full-length coats of mail, measuring the links well. And do righteous deeds. Surely, I see all that you do.’

<sup>12</sup> We subjected the wind to Solomon; its morning course was a month and its evening course a month; and We caused a fount of molten copper to flow for

him. And of the jinn there were some who worked under him, by the command of his Lord. If any one of them turned away from Our command, We would make him taste the punishment of the burning fire.

<sup>13</sup> They made for him whatever he desired: palaces and statues, basins like reservoirs, and large cooking vessels fixed in their places. We said, 'Give thanks, house of David, for few of My servants are truly grateful.'

<sup>14</sup> When We decreed Solomon's death, nothing indicated his death to them except a worm from the earth, which was eating away at his cane. When he fell down, the jinn plainly realized that if they had known what was unseen, they would not have had to continue with such humiliating labour.

<sup>15</sup> For the people of Sheba there was a sign in their homeland: two gardens, one on the right hand and the other on the left. We said to them: 'Eat what your Lord has provided for you, and be grateful. You have a good land and a Lord most forgiving.'<sup>16</sup> Yet they turned away [from the truth]. So We let loose on them a flood from the dam and replaced their two gardens by two others bearing bitter fruits, tamarisks, and a few lote trees.<sup>17</sup> We requited them in that way because of their ingratitude. We requite no one in that way but the ungrateful.

<sup>18</sup> We had placed between them and the towns that We had blessed, other towns situated close to each

other, and We fixed the stages [of journey] between them, saying, 'Travel between them in safety by night and day,' <sup>19</sup> but they said, 'Our Lord! Make the stages of our journeys longer.' Thus they wronged themselves and We made them bygone tales and scattered them throughout the land. There are certainly signs in that for everyone who is steadfast and thankful.

<sup>20</sup> Satan was correct in his assessment of them and they all followed him—except for a band of true believers—<sup>21</sup> but he had no authority over them; We only desired to distinguish those who believed in the Hereafter from those who were in doubt concerning it. Your Lord is watchful over all things.

<sup>22</sup> Call upon those whom you set up beside God! They possess not an atom's weight either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor has He any helpers among them. <sup>23</sup> No intercession avails with Him, except on the part of one to whom He grants permission. When their hearts are relieved of fear, they will enquire from those to whom permission is granted, 'What has your Lord said?' They will answer, 'The truth. He is the Most High, the Supreme One.'

<sup>24</sup> Ask them, 'Who provides sustenance for you from the heavens and the earth?' Say, 'It is God'; either you or we are rightly guided or in manifest error. <sup>25</sup> Say to them, 'You will not be called to account for our sins and we shall not be called to

account for what you do.' <sup>26</sup> Tell them, 'Our Lord will gather us together; then He will judge between us with truth and justice. He is the Just Decider, the All Knowing.' <sup>27</sup> Say to them, 'Show me those whom you have joined with Him as partners. No indeed! For He alone is God, the Mighty One, the Wise One.'

<sup>28</sup> We have sent you as a bearer of glad tidings and a warner for the whole of mankind, but most people have no knowledge. <sup>29</sup> They ask, 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are truthful?' <sup>30</sup> Say, 'A Day has already been appointed for you which you can neither delay nor advance by a single moment.'

<sup>31</sup> Those who deny the truth say, 'We shall believe neither in this scripture nor in [any] that [came] before it.' Could you but see when the wrongdoers will be made to stand before their Lord, casting blame on one another! Those who had been weak will say to the arrogant ones, 'Had it not been for you, we should certainly have been believers!' <sup>32</sup> The haughty ones will then reply to the weak ones, 'Did we keep you away from the guidance when it came to you? Indeed not. You yourselves were the guilty ones.'

<sup>33</sup> Those deemed weak will say to those deemed great, 'No, it was your scheming night and day when you commanded us to reject God and assign equals to Him.' But they will show their remorse when they see the punishment. We will put iron collars round the necks of those who had been bent on denying the

truth. They will be requited only in proportion to their misdeeds.

<sup>34</sup> For it has been thus whenever We sent a warner to any community. Its affluent ones said, 'We reject what you have been sent with.'<sup>35</sup> They say, 'We have more wealth and children; and we are surely not going to be punished.'<sup>36</sup> Say to them, 'My Lord increases the provision for whoever He pleases and decreases it for whoever He pleases; but most people do not know it.'

<sup>37</sup> It is not your wealth or your children that will confer on you nearness to Us. It is those who believe and act righteously who will be doubly rewarded for their good deeds, and will dwell in peace in the high pavilions [of paradise],<sup>38</sup> while those who strive to thwart Our messages, seeking to defeat their purpose, shall be summoned to punishment.<sup>39</sup> Say to them, 'It is my Lord who increases the provision for such of His servants as He pleases, and decreases it for such of them as He pleases. Whatever you spend, He will recompense you for it. He is the best of providers.'

<sup>40</sup> On the Day when He gathers them all together, He will ask the angels, 'Was it you that these people worshipped?'<sup>41</sup> They will say, 'Glory be to You! You are our protector, not them. Indeed no! They worshipped the jinn; it was in them that most of them believed.'

<sup>42</sup> Today you possess no power to benefit or harm one another. We shall say to the wrongdoers, 'Suffer the punishment of the Fire that you persistently denied.'

<sup>43</sup> Whenever Our messages are conveyed to them in all their clarity, they say, 'This [Muhammad] is nothing but a man who wants to turn you away from what your forefathers worshipped.' And they say, 'This [Quran] is nothing but an invented falsehood.' And they who are bent on denying the truth speak thus of the truth when it comes to them, 'This is clearly nothing but plain sorcery!' <sup>44</sup> We had not given them books to study, nor have We sent them a warner before you. <sup>45</sup> Their predecessors also rejected the truth. These have not attained to one tenth of the power that We had bestowed upon the earlier people. But they rejected My messengers. Then how terrible, was My chastisement!

<sup>46</sup> Say to them, 'I exhort you to do one thing: and that is to stand up before God in pairs, or singly, and then reflect. You will thus realize that your companion is not afflicted with madness. He is only a warner, warning you of an impending severe chastisement.' <sup>47</sup> Say, 'If I have asked you for any recompense, you can keep it. It is God alone who will reward me: He is the witness of all things.'

<sup>48</sup> Say to them, 'My Lord hurls forth the Truth [at falsehood] and He is the knower of hidden things.'

<sup>49</sup> Say to them, 'The Truth has come and will endure. Falsehood has no power to originate any good, nor to reproduce it.' <sup>50</sup> Affirm, 'If I am in error, I shall carry the burden thereof; and if I am rightly guided, it is



because of what my Lord has revealed to me. Truly, He is all-hearing and near at hand.’

<sup>51</sup> If you could only see when those who denied the truth are terrified, and there is no way out, and they are seized from a place nearby; <sup>52</sup> then they will say, ‘We now believe in Him.’ But how will they attain to faith, having gone so far away from it? <sup>53</sup> They had rejected it before, while they indulged in conjectures from far away. <sup>54</sup> And between them and their desires a barrier shall be placed as was done in the past with people of their ilk; for they were indeed in disquieting doubt.

## 35. THE CREATOR (*FATIR*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> All praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, who made the angels His messengers, with wings—two, or three, or four pairs. He adds to His creation whatever He wills; for God has the power to will anything. <sup>2</sup> No one can withhold the blessings God bestows upon people, nor can anyone apart from Him bestow whatever He withholds: He is the Almighty, the Wise One.

<sup>3</sup> People, remember God’s favour to you. Is there any creator other than God who provides for you from the heavens and the earth? There is no God save Him.

How then are you turned away from the truth. <sup>4</sup> If they reject you, other messengers have been rejected before you. To God all affairs will be returned.

<sup>5</sup> O Men. The promise of God is true.<sup>a</sup> Let not the life of this world deceive you, nor let the Deceiver deceive you about God. <sup>6</sup> Surely Satan is your enemy: so treat him as an enemy: he calls on his followers only so that they should become inmates of the burning Fire. <sup>7</sup> Those who are bent on denying the truth will have a severe punishment, while those who believe and do good deeds will have forgiveness and a great reward.

<sup>8</sup> Is he whose evil deeds are made alluring to him so that he looks upon them as good, [equal to the man who is rightly guided]? God leaves to stray whom He wills, and guides whom He wills. Do not destroy yourself with grief for them. God has full knowledge of all their actions.

<sup>9</sup> It is God who sends forth the winds so that they raise up the clouds. We drive them to a dead land, and by them bring the earth to life after its death. Such is

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<sup>a</sup> Sudden death, the upheaval of earthquakes and other such incidents shake a man's composure. These, in fact, remind one of Doomsday, before its actual occurrence. But, Satan immediately diverts the attention of the people by saying that these events have natural causes and are not due to any divine intervention.

the Resurrection. <sup>10</sup> If anyone seeks glory, let him know that glory belongs to God alone. Good words ascend to Him and righteous deeds are exalted by Him. Those who plot evil deeds shall be sternly punished and their plotting will come to nothing.

<sup>11</sup> God has created you from dust, then from a drop of semen and then divided you into pairs; no female conceives or gives birth without His knowledge; and no one's life is prolonged or shortened, but it is recorded in a Book. That surely is easy for God.

<sup>12</sup> The two seas are not alike. The one is sweet, thirst-quenching, and pleasant to drink from, while the other is salty and bitter. Yet from each you eat fresh fish and extract ornaments to wear, and in each you see the ships ploughing through the waves so that you may seek His bounty and so that you may feel thankful.

<sup>13</sup> He makes the night pass into the day and He makes the day pass into the night. He has subjected the sun and the moon, each running for an appointed term. Such is God, your Lord: His is the kingdom. Those whom you invoke besides Him do not own so much as the skin of a date stone; <sup>14</sup> if you invoke them, they do not hear your call; and even if they could hear, they would not respond to you. And on the Day of Resurrection they will disown your having associated them with God. No one can tell you [the Truth] like the One who is all knowing.

<sup>15</sup> O men! It is you who stand in need of God—God

is self-sufficient, and praiseworthy—<sup>16</sup> if He so wished, He could take you away and replace you with a new creation; <sup>17</sup> that is not difficult for God. <sup>18</sup> No burden-bearer shall bear another's burden, and if some over-laden soul should call out for someone else to carry his load, not the least portion of it will be borne for him, even though he were a near relative. You can only warn those who fear their Lord in the unseen, and pray regularly. Anyone who purifies himself will benefit greatly from doing so. To God all shall return.

<sup>19</sup> The blind and the sighted are not equal, <sup>20</sup> nor are the darkness and the light; <sup>21</sup> shade and heat are not alike, <sup>22</sup> nor are the living and the dead. God causes whom He will to hear Him, but you cannot make those who are in their graves hear you. <sup>23</sup> You are but a warner—<sup>24</sup> We have sent you with the truth as a bearer of good news and a warner—there is no community to which a warner has not come. <sup>25</sup> If they reject you, so did their predecessors. Messengers came to them with clear signs, with scriptures, and with the enlightening Book, <sup>26</sup> but in the end I seized those who were bent on denying the truth and how terrible was My punishment.

<sup>27</sup> Did you not see how God sent down water from the sky with which We bring forth fruit of diverse colours. In the mountains there are streaks of various shades of white and red, and jet-black rocks; <sup>28</sup> in like

manner, men, beasts, and cattle have their diverse hues too. Only those of His servants, who possess knowledge, fear God. God is almighty and most forgiving.

<sup>29</sup> Those who read the Book of God and attend to their prayers and spend in charity in private and in public out of what We have provided them, may hope for a commerce that suffers no loss. <sup>30</sup> He will give them their full rewards and give them more out of His bounty. He is forgiving and appreciative. <sup>31</sup> The Book which We have revealed to you is the truth confirming previous scriptures. God knows and observes His servants.

<sup>32</sup> We have bestowed the Book on those of Our servants whom We have chosen. Some wrong their own souls, some keep half-way [between right and wrong]; some, by God's leave, excel others in good deeds. This is a great bounty of God: <sup>33</sup> they shall enter the Gardens of Eternity, where they shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and wear silk garments. <sup>34</sup> They will say, 'Praise be to God who has taken away all sorrow from us. Our Lord is forgiving and appreciative. <sup>35</sup> Through His grace He has admitted us to the everlasting Abode, where neither toil nor weariness affects us.'

<sup>36</sup> Those who deny the truth shall remain in the fire of Hell. Death will not be decreed for them, so that they could escape by way of death, nor will its torment

ever be eased for them. Thus do We requite every ungrateful person.<sup>37</sup> There they will cry out, ‘Lord, take us out! We shall do good deeds, and behave differently from the way we used to.’ But He will answer, ‘Did We not make your life long enough to take warning if you were going to? The warner did come to you. So now have a taste of the punishment.’ Wrongdoers will have no supporter.

<sup>38</sup> God knows the hidden reality of the heavens and the earth. He has full knowledge of what is in the hearts of men;<sup>39</sup> it is He who has made you inherit the earth. He who denies Him shall bear the burden of his denial. God’s displeasure with the deniers will only be increased by their denial of the truth, it will only increase their loss.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Say, ‘Have you ever considered your associate gods whom you call on besides God? Show me what it is that they have created on earth. Or have they a share in the creation of the heavens?’ Or have We given them a book so that they may act on evidence from it? Indeed, the wrongdoers’ promises to one

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<sup>a</sup> In this verse, being given ‘the earth to inherit’ (*khalifah*) means that ‘after the advent of the previous nations, you were settled on the earth in their place’. It is the way of Almighty God that He allows a nation the opportunity to settle and make progress on the earth. Then, when it proves itself incapable, He replaces it by another nation.

another are nothing but deception. <sup>41</sup> Surely, God holds the heavens and the earth, lest they should deviate [from their orbits]. Were they to deviate, none could hold them after Him. Surely, He is forbearing and most forgiving.

<sup>42</sup> They swore their most solemn oaths that if a warner should ever come to them, they would be better guided than any other community. But when a warner did come to them, it only increased their aversion, <sup>43</sup> and they behaved arrogantly in the land and plotted evil. But the plotting of evil only rebounds on those who plot. Are they but looking for the way the previous peoples [sinners] were dealt with? You will never find any change in the ways of God; nor will you ever find God's decree averted. <sup>44</sup> Have they not travelled around the earth and seen the fate of those who preceded them? And they were far superior to them in strength. Nothing in the heavens or the earth can ever frustrate God's [plans]. He is all-knowing and all powerful.

<sup>45</sup> If God were to take men to task for their misdeeds, He would not leave a single living creature on the surface of the earth; but He grants them respite until an appointed time; and when their appointed time comes, then they will know that God is indeed observant of all His servants.

36. *YA SIN*

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> *Ya Sin*

<sup>2</sup> By the Quran, full of wisdom, <sup>3</sup> you are indeed one of the messengers <sup>4</sup> on a straight path, <sup>5</sup> with a revelation sent down by the Mighty One, the Merciful, <sup>6</sup> so that you may warn a people whose fathers were not warned and so they are unaware.

<sup>7</sup> The word has been proved true against the greater part of them: they will not believe. <sup>8</sup> We have put yokes round their necks right up to their chins, so that they cannot bow their heads <sup>9</sup> and We have set a barrier before them and a barrier behind them, and We have covered them up so that they cannot see. <sup>10</sup> It makes no difference to them whether you warn them or do not warn them: they will not believe. <sup>11</sup> You can warn only those who would follow the Reminder and fear the Gracious God, unseen. Give them the good news of forgiveness and a noble reward.

<sup>12</sup> We shall surely bring the dead back to life and We record what they send ahead and what they leave behind. We have recorded everything in a clear book.

<sup>13</sup> Recount to them the example of the people to whose town Our messengers came. <sup>14</sup> When We sent



them two messengers, they rejected them both, so We strengthened them with a third. They said, 'Truly, we have been sent to you [by God] as messengers.'<sup>15</sup> They replied, 'You are nothing but mortal men like us and the Merciful God has not revealed anything. You are surely lying.'<sup>16</sup> They said, 'Our Lord knows that we have been sent to you.'<sup>17</sup> And our duty is only to convey the message to you clearly,'<sup>18</sup> but they answered, 'We see an evil omen in you. If you do not stop, we shall certainly stone you, and you will suffer a painful punishment at our hands.'<sup>19</sup> They said, 'Your evil augury be with you! Is it because you are admonished about the truth? Surely, you are a people transgressing all bounds!'

<sup>20</sup> Then, from the furthest part of the city, a man came running. He said, 'My people, follow the messengers.'<sup>21</sup> Follow those who ask no recompense of you and are rightly guided.

<sup>22</sup> 'Why should I not worship Him who has brought me into being, and to whom you shall all be recalled?<sup>23</sup> Shall I take others besides Him as gods? If the Gracious God should intend me any harm, their intercession will be of no avail, nor can they deliver me.<sup>24</sup> In that case I should indeed be in manifest error.<sup>25</sup> Indeed, I have believed in your Lord, so listen to me.'<sup>26</sup> We said to him, 'Enter paradise,' and he exclaimed: 'Would that my people knew<sup>27</sup> how my Lord has forgiven me and placed me among the honoured ones!'

<sup>28</sup> After him We did not send down against his people a host from heaven, nor do We send down such hosts: <sup>29</sup> it was but one great blast and they fell down lifeless. <sup>30</sup> Alas for human beings! They ridicule every messenger that comes to them. <sup>31</sup> Do they not see how many generations We have destroyed before them? Never shall they return to them. <sup>32</sup> All of them, gathered together, will certainly be brought before Us.

<sup>33</sup> There is a sign for them in the lifeless earth. We revive it and We produce grain from it of which they eat. <sup>34</sup> We have placed in it gardens of date palms and vines, and caused springs to gush [forth] from it, <sup>35</sup> so that they may eat its fruit, though it was not their hands that made this. Will they not then be grateful? <sup>36</sup> Holy is He who created all things in pairs; of what the earth grows, and of themselves, and other things which they do not know.

<sup>37</sup> They have a sign in the night: We withdraw from it the [light of] day—and they are left in darkness. <sup>38</sup> The sun, too, follows its determined course laid down for it by the Almighty, the All Knowing. <sup>39</sup> We have ordained phases for the moon until finally it becomes like an old date-stalk. <sup>40</sup> The sun cannot overtake the moon, nor can the night outpace the day: each floats in [its own] orbit.

<sup>41</sup> Another sign for them is that We carried their offspring in the laden Ark. <sup>42</sup> We have created for them the like of it in which they ride. <sup>43</sup> If it were Our will,

We could drown them: then there would be no helper [to hear their cry], nor could they be saved. <sup>44</sup> It is only by Our mercy that they are granted provision for a time.

<sup>45</sup> When they are told, ‘guard yourselves against what is before you and what is behind you, in order that you may be shown mercy,’ [they turn away].

<sup>46</sup> Indeed, not one of your Lord’s signs comes to them without their turning away from it, <sup>47</sup> and when they are told, ‘Give to others out of what God has provided for you,’ those who are bent on denying the truth say to the believers, ‘Why should we feed those whom God could feed if He wanted? You are clearly in error!’

<sup>48</sup> They say, ‘When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are truthful?’ <sup>49</sup> They must be waiting for but one single blast, which will overtake them while they are still disputing. <sup>50</sup> They will have no time to make a will, nor shall they return to their own people. <sup>51</sup> The trumpet will be blown and, at once, they will rise up from their graves, and hasten to their Lord. <sup>52</sup> ‘Woe betide us!’ they will say, ‘Who has roused us from our sleep?’ This is what the Lord of Mercy promised: the messengers spoke the truth! <sup>53</sup> It will be but one blast, and they will all be brought before Us together.

<sup>54</sup> On that Day no soul shall suffer the least injustice. You shall be rewarded only according to your deeds. <sup>55</sup> The people of Paradise shall be happily

occupied on that Day—<sup>56</sup> they and their wives—shall recline on couches in the shade. <sup>57</sup> They shall have fruits therein, and all that they ask for. <sup>58</sup> ‘Peace!’ shall be the greeting from the Merciful Lord.

<sup>59</sup> [And God will say], ‘Separate yourselves from the righteous this Day, you criminals. <sup>60</sup> Did I not enjoin you, sons of Adam, not to worship Satan—for he is your sworn enemy, <sup>61</sup> but to worship Me? Surely, that is a straight path. <sup>62</sup> Yet he led astray a great multitude of you. Why did you not then understand? <sup>63</sup> This is the Hell you were promised. <sup>64</sup> Enter it this Day on account of your denial of the truth.’ <sup>65</sup> Today We shall seal up their mouths and their hands will speak to Us, and their feet will bear witness to their misdeeds.

<sup>66</sup> If it had been Our will, We could have put out their eyes. They would have struggled to find the way, but how could they have seen it? <sup>67</sup> If it had been Our will, We could have paralysed them where they stood, so that they would not be able to go forward or turn back. <sup>68</sup> If We extend anyone’s life, We reverse his development. Can they not use their reason? <sup>69</sup> We have not taught him any poetry nor would it be fitting for him. This is merely a Reminder and a clear Quran <sup>70</sup> to warn all who are truly alive, and to justify the word [God’s verdict] against the deniers.

<sup>71</sup> Do they not see that, among the things which

Our hands have fashioned, We have created for them cattle of which they are the masters, <sup>72</sup> We have subjected these to them, so that some may be used for riding and some for food, <sup>73</sup> some for milk to drink and some from which other benefits may be received? Will they not be grateful? <sup>74</sup> They have set up other gods besides God, hoping to be helped by them, <sup>75</sup> but they are not able to help them: rather they will be brought before God as their allied host. <sup>76</sup> Let not their words grieve you. We have knowledge of all that they conceal and all that they reveal.

<sup>77</sup> Does not man see that We created him from a drop. Yet there he is, flagrantly contentious, <sup>78</sup> producing arguments against Us, and forgetting his own creation. He asks, 'Who can give life back to bones after they have rotted away?' <sup>79</sup> Say, 'He who brought them into being in the first instance will give them life again: He has knowledge of every type of creation: <sup>80</sup> He who produces fire for you from green trees and from this you kindle fire.' <sup>81</sup> Is He who created the heavens and earth not able to create others like these people? Of course He is! He is indeed the Supreme Creator, the All Knowing: <sup>82</sup> when He decrees a thing, He need only say, 'Be!' and it is. <sup>83</sup> So glory be to Him who has control over all things. It is to Him that you will all be brought back.

### 37. THE RANKS (*AL-SAFFAT*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> By those [angels] who range themselves in close ranks <sup>2</sup> and those who drive away [the wicked] with reproof <sup>3</sup> and by the reciters of the Reminder: <sup>4</sup> your God is One, <sup>5</sup> Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything between them; Lord of the Easts.

<sup>6</sup> We have adorned the lowest heaven with the beauty of the planets; <sup>7</sup> and guarded it against all rebellious devils: <sup>8</sup> they cannot overhear the Higher Assembly for they are pelted from every side, <sup>9</sup> driven away, and will suffer eternal punishment. <sup>10</sup> But if anyone does succeed in snatching a glimpse [of such knowledge], he shall be pursued by a piercing flame.

<sup>11</sup> So, ask those who deny the truth if it was harder to create them than all the other things We have created? We created them from sticky clay. <sup>12</sup> No wonder you are surprised as they laugh with scorn. <sup>13</sup> When they are reminded, they do not pay heed, <sup>14</sup> and whenever they see some sign, they ridicule it, <sup>15</sup> saying, 'This is plain sorcery!' <sup>16</sup> 'What! When we have died and become dust and bones, will we be brought back to life again, <sup>17</sup> along with our forefathers?' <sup>18</sup> Say, 'Yes indeed, and you will be brought low.'

<sup>19</sup> There will be but a single blast and then their eyes will open. <sup>20</sup> They will say, 'Woe to us! This is the Day of Reckoning.' <sup>21</sup> [It will be said], 'This is the Day of Judgement which you have been denying.' <sup>22</sup> But We shall say, 'Assemble those who did wrong together with their associates and what they worshipped <sup>23</sup> besides God, and lead them to the path of the Fire; <sup>24</sup> and stop them there for questioning: <sup>25</sup> "But what is the matter with you that you cannot help one another?"'—<sup>26</sup> indeed, on that Day they will surrender themselves.

<sup>27</sup> They will turn upon one another, and question one another. <sup>28</sup> They will say, 'You used to come at us from the right.' <sup>29</sup> They will say, 'No! It was you who would not believe—<sup>30</sup> we had no power over you; but you yourselves were a rebellious people. <sup>31</sup> But now our Lord's word has come true against us: truly, we are bound to taste [the punishment]. <sup>32</sup> We led you astray as we were ourselves astray.' <sup>33</sup> On that Day they will all share the punishment: <sup>34</sup> that is how We deal with evil-doers. <sup>35</sup> When they were told, 'There is no deity but God,' they turned away with disdain, <sup>36</sup> and replied, 'Shall we then give up our deities at the bidding of a mad poet?' <sup>37</sup> 'Surely, he has brought the truth, confirming those who were sent before; <sup>38</sup> you shall surely taste the painful punishment, <sup>39</sup> and be rewarded only according to your deeds.'

<sup>40</sup> But the chosen servants of God; <sup>41</sup> shall have a

known provision—<sup>42</sup> fruits of various kinds; and they shall be honoured, <sup>43</sup> in the Gardens of Bliss, <sup>44</sup> seated on couches, facing one another. <sup>45</sup> A drink will be passed round among them from a flowing spring: <sup>46</sup> white and delicious to those who drink it, <sup>47</sup> causing no headiness or intoxication. <sup>48</sup> With them will be spouses—modest of gaze and beautiful of eye—<sup>49</sup> like closely guarded pearls.

<sup>50</sup> They will turn to one another with questions: <sup>51</sup> one of them will say, ‘I had a friend, <sup>52</sup> who used to ask, “Do you really believe that <sup>53</sup> after we die and become dust and bones, we shall be brought to judgement?”’ <sup>54</sup> Then he will say, ‘Shall we look for him?’ <sup>55</sup> Then he will look and see him in the midst of the Fire. <sup>56</sup> He will say, ‘By God! You almost brought me to ruin! <sup>57</sup> If it had not been for the blessing of my Lord, I would also have been taken to Hell.’ <sup>58</sup> Then he will say [to his blessed companions], ‘Are we not going to die, <sup>59</sup> except for our first death? Are we not going to be punished? <sup>60</sup> Truly, this is a great victory!’ <sup>61</sup> It is for the like of this that all should strive.

<sup>62</sup> Is that better by way of hospitality or the Zaqqum tree, <sup>63</sup> which We have made as a test for the wrongdoers. <sup>64</sup> For it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hellfire: <sup>65</sup> and its fruits are like devils’ heads. <sup>66</sup> They will eat from it and fill their bellies with it; <sup>67</sup> then in addition to it they shall have a draught of boiling water to drink; <sup>68</sup> then surely they shall return



to Hell. <sup>69</sup> They found their fathers had gone astray; <sup>70</sup> so they are rushing to follow in their footsteps. <sup>71</sup> And assuredly many of the ancients went astray before them, <sup>72</sup> though We had sent warners among them. <sup>73</sup> See how those who were warned met their end! <sup>74</sup> Not so the chosen servants of God.

<sup>75</sup> Noah cried to Us, and how excellent was Our response! <sup>76</sup> We saved him and his people from great distress, <sup>77</sup> and We made his offspring the only survivors. <sup>78</sup> We left mention of him among later generations. <sup>79</sup> Peace be upon Noah among all the peoples! <sup>80</sup> That is how We recompense the righteous: <sup>81</sup> he was truly one of Our faithful servants. <sup>82</sup> We drowned the rest.

<sup>83</sup> Abraham was of the same faith: <sup>84</sup> he came to his Lord with a sound heart. <sup>85</sup> ‘Behold!’ he said to his father and to his people, ‘What are these that you worship? <sup>86</sup> Would you serve false deities instead of God? <sup>87</sup> What do you think of the Lord of the Worlds?’

<sup>88</sup> He looked up at the stars. <sup>89</sup> And said, ‘I am sick,’ <sup>90</sup> so they turned their backs on him and went off. <sup>91</sup> He turned to their gods and said, ‘Do you not eat? <sup>92</sup> What is the matter with you that you do not speak?’ <sup>93</sup> then he turned on them, striking them down with his right hand. <sup>94</sup> His people came rushing towards him, <sup>95</sup> but he said, ‘How can you worship things you carve with your own hands, <sup>96</sup> when it is God who has created you and all your handiwork?’ <sup>97</sup> They said, ‘Build a pyre

for him and throw him into the blaze!’<sup>98</sup> They wanted to harm him, but We humiliated them all.<sup>99</sup> He said, ‘I will go to my Lord: He is sure to guide me.’<sup>100</sup> Lord, grant me a righteous son.’<sup>101</sup> We gave him the good news that he would have a patient, forbearing son.

<sup>102</sup> And when he reached the age when he could work with him, he said, ‘O my son, I have seen in a dream that I am sacrificing you. So tell me what you think of it!’ He replied, ‘O my father, do as you are commanded; and God willing, you will find me steadfast.’<sup>103</sup> When they had both submitted to God, and he had laid his son down on his face,<sup>104</sup> We called out to him, ‘Abraham,’<sup>105</sup> you have fulfilled the dream.’ It is thus indeed that We reward those who do good—<sup>106</sup>that surely was a manifest trial—<sup>107</sup> We ransomed him with a great sacrifice,<sup>108</sup> and left him thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among later generations:<sup>109</sup> ‘Peace and salutation to Abraham!’<sup>110</sup> That is how We recompense the righteous:<sup>111</sup> truly, he was one of Our faithful servants.<sup>112</sup> We gave Abraham the good news of Isaac—a prophet and a righteous man—<sup>113</sup> and blessed him and Isaac too: some of their offspring were good, but some clearly sinned against their souls.

<sup>114</sup> We also bestowed Our favour on Moses and Aaron:<sup>115</sup> We saved them and their people from great distress;<sup>116</sup> and We helped them, so that they were victorious;<sup>117</sup> and We gave them the Book which

helps to make things clear; <sup>118</sup> and guided them to the straight path; <sup>119</sup> and We left them thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among later generations: <sup>120</sup> ‘Peace be upon Moses and Aaron!’ <sup>121</sup> This is how We reward those who do good: <sup>122</sup> truly they were among Our faithful servants.

<sup>123</sup> Elijah too was one of the messengers. <sup>124</sup> He said to his people, ‘Have you no fear [of God?]<sup>125</sup> Do you call on Baal and abandon the Best of Creators, <sup>126</sup> God your Lord and Lord of your forefathers?’ <sup>127</sup> but they rejected him, and thus will certainly be called to account; <sup>128</sup> except the chosen servants of God. <sup>129</sup> We left him thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among the following generations—<sup>130</sup> ‘Peace be on Elijah and his people!’ <sup>131</sup> It is thus indeed that We reward those who do good: <sup>132</sup> surely he was one of Our believing servants.

<sup>133</sup> Lot was also one of the messengers. <sup>134</sup> We saved him and all his people—<sup>135</sup> except for an old woman who stayed behind—<sup>136</sup> and We destroyed the rest. <sup>137</sup> You pass by their ruins morning <sup>138</sup> and night: will you not take heed?

<sup>139</sup> Jonah too was one of the messengers. <sup>140</sup> He fled to the overloaded ship. <sup>141</sup> And then they cast lots and he was the one who lost, <sup>142</sup> and the fish swallowed him while he was blaming himself. <sup>143</sup> Had he not been one of those who acknowledge the glory of God, <sup>144</sup> he would certainly have remained inside the fish till the

Day of Resurrection. <sup>145</sup> But We caused him to be cast forth on to the beach, sick as he was, <sup>146</sup> and We caused a gourd tree to grow over him. <sup>147</sup> We sent him as a messenger to a hundred thousand people or more, <sup>148</sup> and they believed in him: so We let them live in ease for a while.

<sup>149</sup> Now ask them whether your Lord has daughters, whereas they have sons. <sup>150</sup> Did We create the angels females, to which they were witnesses? <sup>151</sup> No indeed! It is one of their fabrications when they say: <sup>152</sup> ‘God has begotten children.’ They are truly liars. <sup>153</sup> Has He chosen daughters over sons? <sup>154</sup> What is the matter with you? How do you form your judgement? <sup>155</sup> Will you not then reflect? <sup>156</sup> Or have you clear evidence? <sup>157</sup> Then produce your scriptures, if you are telling the truth.

<sup>158</sup> They claim that He has kinship with the jinn, yet the jinn themselves know that they will be produced before Him [for judgement]. <sup>159</sup> God is far above what they attribute to Him—<sup>160</sup> but not so the true servants of God—<sup>161</sup> neither you nor what you worship <sup>162</sup> can lure away from God any <sup>163</sup> except those who will burn in Hell. <sup>164</sup> [The angels say], ‘Every single one of us has his place assigned: <sup>165</sup> we are those who stand ranged in ranks. <sup>166</sup> We glorify God.’

<sup>167</sup> They used to say, <sup>168</sup> ‘If we had had with us a Book like that of the people of old, <sup>169</sup> we would surely have been God’s chosen servants,’ <sup>170</sup> but they have

rejected it, [the Quran] and they shall soon learn!  
<sup>171</sup> And surely Our word has gone forth respecting Our  
 servants, the messengers: <sup>172</sup> that it is certainly they  
 who will be helped; <sup>173</sup> and that it is Our host that  
 would certainly triumph. <sup>174</sup> So turn away from them  
 for a while. <sup>175</sup> Watch them: they will soon see.

<sup>176</sup> Do they really wish to hasten Our punishment?  
<sup>177</sup> When it descends on their courtyards, how terrible  
 that morning will be for those who were warned!  
<sup>178</sup> So turn away from them for a while. <sup>179</sup> And watch,  
 for they will soon see. <sup>180</sup> Glory be to your Lord: the  
 Lord of Glory is far above what they attribute to Him.  
<sup>181</sup> Peace be upon the Messengers <sup>182</sup> and praise be to  
 God, the Lord of all the Worlds.

### 38. *SAD*

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> *Sad*

By the Quran, full of admonition! <sup>2</sup> Those who deny  
 the truth are steeped in arrogance and hostility. <sup>3</sup> How  
 many generations We have destroyed before them!  
 And they cried out when it was too late to escape.

<sup>4</sup> They are surprised that a warner should come to

them from among themselves. They say, ‘This is a magician, a great liar. <sup>5</sup> Does he make all the deities out to be one God? This is indeed a strange thing.’ <sup>6</sup> Their leaders departed, saying, ‘Walk away! Hold fast to your deities. This is clearly a conspiracy. <sup>7</sup> We have not heard of any such thing in the old religion. This is nothing but a fabrication. <sup>8</sup> Was the message sent only to him out of all of us?’ In fact, they doubt My warning; in fact, they have not yet tasted My punishment.

<sup>9</sup> Do they possess the treasures of the mercy of your Lord, the Mighty, the Great Bestower? <sup>10</sup> Have they control over heavens and earth and whatever [lies] between them? Then let them climb up to heaven by ropes: <sup>11</sup> this host too, among other hosts, is bound to suffer defeat. <sup>12</sup> Before them the people of Noah denied the truth, as did the ‘Ad and Pharaoh of the Stakes, <sup>13</sup> and the tribe of Thamud, and the people of Lot, and the dwellers of the Wood—these were the confederates. <sup>14</sup> There was not one of them but treated their messengers as liars, so My punishment rightly overtook them: <sup>15</sup> they have only to wait for one single blast [of punishment]: it shall not be delayed by one whit. <sup>16</sup> They say: ‘Our Lord! Hasten on for us our fate before the Day of Reckoning.’

<sup>17</sup> Bear with their words patiently. Remember Our servant David, a man of strength who always turned to Us: <sup>18</sup> We made the mountains join him in glorifying

Us at sunset and sunrise; <sup>19</sup> and the birds, too, in flocks, all turned to Him. <sup>20</sup> We made his kingdom strong, and bestowed upon him wisdom and sagacity in judgement.

<sup>21</sup> Have you heard the story of the disputants who entered his chamber by climbing over the wall?

<sup>22</sup> When they reached David, he took fright, but they said, 'Do not be afraid. We are two disputants, one of whom has wronged the other: judge between us fairly—do not be unjust—and guide us to the right path.

<sup>23</sup> 'This brother of mine has ninety-nine ewes and I have only one. He said, "Let me have charge of it," and got the better of me with his words.' <sup>24</sup> David said, 'He has certainly wronged you by demanding that your ewe be added to his ewes! Thus many partners wrong one another—[all] save those who believe [in God] and do righteous deeds: but how few are they!' And [suddenly] David understood that We were only putting him to the test, and so he asked his Lord to forgive him his sins; he fell to his knees, and turned to Him in repentance. <sup>25</sup> We forgave him his sins. His reward will be nearness to Us, a good place to return to.

<sup>26</sup> We said, 'David, We have given you mastery over the land. Judge fairly between people. Do not follow your desires, lest they divert you from God's path: those who wander from His path will have a severe

punishment, because they ignore the Day of Reckoning.’

<sup>27</sup> We did not create heaven and earth and all that is between them in vain. That is the opinion of those who deny the truth. Woe betide those who deny the truth, when they are cast into the Fire—<sup>28</sup> shall We treat those who believe and do good works the same as those who spread corruption in the land; shall We treat the pious the same as the wicked? <sup>29</sup> This is a blessed Book which We sent down to you [Muhammad], for people to ponder over its messages, and for those with understanding to take heed.

<sup>30</sup> We gave David Solomon. He was an excellent servant who always turned to God. <sup>31</sup> When well-bred horses, which were fleet of foot were paraded before him near the close of day, <sup>32</sup> he said, ‘I have put the love of good things above the remembrance of my Lord’—until [the sun] disappeared behind its veil and the horses disappeared from sight—<sup>33</sup> ‘Bring them back to me!’—[he said] and began to stroke their legs and their necks.

<sup>34</sup> We tried Solomon by placing upon his throne a [lifeless] body; and thereupon he turned towards Us. <sup>35</sup> He prayed, ‘Lord forgive me! Grant me such power as no one after me will have—You are the Most Generous Provider.’ <sup>36</sup> Then We subjected the wind to his power, so that it blew gently, at his behest, wherever he willed—<sup>37</sup> and also the jinn—every kind



of builder and diver <sup>38</sup> and others chained in fetters. <sup>39</sup> We said: ‘This is Our gift, so give or withhold as you wish without reckoning.’ <sup>40</sup> His reward will be nearness to Us, a good place to return to.

<sup>41</sup> Bring to mind Our servant Job who cried to his Lord, ‘Satan has afflicted me with distress and suffering.’ <sup>42</sup> We said, ‘Stamp your foot! Here is cool water for you to wash in and drink,’ <sup>43</sup> We restored his family to him, doubling their number as an act of grace from Us, and as a reminder to all who are endowed with insight. <sup>44</sup> We said to Him, ‘Take a handful of twigs in your hand and strike with that but do not break your oath.’ We found him steadfast. What an excellent servant! He turned constantly to his Lord.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Remember Our servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—possessors of strength and vision. <sup>46</sup> We chose them for a special [purpose]—proclaiming the message of the Hereafter: <sup>47</sup> and, in Our sight they were indeed among the select, the truly good! <sup>48</sup> Remember [Our

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<sup>a</sup> Job (Ayyub) was an Israeli prophet probably some time in the ninth century B.C. According to the Bible (Job, 1:20-22), he was initially very rich. He was blessed with farms, cattle, houses, children, etc., to such an extent that it was said that nobody was his peer in the entire East. In spite of this, however, Job was a very grateful and faithful person. His life set an example of how a person may remain humble and modest, in spite of being blessed with great wealth and honour.

servants] Ishmael, Elisha, and Dhu'l-Kifl. Each of them was among the just.

<sup>49</sup> This is a Reminder. The righteous shall have a good place to return to: <sup>50</sup> the Gardens of eternity with gates thrown wide open to them. <sup>51</sup> They will be comfortably seated; reclining, they will call for abundant fruit and drink; <sup>52</sup> with them, they will have pure, modest women of an equal age. <sup>53</sup> This is what you were promised on the Day of Reckoning: <sup>54</sup> Our provision for you will never be exhausted.

<sup>55</sup> But the arrogant will have the worst return: <sup>56</sup> they will burn, in Hell, an evil resting place—<sup>57</sup> all this will be theirs; let them taste it—a scalding, dark, foul fluid, <sup>58</sup> and other such torments. <sup>59</sup> [And they will say to one another: ‘Do you see] this crowd of people rushing headlong to join you?’ ‘No welcome to them! Indeed, they are headed for the fire!’ <sup>60</sup> They will say to them, ‘You are not welcome! It was you who brought this on us, an evil place to stay,’ <sup>61</sup> adding, ‘Our Lord, give double punishment to those who brought this upon us.’ <sup>62</sup> And they will say, ‘How is it that we do not see [here any of the] men whom we used to count among the wicked, <sup>63</sup> [and] whom we made the target of our derision? Or are they here, and our eyes have missed them?’ <sup>64</sup> All this is certainly true—the inhabitants of the Fire will blame one another in this way.

<sup>65</sup> Say, [Prophet], ‘I am only a warner. There is no god but God, the One, the All-Powerful, <sup>66</sup> Lord of the

heavens and earth and everything between them, the Almighty, the Most Forgiving.’ <sup>67</sup> Say, ‘This is momentous news, <sup>68</sup> yet you ignore it. <sup>69</sup> I had no knowledge of the Exalted Assembly when they argued [against the creation of man]: <sup>70</sup> it has only been revealed to me that I am a plain warner.’

<sup>71</sup> Your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am about to create a human being out of clay; <sup>72</sup> and when I have formed him fully and breathed My spirit into him, prostrate yourselves before him.’ <sup>73</sup> Thereupon the angels prostrated themselves, all of them together, <sup>74</sup> but not Satan, who was too proud. He became one of those who deny the truth. <sup>75</sup> God said, ‘Satan, what prevented you from prostrating yourself to what I created with My own Hands? Were you overcome by arrogance, or are you of those who think [only] of themselves as exalted?’ <sup>76</sup> Satan replied, ‘I am better than him. You created me from fire, but You created him from clay.’ <sup>77</sup> ‘Begone! You are accursed: <sup>78</sup> My curse will remain upon you till the Day of Judgement!’

<sup>79</sup> But Satan said, ‘My Lord, grant me respite until the Day of Resurrection,’ <sup>80</sup> so He said, ‘You are granted respite <sup>81</sup> till the Appointed Day.’ <sup>82</sup> He said, ‘By Your Honour, I will lead all of them astray, <sup>83</sup> except for those among them who are Your chosen servants.’ <sup>84</sup> God said, ‘This is the truth—I speak only the truth—<sup>85</sup> I will fill up Hell with you and every one of them who follows you.’

<sup>86</sup> Say, 'I do not ask you for any recompense for this, nor am I a man of false pretensions: <sup>87</sup> this is simply an admonition to mankind, <sup>88</sup> you shall before long know its truth.'

## 39. THE CROWDS (*AL-ZUMAR*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> This Book is sent down by God the Mighty, the Wise.

<sup>2</sup> It is We who sent down the Book to you [Prophet] with the Truth, so worship God with your total devotion: <sup>3</sup> it is to God alone that sincere obedience is due. And those who take other guardians besides Him say, 'We serve them only that they may bring us nearer to God.' Surely, God will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. God does not guide anyone who is bent on lying and is a disbelieving liar.

<sup>4</sup> If God had willed to take a son He could have chosen anyone He pleased out of His creation: but Glory be to Him! [He is above such things.] He is God, the One, the Omnipotent. <sup>5</sup> He created the heavens and the earth for a true purpose; He causes the night to succeed the day and the day to succeed the night; He has subjected the sun and moon, so that they run their courses for an appointed time; He is truly the Mighty, the Forgiving.

<sup>6</sup> He created you from a single soul, then produced its spouse from it, and He has provided for you eight heads of cattle in pairs. He creates you stage by stage in your mothers' wombs in a threefold darkness. Such is God, your Lord. Sovereignty is His. There is no god but Him. So what has made you turn away?

<sup>7</sup> If you are ungrateful, remember that God has no need of you. He is not pleased by ingratitude in His servants; if you are grateful, He is pleased [to see] it in you. No soul shall bear another's burden. You will return to your Lord in the end and He will declare to you what you have done: He knows well what is in the hearts of men.

<sup>8</sup> When man suffers some affliction, he prays to his Lord and turns to Him in penitence, but once he has been granted a favour from God, he forgets the One he had been praying to and sets up rivals to God, to make others stray from His path. Say, 'Enjoy your unbelief for a little while: you will be one of the inmates of the Fire.' <sup>9</sup> Is he who prays devoutly to God in the hours of the night, prostrating himself and standing in prayer, who is ever mindful of the life to come and hopes for the mercy of his Lord [like one who does not]? Say, 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?' Truly, only those endowed with understanding will take heed.

<sup>10</sup> Say, '[God says] O My servants who have believed, fear your Lord. For those who do good in this

world will have a good reward—and God's earth is spacious. Truly, those who persevere patiently will be requited without measure.'

<sup>11</sup> Say, 'I have been commanded to serve God, dedicating my worship entirely to Him. <sup>12</sup> I have been commanded to be the first to submit.' <sup>13</sup> Say, 'I fear, if I disobey my Lord, the punishment of a Terrible Day.'

<sup>14</sup> Say, 'It is God I serve, sincere in my faith in Him alone—<sup>15</sup> as for yourselves, worship anything you please besides Him!' Say, 'The real losers will be those who lose themselves and all their kith and kin on the Day of Resurrection. That is the [most] obvious loss.

<sup>16</sup> They will have sheets of fire above them and sheets of fire beneath them.' That is how God puts fear into the hearts of His servants. Fear me, then, My servants.

<sup>17</sup> There is good news for those who shun the worship of false deities and turn to God, so give good news to My servants, <sup>18</sup> who listen to what is said and follow what is best in it. These are the ones God has guided; these are the people endowed with understanding.

<sup>19</sup> But what of him against whom the sentence of punishment is justified? Can you rescue one who is already in the Fire? <sup>20</sup> But for those who truly feared their Lord, there will be tall mansions, built up storey upon storey, beneath which there will be rivers flowing. This is God's promise: God never fails in His promise.

<sup>21</sup> Have you not seen that God sends down water from the sky, guides it to form springs in the earth, and then, with it, brings forth vegetation of various colours, which later withers, turns yellow before your eyes, and then He makes it crumble away? There is truly a reminder in this for those who possess understanding.<sup>a</sup> <sup>22</sup> Anyone whose heart God has opened up to Islam possesses a light from his Lord. But woe betide those whose hearts have been hardened against the remembrance of God! Such people are in obvious error.

<sup>23</sup> God has sent down the best Message: a Scripture that is consimilar and oft-repeated: that causes the skins of those in awe of their Lord to creep. Then their skins and their hearts soften at the mention of God: such is God's guidance. He bestows it upon whoever He will; but no one can guide those whom God leaves to stray.

<sup>24</sup> What about the one who will have only his bare face to protect him from his terrible punishment on the

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<sup>a</sup> The wonderful system of rains on the earth, the resulting growth of greenery and the preparations for harvesting, all these events have countless meaningful lessons in them. But, these lessons are available only to those who by nature go deep into things. Those who keep their natural capabilities alive and by utilising them give deep consideration to the things of the world, will have their minds filled with the deep realisation (*ma 'rifah*) of God.

Day of Resurrection? The evil-doers will be told, 'Taste what you have earned.'<sup>25</sup> Those before them also denied the truth, and the punishment fell on them from where they did not expect.<sup>26</sup> God gave them a taste of humiliation in the life of this world, but the punishment of the Hereafter is greater, if they only knew it.

<sup>27</sup> We have set forth to men all kinds of parables in this Quran so that they may take heed:<sup>28</sup> a Quran in Arabic, free from any ambiguity—so that people may be mindful.<sup>29</sup> God sets forth a parable: there are two men—one belonging to many masters, all disagreeing with one another, and the other belonging entirely to one master: are those two equal in comparison? Praise be to God! But most of them have no knowledge.<sup>30</sup> You will die and they too will die,<sup>31</sup> and, then on the Day of Resurrection you shall place your dispute before your Sustainer.

<sup>32</sup> Who, then, is more unjust than he who lies about God and rejects the truth when it comes to him? Is not Hell an abode for those who deny the truth?<sup>33</sup> He who brings the truth, and he who testifies to it as such—those are surely the people who are God-fearing:<sup>34</sup> they will have everything they wish for from their Lord. Such is the reward of those who do good:<sup>35</sup> God will efface their worst deeds from their record and give them their reward in accordance with the best of their actions.



<sup>36</sup> Is God not enough for His servant? Yet they try to frighten you with other [deities] besides Him! For such as God lets go astray, there will be no guide; <sup>37</sup> but he whom God guides cannot be led astray by anyone. Is God not mighty and capable of retribution?

<sup>38</sup> If you ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they will surely reply, ‘God.’ Say, ‘Consider those you invoke besides Him: if God wished to harm me, could they undo that harm? Or if God wished to show me mercy, could they withhold that mercy?’ Say, ‘God is sufficient for me. In Him let the faithful put their trust.’ <sup>39</sup> Say, ‘My people, do whatever is in your power—and so will I. Soon you shall come to know <sup>40</sup> who will suffer a humiliating torment and on whom will descend an everlasting punishment.’ <sup>41</sup> [O Prophet!] We have sent down to you the Book for mankind with the truth. Then whoever adopts the right way, will do so for his own soul, and whoever goes astray, injures his own soul. You are not their custodian.

<sup>42</sup> It is God who takes away men’s souls upon their death and the souls of the living during their sleep. Then He withholds those for whom He has ordained death and restores the souls of others for an appointed term. There are certainly signs in this for those who reflect.

<sup>43</sup> Have they taken others for intercessors besides God? Say, ‘Even though they have no power nor understanding?’ <sup>44</sup> Say, ‘Intercession is entirely in the

hands of God. He controls the heavens and the earth; you will all return to Him.’<sup>45</sup> When God alone is named, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion, but when others are named instead of Him, they are filled with joy.<sup>46</sup> Say, ‘O God! Originator of the heavens and earth! Knower of all that is hidden and all that is manifest, You will judge between Your servants regarding their differences.’<sup>47</sup> If the wrongdoers possessed all that is on earth, and twice as much, they would offer it to redeem themselves from the awful suffering on the Day of Resurrection. For God will show them what they had never anticipated,<sup>48</sup> the evil of their deeds will become apparent to them, and they will be overwhelmed by that which they used to mock.

<sup>49</sup> When affliction befalls man, he appeals to Us; but when We bestow a favour upon him he says, ‘All this has been given to me because of my own knowledge.’ By no means! It is a trial: yet most of them do not realize it.<sup>50</sup> Those who preceded them said the same thing but they gained nothing from what they did;<sup>51</sup> the very evil of their deeds recoiled upon them; today’s wrongdoers shall also have the evil of their deeds recoil upon them: they will never be able to frustrate [Our plan].<sup>52</sup> Do they not know that God grants abundant sustenance to anyone He wishes and gives sparingly to anyone He pleases? Surely there are signs in this for those who believe.<sup>53</sup> Say, [God says]

‘O My servants, who have committed excesses against their own souls, do not despair of God’s mercy, for God surely forgives all sins. He is truly the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful. <sup>54</sup> Turn to your Lord and submit to Him before His scourge overtakes you, for then you shall not be helped.

<sup>55</sup> Follow the best aspect of what is sent down to you from your Lord, before the scourge comes upon you unawares, <sup>56</sup> lest anyone should say, “Alas for me, for having neglected what is due to God, and having been one of those who scoffed!” <sup>57</sup> Or, “If only God had guided me, I would surely have joined the God-fearing.” <sup>58</sup> Or, he may say as he sees the punishment, “Would that I had a second chance, so that I could be among the doers of good.” <sup>59</sup> No indeed! My revelations did come to you, but you rejected them: you showed arrogance, and were among those who deny the truth.’

<sup>60</sup> On the Day of Resurrection you will see those who uttered falsehoods about God with their faces blackened. Is there not enough room in Hell for the arrogant? <sup>61</sup> But God will deliver them who feared Him to their place of salvation. No evil shall touch them, nor shall they grieve.

<sup>62</sup> God is the Creator of all things, He has charge of everything; <sup>63</sup> the keys of the heavens and the earth belong to Him. Those who deny God’s revelations will surely be the losers. <sup>64</sup> Say, ‘Ignorant men! Would you bid me worship someone other than God?’ <sup>65</sup> It has

already been revealed to you and to those who have gone before you that if you ascribe any partner to God, all your works will come to nothing, and you will surely be among the losers. <sup>66</sup> Therefore, you should worship God alone and be among the thankful.

<sup>67</sup> No just estimate have they made of God, such as is due to Him. But on the Day of Resurrection, the whole earth will lie within His grasp, while heaven will be folded up in His right hand—Glory be to Him! Exalted is He above all that they associate with Him—<sup>68</sup> the Trumpet shall be blown and whoever is in heaven and whoever is on earth will fall down in a swoon, except those who shall be spared by God. Then the Trumpet will be blown again and they shall rise and gaze around them. <sup>69</sup> The earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the Book will be laid open; the prophets and witnesses will be brought in; and judgement will be passed on them with fairness. And none shall be wronged. <sup>70</sup> Every soul will be repaid in full for what it has done. He is fully aware of all that they did.

<sup>71</sup> Those who rejected the truth will be led to Hell in throngs. When they reach it, its gates will be opened and its keepers will say to them, ‘Have messengers not come to you from among yourselves, who conveyed to you the revelations of your Lord and warned you about meeting [Him] on this Day?’ They will answer, ‘Yes, they did come.’ But the decree of punishment has

proved true against the deniers of the truth. <sup>72</sup> They will be told, 'Enter the gates of Hell, to stay therein forever.' What an evil dwelling place for the haughty.

<sup>73</sup> But those who fear their Lord will be led in groups towards Paradise. When they reach it, its gate will be opened, and its keepers will say to them, 'Peace be upon you. You have done well, enter Paradise and dwell in it forever,' <sup>74</sup> and they will say, 'Praise be to God who has fulfilled His promise to us and made us the inheritors of this land, letting us settle in the Garden wherever we want.' How excellent is the reward of those who labour! <sup>75</sup> You shall see the angels circling about the throne, glorifying their Lord with praise. And judgement will have been passed in justice on all and it will be said, 'Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe!'

## 40. THE FORGIVER (*GHAFIR*)

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

<sup>1</sup> *Ha Mim*

<sup>2</sup> This Book is revealed by God, the Almighty, the All Knowing. <sup>3</sup> The Forgiver of sin and the Acceptor of repentance, who is severe in punishment and Infinite

in His Bounty. There is no God but Him. All shall return to Him.

<sup>4</sup> Only those who deny the truth dispute God's signs. Do not let their activity in the land deceive you. <sup>5</sup> The people of Noah and later factions also rejected the truth and every community plotted against the messenger sent to them, aiming to lay hands on him, and they contended [against his message] with fallacious arguments, so that they might defeat the truth, therefore I seized them. How terrible was My punishment. <sup>6</sup> Thus has the word of your Lord come true against the deniers; they shall be the inmates of the Fire.

<sup>7</sup> Those who bear the Throne, and those who are around it, glorify their Lord with His praise, and believe in Him. They ask forgiveness for those who believe, saying, 'Our Lord, You embrace all things in mercy and knowledge. Forgive those who turn to You and follow Your path. Save them from the punishment of Hell <sup>8</sup> and admit them, Lord, to the Eternal Garden You have promised to them, together with their righteous ancestors, spouses, and offspring: You alone are the Almighty; the All Wise. <sup>9</sup> Protect them from all evil deeds: those You protect from [the punishment for] evil deeds will receive Your mercy—that is the supreme success.'

<sup>10</sup> Those who deny the truth will be told, 'God's abhorrence of you is greater than your hatred of

yourselves. You were called to the faith but you denied it.’ <sup>11</sup> They will say, ‘Our Lord! Twice You have made us die, and twice You have given us life! Now we have confessed our sins: is there any way out [of this]?’ <sup>12</sup> [They will be told], ‘This is because when God alone was invoked you denied the truth, yet when others were associated with Him you believed in them.’ Judgement rests with God, the Most High, the Most Great.

<sup>13</sup> It is He who shows you His signs, and sends down provision for you from heaven; but none pays heed except the repentant. <sup>14</sup> Therefore call upon God, making faith pure for Him, averse as the deniers of the truth may be to it: <sup>15</sup> Exalted and throned on high, He lets the Spirit descend at His behest upon whichever of His servants He will, so that he may warn of the Day of Meeting, <sup>16</sup> the Day when they shall rise up [from their graves] and nothing about them will be hidden from God. ‘To whom shall the kingdom belong that Day?’ It shall belong to God, the One, the All Powerful. <sup>17</sup> That Day every soul shall be requited for what it has earned. On that Day none shall be wronged. And God is swift in reckoning.

<sup>18</sup> [O Prophet] forewarn them of the approaching Day, when hearts will leap up to the throats and choke them; when the wrongdoers will have no friend, nor any intercessor who will be listened to, <sup>19</sup> [for] He is aware of the [most] stealthy glance, and of all that the

hearts conceal. <sup>20</sup> God will judge with [justice and] truth: but those whom they invoke besides Him, have no power to judge at all. Surely, God is all hearing, all seeing.

<sup>21</sup> Have they not travelled through the land and seen what was the end of those who have gone before them? They were stronger than them and made a more impressive mark upon the land, yet God destroyed them for their sins—they had no one to defend them against Him—<sup>22</sup> that was because their messengers came to them with clear signs but they rejected them. So God seized them: He is powerful, severe in punishment.

<sup>23</sup> We sent Moses with Our signs and clear authority <sup>24</sup> to Pharaoh, Haman and Korah. But they said, ‘A magician, a liar.’ <sup>25</sup> When he came to them with the truth from Us, they said, ‘Slay the sons of those who believe with him and spare only their daughters’—the schemes of those who denied the truth were futile.

<sup>26</sup> Pharaoh said, ‘Let me kill Moses—let him call upon his Lord—I fear that he may cause you to change your religion, or that he may cause disorder in the land.’ <sup>27</sup> Moses replied, ‘I seek refuge with my Lord and your Lord from every arrogant person who does not believe in the Day of Reckoning.’

<sup>28</sup> A believer, a man from among the people of Pharaoh, who had concealed his faith, said, ‘Would you slay a man merely because he says, “My Lord is



God.” He has brought you clear signs from your Lord, and if he is lying, the sin of his will be on his own head; but if he is truthful, a part of that of which he warns you will surely befall you. Certainly, God does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar. <sup>29</sup> My people! Yours is the kingdom today, you have dominion in the land; but who will help us against the scourge of God if it befalls us?’ But Pharaoh said, ‘I point out to you only that which I consider right; and I guide you to the right path.’

<sup>30</sup> The believer said, ‘My people! I fear for you a fate like that of the people of old: <sup>31</sup> like the fate of the people of Noah, ‘Ad, Thamud, and those who came after them—God never wills injustice on His creatures. <sup>32</sup> My people, I fear for you the Day you will cry out to one another, <sup>33</sup> the Day when you will [wish to] turn your backs and flee, having none to defend you against God: for he whom God lets go astray can never find any guide.

<sup>34</sup> Joseph came to you before with clear signs, but you never ceased to doubt the message he brought you. When he died, you said, “God will not send another messenger.”” In this way God leaves the transgressors and doubters to go astray—<sup>35</sup> those who dispute God’s revelations without any authority are doing something that is greatly abhorrent to God and to the believers. That is how God seals up the heart of every arrogant oppressor.

<sup>36</sup> Pharaoh said, ‘O Haman, build for me a lofty building so that I may gain access <sup>37</sup> to the heavens, so that I may look upon the God of Moses: I am convinced that he is a liar!’ That is how Pharaoh’s evil actions were made to look fair in the eyes of Pharaoh, and he was turned away from the path [of truth]. Pharaoh’s scheming led to nothing but ruin.

<sup>38</sup> The believer said, ‘My people, follow me! I will guide you to the right path. <sup>39</sup> O my people, the life of this world is only a temporary provision; and the Hereafter is the permanent abode. <sup>40</sup> Whoever does evil will be requited with evil; but whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, will enter the Garden; where they will be provided for without measure. <sup>41</sup> My people! How is it that I call you to salvation, while you call me to the Fire? <sup>42</sup> You call upon me to deny God and to serve other deities about which I have no knowledge, while I call you to the Almighty, the Forgiver. <sup>43</sup> Surely that to which you call me has no say in this world or in the life to come, that our return is to God alone, and that the transgressors shall be the inmates of the Fire. <sup>44</sup> Soon you will remember what I say to you! I shall entrust my affair to God, for God is observant of all [His] servants.’

<sup>45</sup> Thus, God delivered him from the evils which they plotted, and the companions of Pharaoh themselves were encompassed by a dreadful scourge; <sup>46</sup> they will be brought before the Fire morning and evening. On

the Day the Hour comes, [a voice will cry], ‘Mete out to Pharaoh’s people the harshest punishment!’

<sup>47</sup> When they dispute with one another in the Fire, the weak will say to those who deemed themselves mighty, ‘We were your followers; will you then relieve us of some of the Fire?’ <sup>48</sup> But those who had been arrogant will say, ‘We are all in this together. God has judged between His servants.’ <sup>49</sup> Those in the Fire will say to its keepers, ‘Implore your Lord to relieve our torment for one day,’ <sup>50</sup> but they will say, ‘Did not your messengers come to you with clear signs?’ They will say, ‘Yes.’ The keepers will say, ‘Then pray [for help] yourselves.’ But the prayer of those who deny the truth is of no avail.

<sup>51</sup> Most surely We help our messengers, and those who believe, in the life of this world and on the Day when all the witnesses will stand up. <sup>52</sup> The Day when their excuses will be of no avail to the wrongdoers, the curse shall be their lot and they will have the most evil abode. <sup>53</sup> We gave Moses Our guidance, and made the Children of Israel the inheritors of the Book—<sup>54</sup> a guide and an admonition to men of understanding. <sup>55</sup> So be patient, for what God has promised is sure to come. Ask forgiveness for your sins; praise your Lord morning and evening.

<sup>56</sup> As for those who, with no authority to do so, dispute God’s messages, there is nothing in their hearts but a feeling of greatness which they will never

attain. Seek refuge in God, for He is the All Hearing, the All Seeing.<sup>57</sup> Certainly, the creation of the heavens and the earth is greater than the creation of mankind; but most people do not know this.<sup>58</sup> The blind and the sighted are not equal, just as those who believe and do good works and those who do evil are not equal: how seldom you reflect!<sup>59</sup> The Final Hour is sure to come, without doubt, but most people do not believe.

<sup>60</sup> Your Lord has said, ‘Call on Me, and I will answer your prayers.’ But those who are too arrogant to worship Me will certainly enter Hell, in disgrace.<sup>61</sup> It is God who has given you the night in which to rest and the day in which to see. God is truly bountiful to people, but most people do not give thanks.<sup>62</sup> Such is God, your Lord, the Creator of all things. There is no god but He. How then are you being turned away [from Him]?<sup>63</sup> Thus, indeed, those who deny the signs of God turn away from Him.

<sup>64</sup> It is God who has given you the earth for a resting place and the heavens for a canopy. He shaped you, formed you well, and provided you with good things. Such is God, your Lord, so glory be to Him, the Lord of the Universe.<sup>65</sup> He is the Living One. There is no deity save Him. So pray to Him, making religion pure for Him [only]. Praise be to God, the Lord of the Universe!

<sup>66</sup> Say, ‘I have been forbidden to invoke those whom you invoke besides God—seeing that clear signs have

come to me from my Lord; and I have been commanded to submit to the Lord of the Universe.’<sup>67</sup> It is He who created you from dust, then from a drop of fluid, then from a tiny, clinging form, then He brought you forth as infants, then He allowed you to reach maturity, then He let you grow old—though some of you die sooner—and reach your appointed term so that you may reflect.<sup>68</sup> It is He who gives life and death, and when He ordains a thing, He says only, ‘Be!’ and it is.

<sup>69</sup> Do you not see how those who dispute God’s signs, are turned away from the right path—<sup>70</sup> those who reject the Book and that with which We sent Our messengers shall soon know—<sup>71</sup> when, with iron collars and chains around their necks, they are dragged<sup>72</sup> into the boiling water and then are thrown into the Fire,<sup>73</sup> and then they will be asked, ‘Where are those whom you associated [with God]?’<sup>74</sup> They will say, ‘They have been lost to us; nay, we did not invoke anything before [that had real existence].’ Thus God leaves the deniers of the truth to stray;<sup>75</sup> that is because you exulted in the land without justification and because you behaved insolently.<sup>76</sup> Enter the gates of Hell to stay therein forever. The abode of the arrogant is evil.

<sup>77</sup> So be patient [Prophet], for God’s promise is true: whether We show you part of what We have promised them in this life, or cause you to die first, it is to Us that they will be recalled.

<sup>78</sup> Before your time We sent other messengers: of them there are some whose story We have related to you, and some whose story We have not related to you. It was not [possible] for any messenger to bring a sign except by the leave of God: but when the command of God was issued, the matter was decided in truth and justice. There and then, those who stood on falsehoods perished.

<sup>79</sup> It is God who provides livestock for you, some for riding and some for your food: <sup>80</sup> you have other benefits in them too. You can reach any destination you wish on them: they carry you by land, as ships carry you on the sea. <sup>81</sup> He shows you His signs; which then of the signs of God will you deny?

<sup>82</sup> Have they not travelled in the land to see the fate of those who went before them? They were more numerous and mightier and left greater traces of their power on the earth; yet all that they accomplished was of no avail to them. <sup>83</sup> When messengers came to them with clear signs, they revelled in whatever knowledge they had, and so they were engulfed by the very punishment they mocked: <sup>84</sup> but when they saw Our punishment, they said, ‘We believe in God—the One God—and we reject the partners we used to associate with Him,’ <sup>85</sup> but believing after seeing Our punishment did not benefit them at all: this is the law of God to deal with His creatures, and thus the disbelievers were the losers.