

41. REVELATIONS WELL EXPOUNDED (*FUSSILAT*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim*

² A revelation from [God], the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful—³ a Book whose revelations are well expounded, an Arabic Quran for people who possess knowledge, ⁴ proclaiming good news and a warning. Yet most of them turn away and so do not listen. ⁵ And they say, ‘Our hearts are encased against that to which you call us, and there is a heaviness in our ears, and there is a barrier between us, so do as you will and so shall we.’

⁶ Say, ‘I am only a human being like yourselves. It has been revealed to me that your God is One God. So take the straight path to Him and ask His forgiveness.’ Woe to those who associate others with Him, ⁷ who do not pay the *zakat*, and who deny the Hereafter. ⁸ ‘The ones who believe and perform good deeds shall have a reward which will never be withheld from them.’^a

^a ‘So take the straight path to Him’ means ‘keep your worship purely for God’, i.e. your whole attention should be directed towards God; the sole object of your prayers and worship should be the one and only God.

⁹ Say, ‘What! Do you indeed deny Him who created the earth in two Days [periods] and do you set up equals with Him? He is the Lord of the Universe.’

¹⁰ He placed firm mountains on the earth, and blessed it. He measured out its means of sustenance all in four Days; this is for those who ask for it. ¹¹ Then He turned to heaven when it was vapour and said to it and to the earth, ‘Come willingly or unwillingly.’ They both said, ‘We come willingly,’ ¹² and in two Days He formed seven heavens, and revealed to each heaven its functions; and We adorned the lower heaven with brilliant lamps [stars] and guarded it. That is the decree of the Almighty, the All Knowing.

¹³ If they turn away, then say, ‘I warn you of a lightning-bolt like the one which struck the ‘Ad and the Thamud: ¹⁴ when the messengers came to them from before them and behind them, saying, “Worship none but God!”’ They said, “If our Lord had willed, He would have sent down angels [to us]. Therefore, we shall never believe in your message.”’

¹⁵ As for the tribe of ‘Ad, they behaved arrogantly in the land without any justification and said, ‘Who is mightier than we in power?’ Did they not see that God, who created them, was mightier than they in power? Still they continued to deny Our signs, ¹⁶ so We let loose upon them a raging wind over several inauspicious days, so that We might make them taste the torment of humiliation in the life of this world, and

surely the torment of the Hereafter will be more humiliating. They shall have none to help them.¹⁷ As for the Thamud We offered them Our guidance, but they preferred blindness to guidance. So the lightning-bolt of the punishment of humiliation seized them on account of their misdeeds.¹⁸ We saved those who had attained to faith and were God-fearing.

¹⁹ On the Day that the enemies of God shall be gathered together and driven to the Fire, they shall be formed into groups, and ²⁰ when they come close to it, their ears, eyes and skins will testify against them for their misdeeds.²¹ And they will ask their skins, ‘Why did you bear witness against us?’ and their skins will reply, ‘God, who gives speech to all things, has given speech to us [as well]—it was He who created you in the first instance and to Him you are [now] brought back—²² you could not hide yourselves from your ears and your eyes and your skins to prevent them from testifying against you, and you thought that God would never know much of what you did,²³ but these thoughts which you entertained concerning your Lord, have brought you to destruction, and [now] you are among the utterly lost!’²⁴ Even if they are patient, the Fire will still be their homes. And if they pray to be allowed to make amends, they will not be allowed to do so.

²⁵ We assigned to them companions who made their doings appear fair to them. But the same decree [of

punishment] proved true against them, which had proved true against nations of jinn and mankind who passed away before them. Surely they were the losers.

²⁶ Those who deny the truth say, ‘Do not listen to this Quran. Drown it out with noise, so that you may gain the upper hand.’ ²⁷ Therefore, We will most certainly make those who are bent on denying the truth taste a severe punishment and We will most certainly requite them according to the worst of their deeds—²⁸ that is the reward of the enemies of God—the Fire will be their everlasting home, a reward for their rejection of Our revelations.

²⁹ Those who deny the truth will say, ‘Our Lord, show us those jinn and men who misled us and we shall trample them underfoot, so that they may be among the lowest of the low.’ ³⁰ As for those who affirm, ‘Our Lord is God,’ and then remain steadfast, the angels will descend on them, saying, ‘Have no fear and do not grieve. Rejoice in the [good news of the] Garden that you have been promised.’ ³¹ ‘We are your companions in this life and in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have all that your souls desire, and therein you shall have all that you ask for’ ³² as a rich provision from One who is ever forgiving and most merciful.’

³³ Who speaks better than one who calls to God and does good works and says, ‘I am surely of those who submit’? ³⁴ Good and evil deeds are not equal. Repel evil with what is better; then you will see that one who

was once your enemy has become your dearest friend,³⁵ but no one will be granted such goodness except those who exercise patience and self-restraint—no one is granted it save those who are truly fortunate.³⁶ If a prompting from Satan should stir you, seek refuge with God: He is the All Hearing and the All Knowing.^a

³⁷ Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Do not prostrate yourselves before the sun and the moon, but prostrate yourselves before God who created them all, if it is truly Him that you worship.³⁸ If they grow arrogant, [remember that] those who are with your Lord glorify Him night and day and never grow tired.

³⁹ Among His signs is this: you see the earth dry and barren, but when We send down on it water, it stirs and swells: most surely He who gives it life is the giver of life to the dead; surely He has power over all things.^b

^a The call of the Quran is one inviting people to unite with God. Joining man with his Lord and Sustainer; making him spend his whole life in remembrance of God; developing a feeling in man that he should make the one and only God the centre of his attention—these are the real aims of the Quranic call and undoubtedly there is no call better than this.

^b The rains soaking dry land and thereafter greenery sprouting from it are phenomena generally witnessed again and again. This is in material form an allegorical reference to an inner reality. In this way man is informed that God has made extensive and elaborate arrangements here to refresh and invigorate this dry existence.

⁴⁰ Those who distort the meaning of Our message are not concealed from Us. Who is better—someone who will be thrown into the Fire or someone who will arrive in safety on the Day of Resurrection? Do as you will, He sees whatever you do.

⁴¹ Those who reject the Reminder [the Quran] when it comes to them [are the losers]—truly it is a mighty Book:
⁴² falsehood shall not reach from before or from behind. It is a revelation from the Wise, the One worthy of all praise.
⁴³ Nothing is said to you but what was said indeed to the messengers before you; surely your Lord is the Lord of forgiveness but also the Lord of painful retribution.

⁴⁴ Had We sent this as a Quran [in a language] other than Arabic, they would have said, ‘Why are its verses not clearly explained? What! An Arab Prophet, and a scripture in a foreign tongue?’ Say, ‘It is a guide and a healing to those who believe; but for those who do not believe, there is a deafness in their ears, and a covering over their eyes: they are [as it were] being called from a very distant place.’

⁴⁵ We gave Moses the Book, but differences were created concerning it: and had it not been for a word that had already gone forth from your Lord, the matter would have been decided between them; and certainly they are in grave doubt about it.
⁴⁶ Whoever does what is just and right, does so for his own good; and whoever does evil, does so to his own detriment: and God is never in the least unjust to His creatures.

⁴⁷ He alone has knowledge of the Hour [of Judgment]. And no fruit emerges from its husk, nor does any female become pregnant or give birth, without His knowledge. On the Day He will call out to them, 'Where are My associates?' They will reply, 'We declare to You that none of us can bear witness to them.'⁴⁸ [the deities] they invoked before will have vanished; they will know that there is no escape.

⁴⁹ Man never tires of asking for the good things of life; but if evil fortune befalls him, he abandons all hope, giving himself up to despair.⁵⁰ When We give him a taste of some of Our mercy, after some adversity has touched him, he is sure to say, 'This is my due. I do not think that the Hour is going to come. And even if I return to my Lord, He will surely reward me well.' But truly We shall tell those who deny the truth [all] that they did, and shall make them suffer a hard punishment.

⁵¹ When We grant a blessing to a man, he turns away and draws aside, but when any evil touches him, he is full of endless prayers!⁵² Say to them, 'Have you considered, if this Quran is really from God and you still reject it, then who could be more astray than someone who has drifted far away from the truth?'

⁵³ We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that your Lord is the witness of all things?⁵⁴ Yet they still doubt that they will ever meet their Lord. Surely, He encompasses all things.

42. MUTUAL CONSULTATION (*AL-SHURA*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim* ² *‘Ayn Sin Qaf*

³ Thus God, the Powerful, the Wise, sends revelation to you as He did to those before you. ⁴ All that is in the heavens and earth belongs to Him: He is the Exalted, the Almighty. ⁵ The heavens are almost split asunder from above as the angels sing their Lord’s praise and seek forgiveness for those on earth. God is indeed the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful. ⁶ And [as for] those who take protectors besides Him, God is watching them and you are not a guardian over them.

⁷ Thus We revealed to you, this Arabic Quran so that you may warn the mother of cities [Makkah] and those around it, and warn them of the Day of Gathering which is sure to come: when some group will be in the Garden, and some will be in the Fire.

⁸ Had God so willed, He could have made all of them one community, but He admits into His mercy whom He wills; and the wrongdoers have neither protector, nor helper. ⁹ Have they taken for themselves protectors other than Him? But it is God who is the real Protector. He resurrects the dead, and He has

power over all things. ¹⁰ In whatever you may differ, [O believers] the verdict thereon rests with God. [Say, therefore], ‘Such is God, my Lord: in Him I have placed my trust, and to Him I always turn.’

¹¹ Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, He has made spouses for you from among yourselves, as well as pairs of livestock by means of which He multiplies His creatures. Nothing can be compared with Him! He is the All Hearing, the All Seeing. ¹² To Him belongs the keys of the heavens and the earth; He gives abundantly to whoever He wills and gives sparingly to whoever He wills. He has full knowledge of all things.^a

¹³ God has ordained for you the same religion which He enjoined on Noah, and which We have revealed to you, and which We enjoined upon Abraham and Moses and Jesus, so that you should remain steadfast in religion and not become divided in it. What you call upon the polytheists to do is hard for them; God chooses for Himself whoever He pleases and guides towards Himself those who turn to Him.

¹⁴ They became divided only after knowledge had

^a The attributes of the Creator which come to our knowledge through observation of His creations are sufficient to prove how great the Creator is. He is All Knowing and All Observing. Most High and Almighty, He possesses all powers. Whatever one receives, is due to His Grace and whatever is taken away, is taken away by Him. He is Unique. There is nobody like Him.

reached them, out of mutual jealousy. Had it not been for a decree already passed by your Lord, [to reprieve them] till a specified period, the matter would surely have been decided between them. Those who inherited the Book after them are indeed in grave doubt, amounting to suspicion about it.

¹⁵ So call people to that faith and hold fast to it yourself as you are commanded, and do not be led by their desires, but say, ‘I believe in the Book which God has sent down, and I am commanded to do justice between you: God is our Lord and your Lord; we are responsible for what we do and you are responsible for what you do. There is no contention between us and you. God will gather us together, for to Him we shall return.’ ¹⁶ As for those who argue about God after He has been accepted, their arguments will carry no weight with their Lord, and His wrath will fall upon them. Severe punishment awaits them.

¹⁷ It is God who has sent down the Book with the truth and the scales of justice. What will make you realize that the Hour might well have drawn near?

¹⁸ Those who do not believe in it seek to hasten it, but those who believe in it dread it, and know it to be the truth. Those who dispute the Hour have gone far astray.

¹⁹ God is most Gracious to His creatures: He provides sustenance for whoever He wills—for He alone is the Powerful One, the Almighty. ²⁰ To him

who desires a harvest in the life to come, We shall grant an increase in his harvest; whereas to him who desires [but] a harvest in this world, We [may] give something thereof—but he will have no share in [the blessings of] the life to come.

²¹ Do they have associate gods who have laid down for them a religion without the permission of God? Had it not been for God's decree on the final Judgement, the matter would have been decided between them. Surely the wrongdoers shall have a painful punishment. ²² You will see the wrongdoers fearful of the consequences of their deeds, which will be inescapable. Whereas, those who have believed and done righteous deeds, will be in the meadows of the Garden and shall have whatever they desire from their Lord. That will be the supreme favour. ²³ These are the glad tidings which God gives to His servants who believe and do righteous deeds. Say, 'I do not ask of you any reward for it, except [that I am inviting you to God because of] love of kinship.' Whoever earns a good deed, We shall increase its good for him; God is most forgiving, most appreciative.

²⁴ Do they say, 'He has invented a lie about God'? If God so willed, He could seal your heart. God wipes out falsehood and vindicates the truth by His words. He has full knowledge of what is in men's hearts—
²⁵ He accepts repentance from His servants and pardons their sins. He knows everything you do. ²⁶ He responds

to those who believe and do good deeds, and gives them more of His bounty; agonizing torment awaits the deniers of the truth.

²⁷ If God were to grant His abundant provision to [all] His creatures, they would act insolently on earth, but He sends down in due measure whatever He will, for He is well aware of His servants and watchful over them: ²⁸ it is He who sends rain after they have despaired and spreads His mercy far and wide. He is the Protector, Worthy of All Praise. ²⁹ Among His signs is the creation of the heavens and earth and all the living creatures He has dispersed throughout them: He has the power to gather them all together whenever He will.

³⁰ Whatever misfortune befalls you is of your own doing—God forgives much—³¹ you cannot escape Him anywhere on earth. You have no protector or helper other than God.

³² Among His signs are the ships sailing like mountains on the sea: ³³ if He willed, He could bring the wind to a standstill and they would lie motionless on the surface of the sea—truly there are signs in this for anyone who is steadfast and grateful—³⁴ or He may cause them to founder because of people's misdeeds—He pardons many of them—³⁵ those who dispute Our signs shall learn that they have no escape.

³⁶ Whatever you have been given is only a temporary provision of this life, but that which is with God is

better and more lasting for those who believe and put their trust in their Lord; ³⁷ who refrain from heinous sins and gross indecencies; who forgive when they are angry; ³⁸ who respond to their Lord and attend to their prayers; who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation and spend out of what We have provided for them; ³⁹ who, when they are attacked, defend themselves. ⁴⁰ Let harm be requited by an equal harm. But whoever pardons and amends will find his reward with God. He does not love the wrongdoers. ⁴¹ Those who defend themselves after they have been wronged cannot be held blameworthy, ⁴² blame falls only on those who wrong men and transgress on this earth without justification—such will have a painful punishment—⁴³ whoever is patient and forgiving, acts with great courage and resolution.

⁴⁴ Anyone whom God lets go astray will thereafter have no protector whatsoever: you will see the wrongdoers, when they face the punishment, exclaiming, ‘Is there no way back?’ ⁴⁵ You will see them exposed to the Fire, abject in humiliation, glancing furtively at it, while those who believed will say, ‘The losers are those ones who have forfeited their souls and their people on the Day of Resurrection.’ Truly, the wrongdoers will remain in everlasting torment; ⁴⁶ they will have no allies to help them against God; there is no way [forward] for those whom God lets go astray.

⁴⁷ Respond to your Lord before a Day arrives that will not be averted [against God's will]. You will not find any refuge from God on that Day, nor will you have [any opportunity] to deny your sins.

⁴⁸ Now if they turn away, We have not sent you [O Prophet] as their keeper: your responsibility is only to convey the message. Man is such that when We let him taste Our mercy, he exults in it, but if an evil befalls him which is his own doing, he becomes utterly ungrateful.

⁴⁹ God has control of the heavens and the earth; He creates whatever He will—He grants female offspring to whoever He will, male to whoever He will, ⁵⁰ or both male and female, and He leaves whoever He will barren; He is all-knowing and all powerful.

⁵¹ It is not granted to any human being that God should speak to him other than by revelation or from behind a veil, or by sending him a messenger, so that the messenger may reveal, by His command, whatsoever He will. Truly, He is exalted and wise. ⁵² We have thus revealed a Spirit to you [Prophet] by Our command: you knew neither the Scripture nor the faith, but We made it a light, guiding with it whoever We will of Our servants. You are indeed guiding to the straight path, ⁵³ the path of God, to whom belongs all that is in the heavens and on the earth. Indeed all matters return eventually to God.

43. ORNAMENTS OF GOLD (*AL-ZUKHRUF*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim*

² By the Book that makes things clear, ³ We have made it an Arabic Quran so that you may understand. ⁴ Truly, it is inscribed in the Original Book, in Our keeping; it is sublime and full of wisdom.

⁵ Should We withdraw the admonition from you because you are a people far gone in transgression? ⁶ We have sent many a prophet to earlier peoples ⁷ but whenever a prophet came to them, they mocked him, ⁸ so We destroyed those who were mightier than these; such was the example of the earlier peoples.

⁹ If you ask them, ‘Who has created the heavens and the earth?’, they will surely answer, ‘The Almighty, the All Knowing One has created them.’ ¹⁰ Who has made the earth a cradle for you and made thereon paths for you so that, hopefully, you may find your way. ¹¹ It is He who sends water down from the sky in due measure—We revive dead land with it and likewise you will be resurrected from the grave—¹² it is He who created all living things in pairs and gave you ships to sail in and beasts to ride upon ¹³ so that you may sit firmly on their backs. Then once you have

mounted them, remember your Lord's favour and say, 'Glory be to Him who has subjected these creatures to us; we would never on our own have subdued them. ¹⁴ And to our Lord we shall surely return.'

¹⁵ Yet they make some of His servants partners in His divinity. Man is clearly ungrateful! ¹⁶ Has He then taken daughters out of His own creation and chosen sons for you? ¹⁷ When any of them is given the news of the very thing [i.e. a female child] which he himself has ascribed to the All Merciful, his face darkens and he is filled with grief—¹⁸ ['Do you ascribe to God] one who is brought up among ornaments and who cannot produce a cogent argument?' ¹⁹ They consider the angels—God's servants—to be female. Did they witness their creation? Their claim will be put on record and they will be questioned about it.

²⁰ They say, 'If the All Merciful had so willed, we would not have worshipped them.' They have no knowledge of that. They are only conjecturing. ²¹ Have We given them a Book before this, to which they are holding fast? ²² No indeed! They say, 'We have found our fathers following a certain course, and we are guided by their footsteps.' ²³ Whenever We sent a messenger before you to warn a township, the affluent among them said, in the same way, 'We saw our fathers following this tradition; we are only following in their footsteps.' ²⁴ Each messenger said, 'What if I should bring you better guidance than what you found

your forefathers had?' They replied, 'We reject any message you have been sent with!' ²⁵ So We wreaked Our vengeance on them: now see what was the end of those who rejected [the Truth]!

²⁶ Call to mind when Abraham said to his father and his people, 'I disown utterly that which you worship. ²⁷ [I worship] only Him who created me, and He will certainly guide me,' ²⁸ and he left these words to endure among his descendants, so that they might return [to God]. ²⁹ Yes, I gave the good things of this life to these [men] and their fathers, until the truth came to them, and a messenger expounding things clearly, ³⁰ but when the truth came to them, they said, 'This is sorcery, and we reject it.'

³¹ They said, 'Why was this Quran not sent down to one of the great men of the two cities?' ³² Is it they who apportion the mercy of your Lord? It is We who distribute among them their livelihood in the life of this world, and raise some of them above others in rank, so that they may take one another into service; and the mercy of your Lord is better than [the wealth] which they amass. ³³ If it were not that all mankind might have become one community [of disbelievers], We could have given all those who deny the Lord of Mercy, houses with roofs of silver, silver staircases to ascend, ³⁴ and silver doors to their houses and silver couches on which to recline, ³⁵ and ornaments of gold. But all of these are but the provision of this present

life; it is the life to come that the Lord reserves for those who fear Him.

³⁶ As for one who turns away from the remembrance of the Gracious God, We appoint for him a devil, who will become his intimate companion. ³⁷ Devils divert men from the [right] way, while they think that they are rightly guided. ³⁸ When such a person comes to Us, he will say [to his comrade], ‘If only you had been as far away from me as east is from west. What an evil comrade!’ ³⁹ It will be said [to such a person], ‘You have done wrong. Having partners in punishment will be of no avail to you today.’

⁴⁰ Can you [Prophet] make the deaf hear? Or guide either the blind or those who are in manifest error? ⁴¹ Even if We take you away from the world, We shall surely take vengeance on them ⁴² or We shall show you what We have promised them; for surely We have complete power over them. ⁴³ So, hold fast to the Book that has been revealed to you—you are surely on the right path—⁴⁴ it is certainly a reminder to you and to your people and you will soon be called to account. ⁴⁵ Ask those of Our messengers whom We sent before you, ‘Did We ever appoint gods to be worshipped besides the Beneficent One?’

⁴⁶ We sent Moses with Our signs to Pharaoh and his nobles. He said, ‘I am the messenger of the Lord of the Universe,’ ⁴⁷ but when he came to them with Our signs, they ridiculed them, ⁴⁸ even though each

sign We showed them was greater than the previous one. We afflicted them with torment so that they might return [to the right path].⁴⁹ They said, ‘Sorcerer, call on your Lord for us, by virtue of His pledge to you: we shall certainly accept guidance,’⁵⁰ but when We relieved them of the torment, they broke their word.

⁵¹ Pharaoh called to his people, ‘My people, is the Kingdom of Egypt not mine? And these rivers that flow at my feet, are they not mine? Do you not see?’⁵² Am I not better than this contemptible man who can hardly make his meaning clear:⁵³ and why have not armlets of gold been bestowed on him and why is there not a train of angels accompanying him?’⁵⁴ In this way he fooled his people and they obeyed him: they were a rebellious people.⁵⁵ Then when they provoked Our wrath, We took revenge on them and drowned every one of them.⁵⁶ We made them a precedent, an example for later peoples.

⁵⁷ When [Jesus] the son of Mary is held up as an example, your people raise an outcry on this,⁵⁸ saying, ‘Are our gods better or him?’—they cite him only to challenge you: they are a contentious people—⁵⁹ but he was only a servant We favoured and made an example for the Children of Israel: ⁶⁰ if We had so wished, We could have appointed angels in exchange for you to succeed you on the earth.⁶¹ He is a sign of the Hour. Have no doubt about it. But follow me. This

is a straight path; ⁶² do not let Satan bar your way. He is truly your sworn enemy.

⁶³ When Jesus came with clear signs, he said, ‘Now I have come to you with wisdom, in order to make clear to you some of the things about which you dispute: therefore fear God and obey me. ⁶⁴ For God, He is my Lord and your Lord: so worship Him: that is a straight path.’ ⁶⁵ The various factions among them differed—woe then to those who did wrong: they will suffer the punishment of a painful Day.

⁶⁶ Are they merely waiting for the Hour, which will come upon them suddenly and take them unawares?

⁶⁷ On that Day, friends will become each other’s enemies, except the righteous—⁶⁸ ‘O My servants, you need not fear this Day, nor shall you grieve’—

⁶⁹ those who believed in Our revelations and surrendered themselves to Us. ⁷⁰ ‘Enter the Garden rejoicing, both you and your spouses!’

⁷¹ Dishes and goblets of gold will be passed around them with all that their souls desire and their eyes delight in. ‘There you will remain forever: ⁷² this is the Garden which you will inherit by virtue of your past deeds, ⁷³ and there is abundant fruit in it for you to eat.’

⁷⁴ As for the evil-doers, they shall endure forever the torment of Hell, ⁷⁵ from which there is no relief: they will remain there in utter despair. ⁷⁶ We have not wronged them; it was they who were the wrongdoers.

⁷⁷ They will cry, ‘Master, if only your Lord would put

an end to us!’ But he [the angel] will answer, ‘No! You are here to stay.’⁷⁸ We have certainly brought the truth to you: but most of you have an aversion for the truth.⁷⁹ Have they determined upon a course? Then We too are determined.⁸⁰ Do they imagine We do not hear their secret talk and their private counsels? On the contrary, Our messengers [angels] are at their sides, recording everything.

⁸¹ Say, ‘If the All Merciful had a son, I would be the first to worship him.’⁸² But—exalted be the Lord of the heavens and earth, the Lord of the Throne—He is far above their [false] descriptions.⁸³ So leave them alone to indulge in vain discourse and amuse themselves until they come face to face with that Day which they have been promised.

⁸⁴ It is He who is God in heaven, and God on earth: He is the Wise One, the All Knowing;⁸⁵ blessed be He who has sovereignty over the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. He alone has knowledge of the Hour, and to Him you shall be returned.

⁸⁶ Those whom they invoke besides God have no power of intercession, only those who bear witness to the truth and they know.⁸⁷ And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say, God. How then are they turned away?⁸⁸ The Prophet has said, ‘Lord! Truly they are a people who do not believe.’⁸⁹ Then bear with them [O Muhammad] and say, ‘Peace.’ They will soon come to know.

44. SMOKE (*AL-DUKHAN*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim*

² By the Book that makes things clear, ³ surely We sent it down on a blessed night—We have always sent warnings—⁴ on that night every wise decree is specified ⁵ by Our own command—We have been sending messages, ⁶ as a mercy from your Lord, He hears all and knows all, ⁷ He is the Lord of heaven and earth and all that is between them—if only you would really believe—⁸ there is no deity save Him: It is He who gives both life and death—He is your Lord, and the Lord of your forefathers, ⁹ yet, they toy with their doubts. ¹⁰ Wait, then for the Day when the sky brings forth plainly visible clouds of smoke. ¹¹ That will envelop the people. This will be a painful punishment. ¹² Then they will say, ‘Lord, relieve us from this torment, for truly we are now believers in You.’ ¹³ How can they benefit from admonition, seeing that a messenger had already come to them explaining things clearly? ¹⁴ Then they turned away from him and said, ‘He is a madman, taught by others!’ ¹⁵ Were We to ease the torment for a while, you would still revert to denial

of the truth. ¹⁶On the Day We inflict the direst scourge upon all sinners, We will certainly exact retribution.

¹⁷We tried the people of Pharaoh before them: a noble messenger was sent to them, ¹⁸saying, 'Hand over God's servants to me. I am a trustworthy messenger for you. ¹⁹Do not set yourselves above God: I bring you clear authority. ²⁰I have sought refuge with my Lord and your Lord lest you stone me [to death]. ²¹If you do not believe in me, at least keep away from me.'

²²Then he cried out to his Lord, 'These are sinful people.' ²³God said, 'Set out with My servants by night, for you will certainly be pursued. ²⁴Leave the sea behind you parted; they are a host destined to be drowned.' ²⁵How many gardens and fountains they left behind them, ²⁶and cornfields and splendid buildings, ²⁷and pleasant things in which they delighted! ²⁸Such was their end, and what had been theirs We gave to other people to inherit. ²⁹Neither heaven nor earth wept for them, nor were they allowed any respite.

³⁰We saved the Children of Israel from their humiliating torment ³¹at the hands of Pharaoh: he was a tyrant who exceeded all bounds. ³²We knowingly chose them above all other people ³³and showed them signs in which there was a clear test.

³⁴Yet those who deny the truth say, ³⁵there is

nothing beyond our first death; we shall not be raised again. ³⁶ So bring our fathers [back], if what you say is true. ³⁷ Are they better than the people of Tubba‘ and those who came before them? We destroyed them, because they were guilty of sin.

³⁸ We did not idly create the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them;^a ³⁹ We did not create them save with a purpose, yet most people have no knowledge of this. ⁴⁰ Truly, the Day of Decision is the appointed time for all of them, ⁴¹ the Day when

^a If one ponders over the system of heaven and earth—indeed, of the entire universe, it will become clear that its creation was effected with a definite purpose. Had this not been so, it would have been impossible in this world for man to build up glorious cultures. Its entire functioning being meaningful is an indication that it will end also in a meaningful and purposeful way. It is unimaginable that its end could be otherwise. Its end, in reality, will herald the commencement of the life Hereafter. And belief in the Hereafter is but an extension of universal meaningfulness. The present stage of the world is that of trial. So, everyone has his share in the meaningfulness of this world. But, in the Hereafter, only those who are actually deserving in the eyes of God, will have a share in the meaningfulness of the afterlife.

no friend shall be of the least avail to another, nor shall any be helped, ⁴² save those to whom God shows mercy. Surely, He is the Mighty, the Merciful One.

⁴³ Surely the fruit of the Zaqqum tree ⁴⁴ shall be food for the sinners: ⁴⁵ like the dregs of oil, it shall boil in their bellies, ⁴⁶ like the boiling of hot water. ⁴⁷ [A voice will cry], ‘Seize him and drag him into the midst of Hell. ⁴⁸ Then pour boiling water over his head as punishment. ⁴⁹ Taste this; you who considered yourself the mighty, the honourable! ⁵⁰ This is what you doubted?’

⁵¹ But those mindful of God will be in a safe place, ⁵² among gardens and springs, ⁵³ dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, and they will face each other: ⁵⁴ so it will be. We shall wed them to maidens with large, dark eyes. ⁵⁵ They will call therein for every kind of fruit, in peace and security. ⁵⁶ They will not taste death therein, save the first death. God will save them from the torment of Hell ⁵⁷ as an act of grace. That will be the supreme triumph.

⁵⁸ We have made this Quran easy to understand—in your own language—so that they may take heed. ⁵⁹ Wait then; they too are waiting.

45. KNEELING (*AL-JATHIYAH*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim*

² This Scripture is sent down from God, the Mighty and Wise One. ³ There are signs in the heavens and the earth for those who believe: ⁴ in your own creation and all the creatures He has spread about, there are signs for people of sure faith; ⁵ and in the succession of night and day, and in the means of subsistence which God sends down from the skies, giving life thereby to the earth after it had been lifeless, and in the circulation of the winds: [in all this] there are signs for people who use their reason. ⁶ These are God's revelations, which We recite to you in all truth. But if they deny God and His revelations, in what message will they believe?

⁷ Woe to every sinful liar! ⁸ He hears God's revelations being recited to him, yet persists in his arrogance as if he had never heard them. Forewarn him of a painful punishment. ⁹ When he learns something of Our revelations, he derides them: for such there will be humiliating torment. ¹⁰ In front of them is Hell; and of no profit to them is anything they may have earned, nor any protectors they may have taken to themselves besides God: for them there shall

be a terrible punishment. ¹¹ Such is Our guidance; those who reject their Lord's revelations shall suffer a woeful punishment.

¹² It is God who has subjected the sea to you so that you may sail thereon by His command, and so that you may seek His bounty, and so that you may be grateful.

¹³ He has subjected whatever is in heaven and on the earth to you; it is all from Him. In that are signs for those who ponder.

¹⁴ Tell the believers to ignore those who do not believe in the coming of the days of God. He will requite people for what they have done. ¹⁵ Whoever does what is just and right, does so for his own good; and whoever does evil, does so to his own detriment, and you shall all return to your Lord.

¹⁶ We gave Scriptures, wisdom and prophethood to the Children of Israel, and provided them with good things and favoured them over all other people. ¹⁷ We gave them clear arguments in matters [of religion]. It was only after knowledge came to them that they differed among themselves out of mutual rivalry. On the Day of Resurrection your Lord will judge between them regarding their differences. ¹⁸ Then We set you on a clear path [of religion]: so follow it, and do not yield to the desires of those who have no knowledge.

¹⁹ They can be of no avail to you against God. The wrongdoers are friends of one another, while the friend of the righteous is God. ²⁰ This [Book] brings

enlightenment and guidance to mankind, and is a blessing for those who have firm faith.

²¹ Do those who commit evil deeds imagine that We shall deal with them in the same way as We deal with those who have attained to faith and do righteous deeds, that they will be alike in their living and their dying? How badly they judge! ²² God has created the heavens and the earth for a true purpose, so that every soul may be rewarded for whatever it has earned, and no one will be wronged.

²³ [Prophet], consider the one who has taken his own desire as a deity, whom God allows to stray in the face of knowledge, sealing his ears and heart and covering his eyes—who can guide such a person after God [has abandoned him]? Will you not take heed?

²⁴ They say, ‘There is nothing but our life in this world: we die, we live, nothing but time destroys us.’ They have no knowledge of this; they only follow conjecture. ²⁵ Whenever Our clear revelations are recited to them, their only argument is to say, ‘Bring back to us our forefathers, if what you say be true.’ ²⁶ Say, ‘God gives you life, then causes you to die, and then will gather you together for the Day of Resurrection, about which there is no doubt. But most people do not know it.’

²⁷ To God belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth; on the Day when the Hour comes, those who follow falsehood will be the losers. ²⁸ You will see

every people on their knees, every people shall be summoned to its Record [and a voice will say], ‘Today you will be requited for your deeds.’²⁹ This record of ours will declare the truth about you: We have been recording whatever you have been doing.’

³⁰ Those who believed and did good deeds will be admitted by their Lord into His mercy—that shall be the manifest triumph. ³¹ But those who rejected the truth [will be asked], ‘When My revelations were recited to you, were you not arrogant and did you not persist in wicked deeds?’ ³² When it was said to you, “God’s promise is true: there is no doubt about the Hour,” did you not reply, “We do not know what the Hour is. We think it to be nothing but a conjecture, and we are not convinced?”

³³ The evil of their actions will then become clear to them. The punishment they mocked will engulf them. ³⁴ It will be said to them, ‘This Day We shall forget you, as you yourselves forgot that you would meet this Day. Your abode shall be the Fire, and you shall have no helpers.’ ³⁵ That is because you made a mockery of God’s revelations and were deluded by the life of this world.’ Therefore, today they will not be brought out of the Fire, nor will they be allowed to make amends.

³⁶ Praise, then, be to God, Lord of the heavens, and Lord of the earth, the Lord of all the worlds. ³⁷ All greatness belongs to Him in the heavens and earth. He is the Almighty, the All Wise.

46. THE SAND DUNES (*AL-AHQAF*)

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

¹ *Ha Mim*

² This Book is sent down from God, the Almighty, the Wise One. ³ We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them purely for just ends, and for a specific term, but those who reject Faith turn away from what they have been warned of.

⁴ Say, 'Have you thought about those you call upon apart from God? Show me what they have created on the earth. Or do they have a share in the heavens? Bring me a Book revealed before this or some other vestige of knowledge, if you are telling the truth.'

⁵ And who is more misguided than one who invokes, besides God, such as will not answer him until the Day of Resurrection, and who [in fact] are not even aware of his call, ⁶ and when mankind are gathered together, they will become their enemies, and will deny their worship?

⁷ And whenever Our clear revelations are recited to them and the Truth is brought to them, those who deny the truth say, 'This is plain magic.'⁸ Do they mean to say that the Messenger himself has fabricated it? Say [O Muhammad], 'If I have fabricated it myself, you

will not be able to do anything to save me from God. He knows quite well what talk you indulge in. He is enough as a witness between me and you; and He is the Forgiving, the Merciful One.'

⁹ Say, 'I am not the first of God's messengers, and I do not know what will be done with me or with you: I do not follow anything but what is revealed to me, and I am merely a plain warner.'¹⁰ Say, 'Have you thought: what if this Quran really is from God and you reject it? What if one of the Children of Israel testifies to its similarity to earlier scripture and believes in it, and yet you are too arrogant to do the same? God certainly does not guide evil-doers.'

¹¹ Those who deny the truth say of the believers, 'If there were any good in this Quran, they would not have believed in it before we did.' And since they refuse to be guided by it, they say, 'This is an ancient fabrication.'

¹² Yet the scripture of Moses was revealed before it as a guide and a blessing; and this is a Book in the Arabic language, fulfilling [previous prophecies], to forewarn those who do evil and to bring good news to those who do good. ¹³ Surely those who say, 'Our Lord is God,' and remain firm [on that path] shall feel no fear, nor shall they grieve: ¹⁴ it is they who are the people of Paradise, they shall abide therein as a reward for all that they have done.

¹⁵ We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents:

his mother bore him, in pain and in pain she gave birth to him, and his bearing and weaning takes thirty months. At length, when he reaches the age of full maturity and attains forty years, he says, ‘O my Lord! Help me to be grateful for Your favours which You have bestowed upon me, and upon both my parents, and to do good deeds that will please You. Grant me righteousness in my offspring. Truly, I have turned to You and, truly, I submit to You.’¹⁶ We accept from such people the best of what they do and We overlook their bad deeds. They will be among the people of Paradise—this is a true promise that has been given to them.

¹⁷ But he who says to his parents, ‘Shame upon you! Do you threaten me with being taken out of the grave after death while many a generation has passed away before me and none has risen from among them?’ The parents both cry for God’s help and say to him, ‘Believe! Alas for you! God’s promise is true.’ But he says, ‘These are nothing but ancient fables.’¹⁸ It is against such as these that the word of God has proved true, along with all the communities that went before them, jinns and humans: surely they are losers.

¹⁹ All will be ranked according to their deeds. We will requite them in full for their actions and they will not be wronged.²⁰ On the Day when those who deny the truth are brought before the Fire, it will be said to them, ‘You have had the good things of the life of this

world, and you enjoyed them. Now this Day you shall be requited with humiliating punishment, because you were arrogant in the land without justification, and because you acted rebelliously.'

²¹ Tell of the brother of 'Ad; when he warned his people in the sand dunes—and indeed warners came and went before him and after him—saying, 'Worship none but God; surely I fear for you the punishment of an awful Day,' ²² but they said, 'Have you come to us to turn us away from our deities? Then bring down upon us what you threaten us with, if you are truthful.'

²³ He said, 'God alone knows when it will come, and I deliver to you the message with which I am sent, but I see you are a people who are ignorant.'

²⁴ So, when they saw it in the shape of a dense cloud approaching their valleys, they exclaimed, 'This is only a heavy cloud which will bring us [welcome] rain!' [But Hud said]: 'By no means! It is the very thing which you sought to hasten—a wind bearing grievous suffering ²⁵ which will destroy everything at its Lord's behest!' And in the morning there was nothing left to be seen save their [empty] dwellings: thus We repay the evil-doers.

²⁶ We had empowered them to an extent which We have not empowered you, [O people of later times]; and We had endowed them with hearing, and sight, and hearts: but neither their hearing, nor their sight, nor their hearts were of the least avail to them, since

they went on rejecting God's revelations; and they were overwhelmed by the very thing which they had been wont to deride. ²⁷ We have also destroyed other towns that once [flourished] around you—We had given them various signs so that they might return [to the right path]—²⁸ so why did their gods not help them, those they set up as gods besides God to bring them nearer to Him? No indeed! They failed them utterly: it was all a lie, a fabrication of their own making.

²⁹ Remember how We sent to you a band of jinn who wished to hear the Quran and as they listened to its recitation, they said to one another, 'Be silent and listen,' and, then when it was finished, they went back to their people, to give them warning. ³⁰ They said, 'O our people, we have heard a Book, which has been sent down after Moses, fulfilling the predictions existing in previous scriptures; it guides to the truth, and to the right path. ³¹ Our people, respond to the one who calls you to God. Believe in him! God will forgive you your sins and protect you from a painful punishment. ³² But he who does not respond to God's calls can never elude [Him] on earth, nor can he have any protector against Him. Such people have clearly gone far astray.'

³³ Have they not seen that God, who created the heavens and the earth and was not wearied by their creation, has the power to bring the dead back to life? Yes, indeed, He has power over all things. ³⁴ On the

Day when those who deny the truth will be brought before the Fire, they shall be asked, ‘Is this not the truth?’ They will reply, ‘Yes, by our Lord.’ He will say, ‘Then taste the punishment, because of your denial of the truth.’

³⁵ Have patience, then, as had the steadfast Messengers before you; and be in no haste about them. On the Day when they see what they are threatened with, it will appear to them as though they had not tarried longer than an hour of a day. [Your responsibility is] to deliver the message: and none but the disobedient shall be destroyed.

47. MUHAMMAD (*MUHAMMAD*)

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

¹ God will bring to naught all the good deeds of those who are bent on denying the truth and bar [others] from the path of God. ² As for those who believe and do good deeds and believe in what has been revealed to Muhammad—and it is the truth from their Lord—God will remove their sins from them and set their condition right. ³ That is because the ones who deny the truth follow falsehood, while those who believe

follow the Truth from their Lord. Thus God sets forth comparisons for mankind.

⁴ When you meet those who deny the truth in battle, strike them in the neck,^a and once they are defeated, make [them] prisoners, and afterwards either set them free as an act of grace, or let them ransom [themselves] until the war is finally over. Thus you shall do; and if God had pleased, He would certainly have exacted retribution from them, but His purpose is to test some of you by means of others. As for those who are killed in God's cause, He will never let their deeds be in vain; ⁵ He will guide them and improve their condition; ⁶ He will admit them into the Garden He has already made known to them.

⁷ Believers! If you succour God, He will succour you and make your footsteps firm. ⁸ But as for those who are bent on denying the truth, destruction will be their lot, and [God] will make their deeds come to nothing. ⁹ It is because they are averse to what God has revealed that He has rendered their deeds futile. ¹⁰ Have they not travelled the earth and seen how those before them met their end? God destroyed them utterly: a similar fate awaits those who deny the truth. ¹¹ That is because God is the protector of the believers, and those who deny the truth have no protector at all.

¹² God will admit those who believe and do good

^a See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

deeds to Gardens through which rivers flow. Those who deny the truth may take their fill of pleasure in this world, and eat as cattle do, but the Fire will be their ultimate abode. ¹³ How many towns We have destroyed, greater in strength than your city which has driven you out, and there was no one to help them.

¹⁴ Can then he who takes his stand on clear evidence from his God be likened to those for whom the evil that they do is made to look beautiful, and who follow their own desires? ¹⁵ Here is a description of the Garden promised to the righteous: therein are rivers of water which is forever pure; and rivers of milk of which the taste never changes; and rivers of wine, a delight to those who drink it, and rivers of pure honey. And in it they will have all kinds of fruit, and will receive forgiveness from their Lord. Can those who enjoy such bliss be like those who abide in the Fire and who are given boiling water to drink so that it tears their bowels?

¹⁶ Among them are those who listen to you, but then, when they leave your presence, say to those who have been given knowledge [Scripture], "What was that he just said?" Such are those whose hearts God has sealed, and who follow their own base desires. ¹⁷ But as for those who follow guidance, He adds to their guidance, and shows them the way to righteousness.

¹⁸ Are they awaiting the Hour of Doom to come upon them suddenly? Its signs have already come. But

of what avail will their admonition be to them when it has actually come upon them? ¹⁹ Know then that there is no god except God. Ask forgiveness for your wrongdoing, and for the men and women who believe. God knows both your movements and your lodging.

²⁰ Those who believe ask why no chapter [about fighting] has been sent down. Yet when a decisive chapter that mentions fighting is sent down, you can see the sick of heart looking at you [Prophet] as if they were under the shadow of death. Therefore, woe to them! ²¹ Obedience and saying what is just would become them more; when the decision is taken, it would be better for them if they acted sincerely towards God. ²² Then if you turn away, you are likely to spread corruption on the earth and sever your ties of kinship. ²³ Such are those whom God has rejected, making their ears deaf and their eyes blind.

²⁴ Will they not, then, ponder over this Quran? Or are there locks upon their hearts? ²⁵ Surely, those who turn their backs [on this message] after guidance has been shown to them, [do it because] Satan has embellished their fancies and God gives them respite; ²⁶ because they say to those who abhor what God has revealed, 'We will obey you in some matters.' God knows their secrets. ²⁷ Then how will it be when the angels take their souls, beating them on their faces and their backs, ²⁸ because they followed the way that made God wrathful, and hated to adopt the way

of His pleasure? So He made their actions come to nothing.

²⁹ Do the sick at heart imagine that God will not bring to light their malice? ³⁰ Now had We so willed, We could have shown them clearly to you, and then you could have identified them by their marks, but surely you will know them by the tone of their speech! God knows all that you do.

³¹ Most certainly We will try you until We have discovered those among you who strive their hardest, and those who are steadfast, and will test your record. ³² Surely, they who are bent on denying the truth and on barring [others] from the path of God, and oppose the Messenger when they have been shown guidance, cannot harm God in any way. He will cause all their deeds to come to nothing.

³³ Believers, obey God and obey the Messenger: do not let your deeds go to waste—³⁴ surely those who reject the truth and bar others from the path of God, then die as deniers of the truth, will not be granted forgiveness by God. ³⁵ So do not lose heart or appeal for peace when you have gained the upper hand. God is with you and will never let your works go to waste.

³⁶ The life of this world is only a game, a pastime, but if you believe and are mindful of God, He will recompense you and will not ask you for your wealth.

³⁷ If He were to ask it [wealth] of you, and continued to press you, you would be niggardly, and this would

show your ill-will. ³⁸ Behold! You are those who are called upon to spend for God's cause, but among you are those who are niggardly, and whoever stints does so against his own self. Indeed, God is self-sufficient, but you stand in need [of Him], and if you turn back, He will bring in your place another people, who will not be like you.

48. VICTORY (*AL-FATH*)

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

¹ Truly, We have granted you a clear victory ² so that God may forgive you your past and future sins and complete His favour to you and guide you to a straight path, ³ and so that God might bestow on you His mighty help.

⁴ It was He who sent down tranquillity into the hearts of the believers, to add faith to their faith—the forces of the heavens and earth belong to Him; He is all knowing and all wise—⁵ and so that He might admit the believers, men and women, into Gardens through which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever, and so that He may remove their evils from them—that is, indeed, a supreme triumph in God's eyes—⁶ and so that He might punish hypocritical men and women as well as the polytheists men and women who think evil

thoughts about God; an evil turn of fortune will fall upon them, for God has become angry with them, and has rejected them and prepared Hell for them. How evil is such a destination. ⁷ The forces of heavens and earth belong to God; He is almighty and all wise.

⁸ We have sent you forth as a witness and a bearer of good tidings and a warner, ⁹ so that you may believe in God and His Messenger, and may help him, and honour him, and so that you may glorify God morning and evening. ¹⁰ Behold, all who pledge their allegiance to you indeed pledge their allegiance to God: the hand of God is over their hands. Hence, he who breaks his oath, breaks it only to his own loss. Whereas he who remains true to what he has pledged to God, shall have a great reward bestowed upon him by God.

¹¹ Those desert Arabs who remained behind will say to you, 'Our belongings and our families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us.' They will say with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say, 'Who then has any power at all [to intervene] on your behalf with God, if His will is to do you harm, or if He intends to do you good? Indeed, God is well aware of all that you do.' ¹² No. You thought that the Messenger and the believers would never return to their families; this prospect seemed pleasing to your hearts, and you conceived evil thoughts, and thus were doomed to perish. ¹³ For those who deny the truth, who do not believe in God and His Messenger,

We have prepared a blazing Fire. ¹⁴ To God belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He forgives whom He pleases, and punishes whom He pleases. And God is most forgiving and merciful.

¹⁵ When you [believers] set off to gather the spoils, those that stayed behind will say, ‘Let us come with you.’ They want to change God’s word, but tell them, ‘You shall not follow us. God has declared this beforehand.’ Then they will say, ‘You are jealous of us.’ But how little they understand!

¹⁶ Say to the desert Arabs who stayed behind, ‘You shall be called against a mighty people; then shall you fight, unless they submit. Then if you prove obedient, God will grant you a good reward, but if You turn back as you did before, He will inflict on you a painful punishment—¹⁷ the blind, the lame, and the sick will not be blamed.’ God will admit anyone who obeys Him and His Messenger to Gardens through which rivers flow. But whoever turns back shall be severely punished by Him.

¹⁸ God was pleased with the believers when they swore allegiance to you [Prophet] under the tree: He knew what was in their hearts and so He sent tranquillity down to them and rewarded them with a victory near at hand ¹⁹ and with many future gains—God is mighty and wise. ²⁰ God has promised you many future gains, and He has given you these in advance; and He has restrained the hands of men from

harming you, so that it may be a sign for the believers, and so that He may guide you to a straight path. ²¹ And there are yet other [gains] which are still beyond your grasp, [but] which God has already encompassed [for you]: for God has power over all things.

²² If those who deny the truth were to fight you, they would certainly turn their backs; then they would find neither protector nor helper: ²³ such was the law of God in the past; and you shall find no change in the law of God. ²⁴ It is He who withheld their hands from you, and your hands from them in the valley of Makkah, after giving you victory over them. God sees what you do.

²⁵ It was they who were bent on denying the truth, and who debarred you from the Sacred Mosque and who prevented your offering from reaching its place of sacrifice. And had it not been for the believing men and believing women [in Makkah] whom you might unwittingly have trampled underfoot, and on whose account you might have, unknowingly, become guilty, [God would have commanded you to fight it out with them; but He ordained it thus] so that He may bring whoever He will into His mercy. If they [the believers] had been clearly separated, We would have punished those who were bent on denying the truth with a painful punishment.

²⁶ While those who deny the truth made it a prestige issue [in their hearts]—the bigotry of the days of

ignorance—God sent His tranquillity down on to His Messenger and believers and firmly established in them the principle of righteousness, for they were indeed better entitled to it and more worthy of it. God has full knowledge of all things.

²⁷ God has in all truth shown His Messenger a true vision in which He said, ‘God willing, you will most certainly enter the Sacred Mosque in safety and without fear, shaven-headed or with hair cut short’—God knew what you did not; and has given you a victory beforehand.

²⁸ He is the One who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the true religion, so that He may have it prevail over all [other] religions. God suffices as a witness!

²⁹ Muhammad is the Messenger of God. Those who are with him are firm and unyielding towards those who deny the truth, but compassionate towards one another. You see them bowing and prostrating themselves, seeking the grace of God and His good will. Their marks are on their faces, the traces of their prostrations; they are described in the Torah and in the Gospel as being like a seed which sends forth its shoot, then makes it strong; it then becomes thick, and it stands firm on its own stem, delighting the sowers. He seeks to enrage the disbelievers through them. God has promised forgiveness and a great reward to those of them who believe and do good works.

49. THE APARTMENTS (*AL-HUJURAT*)

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

¹ Believers, do not push yourselves forward in the presence of God and His Messenger. Fear God—God hears all and knows all.

² Believers, do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet, and do not speak as loudly when speaking to him as you do when speaking to one another, lest your actions come to nothing without your realizing it. ³ Those who lower their voices in the presence of God's Messenger are men whose hearts God has tested for piety—they shall have forgiveness and a great reward—⁴ those who call out to you from outside your apartments are lacking in understanding. ⁵ If they waited patiently until you came out to see them, it would be better for them. But God is forgiving and merciful.

⁶ Believers, if an evil-doer brings you news, ascertain the correctness of the report fully, lest you unwittingly harm others, and then regret what you have done,⁷ and know that the Messenger of God is among you. If he were to obey you in many things, you would suffer for it. However, God has endeared the faith to you, and beautified it in your hearts, and has made denial of the truth, wickedness, and disobedience hateful to you.

People such as these are rightly guided ⁸through God's bounty and favour; God is all knowing, and wise.

⁹If two parties of believers fight against each other, make peace between them; then if after that one of them transgresses against the other, fight the party that transgresses until it submits to the command of God. Then if it complies, make peace between them with equity, and act justly. Truly, God loves the just. ¹⁰Surely all believers are brothers. So make peace between your brothers, and fear God, so that mercy may be shown to you.

¹¹Believers, let not some men among you ridicule others: it may be that the latter are better than the former: nor should some women laugh at others: it may be that the latter are better than the former: do not defame or be sarcastic to each other, or call each other by [offensive] nicknames. How bad it is to earn an evil reputation after accepting the faith! Those who do not repent are evil-doers.

¹²Believers, avoid much suspicion. Indeed some suspicion is a sin. And do not spy on one another and do not backbite. Would any of you like to eat his dead brother's flesh? No, you would hate it. Fear God, God is ever forgiving and most merciful.

¹³ Mankind! We have created you from a male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes, so that you might come to know each other. The noblest of you in God's sight is the one who fears God most. God is all knowing and all-aware.

¹⁴ The Arabs of the desert say, 'We have believed.' Say to them, 'You have not believed yet; say rather, "We have submitted," for faith has not yet entered into your hearts. But if you will obey God and His Messenger, He will not detract anything from your good deeds. God is most forgiving and ever merciful.' ¹⁵ The believers are only those who have faith in God and His Messenger and then doubt not, but strive, hard with their wealth and their persons for the cause of God. Such are the truthful ones.

¹⁶ Say, 'Do you presume to teach God your religion when God knows everything in the heavens and earth? God has knowledge of all things.' ¹⁷ They think they have done you a favour by becoming Muslims! Say, 'Do not consider your Islam a favour to me. No indeed! It is God who bestowed a favour on you by guiding you to the true faith. [Admit this], if you are telling the truth.' ¹⁸ God knows the unseen things of the heavens and the earth. God sees all that you do.

50. *QAF*

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

¹ *Qaf*

By the glorious Quran! ² Indeed, they are astonished that a warner should have come to them from among themselves. So these deniers of the truth say, ‘This is indeed a strange thing, ³ to come back to life after we have died and become dust? That is most improbable!’

⁴ We know very well what the earth takes away from them: We hold a book which records all things. ⁵ But they denied the truth when it came to them, so they are in a state of confusion.

⁶ Have they not observed the sky above them and marked how We have built it and adorned it, leaving no flaws in it; ⁷ We spread out the earth and set upon it solid mountains and We brought forth from it all kinds of delightful plants, ⁸ as a lesson and reminder for every human being who turns to God; ⁹ and We have sent down from the sky blessed water with which We have brought forth gardens and grain to be harvested, ¹⁰ and tall palm-trees with their thickly-clustered dates, ¹¹ as a provision for human beings; and by [all] this We bring dead land to life. Such shall be the Resurrection.

¹² Before them, the people of Noah and the people of Rass denied this truth; and so did the people of Thamud. ¹³ And the tribe of ‘Ad, and Pharaoh, and the brethren of Lot, ¹⁴ and the dwellers of the Wood, and the people of Tubba’: every one denied their messengers, and so My warning came true. ¹⁵ Were We then worn out by the first creation? Yet they are in doubt about a second creation.

¹⁶ We created man—We know the promptings of his soul, and are closer to him than his jugular vein—¹⁷ and the two recording angels are recording, sitting on the right and the left: ¹⁸ each word he utters shall be noted down by a vigilant guardian.

¹⁹ The trance of death will come revealing the truth: that is what you were trying to escape. ²⁰ The trumpet will be sounded. This is the Day [you were] warned of. ²¹ Each person will arrive attended by an [angel] to drive him on and another to bear witness. ²² You were heedless of this, but now We have removed your veil, so your sight today is sharp. ²³ His companion attendant will say, ‘I have here his record ready.’ ²⁴ ‘Cast into Hell every ungrateful, rebellious one, ²⁵ hinderer of good, transgressor, causing others to doubt, ²⁶ who has set up another god besides God: cast him into severe punishment’—²⁷ and his associate [Satan] will say, ‘Lord, I did not make him transgress, he had already gone far astray himself.’ ²⁸ God will say, ‘Do not quarrel in My presence. I gave you the warning

beforehand ²⁹ and My word shall not be changed, nor am I unjust to My servants.'

³⁰ On that Day, We shall ask Hell, 'Are you now full?' Hell will answer, 'Are there any more?'

³¹ Paradise will be brought near to the righteous and will no longer be far away. ³² This is what you were promised—this is for everyone who often turned to God and kept Him in mind, ³³ who fears the Compassionate One, though He is unseen, and comes to Him with a penitent heart; ³⁴ so enter it in peace. This is the Day of everlasting life. ³⁵ There they shall have all that they desire, and there is even more with Us.

³⁶ How many a generation, far greater in prowess, have We destroyed before them! They searched the entire land: but could they find a refuge? ³⁷ There is truly a reminder in this for whoever has a heart, whoever listens attentively.

³⁸ We created the heavens, the earth, and everything between them in six days [periods] nor were We ever wearied. ³⁹ So bear with patience what they say, and glorify your Lord with His praise, before the rising and before the setting of the sun; ⁴⁰ proclaim His praise in the night and at the end of every prayer.

⁴¹ Hearken! The Day when the caller will call from near. ⁴² The Day when men will hear the fateful cry, they will rise up [from their graves]. ⁴³ Truly, it is We who give life and cause death, and to Us shall all

return ⁴⁴ on the Day the earth will be rent asunder over them, and from it they shall emerge in haste. To assemble them all is easy enough for Us.

⁴⁵ We know best what those who deny the truth say. You are not there to force them: so remind, with this Quran, those who fear My warning.

51. SCATTERING WINDS (*AL-DHARIYAT*)

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

¹ By the winds that scatter the dust, ² and those that bear the burden [of the rain], ³ and those speeding along with ease, ⁴ and distributing the command of God at His behest! ⁵ What you are promised is certainly true: ⁶ the Judgement will surely come to pass—⁷ by the heaven full of tracks, ⁸ surely you are deeply at variance [as to what to believe]—⁹ he is turned away from [the truth] who is destined to be so turned away.

¹⁰ May the conjecturers perish, ¹¹ who flounder in the depths of ignorance. ¹² They ask, ‘When will the Day of Judgement come?’ ¹³ It will be the Day when they are tormented at the Fire. ¹⁴ ‘Taste your trial. This is what you sought to hasten.’ ¹⁵ Surely the God-fearing will find themselves in the midst of gardens and springs. ¹⁶ They shall receive what their Lord will

bestow on them. They have done good works in the past, ¹⁷ sleeping little in the night-time, ¹⁸ praying at dawn for God's pardon, ¹⁹ and sharing their possessions with the beggars and the deprived.

²⁰ On the earth, and in yourselves, ²¹ there are signs for firm believers. Do you not see then? ²² In heaven is your sustenance, and also that which you are promised. ²³ By the Lord of the heaven and the earth, it is certainly the truth. It is as true as your ability to speak.

²⁴ Have you heard the story of Abraham's honoured guests? ²⁵ When they came to him they said, 'Peace!' He answered, 'Peace!' [saying to himself]. 'They are strangers.' ²⁶ Then he turned quickly to his household, and brought a fatted calf, ²⁷ and placed it before them. 'Will you not eat?' he said, ²⁸ beginning to be afraid of them. But they said, 'Don't be afraid'; and they gave him the good news of a son who would be endowed with knowledge. ²⁹ Then his wife came forward, crying and beating her brow. She said, 'I am surely a barren, old woman.' ³⁰ 'Such is the will of your Lord,' they replied. 'He is the Wise, the All Knowing.'

³¹ Abraham asked, 'What is your errand, O messengers?' ³² They replied, 'We have been sent to a sinful people, ³³ so that we may bring down upon them a shower of stones of clay, ³⁴ which are marked by your Lord for the punishment of those guilty of excesses.' ³⁵ We saved all the faithful in the town.

³⁶ We found in it only one household of true believers—
³⁷ and We left therein a sign for those who fear a painful punishment.

³⁸ There is another sign in Moses: We sent him to Pharaoh with clear authority. ³⁹ But he turned his back, he and his courtiers, and said, ‘This is a sorcerer or a madman.’ ⁴⁰ Then We seized him and his army and cast them all into the sea: he himself [Pharaoh] was to blame. ⁴¹ There is another sign in the [tribe of] ‘Ad, when We sent against them a life-destroying wind ⁴² and it destroyed everything over which it passed and reduced it to dust. ⁴³ In the Thamud [there was another sign], when they were told, ‘Make the most of your lives for a while.’ ⁴⁴ But they rebelled against the command of their Lord. So the thunderbolt overtook them while they looked on: ⁴⁵ they could not stand up again, nor could they defend themselves. ⁴⁶ [We destroyed] the people of Noah before them. They were certainly a sinful people.

⁴⁷ We built the universe with Our might, giving it its vast expanse. ⁴⁸ We have spread out the earth—how well We have spread it out—⁴⁹ and We created pairs of all things so that you might reflect. ⁵⁰ Therefore hasten to God; truly, I am sent by Him to give you clear warning. ⁵¹ Do not set up another god, along with God. I come from Him to warn you plainly.

⁵² Likewise, there came no messenger to those before them, but they said, ‘He is a sorcerer or a

madman.’ ⁵³ Have they handed this down to one another? They are certainly a people who exceed all bounds, ⁵⁴ so ignore them—you are not to blame—⁵⁵ but keep on exhorting them, for exhortation benefits the believers.

⁵⁶ I created the jinn and mankind only so that they might worship Me: ⁵⁷ I seek no sustenance from them, nor do I want them to feed Me—⁵⁸ it is God who is the great Sustainer, the Mighty One, the Invincible. ⁵⁹ The wrongdoers will meet the same fate as their predecessors—let them not ask Me to hasten on [the punishment]—⁶⁰ woe, then, to those who are bent on denying the truth, when the Day arrives which they have been promised.

52. MOUNT SINAI (*AL-TUR*)

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

¹ By the Mount Sinai, ² and by the Scripture penned ³ on unrolled parchment, ⁴ by the frequented House, ⁵ and by the lofty vault of the sky, ⁶ and by the swelling sea, ⁷ the punishment of your Lord shall certainly come to pass—⁸ there is no one who could avert it—⁹ on the Day when the skies are convulsed, ¹⁰ and the mountains shudder and shake. ¹¹ Woe on that Day to

those who deny the truth, ¹² who divert themselves with idle chatter: ¹³ on that Day they shall be ruthlessly thrust into the Fire of Hell. ¹⁴ This is the fire which you used to deny. ¹⁵ Is this magic or do you not see? ¹⁶ Now enter it. Whether you behave patiently or impatiently will make no difference: you are only being repaid for what you have done.

¹⁷ Truly, the God-fearing will dwell [on that Day] in gardens and in bliss, ¹⁸ rejoicing in whatever their Lord has given them. Their Lord has saved them from the torment of the Fire, ¹⁹ ‘Eat and drink with good cheer as a reward for your good deeds,’ ²⁰ reclining on couches arranged in rows. And We shall wed them to fair maidens with large beautiful eyes.

²¹ To those who have attained to faith We shall unite their offspring who have also followed them in faith, and We shall not let any of their good deeds go unrewarded; every human being is a pledge for whatever he has earned. ²² We shall provide them in abundance with such fruit and meat as they desire. ²³ There, they shall pass from hand to hand a cup which does not lead to any idle talk or sin. ²⁴ They will be waited upon by immortal youths, like pearls hidden in their shells. ²⁵ They will converse with one another, putting questions to each other, ²⁶ ‘Before this, when we were among our families, we were full of fear of God’s displeasure—’ ²⁷ God has been gracious to us and has saved us from the torment of Hell’s intense

heat—²⁸ before this, we used to pray to Him. Surely, He is the Beneficent, the Merciful.’

²⁹ Therefore continue to give warning, for by the grace of your Lord, you are not a soothsayer or a madman. ³⁰ If they say, ‘He is but a poet; we are waiting for some misfortune to befall him,’ ³¹ say [to them], ‘Wait then: I too am waiting along with you!’—³² is it their minds that prompt them [to say] this, or are they merely insolent people? ³³ Or do they say, ‘He has invented it himself’? Indeed, they are not willing to believe. ³⁴ Let them produce a scripture like it, if what they say is true.

³⁵ Were they created out of nothing, or are they their own creators? ³⁶ Did they create the heavens and the earth? No! They have no faith. ³⁷ Do they own the treasures of your Lord, or have they been given charge of them? ³⁸ Have they a ladder up to heaven by means of which they can overhear? Then let their listeners bring a clear proof. ³⁹ Does God have daughters while you have sons?

⁴⁰ Or do you ask them for a reward, so that they are over-burdened by debt? ⁴¹ Do they possess knowledge of the unseen, so that they can write it down? ⁴² Do they want to hatch some plot? Those who deny the truth will be the victims of the plot. ⁴³ Or have they a god other than God? Exalted be God over what they ascribe as partners [to Him]!

⁴⁴ If they should see a part of the heavens falling

down, they would say, ‘A mass of clouds,’⁴⁵ so leave them alone till they face the Day on which they will be struck dumb,⁴⁶ the Day when none of their scheming will be of the least avail to them, and they will receive no succour.⁴⁷ Truly, for those who do wrong there is a punishment besides that, though most of them do not know it.

⁴⁸ So wait patiently for the Judgement of your Lord—you are certainly under Our watchful eye. And glorify and celebrate the praises of your Lord when you rise up [from your sleep].⁴⁹ Extol His glory at night, and at the setting of the stars.

53. THE SETTING STAR (*AL-NAJM*)

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

¹ By the setting star, ² your companion has neither strayed nor is he misguided, ³ nor does he speak out of his own desire. ⁴ It [the Quran] is nothing but revelation sent down to him. ⁵ He was taught by [an angel] who is mighty in power, ⁶ and endowed with wisdom; who in time manifested himself; ⁷ standing poised at the highest point on the horizon, ⁸ then came down close ⁹ until he was two bow-lengths away or even closer ¹⁰ and revealed to God’s servant what he

revealed. ¹¹ The heart [of the Prophet] did not misconstrue what he saw. ¹² Will you then dispute with him as to what he saw? ¹³ And certainly he saw him descend a second time: ¹⁴ by the lote-tree of the farthest limit, beyond which none may pass ¹⁵ by the Garden of [Eternal] Repose, ¹⁶ when the lote tree was covered in mystic splendour. ¹⁷ His sight did not waver nor was it unduly bold. ¹⁸ He saw some of the greatest signs of his Lord.

¹⁹ Have you really considered al-Lat and al-‘Uzza, ²⁰ and the third one, Manat? ^{a—21} ‘What! For you the males and for Him the females?’ ²² That indeed is an unfair division—²³ these are nothing but names which you yourselves have devised, you and your forefathers. God has sent down no authority for them. They follow nothing but conjecture and what their own selves desire, even though guidance has already come to them from their Lord! ²⁴ Shall man have whatever he craves? ²⁵ But it is to God that the Hereafter and this world belong.

²⁶ There may be countless angels in heaven, but their intercession will be of no avail until God has given permission to those whom he chooses and accepts. ²⁷ Those who do not believe in the life to come call the angels by female names. ²⁸ They have no knowledge to base this on. They merely indulge in

^a Al-Lat, al-‘Uzza and Manat were the deities of ancient Arabia.

guess-work which can never replace the truth. ²⁹ So ignore those who turn away from Our revelation and seek nothing but the life of this world. ³⁰ That is the ultimate extent of their knowledge. Surely your Lord knows best those who stray from His path and He knows best those who follow His guidance.

³¹ Everything in the heavens and on the earth belongs to God and so He will requite those who do evil in accordance with their deeds and will reward those left with that which is best, for those who do good. ³² As for those who refrain from committing grave sins and indecent acts, though they may commit minor offences, your Lord is unstinting in His forgiveness. He knows you when He brings you out of the earth, and when you were embryos in the wombs of your mothers; so do not make claims to be pure. He knows best who is truly righteous.^a

³³ Have you [Prophet] considered the man who turned away, ³⁴ who at first gave a little, then later held back? ³⁵ Has he knowledge of the unseen, so that he sees? ³⁶ Has he not been made acquainted with what

^a Almighty God has given full guidance to man as to what he should do and what he should not. However, man may be pardoned in the case of lesser offences (*lamam*), i.e. indulging in some mischief because of fleeting emotion, on the condition that he should immediately realise his lapse and, being ashamed of it, seek pardon of his Lord.

was written in the scriptures of Moses? ³⁷ And with Abraham who kept his word: ³⁸ that no soul shall bear the burden of another; ³⁹ and that man shall have only that for which he strives; ⁴⁰ and that [the fruit of] his striving shall soon be seen; ⁴¹ and in the end he will be repaid for it in full; ⁴² that all things in the end shall return to God; ⁴³ that it is He who brings laughter and tears; ⁴⁴ that it is He who causes death and gives life; ⁴⁵ and that He Himself created the two sexes: male and female, ⁴⁶ from an ejected drop of sperm; ⁴⁷ and that He will bring about the Second Creation; ⁴⁸ that it is He who gives wealth and possessions; ⁴⁹ that He is the Lord of Sirius.

⁵⁰ It was He who totally destroyed the former ‘Ad ⁵¹ and Thamud tribes, ⁵² and before them the people of Noah who were even more unjust and insolent; ⁵³ and He overthrew the subverted cities [of Sodom and Gomorrah] ⁵⁴ and then covered them from sight forever. ⁵⁵ On which then of your Lord’s signs do you cast doubt?

⁵⁶ This is a warning just like those of former times. ⁵⁷ The Hour that was to come draws ever nearer. ⁵⁸ None but God can avert it. ⁵⁹ Do you then find these tidings strange? ⁶⁰ Why do you laugh rather than weep? ⁶¹ Will you remain proudly heedless? ⁶² Prostrate yourselves before God, and worship Him alone!

54. THE MOON (*AL-QAMAR*)

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

¹The Last Hour draws near and the moon is split asunder. ²Yet, when they see a sign they [who deny the truth] turn their backs and say, ‘The same old sorcery!’ ³They deny the truth and follow their own whims—every matter has its appointed time—⁴there has come to them many a tidings wherein there are warnings, ⁵profound in wisdom, but all warnings have been of no avail: ⁶so ignore them. On the Day when the Crier will call out about a horrible event, ⁷with downcast eyes they shall come out of their graves, as if they were locusts milling about ⁸hastening towards the Crier. Those who deny the truth will cry, ‘This is such a hard day!’

⁹The people of Noah denied [the truth] before them. They belied Our messenger saying, ‘He is mad!’ He was rebuffed, ¹⁰so he cried out to his Lord, saying, ‘I am overcome, so help me!’ ¹¹So We opened the gates of the sky with water pouring down in torrents, ¹²and We caused the earth to burst with gushing springs: so that the waters met for a purpose which had been decreed. ¹³We bore him on an [ark] which, made of planks and nails, ¹⁴floated on under Our eyes: a vindication of him who had been rejected. ¹⁵We have

left this as a sign: but will anyone take heed? ¹⁶ How terrible then was My punishment and My warning. ¹⁷ We have made it easy to learn lessons from the Quran. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

¹⁸ The people of 'Ad too rejected the truth. How terrible was My punishment and My warning. ¹⁹ We sent a raging wind against them on a day of continuous calamity. ²⁰ It swept people away as if they were trunks of uprooted palm trees. ²¹ How [dreadful] was My punishment and My warning! ²² We have made it easy to learn lessons from the Quran: is there anyone who would receive admonition?

²³ The tribe of Thamud also rejected Our warnings: ²⁴ they said, 'Are we to follow a man from amongst ourselves? We would surely then fall into error and madness. ²⁵ Has the [Divine] message been revealed to him alone of all of us? No, he is a boastful liar.' ²⁶ [We said to him] 'Tomorrow they shall know who is the boastful liar, ²⁷ for We are [going to] send the she-camel as a trial for them, so watch them and be patient. ²⁸ And tell them that the water [of the well] is to be divided between them, and that each one should drink in turn.' ²⁹ But they called their companion who took a sword and hamstrung her. ³⁰ How [terrible] were My punishment and My warnings! ³¹ Then We sent a single blast against them and they became like dry stubble which has been trampled upon. ³² Indeed, We have made the Quran easy to learn

lessons from. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

³³ The people of Lot rejected Our warnings. ³⁴ We sent a sandstorm against them which destroyed them all, except the family of Lot, whom We saved at the break of dawn, ³⁵ as a blessing from Us: this is how We reward the thankful. ³⁶ Lot warned them of Our punishment, but they disputed the warnings—³⁷ they even wanted to seduce his guests—but We blinded them, and said, ‘Taste My punishment now that you have scorned My warnings!’—³⁸ and early in the morning the punishment decreed overtook them—³⁹ ‘Taste My punishment now that you have scorned My warnings!’ ⁴⁰ We have made it easy indeed to learn lessons from the Quran. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

⁴¹ Surely warners came to the people of Pharaoh. ⁴² They, too, rejected all Our signs. So We seized them with the seizure of One Mighty, Omnipotent.

⁴³ Are your people who deny the truth better than those? Or have you been given immunity in the Scriptures? ⁴⁴ Or do they say, ‘We are a united group, and we are bound to prevail’? ⁴⁵ The hosts shall soon be routed and they shall be put to flight. ⁴⁶ Indeed, the Hour of Doom is their appointed time, and the Last Hour will be the most severe, and the most bitter. ⁴⁷ The evil-doers are indeed sunk in error and folly—⁴⁸ on the Day when they are dragged into the fire on

their faces, it will be said to them, ‘Now feel the touch of Hell!’

⁴⁹ We have created everything in due measure; ⁵⁰ We command but once: Our will is done in the twinkling of an eye; ⁵¹ We have indeed destroyed many a people like you. Is there anyone who would receive admonition? ⁵² All their deeds are recorded in their books: ⁵³ every action, small or great, is noted down. ⁵⁴ The God-conscious will find themselves in gardens and rivers, ⁵⁵ in the seat of truth with an all-powerful sovereign.

55. THE MERCIFUL (*AL-RAHMAN*)

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

¹ The Merciful ² who taught the Quran—³ He created man ⁴ and He taught him speech. ⁵ The sun and the moon move according to a fixed reckoning; ⁶ the stars and the trees bend in prostration. ⁷ He raised the heavens and set up the measure, ⁸ so that you should not transgress the measure. ⁹ Always measure with justice and do not give short measure.

¹⁰ He has laid out the earth for His creatures. ¹¹ On it are fruits and palm-trees with sheathed clusters [of dates], ¹² and grains with their husk and fragrant

plants. ¹³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ¹⁴ He has created man, from dry ringing clay, like the potter's, ¹⁵ and He created the jinns from a flame of fire. ¹⁶ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ¹⁷ He is the Lord of the two easts and the Lord of the two wests. ¹⁸ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ¹⁹ He has set the two oceans in motion, converging together. ²⁰ Between them is a barrier, which they do not overrun. ²¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ²² Pearls and corals come forth from both of them. ²³ Which, of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ²⁴ His are the lofty ships, that rear aloft on the sea like mountains. ²⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

²⁶ All that is on the earth is doomed to perish, ²⁷ while your Lord's own Self will remain full of majesty and glory. ²⁸ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ²⁹ Everyone in the heavens and on the earth entreats Him. Every day He manifests Himself in a new state. ³⁰ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

³¹ Soon We shall attend to you—two big groups [of jinn and mankind]. ³² Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ³³ O company of jinn and men! If you have the power to go beyond the realms of the heavens and the earth, pass beyond them: you cannot pass out but with [Our] authority. ³⁴ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ³⁵ Flames of fire and molten

brass shall be sent against both of you, and you will not be able to defend yourselves.^a ³⁶ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

³⁷ When the sky is rent asunder, and becomes red like red leather, ³⁸ which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ³⁹ For, on that Day, neither man nor jinn will be questioned about his sins. ⁴⁰ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴¹ The guilty shall be recognized by their marks so they shall be seized by their forelocks and their feet. ⁴² Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴³ This is the Hell which the guilty called a lie. ⁴⁴ They will go round between its flames and boiling water. ⁴⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

⁴⁶ There are two gardens for one who fears standing before his Lord. ⁴⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴⁸ [There will be two gardens with] spreading branches. ⁴⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁰ In both of them, there are two springs flowing. ⁵¹ Which of your Lord's wonders

^a The present world is a place of trial. So long as the period of testing lasts, everybody has the opportunity to be as arrogant as he pleases. But, in spite of this complete freedom, no jinn or human being has the power to go beyond the limits of the universe. This fact itself is enough to prove that man is completely in the grip of God. On the expiry of the test period, when He starts seizing hold of people, it will not be possible for anybody to save himself.

would you deny? ⁵² In both of them, there will be two kinds of every fruit. ⁵³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁴ They will recline upon carpets lined with rich brocade; and the fruits of both these gardens will be within easy reach. ⁵⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁶ Therein are maidens of modest gaze, whom neither a man nor a jinn had ever touched before them. ⁵⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁸ [There will be] maidens as fair as corals and rubies. ⁵⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁰ The reward of goodness shall be nothing but goodness. ⁶¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

⁶² Besides those two there shall be two other gardens. ⁶³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁴ Both [gardens] of the darkest green. ⁶⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁶ In both of them live springs gush forth. ⁶⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁸ In both of them there will be fruit trees and date-palms and pomegranates. ⁶⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁰ Therein will be maidens chaste and beautiful. ⁷¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷² [There the blessed will live with their] pure companions sheltered in pavilions. ⁷³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁴ Whom neither a man or jinn had ever touched before them. ⁷⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁶ [They will

live in such a paradise] reclining upon green cushions and the finest carpets.⁷⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?⁷⁸ Blessed be your Lord's name, full of glory and majesty!

56. THE INEVITABLE EVENT (*AL-WAQI'AH*)

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

¹ When the inevitable event takes place, ² and there can be no denying its happening, ³ some shall be abased and others exalted. ⁴ When the earth is shaken violently, ⁵ and the mountains are totally shattered and crumble to pieces ⁶ and become like scattered dust particles, ⁷ [on that Day] you shall be divided into three groups.^a

^a In the present world, man observes that he is free to do whatever he likes. So the question of retribution in the Hereafter makes no impact on his mind. But the formation of the 'other world' is just as possible as the formation of the present world. When that time comes, the whole system will be reversed. Those people who were higher in position will go down and those who were lower in position will be seen up above. At that time human beings will be divided into three groups, forward group (*al-sabiqun*), people of the Right (*ashab al-yamin*) and people of the Left (*ashab al-shimal*).

⁸ Those on the Right—how blessed are those on the Right! ⁹ Those on the Left—how unlucky are those on the Left! ¹⁰ The third to the fore shall be the foremost. ¹¹ They shall be the nearest to God. ¹² They will dwell in the Gardens of Bliss: ¹³ a large group of the early believers, ¹⁴ and a lesser number from the later generations. ¹⁵ Seated on couches wrought in gold and encrusted with precious stones, ¹⁶ reclining on them facing each other; ¹⁷ they will be waited on by ageless youths ¹⁸ carrying goblets and ewers and cups filled with the purest wine, ¹⁹ neither causing headaches, nor intoxication; ²⁰ along with fruits of their choice; ²¹ and the meat of any bird that they may desire; ²² and fair maidens with large, lustrous eyes ²³ like the pearls in their shells: ²⁴ shall be their recompense for their deeds. ²⁵ They will not hear therein any vain or sinful talk, ²⁶ only the words of peace and tranquillity.

²⁷ Those on the Right, how fortunate are those on the Right! ²⁸ They shall recline on high amidst lote trees without thorns ²⁹ and clustered bananas, ³⁰ and spreading shade ³¹ and flowing water, ³² and fruits in abundance, ³³ never-ending and unrestricted, ³⁴ on raised couches. ³⁵ We have created maidens perfectly ³⁶ and made them virgins, ³⁷ loving companions, matching in age, ³⁸ for those on the Right, ³⁹ a large group of the earlier people ⁴⁰ and a large group of those of later times.

⁴¹ Those on the Left: how unfortunate are those on

the Left! ⁴² They will find themselves in scorching wind and scalding water, ⁴³ and under the shadow of black smoke, ⁴⁴ neither cool nor refreshing. ⁴⁵ They had been affluent before, ⁴⁶ and they persisted obstinately in awful sin, ⁴⁷ and they used to say, 'What! After we have died and become dust and bones, shall we indeed be raised up again? ⁴⁸ And also our forefathers?' ⁴⁹ Say, 'Indeed, the earlier ones and the later ones ⁵⁰ will indeed be gathered together at a fixed time on an appointed Day. ⁵¹ Then you, you misguided ones, who deny the truth, ⁵² shall eat the fruit of the tree of Zaqqum, ⁵³ and fill your bellies with it, ⁵⁴ and shall drink boiling water on top of that. ⁵⁵ You shall drink it as the thirsty camels drink.' ⁵⁶ This shall be their entertainment on the Day of Judgement.

⁵⁷ We have created you: why then do you not accept the truth? ⁵⁸ Have you thought about [the semen] that you discharge—⁵⁹ did you create it or did We? ⁶⁰ It is We who have ordained death for all of you; and We cannot be prevented ⁶¹ from replacing you by others like yourselves or changing your forms and re-creating you in forms that you know nothing of. ⁶² You have certainly known the first creation. Why, then, do you not take heed? ⁶³ Have you thought about what crops you plant? ⁶⁴ Is it you who cause them to grow or do We? ⁶⁵ If We so pleased, We could turn your harvest into chaff. Then you would start lamenting, ⁶⁶ 'We are ruined, ⁶⁷ nay, we are deprived [altogether].'

⁶⁸ Have you considered the water that you drink? ⁶⁹ Is it you who cause it to descend from the clouds, or do We? ⁷⁰ If We so pleased, We certainly could make it salty. Why, then, are you not grateful? ⁷¹ Have you thought about the fire that you kindle. ⁷² Did you produce the tree that serves as fuel or do We? ⁷³ We have made it to be a reminder and a benefit for the wayfarers. ⁷⁴ So glorify the name of your Lord, the Supreme.

⁷⁵ Nay, I swear by the setting of the stars—⁷⁶ and, indeed, that is a most mighty oath, if you only knew—⁷⁷ that this is indeed a noble Quran, ⁷⁸ in a well-guarded preserved Book, ⁷⁹ which none can touch except the purified. ⁸⁰ It is a revelation sent down from the Lord of the worlds. ⁸¹ How can you regard this discourse with disdain? ⁸² Do you make its denial your means of livelihood?

⁸³ Why, then, when the soul of the dying man reaches the throat, ⁸⁴ and you are [at that moment] looking on [helplessly]—⁸⁵ and We are nearer to him than you, although you cannot see Us—⁸⁶ why, then, if you are not subject to Our command, ⁸⁷ do you not cause the soul to return to him if you are truthful in your claim? ⁸⁸ But if he [the dying person] is one of those brought near to God, ⁸⁹ then for him there shall be comfort and plenty and a Garden of Bliss; ⁹⁰ and if he is of those who are on the Right, ⁹¹ he will be greeted with, ‘Peace be to you,’ by those on the Right.

⁹² But if he is one of those who rejected [the truth] and went astray, ⁹³ he will be welcomed with boiling water. ⁹⁴ He will burn in Hell. ⁹⁵ This is indeed the indubitable truth. ⁹⁶ So glorify the name of your Lord, the Supreme.

57. IRON (*AL-HADID*)

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

¹ Everything in the heavens and earth glorifies God—He is the Mighty, the Wise One. ² He has sovereign control over the heavens and the earth. He gives life and brings death. He has power over all things. ³ He is the First and the Last, the Outward and the Inward. He has knowledge of all things. ⁴ It was He who created the heavens and earth in six Days [periods] and then ascended the throne. He knows what enters the earth and what comes out of it; what descends from the sky and what ascends to it. He is with you wherever you are; He sees all that you do; ⁵ He has sovereignty over the heavens and the earth. All affairs will return to God. ⁶ He causes the night to pass into the day and the day to pass into the night. And He knows all that is in the hearts of men.

⁷ Have faith in God and His Messenger and spend in charity from that of which He has made you

trustees: those of you who believe and give alms shall be richly rewarded.⁸ What could be your reason for not believing in God, when the Messenger calls on you to have faith in your Lord and He has already made a covenant with you, if indeed you are true believers?⁹ It is He who sends down to His Servant clear revelations, so that He may lead you out of darkness into light. God is indeed compassionate and merciful to you.¹⁰ Why should you not spend for the cause of God, when God alone holds the heritage of the heavens and the earth? Those of you who spent and fought before the victory will be higher in rank than those who spent and fought afterwards.^a Yet God has promised you all a good reward. He is aware of all that you do.

¹¹ Who will offer God a generous loan? He will double it for him and give him a rich reward.¹² On the Day, you [Prophet] shall see the faithful, both men and women, with their light streaming out before them and on their right hands, [and you shall hear a voice saying to them:] ‘Glad tidings for you today! You shall enter gardens with rivers flowing through them wherein you shall forever dwell. That is the supreme triumph.’¹³ On that Day, the hypocrites, both men and women, will say to the faithful, ‘Wait a while for us, so that we may have some of your light.’ They will be told,

^a See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

‘Turn back and look for a light elsewhere.’ A wall will then be raised between them. It will have a gate on the inside of which will be grace and mercy and on the outside of which will be punishment.¹⁴ The hypocrites will call out to the faithful: ‘Were we not on your side?’ They will reply, ‘Yes, but you gave in to temptation, you wavered and doubted and were deceived by your wishful thinking until God’s will was done; then the Deceiver [Satan] misled you about God.’¹⁵ So this Day no ransom can be taken from you nor from those who were bent on denying the truth. Your home is the fire; that is your companion, and a hapless journey’s end.

¹⁶ Has the time not come for the faithful when their hearts in all humility should engage in the remembrance of God and of the revelation of truth, so that they should not become like those who were given the Book before them, whose hearts with the passage of time became hardened and many of whom were disobedient?¹⁷ Remember that God brings the earth back to life after its death. We have made Our signs clear to you, so that you may fully understand.

¹⁸ Alms-givers, both men and women, who give a generous loan to God, shall have it multiplied and shall have an honourable reward.¹⁹ Those who believe in God and His messengers are the truthful ones and the witnesses in the sight of their Lord. They shall have their reward and their light. But those who are

bent on denying the truth and reject Our signs shall be destined for Hell.

²⁰ Never forget that the life of this world is only a game and a passing delight, a show, and mutual boasting and trying to outrival each other in riches and children. It is like the growth of vegetation after the rain, which delights the planter, but which then withers away, turns yellow and becomes worthless stubble. In the life to come there will be a terrible punishment, or God's forgiveness and approval: the life of this world is nothing but a means of deception.

²¹ Vie with one another for your Lord's forgiveness and for a Paradise as vast as heaven and earth, which has been made ready for those who believe in God and His messengers. Such is God's grace. He bestows it upon whoever He pleases. There is no limit to God's bounty.

²² No misfortune can affect the earth or your own selves without its first having been recorded in a book, before We bring it into being. That is easy for God to do; ²³ so that you may not grieve for what has escaped you, nor be exultant over what you have gained. God loves neither the conceited nor the boastful, ²⁴ nor those who, being miserly themselves, urge others to be miserly. He who turns his back should remember that God alone is self-sufficient and worthy of all praise.

²⁵ We sent Our messengers with evidence and, with them, We sent down the Book and the Scales of

Justice, so that men might act in all fairness. We sent down iron with its great inherent strength and its many benefits for mankind, so that God might know who would stand up for God, though unseen, and His messengers. God is powerful, and almighty.

²⁶ We sent forth Noah and Abraham and bestowed upon their offspring prophethood and the Book. Some of them were rightly guided, but many others were transgressors. ²⁷ Then, in their wake, We followed them up with [others of] Our messengers and after them Jesus, son of Mary. We gave him the Gospel and imbued the hearts of those who followed him with compassion and mercy. But We did not prescribe monasticism for them: that was their own innovation by which they sought to please God. But then, they did not observe it in the way that it should have been observed. So We rewarded only those who were truly faithful, for many of them were disobedient.

²⁸ Believers, fear God and believe in His messenger. He will show you mercy in double measure and will provide a light for you to walk in. God will grant you forgiveness. He is forgiving and merciful. ²⁹ The People of the Book should know that they have no power whatsoever over God's grace. His grace is entirely in His hand and He bestows it upon whoever He wills. God is truly infinite in His bounty.