

## 58. THE PLEADING (*AL-MUJADALAH*)

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

<sup>1</sup> God has indeed heard the words of the woman who pleads with you about her husband and lays her complaint before God: God hears what the two of you have to say. God is all hearing, all seeing.

<sup>2</sup> Those who separate themselves from their wives by pronouncing, ‘To me you are like my mother’s back,’ must concede that they are not their mothers; none are their mothers except those who gave birth to them—surely they utter an evil word and a lie. God is pardoning, forgiving. <sup>3</sup> Those who put away their wives by equating them with their mothers, and then wish to go back on what they have said, must set free a slave before the couple may touch one another again. This is what you are exhorted to do. God is fully aware of what you do, <sup>4</sup> and anyone who does not have the means must fast for two consecutive months before they touch each other, and who is not able to do that must feed sixty needy people. That is to affirm your faith in God and His messenger. These are the limits set by God. Those who deny the truth shall have a painful punishment.

<sup>5</sup> Those who oppose God and His Messenger will be humiliated, as were their predecessors. We have sent down clear revelations. A humiliating punishment

awaits those who deny the truth. <sup>6</sup> On the day God raises them all up from the dead, He will make them understand what they have done. God has taken everything into account, even though they have forgotten, for God is a witness to all things.

<sup>7</sup> Do you not see that God knows all that is in the heavens and on the earth? There is not a secret consultation between three, but He makes the fourth among them—nor between five but He makes the sixth—nor between fewer nor more, but He is in their midst, wherever they may be: in the end He will tell them the truth about their conduct, on the Day of Judgement. For God has full knowledge of all things.

<sup>8</sup> Have you not seen how those who were forbidden to hold secret counsels yet revert to that which they were forbidden to do? And they conspire to indulge in wrongdoing, aggressive behaviour and disobedience to the Messenger. When they come to you, they greet you, but not in the words God would use, and inwardly they wonder, ‘Why does God not punish us for what we say?’ Hell will be a fitting punishment for them: they will burn in its flames—a wretched fate!

<sup>9</sup> Believers, when you confer together in private, do not confer in support of sin and transgression and disobedience to the Messenger, but confer for the promotion of virtue and righteousness. Fear God, before whom you shall all be gathered. <sup>10</sup> Conspiracy for evil purposes is the work of Satan, by which he means to

bring grief to believers. But he cannot harm them in the least, unless it be by God's leave. Let the believers put their trust in God.

<sup>11</sup> Believers, if you are told to make room for one another in your assemblies, then do so, and God will make room for you, and if you are told to rise up, do so: God will raise in rank those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge: He is fully aware of all that you do.

<sup>12</sup> Believers, when you come to consult the Messenger privately, give something in charity beforehand. That is best for you and most conducive to purity. But if you cannot find anything to give, know that God is Forgiving and Merciful. <sup>13</sup> Do you fear that you will not [be able to] give in charity before your consultation? Then if you are unable to do so, [know that] God has turned to you in His mercy; then observe your prayers and pay the prescribed alms and obey God and His Messenger. God is aware of all that you do.

<sup>14</sup> Do you not see those who have befriended a people who have brought down upon themselves the wrath of God? They are neither with you nor with them and they wittingly swear to falsehood. <sup>15</sup> God has prepared a severe punishment for them; surely what they have done is evil. <sup>16</sup> They have used their oaths to cover up their misdeeds and have thus turned others away from the path of God. A humiliating punishment awaits them.

<sup>17</sup> Neither their wealth nor their children will be of the least avail [in protecting them] against God—they are the inheritors of Hell, and there they shall remain forever. <sup>18</sup> On the day God raises them all up from the dead, they will swear to Him just as they have sworn to you, thinking that they are on firm ground. But surely they are liars. <sup>19</sup> Satan has got the better of them and has caused them to forget the remembrance of God. They have gone over to the side of the devil, and it is as the devil's partisans that they shall be the losers: <sup>20</sup> those who oppose God and His Messenger will [on Judgement Day] be among the most abased. <sup>21</sup> God has decreed, 'I and My messengers shall most certainly prevail.' Truly God is Powerful and Almighty.

<sup>22</sup> You will find no believers in God and the Last Day consorting with those who oppose God and His Messenger, even though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their close relatives. He has engraved faith on their very hearts and has strengthened them with a spirit of His own. He will usher them into Gardens through which rivers flow where they shall dwell forever. God is well-pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. They are God's party. God's party shall surely enter into a state of bliss.

## 59. BANISHMENT (*AL-HASHR*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Everything in the heavens and on the earth glorifies God. He is the Almighty, the All Wise. <sup>2</sup> It was He who turned those People of the Book who denied the truth out of their homes in the first banishment. You never thought they would go, and they thought their strongholds would protect them against God. But God came upon them from where they least expected and cast such terror into their hearts that their houses were pulled down by their own hands as well as by the hands of the believers. Learn a lesson, then, you who are endowed with insight.

<sup>3</sup> If God had not prescribed exile for them, He would surely have punished them in this world. But they shall have the torment of Fire in the Hereafter, <sup>4</sup> because they set themselves against God and His Messenger: God is stern in His punishment of anyone who sets himself against Him. <sup>5</sup> Whatever palm trees you cut down or left standing on their roots, it was by God's leave, so that He might disgrace the transgressors.

<sup>6</sup> Whatever God has given to His Messenger as spoils from them is by His grace; you spurred neither horse nor camel for them, but God gives power to His messengers over anyone He wills. God has power over

all things—<sup>7</sup> whatever gains God has assigned to His Messenger from the inhabitants of the town is for God and for the Messenger and for his kinsfolk and for orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, so that they may not become the property of those of you who are rich. Whatever the Messenger gives you, take it; and whatever he forbids you, abstain from it. Fear God; surely, God is severe in retribution. <sup>8</sup> It is for the poor refugees who were driven from their homes and possessions, desiring the favour and the pleasure of God and supporting God and His Messenger. Such people are the truthful.

<sup>9</sup> Those who were already settled in the city [Madinah] and firmly rooted in faith, love those who migrated to them for refuge, and harbour no desire in their hearts for what has been given to the [latter]. They give them preference over themselves, even if they too are needy: those who are saved from their own souls' greed are truly successful. <sup>10</sup> Those who came [into the faith] after them say, 'Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in the faith and leave no malice in our hearts towards those who believe. Lord, You are indeed compassionate and merciful.'

<sup>11</sup> Have you not seen those who act hypocritically? They say to their disbelieving companions from among the People of the Book, 'If you are driven out we shall surely go out with you, and we shall never

listen to anyone against you, and if war is waged against you, we shall help you.' God bears witness that they are indeed liars. <sup>12</sup> If they are driven out, they will not go with them, nor, if they are attacked, will they help them. Indeed, if they go to their help, they will turn their backs in flight, and then they will not be helped.

<sup>13</sup> They are more in dread of you than of God, because they are people devoid of understanding.

<sup>14</sup> They will never fight against you in a body except from within fortified strongholds or from behind walls. There is much hostility between them. You think they are united, but their hearts are divided, because they are a people devoid of reason.

<sup>15</sup> Like those who went just before them, they have tasted the evil consequences of their doings. And they shall have a painful punishment. <sup>16</sup> They are like Satan, who says to man, 'Deny the truth!' but when man denied the truth, said, 'I disown you; I fear God, the Lord of the Universe.' <sup>17</sup> Thus, in the end, both will find themselves in the Fire, therein to abide: that is the reward of evil-doers.

<sup>18</sup> Believers! Fear God, and let every soul look to what it lays up for the future. Fear God: God is aware of what you do. <sup>19</sup> Do not be like those who forgot God, so that He caused them to forget their own souls [their own true interests]. It is they who are the rebellious ones. <sup>20</sup> The people of the Fire and the

people of Paradise are not equal. The people of Paradise are the victorious ones.

<sup>21</sup> Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, you would certainly have seen it falling down and splitting asunder, because of the fear of God. We set forth these parables to men so that they may reflect. <sup>22</sup> He is God: there is no deity save Him. He knows the unseen and the visible. He is the Compassionate, the Merciful. <sup>23</sup> He is God, there is no deity save Him, the Sovereign, the Most Pure, the Source of Peace, the Granter of Security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Subduer, the Supreme, Glory be to God, who is far above what they associate with Him. <sup>24</sup> He is God—the Creator, the Originator, the Giver of Form. His are the most excellent names. Everything in the heavens and earth declares His glory. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

## 60. SHE WHO IS TESTED (*AL-MUMTAHANAH*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Believers! Do not offer friendship to those who are enemies of Mine and of yours. Would you show them affection when they have rejected the truth you have received; when they have driven you and the Messenger out [simply] because you believe in God, your Lord.



If you have left your homes to strive for My cause and out of a desire to seek My goodwill, how can you secretly offer them friendship? I know all that you conceal and all that you reveal. Whoever of you does this will surely stray from the right path. <sup>2</sup> If they gain ascendancy over you, they will behave towards you as enemies and stretch out their hands as well as their tongues with evil intent; they long for you to renounce your faith. <sup>3</sup> Neither your relatives nor your children will be of any help to you on the Day of Resurrection. He will judge between you, and God sees all that you do.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed you have an excellent example in Abraham and those who followed him, when they said to their people, 'We disown you and whatever you worship besides God. We renounce you. Enmity and hatred shall endure between us and you, until you believe in the one God.' [The exception was] when Abraham said to his father, 'I shall indeed pray for [God's] forgiveness for you; although I do not have it in my power to obtain anything from God on your behalf.' They prayed, 'O our Lord, in You we have placed our trust and to You we turn in repentance and to You is the final return. <sup>5</sup> Our Lord, do not make us a prey for those who deny the truth, and forgive us our Lord. For You alone are the Mighty, the Wise One.' <sup>6</sup> Surely, there is a good example in them for you; for those who place their hopes in God and the Last Day. Whoever

turns away will surely learn that God is self-sufficient and worthy of all praise. <sup>7</sup> It may well be that God will create goodwill between you and those of them with whom you are now at enmity—for God is all powerful, most forgiving and merciful.

<sup>8</sup> He does not forbid you to deal kindly and justly with anyone who has not fought you on account of your faith or driven you out of your homes: God loves the just. <sup>9</sup> God only forbids you to make friends with those who have fought against you on account of your faith and driven you out of your homes or helped others to do so. Any of you who turn towards them in friendship will truly be transgressors.

<sup>10</sup> Believers! When believing women come to you as refugees, submit them to a test. Their faith is best known to God. Then if you find them to be true believers, do not send them back to those who deny the truth. These [women] are not lawful for them, nor are those who deny the truth lawful for these women. But hand back to those who deny the truth the dowers they gave them; nor is it an offence for you to marry such women, provided you give them their dowers. Do not maintain your marriages with those women who deny the truth: demand repayment of the dowers you have given them and let the disbelievers ask for the return of what they have spent. Such is God's judgement; He judges with justice between you. God is all knowing and all wise. <sup>11</sup> If any of your wives desert you to go

over to the disbelievers, and you subsequently have your turn, [by the coming over of a woman from the other side] give to those who have been deserted by their wives the equivalent of the dowers they gave them. Fear God in whom you believe.

<sup>12</sup> O Prophet! When believing women come to you and pledge themselves not to associate in worship any other thing with God, not to steal or commit adultery or kill their children or indulge in slander, intentionally inventing falsehoods, and not to disobey you in that which is right, then accept their pledge of allegiance and pray to God to forgive them their sins, for God is forgiving and merciful.

<sup>13</sup> Believers! Do not make friends with those who have incurred the wrath of God. Such men are indeed bereft of all hope of a life to come, just as those who deny the truth lying in their graves are bereft of all hopes.

## 61 . RANKS (*AL-SAFF*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Everything in the heavens and earth glorifies God—He is the Almighty, the Wise. <sup>2</sup> Believers! Why do you say one thing and do another. <sup>3</sup> It is most hateful to God that you do not practise what you preach; <sup>4</sup> surely,

God loves those who fight for His cause in ranks, as if they were a solid cemented structure.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Remember when Moses said to his people, ‘O my people, why do you cause me grief when you know that I am God’s Messenger to you?’ When they wavered, God let their hearts waver too. God does not guide transgressors.

<sup>6</sup> Remember when Jesus, son of Mary, said, ‘O Children of Israel, I am sent to you by God, confirming the Torah that came before me and bringing good news of a messenger to follow me, whose name will be Ahmad.’ Yet when he came to them with clear signs, they said, ‘This is merely sorcery.’<sup>7</sup> Who could be more wicked than one who invents lies about God when called to submit to Him? God does not guide the wrongdoers: <sup>8</sup> they wish to put His light out with their mouths. But He will perfect His light, much as those who deny the truth may dislike it; <sup>9</sup> it is He who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the true religion, so that He may cause it to prevail over all religions, however much the polytheists may dislike it.

<sup>10</sup> Believers! Shall I guide you to a profitable course that will save you from a painful punishment? <sup>11</sup> You should believe in God and His Messenger, and strive for God’s cause with your possessions and your lives.

---

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

That will be better for you, if you only knew—<sup>12</sup> and He will forgive you your sins and admit you into Gardens with rivers flowing under them. He will lodge you in fine dwellings in the Gardens of Eternity; that is indeed the supreme achievement. <sup>13</sup> He will give you another blessing which you desire: help from God and imminent victory. Give good tidings [O Muhammad] to believers!

<sup>14</sup> Believers, be God's helpers, as Jesus, son of Mary, said to the disciples, 'Who will be my helpers in the cause of God?' The disciples said, 'We shall be God's helpers.' Some of the Children of Israel believed in him and some denied the truth; We supported the believers against their enemies and they triumphed over them.

## 62. THE DAY OF CONGREGATION (*AL-JUMU'AH*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Whatever is in the heavens and on the earth glorifies God, the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One, the Mighty, the Wise. <sup>2</sup> It is He who has raised among the unlettered people a messenger from among themselves who recites His revelations to them, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and wisdom, for they had

formerly been clearly misguided—<sup>3</sup> and to others also, from among them, who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise One. <sup>4</sup> That is God's grace; He bestows it on whom He pleases; for God is limitless in His grace.

<sup>5</sup> Those who were charged with bearing the Torah, but did not do so are like an ass carrying a load of books. How unfortunate are those who belie the sign of God. God does not guide the wrongdoers. <sup>6</sup> Say, 'You who are Jews, if you claim that you are favoured by God out of all people, then long for death, if you are truthful.' <sup>7</sup> They will never wish for it, because of what their hands have sent forward. God has full knowledge of evil-doers. <sup>8</sup> So say, 'The death you run away from will certainly meet you, and thereafter you will be brought back to the Knower of the unseen and the seen, and He will declare to you what you have done.'

<sup>9</sup> Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hasten to the remembrance of God, and leave all worldly commerce: this is for your own good, if you but knew it. <sup>10</sup> When the prayer is ended, disperse in the land and seek to obtain [something] of God's bounty; and remember God much, so that you may prosper. <sup>11</sup> Yet when they see some merchandise or entertainment, they break away to go to it and leave you standing. Say, 'That which God has in store is far better than any merchandise or entertainment.' God is the most munificent Giver.

## 63. THE HYPOCRITES (*AL-MUNAFIQUN*)

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

<sup>1</sup> When the hypocrites come to you, they say, ‘We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of God.’ God knows that you are indeed His Messenger, but God bears witness that the hypocrites are surely liars—<sup>2</sup> they use their oaths as a cover and thus they bar others from God’s way: what they have been doing is truly evil—<sup>3</sup> that is because they believed and then rejected their faith: their hearts are sealed up, so that they are devoid of understanding.

<sup>4</sup> When you see them, their outward appearance pleases you; when they speak, you listen to what they say. But they are like propped up blocks of timber. They think that every shout is directed against them. They are the [real] enemies, so beware of them. The curse of God be upon them! How they turn away! <sup>5</sup> When they are told, ‘Come! The Messenger of God will ask forgiveness for you!’ they turn their heads away and you see them walking away arrogantly. <sup>6</sup> It makes no difference whether you ask forgiveness for them or not. God will not forgive them: God does not guide such rebellious people.

<sup>7</sup> They are the ones who say, ‘Give nothing to those who follow God’s Messenger, until they abandon him;’ but the treasures of the heavens and the earth belong to God, though the hypocrites do not understand this <sup>8</sup> [and] they say, ‘Indeed, when we return to Madinah, [we] the ones most worthy of honour, will surely drive out from there the contemptible ones!’ [referring to poor Muslims]. However, all honour belongs to God, and to His Messenger and those who believe [in God]: but of this the hypocrites are not aware.

<sup>9</sup> O believers! Do not let your wealth or your children distract you from remembrance of God. Those who do so will be the losers. <sup>10</sup> And spend out of what We have provided you with before death comes to one of you and he says, ‘My Lord! If only You would grant me respite for a little while, then I would give alms and be among the righteous.’ <sup>11</sup> But God will not grant a reprieve to a soul when its appointed time has come; God is well-aware of what you do.

---

<sup>a</sup> The biggest problem for a man is the inevitability of the Hereafter. But the consideration of riches and children make a man unmindful of it. Man should know that riches and children are not the final goal but the blessings which are given to him so that he may utilise them for God’s work. He should therefore use them to improve his life in the Hereafter. But man, in his stupidity, takes them to be his goal. When such people come face to face with their eventual final fate, they will experience only frustration and regret.



## 64. LOSS AND GAIN (*AL-TAGHABUN*)

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

<sup>1</sup> All that is in the heavens and on the earth extols the glory of God. To Him belongs the Kingdom and to Him all praise is due. He has power over all things. <sup>2</sup> It was He who created you; and some of you are those who deny this truth, and some who believe [in it]. God sees everything you do. <sup>3</sup> He created the heavens and the earth for a purpose. He formed you and gave you the best of forms. To Him you shall all return. <sup>4</sup> He knows whatever is in the heavens and the earth. He knows all that you conceal and all that you reveal. God is aware of what is in your hearts.

<sup>5</sup> Have you not heard about those who denied the truth before you and tasted the evil consequences of their conduct? They will have a painful punishment.

<sup>6</sup> That was because their messengers came to them with clear signs, but they replied, 'Shall mortals be our guides?' And so they rejected the truth and turned away. God has no need of such people; God is self-sufficient and worthy of all praise.

<sup>7</sup> Those who deny the truth claim that they will never be raised up again. Say, 'By my Lord, most surely you will be raised up again and then you will be told of all that you have done; and that is easy

enough for God.’ <sup>8</sup> Believe then in God and His Messenger, and in the light which We have sent down. God is fully aware of all that you do. <sup>9</sup> When He shall gather you all for the Day of Gathering, that will be the Day of loss and gain; and whoever believes in God and does good deeds shall be forgiven their sins and admitted to Gardens through which rivers flow, where they shall dwell forever. That is the supreme triumph. <sup>10</sup> But those who denied the truth and rejected Our signs shall be the inmates of the Fire, there to remain—what an evil destination!

<sup>11</sup> No affliction can befall man but by God’s permission—He guides the hearts of those who believe in Him: God has knowledge of all things—<sup>12</sup> obey God and obey the Messenger; but if you turn away, remember that Our Messenger is only responsible for clearly conveying the message. <sup>13</sup> God! There is no god but He, so let the faithful put their trust in Him.

<sup>14</sup> Believers! [Even] among your wives and your children you have enemies: so beware of them. But if you overlook their offences and forgive and pardon them, then surely, God is most forgiving and merciful.

<sup>15</sup> Your wealth and your children are only a trial; God’s reward is great: <sup>16</sup> so be mindful of God as best as you can; and listen, and obey; and spend in charity: it is for your own good. Those who guard themselves against their own greed will surely prosper: <sup>17</sup> if you give a good loan to God, He will multiply it for you

and forgive you, for God is appreciative and forbearing;  
<sup>18</sup> God is the Knower of the unseen and the seen: He is the Almighty, the Wise One.

## 65. DIVORCE (*AL-TALAQ*)

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

<sup>1</sup> O Prophet! When any of you divorce your wives, divorce them during their period of purity and calculate the period carefully: be mindful of God, your Lord. Do not drive them out of their homes—nor should they themselves leave—unless they become openly guilty of immoral conduct. These are the bounds set by God. He who transgresses God's bounds wrongs his own soul. You never know, after that, God may well bring about some new situation. <sup>2</sup> And when their waiting term is ended, either keep them honourably or part with them in honour. Call to witness two reliable men from among you and bear true witness for God. This is an admonishment for those who believe in God and the Last Day. To one who fears God, He will grant a way out [of his difficulties], <sup>3</sup> and God will provide for him from an unexpected source; God suffices for anyone who puts his trust in Him. God will surely bring about what He decrees. He has set a measure for all things.

<sup>4</sup> In the case of those of your wives who have passed the age of menstruation, if you have any doubt, know that their waiting period is three months; and that will apply likewise to those who have not yet menstruated; the waiting period of those who are pregnant will be until they deliver their burden [give birth]. God makes things easy for those who are mindful of Him. <sup>5</sup> Such is the commandment which God has revealed to you. He who fears God shall be forgiven his sins and richly rewarded.

<sup>6</sup> Let the women [who are undergoing a waiting period] live in the same manner as you live yourselves, in accordance with your means; and do not harass them in order to make their lives difficult. If they are pregnant, maintain them until they give birth; if they suckle your infants, pay them for it; discuss things among yourselves in all decency—if you cannot bear with each other, let another woman suckle for you—<sup>7</sup> let the man of means spend in accordance with his means; and let him whose resources are restricted, spend in accordance with what God has given him. God does not burden any person with more than He has given him. God will soon bring about ease after hardship.

<sup>8</sup> How many a town rebelled against the commands of its Lord and His messengers and We called them sternly to account and punished them severely, <sup>9</sup> so they tasted the evil consequences of their conduct and

the result of their conduct was ruin. <sup>10</sup> God has prepared a severe punishment for them. So, fear God, O men of understanding, who have believed. God has sent down to you a Reminder <sup>11</sup> and a messenger who conveys to you God's clear messages, so that he might lead those, who believe and do good deeds, out of darkness into light. God will admit those who believe in Him and do good deeds into Gardens with rivers flowing through them, where they will remain forever. God has indeed made excellent provision for them.

<sup>12</sup> It is God who created the seven heavens and the same number of earths. His commandment descends among them, so that you may know that God has power over all things; and that He encompasses all things with His knowledge.

## 66. PROHIBITION (*AL-TAHRIM*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Prophet, why in your desire to please your wives, do you impose a ban on what God has made lawful to you? God is forgiving and merciful. <sup>2</sup> God has already ordained that you be absolved of such oaths. God is your patron. He is the All Knowing, the Wise One.

<sup>3</sup> The Prophet once told one of his wives something in confidence. She did not keep it secret and God

informed him of this; he made known a part of it, and avoided [mentioning] part of it. When he spoke to his wife of this, she asked him who had told him about it. He replied, 'The All Knowing, the All Aware One.'<sup>4</sup> If only both of you would turn to God in repentance—and your hearts are already so inclined. But if you uphold each other against him, then surely God is his protector, and Gabriel and the righteous among the believers; and the angels too are his helpers.<sup>5</sup> Were he to divorce you, his Lord might well replace you with better wives—submissive [to God], believing, pious, penitent, devout in worship, given to fasting—previously married and virgins.

<sup>6</sup> Believers, safeguard yourselves and your families from a Fire fuelled by people and stones, and watched over by angels, stern and strong: angels who never disobey God's commands to them, but promptly do as they are commanded.<sup>7</sup> You who are bent on denying the truth, make no excuses today: you are only being rewarded according to your deeds.

<sup>8</sup> Believers, turn to God in sincere repentance. Your Lord may well forgive your bad deeds and admit you into gardens watered by running streams, on a Day when God will not abase the Prophet and those who have believed with him. Their light will shine out ahead of them and on their right, and they will say: 'Lord perfect our light for us, and forgive us; You have power over all things.'

<sup>9</sup> Prophet, exert yourself to the utmost against those who deny the truth and the hypocrites. Deal severely with them. Hell will be their abode—a vile destination.

<sup>10</sup> As an example to those who are bent on denying the truth, God cited the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot, who were married to two of Our righteous servants, but who betrayed them. So they could not help them against God, and they were told, ‘Enter the Fire along with all the others.’

<sup>11</sup> To the believers God has given the example of Pharaoh’s wife who said: ‘My Lord, build me a house in nearness to You in Paradise and save me from Pharaoh and his misdeeds. Save me from all evil-doers.’ <sup>12</sup> [God gave another example in the story of] Mary, ‘Imran’s daughter, who preserved her chastity and We breathed Our spirit into her; she testified to the words of her Lord and His Scriptures, and was truly devout.

## 67. THE KINGDOM (*AL-MULK*)

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

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is He in whose hand is the Kingdom: He has power over all things; <sup>2</sup> He created death and life so that He might test you, and find out which of you is best in conduct. He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving

One. <sup>3</sup> He created seven heavens one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? <sup>4</sup> Then look again and again. Your gaze will come back to you confused and exhausted.

<sup>5</sup> We have adorned the lowest heaven with lamps, and We have made them for driving away devils. For them We have prepared the punishment of the blazing Fire. <sup>6</sup> Those who are bent on blaspheming against their Lord will have the punishment of Hell: an evil destination. <sup>7</sup> When they are cast into it, they will hear its roaring as it boils up, <sup>8</sup> as though bursting with rage. Each time a group is cast into it, its keepers will ask them, 'Did no warner come to you?' <sup>9</sup> They will say, 'Of course, a warner did come to us, but we belied him and we said, "God has revealed nothing; you are in gross error".' <sup>10</sup> They will say, 'If we had only listened or understood, we should not now be among the inmates of Hell,' <sup>11</sup> and thus they will confess their sin; far from God's mercy are the inmates of Hell.

<sup>12</sup> As for those who fear their Lord in the unseen will have forgiveness and a rich reward. <sup>13</sup> Whether you speak in secret or aloud, He knows what is in every heart. <sup>14</sup> How could He who created not know His own creation, when He alone is the Most Subtle in His wisdom and the All Aware?

<sup>15</sup> It is He who has made the earth subservient to you, so traverse its regions and eat its provisions. To



Him you shall all be resurrected. <sup>16</sup> Do you feel secure that He who is in heaven will not cause the earth to sink beneath you and then begin to quake? <sup>17</sup> Do you feel secure that the One in heaven will not send against you a whirlwind to pelt you with stones, so that you will know how [true] My warning was? <sup>18</sup> Those who went before them belied [the truth]: then how great was My rejection of them.

<sup>19</sup> Do they not see the birds above them spreading and closing their wings? None save the Merciful sustains them. Surely, He observes all things. <sup>20</sup> Who is there to defend you like an army, besides the Lord of Mercy? Those who deny the truth are in deception. <sup>21</sup> Who can provide for you, if He withholds His provision? Yet they obstinately persist in rebellion and avoidance of the truth.

<sup>22</sup> Is he who walks grovelling upon his face better guided, or he who walks upright upon a straight path? <sup>23</sup> Say, 'It is He who brought you into being, and made ears and eyes and hearts for you, yet you are seldom grateful.' <sup>24</sup> Say, 'It is He who has scattered you on the earth; and it is to Him that you shall all be gathered [on the Day of Resurrection].'

<sup>25</sup> They ask, 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are truthful?' <sup>26</sup> Say, 'God alone has knowledge of that; and I am only a plain warner.' <sup>27</sup> But when they see it drawing near, the faces of those who deny the truth will turn gloomy and they will be told, 'This is

what you were calling for.’<sup>28</sup> Say, ‘Have you thought: if God destroys me and those who are with me, or treats us mercifully, then who will protect those who deny the truth from a painful chastisement?’<sup>29</sup> Say, ‘He is the Most Gracious: we believe in Him and we put our trust in Him. You will soon come to know who is in evident error.’<sup>30</sup> Say, ‘Have you considered if your water were to sink into the ground, who could then bring you flowing water?’

## 68. THE PEN (*AL-QALAM*)

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

<sup>1</sup> *Nun*

By the pen, and all that they write! <sup>2</sup> By the grace of your Lord, you are not a mad man. <sup>3</sup> Most surely, you will have a never ending reward. <sup>4</sup> For you are truly of a sublime character. <sup>5</sup> Soon you will see, as will they, <sup>6</sup> which of you is a prey to madness. <sup>7</sup> Your Lord knows best who has fallen by the wayside, and who has remained on the true path.

<sup>8</sup> Do not give in to the deniers of truth. <sup>9</sup> They want you to make concessions to them and then they will reciprocate. <sup>10</sup> Do not yield to any contemptible

swearer of oaths,<sup>11</sup> or to any defamer or one who spreads slander,<sup>12</sup> or to one who places obstacles in the way of good being done or to the wicked transgressor,<sup>13</sup> who is ignoble and besides all that, base-born;<sup>14</sup> just because he has wealth and sons,<sup>15</sup> when Our revelations are recited to him, he says, 'These are just ancient fables.'<sup>16</sup> Soon We will brand him on the nose.

<sup>17</sup> We have tried them as we tried the owners of a certain orchard, who vowed to harvest all its fruits the next morning,<sup>18</sup> and made no allowance [for the will of God].<sup>19</sup> A calamity from your Lord befell the orchard as they slept.<sup>20</sup> And by morning it lay as if it had already been harvested, a barren land.<sup>21</sup> So they called out to each other at the break of dawn,<sup>22</sup> saying, 'Be quick to reach your orchard, if you want to gather all your fruits.'<sup>23</sup> So they went off, whispering to one another,<sup>24</sup> 'Be sure to stop any poor person from entering the orchard today.'<sup>25</sup> They set out early in the morning, thinking they had the power to prevent.<sup>26</sup> But when they saw it, they said, 'We must have lost our way.'<sup>27</sup> Indeed, we are utterly ruined!<sup>28</sup> The more upright of the two said, 'Did I not bid you to glorify God?'<sup>29</sup> They said, 'Glory be to God, our Lord. We have surely done wrong.'<sup>30</sup> Then they began to heap reproaches on each other.<sup>31</sup> They said, 'Alas for us, our behaviour was beyond the pale.'<sup>32</sup> May be our Lord will give us a better orchard in its stead; we turn

to Him.’ <sup>33</sup> Such was their punishment, [in this life]. But the punishment of the life to come is much more severe, if only they knew it!

<sup>34</sup> Those who are mindful of their Lord will be rewarded with gardens of bliss. <sup>35</sup> Should We treat the true believers and the wrongdoers alike? <sup>36</sup> What ails you? How ill you judge! <sup>37</sup> Have you a Scripture that tells you <sup>38</sup> that you will be granted whatever you choose? <sup>39</sup> Or do you have Our solemn oaths, binding upon Us till the Day of Resurrection, that you shall have whatever you yourselves decide? <sup>40</sup> Ask them, which of them will vouch for that! <sup>41</sup> Or have they other partners [besides God]? Let them bring forth their other partners, if what they say be true.

<sup>42</sup> On the Day when the truth shall be laid bare, they will be called upon to prostrate themselves, but they will not be able to do so. <sup>43</sup> Their eyes will be cast down and they will be covered in shame; they were bidden to prostrate themselves, when they were safe and sound [but they did not obey]. <sup>44</sup> So leave to Me those who reject this message. We shall lead them step by step to their ruin, in ways beyond their ken. <sup>45</sup> I shall grant them some respite, for My plan is powerful.

<sup>46</sup> Do you demand some recompense from them that would weigh them down with debt? <sup>47</sup> Is the unseen within their grasp so that they write it down? <sup>48</sup> Wait patiently for your Lord’s judgement; do not be like the man who, having been swallowed by a whale, called

out in distress. <sup>49</sup> Had his Lord's grace not been bestowed upon him, he would have been cast away in disgrace upon that desolate shore. <sup>50</sup> But his Lord chose him for His own and made him one of the righteous. <sup>51</sup> When those who deny the truth hear the admonition, they would almost cause you to stumble with their evil eyes; and they say, 'He is certainly mad.' <sup>52</sup> Yet it is purely an admonition to mankind.

## 69. THE INEVITABLE HOUR (*AL-HAQQAH*)

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

<sup>1</sup> The Inevitable Hour! <sup>2</sup> What is the Inevitable Hour?  
<sup>3</sup> And what will make you realize what the Inevitable Hour is? <sup>4</sup> The tribes of Thamud and 'Ad denied that disaster would strike them: <sup>5</sup> the Thamud were destroyed by a terrible storm of thunder and lightning; <sup>6</sup> and the 'Ad were destroyed by a furious wind <sup>7</sup> which God let loose against them for seven nights and eight days unremittingly, so that you could have seen its people lying prostrate as though they were the hollow trunks of palm-trees which had fallen down. <sup>8</sup> Do you see any vestige left of them now? <sup>9</sup> Pharoah and those before him and the inhabitants of the overthrown cities persistently committed grave sins.

<sup>10</sup> They defied their Lord's messenger, so He seized them with an ever-tightening grip. <sup>11</sup> But We bore you away in the Ark, when the waters rose high, <sup>12</sup> so that We might make it a reminder for you and so that attentive ears might retain it.

<sup>13</sup> When a single blast is blown on the trumpet, <sup>14</sup> and the earth and the mountains are lifted up and then crushed with a single blow, <sup>15</sup> on that Day the Great Event will come to pass. <sup>16</sup> And the sky will be rent asunder, for on that Day it will be so frail. <sup>17</sup> The angels will appear by its sides and, on that Day, eight [angels] will bear your Lord's throne above them. <sup>18</sup> On that Day you will be brought to judgement and none of your secrets will remain hidden.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Then he who is given his record in his right hand will exclaim, 'Here is my record, read it. <sup>20</sup> Surely, I knew that I should meet my reckoning,' <sup>21</sup> so he will live in a state of Bliss <sup>22</sup> in a lofty garden, <sup>23</sup> with clusters of fruit within easy reach. <sup>24</sup> We shall say to him, 'Eat and drink joyfully as a reward for the good deeds you did in days gone by.' <sup>25</sup> But he who is given

---

<sup>a</sup> The present world has been made with a view to putting human beings to the test. When the period of testing is over, this world will be demolished and a new world fashioned to meet new requirements will be made. The majesty of God at present reveals itself indirectly, but at that time the Majesty of God will be directly manifested.

his record in his left hand will say, ‘If only I had never been given my Record <sup>26</sup> and knew nothing of my reckoning. <sup>27</sup> How I wish my death had ended all. <sup>28</sup> My wealth has been of no use to me. <sup>29</sup> I am bereft of power.’ <sup>30</sup> Seize him and fetter him, <sup>31</sup> and then let him enter Hell. <sup>32</sup> Then fasten him with a chain seventy cubits long: <sup>33</sup> for he did not believe in Almighty God, <sup>34</sup> nor did he feel any urge to feed the needy, <sup>35</sup> so today he has no friend here, <sup>36</sup> and the only food he has is filth <sup>37</sup> which no one will eat except the sinners.

<sup>38</sup> But nay, I swear by all that you can see <sup>39</sup> as well as all that you cannot see: <sup>40</sup> most surely, this is the word brought by a noble messenger, <sup>41</sup> it is not the word of a poet—how little you believe!—<sup>42</sup> Nor is it the word of a soothsayer—how little you reflect! <sup>43</sup> It is a revelation sent down by the Sustainer of the Universe: <sup>44</sup> if he had invented any lies about Us, <sup>45</sup> We would indeed have seized him by his right hand <sup>46</sup> and would indeed have cut his life-vein, <sup>47</sup> and none of you could have held Us off from him. <sup>48</sup> And surely it is an admonition to the God-fearing. <sup>49</sup> We know very well that there are some among you who reject Our signs—<sup>50</sup> it will be a source of bitter regret for those who deny the truth—<sup>51</sup> it is the indubitable truth. <sup>52</sup> So glorify the name of your Lord, the Almighty.

## 70. THE ASCENDING STAIRWAYS (*AL-MA 'ARIJ*)

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

<sup>1</sup> A doubter once demanded that punishment be immediately meted out, <sup>2</sup> to those who deny the truth. No power can hinder God <sup>3</sup> from punishing them. He is the Lord of the Ascending Stairways, <sup>4</sup> by which the angels and the Spirit will ascend to Him in one Day which will last for fifty thousand years. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, [O believers] behave with seemly patience. <sup>6</sup> They see it [the Day of Judgement] to be far off, <sup>7</sup> but We see it near at hand. <sup>8</sup> On that Day the heavens shall become like molten brass, <sup>9</sup> and the mountains will become like tufts of wool, <sup>10</sup> and no friend will ask about his friend, <sup>11</sup> though they shall be within sight of each other. The guilty one will gladly ransom himself from the torment of that Day by sacrificing his own children, <sup>12</sup> his wife, his brother, <sup>13</sup> and his kinsfolk who gave him shelter, <sup>14</sup> and all the people of the earth, if that could deliver him.

<sup>15</sup> But no! There is a raging blaze <sup>16</sup> stripping away his skin, <sup>17</sup> and it will claim all those who turned their backs [on the true faith] and turned away [from the truth], <sup>18</sup> and amassed wealth and hoarded it. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, man is born impatient: <sup>20</sup> when misfortune touches



him he starts lamenting,<sup>21</sup> and whenever good fortune comes to him, he grows niggardly.<sup>22</sup> But not so the worshippers<sup>23</sup> who are steadfast in prayer;<sup>24</sup> those who give a due share of their wealth<sup>25</sup> to those who ask [for help] and to the destitute;<sup>26</sup> and those who believe in the Day of Judgement<sup>27</sup> and are fearful of the punishment of their Lord;<sup>28</sup> for none may ever feel secure from the punishment of their Lord;<sup>29</sup> those who preserve their chastity<sup>30</sup> except from their spouses and those whom they rightfully possess [through wedlock], for which they incur no blame—<sup>31</sup> but those who go beyond that limit are transgressors;<sup>32</sup> and those who are faithful to their trusts and to their pledges;<sup>33</sup> and those who stand by their testimony<sup>34</sup> and are steadfast in their prayers.<sup>35</sup> They will be honoured in the Gardens of Bliss.

<sup>36</sup> But what is the matter with those who deny the truth, that they come hastening towards you<sup>37</sup> from the right and from the left, in crowds?<sup>38</sup> Does every one of them aspire to be admitted into a Garden of Delight?<sup>39</sup> Certainly not! They know quite well out of what We created them.

<sup>40</sup> But nay! I call to witness the Lord of the Easts and the Wests, that We have the power<sup>41</sup> to replace them with others better than them: nothing can prevent Us from doing this,<sup>42</sup> so leave them to indulge in vain idle talk and amuse themselves, until they face the Day which they have been promised,<sup>43</sup> the Day when they

shall come out of their graves in haste, as if they were racing to a goal, <sup>44</sup>with downcast eyes and faces distorted in shame; such is the Day which they are promised.

## 71. NOAH (*NUH*)

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

<sup>1</sup> We sent Noah forth to his people, saying, ‘Warn your people before there comes upon them a grievous punishment.’ <sup>2</sup> [Noah] said, ‘My people! I am but a plain warner to you, <sup>3</sup>that you should worship God [alone] and be conscious of Him. Pay heed to me. <sup>4</sup>He will forgive your sins and will grant you respite till an appointed time. When the time appointed by God arrives, it cannot be postponed, if you only knew.’ <sup>5</sup> He said, ‘My Lord! I have called my people night and day <sup>6</sup>but my pleas have only increased their aversion. <sup>7</sup>Every time I have called to them, so that You might forgive them, they have only thrust their fingers into their ears, covered themselves up with their garments, grown obstinate, and given themselves up to arrogance. <sup>8</sup>Then I called them openly, <sup>9</sup>and spoke to them in public and in private.’ <sup>10</sup> Then I said, ‘Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Surely He is the most forgiving. <sup>11</sup>He will send down abundant rain from the sky for you,

<sup>12</sup> increase your wealth and sons; and grant you gardens and waterways. <sup>13</sup> What is the matter with you that you deny the greatness of God, <sup>14</sup> when He has created you through different stages of existence? <sup>15</sup> Do you not see how God has created the seven heavens one above another, <sup>16</sup> and made the moon therein a light, and made the sun a lamp, <sup>17</sup> how God has produced you from the earth and caused you to grow, <sup>18</sup> how He will then return you to it and bring you forth again, <sup>19</sup> how God has spread the earth out for you <sup>20</sup> so that you may walk along its spacious paths?’

<sup>21</sup> Noah supplicated, ‘Lord, they have disobeyed me, and followed those whose wealth and children have only added to their ruin; <sup>22</sup> and they have hatched a mighty plot, <sup>23</sup> and they said [to their followers], “Do not ever abandon your deities: abandon neither Wadd, nor Suwa‘, and neither Yaghuth, nor Yauq nor Nasr!” <sup>24</sup> They have led many astray; so lead the wrongdoers to further error.’ <sup>25</sup> They were drowned and sent to Hell for their misdeeds; they found no one to help them against God.

<sup>26</sup> Noah prayed, ‘O my Lord! Do not leave on earth a single one of those who deny the truth— <sup>27</sup> if You leave any, they will misguide Your servants, and they will beget none but sinners and deniers of truth— <sup>28</sup> Lord! Forgive me and my parents and every true believer who enters my house, forgive all the believing men and believing women; and bestow no increase upon the wrongdoers except in ruin.’