

THE HOLY QUR'AN
EXPLAINED BY
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Rendered into English by

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- [Introduction to the Holy Quran](#)
- [Part I](#)
- [Part II](#)
- [Part III](#)
- [Part IV](#)
- [Part V](#)
- [Part VI](#)
- [Part VII](#)
- [Part VIII](#)
- [Part IX](#)
- [Part X](#)
- [Part XI](#)
- [Part XII](#)
- [Part XIII](#)
- [Part XIV](#)
- [Part XV](#)
- [Part XVI](#)
- [Part XVII](#)
- [Part XVIII](#)
- [Part XIX](#)
- [Part XX](#)
- [Part XXI](#)
- [Part XXII](#)
- [Part XXIII](#)
- [Part XXIV](#)
- [Part XXV](#)
- [Part XXVI](#)
- [Part XXVII](#)
- [Part XXVIII](#)
- [Part XXIX](#)
- [Part XXX](#)

Introduction To The Study Of The Holy Qur'ân

هَذَا بَيَانٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَ مَوْعِظَةٌ لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

This (Book) is a clear exposition (of the truth) for mankind (to follow) and a (means to) guidance, and an exhortation to those who guard against evil (and are dutiful to God and mankind) (3:138).

Everything that is beautiful, everything that is meaningful and everything that brings us happiness is what this Scripture wishes us. All those right ideas, commandments, ordinances and principles which are of permanent utility to us have been incorporated in it. It is of a character unique in its grandeur and sublimity and is ultimately destined to bring the whole humanity to perfection.

This Book is a compendium of all that is good, lasting and imperishable in the teachings of former revealed Scriptures, with a good deal more which these Scriptures lacked, but which the human being needed for his spiritual, moral and mundane progress.

This book provides us guidance, answering the innate questions that press on us: What exactly is the human being? From where has he come? Where shall he go after death? What is righteousness? What is evil? How can we acquire good and shun evil? What are the physical, moral and spiritual conditions of the human being? What is his state in the Hereafter? What is the real object of his existence and what are the means of its attainment? What is the effect of actions in the present life and the life to come? What are the sources of Divine Knowledge? What is worship? How and whom we should worship? How should we organize our life? Such are the questions which demand answers, and if no convincing and decisive answer is provided, we will be in a state of moral and behavioral crisis. This Book answers such questions and much more. It gives the laws of a society and guidance for our *Nafs Ammârah* (- self that incites to evil), for our *Nafs Lawwâmah* (- self-accusing soul) and for our *Nafs Mutma'innah* (- the soul that rests in peace). It ranks amongst the greatest masterpieces of world literature whence the scholars derive their authority for meanings, grammar and syntax by referring to its verses. It is the most widely read book in the world. Its teachings formed the basis of the Islamic civilization and it still guides and inspires millions of Muslims all over the world. It is the final authority in matters of faith and practice for all Muslims and the most reliable source of information for the biography of Muhammad, the Holy Prophet of Islam (*Peace be upon him*).

Names of the Holy Book>

بَلْ هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مَّجِيدٌ

This is (also the truth) that it is a glorious Qur'ân (85:21).

Etymologically the word Qur'ân is derived from the verb *Qara'* which is translated as 'he read', 'he conveyed or delivered a message' and 'he gathered or collected together the things'. The name Qur'ân thus refers to all the three root meanings:

1. A book which is meant to be read.
2. A book which is meant to be conveyed to the mankind.
3. A book which comprehends all the truths and in which are gathered together the Divine Messages of all other books.

In the very early revelations (2:2) the Holy Writ is called *Al-Kitâb*. The word *Kitâb* is derived from the root word *Kataba* which means 'he wrote', 'he brought together' and 'which is complete in itself.' The application of this word to the Holy Writ in the

very early revelations and the use of the name shows clearly that the Qur'ân was, from the first, meant to be a complete Book, and one that existed not only in the memory of people but also in visible characters on writing material. The Holy Writ is also called Al-Dhikr - the Book which makes provisions for eminence, fame, renown, honour and reminding, and Al-Furqân (25:1) - the Book which distinguishes between right and wrong and which is divided and revealed in portions, as the root word Firqa also means portions.

There are other names by which the Holy Book is designated in the Revelation itself. It is called Al-Hikmah (17:39) - the Wisdom; Al-Hudâ (72:13) - that which guides and makes one attain the goal; Mubârak (6:93) - Blessed; Al-Mukarramah (80:13) - the Honoured; Musaddiq (6:93) - confirming (the truth of previous Scriptures); Al-Mauizah (10:57) - the Admonition; Al-`Azîz (41:41) - the Mighty; Al-Hukm (13:37) - the Judgment; Al-Shifâ (10:57) - that which heals; Al-Tanzîl (26:192) - the Revelation; Al-Rahmah (2:105) - the Mercy, Al-Rûh (42:52) - that which gives life and is living; Al-Khair (3:103) - the Goodness; Al-Bayân (3:137) - that which explains all things; Al-Ni`mat (93:11) - the Favour; Al-Burhân (4:175) - the clear Argument; Al-Qayyim (18:2) - the Maintainer; Al-Muhaimin (5:48) - the Guardian; Al-Nûr (7:157) - the Light; Al-Haq (17:81) - the Truth; Hablallâh (3:103) - the Covenant of God; Al-Mubîn (12:1) - that which explains; Al-Karîm (56:77) - the Holy; Al-Mâjîd (50:1) - the Glorious; Al-Hakîm (36:2) - the one full of Wisdom; Al-Marfû`ah (80:14) - the Exalted; Al-Mutahharah (80:14) - the Purified; Al-`Ajab (72:1:) - the Wonderful. All these names are attributes and characteristics of the Holy Qur'ân.

Language of the Holy Qur'ân

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ ۝

>

We have, indeed revealed this Qur'ân which explains its object eloquently well that you may abstain (from evil) (12:2).

The Holy Qur'ân was revealed through the medium of Arabic, which, unlike Latin, old Greek, or Sanskrit, is a living language, still spoken, written and understood in several countries of the world and by millions of people. Its grammar, vocabulary, idiom, pronunciation and script remain unchanged. It claims to be the mother and source of all other languages.

The word `Arabiyya is derived from `Ariba. `Arib al-bi'ru meaning `the well containing a lot of water.' `Arub al-rajulu means `the man spoke clearly, plainly and distinctly, he was brisk and lively'. Thus the word `Arabiyya conveys the sense of fullness, abundance and clearness. Arabic is so called because its roots are innumerable and are full of meanings and because it is most expressive, eloquent and comprehensive. The expression Qur'ânan `Arabî'yan (12:2), therefore, would mean that the Holy Qur'ân is a Book which can express its meaning in a clear, eloquent and comprehensive language (Lane).

The Arabic alphabet contains 28 letters. Each trio of letters, in any order, is capable of giving a root word. A trilateral is a very economical word. It is a golden means between a long and a short word and is easy to pronounce and hear. The trilaterals are the most common words in Arabic. They are easily conjugated and are the foundation of the quadrilaterals. Arabic does not attach much importance to words containing more than three letters (Al-Khasâis, p.380.). An attempt was undertaken by Khalîl bin Ahmad (d.175 A.H.) to compile an Arabic lexicon (Kitâb al-`Ain) on the basis of permutation and combination of 28 letters of Arabic alphabet. The number of words formed ran into hundreds of thousands. So Khalîl was unable to complete the work.

All these roots are pregnant with a vast variety of meanings. `In Arabic', says Titus Burkhardt, `the tree of verbal forms, of derivations from certain roots is quite inexhaustible. It can always bring forth new leaves, new expressions to represent hitherto dominant variations of the basic idea or action. This explains why this Bedouin tongue was able to become the linguistic vehicle of an entire civilization, intellectually very rich and differentiated' (Art of Islam, Language and meaning, p. 43). Even the letters of Arabic possess clear and definite meaning. For instance, the letters Lâm, Mîm, Kâf in any combination, express the idea of power and strength, which is more or less common to all the words that are formed with these letters or are derived from this root. Its grammar is very advanced and an example are the *I`râbs* by which it can distinguish the logical categories of speech

with great clarity. There is a complete order of verbs and nouns where similar verbs are mutually related with similar nouns in a scientific way. By using simple signs like Al or Tanwîn or by changing the order of words it conveys an idea which some languages may express in many sentences. Like the number and order of letters, the accent and the spelling of a word are rigidly fixed. The slightest change of accent will yield a different root and meaning. This is a marked contrast with other languages which have been reforming their spelling from time to time. Compare this aspect of Arabic spelling with the following sarcasm of Bernard Shaw. As an example of the English spelling he constructed the word Ghoti. He pointed out that the 'gh' combination was to be pronounced like the 'f' in cough; the vowel 'o' like short 'ai' in women and the 'ti' combination like 'sh' in nations. He concluded that ghoti should be pronounced fish.

Another unique feature of Arabic is that it tends to express a thought twice in slightly different forms. This parallelism is often used to express completeness. In such cases we should not look for a different meaning in each half of the parallelism. Both expressions, in reality, express one truth. The repetition in the parallelism has the function of embellishing the statement, making it more beautiful for the sake of clarification and for further imprinting it on the hearer's memory. In one form of parallelism the same truth is put first in the positive and then in the negative form, this expresses the desire to exclude all other possibilities.

One way of bringing out the unity of an idea in writing is for passages to begin and end with the same thought. This form of speech is called 'Inclusions' since one particular thought or statement includes, grasps or embraces the intermediate phases. It is also known as rising constructions. We find numerous examples of such constructions in the Holy Qur'ân. The language, thus, possesses a store of words which faithfully and completely depict most subtle thought and feeling of the human being. It expresses more meaning in a few words. It is a facsimile of the book of nature as regards the names of elements, vegetables, animals, minerals, human links and numbers, and because of the richness of synonyms, it is possible for Arabic to achieve a precision of expression and thoroughness unequalled in any other language. It is the only language which can accurately describe the attributes of God.

The final revelation, the last and complete Book of God could not, possibly, have been expressed in a language of human creation. A finite mind could not make words sufficiently wide in their connotations to convey an Infinite mind. The language of the Holy Qur'ân was the only proper vehicle to convey the message coming from God, for it is imbued with qualities which lie outside all our frames of reference and all our limiting definitions, as the Qur'ân says:

وَلَوْ جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا أَعْجَبِيًّا لَقَالُوا لَوْلَا فُصِّلَتْ آيَاتُهُ
ءَءَعْجَبِيٌّ وَعَرَابِيٌّ ط

Had We made it a Qur'ân in indistinct and inexpressive language, these (faultfinders) would have surely said, 'Why has not (the subject matter of its verses been made clear in exposition?' What! Can indistinct and inexpressive language and an eloquently clear language (be one and the same thing) (41:44).

Diction of the Qur'ân

قُلْ لَّيِّنَ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا
الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا ٥

Say, 'If there should join together all human beings and the jinn

to produce the like of this Qur'ân, they would never be able to

produce anything like it, even though some of them might

be the helpers of others' (17:88).

The style and diction of the Holy Qur'ân have been universally praised. A. J. Arberry in the preface to his translation of the Qur'ân says, 'Whenever I hear the Qur'ân chanted it is as though I am listening to music, underneath the flowing melody there is sounding all the time the insistent beat of a drum. It is like the beating of my heart.'

In the text the verses are divided according to the rhythm of the language, when a certain sound which marks the rhythm recurs there is a strong pause and the verse ends naturally, although the sentence may go on to the next verse or to several subsequent verses. 'It is inimitable symphony, the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy' (M. M. Pickthall, translator's Foreword, p. 1).

E. H. Palmer says (pages lxvi - lxvii in the Introduction to his translation of the Holy Qur'ân), 'The language of the Qur'ân is universally acknowledged to be the most perfect form of Arabic speech ... the language is noble and forcible. Muhammad speaks with a living voice, his vivid word-painting brings at once before the mind the scene he describes.' The sublime simplicity, piercing force, enchanting beauty and melody of verses of the Holy Qur'ân and its poetical and spiritual aspects are not possible to be reproduced. Friend and foe alike pay ungrudging tributes to the linguistic style of the Holy Qur'ân and see in its beauty and majesty the nobility of its call, the magnanimity of its message and a sign and a miracle in this Handiwork of God.

Like everything in the nature the Holy Qur'ân has baffled all human efforts to produce another book like it (17:88). This challenge stands for all times to all people who deny the Divine origin of the Holy Qur'ân. A similar challenge is contained in verses 2:23; 10:38; 11:13; 52:33. The challenge remains unanswered to this day, as it is based on absolute truth. Whatever comes into being by exercise of God's perfect Power, whether it is a part of creation or a Book, revealed by Him, it is necessary that it should possess the quality that no one out of His creation should have the power to produce its like.

Apart from its teaching, the Holy Qur'ân has kept a permanent hold on Arabic. No other book in the world can be credited with keeping a language alive for fourteen centuries. The Qur'ân has done this. Those who have compiled books of Arabic literature admit that the language and diction of the Qur'ân surpass and excel the whole Arabic literature most preeminently. Even the Christian scholars, one and all, derive authority for their meaning, grammar and syntax by making references to the verses of the Holy Qur'ân. If the Book had been deficient and defective with regard to any of these points, they would have made it the object of their satire and rejoiced in bringing before the world its errors, weaknesses and mistakes. On the contrary, these lexicologists and writers, without any exception, acknowledge the elegance of language and eloquence of the Qur'ân. They quote its verses over and over again in support of the meaning put forth by them and thus enhance the value and worth of their own writings. No letter of it lacks wisdom, not one word is out of place or not in accord with appropriateness, and not a single phrase of it is such, as is not surely needed for the reform and spiritual uplift of mankind.

Consistency and Freedom from Contradiction

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ
غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا ۝

Why do they not ponder over the Qur'ân? Had it been from

anyone other than Allâh, they would surely have found a

good deal of inconsistency therein (4:82).

The Holy Qur'ân was revealed piecemeal and at intervals. The revelation began in 610 of the Christian era when the Holy Prophet ﷺ was 40 years of age. It was destined to continue during the twenty three years of his ministry and to end shortly before his death on June 8, 632 A.D., yet there is no inconsistency and contradiction anywhere in the Holy Book.

The Arrangement

إِنَّا عَلَيْنَا جَمْعُهُ وَقُرْآنُهُ ۗ

The responsibility of its collection and its

arrangement lies on Us (75:17).

The word Jama` in the verse above implies both collection and arrangement, which is a process quite different from the revelation. It is not true that the verses and chapters of the Holy Qur'ân were arranged after the death of the Holy Prophet ﷺ by someone else, or that they were arranged in the order of their lengths; the longest coming first and the shortest last. It is also wrong to say that within the chapters the passages are joined together without any regard to either chronology of revelation or similarity of subject, and that most heterogeneous materials are put together without any regard to logical sequence.

The whole Qur'ân, complete in every respect, was available in the Holy Prophet's life time (Kâtâni, 2:384). The Companions of the Holy Prophet say, `We used to write down the Holy Qur'ân in the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ' (Hâkim: Al-Mustadrik, 2:611). The arrangement of chapters and verses in the copies of the Holy Qur'ân at present in our hands does not follow the chronological order of revelation and their arrangement is Tauqif i.e. effected by the Holy Prophet ﷺ under the guidance of Divine revelations (75:17-18). It is also said in the Holy Qur'ân:

وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا

(But We have revealed it) in this manner (- piece by piece out of necessity).

And (in spite of the fact that it has not been revealed all at once,)

We have arranged it in an excellent (form and order of)

arrangement (and free of all contradictions) (25:32).

The concise phrase Rattalnâ-hu-Tartîlan in the above verse comprises the parallel concept of putting the component parts of a thing together and arranging them well, as well as endowing it with inner consistency. The word Tartîl refers to the measured diction and the thoughtful manner in which it ought to be enunciated. Thus, from the very first, it was meant that the verses and the chapters of the Holy Scripture should be arranged in an order different from that of their revelation, otherwise the revelation and the collection and arrangement would not have been described as two different things.

There was an arrangement followed by the Holy Prophet ﷺ and we know that many Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ committed the Holy Qur'ân to memory and could recite it in the recognized order as followed by the Prophet. This shows that there was a connection of its verses and chapters, and there was a recognized division of the Book and a fixed form and sequence. The chapters were distinctly marked out and their number was determined. Without a known order and sequence of verses, the Qur'ân could not have been committed to memory. The present arrangement of the Qur'ân does not differ from that followed by the Holy Prophet ﷺ. There are several sayings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ from which this can be inferred. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, `Whoever reads the last two verses of the chapter entitled Baqarah on any night, they are sufficient for him' (Bukhârî; 64:12). This shows that the Holy Prophet ﷺ followed an arrangement which he had made known to his Companions. If such had not been the case he could not have referred to two verses as the `last' two verses of a certain chapter.

According to another saying of the Holy Prophet ﷺ he told his Companions to recite the first ten and last ten verses of the chapter entitled Al-Kahf at a particular occasion. Had there been no sequence of verses, 'the first ten verses and last ten verses' would have been a meaningless phrase. Not only the verses of the Holy Qur'ân but even its chapters were arranged by the Holy Prophet ﷺ himself. This is afforded by the following saying of Anas رضي الله عنه: 'At the time when the Banû Tha'qîf رضي الله عنهم accepted Islam I was in that delegation. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said to us, "When you people came to meet me, I was reciting my portion of the Holy Qur'ân which I used to recite daily, so I decided not to go out until I had finished it." Thereupon we questioned the Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ as to how they divided the Holy Qur'ân into portions for reading. They said, "We observe the following divisions, 3 chapters, 5 chapters, 7 chapters, 9 chapters, 11 chapters and 13 chapters, and all the remaining chapters beginning with chapter entitled Qâf" (Fath al-Bârî, 9:39). This form of reading divided the Qur'ân into seven portions or *Ahzâb*, each portion to be recited in one day and, thus, the recital of the whole Qur'ân (114 chapters) was finished in seven days. This report of Anas رضي الله عنه shows an arrangement of chapters which is observed to this day by the whole Muslim *Ummah*. This and many other reports by the Companions of the Prophet give conclusive testimony to the fact that the form and arrangement of the chapters of the Holy Book was brought about by the Holy Prophet ﷺ himself, and that the present arrangement does not differ in the least from the original of the time of the Prophet.

The efforts of some European scholars such as Well, Nöldecke, Muir, Rodwell and others such as N. J. Dawood to rearrange the Holy Qur'ân are misleading and are unworthy of being considered as scholarly.

Pristine Purity of the Qur'ân

بَلْ هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مَّجِيدٌ
فِي لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍ

This is (also the truth) that it is a glorious Qur'ân,

(Inscribed) in a Tablet well-guarded (against corruption,

distortion and destruction) (85:21-22).

All the Books from God that came from time to time to every nation and to every country for human guidance have lost their purity, and man-made creeds have obscured the Words of the Lord. No religion should claim our allegiance unless its record is absolutely authentic and its Scripture undistorted. Whatever is the worth of the teachings of a religion one cannot consider or accept its claims when its very source is of a dubious character. But the Scriptures of all other religions, as admitted by their respective adherents, are wanting in genuineness.

The Qur'ân is admitted by friends and foes alike to be the very Book presented by Muḥammad (peace be upon him), and it has maintained its purity all along. Amongst all the Divine Scriptures it is the only one which enjoys the distinction of having its original text intact. Contrary to the Holy Bible and the Vedas, this Holy Writ, through all the centuries since it was revealed, and all over the world and among the numerous contending sects, has maintained only one text.

It is an established fact that the present text of the Holy Qur'ân is the same that was presented by the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Every verse of it was put into writing in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, before his own eyes and under his orders. Since the Book was revealed in parts during a period of twenty three years, the practice was that when a verse or a part of a chapter was revealed the Holy Prophet ﷺ, under Divine guidance, specified the place of the revelation. Thus, the arrangement of verses in each chapter was entirely the work of the Holy Prophet ﷺ himself. Similarly the arrangement of the chapters (*Surâhs*) was also the work of the Holy Prophet ﷺ under Divine guidance. In one of the earliest revelations the Holy Qur'ân speaks of its collection as well as its arrangement as being a part of the Divine scheme.

Factors which Warranty the Purity of The Holy Qur'ân

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ ۝

Verily, it was We, Ourselves Who have revealed this Reminder

(- the Qur'ân); and it is We Who are, most certainly, its Guardian (15:9).

God revealed the Holy Qur'ân Himself and made arrangements for its safety and security for ever. In the above verse there is attestation to the imperishable quality of the Divine Writ. This verse relates God's promise that the Qur'ân would never be corrupted and would ever remain free from all additions, diminutions and textual changes. There are many factors which warranty its purity and contribute to the safe preservation of its text, a few are summarized below:

1. Putting into Writing:

The first and the most important point which assisted in the preservation of the text of the Holy Qur'ân is that its every verse was put into writing in the life time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, before his own eyes. The Holy Qur'ân itself furnishes abundant evidence that it existed in a written form. Again and again the Divine Writ calls itself a Kitâb, which means a book or a writing which is complete in itself. The application of the word Book to the Holy Writ also occurs in very early revelations and this use shows that the Holy Qur'ân was destined, from the very beginning, to be a complete Book. The Holy Qur'ân is also designated as *Suhuf* (80:13) which means written pages. There are many other references in the Holy Qur'ân showing that it will exist in a written form. It is said:

وَكَتَبَ مَسْطُورٍ ۝ فِي رَاقٍ مَّنْشُورٍ ۝

And a Book inscribed - On open unrolled parchments (52:2-3).

There are also testimonies of the enemies of the Qur'ân that the Qur'ân was reduced to writing such as:

وَقَالُوا أَطِيبُوا الْأَوَّلِينَ أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَفْهَى ثَمَلٍ عَلَيْهِ بُكَرَةٌ وَأَصِيلًا ۝

They (also) say, '(This Qur'ân consists of) fables of the ancients

that he has got written down and now they are read out to him

morning and evening.' (25:5).

There is a lot of historical evidence concerning the documentation of the Holy Qur'ân. There are numerous anecdotes showing that when the Holy Prophet ﷺ received a revelation it was immediately put into writing. The general practice is described by `Osmân ؓ, he says: `It was customary with the Holy Prophet ﷺ that when any verse of the Holy Qur'ân was revealed he called one of those persons who used to write the Holy Qur'ân and said, "Write these verses in the chapter where such and such verse occur".' (Abû Dâwûd, 2:123). Zaid bin Thâbit ؓ who was a scribe of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and was especially appointed for writing down the revelations said, `Whenever a revelation descended the Holy Prophet ﷺ called me and I went to him holding

my pen and paper. He dictated to me first and then heard it from me and in case something was left, or some mistake was found, it was set right there and then, and afterwards it was published' (Mu`jam al-Zawâid). This shows that the Holy Qur'ân was presented to the public after it was duly written down. The Shî'a sect says that `Alî collected the Qur'ân into a volume during the Holy Prophet's ﷺ lifetime and at his command.'

The Holy Prophet ﷺ used to say, `Do not write from me anything except the Qur'ân.' This direction was meant as a precautionary step against any confusion with regards to the Holy Qur'ân. This saying also suggests that the Holy Prophet ﷺ took it for granted that the Holy Qur'ân was to be written down. The above conclusion is corroborated by another report from the Companions of the Prophet. They were forbidden to travel to the enemy's land with the Holy Qur'ân. This is also a conclusive proof that written copies of the Holy Qur'ân existed in abundance and Muslims were forbidden to take such copies to the enemy's country lest they should treat them with disrespect or try to make changes in them.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ was very conscious about the dictation of the Qur'ân. In a period and in circumstances when few people were able and even fewer available to read and write in the whole of Arabia, he had a sufficient number of the scribes at hand to write down the revelation of the Holy Qur'ân, as the Holy Qur'ân says:

فِي صُحُفٍ مُّكَرَّمَةٍ ۙ لِّقُرْءَانٍ مُّطَهَّرَةٍ ۙ بِأَيْدِي سَفَرَةٍ ۙ لِّكِرَامٍ بَهِيمَةٍ ۙ

(This Qur'ân is preserved) in such written leaves (of the Book) as

are greatly honoured, (which are) ranked high (and) are rid

of all impurities, which are in the hands of Scribes;

Noble and Virtuous (80:13-16).

Sîrat al-Irâqî has named as many as forty two scribes. The well known orientalist Blachese has determined the number of these scribes to be forty one and this same number has been mentioned by Schwally who has, most probably, quoted it from Roudzât al-Ahbâb. Other books to be consulted regarding the scribes of this Divine revelation are: Ibn al-Hajr, Fath al-Bârî, Al-Jâhshiyârî, Kitâb al-Wuzarâ' wa al-Kuttâb.

The first person to write down the first revelation of the Holy Qur'ân for the Holy Prophet ﷺ was `Osmân رضي الله عنه, (Ibn al-Kathîr's Fadzâil al-Qur'ân, p.5). Some Scribes besides Zaid bin Thâbit رضي الله عنه, who did, by far, the greatest part of the work of writing of the Holy Qur'ân, are: Abû Bakr رضي الله عنه, `Omar bin Khattâb رضي الله عنه, `Alî bin Abî Tâlib رضي الله عنه, Zubair رضي الله عنه, `Abd Allâh bin Sa`d رضي الله عنه, Khâlid bin Saïd رضي الله عنه, Abbân bin Saïd رضي الله عنه, Ubayya bin Ka`b رضي الله عنه, Mua`iqab bin Abû Fâtimah رضي الله عنه, `Abd Allâh bin Arqam رضي الله عنه, `Abd Allâh bin Rawaih رضي الله عنه. It was Hamzah bin Rabîa's رضي الله عنه duty to make sure that at least one or two scribes were present at all times so that no handicap, no delay, no shortcoming in any form in writing down of the revelations was caused due to the absence of the scribes.

The importance given to the writing down of the Qur'ânic revelations as they came down to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was so great that in the Migration of the Holy Prophet ﷺ from Makkah to the Madînah, pen, ink-pot and writing material were included in the essentials of the journey. There were many other men and women who made copies of the Holy Qur'ân for their own use. There is another real and authentic proof of committal of the Holy Qur'ân to writing and its compilation, to which Kâtâni says, 'The whole Qur'ân from the beginning to the end, complete in every respect, was available in the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ (Kâtâni, vol 2, p384). It is in this very direction that Hârith al-Muhâsibî alludes to in his explicit account about a collection of the complete Holy Qur'ân in the household of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This, however, was an unbound original text. Zaid bin Thâbit رضي الله عنه bound it together with the help of a tag made of string under the order of Abû Bakr رضي الله عنه.

The text of the Holy Qur'ân was recorded in the Holy Prophet's life time on a variety of writing materials such as leather, parchment, papyrus, limestone, slates, shoulder blades, etc. (Ibn Nadîm: Kitâb Al-Fihrist; ed. G. Flugel, Leipzig 1871, p. 21; N. Abbot: The Rise of the North Arabic Script; Chicago, 1939 p. 45). A copy of the Holy Qur'ân prepared by the Holy Prophet ﷺ himself was written on a fine parchment (*Raqq*) as the Holy Qur'ân testifies in the verses 52:2-3. Among the Companions of the Prophet who had put the Holy Qur'ân in writing during his life time, the names of `Osmân ؓ, `Alî ؓ, `Abd Allâh bin Mas`ûd ؓ, `Abd Allâh bin `Amar bin `Âs ؓ, Sâlim ؓ, the freed slave of Hudhaifah, Muâdh bin Jabal ؓ and Ubayy bin Ka`b ؓ have been specifically mentioned.

Several hundred Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ learnt the whole Qur'ân by heart (the *Huffâz*). Some *Huffâz* were killed in the Battle of Yamâmah. `Omar bin Khattâb ؓ concluded that it was not safe to depend exclusively upon those who had learnt the Qur'ân by heart and, thus, decided to take necessary steps to preserve the several copies of the Holy Qur'ân in a book form. Abû Bakr ؓ (the First Caliph of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) after the death of the Prophet ﷺ, agreed to the proposal and took the task of copying of the Qur'ân in hand. He entrusted this work to Zaid bin Thâbit ؓ who was best qualified for this work, for he had frequently acted as an amanuensis to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and was among the scribes, 'noble and virtuous' (80:16), and was one of those Companions of the Prophet who had learnt the Holy Qur'ân and its arrangement by heart directly from him. Moreover, he had also been present on the occasion when the Holy Prophet ﷺ had recited the whole of the completed Qur'ân, shortly, prior to his death.

`Omar ؓ publicly announced that whoever possessed any portion of the Qur'ân, received directly from the Holy Prophet ﷺ (for some Companions had written these on paper, tablets, palm-stem and shoe horn of leaf), should bring it for comparison. Zaid ؓ, with the cooperation and help of those Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who had helped in the documentation of the Qur'ân and who had committed it to memory, prepared a copy of the Book. This version was checked, word by word and hyphen by hyphen, and all the written pages compared with each other for verification. Zaid ؓ would not take down any thing in his copy unless all of the sources tallied with one another and with the manuscript of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

This copy by Zaid ؓ was kept in the custody of the Caliph of Prophet ﷺ (Abû Bakr ؓ), then in the Custody of `Omar ؓ (second Caliph ؓ), then in the custody of learned Hafsaah ؓ, wife of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and `Omar's ؓ daughter. And it was announced that anyone who so desired, might make a copy of it or compare with it the copy he already possessed.

It is a great mistake to think that either Abû Bakr ؓ or `Osmân ؓ was the compiler or collector of the Holy Qur'ân, though both of them did very important work in connection with the dissemination of the authentic and standard copies of the sacred text, to which everyone had access. Abû Bakr ؓ did not order Zaid bin Thâbit ؓ the writing of anything new which was not already written in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. `Osmân ؓ then asked Zaid ؓ, `Abd Allâh bin Jâbir ؓ, Sa' ad bin Al-`Âs ؓ, and `Abdul Rahmân bin Al-Hârith ؓ to make seven copies of the one original in the custody of Hafsaah ؓ daughter of `Omar ؓ. These copies were forwarded to the chief cities of the Islamic world - Makkah, Kûfah, Baṣrah, Yemen, Bahrain and Damascus. One copy remained at Madînah. `Osmân ؓ in consultation with other Companions of the Prophet also decided that the use of all other copies in any other dialect or idiom or written without proper care should be prohibited. As a precautionary measure he had all such copies burnt to foreclose any possibility of future confusion and misunderstanding. For instance, some of the Companions had noted down explanatory words and comments on the margins of their copies and it was feared that these might get mixed up with the original text of the Qur'ân. It was of course, an act of most prudent foresight to make the Holy Qur'ân safe and secure against any possible alteration in the future. The Qur'ân, which is now in the hands of all Muslims and in use all over the world is the exact copy of the Qur'ân dictated and written by the order of the Holy Prophet ﷺ before his eyes and of the copy written by the order of the first Caliph Abû Bakr ؓ, copies of which were officially sent by `Osmân ؓ to different places. Of the copies originally made by the order of `Osmân ؓ one can still be found in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and another in TopeKapi, Turkey.

ʿOsmân ؓ not only sent an authenticated copy of the Qur'ân to the different centers of the Islamic world but also sent a *Qâri*, one who is well versed in the correct reading and knowledge of the Holy Qur'ân, along with it, in order to preserve the correct reading which was taught by the Holy Prophet ﷺ. When ʿOsmân ؓ began to make copies of the Qur'ân from Abû Bakr's ؓ copy in the custody of Hafṣah ؓ, thousands of the Companions were still living, and no change in the sequence of the verses could have remained unnoticed. There is not a slightest trace in the historical record of any form of protest or mention that anything in the text or in the arrangement was altered.

Efforts of some European scholars to prove the existence of later interpolation in the Qur'ân have failed. The utter failure of Dr. Mingana to find fault with the purity of the Qur'ânic text, on the contrary, sets the seal on the truth that among all the revealed Scriptures Qur'ân alone has remained completely immune from any interpolation or tampering. L. V. Vaglieri observes in his book 'Apology for Islam:' 'The proof of the divinity of the Qur'ân is the fact that it has been preserved intact through the ages since the time of its revelation till the present day.' In his book 'The Messenger' R. V. C. Bodley writes, 'What is important is that the Qur'ân is the only work which has survived for fourteen hundred years with an unadulterated text. Neither in the Jewish religion nor in the Christian is there anything which faintly compares to this.'

Many centuries have passed since the revelation of this wonderful Book and one can find its copies in countries which have long remained isolated from the rest of the world and among various Muslim sects, which for centuries have remained deadly enemies, yet the Holy Qur'ân has remained exactly the same unaltered Book in spite of the differences of time, lands, culture and customs. The reader can well calculate the miraculous nature of this Glorious Book of God.

2. Memorizing of the Holy Qur'ân

The memorizing of the Holy Qur'ân has also assisted in the preservation of its text. Whenever any portion of the Holy Qur'ân was revealed to the Holy Prophet, he committed it to memory and continuously recited it from one end to the other. Thus, he always carried the whole of the revealed Qur'ân in his memory. The Holy Prophet ﷺ used to stress the merits of committing the Holy Qur'ân to memory so much that he said that if a person committed the Qur'ân to memory he would be saved from the torment of Hell. When he made this announcement, a large number of his Companions began to commit the Holy Qur'ân to memory. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also took pains to supervise the recitation of the Holy Qur'ân and was anxious to see that no errors crept into the process.

Since the time of ʿOmar (the second Caliph), it has become customary to recite the whole text during Tarâwîh (late night) Prayer in the month of *Ramadzân*. Memorizing of the Qur'ân is still considered highly noble, and the memorizing of the *Surâhs* and small texts is still the first stage of informal education among millions of Muslim families. No human-written book of this volume can ever be memorized wholly by any single human being, not even by its author. It is only the Holy Qur'ân that, today, stands as the singular Book memorized and recited wholly by hundreds and thousands of men, women and, even, children. It is the fulfillment of God's promise that the Holy Qur'ân is easily memorized. It is worth mentioning at this point that the author of this translation, Allâmah Nooruddîn, was the eleventh consecutive son in his family to become a 'hâfiz', (a person who memorizes and knows the whole Qur'ân by heart).

3. Living Language of the Holy Qur'ân

The third factor which assisted in the preservation of the text of the Holy Qur'ân is its language -Arabic. Arabic is a living language spoken, written and understood by millions of people, Muslims and Non-Muslims alike. Its grammar, vocabulary, idioms, pronunciation and script have remained unchanged from the time of the revelation of the Holy Qur'ân.

4. Spread of the Qur'ân

Another factor for the preservation of the Holy Qur'ân was that its message spread very quickly right from the start of its revelation to different regions of the world. The Holy Prophet ﷺ was still in Makkah when the Qur'ân reached the second largest city of *Yathrib* (Madînah) where it attracted people to read, write and learn it by heart and act upon its teachings.

Thousands of Companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were still living when the Holy Book crossed the bounds of Arabian peninsula and reached the people living in Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Egypt, Tunis, Algiers, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Abyssinia and many other parts of Africa. On the other side it travelled to central Asia, Punjâb and Sindh in the Indian subcontinent and reached as far as China and southeast Asia. This, too, was one of the means which led to the preservation of the Holy Book and made it impossible to be altered by any powerful party, a nation or a king.

5. Dissent in the Ummah

There is a famous saying of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that the difference of opinion among the people of his community (Ummah) will bring many blessings in its wake. The importance of this dissension with regard to the preservation of the Holy Qur'ân can well be judged by the fact that the Muslims fell into parties soon after the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Had one party only remained in power there was the possibility of their faith having faltered, which would have led them to bring about some changes and alterations in the Sacred Book to satisfy their ends and purposes. However, their mutual differences created a situation wherein the opposing groups kept a constant watch over one another. If one group had ever tried to effect a change in the Holy Qur'ân the other group was there to keep them in check.

6. Protection of the Ummah from General Destruction

The Muslims became a powerful nation in a very short period and, thus, the Book they carried was saved from its enemies. During the course of history, in spite of many vicissitudes of time, defeats and occupations, Muslims were saved from complete destruction. Had the Muslims been completely destroyed by universal earthly or heavenly disasters, the Holy Qur'ân would not have remained preserved. If God intends to keep His Book alive for ever, it is obvious that He will save Muslims in the future from complete destruction. What else was the cause of the destruction of the Zoroastrian Zynd and its commentary Avista, except that the followers of this religion were first attacked by Alexander and then completely wiped out by the Parthians, thus, Scriptures given to these people were all lost, without any trace. God in His Wisdom, always protected the Muslims from general destruction and if a calamity ever visited them in one part of the world, they remained safe in another and became the means of the preservation of the Holy Book.

7. The great love:

The general love towards this Heavenly gift was another factor which assisted in its preservation. A Muslim, no matter how ignoble of character and averse to piety, will find that his heart is always full of reverence, respect and regard for the Glorious Qur'ân. These feelings are preserved in every believer in Islam, irrespective of his age and degree of knowledge and no one dares to bring about any change or alteration in the text of the Holy Book.

8. Inimitability:

Another cause of the Holy Qur'ân being safe and secure is that no being has the ability to make even a single verse like the verses of the Qur'ân. A single word omitted from a Qur'ânic verse will cause it to lose its orderly arrangement, a word shifted from its original position, or exchanged with a synonym will have the same effect. The beauty of the verse will vanish, there will be no congruity left and the result will appear as if a fine silken brocade had been patched with a rough jute sack.

The Lasting Scripture

وَأِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ وَمَا نُنزِّلُهُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَعْلُومٍ

And there is not a thing but We have the vast treasures of it; and We do not

send it down but according to a proper and prescribed measure (15:21).

The Holy Qur'ân is for all times and climes. It was not meant for a limited period. It was revealed for the good of the whole of mankind and is suited for all ages to come. It, not only has a long history but also a long future, a future which will last for ever. Those who may imagine that the Holy Qur'ân has become outmoded, is no longer needed and is of no more use, do not know what it stands for. They do not understand its real mission in human life; how it embraces the whole of human being's life and strikes a reasonable balance between different aspects of his existence. As the wonderful qualities of nature never come to an end, but appear ever fresh and new, the same is the case with this Holy Book. As the passage of time gives rise to unlimited thinking, therefore, it is necessary for a Book which claims to be Khâtam al-Kutub (the last and the perfect Book) to manifest itself in ever new forms. If it were not to meet new contingencies, it would not establish its claims.

The safeguarding of the Holy Qur'ân not only means that its text should be preserved but, also, that its benefits and influence are for all times. The Almighty has, therefore, laid down in this everlasting Book, the Holy Qur'ân, some universal rules, all embracing and lasting principles, beyond the limits of which the varying circumstances of the human being can never go. It has, then, left their detailed application to be determined according to changing times and the new needs arising from this change. It has, however, commanded us not to transgress the limits prescribed by these all embracing principles, it says:

وَتِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يُتَعَدَّ حُدُودَ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ ظَلَمَ نَفْسَهُ ط

These are the limits imposed by Allâh and he that violates the

limits imposed by Allâh, indeed does injustice to himself (65:1).

Thus, the Holy Qur'ân is an exposition of every spiritual truth. A storehouse of every basic principle necessary for the moral and spiritual welfare of human beings. It shows the way to all that is most upright and conformable to rectitude and benefits our individual and social life (16:89). Dr. W. Cantwell Smith writes, 'It in recent years has not moved towards a social gospel but has been a Social Gospel from the start. It has formulated a basic spiritual and social code of lasting guidance for mankind whether previously revealed or not'. Falsehood cannot approach it from fore or aft and cannot ever attain to it openly or in a stealthy manner, since it is bestowed from on high by One Who is the Wise, the Praiseworthy (41:42). Not a single truth, principle or ideal enunciated by this Book has ever been contravened or contradicted by ancient learning or by modern science. It is a storehouse of wisdom and discriminates between truth and falsehood by reasoning (25:1). Those who do not accept the Book as encompassing unlimited verities and insights do not value it as they should. The Book is living, there is internal and external evidence to show that it is not fossilized, rather, quite capable of facing the challenges of the modern world.

One may object that Islam is a religion from a Book, something fixed and final, while the soul of humanity is marching on and human knowledge is ever increasing. This is an age of rapid scientific and technological discoveries and the Qur'ân was revealed hundreds of years ago. No dead hand should be allowed to check the progress of humanity. Who can assure us that the principles and enactments which were established during a period of time long gone still have the potential for growth and renewal? Is Islam sufficiently suitable for application to other periods with different values and circumstances?

The objection seems to be sound if the religion taught in the Book is husk and gravel, a dogma, priest-craft, symbolism and ritual, if it hinges upon stories and certain supposed events in the life of its master. Then, of course, it is not a lasting religion but a superstition and a myth. It is a fog which cannot stand in the strong rays of the sun of reality and is sure to ramify into sections. Each advancement in science, culture and knowledge will shake it and its apologists will change it into something new.

The Holy Qur'ân will not change. It is from the All-Knowing, All-Wise God (11:1), Who created the human being and Who knows what suggestions the human mind makes (50:16), Who is the Originator and Nourisher to perfection of the universe, Knower of every thing. He has prescribed guidelines in the light of which the human being is free to determine his path. These are bounds set by God and he who transgresses the bounds set by God, indeed, does wrong to his own soul (65:1); as the 'word of God' and the 'work of God' should prove to be in accord.

It is a fact that Islam has not given detailed, fixed rules for all incidental questions, but only those fundamental laws which do not change, as the principles of Mathematics, Physics, Algebra and Geometry. With this comprehensiveness and elasticity the Holy Qur'ân guarantees growth and renewal of its derived subsidiary laws for ages to come. The jurists of Islam have, since then, applied the Qur'ânic verses by making analogies and deductions to enable the injunctions of the Qur'ân to answer the problems which arise in the society from time to time.

The call of the Qur'ân is to examine our stored-up resources and to acquire the knowledge of its all-embracing fundamentals before we resort to a precipitate imitation of the alien and foreign theories and laws which have no historical basis in our lives and by adopting which our individuality will be lost to the point that we will become the rear of the caravan of humanity, whereas the Holy Qur'ân calls on us to be always in its van (2:143, 3:110).

Islam allows freedom of opinion and private right of judgement. It has preached democracy in religion as well as in politics. Its laws are, no doubt, unchangeable and everlasting, but so are all such laws that rule the world and keep it healthy, morally and ethically. These laws are broad enough to cover all contingencies, however, one has to draw a line between freedom and licence.

The power of thinking is a Divine gift and to think is to differ, therefore, Islam always respected difference of opinion.

'Difference of opinion in my followers is a blessing of God', so says the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and this approval of the Holy Prophet ﷺ has opened a healthy avenue for the fair play of private judgement.

As truth is absolute; two and two never make five nor ten times ten ever make one hundred and one, so shall remain, forever, unchangeable and unalterable all those colossal and stupendous rules given in the Holy Qur'ân to govern human affairs. Adequacy can be maintained through 'Ijtihâd' (exercising judgement) and a continuously progressive interpretation of the Qur'ân from time to time in accordance with the progress of human experience. All the teachings put together make the Divine guidance contained in the Holy Qur'ân adequate for the future moral and spiritual progress of the human race for all times. A saint said once:.

'I round the globe in search of heaven did roam

returned and found my heaven was here at home'.

No doubt that it is perfectly legitimate for Muslims to borrow from other circles what is in fact already theirs by right, their 'straying camel'. But nothing that has its roots in agnosticism, or contrary to the Qur'ânic principles can be incorporated into its interpretation without poisoning the whole system.

Has Islam not had a shining record of science and civilization? Does the West not owe to Islam much of its scientific discoveries? In the fifth and the sixth Century A.D. the great civilization which had taken four thousand years to construct was on the verge of disintegration. The sanctions created by Christianity were working division and destruction instead of unity and order, at this critical time the Holy Qur'ân was an indispensable means to unite the whole known world of the East and the South. 'From a new angle', writes H.G. Wells, 'and with a fresh vigor it (the Arab mind) took up that systematic development of positive knowledge which the Greeks had begun and relinquished. If the Greek was the father, then the Arab was the foster-father of the scientific method of dealing with reality. Through the Arabs it was and not by the Latin route that the modern world received that gift of Light and Power' (The Outline of History, London, p.192).

One must study the influence and blessing of the Holy Qur'ân and appreciate the great forward leap that humanity took with its help and under its guidance and the deep abyss from the bottom of which it lifted humanity to the lofty heights of social, moral and spiritual reinforcements in every age. Through the impetus given by the Qur'ân, one of the most dynamic scientific movements in the history of exact thought began soon after the advent of Islam. This movement rapidly gained momentum and the world saw the birth of some of the greatest scientists and philosophers of all times.

'One of the most deplorable things in history', says Dr. J.W. Draper, the author of 'The Intellectual Development of Europe' 'is the systematic way in which European writers have contrived to put out of sight their scientific obligation towards the Arabs'.

Islamic history has never known such hateful organized persecution of thinkers and scholars as was conducted by the 'Inquisition Courts'. Never even for a single moment did the Qur'ân stand in the way of knowledge, science, civilization and progress. Where ever it has found its way among cultured and progressive nations, it has shown itself in complete accord with progressive tendencies and has assisted knowledge, culture and civilizations. The Holy Qur'ân says, 'Consider the flight of time. Verily, a person who is unmindful of God and higher values of this life is pursuing a losing bargain. Different, however, is the case of those who believe (in the Qur'ân) and, accordingly, do deeds of righteousness and who exhort one another to accept and preach the truth and to abide by it with patience and perseverance (103:1-3). Thus the passage of time has no adverse effect on the Qur'ân and its teachings.

It is because of the everlasting character of the Holy Qur'ân that the great prophecy was made that the Qur'ân will, for all times, remain safe against all attempts to destroy it and from every kind of corruption (15:9) and the selection of Arabic, which is a living language, as a vehicle for the last and everlasting Book was made.

One index of modern progress is the unprecedented divorce rate, over emphasis on sex, liquor traffic, overwhelmed mental institutions due to the ever increasing number of nervous disorder problems, criminal delinquency among teens which is reaching new heights each year, boredom, insecurity, disturbed family life and tension among vast multitudes even among those who apparently have every thing to make life worthwhile. This frame of life of the modern age needs, for its remedy, a sense of direction, a deep satisfying assurance of the meaning, purpose and aim of life itself.

Social problems, national and international, are often just personal problems writ large. The race and color problem begins simply where one human being despises another. Employer-labor deadlocks are born of injustice or resentment in a lot of individual personal attitudes. International frictions start out as the greed of a few leaders or the personal harbored spite of many separate human beings. Hatred starts with individuals who hate, thus, the worries of society itself are, first of all, very personal problems of the people. What have science and technology done for the solution of such problems of the people? Dilemmas such as those of finance and wrong distribution of wealth are complex, knotty questions demanding abolition of interest, free enterprise, distribution of wealth after a generation and a sanction through which, at least, within 40 years, all the wealth of the over-privileged people must go to the underprivileged. These circumstances demand expert, solid thinking and cool planning according to the Qur'ân which is a tremendously constructive force in such perplexing conditions. We need smart people using their intelligence in an atmosphere made creative, sympathetic, good and Godly by the Qur'ân. Name any problem of the modern age for which there is no remedy in the Holy Qur'ân. Yes, the whole world is in a process of evolution. But all is not well with the world, it is a pattern of light and shadows, parts of which are pleasant, some definitely otherwise. However, it is not a case of 'take it or leave it' we simply have to take it because we are here and we are quite capable of improving the art of living.

The real question is whether the human being remains dominated by his animal appetite or if he controls and keeps it in check. Has he by the scientific progress gained a capacity to rise above those blind passions or is he still a mere plaything in the hands of satan and his unruly passions? If he is still no better than a mere slave to them then he is far from having achieved any real progress or advancement or 'Falâh' for which the Qur'ân was revealed. This is, indeed, a very disturbing picture of today's world. But still there is one redeeming factor, that is the Qur'ân.

It is obvious that the great merit of something is that it should fulfill the purpose for which it is fashioned and the true purpose of a Heavenly Book, and then of the Qur'ân, is to rescue humanity from a sinful life and bestow a pure life. This is the true salvation and the true 'Falâh', as the Holy Qur'ân says:

'One who purifies his soul certainly succeeds.

And he, indeed, is ruined who corrupts it' (91:9,10).

Another purpose of the Qur'ân is to bestow such perfect understanding as if one can see God Who is the fountainhead of all

good and joy. Love and understanding are the roots of salvation and `Falâh', they are the paradise on entering which all fatigue, bitterness, pain and torment is removed. Through them a person is drawn to God Who is hidden behind the beyond and He manifests Himself and informs of His existence by the affirmation `I am present'.

Of what use is a Book which cannot clean and purify a person, bestow such pure and perfect understanding as should make one hate sins, cut asunder the sinful ego, or draw one towards God? What should a seeker after truth do with a Book which does not fill these needs? It is not the Holy Qur'ân's chief purpose to teach people subjects of secular study and to instruct them in worldly instructions, these things are only the by-products of its teachings and no present or previous Book except the Holy Qur'ân possesses this quality. Just as it is not possible that we should be able to see without eyes, in the same way it is not possible that we should be able to behold the countenance of God without the Qur'ân. It contains a large quantity of the water of life. The God, presently, is not the one who is believed in on the basis of tales and stories and who resembles a dead being; it is useless to believe in such a God. If a person follows the Holy Qur'ân truly, he would see God in this very life. It guides one towards God through reason, experience and heavenly signs in a very easy manner. A believer who acts upon its teachings does not merely contemplate like a philosopher that there ought to be a Creator of the wonderful universe but he acquires a personal insight. Diverse types of blessings descend upon him and he experiences the commandments and doctrines as realities and certainties through visions and revelation.

Every century starts a new world, therefore, the God of the Holy Qur'ân manifests new signs for each new world. At the beginning of every century God raises a Reformer as the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, `Surely God will raise for the good of this community (of Muslims), at the commencement of every century one who will reform their religion' (AD. 36:1) i.e. a *Mujaddid*, to shed new light on the great religious truths of Islam under new circumstances. God Almighty will speak to him face to face, as is said in the Holy Qur'ân, `Behold! As for those who say, "Our Nourisher to Perfection is God" and then remain steadfast and follow the straight path, the angels will descend upon them saying, "Have no fear nor grieve, rather, rejoice at the glad tidings of receiving the gardens of Paradise which you had been promised. We are your Patrons in the present life and in the Hereafter"' (41:30,31). Again the Holy Qur'ân says,

`Allâh has promised those of you who believe and do deeds of righteousness that surely God will make them successors (vouchsafed with both spiritual and temporal leadership) on earth as He made successors from among their predecessors, and that He will surely establish for them their Faith which he has approved for them' (24:55).

And from the time of the revelation of the Qur'ân there have appeared, in every century, such men of God. On the score of such heavenly and fresh signs, the Holy Qur'ân has not been put to shame in any age. The life and blessings which were initially cultivated by Islam will remain present till the end of the world for the promotion and welfare of mankind. Is there any other Book which can produce such testimony? A living Book has always the hand of the living God at its back and such a Book is the Holy Qur'ân.

Yes the Holy Qur'ân was revealed hundreds of years ago. Today we live in a modern scientific world, but the old serpent is still alive and the ancient problems of mankind are still present, requiring a solution. Although scientific advances and inventions have provided many conveniences and lightened the human being's work, yet they have not solved the ethical and spiritual problems of the human being. When has the need ever been so vital to learn how to live unitedly, to know how to forge strong and loving family ties, to hear a powerful word of peace in a world of military attacks and nuclear nightmares, to have wholesome food, drinks and proper dress and to know where one can obtain deliverance from sin and hear the sweet voice of God? The Qur'ân tells us how such vital needs can be satisfied. The Holy Qur'ân also focuses on the very purpose of life and the ways and means to acquire it. It also provides satisfying answers to such questions as, `Where did life come from? Why am I here? What is the purpose of my life? What does the future hold? What are the physical, moral and spiritual conditions of the human being?' The Qur'ân also provides the answers to questions about life after death and the sources of knowledge. Are such questions obsolete and their answers of no use or can we find their satisfactory answers in any other place?

Though the Holy Qur'ân gives the solution of all such problems of humanity, yet it is wonderfully laconic and concise. It has condensed the whole of its teaching in only about 1500 roots of Arabic and, thus, is a miracle in its diction and style. It is about two thirds the length of the New Testament.

Professor Hooking of Harvard University writes in his book 'The Spirit of World Policies' 'Can Islam produce fresh thinking, independent laws and relevant statutes to fit the new needs raised by modern society? Yes, and more, Islam offers humanity greater possibilities for advance than others can. In reality Islamic Shariah contains all the ingredients needed.'

In 1951 the Paris College of Law devoted a week to the study of the Islamic Canon Law. They called in experts from countries around the world. The head of the Parisian Languages Society chaired the conference and summed up at the end thus, 'Whatever our earlier ideas, about Islamic law and its rigidity or incompetence in documenting transactions we have been compelled to revise them. Let me sum up the new insight, new I think to most of us, the conference has given us in this week devoted particularly to the Islamic Canon Law. We saw in it a depth of rock-bottom principle and of particularized care which embraces mankind in its universality and is, thus, able to give an answer to all the emergencies and events of this age. In our final communique we say, "Islam's Canon Law should be made one of the formalized elements of all new international legislation to meet present day conditions, since it possesses a legal treasure of stable universal values and pronouncements to cope with the exigencies imposed by the new forums of living arising in the modern environment".'

About the vitality of Islam Bernard Shaw (1856-1950 A.D.) observes as follows: 'I have always held the religion of Muhammad in the highest estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilation capability to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man - in my opinion far from being Anti-Christ, he must be called a saviour of humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving the problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness. I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be accepted by Europe of today'. Bernard Shaw was awarded the Noble Prize for Literature.

One Religion

شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا
إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ

He has ordained for you the same course of faith as He enjoined on

Noah (to adopt), and which We have revealed to you, and it is

that (same faith) which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses,

Jesus, so keep the faith and do not differ in it. (He

ordains you) to establish obedience (to Allâh)

and not to be divided (into sects) therein.

(42:13)

The revelation of the Holy Qur'ân was not an accident, an un-connected episode in the history of mankind. According to the Qur'ân, Judaism, Christianity, Hindûism, Buddhism, etc., are but different aspects of one and the same religion, which, in its original purity, was the religion of Islam (- submission to the will of God and to make peace with God and mankind). Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Krishna, Rama, Buddha or Confucius, all were the Prophets of God (may Allâh be pleased with them all) and were sent for the guidance of their respective people. The Qur'ân repeatedly claims to be in conformation with the truth of all faiths as the Qur'ân defines the true believers:

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ ۗ

And who (also) believe in that (Message) which has been revealed to you

and in that which had been revealed before you (2:4).

The Qu'rân, therefore, not only recognizes the truth of all the previous Divine Books and Prophets, but also makes it obligatory for Muslims to believe in the Divine origin of their teachings and thus it takes an effective step to promote peace and harmony with the followers of other religions. The Qu'rân does not, however, mention all the Prophets by their names as it says:

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ قَصَصْنَا
عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ لَمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ

And indeed We have already sent (Our) Messengers before you. There are

some of them whom We have mentioned to you and of them there

are many whom We have not mentioned to you (40:78).

Thus, the Qu'rân requires not only a belief in Divine revelation to the Prophet of Islam, but belief in Divine revelation to all the Prophets sent to all nations of the world in all times. This is one of the matters relating to faith (*Îmân*) and a fundamental principle of Islam. This broad doctrine is taught repeatedly in the Qu'rân (3:184; 13:4).

Some opponents of the Qu'rân say that Muḥammad wrote the Qu'rân or had it written as an imitation of the Bible or other Scriptures. This attitude is as thoughtless as saying that Jesus (peace be upon him) himself duped his contemporaries by drawing inspiration from the Hebrew Scriptures or of Buddha during his preaching. The whole of Matthew's Gospel is based on the continuation of the Old Testament and Talmud. These fault finders are blind to the fact that the source of all Divine Scriptures is the same God.

Islam is not a new faith founded by the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ but it is the same religion which was taught by all the Prophets, from Adam to Jesus (may Allâh be pleased with all of them) (cf.. 22:78), as we are commanded in the Holy Qu'rân:

قُلْ أُمِنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ
وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَالتَّوْرَتِ
مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ

*Say, 'We believe in Allâh and in that which has been revealed to us and
in that which was revealed to Abraham, and Ismâîl and Isaac and
Jacob and his children and in that which was given to Moses and
Jesus and to all other Prophets from their Lord. We make no
distinction between anyone of them (in believing them)
and to Him alone do we submit' (3:84).*

The Qu'rân - A Necessity

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ
بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

Disorder and corruption has prevailed on land and sea owing to the evil (deeds) which people have wrought; the result will be that He will make them taste (in this world) the fruit of some of their misdeeds, so that they may return (to the right path, giving up their evil ways) (30:41).

and, as the Book says, it is the the practice of the Creator that:

يُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا

He gives life to earth after its death (30:19).

This is the major reason given by God to reveal His Book and His word through the channel of His Prophet. The Arabs questioned the necessity of a new Book in the presence of so many revealed religious and Divine Scriptures. The Qur'ân itself gives another reasons which necessitated its revelation.

1. The Qur'ân says:

وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ۚ أَلَمْ
تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ عَلَى طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا وَإِنْ كُنَّا عَنْ
دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَافِلِينَ ۚ أَوْ تَقُولُوا لَوْ أَنَّا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْكِتَابُ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَى
مِنْهُمْ فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بَيِّنَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ

This is a (glorious) Book which We have revealed full of blessings, so follow it and guard against evil that you may be shown mercy. (We have revealed this blessed Book) lest you should say, 'The Book has only been revealed to two communities (- the Jews and the Christians) before us, and (as for us) we

remained unaware of what those (Books) read.' Or lest you should say, 'Had the Book been revealed to us we would surely have been better guided than they.' Now there has certainly come to you from your Lord (in the form of the Qur'ân) a clear evidence, an excellent guidance and a great mercy (6:155-157)

2. All the previous Prophets brought certain laws of life from God, but most of these teachings had been lost owing to the vicissitudes of time. The Holy Qur'ân came and found all their Scriptures either extinct or corrupted by human interpolation. It renewed the old teachings and restored them to their original forms.

وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِي اخْتَلَفُوا
فِيهِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝

We have sent to you this perfect Book (for the purpose) that you may

explain to the people things over which they differ (among themselves),

and (that it may serve as) a guidance and a mercy for a people

who would believe (in it) (16:64).

3. The revelation of the Holy Qur'ân is in fulfillment of the prophecies of previous Scriptures (for detailed discussion on this subject see *Faṣl al-Khitâb* by Nooruddîn and *Mîthâq al-Nabiyyîn* by Abdul Haq Widyârthy). We read:

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ نَبَذَ فَرِيقٌ
مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِهِمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

And (now) when a great Messenger (Muhammad) has come to them

from Allâh confirming that (Scripture) which is with them, a party

of those who were given the Scripture cast away the Book of

Allâh behind their backs, as if they know it not (2:101).

4. The prophetic eyes of the previous Messengers foresaw that their teachings were for their particular nations and periods and that they would later suffer in purity, and that coming generations would naturally need some new and complete revelation from on High. So all of them spoke of the coming Messenger and no one among them declared that his Message was the last, complete or universal, and that it would neither disappear nor suffer from human tampering. Only the Qur'ân makes this claim. The Holy Qur'ân came with an universal mission. It repeatedly speaks of the Holy Prophet of Islam, as having been sent., as a Messenger to all humanity in the earliest as well as the latter revelations (34:28;

25:1; 21:107; 2:185). The all comprehensiveness of the Lordship of God in the very first words of the Qur'ân is in consonance with the cosmopolitan nature of the Book. The Holy Qur'ân says that God is the Nourisher to perfection of the whole world. He would not have given any special status to any person or group. The message of the Holy Qur'ân is for all human beings who stand at par under the obligation to fulfill the Divine will, and are judged on an universal scale of justice which is absolute for all mankind.

The universality of the Qur'ânic mission arises also from its appeal to all mankind, irrespective of descent, race, colour or cultural environment. It appeals exclusively to our reason and hence does not postulate any dogma that could be accepted on the basis of blind faith. It is the exponent of that Divine system that is impressed on the human being's nature and is the religion of every human child that is born. We read:

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا
تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقِيمُ

'So pay your wholehearted attention to (the cause of) faith as one devoted (to pure faith), turning away from all that is false. (And follow) the Faith of Allâh to suit the requirements of which He has made the nature of mankind. There can be no change in the nature (of creation) which Allâh has made. That is the right and most perfect Faith' (30:30).

Equality, fraternity and liberty are fundamental to the teaching of the Qur'ân. It is only through God, Creator, Sustainer, Nourisher to perfection of all and His Word, the Qur'ân, that we shall find the road to the unification of humanity, to the brotherhood of man which knows no boundaries of colour, caste, country, language and rank. Far from being threatened by any intellectual challenge from modern civilization, the Holy Qur'ân itself might be said to constitute a serious challenge to the declining standards and values and the increasing confusion of the world.

Another factor from which the universality of the Qur'ânic mission arises is that the Holy Qur'ân is very easy to understand and to follow. God says in this Book:

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ

And indeed We made the Qur'ân easy for admonition

and to understand, follow and remember (54:40).

This Book is in a language that is simple and clear. It uses only about 1500 roots of Arabic. Its language, unlike Latin, old Greek or Sanskrit, is spoken and understood by millions of people.

5. Another important object of the Holy Qur'ân is epitomized in the following verse,

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا
عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا

مِن قَبْلُ لَقِيَ صَلِّ مُبِينٍ

Verily, Allâh has bestowed a favour on the believers when He has raised amongst them a great Messenger from amongst themselves who recites to them His Messages, and purifies them and teaches them the Book and the wisdom; although before this, they were steeped in flagrant error (3:164).

This verse mentions four basic objects behind the revelation of the Holy Qur'ân,

- a) To convey the signs and Messages of God.
- b) To give the world a Scripture containing perfect and everlasting Law.
- c) To explain the wisdom underlying these laws.
- d) To lay down principles and rules of conduct which would bring about complete spiritual transformation in the lives of people, and would make its true followers a great and powerful nation, fit to lead the whole world.

These were the four objects for which Abraham prayed: 'Our Lord! Do raise among them a great Messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them Your Messages and teach them the Book and Wisdom, and may purify them. You, indeed, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.' (2:129), and there is no other Book in the whole world which can fulfill these four objects.

The Practical System

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ
أَمَّنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَأَتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى
حَيْهٍ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَى وَالْيَتَامَى وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْإِنْسَانِ وَالسَّيِّئِينَ وَالسَّائِلِينَ
وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا
عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالصَّرَآءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ
الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

>It is not the sole virtue that you turn your faces to the east or the west but true virtue is theirs, who believe in Allâh, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and in the Prophets, and who give away their wealth (and substance) out of love for Him, to the near of kin, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarer and to those who ask (in charity) and in ransoming the slaves; and who observe the Prayer, who go on presenting the Zakât (- the purifying alms) and those who always fulfill their pledges and agreements when they have made one, and those who are patiently persevering in adversity and distress and

(steadfast) in times of war. It is these who have proved truthful (in their promises and in their faith) and it is these who are strictly guarded against evil (2:177).

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The Holy Qur'ân is not a book for dreamers and visionaries who live in Utopia, entirely divorced from the hard facts and realities of life. It is a practical system which guides us about what things to eat, how to clothe, how to wash, pray and fast. It also guides us in matters of divorce, marriage, sexuality, menstruation and hygiene. It prescribes methods of government, rules of inheritance and economics and tells us how, where, and how much to spend. There is no aspect of human life for which it has not laid down practical guidelines (for subject references see Index). It has been practised for centuries with great success and to the great astonishment of history. The Qur'ân informs us that true religions are neither theoretical nor formal, rather they are practical.

Mirror of the Laws of Nature

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا
تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ

So pay your wholehearted attention to (the cause of) faith as one devoted

(to pure faith), turning away from all that is false. (And follow) the Faith

of Allâh to suit the requirements of which He has made the nature of

mankind. There can be no change in the nature (of creation) which

Allâh has made. That is the right and most perfect Faith (30:30).

The Holy Qur'ân is the mirror of the laws of nature and their true reflection. According to the Qur'ân, Islam is a natural religion and every human being possesses it by birth, which it calls *Dîn-al-Fitrah* (30:30), 'natural religion or original religion'. Qur'ânic teachings are thus easy and well suited to human requirements, needs and aspirations and are meant for the development of the innate faculties of the human being to give him a sane steadfastness against the inevitable vicissitudes of life. The faith it teaches is the voice of human nature at the deepest and most profound level of its psychological make up. To discover Islam it is necessary to delve deeply into one's nature, so it is said:

أَوَلَمْ يَتَفَكَّرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ

Do they never think over in their own minds (30:8)

So it was said by the Holy Prophet ﷺ: 'To understand one's Lord one must understand one's own self.' The Holy Qur'ân and the great phenomena of nature are twin manifestations of the Divine act. For the Holy Qur'ân the natural world in its totality is a vast fabric into which the signs of God are woven. It is significant that the Arabic word Ayât meaning signs is the same word that is used for the verses of the Qur'ân.

The Qur'ân does not teach us the inheritance of sin. How can it be that by the offense of one person, the whole humanity would become condemned? Each one has to bear his own burden (6:164; 17:15; 35:18; 39:2).

وَمَنْ يَكْسِبْ إِثْمًا فَإِنَّمَا يَكْسِبُهُ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ ط

And whoever commits a sin deliberately, commits it

only against himself (4:111).

Sin is not in the human being's nature but only an individual's acquisition after birth. Just as it is acquired, it can be purged off. Peace be on Muhammad who raised the level of humanity to the highest zenith, saying that every human being is born with a clean slate and with perfect freedom of action. He also established the principle that every human being is his own redeemer and author of his own actions and as such solely responsible for his deeds; there is nothing predestined. This was the message of salvation and Falâh which gave the human being a new confidence as master of his own destiny. He could apply himself with renewed vigour, confidence and determination to shape his own life in this world and in the Hereafter.

The doctrine of forgiveness of sins by God is one of the most bounteous gifts of the Prophet of Islam to mankind. Sins are temporary deviations from the right path brought about by ignorance, mistake or forgetfulness, but the human being's deeper desire - his Nafs Lawwâma (- self accusing spirit) regrets his mistake and seeks pardon from God with a contrite heart. To be broken in spirit by a sense of guilt and to seek forgiveness from God shows the innate goodness of human nature. It is wrong to say that God cannot forgive anyone's sin. God is not just a judge who cannot forgive, rather He is the Master. The Master's actions are not to be measured by mere justice.

وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ
يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ٥

And whoever commits evil and does injustice to himself and then asks

forgiveness of Allâh, will find Allâh Most Forgiving, Ever Merciful (4:110).

This Gospel of forgiveness of sins and of hope was a revolutionary message to despondent humanity

condemned for ever by the guilt of original sin, reincarnation and past misdeeds. God's magnanimity to those who turn to Him for forgiveness is endless. How to acquire what our birthright gives us, avoid the degradation which our error in judgment or wrong discretion creates in us and get Falâh are clearly laid down in the pages of the Holy Qur'ân. In short, the Holy Qur'ân does not look upon mankind as a fallen hopeless creature, but as a perfect person capable of achieving the highest levels of righteousness.

Role of Reason in the Qur'ân

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بُرْهَانٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ

O you people! a manifest Proof has indeed

come to you from your Lord (4:174).

The Reason, or the manifest Proof

(*Burhân*) is one of the names which the Holy Qur'ân takes for itself. The Holy Qur'ân makes judgement on the basis of reasoning in every thing, whether it is religion, conviction or faith. Islam clearly asserts that imitation of others without reason or guidance is the prerogative of disbelievers. Nobody is a real Muslim unless he has reasoned out his religion. Thus, reason and reflection, rather than aggressiveness, are the keys to significant living.

Reason is a gift of God and it must be utilized to the full. We are not supposed to accept any thing at the expense of better judgement. Faith should not be, as the Holy Qur'ân says, a burden that we cannot intelligently bear (2:286). It is because of this fact that the Holy Book is neither dogmatic nor assertive. When it inculcates any principle or contradicts any doctrine it puts forth logical reasons to substantiate its assertions and sets forth its tenets in a way that appeal most readily to our intelligence. It repels with bright reasoning all evils that afflict people's doctrines, actions, words and works. In the course of its reasoning, physics, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, philosophy, logic, eloquence and the method of debate, all are brought into play in a most appropriate, easy and simple way. Compulsion is of no avail when logic and reason begin to rule the world. The Holy Book says the same when it lays down a golden principle in the matter of preaching its teachings. It says:

لَا ظُكُورَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ
بِالظُّكُورِ وَ يُؤْمَرْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْقِصَامَ لَهَا

There is no compulsion of any sort in religion (as) the right way does stand

obviously distinguished from the way of error. Now he that shall reject

the transgressor and accepts Allâh (let such know that he) has laid hold

of a support firm and strong which knows no breaking (2:256).

Thus, there is a categorical prohibition of coercion in any form that pertains to the contents of religious laws, to our attitude towards the object of our worship and everything that pertains to Faith. Forcible conversion is, under all circumstances, null and void and any attempt at forcing a person to accept Islam is a grievous sin. For this reason, the Qur'ân equates Faith with light and disbelief with darkness. The contrast is brought out to the best advantage in verses 24:35-46. These verses also cite reasons as to why force should not be used for this purpose. If the path has been clearly reasoned out and found to be the correct, there would be no point in resorting to compulsion for its acceptance. We often read verses like 27:92; 41:46 or the following:

وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ فَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْهُ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُكْفُرْ

And say, 'It is the truth from your Lord, therefore let him who

wishes (it) believe (in it) and let him who wishes

(otherwise) disbelieve (in it).' (18:29)

The logic of the principle lies in the fact that there should be reasoning with every injunction. We belong to an intellectual order and cannot believe in any thing which does not come within the scope of our perception or experience, or is unable to stand the test of logic and science. If a book or a truth claims to come from God, let it prove its claim by itself and advocate its own case. Why should it rely on the advocacy, ingen

Part I

Chapter

1

Al-Fâtihah

(The Opening)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

1. With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful,
(I commence to read the Holy Book).
2. All type of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh alone, the Lord of the worlds,
3. The Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful,
4. Master of the Day of Requital.
5. (Lord!) You alone do we worship and You alone do we implore for help.
6. Lead us on the exact right path till we reach the goal,
7. The path of those on whom You have bestowed (Your) blessings, those who have not incurred (Your) displeasure, and those who have not gone astray.

Chapter 2

Al-Baqarah

(The Cow)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Baqarah)

1. **Alif Lâm Mîm** - I am Allâh, the All-Knowing.
2. This is the only perfect Book, wanting in naught, containing nothing doubtful, harmful or destructive, there is no false charge in it. It is a guidance for those who guard against evil;
3. Those who believe in the existence of hidden reality, that which is beyond the reach of human perception and ordinary cognisance, and who observe the Prayer and spend (on others) out of that which We have provided for them,
4. And who (also) believe in that (Message) which has been revealed to you and in that which had been revealed before you, and who have firm faith in the Hereafter.
5. It is they who follow the guidance from their Lord, and it is they alone who are successful in attaining their object in this life and in the Hereafter.
6. As for those who are bent upon denying (the truth), they would not believe, because it is all the same to them whether you warn them or do not warn them.
7. (With the result that) Allâh has set a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and on their eyes is a covering. And a mighty punishment awaits them.

SECTION 2

8. **THERE** are some people who say, 'We believe in Allâh and the Last Day,' while they are no believers at all.
9. They abandon Allâh and those who believe, but they (as a matter of fact) only deprive themselves (of the blessings of God), and they do not perceive (it).
10. In their hearts was a disease (of hypocrisy), and Allâh has increased their disease (by making Islam triumphant). A woeful punishment awaits them because of their persistent lies.

11. When it is said to them, 'Do not disturb the peace of the land (by hypocritical tactics),' they say, 'We are simply setting things right (and so helping the cause of peace).'

12. Beware! they alone are the peace breakers, but they do not perceive (its evil consequences).

13. And when it is said to them, 'Believe as (other) people (- Companions of the Prophet) believed,' they say, 'Shall we believe as the weak-minded have believed?' Beware! it is they only who are weak-minded, but they do not know (this fact).

14. And when they meet those who have believed they say, 'We (too) have believed.' But when they are alone with their ring-leaders they say, 'We are, in reality, with you, we were simply making light of them (- the believers).'

15. Allâh will bring down disgrace upon them and will let them continue in their (ways of) transgression. They are blindly wandering.

16. It is they who have preferred misguidance to guidance, but their bargain has fetched no profit, nor they are rightly guided.

17. Their case is like the case of a person who kindled a fire (in darkness) but no sooner did it light up their surroundings than Allâh took away their light and left them in different kinds of darkness, (in a state in which) they could see nothing.

18. (They are) deaf, dumb, (and) blind, so they will not return (to the right path).

19. Or (the case of some of the hypocrites is) like (the case of those who are hit by) heavy downpour from the clouds wherein there are different kinds of darkness, thunder and lightning. They plug their ears with their fingers against the thunder-claps fearing death. And Allâh encompasses the disbelievers (to punish them).

20. The lightning (being so intensely dazzling) may well-nigh snatch away their sight. As often as it flashes for them they walk (a few steps) in it (- its light), and when it darkens against them they come to a halt. Indeed, if Allâh had so willed He would have taken away their hearing and their sight. Allâh is indeed Possessor of power to do all that He will.

SECTION 3

21. O mankind! worship your Lord Who has created you as well as those before you, that you might be secure against (all sorts of) calamities.

22. (It is He) Who made for you the earth a resting place, and the heaven an edifice for protection, and caused water to pour down from the clouds. Then He brought forth therewith a great variety of fruit for your sustenance. Therefore do not set up compeers to Allâh, while you are people of knowledge!

23. And if you have any doubt as to (the truthfulness of the Qur'ân) which We have revealed to Our servant from time to time, produce a single Sûrah (- Qur'ânic chapter) like any of (the chapters of) this, summoning (to your assistance) all your helpers (that you have) beside Allâh, if you are truthful (in your doubts),

24. But if you fail to do (so), and never shall you do (it), then guard against the Fire, the fuel of which will be human beings (who are deviating from the way of truth) and stones, (it is) prepared for the disbelievers.

25. And give good tidings to those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, that there await them gardens from beneath which the streams flow. Every time they are given any kind of fruit from them (- the gardens) to eat, they will say, 'This is the same we were given before.' They will be given it (- the fruit) in perfect semblance (to their deeds). They shall have therein companions purified (spiritually and physically), and will abide therein for ever.

26. Indeed, Allâh does not disdain to cite a parable of (a thing) even (as small as) a gnat or (of something) smaller than that. (Be it as it may) those who have believed know that this is a true (parable) from their Lord. As for those who disbelieve say, 'What could Allâh mean by (citing) such a parable?' Many does He adjudge to be erring because of these (parables) and many does He guide through them. Yet it is only the transgressors whom He adjudges to be erring because of them.

27. (Transgressors are the people) who break the covenant (they have made) with Allâh after its solemn binding, and sever the ties which Allâh has bidden to be joined and create disorder in the land. It is they who are the losers.

28. (O people!) how can you deny Allâh? When you were without life He gave you life, then He will cause you to die and again raise you to life and you shall be made to return to Him.

29. It is He Who created for your benefit all that is in the earth. Moreover He turned Himself towards the space and fashioned seven heavens perfect (- denoting the multiplicity of cosmic system). He has full knowledge of all things.

SECTION 4

30. And (recall) when your Lord said to the angels, 'I am (according to My usual practice) going to appoint a supreme religious head in the land (to convey My Message to human beings and to execute My will in the universe).' They said,

'Will You create (also) therein such (people) as will cause disorder in it and shed blood while we already glorify You with Your true praise and extol Your holiness.' He (- God) answered, 'I know that which you do not know.'

31. And He taught Adam the names, all of them, then He presented (the objects of) these names to the angels and said, 'Tell Me the names of these (things) if what you say is right.'

32. They said, 'Glory be to You, we have no knowledge except that which You have given us; You, indeed, only You are the All-knowing, the All-wise.'

33. He said, 'Adam! tell them (- the angels) their names (- names of the objects).' So when he had told them their names He said, 'Did I not tell you that, indeed I know the unseen things of the heavens and of the earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal.'

34. And (recall) when We said to the angels, 'Make obeisance to Adam.' So they obeyed except Iblîs, he refused stubbornly and waxed proud, and he was already one of the disbelievers.

35. And We said, 'O Adam! dwell you and your wife in this garden and eat freely and plentifully from it as you will. But you shall not go near this tree (- evil) lest you should be of the unjust.'

36. After sometime the satan caused them both to slip from this (order of not going near evil) and thus brought them out of (the happy state) which they were in. And We said (to them), 'Go forth, some of you are enemies of others and for you there is a sojourn in this land and a provision for a time.'

37. After that Adam received from his Lord certain (useful) commandments and He turned to him with mercy. He, indeed is Oft-returning with compassion, the Ever

Merciful.

38. We said, 'Go forth from this state, all of you, and when there comes to you a guidance from Me, then, those who follow My guidance shall have nothing to fear and nothing to grieve at.'

39. And those who disbelieve and belie Our Messages, shall be the inmates of the Fire. There they shall abide for long.

SECTION 5

40. **O** Children of Israel! remember My blessings which I bestowed upon you and fulfill the covenant (you made) with Me, I shall fulfill the covenant (I made) with you, and Me alone you should hold in awe.

41. And believe in what I have revealed (now) confirming (the prophecies of the Scripture) which are (already) with you, and do not be the first to deny it, neither take a paltry price for My Messages, and Me alone you should take as a shield (for protection).

42. Do not confound the truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth knowingly.

43. And observe Prayer, present *Zakât* (- purifying alms) and devote yourselves to the service of God along with those who are wholly devoted (to the service of one God).

44. How is it that you enjoin others to do good and neglect your own selves while you recite the Scripture? Do you not even (after reading the Scripture) abstain (from evils)?

45. Seek (God's) help through perfect perseverance and Prayer, and this is indeed a very hard thing except for those who are humble.

46. Who know for certain that they will meet their Lord and that they will return to Him.

SECTION 6

47. **O** Children of Israel! remember My blessings which I bestowed upon you and that I exalted you above (your) contemporaries.

48. And guard yourself against (the agony of) the day when no human being shall avail another in anyway, nor an intercession be accepted on anyone's behalf, nor any compensation be taken from them, nor will they be helped.

49. And (recall) when We delivered you from the people of Pharaoh who subjected you to the worst torment. They went on slaying your sons and sparing your women to make them immodest, and indeed that was a great ordeal from your Lord.

50. And when We parted the sea for you, and rescued you and drowned the people of Pharaoh, while you were beholding.

51. And when We made an appointment with Moses (that) of (spending) forty nights, (on Mount Sinai), then you took (to worship) the (golden) calf in his absence, and you were transgressors (in doing so).

52. Yet We pardoned you after that, so that you might give thanks.

53. And (recall) when We gave Moses the Scripture and the Discrimination (- clear proof and argument to know the right from the wrong), so that you might be guided aright.

54. And when Moses said to his people, `O my people! you have indeed done injustice to your own selves by your taking

(to the worship of) the calf so (you had better) turn (penitently) to your Creator Who gradually evolves you in your being, and kill your ring leaders. That indeed will be best for you in the sight of your Creator.' (Since you did as you were told,) He turned towards you with compassion. Verily, He alone is the Oft-Returning with compassion, and is the Ever Merciful.

55. And when you had said, `O Moses! we shall, by no means, believe you unless we see Allâh openly (face to face).' Thereupon the thunderbolt (of punishment) overtook you and you were beholding (the consequences of your conduct).

56. Then We raised you up after your (deathlike) stupor, so that you might give thanks.

57. Then We outspread the cloud to be a shade over you and We supplied you Manna and Quails, (saying,) `Eat of the good things We have provided you.' They (disobeyed and by so doing) did Us no harm but it is themselves that they had been doing harm

to.

58. And when We said, `Enter this (near-at-hand) township and eat from it as you wish freely, and enter the gate submissively and go on praying, "(O Lord!) relieve us of the burden of our faults." We shall (then) protect you against the evil consequences of your faults and We shall multiply the reward of those who do good to others.'

59. But those who were bent on doing wrong, gave a different version to the order that was given them, (and thus acted contrary to the Divine will). So We sent down upon those who did wrong a pestilence from heaven because they had been transgressing persistently.

SECTION 7

60. And (recall the time) when Moses prayed for water for his people and We said (to him), `Go with your people and smite that particular rock with your staff.' So (when he did so) there gushed forth from it twelve springs so that every tribe came to know of its drinking place. (We said,) `Eat and drink of sustenance provided by Allâh and commit not transgression in the land like peace-breakers.'

61. And when you said, `Moses! (we are weary of one kind of food so) we will not at all remain content with one and the same food, pray, therefore, to your Lord for us that He may bring forth for us some of that which the earth produces, of its vegetables, of its cucumbers, its corn, its lentils and its onions.' He (- God) said, `Would you take in exchange that which is inferior (- delicious food) for that which is superior (- the realisation of the noble object of your life)? (If this is so) then go to some town and you will certainly have (there) all that you have demanded.' And lo! it so happened, they were smitten with abasement and destitution and they incurred the displeasure of Allâh. That was because they denied the Messages of Allâh and sought to kill His Prophets unjustly and that was because they disobeyed and had been transgressing.

SECTION 8

62. Surely, those who (profess to) believe (in Islam), and those who follow the Jewish faith, the Christians and the Sabians, whosoever (of these truly) believes in Allâh and the Last Day and acts righteously shall have their reward with their Lord, and shall have nothing to fear, nor shall they grieve.

63. And (recall, O Children of Israel!) when We took a covenant from you, (and it was the time when you were at the foot of Sinai), with (the summits of) the Mount towering above you (saying), `Hold fast to what We have given you, and bear in mind that which is in it, so that you may guard against evil.'

64. Then, (even) after that you went back (upon your covenant). Had it not been for the grace of Allâh and His mercy upon you, you would have certainly been of the losers.

65. And indeed you have come to know (the end of) those of you who transgressed regarding the Sabbath. Thereupon We said to them, 'Be you (as) apes, despised.'

66. Thus We made this (incident) an example to learn a lesson from, for those present at the time (of its occurrence) and (also) for those who came after it and an admonition to all those who guard against evil.

67. (Recall) when Moses said to his people for their own good, 'Verily, Allâh commands you to slaughter a cow.' They said, 'Do you make a mockery of us?' He said, 'I seek refuge with Allâh from being (one) of the ignorant.'

68. They said, 'Pray for us to your Lord to make clear to us what (kind of a cow) it is.' He replied, 'Says He, "It indeed is a cow neither too old nor too young, (but) of middle age, in between." Now do as you are commanded.'

69. They said, 'Pray for us to your Lord to make clear to us of what colour it is.' He replied, 'Says He, "It is a cow fawn of colour, is intensely rich in tone, very pleasing to the beholders."'

70. They said, 'Pray for us to your Lord to make clear to us what it (- the cow in question) is (definitely like); for (all such) cows are much alike to us, and we shall indeed, if Allâh will, be guided to the right goal.'

71. He said, 'He (- God) says, "It is indeed a cow neither broken in to plough the land nor to water the tillage, perfectly sound (without any blemish), no spot on her", (she is of one colour).' They said, 'Now you have (after all) brought the

exact truth (with the necessary description).' So they slaughtered her, though they had no mind to do it.

SECTION 9

72. And (recall also) when you had (nearly) killed a (great) man (- Jesus), then you differed among yourselves respecting it (- the crucifixion). And Allâh will bring to light that (- Jesus did not die on the cross) which you had been hiding.

73. So We said, 'Judge it in the context of its other circumstances.' That is how Allâh brings the dead (for Jesus being dead to all appearances) to life, and He shows you His signs so that you may refrain (from evil).

74. Then your hearts hardened after that, so that they were (hard) like rocks or harder still; for there are rocks out of which streams come gushing, and there are some others out of which (some) water comes forth when they split asunder. And indeed there are some (hearts) that humble themselves for awe of Allâh. And Allâh is not at all unmindful as to what you do.

75. Do you (O Muslims!) expect that they will believe you while (you see) there are some of them who hear the Word of Allâh and then tamper with it after having fully understood it, and they know (that this way of theirs is wrong)?

76. And when they meet those who believe they say, 'We (too) have believed.' But when they go apart one with another they say, 'Do you inform them (- the Muslims) what Allâh has disclosed to you, (- of the prophecies in your Scriptures about the Prophet), that they thereby availing themselves of it (- the Scriptures), may prevail upon you in argumentation on the authority of your Lord? Will you not, then, use your reasoning power?'

77. Do they not know that Allâh knows all that they conceal and all that they make known?

78. And (some) among them are illiterate, who do not know the Scripture except cramming it up, and are doing nothing but making conjectures.

79. Woe, therefore, to those who write the Scripture with their own hands and then say, 'This is from Allâh.' They do so that they may thereby acquire some paltry gains. Woe to them for what their hands have written (to give them out as Word of God). Again (We say), woe to them for what they do (of evil deed).

80. (In spite of their evil doings) they say, 'The Fire (of punishment) shall not touch us except for a few days.' Say, 'Have you taken a promise (for unconditional

salvation) from Allâh?' (If you have,) then Allâh will never go back upon His promise. But (is it not a fact that) you attribute to Allâh things you do not know?'

81. The truth is that, those who do evil and who are encompassed by their sins, are the inmates of the Fire and therein they shall abide for long.

82. But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, it is they who are the owners of Paradise, therein they shall abide forever.

SECTION 10

83. And (recall) when We took a covenant from the Children of Israel, 'You shall worship none except Allâh, and do good to (your) parents and to the near of kin and the orphans and the poor (as well), and you shall speak kindly to all people and observe Prayer and present purifying alms.' But (afterwards) you all turned away (and broke your covenant) except a few of you and you are averse (to guidance and ways of virtue).

84. And (recall) when We took a covenant from you, 'You shall not shed each other's blood and you shall not expel your people from your homes.' Then you confirmed it (promising to abide by it) and you witnessed (the covenant).

85. Yet, you are the very people who (violating the terms of the covenant) slay your own people and expel a section from among you from their homes, backing up one another against them sinfully and transgressingly. And if they come to you as captives (seeking your help), you ransom them, while their very expulsion was forbidden to you. Do you believe only in a part of the Script (- covenant) while a part you deny? What is the recompense of those among you (who act like that) except disgrace in this life? And on the Day of Resurrection they shall be given over to the severest chastisement. And Allâh is not at all unmindful as to what you do.

86. It is they who have taken the present life in preference to the Hereafter, therefore the agony shall not be reduced for them, nor they shall be helped (in any other way).

SECTION 11

87. Indeed, We gave Moses the Scripture and sent Messengers after him in successive series. We also gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments and strengthened him with the blessed word of God. (Is it not then unjust on your part that) whenever a Messenger came to you (O Jews!) with that (teaching) which did not suit your fancies, you behaved arrogantly? You belied some (Messengers) while others you seek to kill (even now).

88. They said, 'Our hearts are storehouse of knowledge (so that we stand in no need of further teaching.)' Rather Allâh

has deprived them of His mercy for their disbelief, with the result that little they believe.

89. And (now) when there has come to them the glorious Book from Allâh, fulfilling that (Prophecy) which is already with them, and previous to that they had been praying for victory over those who disbelieved, yet when that (long awaited Prophet and the Qur'ân) came to them which they recognised (also to be the truth), they disbelieved in it. (And because of this rejection) the disapproval of Allâh is the due for the disbelievers.

90. Evil is that thing they have sold themselves for that they should reject that (source of guidance) which Allâh has revealed, grudging that Allâh should send down His grace on such of His servants as He pleases. Thus they have incurred (His) displeasure after displeasure. There awaits these disbelievers a humiliating punishment.

91. When it is said to them, 'Believe in that (- the Qur'ân) which Allâh has sent down.' They say, 'We believe only in that (- the Torah) which has been sent down to us.' And they deny every thing other than that (and which has since been revealed); though it (- the Qur'ân) is the lasting truth and corroborates that which is already with them (in their own Scriptures). Say, 'Why, then, did you seek to kill the Prophets of Allâh in former times if you were (real) believers (in the former Scriptures)?'

92. Moses did come to you with clear arguments yet you took to the (worship of) the calf in his absence and you were not justified in doing so.

93. And (recall) when We took a covenant from you, (while you had encamped at the foot of Sinai) with (the summits of) the Mount towering above you, (and We had said,) 'Hold fast to that which we have given you and obey.' (But) those (of you who were given this commandment) said, 'We hear and we disobey.' Their hearts were, in fact, permeated with (the love of) the calf (worship) due to their disbelief. Say, 'Evil is the way to which your faith leads you, if you are believers at all.'

94. Say, 'If the last Abode with Allâh is especially reserved for you excluding all

other people, then invoke death (upon yourself standing against the Prophet of Islam) if you are on the right.'

95. But never shall they invoke it, on account of that which their own hands have sent before. Allâh knows these wrong doers very well.

96. And you shall of course find them the greediest of all people for (this base) life and even more (greedy) than those who set up equals (to God). Each one of them would love to be granted a life of a thousand years, yet his being spared for a long life shall, by no means keep him away from the punishment. And Allâh is Watchful of all their doings.

SECTION 12

97. Say, 'He who is an enemy to Gabriel, because it is he who has brought down this (Qur'ân) on your heart by the command of Allâh, and which confirms (the Scriptures) which preceded it, and is a guidance and good tidings to the believers,

98. '(Let him bear in mind that) whoever is an enemy to Allâh and His angels and His Messengers and Gabriel and Michael, then, of course, Allâh (Himself) is an enemy to such disbelievers.'

99. And We indeed have sent down to you clear arguments which none but the disobedient reject.

100. Is it not a fact that every time they made a covenant, some of them cast it away? Rather most of them have no (true) faith.

101. And (now) when a great Messenger (Muhammad) has come to them from Allâh confirming that (Scripture) which is with them, a party of those who were given the Scripture cast away the Book of Allâh behind their backs, as if they know (it) not.

102. Moreover, they (- the Jews of the Prophet's time) pursue (the same tactics) which the rebels had followed against the empire of Solomon. And it was not Solomon that had committed breach of faith, but it was the rebels that had committed breach of faith. They (- the Jews of Madînah) teach the people the modes of intriguing; and also (pursue) that which had (once) been revealed to the two angels, Hârût and Mârût in Babylon. But these two would not teach (anything to) anyone without first declaring, 'We are but a trial (for you here), do not, therefore commit breach of faith.' So they (- the followers of Hârût and Mârût), learnt from them that (teaching) by which they made a distinction between man and his wife, (- they taught men only and not women), yet they would not harm anyone thereby (by their practice), save by the command of Allâh. But these people (- the Jews of the Prophet's time, on the

contrary) are learning things that would harm them and do them no good. (They do it) even though they know that he who adopts this course will have no share (of good) in the Hereafter. Indeed, evil is that thing which they have sold themselves for. Had they but known (this fact).

103. And if these (Jews) had kept their faith and guarded against these evils, surely they would have received a better reward from Allâh. Had they but known (it).

SECTION 13

104. **O** you who believe! say not (while addressing the Prophet), `Râ`inâ!' (listen to us - a word used also for showing disrespect for the person addressed), rather say (an equivocal phrase), `Unzurna!' (- we beg your attention), and listen to him attentively, (that you stand not in need of any such phrases that have double meanings, one in a good sense, the other in a bad one). Indeed there awaits the disbelievers a grievous punishment.

105. Neither those from among the people of the Scripture who disbelieved, nor the polytheists like that any good should be sent down to you from your Lord. But Allâh singles out for His mercy whomsoever He wishes (to receive His mercy), and Allâh is of abounding bounty.

106. Whatever Message We abrogate or abandon it, We bring a better (Message) than that or (at least) the like of it. Do you not know that Allâh is indeed Possessor of power to do all He will.

107. Do you not know that to Allâh alone belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, and that you have, apart from Allâh, neither a protecting friend, nor a helper.

108. Rather you (Jews!) like to question your Messenger (unduly) as Moses was questioned before? And he who adopts disbelief instead of belief, had undoubtedly strayed from the straight direction of the path.

109. Many of the people of the Scripture would love to turn you back after your having believed, into disbelievers, out of selfish envy, and after the truth (of this Qur'ân) has become apparent to them. But pardon (them) and overlook, until Allâh

shall make manifest His will, indeed Allâh is Possessor of every power to do all He will.

110. And observe the Prayer and present the *Zakât* (- purifying alms) and whatever good you send forward for yourselves you will find it with Allâh. Verily, Allâh is Watchful of all that you do.

111. And they (- the Jews and the Christians) say (respectively about themselves), 'None shall ever enter Paradise unless he be a Jew or a Christian.' These are their wishful beliefs. Say, 'Bring forth your vivid proof (of what you state) if you are right.'

112. The truth of the matter is, whosoever submits himself entirely to Allâh and he is a doer of good to others shall have his reward with his Lord. They shall have nothing to fear and nothing to grieve at.

SECTION 14

113. The Jews say, 'The Christians have no valid ground whatsoever (for their belief),' while the Christians assert, 'The Jews have no valid ground (at all for their belief),' while they both read the same Scripture. Exactly such (ill-founded) things say those who have no knowledge. But Allâh shall judge between them on the Day of Resurrection with regard to all that about which they had been disagreeing.

114. And who can be more unjust than those who prohibit the name of Allâh from being extolled in (any of His) houses of worship and strive to ruin them. It was not proper for such, ever to enter these (places) except in fear and awe. For them is disgrace in this world, and there awaits them a severe punishment in the Hereafter.

115. And to Allâh belongs the east and the west; so whichever way you may turn (you will find) there is Allâh's attention. Surely, Allâh is All-Pervading, All-Knowing.

116. Moreover they (- the unjust people) say, 'Allâh has taken (to Himself) a son.' Glory be to Him. Rather, all that is in the heavens and the earth, belongs to Him. All are obedient to Him.

117. (God is) the Wonderful Originator without depending upon any matter or pattern of the heavens and the earth; and when He issues a decree He does but say to it, 'Be' and it comes to be.

118. And those who do not know (the wisdom implied in Divine revelation) say, 'Why does not Allâh (Himself) speak to us or give us a (convincing) sign?' That is exactly what their predecessors had said. Their hearts have become very much alike.

We have certainly made (Our) signs explicitly clear for a people who wish to be convinced.

119. Verily, We have sent you to serve all their requirements, as a Bearer of good tidings and a Warner, and you will not be called upon to account for the inmates of the flaming Fire.

120. And the Jews will never be pleased with you nor the Christians unless you follow their creed. Say, `Allâh's guidance is the only perfect and true guidance.' If you were to follow their low desires after there has come to you this perfect knowledge, you shall have from Allâh neither a protecting friend, nor any helper.

121. They (- the true Muslims), to whom We have given the Book, follow it as it deserves to be followed. It is they who truly believe in it. And whoso does not believe therein, these are they who are the utter losers.

SECTION 15

122. **O** children of Israel! remember My favour which I conferred upon you, and that I exalted you above all your contemporaries.

123. And guard (yourselves) against (the agony of) the day when no being shall avail another in anyway nor any

compensation be accepted on anyone's behalf, nor any intercession shall be profitable to anyone nor they shall be helped.

124. (Recall) when his Lord put Abraham to test with certain commandments, so he carried them out. (God) said, `Verily, I will make you an Imâm (- a religious leader) for the good of the people.' (Abraham) said (inquiringly), `And from among my progeny (too, do You promise to raise leaders)?' (God) said, `(Yes, but) My (this) covenant does not embrace the wrongdoers.'

125. And when We made the House (- the *Ka`bah* at Makkah) a frequent resort for mankind and (a place of) peace and security, and (We commanded), `Take to yourselves the place of Abraham (- the *Ka`bah*) for a centre (and face towards it) during Prayer.' And We enjoined Abraham and Ismâîl, `Purify and clean My House

for those who perform the circuit (around it) and those who cleave to it for devotion and for those who bow down (before Allâh) and prostrate (to Him in Prayer).'

126. And when Abraham said (praying), 'My Lord! make this (Makkah) a city of peace and provide its inhabitants, such of them who believe in Allâh and the Last Day, with fruits.' (God) said, 'And on him too who disbelieves I will bestow favours for a little while, then I will drive him to the punishment of the Fire. What an evil end!

127. And when Abraham raised the foundations of the House and Ismâîl (with him, and they were praying), 'Our Lord! accept (this service) from us, You, indeed, You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

128. 'Our Lord! make us both submissive servants to You (alone), and (raise) from our progeny a community (preaching virtue and) submissive to You, and show us our ways of worship and turn to us with mercy, for only You are the Oft-Returning (with compassion), the Ever Merciful.

129. 'Our Lord! do raise among them a great Messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them Your Messages and teach them the Book and Wisdom, and may purify them. You, indeed, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.'

SECTION 16

130. And who will show aversion to Abraham's creed except he who has befooled himself. We did make him Our chosen one in this world, and surely he, in the Hereafter will surely be (counted) among the righteous.

131. When his Lord said to him, 'Submit,' he said, 'I have already submitted to the Lord of the worlds.'

132. The same (faith) did Abraham enjoin upon his sons and (so did) Jacob (saying), 'My sons! surely, Allâh has chosen for you this faith. See that when you die you are in a state of complete submission (according to His will).'

133. Were you present when death visited Jacob, and when he said to his sons, 'What (God) will you worship after me?' They replied, 'We will worship your God, the God of your fathers - Abraham, Ismâîl and Isaac, the only One God, and to Him do we submit ourselves.'

134. This was a community preaching righteousness which has passed away; for them is (the fruit of) what (good deeds) they performed, while for you is (the reward of) what (noble deeds) you perform. You will not be called upon to account for their

deeds.

135. And they (the Jews and the Christians respectively) said, `Be Jews or be Christians, then you shall be on the right course.' Say, `Nay, but (ours is) the faith of Abraham, the upright, and he was not of the polytheist.'

136. Say, `We believe in Allâh and in that (the Qur'ân) which has been revealed to us, and what was revealed to Abraham, Ismâîl, Isaac, Jacob and his children, and what was given to Moses and Jesus and (we believe) in what was given to (all other) Prophets from their Lord. We (while believing in them) make no discrimination between anyone of them, and to Him do we submit ourselves entirely.'

137. Now, if they believe just as (sincerely) as you have believed in this (Qur'ân), then, of course, they are guided aright. But if they turn back then they are only in schism, (and fighting against the truth). In that case Allâh will surely suffice you against them for He is the All- Hearing, the All-Knowing.

138. (Assume) the attributes of Allâh! and who is fairer than Allâh in attributes? We are His worshippers ever.

139. Say, `Do you dispute with us with regard to Allâh, while He is our Lord and your Lord (as well). We shall be judged by our deeds, and you by your deeds, and to Him alone are we sincerely devoted.

140. Do you (O Jews and the Christians!) say that Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and his children were Jews or Christians? Say, `Have you then greater knowledge or (is it) Allâh (Who knows better)? And who is more unjust than he who conceals the testimony he has from Allâh. And Allâh is not at all unaware of what you do.'

141. These are community preaching righteousness that have passed away; for them is (the good fruit of) what (good deeds) they performed, while for you is (the reward of) what (good and noble deeds) you perform. And you shall not be called to account for their deeds.

Part II

SECTION 17

142. The weak-minded among the people will say, 'What has made these (Muslims) turn from their (first) *Qiblah* (- the direction they were facing in their Prayer, the holy place of worship at Jerusalem) to which they conformed (so far)?' Say, 'To Allâh belongs the east and the west, He guides him who wishes (to be guided) to the right path.'

143. And thus have We made you a nation exalted and justly balanced so that you may be a guiding example for all mankind (by carrying to them what you have learnt about Islam), and this perfect Messenger (of God) may be a guiding example for you. And We did not make that which you would have to be the *Qiblah* but that We might distinguish him who follows the Messenger from him who turns upon his heels. And this (change of *Qiblah*) is indeed a hard (test) except for those whom Allâh has guided aright. It was not Allâh's purpose that your faith and your worship should go in vain. Surely, Allâh is Compassionate and Ever Merciful to the people.

144. Verily, We have seen the turning of your attention (O Prophet!) repeatedly towards heaven, We will certainly give you possession of the *Qiblah* of your liking. So turn your attention in the direction of *Masjid al-Harâm* (- the Holy Mosque at Makkah) and wherever you (O Muslims!) be, turn your attentions in the direction of it. And surely those (scholars) who have been given the Scripture know for certain that this (change of *Qiblah*) is a true commandment proceeding from their Lord. And (as for the disbelievers,) Allâh is not at all unmindful as to what they do.

145. And even if you should bring to those (who went astray and) who have been given the Scripture (before you) all kinds of signs together, they would not follow your *Qiblah*, nor would you be the follower of their *Qiblah*, nor would some of them be the follower of one another's *Qiblah*. And if you (O reader!) should follow their low desires after (all) this knowledge that has come to you, then indeed, you would be of the unjust.

146. Those (of the righteous) to whom We have given the Book recognize him (- the Prophet and his truthfulness) as they recognize their own sons, but some of them do conceal the truth even though they know it.

147. It is the truth from your Lord, so (O reader!) do not be of those who doubt and so waver.

SECTION 18

148. And everyone has an ideal for which he bears up, so (your ideal should be to vie one with another in doing all (moral and physical) good deeds. Wherever you may be, Allâh will bring you all together. Allâh indeed is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

149. And from wheresoever you (O Prophet!) may go forth keep your attention fixed in the direction of *Masjid al-Harâm* (- the Holy Mosque at Makkah) for that indeed is the true commandment proceeding from your Lord, and Allâh is not at all unaware of what you do.

150. And from wheresoever you come forth (for saying your Prayer) turn your attention in the direction of *Masjid al-Harâm*. And wheresoever you may be (O Muslims!), turn your faces in the direction of it, that people may have no excuse against you, except such of those as are unjust, then do not fear them (as they follow the wrong course), but you need only stand in awe of Me. And (this command has been given to you) that I may perfect My blessings upon you and that you may attain your goal.

151. Just as (the *Ka`bah* is a means to your guidance so,) We have sent to you a great Messenger from among yourselves who recites to you Our Messages and purifies you and teaches you the Book and the Wisdom and teaches you what you did not know.

152. So glorify Me and I will grant you eminence and be thankful to Me, and be not ungrateful to Me (for My favours to you).

SECTION 19

153. O you who believe! seek (God's) help with perfect patience and Prayer, for surely Allâh is with the patiently persevering.

154. And do not count as dead those who are killed in the cause of Allâh. Rather (they are) living, only you perceive not (their life).

155. And We will certainly reward you after disciplining you with something of fear and hunger and some loss of substance and of lives and of fruits (of your toils). Give good tidings to the patiently perservering;

156. Who, when a calamity befalls them, say, `Surely, we belong to Allâh and to Him, of course, we return (and in His will is our peace).'

157. It is they upon whom descend the benedictions from their Lord and His mercy,

and it is they who are guided aright.

158. The *Safâ* and the *Marwah* (- the two eminences near *Ka`bah*) are certainly (two) of the symbols of Allâh, so

he who is on Pilgrimage to the House or performs *Umrah* (- a visit to *Ka`bah*), there is no blame on him to perform *Tawâf* (- to run between) the two (eminences), and he who remains thoroughly dutiful and chooses to do good deeds spontaneously, then surely (he will find) Allâh is Appreciative and rewards every good deed done. Surely, Allâh is All-Knowing.

159. Verily, those who conceal the clear evidences and the guidance which We have revealed, after We have explained them to the people in this Book, these it is whom Allâh deprives of His mercy and also disapprove all those who can disapprove,

160. Except such (of them) as repent and amend (themselves) and declare clearly (the truth which they used to hide), it is they to whom I shall turn with mercy, for I am the Oft-Returning (with compassion and) the Ever Merciful.

161. But those who persist in disbelief and die while they are disbelievers, these are the ones upon whom be the disapproval of Allâh and of the angels and of people and (in short) of all of them.

162. They shall remain in this (state of disapproval) for long. Their punishment shall not be reduced for them, and no respite shall be given to them.

163. And your God is One God, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 20

164. Verily, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and in the alternation and the sequence of the night and the day and in the ships that sail in the ocean carrying the things which are useful to the people and in the water which Allâh sends down from the clouds with which He brings the dead earth into life and (in) all sorts of crawling animals which He has spread all over it and (in) the turning about of the winds and

(in) the clouds subjected to (His) law between the heavens and the earth, there are, indeed, signs for a people who use their understanding.

165. (In spite of all these evidences in support of the unity of God) there are some people who take to themselves compeers as opposed to Allâh. They love them as they should love Allâh. But those who believe are stauncher in (their) love for Allâh. And if only those who committed this wrong could but see (the time) when they shall see the punishment, (they would realize) that the complete power only belongs to Allâh and that Allâh is Severe at inflicting the punishment.

166. (At that time) when those who were followed (- the leaders) shall disown and sever themselves from their followers and they shall see the punishment (with their own eyes) and all their ties and means shall be cut asunder.

167. And (at that time) the followers shall say, 'If we could only return (to the life of the world) we would disown them and sever ourselves from them as they disowned and severed themselves from us.' Thus Allâh will make them regret their deeds and they shall never (of themselves) get out of the Fire.

SECTION 21

168. **O** people! eat what is lawful and pure (of the produces) of the earth and follow not the footsteps of satan for he is your enemy severing you (from Allâh).

169. He (- satan) only bids you to indulge in evil and to (do) things foul and obscene and that you say against Allâh things you do not know.

170. And when it is said to them (- the disbelievers), 'Follow what Allâh has revealed.' They say, 'We would rather follow such things as we found our forefathers (doing and believing).' (Would they do so) even though their forefathers could not refrain (from evil), nor they could achieve their goal.

171. The case of (one that calls) those who refuse (to obey the commandments of God) is like the case of one who shouts to that (animal) who hears nothing, but a mere call and a cry (of a shepherd). (They are) deaf, dumb and blind, moreover they do not use their reason.

172. **O** you who believe! eat of the good and pure things We have provided you with, and render thanks to Allâh, if it is He alone whom you really worship.

173. He has forbidden you only (to eat carrion) that which dies of itself, the blood, the flesh of swine and that over (the sacrifice of) which the name of someone other than Allâh has been invoked. Yet he who is constrained (to use them) without

desiring (them) nor going beyond the limits (of bare necessity), incurs no sin. Surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

174. Surely, those who hide (any part of the teaching) which Allâh has revealed in this perfect Book and take a paltry price (- worldly gains) for it, it is these who feed their bellies with nothing but fire, and Allâh will not speak to them (with affection and mercy) on the Day of Resurrection, nor He will treat them as pure, and there awaits them a grievous punishment.

175. It is these who have preferred error to guidance and punishment to protection. (The onlookers of these

sufferers will say,) `How very enduring they are at (the punishment of) the Fire!

176. That (punishment) is because, whereas Allâh caused the perfect Book to be revealed to suit all the requirements of truth and wisdom (they have rejected it outright). Surely, those who dissented from the perfect Book have indeed gone far astray in enmity (of the truth) and in obstinacy.

SECTION 22

177. It is not the sole virtue that you turn your faces to the east or the west but true virtue is theirs, who believe in Allâh, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and in the Prophets, and who give away their wealth (and substance) out of love for Him, to the near of kin, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarer and to those who ask (in charity) and in ransoming the slaves; and who observe the Prayer, who go on presenting the *Zakât* (- the purifying alms) and those who always fulfill their pledges and agreements when they have made one, and those who are patiently persevering in adversity and distress and (steadfast) in times of war. It is these who have proved truthful (in their promises and in their faith) and it is these who are strictly guarded against evil.

178. O you who believe! equitable retaliation has been ordained for you in (the matter of) the slain. (Everyone shall pay for his own crime,) the freeman (murderer) for the freeman (murdered), and the slave (murderer) for the slave (murdered), and the female (murderer) for the female (murdered), but who has been granted any remission by his (aggrieved) brother (or family) then pursuing (of the matter) shall be done with equity and fairness, and the payment (of the blood money) to him (the heir) should be made in a handsome manner. This is an alleviation from your Lord and a mercy. But

he who exceeds the limits after this (commandment), for him is a grievous punishment.

179. O people of pure and clear wisdom! your very life lies in (the law of) equitable retaliation, (you have been so commanded) so that you may enjoy security.

180. It has been prescribed for you at the time of death to any one of you, that if the (dying) person is leaving considerable wealth behind, to make a will to his parents and the near of kin to act with equity and fairness. This is an obligation incumbent on those who guard against evil.

181. He who alters it (- the will) after he has heard it, (should know that) it is those that alter it who shall bear the burden of sin. Allâh indeed is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

182. If anyone apprehends that the testator is partial or follows a sinful course there will be no blame on him provided he sets things right (and so brings about reconciliation) between them (- the parties concerned under the will). Surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 23

183. O you who believe! you are bound to observe fasting as those before you (- followers of the Prophets) were bound, so that you may guard against evil.

184. (You are required to fast) for a prescribed number of days. But if anyone of you is sick or is on a journey he shall fast (to make up) the prescribed number in other days. And for those who are able to fast is an expiation (as thanksgiving) the feeding of a poor person (daily for the days of fasting). And he who volunteers (extra) good, (will find that) it is even better for him. And that you observe fasting is better for you, if you only know.

185. The (lunar) month of *Ramadzân* is that in which the Qur'ân (started to be) revealed as a guidance for the whole of mankind with its clear evidences (providing comprehensive) guidance and the Discrimination (between right and wrong). Therefore he who shall witness the month, should fast (for full month) during it, but he who is sick or is on a journey shall fast (to make up) the prescribed number in other days. Allâh wishes facility for you and does not wish hardship for you. (This facility is given to you) that you may complete the number (of required fasts) and you may exalt the greatness of Allâh for His having guided you, and that you may render thanks (to Him).

186. And when My servants ask you concerning Me (tell them), I am nearby indeed, I

answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me, so they should respond to My call, and believe in Me (that I possess all these attributes) so that they may proceed in the right way.

187. (Though during Fasting you must abstain from all the urges of nature including the sexual urge) it is made lawful for you on the nights of the fasts to approach and lie with your wives (for sexual relationship). They are (a sort of) garment for you and you are (a sort of) garment for them. Allâh knows that you have been doing injustice to yourselves (by restricting conjugal relations with your wives even at night), so He turned to you with mercy and provided you relief; now enjoy their company (at night during *Ramadzân*) and seek what Allâh has ordained for you. Eat and drink till the white streak of the dawn becomes distinct to you from the black streak (of the darkness), then complete the fast till nightfall. And you shall not lie with them (- your wives) while you perform *I`tikâf* (- while you are secluding in the mosque for prayer and devotion to God). These are the limits (imposed) by Allâh so do not approach these (limits). Thus does Allâh explain His commandments for people that they may become secure against evil.

188. Do not appropriate one another's property with inequity (and by false means) nor seek to gain access thereby to the authorities so that you may appropriate a portion of (other) people's property by sinful means (and bribery) and that (too) knowingly (that you have no right to do so).

SECTION 24

189. They ask you about the lunar months. Say, `They are appointed periods of time for (general convenience of) people and for determining the time of Pilgrimage. And it is no virtue that you come into the houses from the backs of them but the true virtue is his who guards against evils. So (instead of fostering superstitious habits) you should rather enter the houses from their proper doors and take Allâh as a shield so that you may be successful.

190. And fight in the cause of Allâh those who fight and persecute you, but commit no aggression. Surely, Allâh does not love the aggressors.

191. And slay them (the aggressors against whom fighting is made incumbent) when and where you get the better of them, in disciplinary way, and turn them out whence

they have turned you out. (Killing is bad but) lawlessness is even worse than carnage. But do not fight them in the precincts of *Masjid al-Harâm* (the Holy Mosque at Makkah) unless they fight you therein. Should they attack you (there) then slay them. This indeed is the recompense of such disbelievers.

192. But if they desist (from aggression) then, behold, Allâh is indeed Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

193. And fight them until persecution is no more and religion is (freely professed) for Allâh. But if they desist (from hostilities) then (remember) there is no punishment except against the unjust (who still persist in persecution).

194. (The violation of) a sacred month may be retaliated in the sacred month and for (the violation of) all sacred things the law of retaliation is prescribed. Then he who transgresses against you, punish him for his transgression to the extent he has transgressed against you, and take Allâh as a shield, and know that Allâh is with those who guard against evil

195. And spend in the cause of Allâh and do not cast yourselves into ruin with your own hands, and do good to others, and verily Allâh loves the doers of good to others.

196. Accomplish the *Hajj* (- the Greater Pilgrimage to Makkah) and the *Umrah* (- the minor pilgrimage) for the sake of Allâh. But if you are kept back, then (offer) whatever sacrifice is easily available, and do not shave your heads (as is prescribed for the Pilgrims) till the offering reaches its destination (in time, or place). And whosoever of you is sick and has an ailment of his head (necessitating shaving before time) then he should make an expiation either by fasting or alms-giving or by making a sacrifice. When you are in peaceful conditions then he, who would avail himself of the *Umrah* (- a visit to the *Ka`bah* or a minor *Hajj*) together with the *Hajj* (- the Greater Pilgrimage and thus performs *Tammattu`*) should make whatever offering is easily available; and whosoever finds none (for an offering) should fast for three days during (the days of) the pilgrimage and (for) seven (days) when he returns (home) - these are ten complete (days of fasting in all). This is for him whose family does not reside near the *Masjid al-Harâm* (- the Holy Mosque at Makkah). Take Allâh as a shield, and know that Allâh is Severe in retribution (if you neglect your duties).

SECTION 25

197. The months of performing the *Hajj* are well Known; so whoever undertakes to perform the *Hajj* in them (should remember that) there is (to be) no obscenity, nor abusing, nor any wrangling during the (time of) *Hajj*. And whatever good you do Allâh knows it. And take provisions for yourselves. Surely, the good of taking provision is guarding (yourselves) against the evil (of committing sin and begging). Take Me alone as (your) shield, O people of pure and clear wisdom!

198. There is no blame on you that you seek munificence from your Lord (by trading during the time of *Hajj*). When you pour forth (in large numbers) from `Arafât then glorify Allâh (with still more praises) near *Mash`aral- Harâm* (- Holy Mosque in *Muzdalifah*), and remember Him (with gratitude) as He has guided you, though formerly you were certainly amongst the astray.

199. And (then) proceed (to return from `Arafât) from where the people proceed (to come back) and seek Allâh's protection. Verily. Allâh is All Protector, Ever Merciful.

200. When you have completed the rites of devotion of the *Hajj* prescribed for you, remember Allâh with praises as your lauding of your parents or yet more earnest devout lauding. Now, there are some of people who say, `Our Lord! grant us all things in this (very) world,' and there is no share for such in the Hereafter.

201. And there are others among them who say, `Our Lord! grant us good in this world as well as good in the Hereafter, and guard us against the chastisement of the Fire.'

202. It is they, for whom is a (very large) portion (of the reward) of what (good deeds) they have accomplished.

And Allâh is Quick at reckoning.

203. Remember Allâh (at *Minâ*) with His praises during (these) days appointed (for this purpose). However if any one hastens (to leave the valley of *Minâ*) after two days there is no sin for him and if any one stays behind, it is no sin for him either. (This direction is) for him who guards against evil (under all circumstances). So take Allâh as a shield, and know that you shall all be brought together before Him.

204. Of the people there is he whose talk on the present life pleases you, and he calls Allâh to witness as to that (sincerity) which is in his heart, and yet he is of the most contentious of all the adversaries (hence your most stubborn enemy).

205. And when he is in authority, he runs about in the land (striving) to create chaos and lawlessness in it, and to destroy the tillage and the stock, but Allâh does not love disorder (and lawlessness).

206. When it is said to him, 'Take Allâh as a shield,' vain pride holds him to sin, Gehenna shall suffice him (as a reward); and how evil a resort it is!

207. Of the people there is he who sacrifices his very life seeking the pleasure of Allâh. And Allâh is very Kind and Compassionate toward such (of His) servants.

208. O you who believe! enter into (the fold of those showing) complete submission (to Allâh) all of you, and do not follow the footsteps of satan, verily he is your enemy, severing (you from Allâh).

209. But if you slip off even after the clear proofs that have come to you, then bear in mind, that Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

210. (If the people do not believe even now,) they look for nothing but that Allâh should come to them (with the threatened punishment) in the shadows of the clouds as well as the angels (to execute His orders) and the matter be settled. And to Allâh are returned all matters (for decisions).

SECTION 26

211. Ask the Children of Israel how many a clear Sign did We gave them. And whoever changes the favour of Allâh after it has come to him (with every convincing proof, and so makes himself deserving of punishment) he will find that Allâh is surely Severe in retribution.

212. Decked out fair is this present life (to make it appear attractive) to those who disbelieve, and they hold those who believe in condemnation. But those who guard against evil shall be (placed) above them on the Day of Resurrection. And Allâh provides (His gifts) for whom He will without reckoning and measure.

213. Mankind are a single community (but they differed), so Allâh raised (His) Prophets as Bearers of good tidings and as Warners, and with them He revealed the Scriptures containing the truth, that He might judge between various people concerning all their mutual differences. But none differed therein except the very (astray) whom it (- the Scripture) had been given, and (they differed only) after clear proofs had come to them, out of spite against one another. Now Allâh guided those who believed, by His leave, to the truth concerning which they (- the disbelievers) had differed. And Allâh guides whosoever wishes (to be guided) to the right and straight path.

214. Do you think that you will enter Paradise, while there has not yet come upon you the like of that which befell those who passed away before you? Distress and afflictions befell them, and they were made to suffer the violent tremors, so that the

Messenger and those who believed along with him spoke out, `When (will come) the help of Allâh?' (Then they were told), `Behold! surely, the help of Allâh is always nearby.'

215. They question you as to what they should spend (to seek the pleasure of Allâh). Say, `Whatever of good and abundant wealth you spend, should be for parents and near of kin, and the orphans and the needy, and the wayfarer. And whatever good you do, surely Allâh knows it fully well.'

216. Fighting has been ordained for you, though it is hard for you. But it may be that a thing is hard upon you though it is (really) good for you, and it may be that you love a thing while it is bad for you. Allâh knows (all things) while you do not know.

SECTION 27

217. They ask you with regard to fighting in the Sacred Month. Say, `Fighting in it is (a) grave (offence). But to bar (people) from Allâh's cause and disbelief in Him and (to hinder people from) the Holy Mosque and to turn out its people therefrom is still grave in the sight of Allâh, and persecution is all the more grave an offence than killing.' And they will not cease to fight you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. And whoso from amongst you turns back from his faith, and dies while he is a disbeliever, it is they, then, whose deeds go in vain in this world and the Hereafter; and it is they who are the fellows of the Fire and therein they shall abide for long.

218. Verily, as to those who believe and those who emigrate and struggle hard in the cause of Allâh, it is they who do (rightly) hope for Allâh's mercy. And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

219. They ask you concerning intoxicants and games of chance. Say, `In both of them is a great sin and both are harmful too, and they have some uses for people, but the sin inherent in them is even more serious than their usefulness.' They ask you how much they should spend. Say, `The surplus (- what you can spare after spending on your basic requirement).' Thus does Allâh make clear His commandments so that you may reflect -

220. Upon this world and the Hereafter. And they ask you concerning the orphans. Say, `To set (their affairs) right (keeping in view the promotion of their welfare) is (an act of great) virtue, and if you intermix with them they are (after all) your brethren. And Allâh knows the wrongdoers from the right-doers. And if Allâh had so willed, He would certainly have made matters difficult for you. Verily, Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

221. And marry not an idolatress until she believe; while a believing maid is certainly better than an idolatress even though she may highly please you. And do not give (believing women) in marriage to an idolaters until they believe. And a believing slave is better than a (free) idolater even though he may highly please you. It is they who invite to the Fire, but Allâh calls to the Paradise and to the protection by His command. He makes His Messages clear for the people so that they may take heed.

SECTION 28

222. They ask you about (having conjugal relations during) the menstruation. Say, `It (having conjugal relations) is harmful and a pollution, so keep aloof from women during menstruation, and do not approach them (for sexual relation) until they are thoroughly cleansed. But when they have fully cleaned themselves you may come to them as Allâh has ordained you. Verily, Allâh loves those who frequently turn (to Him) with repentance and He loves the strivers to purification of themselves.

223. Your wives are (as) a tilth (to produce and rear children) for you, so come to your tilth when and how you like and send forward (some good) for yourselves, and take Allâh as a shield, and know that you shall meet Him, and give good tidings to the believers.

224. And make not Allâh an excuse through your oaths, that you may (thereby) abstain from doing good and from becoming secure against evil and from setting the affairs right and from making peace between various people. And Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

225. Allâh will not call you to account for what is vain (and unintentional) in your oaths, but He calls you to account for what your minds resolve and accomplish (by intentional swearing). And Allâh is Great Protector (against faults), Highly Forbearing.

226. Those who vow (to abstain) from their wives, (the maximum) period of waiting (for them) is four months (after which divorce becomes inevitable), then if they (are reconciled within four months and) revert (to their normal relations), then, surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

227. But if they have resolved on divorce, then (they should know that) surely Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

228. And the divorced women must keep themselves waiting for three (monthly) courses (as *`Iddat*), and it is not lawful for them to conceal what Allâh has created in their wombs, if indeed they believe in Allâh and the Last Day. And their husbands have a better right to take them back in the meanwhile, provided they desire and mean reconciliation. And women have their rights similar to their obligations in an equitable and just manner; yet men have a place above them. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

SECTION 29

229. Such a (revocable) divorce may be (pronounced) twice, then, (after the second pronouncement) there should be either retaining (the wife) with honour and fairness or letting (her) leave with goodness. And it is not lawful for you to take (back) anything of what you have given them (your wives); however, if both (the husband and the wife) fear that they cannot abide by the injunctions of Allâh, and if you (- the Muslim community, also) fear that they cannot observe the limits (prescribed) by Allâh then there is no blame on either of them in what she gives up to redeem herself (as *Khula`*). These are the injunctions of Allâh, therefore, do not violate them; and whoso violates the injunctions of Allâh, it is they who are really the wrongdoers.

230. But if he divorces her (for the third time) then she is not lawful for him after that, until she has married another husband. Now if he (- the second husband also) divorces her (of his own accord) then there is no blame on them (- the former husband and wife) to return to each other (by remarriage) provided they are sure that they will be able to abide by the injunctions of Allâh. These are the injunctions of Allâh. He makes them clear to the people who would know.

231. And when you divorce (your) women (a revocable divorce), and they approach the end of their *`Iddat* (-the prescribed period of waiting after divorce) then either retain them in an equitable manner or send them away (- freeing them) in an equitable manner. And do not retain them wrongfully that you may exceed the proper limits (and do them harm and maltreat them). And whosoever does that he has indeed done wrong and injustice to himself. Do not take Allâh's commandments in a light way; and remember Allâh's favour upon you and what He

has revealed to you of the Book and the Wisdom, wherewith He exhorts you. And take Allâh as a shield and know that Allâh has perfect knowledge of everything.

SECTION 30

232. When (some of) you divorce (their) women (for the first or the second time) and they approach the end of the prescribed period of waiting (- *`Iddat*) then do not prevent them from remarrying their (former) husbands when they have agreed between themselves to an equitable and decent contract. This is an exhortation for those among you who believe in Allâh and the Last Day. This is more blissful for you and purer. And Allâh knows while you do not know.

233. The mothers shall give suck to their children for two full years, (this instruction is) for him who desires to complete the (period of) suckling. And it is incumbent on the man to whom the child is born (- the father) to provide them (- the mothers) the usual maintenance and their clothing (for this period) equitably and according to usage. No soul is charged with a duty except to its capacity. Neither shall a mother be made to suffer on account of her (love for her) child, nor shall he to whom the child is born (be made to suffer) on account of his child. The (father's) heir has a like duty. However if (mother and father) both desire weaning, by mutual consent and consultation, then there is no blame on (either of) them. And if you desire to provide a wet-nurse for your children there is no blame on you, provided you hand over what you have agreed to pay equitably (and in accordance with popular usage). And keep your duty to Allâh and know that Allâh is Seer of what you do.

234. Those of you who die and leave wives behind, these (wives) should keep themselves in waiting for four months and ten days (as *`Iddat*). So when they reach the end of their (prescribed) term (of waiting) then there is no blame on you for what they do with regard to themselves (about their remarriage) in an equitable manner. And Allâh is fully Aware of what you do.

235. There is no blame on you respecting that which you speak indirectly, regarding a proposal of marriage, to these (widowed) women (within their period of waiting), or whether you keep it (the proposal) hidden in your minds. Allâh knows that you will think of them, (in this connection) yet make no agreement (or promises) with them secretly, except that you say a decent word. And confirm not the marriage tie until the

prescribed period of waiting reaches its end. And know that Allâh knows what is in your minds, therefore beware of Him and know that Allâh is indeed a Great Protector (against faults), Highly Forbearing.

SECTION 31

236. There is no blame on you if you divorce women, while you have not touched them and you have not yet settled for them any marriage portion (- dowry money). But provide for them, - the affluent man according to his means and the one in straitened circumstances according to his means - a provision in an equitable manner (and in accordance with popular usage; this is) an obligation on the doers of good to others.

237. But if you divorce them before you have touched them, while you have already settled for them a marriage portion, then half of what you have settled (is due to them) unless they (-the women forgo their full due or a portion of it) or he, (the husband) in whose hand is the tie of marriage, forgoes (a portion or the full half which he is entitled to deduct and thus pays the whole dowry money), and that you (husband) forgo (and pay the whole dowry money) is nearer to becoming secure against evil. And do not neglect to do good to one another. Verily, Allâh sees well what you do.

238. Be watchful over the Prayers especially the middle (and most excellent) Prayer (which comes in the midst of rush of work and business), and do stand up before Allâh truly obedient (and in all humility).

239. And if you apprehend (any danger) then (say your Prayer) on foot or mounted, but when you are secure, then remember Allâh in the manner He taught you (and which (manner) you did not know (before)).

240. And those of you who die and leave wives behind, there is a binding injunction (of God) for their wives for a year's maintenance without being turned out (of their homes). But if they go out (of their own accord during this period) there is no blame on you with regard to what they do about themselves in an equitable and decent manner. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

241. And for the divorced women (also) a provision (should be made) in a fair and equitable manner. This is an obligation binding on those who guard against evil (and have regard for duty).

242. Thus does Allâh make His commandments clear to you so that you may abstain (from evil).

SECTION 32

243. **H**ave you not considered the case of those (Israelites) who (in their exodus) fled from their homes (in Egypt with Moses) and they were (a congregation of) thousands, for fear of death? Then Allâh said to them, `Die', (with the result that this generation perished while wandering in the wilderness for forty years). Then (from the next generation) He revived them, (and made them inherit the Promised land). Allâh is Munificent to people; but most

of the people give (Him) no thanks.

244. And fight in the cause of Allâh, and know that Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

245. Who is there that (performs for Allâh an act of the noblest virtue and) cuts off a portion of his goodly gifts for Allâh so He multiplies it to him manifold. And Allâh receives (the sacrifices) and amplifies and to Him you shall be made to return (to get the amplified reward of your deeds).

246. Have you not considered (the case of) the Chiefs of the Children of Israel (who lived) after (the time of) Moses? When they said to a Prophet of theirs, (- Samuel), `Appoint for us a controlling authority that we may fight in the cause of Allâh.' He said, `Is it not likely, that if

fighting is prescribed for you, you will not fight?' They said, `And what reason have we that we should not fight in the cause of Allâh, and we have been indeed driven forth from our homes and (parted from) our children?' Yet, when fighting was prescribed for them, they backed out except a few of them. And Allâh knows the unjust well.

247. And their Prophet (of God) said to them, `Verily, Allâh has appointed Tâlût (- Saul) to be a controlling authority over you.' They said, `How can he have sovereignty over us, whereas we are better entitled to sovereignty than he, and he has not been given abundance of wealth?' He (- their Prophet of God) replied, `Surely, Allâh has chosen him above you and He has given him a vast deal of knowledge and of bodily strength.' And Allâh gives His sovereignty to whom He wills, for Allâh is All-Embracing, All-Knowing.

248. And their Prophet (of God) said to them, 'The sign of his sovereignty is indeed that there shall come to you (in his reign) the *Tâbût* (- the heart) in which there will be *Shechinah* (- tranquillity) from your Lord and legacy (of good) left by the followers of Moses and the followers of Aaron, the angels bearing it. Verily, there is a sign for you in that, when you are true believers.'

SECTION 33

249. So when Tâlût (- Saul) marched out with the forces, he said, 'Verily, Allâh is going to test you by (the ordeal of) a stream, whosoever drinks of it, he will not then belong to me, and whoso does not taste it, he shall certainly belong to me, excepting him who takes (only) a handful (of water) with his hand.' But they drank of it except a few of them. So that when he had crossed it, he and those who believed along with him, they said, 'We have no power today against Jâlût (- the assailant, the Goliath) and his forces.' But those who held it as certain that they (one day) were going to meet Allâh said, 'How often a small company has triumphed over a numerous host, by the leave of Allâh! And Allâh is with the patiently-persevering.'

250. And when they confronted Jâlût (-Goliath) and his forces they said, 'Our Lord! grant us perseverance and keep our footholds firm and help us against the disbelieving people.'

251. At last, they routed them by the leave of Allâh, and David killed Jâlût, and Allâh gave him the sovereignty and the wisdom and taught him of what He pleased. And had it not been for Allâh repelling the people - some of them by the others - the earth would have been in a state of disorder; but Allâh is full of grace to the worlds.

252. These are the Messages of Allâh, We recite them to you with the truth; and you are indeed (one) of the Messengers.

Part III

253. We have made these Messengers excel one another. There are those of them to whom Allâh has spoken much, and some of them He has exalted by many degrees of rank. And We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear arguments, and We supported him with the blessed word (of God). Had Allâh (so) willed, people (who came) after them (- the Messengers) would not have fought one another (particularly) after clear arguments had come to them, but (as it was) they differed one from another; so that some of them believed while others disbelieved. Had Allâh (so) willed they would not have fought one another. Yet Allâh does whatever He intends.

SECTION 34

254. **O** you who believe! spend (for the cause of Allâh) out of that which We have provided you with, before there comes the Day wherein there shall be no buying and selling, nor friendship, nor intercession. Those who refuse to obey this (commandment) are the real wrongdoers (to themselves).

255. Allâh, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, the Ever Living, Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber overtakes Him not, nor sleep. Whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth belongs to Him. Who is there that will intercede with Him, save by His leave? He knows their future and their past; and they encompass nothing of His knowledge (of the things) except of such (things) as He (Himself) pleases (to tell). His knowledge and suzerainty extends over the heavens and the earth and the care of them both tires Him not. He is the Supreme, the Great.

256. There is no compulsion of any sort in religion (as) the right way does stand obviously distinguished from the way of error. Now he that shall reject the transgressor and accepts Allâh (let such know that he) has laid hold of a support firm and strong which knows no breaking. Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

257. Allâh is the Patron of those who believe, He brings them out of different kinds of darkness (leading them) into light. As for those who disbelieve, their patrons are the transgressors, they bring them out of light (and lead them) into every kind of darkness. It is these who are the fellows of the Fire, therein shall they live for long.

SECTION 35

258. **H**ave you not considered (the case of) him (- Nimrod, the then ruler of Babylon)

who controverted with Abraham concerning his Lord, because Allâh had given him kingdom? When Abraham said, 'My Lord is He Who fertilises (the earth) and causes desolation.' He (- Nimrod) replied, 'I do bring about fertility and cause desolation.' Abraham said, 'Allâh surely makes the sun rise from the east, so you should make it rise from the west.' Thereupon the one who had rejected the faith (- Nimrod) was completely confounded. Indeed, Allâh does not guide the unjust people.

259. Or consider the case of him (- Ezekiel) who passed by a town (- Jerusalem as it was left in desolation by Nebuchadnezzar) and it had fallen in upon its roofs. He said, 'When will Allâh restore this (town) to life after its destruction?' So (in his vision) Allâh kept him in a state of death for a hundred years, then He raised him (to life). Then (God) said, 'How long have you stayed (in this state of death)?' He replied, 'I may have stayed a day or a part of a day (in this state).' (God) said, '(Yes this too is correct) but (as you have witnessed in your vision) you have stayed for a hundred years. Now look at your food and drink, they have escaped the action of time, and look at your donkey (too, years have not passed over it). And (We have made you visualise all this) that We may make you a sign to the people. And look at the (dead) bones how We set them together and then clothe them with flesh.' Thus when the fact of the matter became clear to him, he said, 'I know that Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.'

260. And (recall the time) when Abraham said, 'My Lord! show me how You give life to the dead.' (The Lord) said, 'Do you not believe (that I can)?' He said, 'Yes I do, but (I ask this) that my mind may be at peace.' (The Lord) said, 'Take four birds and make them attached to you, then put them each on a separate hill, then call them, they will come to you swiftly. And know that Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.'

SECTION 36

261. The attribute of those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allâh is like the attribute of a grain (of corn) which sprouts seven ears, each ear bearing a hundred grains. And Allâh multiplies further for whomsoever He pleases, for Allâh is Bountiful, All-Knowing.

262. Those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allâh, then follow not up what they have spent with a show of obligation, nor (with) injury, they shall have their reward with their Lord. They shall have no cause of fear, nor shall they ever grieve.

263. A fair word and forbearance are better than charity followed by injury. Indeed, Allâh is Self-Sufficient (having

no want), Ever Forbearing.

264. O you who believe! Do not render void your charities by (a show of) obligation and injury, like him who spends his wealth to be seen by people and does not believe in Allâh and the Last Day. So his case is like the case of a smooth rock with some soil thereon, when heavy rain hits it leaves it bare and hard. They shall not be able to gain anything of what they accomplished. And Allâh does not guide such disbelieving people to the way of success.

265. But the case of (charity on the part of) those who spend their wealth seeking the good pleasure of Allâh and for their own consolidation and with firm faith, is like the case of a garden situated on a highly fertile land. It is hit by heavy rain so it yields its fruit manifold; but even if heavy rain does not hit it then a mere drizzle (is sufficient) for it. And Allâh sees well what you do.

266. Would anyone of you wish that while he has a garden of date-palm trees and vines served with running streams, he has therein each and every kind of fruit, while he is stricken by old age and has children who are (yet) feeble, a whirlwind carrying fire should smite it (- the garden) so that it is all burnt up? (No, not at all.) Thus does Allâh explain to you His Messages so that you may give thought.

SECTION 37

267. O you who believe! spend (for the cause of Allâh) a portion of good and pure things, that you have yourselves earned and out of that which We have produced for you from the earth. Do not intend (upon spending) the bad and inferior. You would spend that (bad and inferior for the cause of Allâh) which you would not accept at all (for yourselves) unless you connive at it. And know that Allâh is Self-Sufficient, Ever Praiseworthy.

268. Satan threatens you with poverty and incites you to niggardliness. But Allâh promises you forgiveness from Himself and affluence. And Allâh is Bountiful, All-Knowing.

269. He grants wisdom to whomsoever He will. Indeed, he who is granted wisdom has been granted an ample good. And none would take heed except those endowed with to you and you shall not be treated unjustly.

270. Whatever things worthy to be spent you spend and whatever vow for the performance of non obligatory act of goodness you take, Allah knows it well. As for

the wrongdoer they shall have no helpers.

271. If you give (your) alms openly it is well and good (in itself). But if you keep them secret and give them to the needy it is better for your ownselves and He will (thereby) acquit you of some of your evil deeds. Allah is fully aware of what you do.

272. You are not responsible for their guidance to the right path but Allah guides (him) who wishes (to be guided). (Believers!) whatever wealth you spend (in doing good) will be fully credited to you and you shall not be treated unjustly.

273. (These charities are meant) for those needy who are (so) confined in the way of Allâh that they are unable to move about in the land (for providing their sustenance). The person ignorant (of their condition) thinks them free from want, because of (their) abstaining (from begging). But you shall know them by their appearance (that they are in need). They do not beg of people with importunity. And whatever good thing you spend (for their help) Allâh knows it surely well.

SECTION 38

274. Those who spend their wealth by night and by day (for the cause of Allâh) privately and publicly have their reward with their Lord, they shall have no cause of fear, nor shall they ever grieve.

275. Those who practice usury and interest, (their condition is such as) they will not be able to stand except like the standing of one who has lost his reason under the influence of satan. That is so because they say, 'Trade is just like usury and interest.' Whereas Allah has made trade lawful and made interest unlawful. Then whosoever has received (this) admonition from his Lord and keeps away (from usury and interest) he may keep whatever (interest) he has taken in the past. His matter rests with Allâh. As for those who revert (to the practice of usury and interest) it is these who are the fellows of the Fire, therein shall they live for long.

276. Allâh annuls usury and interest and promotes charity. Allâh does not love any persistent and confirmed disbeliever and an arch-sinner.

277. Verily, those who believe and do deeds of righteousness and regularly observe the Prayer and go on presenting the *Zakât* shall have their reward from their Lord; they shall have no cause of fear, nor shall they ever grieve.

278. O you who believe! take Allâh as a shield and forgo all outstanding gains from usury and interest if you are indeed believers.

279. But if you do (it) not, then beware of war from Allâh and His Messenger. But if

you turn away (from such an unlawful transaction) then you shall have your principal (without interest) back. (Thus) you shall neither deal unjustly nor be dealt with unjustly.

280. If any (debtor) be in straitened circumstances there shall be respite (for him) till (his circumstances) ease. But that if you remit (the debt) by way of charity (for the sake of God), it is better for you, if you only knew.

281. And guard yourself against (the evil of) the day when you shall be made to return to Allâh; then every soul shall be paid in full for what it has accomplished, and no injustice shall be done to them.

SECTION 39

282. **O** you who believe! when you transact a loan for a stipulated term, then write it down. Let a scribe write (it) in your presence in (term of) equity and fairness. The scribe shall not refuse to write down, since it is Allâh Who taught him (to write). Write he must. And let him upon whom be the liability, dictate and let him observe his duty to Allâh, his Lord, nor should he depreciate anything (what he owes) from it. But if the person upon whom the liability is, be of feeble mind or is infirm or he is incapable of dictating himself, then let some one who can watch his interests dictate in (term of) equity and fairness. And call in to witness (the transaction) two male witnesses from amongst your men. But if there be not two males (available) then let there be one male and two females such as you approve as witnesses (to bear witness), so that if either of the two women forgets then one may remind the other. And let the witnesses not refuse (to give evidence) whenever they are summoned. And never feel weary of writing it (- the transaction) down, whether it (- the debt) be small or large, along with the time of its (payment) being due. This (way) is more just in the sight of Allâh, and ensures a more upright evidence and is more likely to prevent your falling into doubts, (so write it down) except you carry ready trade and transfer the merchandise from hand to hand, in that case there shall be no blame on you that you do not write (the transaction). Yet have witnesses when you trade with one another. Let neither the scribe nor the witness be harmed, and if you do (any such thing) then that indeed, is disobedience on your part. Take Allâh as a shield (with the result that) Allâh will grant you knowledge, for Allâh has perfect knowledge of everything.

283. And if you be on a journey and do not find a scribe, then (let there be) a pledge

with possession (of some article to secure your debt). If one of you entrusts something to another let him who is entrusted deliver his trust, and let him take Allâh, his Lord, as a shield. Do not conceal the evidence, for whoso conceals it, his heart is certainly sinful. Allâh is Well-Aware of all that you do.

SECTION 40

284. To Allâh belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth, and whether you reveal that which is in your minds or conceal it Allâh will call you to account for it. Then He will protect whomsoever He will and will punish whomsoever He will. And Allâh is Possessor of full power to do all He will.

285. The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him by his Lord and (so do) the faithful. Everyone believes in Allâh, His angels, His Books and His Messengers. (And the faithful declare,) `We make no distinction (in believing) between any of His Messengers.' They say, `(Lord!) we have heard (Your commandments) and we are obedient. (Grant us) Your protection, Our Lord! for to You is the returning.'

286. Allâh charges no soul but to its capacity. It (- the soul) shall be paid for that which it has done (of good) and against it who has incurred (evil deliberately). (Pray,) `Our Lord! take us not to task if we forget or (if) we make a mistake. Our Lord! lay not upon us the burden (of disobedience) as You laid upon those before us. Our Lord! charge us not with the responsibility which we have not the strength to bear; therefore overlook our faults and grant us protection and have mercy on us. You are our Master, therefore help us against the disbelieving people.'

Chapter

3

âl `Imrân

(Family of Amran)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah âl `Imrân).

1. Alif Lãm Mîm - I am Allâh, the All- Knowing.
2. Allâh is He. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. He is the Living, the Self-

Subsisting and All- Sustaining.

3. He has revealed to you gradually this perfect Book (- the Qur'ân) which meets all your requirements, fulfilling that (prophecies in the Scriptures) which preceded it and which still remain. He revealed the Torah and the Evangel,
4. Before this, as a guidance of the people. And He has revealed (the Qur'ân as) the Criterion of judgment (between truth and falsehood). Those who deny the revelations of Allâh there surely awaits them a severe punishment. Mighty is Allâh, the Lord of Retribution.
5. As to Allâh, verily nothing in this earth nor in the space above is hidden (from His view).
6. He it is Who fashions you in the wombs as He will. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
7. He it is Who has revealed to you this perfect Book, some of its verses are definite and decisive. They are the basic root (conveying the established meanings) of the Book (- *Ummal Kitâb*) and other (verses) are susceptible to various interpretations. As for those in whose hearts is perversity follow (verses) that are susceptible to different interpretations, seeking (to cause) dissension and seeking an interpretation (of their own choice). But no one knows its true interpretation except Allâh, and those who are firmly grounded in knowledge. They say, `We believe in it, it is all (- the basic and decisive verses as well as the allegorical ones) from our Lord.' And none takes heed except those endowed with pure and clear understanding.
8. `Our Lord!', (they pray,) `Let not our hearts become perverse after You have guided us, and grant us from Your Own Self special mercy, for You alone are the Most Liberal Bestower.
9. `Our Lord! You are invariably going to assemble all mankind on the Day about

(the advent of) which there is no doubt. Surely, Allâh never breaks His word.'

SECTION 2

10. As to those who disbelieve, neither their possessions, nor their children shall avail them at all against (the punishment of) Allâh; and it is they that will be the fuel of the Fire.

11. (Their conduct is) like the conduct of the followers of Pharaoh and those before them. They cried lies to Our Messages, so that Allâh took them to task for their sins. Allâh is Severe in retribution.

12. Say to those who disbelieve, `You shall soon be overcome and gathered together to be driven towards Gehenna. What an evil abode it is!'

13. There has already been for you a remarkable sign in the two armies that encountered each other (- in the Battle of *Badr*). (Behold!) one army is fighting in the cause of Allâh and the other is (an army of) disbelievers, whom they (- the Muslims) saw with their naked eyes twice as many (and not thrice as the actual figure was so that the believers did not lose their hearts). And Allâh strengthens with His help whomsoever He will. Verily, in this is a lesson for those who have eyes.

14. It has been made fairseeming to the people the love of the desired things comprising women, sons, stored up heaps of gold and silver, well-bred horses, cattle and tilth. That is the provision of the present life. Whereas with Allâh is the fairest goal (of life).

15. Say, `Shall I inform you of something better than these? There are with their Lord Gardens served with running streams for those who become secure against evil. There they shall abide for ever, and (there will be the righteous) companions perfectly purified and (above all they will enjoy) the good pleasure of Allâh.' And Allâh is Mindful of (His) servants,

16. Who say, `Our Lord! we have certainly believed, therefore protect us against (the consequences of) our sins and save us from the punishment of the Fire.'

17. (And those who are) the patiently persevering, the truthful and the obedient, and those who spend (liberally in the cause of Allâh) and the implorers of Divine protection in the latter part of the night (and from the core of their hearts).

18. Allâh bears witness that there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, and (so do) the angels and those possessed of true knowledge, maintaining justice. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of

worship but He, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

19. Decidedly, the true Faith acceptable to Allâh is Islam. Those who were given the Scripture were not at variance except after the knowledge had come to them; (their differences were) due to mutual envy and to spite one another. And whoso denies the Messages of Allâh (should bear in mind that) then Allâh indeed is Quick at reckoning.

20. But if they dispute with you say, 'I have completely submitted myself to (the will and guidance of) Allâh and (so have) those who follow me.' And say to those who had been given the Scripture and to the unlettered, 'Have you also submitted yourselves?' Indeed, they will be following true guidance if they submit themselves (to the will of God). But if they turn back then your responsibility is only to convey (the message). Allâh is Ever Watchful of His servants.

SECTION 3

21. Surely, those who deny the Messages of Allâh and seek to kill the Prophets without a just cause and slay those among the people who enjoin equity and justice, announce to them a grievous punishment.

22. It is they whose deeds go in vain in this world and in the Hereafter, and they shall have none to help them.

23. Have you not considered (the case of) those who were given a portion of the Scripture? When they are called to the Book of Allâh (the Qur'ân) that it may judge between them, yet a party of them turn away in sheer aversion.

24. They do so because they say, 'The Fire will not (even) brush us except for a limited number of days.' (Their own lies) that they used to forge have deluded them in the matter of their faith.

25. Then how (will they fare) when We gather them together for the Day about (the advent of) which there is no doubt, and (when) every soul shall be paid in full for what it has accomplished, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly.

26. Say, 'O Allâh! the Lord of all power, You grant power to whomsoever You will

and take away power from whomsoever You please, and confer honour and dignity on whomsoever You will and disgrace whomsoever You will. All good lies in Your hand. Verily, You are the Possessor of full power to do all You will,

27. `You cause the night to merge into the day and cause the day to merge into the night, and bring forth the living from the dead and bring forth the dead from the living, and provide (all sorts of provisions) to whomsoever You will without measure.'

28. Let not the believers take the disbelievers for friends in preference to the believers unless you very carefully guard against evil from them. Indeed he who acts likewise (in a careless manner let him remember) he has nothing to do with Allâh. And Allâh cautions you against His punishment, for to Allâh is the eventual returning.

29. Say, `Whether you conceal that which is in your bosoms or whether you reveal it Allâh knows it, and He knows whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.'

30. (Beware of) the Day when every soul shall be confronted with what good it has done and (similarly) whatever it has done of evil. It (- the soul) will earnestly wish there would be a long distance between it and between that (evil). Allâh cautions you against His punishment. And Allâh is Most Compassionate to His servants.

SECTION 4

31. Say, `Follow me if you love Allâh, (if you do so) Allâh will love you and grant you protection from your sins. Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.'

32. Say, `Obey Allâh and this Perfect Messenger,' but if they turn away then (remember that) Allâh does not love the disbelievers.

33. Truly, Allâh chose Adam, Noah, the family of Abraham and the family of Amran above all peoples of the time.

34. (They are) a lineage co-related with one another. Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

35. (Allâh listened) when a woman of (the family of) Amran said, `My Lord! I do hereby vow to You what is in my womb to be dedicated (to Your service); so do accept (it) of me. You alone are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.'

36. But when she gave birth to it she said, `My Lord! I have given birth to a female.' Allâh knew best what she had given birth to, and the male (she was thinking of) was

not like this female (she had brought forth). `I have named her Mary and I do commend her to Your protection and (also) her offspring (to be saved) from satan, the accursed.'

37. So her Lord accepted her (- Mary) with a gracious acceptance and made her grow into an excellent form and assigned her to the care of Zachariah. Every time Zachariah visited her in the chamber he found with her provisions. He said, `From where do you get all this, O Mary?' She replied (with all conscientiousness), `It is from Allâh.' Verily, Allâh provides whomsoever He will without measure.

38. Then and there did Zachariah pray to his Lord saying, `My Lord! grant me, by Your Own grace, pure and pious descendant, You alone are indeed the Hearer of prayers.'

39. So the angels called to him as he stood praying in the Sanctuary, `Allâh bears you the glad tidings of John, who shall confirm the word of God and who shall be noble, utterly chaste, a Prophet from among the righteous.'

40. `Lord!' he said, `How shall I have a son now that old age has already come upon me and my wife is barren?' (The Lord) said, `Such are the ways of Allâh, He does what He will.'

41. He said, `My Lord! give me some instruction.' (The Lord) said, `The instruction for you is that you shall not speak to the people for three days (and nights) except by gestures, and remember your Lord a good deal and glorify (Him) in the evening and early (in the) morning.'

SECTION 5

42. (Recall the time) when the angels said, `O Mary! surely Allâh has chosen you and has rid you of all impurities and has preferred you to the women of all (contemporary) people.
43. `O Mary! be devout to your Lord and prostrate yourself and bow along with the congregation of the worshippers of God.'
44. These are some of the important accounts of the things unseen We have revealed to you. You were not present with them when they (- the priests) cast their quills (to decide) as to which of them should have Mary in his charge (to arrange her marriage); and you were not with them when they (- the exalted assembly of the angels) were engaged in a discussion (over the issue of Muḥammad being entrusted with the Divine mission).
45. (Recall the time) when the angels said, `O Mary! Allâh gives you good tidings through a (prophetic) word from Him (about the birth of a son) whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, (he shall be) worthy of regard in this world and in the Hereafter and one of the nearest ones (to Him),
46. `And he will speak to the people when in the cradle (- as a child) and when of old age, and shall be of the righteous.'
47. She said, `My Lord! how can I and whence shall I have a child while no man has yet touched me (in conjugal relationship)?' (The Lord) said, `Such are the ways of Allâh, He creates what He will. When He decrees a thing He simply commands it, "Be" and it comes to be.'
48. (The angels continued), `And He will teach him the art of writing (and reading) and the Wisdom and the Torah and the Evangel.
49. `And (He will appoint him) a Messenger to the Children of Israel (with the Message), "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. (I have come so that) I determine for your benefit from clay (a person) after the manner of a bird, then I shall breathe into him (a new spirit) so that he becomes a flier (- a spiritual person) by the authority of Allâh, and I absolve the blind and the leprous, and I quicken the (spiritually) dead by the authority of Allâh, and I inform you as to what you should eat and what you should store in your houses. Behold! these facts will surely serve you as a definite sign if you are believers.
50. "And (I come) confirming that which is before me, namely the Torah, and that I declare lawful for you some of the things that had been forbidden to you. I come to you with a sign from your Lord, so take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

51. "Surely, Allâh is my Lord as well as your Lord, therefore worship Him; this is the right path".'

52. But when Jesus felt disbelief on their part (and thought his people would renounce him,) he said, `Who are my helpers (in calling the people) towards Allâh?' The disciples said, `We are the helpers (in the cause) of Allâh. We have believed in Allâh. Bear witness that, we are the submitting ones (to His will).'

53. (The disciples then prayed,) `Our Lord! We believe in that which You have revealed and we follow this Messenger, so count us with the witnesses (of the truth).'

54. And they (- the persecutors of Jesus) planned (to crucify him) and Allâh planned (to save him) and Allâh is the best of the planners.

SECTION 6

55. (Recall the time) when Allâh said, `O Jesus! I will cause you to die a natural death, and will exalt you to Myself and I will clear you of the unchaste accusations of those who disbelieve. I am going to make your followers prevail over the disbelievers till the Day of Resurrection, then to Me (O people!) shall be your return, and I will judge all your differences.

56. `Then as for those who disbelieve I will punish them sternly in this world and in the Hereafter and they shall have no helpers.

57. `As for those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, He will pay them their rewards in full. Allâh loves not the unjust.'

58. That is what We recite to you; the Messages and the Reminder full of wisdom.

59. Verily, the case of Jesus is as the case of Adam in the sight of Allâh. He fashioned him out of dust, then He said to him, `Be', and he came to be.

60. (O reader!) this is the real truth from your Lord, hence do not be of the disputers at all (of the facts).

61. Now whoso disputes with you in this matter (of Jesus) after there has come to you true knowledge, then say (to him), `Come let us summon our sons and your sons, our women and your women, and our people and your people, then let us pray fervently one against the other and invoke the disapproval of Allâh upon the liars.'

62. Verily, this (which We have told) is certainly the true account. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but Allâh; and surely it is Allâh

Who is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

63. But if they turn away, then (remember that) Allâh, of course, knows the mischief-makers.

SECTION 7

64. Say, `O people of the Scripture! let us agree to a proposition common to us both that we worship none but Allâh and that we associate no partner with Him and that some of us shall not hold others as lords besides Allâh.' But if they turn away (refusing) say, `Bear witness that we are the only submitting ones (to one God).'

65. O people of the Scripture! why do you argue about Abraham while the Torah and the Evangel were not revealed till after him? Have you no sense?

66. Behold! you are such as have argued about that whereof you had a little knowledge, now, why do you argue about that whereof you have no knowledge at all? Indeed, Allâh knows the truth while you do not.

67. Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was upright who had submitted (to the will of God), and he was not one of the polytheists.

68. The people nearest to Abraham are surely those who followed him (in the days of his prophethood) and this Prophet and those who believe (in him). Indeed, Allâh is the Patron of the believers.

69. (Believers!) a section of the people of the Scripture would fain lead you astray, but it is only the people like themselves that they lead astray, only they perceive not.

70. O people of the Scripture! Why do you deny the revelations of Allâh while you are witnessing (their truth)?

71. O people of the Scripture! Why do you confound the truth with falsehood and conceal the truth and that (too) deliberately?

SECTION 8

72. A section of the people of the Scripture said (to their companions in confidence), 'Avow belief in that (- the Qur'ân) which has been revealed to the believers, in the early hours of the day and deny (it) in the latter part of it, so that they (- the newly converted Muslims) may return (to disbelief),

73. 'Yet avow this belief only for the sake of those who follow your creed.' Say, 'Surely, the true guidance is Allâh's guidance', (and they also said, 'Do not believe,) that anyone will ever be given the like of that (gift of prophethood) which you have been given, or that they will ever be able to prevail upon you in argument before your Lord.' Say, 'Eminence (of prophethood and sovereignty) is entirely in the hands of Allâh. He confers it to whomsoever He will.' And Allâh is All-Embracing, All-Knowing.

74. Allâh has singled out for His grace (of the bestowal of Divine revelation) one whom He has pleased, for Allâh is the Lord of great eminence.

75. And among the people of the Scripture there is he if you trust him with a huge treasure he will surrender it to you; yet there is another among them that if you entrust him with a single dinâr he will not surrender it to you unless you keep on pressing him. They do that because they say, 'We are not liable to be called to account in the matter of the unlettered (- not of Jewish race),' and they tell a lie in the name of Allâh deliberately.

76. Nay (they will indeed be called to account). Yet whoso discharges his obligations and guards against evil, (he will find that) Allâh, infact, loves those who guard against evil.

77. (On the contrary) those who take paltry gains for (shaking off their) covenant with Allâh and their oaths, it is these for whom there shall be no big share in the Hereafter, Allâh will never speak to them (lovingly) nor look at them (with affection) on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He treat them as pure; there awaits them a woeful punishment.

78. There are some among them who twist their tongues while reciting their Scripture that you may think that (what they recite) is a part of the Scripture, whilst it is no part of the Scripture and they say, 'This is from Allâh,' whereas it is not from Allâh. They tell a lie in the name of Allâh deliberately.

79. It is not given to a human being that Allâh should give him the Book, the sovereignty and the prophethood and then he should say to the people, 'Be servants to me beside Allâh.' He would rather say, 'Be you the sole devotees of (Allâh) the Lord, for you teach the Book and because you study (it).'

80. Nor would (it be possible for him that) he bid you take the angels and Prophets as your lords. Would he bid you disbelieve after you have submitted yourselves (to the will of God)?

SECTION 9

81. (Recall the time) when Allâh bound (the people) to a covenant through the Prophets (saying), 'Indeed, whatever I have vouchsafed to you of the Book and the Wisdom, and then there comes to you a Messenger fulfilling that which is with you, you shall surely believe in him and have to help him.' (The Lord further) said, 'Do you agree and do you undertake the heavy responsibility of My covenant on these (terms)?' They said, 'We do agree.' (God) said, 'Bear witness to it and I am with you among the witnesses.'

82. Now those who turn away (and break their pledge) after this, will be the real transgressors.

83. Do they then seek a creed other than Allâh's while all those that are in the heavens and on the earth submit to Him willingly or unwillingly, and to Him they shall be made to return?

84. Say, 'We believe in Allâh and in that which has been revealed to us and in that which was revealed to Abraham and Ismâîl and Isaac and Jacob and his children and in that which was given to Moses and Jesus and to all other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between anyone of them (in believing them) and to Him alone do we submit.'

85. And whosoever seeks a faith other than Islam (- complete submission to the will of God,) it will never be accepted from him, and he shall be of the losers in the Hereafter.

86. How is Allâh to guide a people who renounce their faith after having accepted it and after testifying to the truth of the Messenger and after clear and sound proofs had come to them? And Allâh never guides a people who cannot discriminate between right and wrong.

87. It is these whose recompense is that the disapproval of Allâh shall be upon them,

and that of the angels and of mankind, all together.

88. They shall abide there for long, their punishment shall not be reduced, nor shall they be reprieved;

89. Except those who repent after this and make amends, (such will find that) surely Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

90. Verily, those who chose disbelief after they

had believed and then go on increasing in disbelief, their repentance shall not be accepted and these are the people who are completely lost.

91. Verily, as to those who have disbelieved and die while they are disbelievers, there shall not be accepted from anyone of them (even) an earthful of gold if he would ransom himself thereby. There awaits them a woeful punishment, they shall have no helpers (either).

Part IV

SECTION 10

92. Never shall you attain the highest state of virtue unless you spend (in the cause of Allâh) out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allâh, indeed, knows it well.

93. All the (pure) food (which is lawful in Islam) was lawful for the Children of Israel except what Israel forbade himself before the advent of Torah. Say, `Bring then the Torah and read it, if you are right (in your assertions).'

94. Now, whoso forges a lie against Allâh after that, it is they who are the unjust.

95 Say, `(Now that it has been proved that) Allâh has declared the truth, therefore follow the creed of Abraham, the upright, and he was not of the polytheists.

96. Verily, the first House founded for the good of mankind is the one at Bakkah (- the valley of Makkah). (It is the House) full of blessings and a means of guidance for all the peoples.

97. Therein are clear Memorials: (The first is) the Place where Abraham stood for prayers (- *Maqâm Ibrâhîm*); (secondly,) whosoever enters it (- the valley of Bakkah) is in a state of peace and security; (thirdly,) Pilgrimage to the House (- *Ka`bah*) is due to Allâh from everyone of mankind who is (physically, financially and in many other ways) able and has the means to make the journey thereto. And whosoever disobeys (let him remember that) Allâh is Independent of the worlds.

98. Say, `O you people of the Scripture! Why do you deny the Messages of Allâh, while Allâh is Witness to all that you do.'

99. Say, `O people of the Scripture! Why do you hinder him who believes, from (following) the path of Allâh? You try to seek crookedness in it, while you yourselves are witnesses (to its truth). And Allâh is not at all unmindful of what you do.'

100. O you who believe! If you obey a section of those who have been given the Scripture, they will turn you back into disbelievers after your having believed.

101. And how would you disbelieve while the Messages of Allâh are rehearsed to you, and His Messenger is present in your midst. And whosoever holds fast to Allâh

is indeed guided on to the exact right path.

SECTION 11

102. **O** you who believe! Observe your duty to Allâh as it ought to be observed, and let not death overtake you unless you be in a state of complete submission (to your Lord).

103. Hold fast to the means of access to Allâh all together, and do not be disunited, and remember Allâh's favours to you, when you were enemies one to another. He united your hearts in love so that by His grace you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, He saved you therefrom. Thus does Allâh explain to you His Messages that you may be guided aright.

104. And let there always be a community (of such people) among you who should call people to goodness and enjoin equity and forbid evil. It is these who shall attain to their goal.

105. And do not be like those who were disunited and fell into variance after clear proofs had come to them. It is these for whom a great punishment awaits.

106. On the day when some faces shall be lit up by happiness and some faces shall be clouded because of sorrow. (It will be said to) those whose faces are clouded, 'Is it not (true) that you disbelieved after your belief? Taste now, the punishment because you disbelieved.'

107. And as for those whose faces shall be lit up, they shall come under the mercy of Allâh, and in it they shall abide for ever.

108. Such are the revelations of Allâh comprising the truth. We rehearse them to you. And Allâh means no injustice to (any of His) creatures.

109. And to Allâh belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth, and all matters stand referred to Allâh.

SECTION 12

110. **Y**ou are the noblest people raised up for the good of mankind. You enjoin equity and forbid evil, and you believe truly in Allâh. Had the people of the Scripture (also) believed, it would surely have been best for them. Some of them are believers, yet most of them are disobedient.

111. They shall do you no harm except a trifling hurt, and if they fight you, they will show you their backs (and flee), they shall never be helped then.

112. Smitten are they with ignominy wherever they are found unless they have a bond (of protection) from Allâh, or a bond (of security) from the people. They have incurred the displeasure of Allâh and have been condemned to humiliation. That is so because they would disbelieve in the Messages of Allâh and would seek to kill the Prophets without any just cause. And that is so because they rebelled and had been transgressing as usual.

113. They (- the people of the Scripture) are not all alike. Among these people of the Scripture there are some upright people. They rehearse the Message of Allâh in the hours of the night and they prostrate themselves (in His worship).

114. They believe in Allâh and the Last Day and enjoin good and forbid evil, and they vie one with another in (doing) good deeds. And it is these who are of the truly righteous.

115. And whatever good they do, they shall not be denied its due recognition. And Allâh knows well those who guard against evil.

116. Verily, as to those who disbelieve, neither their possessions nor their children shall avail them aught against (the punishment of) Allâh. And it is they who are the fellows of the Fire, therein shall they live long.

117. That which they spend for the present life bears likeness with the wind wherein is freezing cold which smites the tilth of the people who have done injustice to themselves, so it destroys it. Allâh does no injustice to them but they wrong themselves.

118. O you who believe! Do not hold other people as confidants of your secrets to the exclusion of your own (honest) folk. Such people shall not be remiss to corrupt you; they love all that by which you get into trouble. Gross hatred has already expressed itself through (the utterances of) their mouths and what their hearts conceal is far worse. Now We have explained the Messages fully to you if you would only understand.

119. Behold! You are those who love them while they do not love you, though you believe in every (Divine) Book, in the whole of it. And when they meet you they say, 'We believe,' and when they are alone they bite their finger-tips out of rage against you. Say, 'Perish in your rage. Surely, Allâh knows the inmost secrets of your hearts.'

120. If anything good contacts you, it hurts them, but if an evil afflicts you, they rejoice thereat. However, if you patiently persevere and ward off evil, their machination will do you no harm at all. Verily, Allâh encompasses all their activities.

SECTION 13

121. And (recall the time) when you (O Prophet!) went forth early in the morning from your family assigning to the believers their battle-posts (in the Battle of *Uhud*). And Allâh is All- Hearing, All-Knowing.

122. When two groups from among you (- the two clans of *Banû Hârithah* and *Banû Salamah*) were disposed to show cowardliness. And Allâh was the Protecting friend of them both, and in Allâh the believers should put their trust.

123. Surely, Allâh had already helped you at (the Battle of) *Badr* while you were utterly weak, therefore take Allâh as a shield so that (He may bless you and) you may give Him thanks.

124. (Recall the time) when you said to the believers, 'Does it not suffice you that your Lord should reinforce you with three thousand angels sent down (by Him)?'

125. 'Indeed (it does); and if you patiently persevere and guard against evil and they (- the enemies) come upon you suddenly and in hot haste of theirs, your Lord will reinforce you with five thousand swooping and havoc-making angels.'

126. And Allâh meant not this (help by the angels) except as good tidings (of victory) for you, and to set your hearts at ease therewith. There is no real help and victory except from Allâh alone, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

127. (God will do accordingly at *Uhud*) with the result that He may cut off a section of those who disbelieve and their leaders and vanquish others with humiliation so that they might go back utterly frustrated.

128. (O Prophet!) You have no say whatsoever in the matter, (it is upto Him alone) whether He turns towards them with mercy or punishes them because they are certainly wrongdoers.

129. And to Allâh belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth. He protects (against sins) whom He will and punishes whom He will. Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 14

130. **O** you who believe! do not practise usury and interest involving multiple additions, and keep your duty to Allâh and take Him as a shield so that you may prosper.

131. Be on your guard against the Fire which has been prepared for the disbelievers.

132. And obey Allâh and this Messenger that you may be shown mercy.

133. Wing your way to the protection of your Lord and to the Paradise whose expanse is as (vast as) the heavens and the earth. It is prepared for those who become secure against evil;

134. Those who spend (in the cause of Allâh) in prosperity and adversity and those who suppress anger and pardon (the offences of) the people. And Allâh loves such doers of good to others,

135. And those who when they commit any act of indecency or do injustice to themselves remember Allâh and implore (Him for) protection against their sins - and who can protect against sins except Allâh? - And they do not deliberately persist in doing wrong.

136. It is these whose reward is protection from their Lord, and Gardens served with running streams, therein they shall live for ever. How excellent is the reward of the painstaking (in the right direction).

137. Surely, there have been diverse dispensations before you, so travel in the land and see how evil was the fate of those who cried lies (to the Prophets).

138. This (Qur'ân) is a clear exposition (of the truth) for mankind (to follow) and a (means of) guidance, and an exhortation to those who guard against evil (and are dutiful to God and mankind).

139. Therefore slacken not, nor grieve, and when you are true believers you shall certainly be the triumphant.

140. If you have received an outer injury (in the Battle of *Uhud*), surely, the (disbelieving) people have already received a similar injury (in the same battle) - these days of vicissitudes are those which We cause to alternate among the people, (it is so that you may be admonished) and that (among other things), Allâh may distinguish those who (really) believe and so that He may raise martyrs from among you; and Allâh does not love the unjust.

141. And (it is) so that Allâh may purge all the impurities of those who (truly) believe and so that He may wipe off the disbelievers gradually.

142. Do you suppose that you would enter Paradise while Allâh has not yet distinguished those of you who strive hard (in the cause of Allâh) and has not yet distinguished the patiently persevering.

143. And you used to long for (*Jihâd* and a martyr's) death before you met it, but now you have seen it and you will see yet (many more wonders happen).

SECTION 15

144. And Muḥammad is but a Messenger. Surely, all Messengers have passed away before him. Would you recant if he dies or be killed. And he who recants shall do no harm at all to Allâh, and Allâh will certainly reward the grateful.

145. Nor can a living being die save by the leave of Allâh - a decree with a prescribed term. And he who desires the reward (for his deeds) of this world, We grant him thereof; and he who desires the reward of the Hereafter, We will grant him thereof. And We will certainly reward the grateful.

146. There has been many a Prophet beside whom many worshippers of the Lord fought. They were neither unnerved on account of all that befell them in the cause of Allâh, nor did they weaken, nor did they show inconsistency (against their adversary). Allâh certainly loves such patiently-persevering ones.

147. Their word (of prayer) was only that they said, 'Our Lord! grant us protection against the consequences of our sins and our excesses in our conduct, and make our foothold firm, and grant us victory over the disbelieving people.'

148. So Allâh granted them the reward of this world as also an excellent reward of the Hereafter. And Allâh loves the doers of good to others.

SECTION 16

149. O you who believe! if you obey those who have disbelieved, they will make you turn apostates so that you will become losers.

150. Nay, (you do not have to do this for) Allâh is your Patron and Protector and He is the best of the helpers.

151. We shall certainly strike terror into the hearts of those who have disbelieved, because they have associated with Allâh that for which He has sent down no authority, their abode is the Fire and how dismal is the lodging of the wrong doers!

152. And certainly Allâh had made good His promise to you when you were slaying them to pieces by His leave (in the Battle of *Uhud*), until, when you became lax and disagreed among yourselves about the (implications of the) order (of the Prophet), and you disobeyed (your leader *Abdullah bin Jubair*), after He had brought that (victory) which you desired within your sight (He withdrew His help from you). There were some among you who desired the present life and among you were those who desired the life to come. Then He turned you away from (gaining clear victory over) them (- the enemy), that He might reveal your (true) selves. Yet He surely pardoned you. Allâh is Gracious to the believers.

153. When you were going hard and far (in pursuit of the enemy in the Battle of *Uhud*) and you would not cast even a side-glance at and wait for anyone while the Messenger was calling out to you from your rear (to come back). So He gave you greater sorrow (which proved unreal later on) in place of the sorrow (you had already) in order that you should not grieve over what you had missed (of clear victory) nor over what befell you (of the hardships). And Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

154. Then, after the sorrow He sent down tranquility upon you - a slumber which overwhelmed a party of you, while another party (of the hypocrites) whom their own personal interests had made anxious, entertained unjustly false notions about Allâh like the false notions (they used to bear in the days) of ignorance. They said, `Have we any authority in (the execution of) the matter (of administration)?' Say, `The whole authority rests with Allâh.' They hide in their minds (- thoughts) which they would not disclose to you. They say, `If we had any authority in (the execution of) the

matter (of administration) we would not have been killed here.' Say, 'Even if you had been confined in your homes, surely those who were ordained to be slain would have, nevertheless, gone forth to the places where they were destined to fall. And (all this that took place in the Battle of *Uhud* was) that Allâh might reveal what was in your hearts and so that He might purge what was in your minds. And Allâh knows well what is in the minds (of the people).

155. Surely, those of you who turned their backs on the day when two armies met (in the battlefield of *Uhud*) it was satan indeed who sought to seduce them (to do so) without any intention on their part because of certain other doings of theirs, and most certainly Allâh has already pardoned them. Verily, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Forbearing.

SECTION 17

156. **O** you who believe! do not be like those who have concealed (the truth) and who say of their brethren when they (- the latter) travel in the land or go forth on any campaign (and fall martyrs), 'Had they been with us they would not have died or been killed.' They say it so that Allâh makes this a cause of intense regret in their hearts. (The fact, however, is that) it is Allâh Who gives life and causes death. Allâh sees well all what you do.

157. And if you are killed (in the cause of Allâh) or you die, surely (you will find that) the protection from Allâh and (His) mercy (which fall to your lot) are far better than what they (- who have concealed the truth) amass.

158. Indeed, whether you die or be killed, verily you shall be gathered together and brought before Allâh.

159. So (O Prophet!) it is owing to the great mercy of Allâh that you are gentle towards them. Had you been harsh, hard-hearted, they would have certainly dispersed from around you; hence pardon them and ask protection for them, and consult them in matters (of administration), and when you are determined (after due consultation), put your trust in Allâh. Verily, Allâh loves those who put their trust in Him.

160. If Allâh goes on helping you there is none to overcome you and if He forsakes you, then, who is there that will help you besides Him. Let the believers put their trust in Allâh alone.

161. It is not possible for a Prophet to be guilty of a breach of trust, but whoever (else) is guilty of a breach of a trust he will have to bring forth that about which he had been guilty, on the Day of Resurrection when every soul shall be paid in full for what it has accomplished, and they shall not be done any injustice.

162. Can the person who (always) follows the good pleasure of Allâh be like the person who has incurred the displeasure of Allâh and whose abode is Gehenna? What an evil destined abode it is!

163. They (- the believers and the Prophets) have exalted degrees of rank of grace with Allâh. And Allâh sees well of all that they do.

164. Verily, Allâh has bestowed a favour on the believers when He has raised amongst them a great Messenger from amongst themselves who recites to them His Messages, and purifies them and teaches them the Book and the wisdom; although before this, they were steeped in flagrant error.

165. (So what) when you suffered a loss (at the Battle of *Uhud*) you had already inflicted a loss (upon your enemy) twice as heavy as that (at the Battle of *Badr*), you (began to) say, 'Whence is this?' Say, 'It is of your own making.' Surely, Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

166. And that which befell you on the day when the two armies met (at *Uhud*), was so by the leave of Allâh, and (it happened thus) so that He might distinguish the believers,

167. And that He might distinguish those who practise hypocrisy. Indeed, it was said to them (- the hypocrites), 'Come forward, fight in the cause of Allâh, or at least help the defences.' They said, 'If we but knew that it would be a fight we would surely follow you, (but the Muslims were going to a sure destruction).' On that day, they were nearer to disbelief than to belief. They say with their mouths that which is not in their minds. And Allâh knows best all that they conceal.

168. It is these who said of their brethren whilst they (themselves) stayed behind (declining the field), 'If they had obeyed us, they would not have been killed.' Say, 'Then avert death from yourselves if you are right.'

169. And think not of those who have been killed in the cause of Allâh as dead. Nay, they are alive, enjoying the company of their (Ever- Living) Lord and well provided (as they deserve to be for an everlasting life);

170. Jubilant because of that which Allâh has given them out of His grace. They are receiving glad tidings also about those (believers similar to themselves) who are still left behind them (in this world) and have not yet joined them, that they shall have no cause of fear, nor shall they grieve, (rather they will be victorious and will see the promises of Allâh fulfilled).

171. And they (- the martyrs) are also receiving glad tidings (that those who have been left behind in the world are happy) because of the favours of Allâh and (His) great bounty and that Allâh does not suffer the reward of the believers to be lost.

172. Those who responded to the call of Allâh and the Messenger after they had received an injury (at *Uhud*), for those amongst them who did their duty well and warded off evil (by pursuing the enemy forces the next day upto *Hamrâ'al-Asad*, a place near Madînah), there awaits a great reward.

SECTION 18

173. Those to whom (at the time of the expedition of *Badr al-Sughrâ*) people said, 'People have assembled against you, so fear them.' But this (threat of danger) increased their faith and they said, 'Allâh is Sufficient for us, and He is an excellent Disposer of affairs'.

174. Hence they returned with a mighty blessing from Allâh and a great bounty. They suffered no harm whatsoever, and they followed the good pleasure of Allâh. Indeed, Allâh is the Possessor of great bounty.

175. (Now you have come to know that) it is satan, in fact, who merely threatens through his friends, so do not fear them, rather fear Me, if you are (true) believers.

176. And do not let those who vie one with another in (following the ways of) disbelief grieve you. Surely, they shall not be able to do the slightest harm to Allâh. It is Allâh's will to assign them no portion in the Hereafter. Rather, there awaits them a great punishment.

177. Those who preferred disbelief to belief will not be able to do the least harm to Allâh. A grievous punishment awaits them.

178. And do not let those who disbelieve think that the respite We give them is good for them. Surely, We grant them respite but they do not avail it, with the result that

they add to their sins. A humiliating punishment awaits them.

179. And Allâh is not going to leave (you), the believers, as you are, unless He has distinguished the corrupt from the good. Nor is Allâh going to reveal fully to (everyone of) you, the unseen; but Allâh chooses (for His Messages) such of His Messengers as He will. Believe, therefore in Allâh and His Messengers; and (remember) if you believe (truly) and guard against evil then there is for you a great reward.

180. And do not let those, who behave niggardly in (spending) what Allâh has granted them of His bounty, think that it is good for them, nay it is bad for them. They shall certainly have the things they were niggardly about, hung about their necks like halters on the Day of Resurrection. And to Allâh belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth. Indeed, Allâh is Well-Aware of all that you do.

SECTION 19

181. Allâh has most certainly heard the words of those who said, 'Allâh is poor and we are rich.' Certainly We shall record what they say and their efforts towards seeking to kill the Prophets unjustly. And We shall say (at the time of retribution), 'Taste (now) the punishment of burning.'

182. 'This (punishment) is because of that which your own hands have sent forward,' and the fact is that Allâh is not at all unjust to His servants.

183. (These are the very Jews) who said, 'Surely, Allâh has enjoined us not to believe in any Messenger unless He brings us an offering which is consumed by the fire (in accordance with mosaic law).' Say, 'Surely Messengers have come to you before me with clear signs and with that of which you speak. Why, then did you seek to kill them if you have been right (in your demand)?'

184. But if they cry lies to you (you need not be disheartened) even so lies were cried to many Messengers before you, who came with clear signs, with the Books full of wisdom and with the glorious Scripture.

185. Every living being is destined to taste death. And you shall, verily, be paid in full your rewards on the Day of Resurrection. Then whoso is removed away from the Fire and is admitted to Paradise, he has, of course, successfully attained his goal. And the life of this world is nothing but a vain provision (causing negligence).

186. You shall, certainly, be tried in your substance and lives and you shall certainly hear from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who set up equals (to God) a good deal of hurtful abuse. But if you are patiently

persevering and guard against evil, then this (attitude) is worth being followed with constancy and firm determination.

187. Recall the time when Allâh took a covenant from those who were given the Scripture that, 'You must explain (the teachings of) this (Scripture) to the people and not conceal it.' But they threw it away behind their backs, and accepted a paltry price for it. How evil is that which they have chosen!

188. You should not think - indeed you should not think that those who exult in what they have brought about, and love to be praised for what they have not done, are secure from punishment; rather a woeful punishment awaits them.

189. The sovereignty of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh alone, and Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

SECTION 20

190. Surely, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and (in) the alternation of the night and the day there are many signs for people of pure and clear understanding.

191. These are the persons who remember Allâh standing, and sitting and (lying) on their sides and reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth (and say,) 'Our Lord! You have not created (all) this in vain. Glory be to You, save us from the punishment of the Fire.

192. 'Our Lord! whomsoever You cause to enter the Fire, You have truly disgraced him, and there will be none to help these unjust.

193. 'Our Lord! certainly, we heard a crier calling to the Faith, saying, "Believe in your Lord," and we have believed. Our Lord! protect us against our sins and rid us of our evils and cause us to die (and after death count us) with the virtuous.

194. 'Our Lord! grant us what You have promised us through Your Messengers and do not disgrace us on the Day of Resurrection. Surely, You do not break Your promise.'

195. Their Lord then, accepted their prayer for them (saying), `I will not, most certainly suffer the deed of any doer (of good) from among you, whether male or female, to be lost; the one of you being as the other. Hence those who have emigrated, and have been driven out of their homes, and have been persecuted in My cause, and who have fought and been killed, surely I will absolve them of their evils and will, of course, admit them into Gardens served with running streams, a reward from Allâh. And Allâh, with Him is the fairest reward (to offer).

196. Do not let the moving about in the land, of those who have disbelieved, deceive you.

197. (It is) a brief provision, then Gehenna shall be their abode. What an evil place of rest!

198. But those who took their Lord as a shield shall have Gardens served with running streams, therein shall they live for ever, an entertainment from Allâh Himself; and that which is with Allâh is better still for the virtuous.

199. There are some among the people of the Scripture who believe in Allâh and in that which has been revealed to you and in that which has been revealed to them, humbling themselves before Allâh, they barter not the Messages of Allâh for a paltry price, it is these whose reward is due with their Lord. Indeed, Allâh is Swift in reckoning.

200. O you who believe! be patiently persevering and strive to excel (the disbelievers) in being patiently persevering and guard (the frontiers) and ward off evil, keep your duty to Allâh so that you may attain your goal.

Chapter

4

Al-Nisâ'

(The Women)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Nisâ').

1. **O** you people! take as a shield your Lord Who created you from a single being. The same stock from which He created the man He created his spouse, and through them both He caused to spread a large number of men and women. O people! regard Allâh with reverence in Whose name you appeal to one another, and (be regardful to) the ties of relationship (particularly from the female side). Verily, Allâh ever keeps watch over you.

2. And give the orphans their property and substitute not (your) worthless things for (their) good ones, nor consume

their property mingling it along with your own property, for this indeed is a great sin.

3. And if (you wish to marry them and) you fear that you will not be able to do justice to the orphan girls then (marry them not, rather) marry of women (other than these) as may be agreeable to you, (you may marry) two or three or four (provided you do justice to them), but if you fear that you will not be able to deal (with all of them) equitably then (confine yourselves only to) one, or (you may marry) that whom your right hands possess (- your female captives of war). That is the best way to avoid doing injustice.

4. And give the women their dowers unasked, willingly and as agreed gift. But if they be pleased to remit you a portion thereof, of their own free will, then take it with grace and pleasure.

5. And do not make over to the weak of understanding your property which Allâh has made a means of subsistence for you, but provide for them (their maintenance) and clothe them out of its profits and speak to them words of kind advice.

6. And keep on testing the orphans until they attain the (age of) marriage, then if you perceive in them sound judgment deliver to them their property and do not consume it extravagantly and hastily as they grow up (fearing lest they should claim it when they attain majority). And let him (- the guardian) who can afford to do without, let him avoid remuneration, but he who is needy may charge reasonable remuneration with equity. And when you hand over to them (- the orphans) their property let there be some witnesses to attest. And Allâh is enough as a Reckoner (and call you to account).

7. (As the basis of law of inheritance,) for men is a share in (the property) that the parents and near relations leave behind and the women shall have a share in (the property) that the parents and the near relations leave behind, whether it (- property) be small or large, a determined share (ordained by Allâh).

8. And when there are present at the division (of the heritage other) relatives and the orphans and the needy, then give them something out of it and speak to them kind words.

9. And let the persons (who divide the heritage) be afraid of Allâh, for if they leave behind them (their own) weak offspring they would be anxious on their account. Let them, therefore, keep their duty to Allâh and let them say the right thing.

10. Verily, those who consume the property of the orphans unjustly, as a matter of fact, feed their bellies with fire; and they shall certainly burn in a blazing fire.

SECTION 2

11. Allâh prescribes (the following) law (of inheritance) for your children. For male is the equal of the portion of two females; but if they be all females (two or) more than two, for them is two thirds of what he (- the deceased) has left; and if there be only one, for her is the half and for his parents, for each one of the two is a sixth of what he has left, if he (- the deceased) has a child; but if he has no child and his parents only be his heirs, then for the mother is one third (and the rest two thirds is for the father); but if there be (in addition to his parents) his brothers (and sisters) then there is one sixth for the mother after (the payment of) any bequest he may have bequeathed or (still more important) of any debt (- bequests made by the testator and his debts shall however be satisfied first). Your fathers and your children, you do not know which of them deserve better to benefit from you. (This) fixing (of portions) is from Allâh. Surely, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

12. And for you is half of that which your wives leave behind, if they have no child; but if they have a child, then for you is one fourth of what they leave behind, after (the payment of) any bequest they may have bequeathed or (still more important) of any (of their) debt. And for them (- your wives) is one fourth of what you leave behind if you have no child; but if you leave a child, then, for them is an eighth of what you leave after (the payment of) any bequest you have bequeathed or (still more important) of any debt. And if there be a man or a woman whose heritage is to be divided and he (or she - the deceased) has no child and he (or she) has (left behind) a brother or a sister then for each one of the twain is a sixth; but if they be more than one then they are (equal) sharers in one third after the payment of any bequest bequeathed or (still more important) of any debt (provided such bequest made by the testator and the debt) shall be without (any intent of) being harmful (to the interests of the heirs). This is an injunction from Allâh, and Allâh is All-Knowing, Most

Forbearing.

13. These are the limits (of the law imposed) by Allâh, and who obeys Allâh and His Messenger He will admit them into Gardens served with running streams; therein they shall abide for ever; and that is a great achievement.

14. But whoso disobeys Allâh and His Messenger and transgresses the limits imposed by Him He will make him enter Fire where he shall abide long, and for him is a humiliating punishment.

SECTION 3

15. As to those of your women who commit sexual perversity, call in four of you to witness against them, and if they bear witness then confine them to their houses, until death overtakes them or Allâh makes for them a way out.

16. And if two of your males commit the same (act of indecency), then punish them both, so if they repent and amend (keeping their conduct good) then turn aside from them, verily Allâh is Oft-Returning (with compassion), Ever Merciful.

17. Verily, Allâh undertakes to accept the repentance of only those who do evil through lack of knowledge, then repent soon after. Such are the person towards whom Allâh turns with mercy. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

18. But repentance is of no avail to those who go on doing evil deeds until, when death visits one of them, he says, 'I do repent now,' nor it is of any use to those who die whilst they are disbelievers. It is for such people that We have prepared a woeful punishment.

19. O you who believe! it is not lawful for you to treat women (of your deceased relatives) as inherited property by force, nor should you detain them that you may take away part of that which you have given them, except that they commit flagrant indecency. But consort with them in peace. Then if you have a dislike for them, it may be that you dislike a thing but Allâh has placed a good deal of good in it.

20. And if you desire to take one wife in place of (another) wife and you have given

one of them a huge treasure, then take nothing from that which you have given. Would you take it by false accusation and by committing an open sin?

21. And how can you take it when you have already lain with one another and they (- your wives) have bound you down to a firm and solemn covenant (by marriage)?

22. And marry not those women whom your fathers had married, except what had already passed (- you shall not be called to account for what you did in the past, only you have to divorce them now); for it is a thing highly indecent and repugnant and an evil practice.

SECTION 4

23. Forbidden to you (for marriage) are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your paternal aunts, and your maternal aunts, and the daughters of a brother, and the daughters of a sisters, and your (foster) mothers who have given suck to you, and your foster sisters, and the mothers of your wives, and your step-daughters who are being brought up under your care and have been born of your wives (by their former husbands,) unto whom you have gone in, but if you have not gone in unto them (- their mothers), then there is no blame on you (in marrying their daughters), and the wives of your sons who are from your own loins; and (it is forbidden to you) to keep in wedlock two sisters (at one and the same time), except what has already passed, (you have to divorce one of them). Surely, Allâh is Most Protector (against faults), Ever Merciful.

Part V

24. And (you are also forbidden to marry) already married women who are in a wedlock. Yet those (captives in war) whom your right hands possess (are permitted to you for marriage even if not formally divorced by their former husbands, since their captivity is equivalent to divorce). This is the law prescribed to you by Allâh. All (women) beyond those (mentioned above) are lawful to you, provided you seek (their hands) by means of your wealth (- by granting dowers), marrying them properly and not (committing fornication) to pursue your lust. You shall, for the benefits you draw from them (by regular marriage), pay them (- your wives) such of their dowers as have been fixed. There is, however, no blame on you (in increasing or decreasing the amount of dower) which you (- husband and wife) mutually agree upon, after it has been (once) fixed. Surely, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

25. And those of you who have not the means (- social or financial) to marry free believing women (may marry) such of your believing bonds women as your right hands own (by being captives in war). Allâh knows very well (the state of) your faith, you are all (sprung) one from another, so marry them with the permission of their guardians and give them their dowers with equity, they being properly married, not (committing fornication), to pursue their lust nor taking secret paramours. And if after they are married they commit adultery then they incur (the punishment of fifty strips which is) half of that (punishment prescribed) for free women. This (permission to marry a bonds woman) is for him among you who fears (that otherwise he will fall into) sin. But it is better for you to exercise restraint. Allâh is, indeed, Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 5

26. Allâh desires to make clear (His commandments) to you, and guide you to the (righteous) ways of your predecessors, and to turn to you with mercy. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

27. Whereas Allâh desires to turn to you with mercy, those who follow (the dictates of their) lusts want you to drift far away (from the right path).

28. Allâh desires that He should lighten (the burden of bindings on) you, for a human being has been created weak.

29. O you who believe! do not consume your (- one another's) property amongst yourselves by unlawful means, rather it be a trade based on free mutual consent. And

do not kill your people. Surely, Allâh has been Ever Merciful to you.

30. But whoever does any such thing aggressively and unjustly, We shall certainly cast him into Fire. And this is ever easy for Allâh.

31. If you keep away from major prohibitions (to you), We will wipe off your preliminary evil (inclinations) and We will admit you to a place and state of great honour.

32. And do not covet the favours which Allâh has bestowed on some of you to excel others. Men shall have the share of the fruit of their labour, and for women is the share of the fruit of their labour. You had better seek from Allâh His bounty. Verily, Allâh has perfect knowledge of all things.

33. We have appointed heirs to everyone respecting that which the parents and the near relatives leave behind. And those with whom you have entered into a solemn covenant (- the husband and wife), so give them their due. Surely, Allâh is ever a Witness over everything.

SECTION 6

34. **M**en are the full maintainers of women, because Allâh has made one of them excel the other, and because men spend out of their wealth on them. So virtuous women are those who are obedient (to Allâh) and guard (their own chastity as well as the rights and secrets of their husbands even) in (their) absence, as Allâh has guarded (the women's rights). As for those women (on whose part) you apprehend disobedience and bad behavior, you may admonish them (first lovingly) and (then) refuse to share their beds with them and (as a last resort) punish them (mildly). If they, then, obey you, you shall seek no other way against them. Indeed, Allâh alone is High, (and) Great.

35. But if you apprehend a breach between the two (- a man and his wife) then appoint one arbiter from his people and one arbiter from her people; if the two have a mind to effect reconciliation, Allâh will bring it about between them. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

36. And worship Allâh and associate naught with Him, and be good to parents and near of kin and orphans and the needy and to the neighbour who is related to you and the neighbour who is an alien and to the companion by (your) side and the wayfarer and those whom your right hands possess. Surely, Allâh does not love those who are arrogant, (and) boastful.

37. Regarding those who practise niggardliness and advocate to be niggardly and

conceal that which Allâh has given them out of His bounty and grace, We have in store a humiliating punishment for such thankless people;

38. As well as for those who spend their wealth for public show and do not believe in Allâh and the Last Day. And whoso has satan for his companion (let him bear in mind that) an evil companion he is.

39. Why, what (harm) could come to them if they believed in Allâh and in the Last Day and spent from that which Allâh had provided them? Indeed, Allâh knows them full well.

40. Verily, Allâh does not do injustice not (even) so much as the weight of an atom; and if there be a single good deed He multiplies it and gives from Himself a great reward.

41. How then (shall these wrongdoers fare) when We call a witness from every nation and when We call you (O Prophet!) to stand witness over these (followers of yours)?

42. On that day those who disbelieved and disobeyed the Messenger would wish that the earth were made level with them. They shall not be able to conceal anything from Allâh.

SECTION 7

43. **O** you who believe! do not go near Prayer when you are not in full possession of your senses, until you understand all that you say (in your Prayers); nor (occupy yourselves in Prayer) when you are unclean (and under an obligation to have a bath) until you have bathed yourselves. But (you can do without a bath) when you are travelling a long way. If you are taken ill or (are) on a journey, or if one of you comes from the privy, or you have had (sexual) contact with women and you find no water (for bathing or ablution) then have recourse to pure and clean dust and wipe your faces and your hands (therewith). Indeed, Allâh is Most Benign, Great Protector.

44. Have you not considered (the case of) those who were given a portion of the Scripture? They prefer to go astray and desire that you too should go astray from the right path.

45. And Allâh knows your enemies full well. And Allâh suffices as a Patron, and

Allâh suffices as a Helper.

46. (These enemies of yours are) of those who are judaised. They tear the words from their context and say, 'We hear and we disobey,' and (say), 'Lend us an ear, O you to whom no one would lend an ear!' and (say,) 'Râ`inâ', giving a slight twist to their tongues (while pronouncing the word and thereby) slandering the true meanings (and thus making a play with the word) and seeking to injure the Faith. It would have been better and more upright on their part to have said, 'We hear and we obey;' and 'Lend us an ear;' and 'Unzurnâ' (we beg your attention)'. Allâh has disapproved of them because of their disbelief so that they will not believe, excepting a few (of them).

47. O you who have been given the Scripture! believe in (the Qur'ân) which We have now revealed fulfilling such (prophecies) as you have, before We make extinct and destroy some of your leaders and deprive them of their glory or We condemn them as We condemned the people of the Sabbath (breakers); and (remember) the decree of Allâh is bound to be executed.

48. Surely, Allâh does not forgive (unless the sinner turns to Him with repentance) that a partner be associated with Him but He forgives everything short of it to whomsoever He will. And whoso associates a partner with Allâh has indeed committed a very great sin.

49. Have you not considered those who assert themselves to be pure? Nay, only Allâh purifies whom He will; and they shall not be treated unjustly, not even a whit.

50. Behold! how they forge lies against Allâh, and sufficient is that as a very flagrant sin (to prove their sinfulness).

SECTION 8

51. **H**ave you not considered the case of those who were given a portion of the Scripture? They believe in nonsense things devoid of good and follow those who transgress, and they say of those who disbelieve, 'These are better guided in the (right) way than those who believe (in Islam).'

52. It is these whom Allâh has deprived of His blessings, and he whom Allâh deprives of His blessings, you will never find for him any helper.

53. They have no share in the kingdom. If they had they would not give the people (even so much as) the little groove in a date-stone.

54. Or do they feel jealous of the people for which Allâh has granted them out of His bounty and grace? (Let them remember) We surely gave the Children of Abraham the

Scripture and the Wisdom, and We also gave them a grand kingdom.

55. There are some among them who believe in it (- the Qur'ân) and there are others among them who turn away from it, and Gehenna shall suffice for burning (those who turn away).

56. We shall soon cast into Fire all those who deny Our Messages. As often as their skins are burnt up We will replace them with other (new) skins that they may (continually) taste (agony of) punishment. Surely, Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

57. And those who believe and do righteous deeds We shall certainly admit them to Gardens served with running streams. They shall abide therein for ever. There shall be for them (to keep their company) therein, (spiritually and physically) purified companions, and We shall admit them to (a place of) thick and pleasant shades (of Our mercy and protection).

58. Surely, Allâh commands you to make over the trusts (such as the affairs of the state) to those who are competent to it, and that when you judge between the people you should judge with justice. That which Allâh exhorts you to do is best indeed. Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

59. O you who believe! obey Allâh and obey (His) Messenger and those who are in authority among you (to decide your affairs). And should you differ among yourselves in anything, refer it to Allâh and His Messenger (and judge according to their teachings), if indeed you believe in Allâh and the Last Day. That is (in your) best (interests) and most commendable in the long run.

SECTION 9

60. **H**ave you not considered the case of those who assert that they believe in what has been revealed to you and what has been revealed before you? On the contrary they desire to refer (their disputes) for judgment to the transgressor, whereas they were commanded to reject him, and satan desires to lead them astray to a far off straying.

61. And when it is said to them, 'Come to (follow) that which Allâh has revealed and to the perfect Messenger;' you can see the hypocrites turn away from you with

aversion.

62. Then how is it that when a calamity befalls them because of their own misdoings they come to you swearing by Allâh (saying), 'We meant nothing but to do good and (to effect) concord and reconciliation?'

63. It is they of whom Allâh knows what is in their hearts. So turn aside from them, and admonish them and speak to them with regard to their ownselves an effective word.

64. And We have sent no Messenger but that he should be obeyed by the leave of Allâh. Had they, when they had acted contrary to their own interests, come to you and sought the protection of Allâh, and had this perfect Messenger (also) sought protection for them they would have surely found Allâh Oft-Returning with compassion, Ever Merciful.

65. But no, (not so as they have asserted,) by your Lord! they are no believers at all unless they refer all their disputes (that arise between them) to you for judgment, then they do not find any demur in their minds about the propriety of your judgment, and they submit (to your decisions) with entire submission.

66. If We had made it binding on them, 'Lay down your lives or go out of your homes,' they would not have done it, excepting a few of them. And if they had done what they are exhorted to do, it would surely have been better for them and conducive to a greater strength (in their faith);

67. And in that case We could certainly have bestowed upon them from Ourselves a great reward;

68. And We would have surely guided them in the exact right path.

69. And those who obey Allâh and this perfect Messenger, it is these who are with those upon whom Allâh has bestowed His blessings (in this life and the Hereafter) - the Prophets, the Truthful (in their belief, words and deeds), and the Bearers of Testimony (to the truth of the religion of Allâh by their words and deeds), as well as the Martyrs, and the Righteous (who stick to the right course under all circumstances), and how excellent companions they are!

70. This is the grace from Allâh (if such companions are available). And Allâh suffices as One Who is All Knowing.

SECTION 10

71. **O** you who believe! take your precautions always by way of security, then either march forward in separate companies or march forward in a body (according to the requirement of the war situation).

72. And indeed there is among you who tarries behind (and does not leave to fight in the cause of Allâh). Then, if a calamity befalls you, he says, `Allâh has been gracious to me, indeed, since I was not present with them.'

73. And if some good fortune comes to you from Allâh he would cry, as if there were no friendship between you and him, `Would that I had been with them, had it been so I should have indeed achieved a great success.'

74. Let those, who would prefer the Hereafter to the present life, fight in the cause of Allâh. And whoso fights in the cause of Allâh and is killed or conquers, We shall soon grant him a great reward.

75. What (excuse) have you (to offer) that you would not fight in the cause of Allâh and for (the rescue of) the weak and the down-trodden men and women and the children who all say, `Our Lord! take us out of this town of which the people are tyrants, and grant us a defender who comes from You and a helper by Your Own grace.'

76. Those who believe fight in the cause of Allâh, and those who choose disbelief fight in the cause of the transgressor;

fight you, therefore, against the friends of satan, surely, the stratagem of satan is ever weak.

SECTION 11

77. **H**ave you not considered those to whom it was said, `Withhold your hands (from fighting) and keep up Prayer and go on presenting *Zakât*?' But now when fighting has been made binding upon them, a section of them (- the hypocrites) begin to fear the people as they should fear Allâh or with a still stronger fear and they say, `Our Lord! why have You made fighting binding upon us? Would You not defer us to a near term (and grant us a little respite).' Say, `The enjoyment of this world is short (and negligible its pleasures) and the Hereafter is better for him who guards against evil

and keeps his duty to Allâh, and you shall not be done injustice to, not even a whit.'

78. Death will overtake you wherever you may be, even if you be in strongly built castles. And if any good occurs to them (- to the hypocrites) they say, 'This is from Allâh' and if evil befalls them they say, 'This is from you.' Say, 'Everything is from Allâh.' What is the matter with these people that they hardly understand (anything)?

79. Whatever of good comes to you (O people!) is from Allâh and whatever of evil befalls you is from your own selves. And We have sent you (O Muḥammad!) as a great Messenger for the good of all mankind, and Allâh suffices as a witness.

80. He that obeys this perfect Messenger, surely, has obeyed Allâh. As for those who turn away, then, We have not sent you as a guardian over them (so as to be held accountable for their actions).

81. And they (- the hypocrites) say (in your presence), '(We stand for) obedience,' but when they sally forth from your presence, a party of them spend the night scheming contrary to what you say, and Allâh is keeping a record of whatever they scheme by night. So turn away from them and put (your) trust in Allâh, and Allâh suffices as a Disposer of affairs.

82. Why do they not ponder over the Qur'ân? Had it been from anyone other than Allâh, they would surely have found a good deal of inconsistency therein.

83. And when there comes to them news (a mere rumour), be it a matter of peace or of fear, they spread it around. But had they referred it to the perfect Messenger and to those in authority among them, surely those of them who can elicit (the truth) from it would have understood it (and could make correct deductions). And had it not been for the grace of Allâh upon you and His mercy you would all have followed satan, excepting a few.

84. (Prophet!) fight, therefore, in the cause of Allâh, you are made responsible only for your own self, and urge on the faithful (to fight a war in self-defence). It may be, Allâh will restrain the fury of those who have chosen disbelief. Allâh is mightier in prowess and stronger in inflicting exemplary punishment.

85. And he who participates with others in doing good (to others, and intercedes for a righteous cause) there shall be for him a share in its credit, and he who participates with anyone in doing evil (and intercedes for a wrongful cause), has a like portion in its evil consequences. And Allâh controls the distribution of all things.

86. And whenever you are greeted with a prayer greet you with a better prayer or (at least) return the same. Verily, Allâh takes account of everything.

87. Allâh is He, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. He will most certainly (continue to) assemble you till the Day of Resurrection, there is no doubt about (the advent of) it; and there is none more truthful to his word than Allâh.

SECTION 12

88. **H**ow is it then with you, that you are divided into two parties regarding the hypocrites, while Allâh has overthrown them for (the sins) which they committed knowingly? Do you desire to guide him whom Allâh has forsaken? And he whom Allâh forsakes you shall not find for him a way (of his deliverance).

89. They would like you to reject the faith as they have done themselves, that you may be all alike; therefore, make no friends with them until they emigrate in the cause of Allâh. But if they turn back (to hostility), then capture them and kill them wherever you find them, and do not take anyone of them as a friend or as a helper.

90. Different, however, is the case of those who join a people with whom you have a pact, or of those who come over to you whilst their hearts are constricted from fighting against you or fighting against their (own) people. If Allâh had so willed He would have given them power over you, then they certainly would have fought against you. Hence if they leave you alone and do not fight against you but make you an offer of peace then Allâh allows you no way (of fighting) against them.

91. You will find others (among these hypocrites) who desire to be secure from you as well as safe from their own people. But whenever they are made to have a recourse to hostility (towards the Muslims) they fall headlong into it (as if under compulsion). Therefore if they do not leave you alone, nor make an offer of peace to you nor withhold their

hands (from being hostile), then capture them and kill them wherever you find them. And it is these against whom We have given you absolute authority.

SECTION 13

92. It is not befitting for a believer to kill another believer except (what happens) by mistake; and he who kills a believer by mistake let him set a believing captive of war free and pay blood-money to be handed over to the heirs of the deceased, unless they (- the heirs) forgo it as a free-will offering. But if he (- the slain) is a believer belonging to people hostile to you, then there is still only the (penance of) freeing a believing captive of war; and if he (- the slain) belongs to a people with whom you have a pact, then there is the payment of blood-money, to be handed over to his heirs and (also) the freeing of a believing captive of war; but he who does not find (the means to set free a captive of war,) shall fast two consecutive months, a method of penance (devised) by Allâh. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

93. And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Gehenna, he shall abide therein. Allâh has shown His displeasure against him and has (also) deprived him of His blessings and prepared for him a great punishment.

94. O you who believe! when you set forth in the cause of Allâh, then make proper investigations (before you dub anyone as a disbeliever), and do not say to him who offers you `Salâm', (- peace, the Muslim salutation to show himself thereby a Muslim,) `You are not a believer.' You seek the transitory goods of this life, but Allâh has good things in plenty with Him. You were such (disbelievers) before that (you accepted Islam), but Allâh has conferred His special favour on you, hence do make proper investigations. Surely, Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

95. Such of the believers as stay (at home) excepting the disabled ones, and those who strive in the cause of Allâh with their substance and their lives, are not equal. Allâh has exalted in rank those who strive (in His cause) with their substance and their lives above those who stay (at home), and yet to each one Allâh has promised good but Allâh has indeed granted eminence to those who strive (in His cause) over those who stay (at home) by giving them much better reward.

96. (It will consist of) exalted ranks bestowed by Him and (His) protection and mercy, for Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 14

97. Surely, the angels will ask those whom they cause to die while they were acting unjustly towards themselves (by prolonging their stay in the land of the disbelievers and thus transgressing against their own souls), `What circumstances were you in

(that you did not avow Islâm openly)?' They will reply, 'We were treated as weak in the country (to express our belief).' They (- the angels) will say, 'Was not Allâh's earth spacious enough for you to have emigrated therein?' It is these whose abode shall be Gehenna and an evil destination it is!

98. Different however is the case of those (actually) weak - men, women and children, who can find no device, nor means (to emigrate).

99. As to these Allâh may pardon them (for their helplessness), for Allâh is the Effacer of sins, Most Forgiving.

100. And whoso emigrates in the cause of Allâh will find in the earth an abundant place of refuge and plenty of resources. And whoso sets forth from his home, emigrating in the cause of Allâh and His Messenger, then death overtakes him, he shall have his reward with Allâh for sure. Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 15

101. And when you are journeying in the land there is no blame on you that you shorten the Prayer, if you fear that those who disbelieve may give you trouble. Verily, the disbelievers are your open enemies.

102. And (Prophet!) when you are amongst them (- the Muslims in the battle-field) leading the Prayer for them (in the time of fear,) let a party of them join you in Prayer retaining their arms. When they have performed their prostrations (and their one *Rak`at* is over) let them take their positions at the rear of the main body (for protection); and let another party who have not yet said Prayer come forward and join Prayer with you, taking their necessary precautions of defence and retaining their arms. Those who have disbelieved would wish you to be heedless of your arms and stores so that they may fall upon you united and all of a sudden. And there is no blame on you if you are suffering inconvenience on account of rain or if you are taken ill, that you lay aside your arms (relieving yourselves), but (even then) you must take your necessary precautions of defence. Verily, Allâh has prepared a humiliating punishment for the disbelievers.

103. And when you have finished the Prayer, then remember Allâh standing and sitting, and (lying) on your sides (in short in all positions and in all conditions). And when you feel secure (from danger) then observe Prayer (in the normal prescribed form). Verily, Prayer is enjoined on the believers (to be performed) at the fixed times.

104. And do not be slack in pursuing these (hostile) people. If you have suffered hardships they (too) have suffered as you did but (the superiority you have over them is that) you hope from Allâh what they do not. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

SECTION 16

105. We have surely revealed to you this perfect Book comprising the truth, that you judge between the people (enlightened) by that knowledge which Allâh has given you, and do not become a partisan of the dishonest.

106. And seek protection of Allâh. Verily, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

107. And do not plead on behalf of those who act dishonestly towards themselves. Surely, Allâh does not love him who is given to dishonest ways, (and is) a great sinner.

108. They seek to hide (their crimes) from the people, but they cannot hide from Allâh; and He is present with them when they pass the night in holding discourses which does not please Him. And Allâh encompasses all that they do (until He puts an end to their evil ways).

109. Behold! you are of those who may plead on their behalf in the present life. But who will plead on their behalf with Allâh on the Day of Resurrection, or who will be a disposer of their affairs?

110. And whoever commits evil and does injustice to himself and then asks forgiveness of Allâh, will find Allâh Most Forgiving, Ever Merciful.

111. And whoever commits a sin deliberately, commits it only against himself. Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

112. But one who commits a fault or a sin and imputes it to an innocent person (for the sake of his own defence), he certainly bears the burden of calumny along with that of a flagrant sin.

SECTION 17

113. (Prophet!) a party of those (who are false to themselves) had certainly made up their minds to ruin you, but for the grace of Allâh and His mercy upon you, they ruin none but themselves, and they can do you no harm. And Allâh has revealed to you

this perfect Book and the Wisdom and has taught you that which you did not know. Allâh's favour upon you is great indeed (and you enjoy His protection in temporal as well as in spiritual matters).

114. There is no good in many of their secret conferences. But (good lies only in the secret deliberations of) those who enjoin charity, equitable dealings or making peace between people. And whoso does that, seeking the pleasure of Allâh, We shall soon bestow a great reward on him.

115. And as to him who opposes the Messenger in a hostile manner after true guidance has become clear to him, and follows a way other than that of the believers, We will let him pursue the way which he is (himself) pursuing, and shall cast him into Gehenna, and an evil destination it is!

SECTION 18

116. Allâh does not forgive (without repentance on the part of the sinner) that a partner be associated with Him though He forgives everything short of that to whomsoever He will. And he who associates a partner with Allâh has strayed, indeed, a far off straying.

117. Whatever they (- the polytheists) call on besides Him are none but lifeless objects (and false deities). Infact, they call on none but satan, the rebellious,

118. Whom Allâh has deprived of His blessings and who had said, `I will certainly take from Your servants an appointed portion,

119. `And certainly, I will lead them astray and assuredly I will arouse vain desires in them, and I will incite them (to polytheistic practices) and they will slit the ears of cattle (as a mark of their dedication to their deities), and I will most assuredly make them change (for the worse,) the things created by Allâh.' And he who takes this satan to him for a friend rather than Allâh, has of course suffered an evident loss.

120. He (- satan) holds out promises to them and arouses false hopes in them. But satan promises nothing but vain things to them.

121. It is these (- his dupes) whose abode is Gehenna and they shall find no way of escape from it.

122. And those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, We will certainly admit them into Gardens served with running streams, there they shall abide for ever. Allâh's promise is unfulfilling. And who is more truthful than Allâh in word.

123. (O people!) it (- the salvation) shall not be according to your vain desires, nor according to the vain desires of the people of the Scripture. He who does evil shall be recompensed accordingly, and he shall find for himself no patron nor a helper besides Allâh.

124. But whosoever does deeds of righteousness be it male or female, provided he (or she) is a believer, it is these, then

who shall enter Paradise and shall not be treated unjustly even (so much as) the groove in a date-stone.

125. And who is better in faith than one who submits his whole attention to Allâh and he is a doer of good to others and follows the religion of Abraham, the upright? And Allâh had taken Abraham for a special friend.

126. And to Allâh belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And Allâh encompasses each and everything.

SECTION 19

127. And they seek your ruling with regard to (marrying) women (having no husbands). Say, `Allâh gives you His ruling about them and He reminds you the ruling as has (already) been mentioned to you in this Book regarding women without husbands (- widows, divorced, or yet to be married) to whom you do not give their rights prescribed for them, yet you feel inclined to get them in marriage (with a mind to take over their belongings) and (the ruling is also regarding) the helpless children. (He enjoins you to) stand firm in observing equity towards the orphans. And (remember) whatever good you do Allâh knows it very well.

128. And if a woman fears high-handedness or indifference on the part of her husband then there is no blame on them both that they may be amicably reconciled to each other and reconciliation is the best. And covetousness and greed is ever present in human minds, but if you do good and guard against (this) evil, (you will find) then Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

129. It is not within your power (as far as natural feelings of love and devotion are concerned,) to maintain perfect balance between wives (and to treat them with equal

justice) even though you be ever so eager; but do not incline with a total inclination (towards one so that you completely sever your relations with the other) so as to leave her like some thing suspended (as virtually deserted). And if you keep things right and guard against evil, then surely Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

130. And if they (-the husband and the wife) choose to separate (through divorce obtained by either of them), Allâh will make both independent and free from want out of His bounty. And Allâh is Ever Bountiful, All-Wise.

131. And to Allâh belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And We enjoined those who were given the Scripture before you and (We enjoin) you also to take Allâh as a shield and keep your duty to Him; but if you disobey, then (remember that) to Allâh belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And Allâh is Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy.

132. And to Allâh belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth and Sufficient is Allâh as Disposer of affairs.

133. If He so will He can make you pass away, O people! and bring another people (in your stead), and Allâh is Possessor of power to do all this.

134. Whosoever seeks the reward of this world let him know that the reward of this world and (that of) the Hereafter is with Allâh. Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

SECTION 20

135. **O** you who believe! be strict observers of justice, bearers of true evidence for the sake of Allâh, even though it be against yourselves or (against your) parents or near of kin; (let neither of the parties) whether (the one against whom or the one in favour of whom you bear evidence) be rich or poor (weigh with yourself). (Bear in mind) Allâh is more regardful of them both (than you are), therefore, do not follow your low desires in order to be able to do justice. And if you distort or evade (true evidence) remember Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

136. **O** you who believe! maintain faith in Allâh and in His Messenger and in this perfect Book which He has revealed to His perfect Messenger and in the Scripture He revealed before. And whoso denies Allâh and His angels and His Books and His Messengers and the Last Day, he has indeed strayed far away (from the truth).

137. Verily, those who believed and then disbelieved, again believed, again disbelieved and then became worse in disbelief, it is not for Allâh to pardon them, nor to guide them in the (right) way (to make them successful).

138. Tell the hypocrites clearly that a woeful punishment awaits them.

139. Do those who hold the disbelievers for friends to the exclusion of the believers, seek honour at their hands? Let them remember that all honour truly belongs to Allâh alone.

140. And He has already revealed to you in this Book (the commandment) that when you hear Allâh's Messages being denied and being ridiculed you should not sit with such (absurd people) unless they engage in a topic other than that, for in case (you do not leave their company) you will be indeed like them. Allâh is going to assemble the hypocrites and the disbelievers in Gehenna one and all.

141. Those (- hypocrites) who await (news) about you, then if you win a victory by the grace of Allâh they say, `Is it not that we were with you (and on your side)? But should there be for the disbelievers a share of it they will say (to them), `Did we not goad you to wage war; and did we not save you from the harm of the faithful?' Then Allâh will judge between you on the Day of Resurrection; and Allâh will never let the disbelievers have a way (to prevail) against

the believers.

SECTION 21

142. Verily, the hypocrites abandon Allâh but He will abandon them. And when they stand up for Prayer they stand listlessly to show off to the people (that they worship) yet they remember Allâh but little.

143. Wavering between that (- disbelief and belief), belonging neither to these nor to those. And he whom Allâh causes to be ruined, you shall not find a way (of escape) for him.

144. O you who believe! do not take disbelievers for friends to the exclusion of believers. Do you mean to provide Allâh with clear plea against yourselves.

145. The hypocrites shall surely be in the lowest reaches of the Fire. You shall never find any helper for them.

146. Yet such of these (- hypocrites) who turn with sincere repentance and amend (themselves) and hold fast to Allâh and become sincere in their allegiance to Allâh, it is these who are with the believers and Allâh will soon grant these believers a great reward.

147. What Allâh has to do with punishing you if you be grateful (to Him) and believe (in Him). Allâh is Ever-Appreciating, All-Knowing.

Part VI

148. Allâh does not like the public utterance of the hurtful speech, except (it is by) one who has been done injustice to. And Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

149. If you do a good deed openly or do it in private or pardon an injury (done to you) remember Allâh is Ever Pardoning, All-Powerful.

150. Verily, those who disbelieve in Allâh and His Messengers, (or while believing) choose to make a distinction between Allâh and His Messengers, and say, 'We believe in some and disbelieve in others,' intending to strike a course in between,

151. It is these who are veritable disbelievers and We have prepared a humiliating punishment for such disbelievers.

152. (On the other hand) those who believe in Allâh and (all of) His Messengers and (while believing) make no distinction between any of them, it is to these whom He will soon give their rewards. Indeed, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 22

153. The people of the Scripture ask you to bring down upon them a Book from the heaven. They made a (more wicked and) greater demand than that from Moses, when they said, 'Show us Allâh openly (face to face);' then a destructive punishment overtook them for their wrongdoing. Then they took the calf (for worship) after clear commandments had come to them, but We pardoned (them) even that. And We gave Moses an undisputed authority.

154. And We raised the Mount above them while taking their covenant (at the foot of the Mount), and We said to them, 'Enter the gate (of the town) submissively,' and We said to them, 'Do not violate the (law of) Sabbath.' And We took from them a solemn covenant.

155. Then because of their breaking their covenant and their denial of the Messages of Allâh and their antagonising the Prophets without a just cause and their saying, 'Our hearts are uncircumcised (and so cannot hear).' Nay, (the truth however is) Allâh has set a seal upon their hearts because of their disbelief so that they believe but a little.

156. And (The Lord has done this) because of their denying (Jesus) and because of

their uttering a great calumny against Mary,

157. And because of their (falsely) claiming, 'We did kill the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the (false) Messenger of Allâh,' whereas they killed him not, nor did they cause his death by crucifixion, but he was made to them to resemble (one crucified to death). Verily, those who differ therein are certainly in (a state of) confusion about it. They have no definite knowledge of the matter but are only following a conjecture. They did not kill him, this much is certain (and thus could not prove the Christ as accursed).

158. Rather Allâh exalted him with all honour to His presence. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

159. And there is none of the people of the Scripture (- the Jews and the Christians) but most certainly will believe in this (incident, that Jesus died on the cross) before his (actual) death, (while as a matter of fact they have no sure knowledge about Jesus dying on the cross). And on the Day of Resurrection he (- Jesus) will be a witness against them.

160. Then (by way of punishing them) on account of the transgression of those who judaised, We made unlawful to them certain of the good and pure things which had been allowed to them before, and that too on account of their causing hindrances to many (people, and their own staying away) from Allâh's way;

161. And (also on account of) their taking interest and usury though they were forbidden it, and because of their misappropriating people's belongings. And We have prepared a woeful punishment for those among them who disbelieve.

162. But those among them who are firmly grounded in knowledge and the faithful who believe in that (Divine Message) which has been revealed to you and that which was revealed before you, and (especially) the observers of Prayers, and those who go on presenting the *Zakât*, and believe in Allâh and the Last Day, it is they We will certainly bestow on them a great reward.

SECTION 23

163. Surely, We have sent down (Our) revelation to you as We sent it down to Noah and the Prophets (who came) after him, and We sent revelation to Abraham, Ismâîl, Isaac, Jacob and his children and to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron and Solomon. And We gave David a Scripture.

164. And (there are some) Messengers whom We have mentioned to you before and (some) Messengers We have not mentioned them to you, and Allâh spoke (to you as

He spoke) to Moses in explicit words at great length.

165. All these Messengers (were) Bearers of good tidings (to the believers) and Warners (to the disbelievers, and were

sent) so that people may have no plea against Allâh after (the advent of) the Messengers. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

166. (They deny the Qur'ân) but Allâh (Himself) bears witness through His revelation to you that He has revealed it (- the Qur'ân pregnant) with His knowledge, and the angels bear witness (as well). Yet Allâh suffices for a Witness.

167. Those who disbelieve and hinder (others) from (following) Allâh's way, have indeed strayed, a far off straying.

168. Those who have disbelieved and have associated partners with Him, it is not for Allâh to protect them, nor will He show them any way

169. Other than the way leading to Gehenna, wherein they shall live for long; indeed that would be easy for Allâh.

170. O mankind! this Messenger has indeed come to you with the truth from your Lord, so believe, it will be better for you. But if you disbelieve know that whatever is in the heavens and in the earth belongs to Him. Allâh is ever All-Knowing, All-Wise.

171. O people of the Scripture! do not go beyond the limits (of propriety) in the matter of your religion, nor say anything regarding Allâh except that which is perfectly true. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary was only a Messenger of Allâh, and (a fulfillment of) His word which He communicated to Mary, and a mercy from Him. Believe, therefore, in Allâh and in all His Messengers, and do not say, '(There are three (Gods)).' Refrain (from following this doctrine) it will be better for you. Verily, Allâh is the One and only God. He is Holy. Far above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And Allâh suffices as a Disposer of affairs.

SECTION 24

172. The Messiah never disdains to be (looked upon as) a servant of Allâh, nor do the angels who are nearest (to Him consider the fact degrading for themselves). And whoever disdains from His service (and worship) and behaves arrogantly, (the day will come when) He will gather them all together to Himself.

173. (On that Day) as to those who believed and did deeds of righteousness, He will give them their rewards in full and will add to them even more out of His bounty. But as for those who disdained (to worship God) and acted arrogantly, He will inflict a woeful punishment on them all. And apart from Allâh they will find for themselves no patron nor helper.

174. O you people! a manifest proof has indeed come to you from your Lord, and We have sent down a clear light to you which distinguishes (the right from the wrong).

175. Now as to those who believe in Allâh and hold fast to Him, He will surely admit them to His mercy and to (His) grace and will guide them along a straight and right path (leading) to Himself.

176. They ask you of your ruling (in the matter of inheritance of a *kalâlah*). Say, 'Allâh gives you His ruling concerning *kalâlah* (- one who has neither parents left nor a child).' If a man dies (and) he has no child but leaves (only) a sister (behind), then she shall inherit half of what he leaves. Likewise he (- the brother who is *kalâlah*) shall inherit her (whole property) if she (- the sister) has no child (and dies). But if there be two sisters (or more) then they shall receive two third of what he (- brother who is *kalâlah*) leaves. And if they (- the survivors) be brethren, men and women, then for the male is the equal of the portion of two females. Allâh makes (His commandments) clear to you lest you should err. And Allâh knows all things well.

Chapter

5

Al-Mâ'idah

(The Table Spread with Food)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mâ'idah).

1. **O** you who believe! abide by all (your) obligations. All quadrupeds (of the class) of cattle (and feeding on plants) are made lawful to you (for food) other than those which are enumerated to you (as forbidden). Yet you are forbidden (to kill) game whilst in a pilgrim's garb or in the Sacred Precincts. Verily, Allâh decrees what He intends.

2. O you who believe! do not desecrate the symbols (that lead to the knowledge and realisation) of Allâh, nor any sacred month, nor the animals brought as an offering, nor those animals wearing necklaces (as a mark of sacrifice during the

Hajj), nor those (Pilgrims) repairing to the Sacred House, seeking favour and grace of their Lord and (His) good pleasure. And when you are free from Pilgrimage, having taken off the Pilgrims garb and are off the Sacred Precincts you may go hunting. And do not let the enmity of a people (and your grievances) that they hindered you from the *Masjid al-Harâm* (- Holy Mosque at Makkah) incite you to transgression (against them). Help one another in righteousness and in warding off evil, but do not help one another to commit sin and transgression, and take Allâh as a shield. Surely, Allâh is Severe in retribution.

3. You are forbidden (to take for food) an animal which dies of itself (a carrion), and the blood (poured forth), also the flesh of swine, and that which is immolated in the name of anyone other than Allâh, and that which has been strangled, and that which has been beaten to death, and that which has been killed by a fall, and that which has been gored to death, and that of which a wild beast has eaten, except what you have duly slaughtered (before its expiry). And (also forbidden to you is) that which has been slaughtered at altars (set up for false deities), and (you are also not permitted) that you seek to know your lot by the divining arrows. These are all acts of disobedience. This day have those who disbelieve despaired of (harming) your Faith. So do not hold them in awe but stand in awe of Me. This day have I perfected for you your faith and completed My blessings upon you and have chosen Islam for your religion (so abide by all these limits imposed upon you with regard to taking your food); but he who is forced by extreme hunger without being wilfully inclined to sin then, surely (he will find that) Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

4. They ask you what is made lawful for them. Say, `All good and pure things are made lawful for you. Also (made lawful) is the game held down by those birds and beasts of prey which you have trained, provided you set them at it to catch (it living)

for you, (without their own eating from it after killing it), since you train them according to the knowledge Allâh has given you. So eat of that which they hold down for you and pronounce thereon the name of Allâh (while slaughtering it or while sending the hunting creatures after it). And take Allâh as a shield. Surely, Allâh is Swift in reckoning.

5. This day all good and pure things have been made lawful for you. And the food of those who have been given the Scripture is lawful for you (provided the food does not include anything forbidden in Islam), and your food is lawful for them. And (lawful for you for marriage are) the chaste women from among the believing women and chaste women from among those who have been given the Scripture before you, provided that you pay them their dowers (to live with them) after contracting valid marriage, not committing fornication, nor seeking secret love affairs by taking secret paramours. And whoever denies the commandments of (the true) faith, no doubt (he will find) his deeds have gone in vain and he will be of the losers in the Hereafter.

SECTION 2

6. **O** you who believe! when you get up for Prayer (perform the ablution, so as to) wash your faces and your hands upto the elbows, and pass your (wet) hands over your heads (for *mashah*), and (wash) your feet upto the ankles. And if you are under an obligation to perform a bath, then wash yourselves thoroughly clean by a bath. But if you have been taken ill or on a journey (while under obligation to take a bath) or one of you comes from the privy, or you have had (sexual) contact with women and you do not find water, then have recourse to clean pure dust and wipe your faces and your hands with it (as *Tayammum*). Allâh does not intend to impose any impediments on you, but He intends to purify you (internally and externally) and complete His blessings upon you so that you may give (Him) thanks.

7. And (O Muslims!) remember Allâh's favour which rests upon you (in the form of the Qur'ân) and (to abide by its teachings) His covenant to which He has bound you, when you said, 'We hear (your commandments) and we obey (them).' And take Allâh as a shield. Verily, Allâh knows well what is in the inmost depths of the minds.

8. O you who believe! be steadfast, upholders of the right for the cause of Allâh, bearers of true witness in equity, and do not let the enmity of a people move you at all to act otherwise than equitably. Be equitable (always); that is nearer to being secure against evil, and take Allâh as a shield. Surely, Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

9. Allâh has promised protection and a great reward for those who believe and do deeds of righteousness.

10. But as to those who disbelieve and reject Our Messages it is these who are the fellows of the blazing Fire.

11. O you who believe! remember Allâh's favour upon you when a people had made up their minds to lay their hands on you, but He withheld their hands from you; and take Allâh as a shield. The believers should then put (their) trust in Allâh.

SECTION 3

12. And Allâh, indeed, took a covenant from the Children of Israel, and We raised twelve chieftains from among them. And Allâh said, 'Surely, I am with you. If you observe prayer and present the purifying dues and believe in My

Messengers and lend them support in a respectful manner, and perform an act of virtue and cut off a portion of your goodly gifts for (the cause of) Allâh, I will certainly absolve you of your sins and will surely admit you to Gardens served with running streams. But if anyone of you disbelieves after that surely he has strayed away from the right way.

13. So on account of their breaking their covenant We deprived them of Our blessings, and We let their hearts become hardened. Now they pervert the words from their proper context (of the Divine Book) and (in doing so) they have abandoned a good portion of what they were (reminded of and) exhorted with. And you will never cease to discover one dishonesty (or the other) on their part, with the exception of a few of them; so pardon them and pass (them) over. Verily, Allâh loves the doers of good to others.

14. We took the covenant of those (also) who say, 'We are Christians;' but they have abandoned a good portion of what they were (reminded of and) exhorted with. So We have kindled enmity and hatred between (various sects of) them till the Day of Resurrection. And Allâh will soon inform them of all their machination.

15. O people of the Scripture! Our Messenger, who has come to you, unfolds many teachings of the Scripture which you had kept hidden, and many a thing he passes over. There has come to you, indeed, from Allâh a Light and the perspicuous Book (- the Qur'ân) that distinguishes the right from the wrong.

16. Allâh guides with this (Book) those who follow His good pleasure to the ways of peace (both physical and spiritual), and He takes them out of all kinds of darkness

into the light, by His leave, and guides them along the exact right path.

17. They have only disbelieved who say, `Verily, Allâh - He is the Messiah, son of Mary.' Say, `Who then had any power to stand in the way of Allâh when He intended to put an end to the Messiah, son of Mary, and his mother, and all those that were in the earth?' And to Allâh belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between the two. He creates what He will, for He is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

18. The Jews and the Christians say (in respect of each of themselves), `We are the sons of Allâh, and His loved ones.' Say, `Why then does He punish you for your sins? Nay, you are but human beings like many of His creation.' He protects whom He will and punishes whom He will. To Allâh belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between the two and to Him is the (final) return (of all).

19. O people of the Scripture! there has already come to you Our Messenger who makes things clear to you after a break in the series of Messengers lest you should say, `There has not come to us any Bearer of good tidings, nor a Warner.' Now there has, indeed, come to you a Bearer of good tidings and a Warner. And Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

SECTION 4

20. And (recall the time) when Moses said to his people, `O my people! remember Allâh's blessings upon you when He raised Prophets among you and made you masters of your own affairs, and He gave you what He has not given to any other of your contemporary peoples.

21. `O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allâh has ordained for you, and turn not on your backs, for then you turn losers.'

22. They said, `O Moses! surely there are in that (land) arrogant and exceedingly powerful people and we shall never enter it until they depart from it, but if they depart from it, then we will certainly enter (it).'

23. (Thereupon) two men (- Joshua and Caleb) from among those who feared (their Lord) and on whom Allâh had bestowed His blessings said, `Enter the gate (of the city advancing) against them, for when once you have entered it you shall surely be victorious, and in Allâh you should put your trust when you are believers (in Him).'

24. They said, `O Moses! we will, certainly, never enter it so long as they are therein, so go forth you and your Lord, then fight (there) you two, surely, we will sit down here (and watch).'

25. (Moses) said, `My Lord! surely, I have no control but on myself and my brother (Aaron), therefore bring about separation between us and these disobedient people.'

26. (God) said, `Verily, it (- the Holy Land) is forbidden to them for forty years. They shall wander about in the earth distracted and in confusion, so grieve not over these disobedient people.'

SECTION 5

27. And relate to them with the truth the great news of the two sons of Adam, when they (each) made an offering, and it was accepted from one of them and was not accepted from the other. (The latter whose offering was not accepted, out of jealousy for the other) said, `I will slay you.' He replied, `(How can I be held responsible for the rejection of your offering;) Allâh accepts only from those who become secure against evil,

28. `Should you lay your hand on me to kill me, I am not at all going to lay my hand on you to kill you. I do fear Allâh, the Lord of the worlds;

29. `I would rather like you to bear (the burden of) the sin (committed) against me (- the sin of the murder), and (that of) your own sin (committed previously due to which your offering was not accepted), and thus you would become of the fellows of the Fire.' Such indeed is the recompense of the wrongdoers.

30. But (the baser instincts of) his mind prompted him (whose offering was not accepted) to kill his brother (whose offering was accepted), so he killed him, wherefore he became one of the losers.

31. Then Allâh sent a raven which scratched into the earth so as to show him how he might cover his brother's dead body. He said, `Woe is me! Am I unable to be even like this raven so that I may cover the dead body of my brother?' And he became one of the remorseful.

32. Because of this (incident) We laid down for the Children of Israel that he who kills a human being - unless it be for (murdering) a person or for (reforming) disorder in the country, it is as if he has killed entire human race. And whoso saves a (human) life it is as if he has saved the entire mankind. Certainly, Our Messengers had already

come to them with clear arguments, yet (even after that) many of them were certainly those who committed excesses in the land.

33. The only recompense of those who make war against Allâh and His Messenger and who strive hard to create disorder in the land, is (according to the nature of the crime) that they be executed or crucified to death, or that their hands and feet be cut off on account of their opposition, or their (free) movement in the land be banned (by exile or imprisonment). This would mean ignominy for them in this world and there awaits them in the Hereafter a severe punishment.

34. Different, however, is the case of those (criminals) who turn with repentance before you overpower them. And know that, surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 6

35. **O** you who believe! take Allâh as a shield and seek means of nearness to Him, and struggle for His cause, so that you may attain your goal.

36. As for those who disbelieve even if they come to possess all that is in the earth and as much more (to offer) that they might redeem themselves therewith from the punishment of the Day of Resurrection, it would not be accepted from them. There awaits them a grievous punishment.

37. They would wish to come out of the Fire but they will not be able to come out of it (of themselves). There awaits them a long-lasting punishment.

38. And as for the man addicted to theft and the woman addicted to theft, cut off their hands in retribution of (the crime) that they have committed - an exemplary punishment from Allâh. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

39. But whoso turns in repentance after his committing an unjust deed and reforms (himself) then surely Allâh will turn to him with mercy. Verily, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

40. Do you not know that Allâh is He to Whom belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth? He punishes whom He will and protects whom He will. And Allâh is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

41. O Messenger! let not those who vie with one another in (- spreading) disbelief, - those of them who say with their mouths, 'we believe', but their hearts believe not, and those of them who judaised, grieve you. They are the acceptors of falsehood and are those who listen for conveying to other people who have not yet come to you.

They tear the words (of God) from their proper places (and pervert the meanings thereof and) say, 'If you are given this (sort of commandment) accept it and if you are not given this, then be careful.' And he (on) whom Allâh desires (to inflict) His punishment, you can do nothing to save him from (the punishment of) Allâh. It is these whose hearts Allâh has not been pleased to purify. Ignominy is their lot in this world, and there awaits them in the Hereafter a great punishment.

42. (They are) habitual listeners to falsehood, too much given to eat things forbidden. If they come to you (seeking your judgment) judge between them or turn aside from them. If you turn aside from them, they shall do you no harm at all. But if you judge, then judge between them with justice, for surely Allâh loves the just.

43. And how should they appoint you their judge whilst they have with them the Torah which contains the law (and judgment) of Allâh. Yet they turn their backs even after that (you judge between them). And such people are not true believers (neither in the Qur'ân nor in the Torah).

SECTION 7

44. Verily, it is We Who revealed Torah wherein there was guidance and light. According to it the Prophets, who submitted themselves (to Us), did judge for those who judaised and (so also did) the teachers of Divine knowledge, and those learned (in the Law); (they did it) because they were required to preserve some of the Scripture of Allâh and (because) they stood guardians over it. Hence hold not people in awe but stand in awe of Me and do not barter away My Messages for a trifling gain. And he who does not judge according to that (law) which Allâh has revealed, it is these

who are the real disbelievers.

45. And therein We laid down (the following law) for them (- the Jews); life for life and eye for eye, and nose for nose, and ear for ear, and tooth for tooth and for (other) injuries an equitable retaliation. But he who chooses to forgo (the right) thereto for the sake of Allâh, it shall be an expiation of sins for him. And whoever does not judge according to (the law) which Allâh has revealed, these it is who are the very unjust.

46. And We sent Jesus, son of Mary, in the footsteps of these (Prophets), fulfilling that which was (revealed) before him, of the Torah, and We gave him the Evangel which contained guidance and light, fulfilling that which was (revealed) before it, of the Torah, and was a (means of) guidance and an exhortation for those who guard against evil.

47. And let the followers of the Evangel judge according to what Allâh has revealed therein. And indeed those who do not judge according to what Allâh has revealed it is these who are the real disobedient.

48. And We have revealed to you this perfect Book comprising the truth and wisdom, fulfilling (the prophecies of) the Scripture which was present before it and stands as a guardian over it, then judge between them according to that which Allâh has revealed (of the Qur'ân), and do not deviate from the truth that has come to you in order to follow their low desires. For each one of you did We prescribe a spiritual law and a well-defined way (- a code in secular matters). And if Allâh had so willed He might have made you all one community (by force), but He wishes to show your perfection (the capacities and capabilities) that He has endowed you with. Therefore vie one with another in (doing) good deeds. To Allâh is the return of you all, then He will inform you as to that wherein you were at variance.

49. And (We have revealed this perfect Book to you) that you judge between them according to that (law) which Allâh has revealed and do not follow their low desires, rather be on your guard against them lest they should (tempt you and) cause you fall into trouble due to some part of (the commandments) that Allâh has revealed to you. If they turn back (showing disregard to Our revelations), know that Allâh intends to punish them for some of their sins. Indeed, a large number of human beings are certainly disobedient.

50. Do they seek to enforce the law of (the days of) ignorance? And who is better than Allâh in giving judgment for a people who are convinced (of their faith)?

SECTION 8

51. **O** you who believe! do not take these Jews and the Christians for allies. They are

allies of one to another (when against you), and whoso from amongst you takes them for allies, is indeed one of them. Verily, Allâh does not guide the unjust people to attain their goal.

52. Now you shall see those in whose hearts is a disease (of hypocrisy) vying one with another towards them (- the Jews and Christians to take them for allies). They say, 'We are afraid lest a misfortune should befall us.' But it is well nigh that Allâh will bring about a victory or some other (more remarkable) event (in favour of Islam) from Himself; then they will become more remorseful (and ashamed) for what they secretly harboured in their minds.

53. And those who have believed will say (at that time), 'Are these they who swore by Allâh their most solemn oaths that they were surely with you?' Their deeds have gone waste (and their machination failed), so that they have become the losers.

54. O you who believe! if anyone of you should renounce his Faith (let him remember that) Allâh will bring forth (in his stead) a people (more zealous in faith) whom He will love and who will love Him, who will be kind and humble towards the believers, and mighty and firm against the disbelievers. They will strive hard in the cause of Allâh and will not fear the reproach of any fault-finder. (Remember) these (virtues) are (to be attained through) Allâh's bounty which He bestows upon whomsoever He will. And Allâh is Bountiful, All-Knowing.

55. Your real ally is only Allâh, and His Messenger, and those who believe, who observe Prayer and present the *Zakât*, and they bow down (in obedience to Allâh).

56. And whoso takes for his allies Allâh and His Messenger and those who believe, (let him know that surely such a one is the party of Allâh) and it is the party of Allâh that is truly triumphant.

SECTION 9

57. **O** you who believe! do not make those who take your religion lightly and consider it worthless, from among those who were given the Scripture before you and the other infidels, your allies. And keep your duty to Allâh if you are (true) believers.

58. And when you call (the people) to Prayer, they take it lightly and consider it worthless. They do so because they are a people who do not understand.

59. Say, 'O People of the Scripture! do you find fault with us only because we believe in Allâh and in that which has been revealed to us, and in that which was revealed before (us)? Whereas most of you are disobedient (to God).'

60. Say, `Shall I inform you of those who shall receive from Allâh a recompense worse than that of those (who try to find fault with Us)? They are those whom Allâh has deprived of His blessings and upon whom He brought His displeasure and indignation and of whom He has made (as) apes and swine and who serve the transgressor (- the devil). It is these who are indeed worse-placed and farther astray from the right path.'

61. And when they come to you they say, `We believe,' while, infact, they enter without faith and go out without it. And Allâh knows best all they conceal.

62. And you will find many of them vying one with another in committing sin and transgression and being too much given to eat things forbidden. How evil is that which they practise!

63. Why do not the teachers of divine knowledge and those learned in the Law prohibit them from their blasphemic talk and deeds and their being too much given to eating things forbidden? Evil indeed is their machination.

64. And the Jews said, `Allâh's hand is fettered (from assisting the helpless Muslims).' Fettered are their own hands (from assisting the enemies of Islam), and they are deprived of blessings of Allâh for what they said. Nay, (the truth of the matter is that) both His hands are wide open (and free). He spends as He pleases. And that which has been revealed to you from your Lord will most surely increase many of them in inordinate rebellion and in disbelief. And We have kindled enmity and hatred among them till the Day of Resurrection. Every time they kindle a fire for war, Allâh puts it out, but they strive to create disorder in the land, whereas Allâh does not like the creators of disorder.

65. And if the people of the Scripture had only believed and guarded against evil, We would surely have absolved them of their sins and We would surely make them enter Gardens of bliss.

66. If they had only observed the Torah and the Evangel and that which has been revealed to them (now) from their Lord, they would surely have eaten (of good things) from above them and from under their feet, (thus would have enjoyed the boons of the heaven and the earth). Though there is amongst them a community who

is moderate (and of balanced mind), yet a large number of them are such that evil are their deeds.

SECTION 10

67. **O Messenger!** convey (to the people the entire message) well that has been revealed to you from your Lord; and if you do it not, you have not (at all) conveyed His message as it ought to have been. And Allâh will protect you from all (the onslaughts of) people (on your life). Verily, Allâh will not let the disbelieving people have their way.

68. Say, `O People of the Scripture! you stand no where unless you observe the Torah and the Evangel and that (- Qur'ân) which has (now) been revealed to you from your Lord.' And certainly that which has been revealed to you from your Lord will increase many of them in ordinate rebellion and disbelief; so do not grieve for the disbelieving people.

69. Verily, those who have believed and those who judaised and the Sabians and the Christians, whosoever believes in Allâh and the Last Day and does righteous deeds, they shall have no cause of fear nor shall they ever grieve.

70. Surely, We took a covenant from the Children of Israel and We sent Messengers to them. Every time there came to them a Messenger with that (Message) which did not suit their fanciful desires, (they defied him so that) some they treated as liars and others they sought to kill.

71. And they thought there would be no punishment (for them) so they willfully became blind and deaf; (then they sought Allâh's pardon) then Allâh turned to them (with mercy with the advent of Jesus), yet again many of them became blind and deaf. And Allâh is Watchful of what they do.

72. Indeed, they have disbelieved who say, `Allâh - He is the Messiah, son of Mary,' whereas the Messiah (himself) said, `O Children of Israel, worship Allâh Who is my Lord and your Lord.' Surely whoso associates partners with Allâh, him has Allâh forbidden Paradise, and his resort will be the Fire and these transgressors shall have no helpers.

73. Most certainly, they have disbelieved who say, `Allâh is the third of the three.' But infact there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship except One God. And if they refrain not from what they say, there shall certainly befall those who disbelieve from among them, a grievous punishment.

74. Will they not turn with repentance to Allâh and seek His protection, while Allâh

is Great Protector, Ever Merciful?

75. The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger, all the Messengers have (like him) passed away before him, his mother was a highly truthful woman. They both used to eat food. See how We explain the arguments for their good, yet see, how they are turned away (from the truth).

76. Say, `Do you worship beside Allâh that which has no power over doing you any harm or good?' As for Allâh, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

77. Say, `O People of the Scripture! do not exaggerate in (the matter of) your religion falsely and unjustly, nor follow the fancies of a people who had gone astray before (you) and had led many astray, and (now again) who have strayed

away from the right path.

SECTION 11

78. Those who disbelieved among the Children of Israel were deprived of the blessings of God (firstly) by the tongue of David and (then by) Jesus, son of Mary. That was so because they rebelled and used to transgress.

79. They did not prohibit one another from hateful things they committed. How evil were the practices they used to follow!

80. You will find many of them allying (themselves) with those who disbelieve. Evil is that which they have sent forward for themselves (to the effect) that Allâh is displeased with them and in this punishment they shall abide.

81. And if they had believed in Allâh and this perfect Prophet and (in) what has been revealed to him, they would not have taken them for allies; but (they do so for) many of them are disobedient.

82. You shall certainly find the Jews and those who associate partners with Allâh the most vehement of the people in enmity against those who believe, and you shall certainly find those who say, `We are Christians,' the nearest in friendship towards those who believe. That is so because there are savants and monks amongst them and

because they are not haughty.

Part vii

83. And when they hear that (Divine Message) which has been revealed to this perfect Messenger you will find their eyes over flow with tears because of the truth they have recognised. They say, 'Our Lord! we believe, so count us among the witnesses (to the truth).'

84. (They add,) 'What excuse do we have to disbelieve in Allâh and (in) the truth that has come to us while we earnestly desire that our Lord should count us with the righteous people?'

85. Therefore Allâh will reward them for what they said, with Gardens served with running streams, they shall abide therein for ever. Such indeed is the reward of the doers of good to others.

86. But those who have disbelieved and cried lies to Our Messages, it is these who are the fellows of the blazing Fire.

Section 12

87. O You who believe! do not forbid yourselves good and pure things which Allâh has made lawful for you, and do not transgress. Verily, Allâh does not like the transgressors..

88. And eat of what Allâh has provided you of (things) lawful, good and pure. And take Allâh as a shield, in whom you repose your faith.

89. Allâh will not call you to account for (such of) your oaths as are vain, but He will call you to account for (breaking) the oaths which you take in earnest (for doing a thing or not doing). The expiation for breaking such an oath is the feeding of ten needy persons (the average food) as you feed your own families with, or provide them with clothes, or liberating of some one (from the yoke of slavery or debt etc.) But whoever does not find (the means to do any of these), then he shall fast for three days. That is how you expiate your oaths when you have sworn them solemnly (and then break them). But do guard your oaths. Thus does Allâh explain to you His commandments so that you may give (Him) thanks.

90. O you who believe! intoxicants and games of chance, and alters set up for false deities and divining arrows are only abominations, some of satan's handiworks, therefore shun each one (of these abominations) so that you may attain your goal.

91. Satan only intends to precipitate enmity and hatred between you by means of intoxicants and games of chance and to stop you from the remembrance of Allâh and from (observing your) Prayer. Will you not then be the abstainer (therefrom)?

92. Obey Allâh and obey this perfect Messenger and be on your guard (against disobeying them), but if you turn away, then bear in mind that Our Messenger is responsible only for the conveyance (of the Message) in clear terms.

93. There is no blame on those who believe and do deeds of righteousness for what they have eaten (before the prohibition came), provided they guard against (prohibited things in future) and are steadfast in their faith, and do deeds of righteousness and provided they guard against evil (as a duty to themselves); and provided further that they take (God) as a shield, and do good to others (as their duty to their fellow-beings). And Allâh loves the doers of good to others.

SECTION 13

94. O You who believe! Allâh is going to try you regarding something of the game which is within the reach of your hands and your lances. Allâh will do it so that He may distinguish those who stand in awe of Allâh even unseen. But he that transgresses even after that (warning) shall receive a grievous punishment.

95. O you who believe! kill no game while you are in a pilgrim's garb or in the Sacred Precincts. And whosoever amongst you kills it intentionally he shall recompense by sacrificing a domestic cattle, the like of the animal he has killed, the same to be determined by two just persons from among you, and (the same) to be brought as an offering to the Ka'bah, or the expiation (of his sin) is the feeding of a number of needy persons, or the equivalent in fasting, so that he may suffer the penalty of his deed. Allâh has pardoned whatever might have happened in the past, and whoso does it again Allâh will punish him (for his offence), for Mighty is Allâh, Lord of retribution.

96. It is made lawful for you (even when you are in a Pilgrim's garb to hunt) the game of the sea (and water) and to eat its food; a provision for you and for the travellers (who can make it a provision for their way), but unlawful for you is the game of the land as long as you are in Pilgrim's garb or in the Sacred Precincts. Keep your duty to Allâh, to Whom you shall be gathered.

97. Allâh has made the *Ka'bah*, the Holy House (at Makkah) to serve as an anchor (-a means of support) and a means of uplifting for mankind, and also(each) sacred month and animals brought as an offering and animals wearing

necklaces (meant for sacrifice during the *Hajj*). He has done this that you may know that Allâh knows all that lies in the heavens and all that lies in the earth, and that Allâh has complete knowledge of all things.

98. You should know that Allâh is Severe at retribution and that (at the same time) Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

99. This perfect Messenger is responsible only for the conveyance (of the Message). And Allâh knows all that you reveal and all that you conceal.

100. Say, `The bad and impure, and the good and pure are not alike even though the abundance of the bad and impure may charm you.' Take Allâh, therefore, as a shield (seeking refuge in Him), O you people of pure and clear understanding! so that you may attain the goal.

SECTION 14

101. O You who believe! do not inquire into (the details of Divine Laws on many) things which, if explained to you, would cause you trouble, though if you ask about them while the Qur'ân is being revealed, they will be explained to you; (yet) Allâh has passed over this (detailed mentioning on purpose),

for Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Forbearing.

102. A people before you asked questions about such (details and) then they became disbelievers therein.

103. Allâh has not instituted (superstition like those of) any *Bahîrah* (-an animal having her ear slit and let loose for free pasture, dedicated to some god, their milk was not used, nor their back, nor their meat); or *Sâ'ibah* (-an animal having given birth to ten females, liberated to pasture where she would, not be ridden, nor milk drunk except by her young); or *Wasîlah* (-an animal which gave birth to seven females consecutively and at the seventh birth she bore a pair male and female. Each of the latter was let loose and the milk of the animal drunk by men only and not by women); or *Hâmi* (-an animal that is left at liberty without being made use of in any way whatsoever). But those who disbelieve have fabricated a lie (by such superstitious dedications) in the name of Allâh. Most of them cannot refrain (from such polytheistic superstitions).

104. And when it is said to them, `Come to what Allâh has revealed and to this perfect Messenger.' They say, `Sufficient for us is that (tradition) whereon we have found our forefathers.' What! (would they follow them blindly) even though their forefathers had no knowledge whatsoever and had no guidance?

105. O you who believe! (take care of yourselves for) upon you is the responsibility of your own selves. He who has gone astray can do you no harm provided you are rightly guided. Towards Allâh is the final return of you all, then will He inform you as to what you have been doing.

106. O you who believe! when death comes to one of you (and you wish to make your will) let there be present among you, at the time of making the will, two just persons from among you or two others from among the outsiders, in case you are journeying in the country and the calamity of death overtakes you. In case you doubt (their honesty in giving evidence), you shall detain both (the witnesses) after Prayer, then let them both swear by Allâh (and bear witness) saying, `We will accept for this (-our oath) no price; (we will bear true evidence) even though he (in whose favour or against we bear evidence) be near of kin, nor will we hide the testimony (enjoined to be borne uprightly) by Allâh, for if we do so, we shall certainly be among the sinners.'

107. But if it be discovered that these two have become guilty of sin, then let two others stand in their place from among those (heirs) against whom the (former) two (witnesses) who were in a better position (to give true evidence) are sinfully deposed, and the two (latter witnesses) swear by Allâh (saying), `Surely, our testimony is truer than the testimony of those two and we have not exceeded the bounds of justice (in bearing the evidence) for, in that case, we shall certainly be of the wrongdoers.'

108. This way is more likely to ensure that they (-the witnesses) will give the testimony in its true form and nature or atleast they will be afraid that other oaths will be taken after their oaths (to counter them). Therefore take Allâh as a shield and listen (to Him) for Allâh guides not the disobedient people to the way of success.

SECTION 15

109. (Imagine) the day when Allâh will gather together all the Messengers and asks, `What response did you receive?' They will say, `We have no real knowledge (about the minds of the people), surely it is You alone Who have true and perfect knowledge of all things unseen.'

110. (Again imagine) when Allâh said, `O Jesus, son of Mary! remember My blessing upon you and upon your mother, how I strengthened you with the holy revelation. You spoke to the people *(when you were) in the cradle and when of old age, and how I taught you the Scripture and the wisdom and the Torah and the Evangel, and how you determined from clay the likeness of a bird by My leave, then you breathed into it (a new spirit) then it became a

soaring being by My leave, and by My leave you absolved the blind, the leprous, and by My leave you raised the (spiritually or nearly) dead to life, and how I warded off the Children of Israel from (putting) you (to death). It was the time when you came to them with clear arguments, but those among them who disbelieved had said, "This is naught but a hoax cutting (us) off (from the nation)".'

111. `And how I revealed to the disciples to believe in Me and in My Messenger, and they said, "We believe, and (O God!) bear witness that we are the submitting ones".'

112. (Recall the time) when the disciples said, `O Jesus, son of Mary! would your Lord consent to send down to us a table spread with a sure and lasting food from heaven?' He said, `Keep your duty to Allâh, if you are true believers.

113. They said, `We desire that we may eat of it and that our hearts be at rest and that we may know that you have indeed spoken the truth to us and that we may be among the witnesses thereto.'

114. Jesus, son of Mary, prayed, `O Allâh! our Lord! send down to us a table spread with a sure and lasting food from heaven that it may be to us a (source of) festival ever recurring, to the first of us and to the last of us and (serve as) sign from You and provide sustenance for us, for You are the Best of providers of sustenance.'

115. Allâh said, `I will surely be (always) sending it (-the food) down to you but whosoever shows ingratitude afterwards, I will surely punish him with a punishment which I will give to no one else in the whole world.'

SECTION 16

116. And when Allâh said, `O Jesus, son of Mary! did you say to the people, "Take me and my mother for two gods beside Allâh?"' He (-Jesus) replied, `Glory to You! it was not possible and proper for me to say thing to which I had no right. If I had said, You would indeed have known it, (for) You know all that is in my mind but I do not know what is in Yours. It is You alone Who truly know all things unseen.

117. `I said nothing to them except that what You had commanded me, "Worship Allâh, my Lord as well as your Lord". I was a witness over them (only) so long as I remained among them but ever since You caused me to die, You Yourself have been the Watcher over them and You are the Witness to everything.

118. `If You punish them, then surely they are Your servants and if You pardon them, You surely are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.'

119. Allâh said, `This is the day when their truth shall benefit the truthful. They shall have Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing); there they shall live for ever and ever. Allâh is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. That indeed is the greatest triumph.'

120. To Allâh belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and whatever lies in them. and He is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.

Chapter 6

Al-An`âm

(The Cattle)

(Revealed Before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Surah Al-An`âm).

1. ALL type of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh who created the heavens and the earth and brought into being all kinds of darkness and the light. Yet, inspite of this, those who disbelieve ascribe equals to their Lord.

2. It is He Who created you from clay, then He determined a term (of this life); and there is (yet another) term (of the life of the life of the Hereafter) stated with Him, still you dispute (being doubtful about the Resurrection).

3. And He is Allâh Who alone (exercises every authority) in the heavens and in the earth. He knows you inside and outside, and He knows what you accomplish (by way of your deeds, good or bad).

4. (And as for the people) there comes to them no Message of the Messages of there Lord but they turn away from it.

5. So they have already cried lies to this perfect truth when it came to them, but soon there shall come to them the news of (the fulfillment of the prophecies) that they have been taking very lightly.

6. Have these people not considered how many generations We destroyed before them to whom We had given so firm a hold and power on the earth, such a firm hold as We have not given you? And We sent clouds over them pouring

down abundant rain, and We caused rivers to flow subject to their command and control. Yet We destroyed them owing to their sins and raised other generations after them.

7. And if We had sent down to you a book (written) on parchment and they had touched it with their own hands, (even then those who have disbelieved would have invariably said, 'This is nothing but a fascinating device to cut off (from the people).')

8. And they said, '(If the Prophet is true and sincere in his claim) why has not an angel been sent down to (help) him?' But if We had sent down an angel the matter would have been decided, then they would not have been respited.

9. And had We appointed him (-this Messenger) from among the angels. We would surely have made him (appear as) a man and (even in that case) We would have obscured that which they are themselves obscuring now.

10. (O Muhammad!) certainly Messengers have been treated scornfully before you but that (prophecy of the ultimate success of the Messenger) which they held in scorn recoiled on those who had held (the prophecy) in scorn.

SECTION 2

11. Say, 'Go about in the land and see how (evil) was the end of those who treated (the Prophets) as liars.

12. Ask (them), 'To whom belongs all that lies in the heavens and in the earth?' Then (since they will not be able to answer), say, '(It belongs) to Allâh.' He has taken upon Himself (the rule of) mercy (so He does not take the sinners to task immediately). He will continue to assemble you together till the Day of Resurrection. There is no doubt in it. Yet those who have lost their souls will not believe.

13. To Him belongs whatever exists in the darkness of the night and (whatever dwells in) the light of the day. And He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

14. Say, 'Shall I take to myself a patron other than Allâh, the Originator of the heavens and the earth? It is He Who feeds but is fed by none.' Say, 'I have surely been commanded that I be the first of those who submit (to God).' (It has been said to them,) 'Be not of those who associate partners with Allâh.'

15. Say, 'If I disobey my Lord, I fear the punishment of the dreadful Day.'

16. He, from whomsoever this (punishment) is averted on that Day, (God) indeed has mercy on him, an obvious achievement is that!

17. If Allâh afflicts you with some harm, then no one can remove it but He. But if He bestows upon you a favour, remember that He is the Possessor of every power to do all that He will.

18. And He is the All-Dominant over His servants. And He is the All-Wise, the All-Aware.

19. Ask, 'Who is the best (witness) in respect of bearing testimony?' Say, 'It is Allâh, He is Witness between me and you, and this Qur'ân has been revealed to me so that I may thereby warn you and all those whom it may reach (against the evil consequences of disbelief and misdeeds)' What (do you say)? Do you in fact bear witness that there are other gods besides Allâh? Say, 'I do not bear witness thereto.' Say (moreover), 'The fact is that He is the One and Only God; and surely I am sick and quit all those whom you associate (with Him).'

20. Those whom We have given this perfect Book recognise him (-the Prophet Muhammad) as they recognise their own sons. Yet those who have lost their souls will not believe.

SECTION 3

21. Who is more unjust than he who forges a lie in the name of Allâh or who cries lies to His Messages. Verily, such wrongdoers will never attain the goal.

22. (Beware of) the Day when We shall gather them all together, then We shall say to those who associate partners (with Us), `Where are (now) your associate-gods about whom you used to assert (as gods)?'

23. (On that Day) they would have no excuse, but that they would say, `By Allâh, Our Lord, we were never polytheists.'

24. Look! how they lie against themselves, and those (associate-gods) which they used to forge shall fail them.

25. Some of these (disbelievers pretend to) listen to you but We have put veils over their hearts (due to their own hard-heartedness) that they do not understand and there is heaviness in their ears (to listen to the truth). Even if they see every sign (of Ours), they would not believe therein: (their hard-heartedness has reached) such an extent that when they come to you, they dispute with you. Those who disbelieve say, `This (Qur'ân) is nothing but fables of the ancients.'

26. They deter (others) from (believing in) this (Qur'ân) and (themselves too) keep away from it, yet it is their own ruin that they bring about (by such things), only they do not perceive (it).

27. Could you but see (them) when they are made to stand before the Fire (making a full appraisal of it). They will

say then, 'Oh! would that we could be sent back (to have a chance to mend our ways), then we would not cry lies to the revelations of our Lord and would be of the believers.'

28. Nay, it is only that this (-treachery of theirs) which they had been hiding before, must have (now) become obvious to them. Yet, even though if they were sent back they would again return to that which they were prohibited from. They are most certainly liars.

29. And they say, 'There is no life beyond this our present life. And we shall never be raised again.'

30. And could you but see when they are made to stand before their Lord, (He) will say, 'Is not this (Resurrection) true?' They shall say, 'Yes, indeed, by Our Lord, it is!' He will say, 'Suffer then the punishment as a result of your disbelief.'

SECTION 4

31. Those who cried lies to (the news of) meeting Allâh have indeed suffered a loss; (they will go on denying it) until the Hour (of Resurrection) overtakes them unaware. They will then say, 'Woe to Us, for our neglecting it (-the Hour, in our life).' And they shall be bearing the burdens (of their sins) on their backs. Behold! how evil is the burden they shall bear.

32. The life of this world is nought but a futile and frivolous thing causing diversion (from God). And certainly, the last abode is the best for those who guard against evil. Have you no sense?

33. We know full well that what they say (by way of denying Our Messages) grieves you, yet surely it is not you that they cry lies to, but it is the Messages of Allâh that these wrongdoers are deliberately rejecting.

34. Indeed, Messengers have already been cried lies to even before you, but they patiently persevered in spite of their having been rejected and persecuted till Our help came to them. None can alter the decrees of Allâh. There has already come to you some of the news of the Messengers (gone before).

35. If their (-of the disbelievers) turning away in aversion is hard on you (to bear) then you may, if you can, seek a tunnel into the earth or a ladder into the heaven and then bring them some sign (to bring all to guidance); but if Allâh had willed, He could surely have brought them all together (by force) to the guidance, so do not be of those who lack knowledge.

36. Only those who listen respond (to the truth). And as for the (spiritually) dead Allâh will raise them to life (after their being buried in graves,) they shall then be made to return to Him.

37. And they say, 'Why has not a sign (asked for) been revealed to him by his Lord?' Say, 'Surely, Allâh has power and is Appraiser (as to how and when) to send down a sign, but most of them know (it) not.'

38. There is no terrestrial creature (that crawls) in the earth nor a bird that flied (in the air) with its two wings but (they are) creatures like you, (all subject to the Divine Laws). We have neglected nothing in (Our) this perfect Book (of law). Then to their Lord shall they all be gathered.

39. And those who cry lies to Our signs are deaf and dumb, (grouping) in utter darkness. Allâh allows to perish whom He will. And whom He will, He sets on the right and exact path.

40. Say, 'Do you ever consider if the punishment of Allâh comes upon you or the (promised) Hour overtakes you, will you (then) call upon (any god) other than Allâh, if what you say be true?

41. `Nay, but you will call upon Him alone, then He will, if He please, relieve (you) of that distress for (the removal of) which you called upon Him; and you will abandon those (false gods) which you associate with Him.'

SECTION 5

42. We have already sent (Messengers) towards the communities before you, then (on their rejecting the Messengers) We afflicted them with destitution, calamities and adversities so that they might become humble (before Us).

43. Why did they not then, when Our punishment overtook them, grow humble? (It was for the fact that) their hearts had hardened and satan had made their deeds seem fair to them.

44. Then, when they abandoned that whereof they had been reminded, We opened to them the gates of everything. Until when they began to boast over what they were given, We seized them unawares; then behold! they were in sore despair (of all good).

45. In this way the last remnants of these people who had acted wrongfully were completely rooted out. (So it proved that) all perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.

46. Say, `Have you ever considered if Allâh were to take away your hearing and your sight and set a seal upon your hearts, what god other than Allâh can restore these (boons) to you?' See how We expound (multiple) arguments in diverse ways. Yet they turn away thereafter.

47. Say, `Did you ever consider if Allah's punishment were to overtake you unaware or (after) manifest (warnings), would any be destroyed except the wrongdoing people?'

48. And We send not the Messengers but as Bearers of good tidings (to believers and doers of good) and as Warners (to disbelievers and evil doers) then whosoever believes and mends his ways will have no cause of fear, nor shall they grieve.

49. But those who cry lies to Our Messages shall be punished because of their disobedience.

50. Say, `I do not say to you that with me are the treasures of Allâh, nor do I know the unseen; and I do not say to you (that) I am an angel. I indeed follow only what is revealed to me.' Say, `Can a blind person and one gifted with sight be alike?' Will you not even then give thought?

SECTION 6

51. So warn by means of this (Qur'ân) those who fear that they shall be gathered to their Lord, besides Whom they have neither a protector nor any intercessor, so (warn them) that they may guard against

evil.

52. And do not drive away those who call upon their Lord morning and evening seeking His pleasure. No responsibility lies on you on their account and no responsibility whatsoever lies on them on your account that you should drive them away. In case (you do it) you would be counted as the unjust.

53. In this way have We made a distinction in some of them from the other with the result that they say, 'Are these the ones whom Allâh has favoured (by choosing them) from among us?' Does not Allâh know best the grateful?

54. When those who believe in Our Messages come to you, say, 'Peace be upon you. Your Lord has taken upon Himself (the rule of) mercy, so that whoso from among you commits evil through lack of knowledge then turns (for mercy towards his Lord) thereafter and mends his ways, then (his Lord forgives him because) He is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.'

55. That is how We expound Our arguments (that you may seek Allah's mercy) and that the way of those who cut their ties (with God) may be exposed.

SECTION 7

56. Say, 'I am strictly forbidden to worship those (false gods) whom you call upon besides Allâh.' Say, 'I do not follow your caprices. In that case I would have certainly become lost, and I would not have been of the guided ones.'

57. Say, 'Surely, I take my stand upon clear guidance from my Lord while you have cried lies to it. I have no power over that (punishment) which you seek to hasten before its (fixed) time. The judgment rests with none but Allâh. He declares the true judgment and He is the Best of deciders (as to whom, when and how to punish).'

58. Say, 'If I had power over that which you seek to hasten before its (appointed) time, the matter would have been decided between you and me. And Allâh knows best the unjust (and He also knows when to punish them).'

59. All the treasures of the unseen lie at His disposal. No one knows them but He; He knows whatsoever is in the land and in the sea. There falls not a single leaf but He knows it, nor is there a grain in the dark beds of the earth, nor anything fresh or dry but all is recorded in a clear book (-in God's perfect knowledge).

60. It is He Who takes your soul by night (in sleep) and He knows what you have done by day, yet He raises you up therein that the term stated (for your life) may be completed. Then to Him is your return, then He will inform you plainly about your deeds.

SECTION 8

61. And He is the All-Dominant over His servants, and He goes on sending guardians to watch over you. When death comes to one of you, Our messengers (-the angels) take away his soul. They neglect (their duty) in no way.

62. Then they shall all be made to return to Allâh, their Master the only True One. Surely, His is the judgment, He is the Swiftest of the reckoners.

63. Say, `Who delivers you from the horrors of the land and the sea when you call upon Him in humility and in open supplication (saying), "If He delivers us from this (hardship) we shall ever be grateful (to Him)>"

64. Say, `It is Allâh who delivers you from these (horrors) and from every calamity, still you associate partners (with Him).'

65. Say, `He has power to send upon you a calamity from above and from beneath your feet or He may throw you into confusion by making you confront with conflicting parties, and make you taste the dissension (and violence) of one another.' Behold! how We explain Our Messages in different ways so that they may give thought.

66. Your people have cried lies to this (Qur'ân), though it is the truth. Say, `I am not responsible for your affairs.'

67. For (the fulfillment of) every prophecy there is an appointed time, and it will not go beyond that, and soon you will come to know (its truth).

68. And when you see those who engage in vain discourse about Our Messages, turn away from them, until they engage in a topic other than that. And if satan should make you forget this (advice of Ours), then sit no more, after (its) recollection, with such wrong-doers.

69. Those who guard against evil are not in the least accountable for these (evil doers). They are only to admonish (them) so that they may too guard against evil.

70. And leave alone those who take their religion as a futile and frivolous thing causing diversion (from Allâh). Present life has beguiled them, therefore go on admonishing (such people) by means of this (Qur'ân) lest a soul should be consigned to perdition because of its misdeeds. There is no patron for it (- the soul) apart from Allâh, nor intercessor, and even if it may offer every compensation it will not be accepted from it. It is these who are destroyed for what they accomplished. There awaits them a drink of boiling water and a grievous punishment because they disbelieved.

SECTION 9

71. Say, `Shall we call, besides Allâh, upon that which can neither profit us nor harm us (by itself), and shall we be turned back on our heels (and led astray) after Allâh has guided us, like one whom the evil ones have made to follow his caprices (leaving him) utterly bewildered in the land; (whilst) he has companions who call him to the guidance (of Allâh, saying), "Come to us".' Say, `Verily Allah's guidance is the only perfect guidance. And we are commanded (by Him) to submit to the Lord of the worlds.'

72. `And (we are also commanded by Him,) "Observe Prayer and take Him as a shield. And it is He to Whom you shall all be gathered".'

73. It is He Who has created the heavens and the earth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. The day He says, `Be', it (-the Resurrection) shall come to be. His Word is bound to be carried out. To Him belongs the sovereignty on the day when the trumpet will be blown (for spiritual awakening in this world and for physical Resurrection in the Hereafter). He is the Knower of all the hidden realities and the seen. And He is the All-Wise, the All-Aware.

74. (Recall the time) when Abraham said to his sire, âzar, `Do you worship idols as gods? Surely, I see you and your people (steeped) in clear error.'

75. Thus (for his pure and noble nature) We have been showing Abraham, the sole kingdom (of Ours) of the heavens and the earth (to grant him an insight into the Divine laws of nature). And (We did it) that he might be of those who are firmly convinced.

76. Then (after being convinced of Our unity once on the occasion of a debate on the topic) when the night darkened over him, he saw a planet. He said (on seeing it to the idol-worshippers), `Is this my Lord (as you assert)?' But when it set he said, `I do not love the setting ones (to accept as my God).'

77. Then when he saw the moon rise with spreading light he said (to the people), `Is this my Lord (as you assert)?' But when it set he said, `Had my Lord not guided me aright I would have, invariably, been of the people who have gone astray.'

78. And when he saw the sun rise with spreading light (he said to them), `Is this my Lord (as you assert, as) this is the biggest? But when it (also) set he said, `O my people! I am surely (sick and) quit of that you associate (with Him).

79. `Surely, I have turned myself with devotion and in a most upright manner to Him Who originated the heavens and the earth. I have never been of the polytheists.'

80. His people tried to overpower him in argument, he said, `Do you argue with me regarding Allâh, when He (Himself) has already guided me aright? And I fear not, in anyway, the things you worship besides Him, unless it is my Lord Who wills some (harm to me, it is a different) thing. My Lord comprehends all things in His knowledge. Will you not even then take admonition?

81. `How (and why) should I fear (the things) that you associate with Him, while you are not afraid that you have associated those things with Allâh for (the worship of) which He has given you no authority?' Which of the two parties then (of the monotheists and polytheists) is better entitled to security (and salvation) if you truly know?

82. It is only those who believe and have not polluted their faith with associating partners with Allâh, to whom belongs peace (and salvation). It is these alone who are rightly guided.

SECTION 10

83. That was Our argument with which We equipped Abraham against his people. We raise, in degrees of rank,

whom We will. Verily, your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing.

84. And We granted him Isaac and Jacob, each one We guided aright, and Noah did We guide before. And of his descendants, We guided David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron. In this way do We reward the performers of good to others.

85. And (We guided) Zachariah, John, Jesus and Elias, every one (of them) was of the righteous.

86. And (We also guided) Ismâîl and Elisha and Jonah and Lot - and every one did We exalt above their people.

87. And (We exalted men) from among their fathers and their descendants and their brethren. We chose them and We guided them along the exact right path.

88. That is the guidance of Allâh, He guides by it such of His servants as He will. But if they has associated partners (with Him in their worship), surely all their deeds would have gone in vain.

89. It is these (Messengers) to whom We gave the Scripture, the decisive authority and the prophethood. But if these (the so called preservers of the Book) reject these (blissful things - the Book, the authority and the prophecy, it matters little) for We have now entrusted them to a people (-the Muslims) who are not at all ungrateful for these (blessings).

90. It is these whom Allâh has guided; so follow their guidance. Say, 'I ask you no reward for bringing this (guidance). This is nought but a reminder for all mankind.

SECTION 11

91. They (-the deniers) have not appreciated Allâh with the true honour due to Him when they said, 'Allâh has not revealed anything to any human being.' Say, 'Who had revealed the Scripture which Moses brought; a light and guidance for the people, (though) you render it as scraps of paper, (some of) which you show while the major portion you hide, whereas you have been taught (through) that which you did not know, neither you, nor your forefathers?' Say, 'Allâh (revealed it).' Then leave them amusing themselves in their vain discourse.

92. And (similar to the Torah is) this splendid Book which We have revealed, full of blessings, completing (in a comprehensive from all the Divine Messages) which were before it, and (is revealed) that you may warn (the people of) this centre of cities (-the Makkans) and (the people of the places) all around it (-the people of the whole world). And those who believe in the Hereafter believe also in this (Qur'ân), and they are most careful about (performing) their Prayer.

93. Who is more unjust than the person who fabricates a lie in the name of Allâh deliberately or says, 'A revelation has been sent to me,' while nothing has been revealed to him, and the person who says, 'I will (also) bring down the like what Allâh has sent down?' Could you but see the wrongdoers when they are in the agonies of death and when the angels would lay down their hands on them saying, 'Give up your souls. This day you shall be given a disgraceful punishment on account of that falsehood which you uttered regarding Allâh wrongfully and (because) you disdained His revelations.'

94. (God will say on that day,) 'How is it that you have come to Us all alone as We created you in the first

instance and you have left that which We put in your charge (in the world) behind yourselves, and We do not see with you your intercessors whom you (falsely asserted that they were (Our) partisans in (the disposal of) matters relating to you. Indeed the ties between you (and your false deities) are now cut off and the things you falsely asserted (to be gods) have failed you.'

SECTION 12

95. Verily, it is Allâh Who splits the (seed) grains and (fruit) stones. He bring forth the living out of the lifeless and He brings forth the lifeless out of the living. Such is Allâh, wherefore then are you turned back.

96. He is the cleaver of the daybreak (from the dark of the night), and He has made the night for rest, and the sun and the moon for reckoning (of time). That is the decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.

97. It is He Who has made the stars for you that you may follow the right course with their help in the darkness of the land and the sea. We have certainly explained (Our) commandments in detail for a people who would know.

98. It is He Who has evolved you from one living entity, then (He provided for you) a permanent abode (from the grave to the final abode of bliss) and a temporary lodging (from the loins of the father to the grave). Verily, We have explained (Our) signs in detail for a people who would understand.

99. It is We Who pour down water from the clouds and then We bring forth every kind of vegetation, then We bring forth therefrom green foliage from which We produce clustered grain. And (We bring forth) from the date-palm out of its spathes bunches (of dates) hanging low and (We bring forth) gardens of vines and olives and pomegranate -

similar (in kind) yet dissimilar (from one another in variety). Look at them when they bear fruit and look also how they ripen. Verily, in all this there are signs for a people who would believe.

100. Yet they ascribe to Allâh as (His) associates the *jinn*s, although He has created them also. And they falsely ascribe to Him sons and daughters without any knowledge. Glory be to Him. And He is far beyond and above all the things that they attribute (to Him).

SECTION 13

101. He is Wonderful and Primary Originator of the heavens and the earth! How (and whence) can there be a son for Him, when He has no consort? He has created all things and He has perfect knowledge of everything.

102. Such is Allâh, your Lord! there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of Worship but He, the Creator of all things; therefore worship Him, for He is the Disposer of all affairs.

103. The physical vision comprehends Him not, but He comprehends all visions, He is the All-Subtle Being (incomprehensible and imperceptible), the All-Aware.

104. (Say,) `There has already come to you enlightenment and clear proofs from your Lord, then whosoever sees clearly (and is enlightened), it is for his own good, and whosoever chooses to remain blind, it is to his own loss. I am not a guardian over you (as I should ward off all evil by force).'

105. Thus do We explain Our revelations in diverse ways (that the truth might become evident), but (its one result is) that they (-the disbelievers) will say (to the Prophet), `You have learnt well and diligently (from previous Scripture); but (We vary the revelations) that it may be a clear explanation from Us to the people who have knowledge.

106. Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He; and turn away from the polytheists.

107. If Allâh had (enforced) His will, they would not have associated partners with Him. And We have not made you a guardian over them, nor are you a disposer of their affairs.

108. Do not revile those whom they call upon besides Allâh, lest they should revile Allâh transgressingly (and) through lack of knowledge. Just We made their deeds fair-seeming to them so have We made to each people fairseeming what they do. Then to their Lord is their return, so He will inform them as to what they have been doing.

109. And they swear by Allâh their most solemn oaths that if there comes to them a (particular) sign they would invariably believe in it. Say, `(Not to speak of a single sign) there are indeed many signs with Allâh, but what is there to assure you that when that (sign) comes, even then, they will not believe.'

110. We shall confound their hearts and their eyes, since they did not believe in it (-God's signs) in the first instance, and We shall leave them alone wandering blindly in their transgression.

part VIII

SECTION 14

111. Even if We should send down the angels to them, and the dead should speak to them, and even if We should bring all things together face to face (to them), they would not believe unless Allâh had (enforced) His will. The thing is that most of them persist in ignorance.

112. And in the same manner have We made the evil ones from among (ordinary) human beings and the *jinn*s enemies to every prophet; some of them suggest one to another gilded speech to beguile (them). Had your Lord (enforced) His will, they would not have done so; so leave them alone with what they forge;

113. And the result (of their so doing) is that the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter are inclined to it (- their guile), and they take pleasure therein and they continue committing their (evil) deeds as they are doing.

114. (Say,) `What! shall I seek for a judge (to decide between us) other than Allâh, when it is He, Who has revealed to you this perfect Book clearly explained?' And those to whom We have given this Book know that it is revealed by your Lord with all the requirements of truth and wisdom, so be not of the disputers.

115. The (prophetic) word of your Lord is bound to be fulfilled in truth and justice. There is no one who can change His words. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

116. Should you obey the majority of those on earth, they would lead you astray from Allâh's way. They follow nothing but mere surmise and they do nothing but make conjectures.

117. Surely He, Your Lord, knows best who goes astray from His way; as He knows best the rightly guided.

118. So (do not follow those who go astray, and) eat of that over which the name of Allâh has been pronounced, if you are indeed believers in His Messages.

119. What reason have you that you do not eat of that over which Allâh's name has been pronounced, whilst He has already explained to you the things He has forbidden to you, excepting that which you are constrained to (eat out of necessity). And surely many mislead (others) by following their own fancies due to lack of knowledge.

Verily, your Lord knows best these transgressors.

120. Refrain from sin in form and its spirit (both). Verily, those who commit sins deliberately shall be repaid according to the deeds committed by them.

121. And do not eat of that on which Allâh's name has not been pronounced, for it is the sure (product of) disobedience. Certainly, the evil ones suggest their friends to dispute with you, and if you obey them, you shall invariably become polytheists.

SECTION 15

122. Can he, who was lifeless (before) and to whom We gave life and We provided for him a light whereby he moves about among the people, be like the person whose condition is (as one) consigned to thick darkness from whence he cannot emerge? Thus the deeds of the disbelievers are made fair-seeming to them (by satan);

123. Similarly have We made the leaders in every town the guilty ones, (because their doings seem fair to them) with the result that they intrigue therein; but little do they understand that, (as a matter of fact,) they intrigue only against themselves.

124. And when there comes to them a (Divine) Message they say, 'We will never believe unless we ourselves are given the like of what has been given to the Messengers of Allâh.' Allâh knows best whom to entrust His Messengership. Surely, humiliation and severe and disgraceful punishment from Allâh shall befall those who cut off their ties (with Him) because of their intrigues (against Our Prophets).

125. But as to whom Allâh intends to guide He opens his bosom to Islam and as to him whom He allows to go astray He makes his bosom close and constricted, so that he feels as though he were climbing up the heights. Just as Allâh does this He lays ignominy on those who do not believe.

126. And this path (of Islam) is an exact right path (leading) to your Lord. We have indeed explained the Messages (of truth) in detail for a people who would accept admonition.

127. There awaits with their Lord an abode of peace, and He is their Patron because of their (righteous) deeds.

128. Beware of the day when He will gather them all together (and say), 'O multitude of *jinn!* you made a great many of the (ordinary) people subservient to yourselves (in disobedience).' And their votaries from the people will say, 'Our Lord! some of us benefited one from another but (at last) we have reached the end of the (appointed) term which You determined for us.' He will then say, 'The Fire is your lodging,

therein to abide, unless Allâh wills (otherwise).' Verily, your Lord is All-Wise, All-Knowing.

129. In the like manner do We let some of the unjust have power one over another because of their (wrongful) deeds.

SECTION 16

130. `O multitude of *jinn* (- fiery natured, houghty) and (ordinary) peoples! did there come to you no Messengers from among yourselves who related to you My Messages and warned you that you would face this your day?' They will say, `(Yes,) we bear witness against ourselves.' And the present life has beguiled them. And they will bear witness against themselves (on that day) that they were disbelievers.

131. This (sending of the Messengers) is because your Lord destroys no township unjustly whilst their inhabitants are unwarned.

132. And for all are (fixed different) degrees (of rank) in accordance with their deeds. Your Lord is not at all unaware of what they do.

133. Your Lord is Self-Sufficient, Lord of mercy. If He will, He may do away with you (O disbelievers!) and replace you with such others as He will, just as He evolved you from the seeds of other people.

134. Verily, that punishment which you are promised must come to pass and you cannot frustrate (His plans).

135. Say, `O my people! go on working according to (the utmost of) your capacities and positions. Surely, I am doing (my best)! Soon you shall come to know for whom is the (best) reward of this abode.' Anyhow, the wrong-doers never attain their goal.

136. They allocate to Allâh a portion out of what He has produced of the tillage and the cattle, and they say, `This is for Allâh,' - according to their fancies - `and this is (set apart) for our gods (we associate with Allâh).' Then what is for their associate-gods never goes over to Allâh, but what is (set apart) for Allâh does (often) go over to their associate-gods. How ill they judge!

137. Just (as their associate-gods turned the polytheists away from Allâh) so did they make (even so monstrous a deed as) the killing of their children seem fair to a large number of the polytheists, with the result that they ruin them and that they obscure for them their religion. And if Allâh had (enforced) His will they would not have done so, so leave them alone and that what they forge.

138. And they say (according to their fancies), 'Such and such cattle and tillage are secure; (since their use is forbidden for others,) none shall eat them except whom we please.' So they assert - there are some cattle whose backs have been forbidden (for use), and some cattle over which they would not pronounce the name of Allâh. (They do all this) forging a lie against Him (that such practices are by His will). Soon He will surely punish them for the lies they have forged.

139. They further say, 'That (the young one) which is (living) in the womb of such and such cattle is exclusively reserved for our males and is forbidden to our spouses, but if it be still-born then they are (all) partakers of it.' He will surely repay them with punishment for their (false) specification. Surely, He is All-Wise, All-Knowing.

140. Certainly, they suffer a loss (those) who kill their children in folly (and) ignorance, and forbid (themselves) what Allâh has provided for them; forging lies in the name of Allâh. They have indeed gone astray and they are not rightly guided.

SECTION 17

141. And He it is Who evolved gardens trellised and untrellised, and the date-palms, and the cornfields whose produce and fruits are of diverse kinds and tastes, and oil producing plants, and pomegranates; similar (in kind) yet dissimilar (in variety). Eat of the fruit of each when it yields fruit, and render thereof His due (in charity) on the day of harvesting, and do not exceed the bounds. Verily, He loves not those who exceed the bounds.

142. (He it is Who created some) of the cattle for carrying burdens and some (like sheep and goat) are too low (to carry burdens but fit for slaughter). Eat of what Allâh has provided for you and do not follow in the footsteps of satan, for he is indeed an enemy disuniting you (from Allâh).

143. And (of cattle slaughtered for food, He has created) eight (heads in four) pairs, the pair of sheep, the pair of goats. Say, 'Is it the two males He has made unlawful, or the two females, or is it that (young) which the wombs of the two females contain (which He has forbidden)? Expound to me (the case) with (sure) knowledge if you are in the right.'

144. And (He created) the pair of camels and the pair of cows. Say, 'Is it the two males that He has made unlawful or the two females or is it that which the wombs of

the two females contain (which He has forbidden)? Or were you present when Allâh enjoined this (unlawfulness and lawfulness) on you?' Who is more unjust than he who forges a lie against Allâh deliberately that he may lead the people astray without having any knowledge. Verily, Allâh does not guide the unjust people.

SECTION 18

145. Say, 'I find nothing in what Allâh has revealed to me that forbids the people to eat anything except it be that which dies of itself, or blood poured forth, or flesh of swine; for (all) this is unclean, or (I find that thing forbidden) what is profane, which has been sacrificed in other than Allâh's name, yet he who is constrained (to eat any of them), having no desire (for that) and having no intention to exceed the limit, (will find that) surely your Lord is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

146. And as for those who judaised, We forbade them every animal having claws, We forbade them the fat of the oxen and that of the goats (and of the sheep) except that (fat) which their backs or entrails bear or which cleaves to a bone. That is how We punished them for their transgression; and We are always true to Our words.

147. And if they cry lies to you then say to them, 'Your Lord is the Lord of All-Embracing Mercy; but His punishment cannot be averted from the guilty people.'

148. Now those who associate partners (with Allâh) say, 'If Allâh had (so) willed we would not have associated partners (with Him), nor would have our forefathers, nor would we have made anything unlawful (of our own);' just as (they deny you) their predecessors cried lies (to their apostles of God) until they suffered Our punishment. Say, 'Have you any knowledge (about it)? Then present it before us. You follow naught but mere conjectures, and you do nothing but tell lies.'

149. Say, 'Then with Allâh is the conclusive argument. Had He (enforced) His will, He would have surely guided you all.'

150. Say, 'Bring your witnesses who can testify that Allâh has forbidden the thing (you forbid yourselves).' Then supposing they testify this, do not bear them out, nor follow the caprice of those who treat Our Messages as lies and who do not believe in the Hereafter and who set up equals to their Lord.

SECTION 19

151. Say, `Come, I will rehearse to you what your Lord has made binding on you; it is that you shall associate not any thing as partner with Him, and that you shall be good to parents, and that you waste not your children because of poverty. It is We Who make provisions for you as well for them too. (Allâh has also enjoined upon you that you) approach not indecencies, whether open or hidden, and that you kill no soul which Allâh has made sacred, except in the cause of justice.' This has He enjoined you with, so that you may (learn to) abstain (from evil).

152. And (He has enjoined you) that you do not approach the property of an orphan except in the fairest manner; until he attains his maturity, and give full measure and weight with equity. We charge no soul except to its capacity, and that when you speak (giving your verdict), observe justice even though the person concerned be a relative (of yours), and fulfill the covenant (you made) with Allâh. That is what He enjoins upon you so that you may take heed,

153. And (the Lord says,) `This is My exact right path, so follow it, and follow not (diverse) ways, lest they should deviate you away from His (straight) way.' That is what He enjoins you with, that you may guard against evil.

154. And behold! We gave Moses the Scripture to complete (Our favours) upon him who did good to others and is righteous, and to explain everything worth explaining and as a guidance and a mercy, so that the people may believe in that they will meet their Lord.

155. And (similarly) this is a (glorious) Book which We have revealed full of blessings, so follow it and guard against evil that you may be shown mercy.

SECTION 20

156. (We have revealed this blessed Book) lest you should say, `The Book has only been revealed to two communities (- the Jews and the Christians) before us, and (as for us) we remained unaware of what those (Books) read.'

157. Or lest you should say, `Had the Book been revealed to us we would surely have been better guided than they.' Now there has certainly come to you from your Lord (in the form of the Qur'ân) a clear evidence, an excellent guidance and a great mercy. Who then, is more unjust than he who cries lies to the revelations of Allâh and turns away from them? We will certainly award those who turn away from Our revelations an awful punishment, because of their having turned away.

158. Do they await only that the angels should come to them (with wars), or that

(complete destruction from) your Lord should come (upon them), or that some of the signs of your Lord should visit them (with earthly calamities). The day when some of the signs of your Lord shall come, no soul, that did not believe earlier or accomplished some good deeds through (his) belief, will ever benefit by his faith. Say, `Wait, we too are waiting.'

159. Verily, those who have caused a split in their religion and became (divided into) sects you have no concern whatsoever with them. Their case will come before Allâh, then He will (judge it) and will fully inform them of what they have been doing.

160. Whosoever does good shall be repaid tenfold, but he who commits evil shall be recompensed only in proportion (to the evil done), and they shall not be dealt with unjustly.

161. Say, `As for me, surely my Lord has guided me to the exact straight path, the ever true faith, the creed of Abraham the upright, and he was not of the polytheists.'

162. Say, `Surely, my Prayer and my sacrifice and my living and my dying are (all) for the sake of Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.

163. No associate-partner has He, and so am I ordained, and I am the first of the submitting ones (to Allâh).'

164. Say, `Shall I seek a Lord other than Allâh whilst He is the Lord of all things?' And no soul does anything (evil) but only against itself; no soul that bears a burden shall bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return and He will fully inform you about that (truth) wherein you have been disagreeing.

165. And He it is Who has made you successors (of others and rulers) of the land, and He has exalted some of you over the others in degrees (of rank) so that He may try you by that which He has given you. Surely, your Lord is Quick at retribution; and He is all the same, Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

Chapter

7

Al-A`râf

(The Elevated Places)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-A`râf)

1. Alif Lâm Mîm Sâd - I am Allâh, the Best Knower, the Most Truthful.
2. (This Qur'ân is) a (glorious) Book revealed to you that you may warn (the erring) therewith, and (that it may be) a source of eminence and honour to the believers. Let there be no constriction in your mind on this account .
3. (People!) follow (the Message) which has been revealed to you by your Lord and follow no patrons (as you assume them to be), apart from Allâh. How little heed you pay to admonition!
4. So many a (rebellious) township have We caused to be ruined; so Our punishment visited them by night or while they were taking their midday rest;
5. So that their cry meant nothing when Our punishment came upon them except that they (apologisingly) said, `Truly we were wrong-doing people.'
6. We will then invariably question those to whom (the Messages) were sent and We will certainly question (also) the Messengers.
7. We will certainly relate to them (true facts) with exact details, having full knowledge of them, for We were never absent (from them when it came to pass).
8. On that day the weighing (- the judging of deeds) will be just and true, then he whose scales (of good deeds) are heavy, it is these only who shall attain their goal.
9. And those whose scales are light (and their deeds of little account), it is they who have made their souls suffer losses because they have been unjust with regard to Our Messages.
10. (People!) We have indeed established you in the earth (giving you power therein),

and provided for you therein (various) means of subsistence. How little thanks you give!

SECTION 2

11. We did determine you, then We gave you shape, then said to the angels, 'Make submission to (the Children of) Adam,' so they all submitted. But *Iblîs* (did not), he would not be of those who submit.

12. (God) said, 'What prevented you from submitting when I commanded you (to submit)?' (*Iblîs*) said, 'I am better than he (- the human being). You created me from fire whereas You created him from clay.'

13. (God) said, 'Get down from this (haughty state) for it is not proper for you to behave proudly here, so be gone. Surely, you are of those who have agreed to remain in an abject position.'

14. He (- *Iblîs*, in impertinent defiance) said, 'Grant me respite till the day when they are raised up again.'

15. (God) said, 'Surely, you are of those (already) given respite.'

16. (*Iblîs*) said, 'Now, since You have adjudged me to be perverted and lost, I will assuredly lie in wait for them (- the Children of Adam) on the straight and exact path that leads to you.'

17. 'There will I come upon them from their front and from their backs and from their right and from their left so that You will not find most of them grateful (to You).'

18. (God) said, 'Get out from this (state), despised and driven away. Be sure, whosoever of these (human beings) follows you I will certainly fill Gehenna with you all.'

19. And (We said), 'O Adam! dwell you and your wife in this garden, then eat you both when and where you like but do not (even) approach this tree or you both will become of the transgressors.'

20. Then satan made an evil suggestion to them both, with the result that their shortcomings which were hidden from them, became manifest to them, and he said, `Your Lord forbade you from this tree only lest you should become angels or become of the immortals.'

21. And he ardently swore to them both (saying), `Most certainly, I am one of your sincere advisers.'

22. Thus he led them on the way of guile and deceit. And when they tasted of the tree (and committed the things forbidden to them), their shortcomings became manifest to them. They (in order to cover themselves) began to stick the leaves of the garden over themselves and their Lord called out to them both (saying,) `Did I not forbid you from (approaching) that tree, and tell you that satan is to you an enemy disuniting (from Me)?'

23. Both of them said, `Our Lord! we have done injustice to our souls, and if You do not protect us (against the consequences of our faults) and do not have mercy on us, we shall surely be of the losers.'

24. (God) said, `Get down (from this land). Some of you are (indeed) enemies of others, and there will be for you on this earth a habitation and (enjoyment of) provision for a while.'

25. And (He added), `In this (very universe) you shall live and therein you shall die and from it you shall be brought forth (in the Hereafter).'

SECTION 3

26. **O Children of Adam!** We have given you a raiment that covers your nakedness and is a source of (your) elegance and protection. Yet the raiment that guards against evils, that is the best (of robes). That is one of the commandments of Allâh so that they may attain eminence.

27. **O Children of Adam!** do not let satan put you in trouble (in the same way) as he turned your parents out of the garden, stripping them of their raiment (of innocence) with the result that their shortcomings were made manifest to them both. Verily, he (- satan) sees you, he and his tribe, in such a way as you see them not. Verily, We have made satans friends of those who do not believe.

28. And when they (- the disbelievers) commit an act of indecency, they say, `We found our forefathers (practising) on it, and it is Allâh Who has enjoined it upon us.' Say, `Surely, Allâh never enjoins indecencies. Do you attribute to Allâh what you do not know (that it is from Him).'

29. Say, 'My Lord has ordained to be equitable, and to keep your attention upright towards Him always in (your) every Prayer, and to call upon Him exclusively bearing true faith in Him. As He brought you into being (in the first instance) so shall you return (to Him again).'

30. There is a party whom He has guided aright, but there is another party, straying has become an established fact with them. Verily, they have taken the evil ones for friends to the exclusion of Allâh, yet they deem they are rightly guided.

31. O Children of Adam! look to your elegance (by dressing properly) at every time and place of worship, and eat and drink but exceed not the bounds, for He does not love those who exceed the bounds.

SECTION 4

32. Say, 'Who has made unlawful Allâh's beautiful things of adornment and elegance which He has produced for His servants and the delicious and pure things of (His) providing?' Say, 'They are primarily meant for the believers (and for the disbelievers too) in this present life (but) exclusively for (the believers) on the Day of Resurrection.' In this way do We explain the Messages for a people who would know.

33. Say, 'Verily, My Lord has forbidden all (acts of) indecency, open and hidden, and every (kind of) sin and aggression, which is never justifiable; and (He forbids you also) to associate with Allâh that for which He has sent down no authority, and to say concerning Allâh that which you do not know (that it is in fact said by Him).'

34. For (the end of) every nation there is a term fixed, so that when their term comes, they cannot delay a single moment (to avoid it) nor can they get ahead (of it to escape from it).

35. O Children of Adam! whenever there come to you Messengers from amongst yourselves relating to you My Messages, then whosoever (by accepting them) becomes secure against evil and amends, there shall remain no fear on them nor shall they grieve.

36. But those who cry lies to Our Messages and turn away from them disdainfully, it is they who are the fellows of the Fire, where they shall abide till long.

37. Who is more unjust than he who forges a lie in the name of Allâh or cries lies to His Messages. It is these who shall continue to have their lot of the Book as ordained (by Allâh) until (there comes the time) when Our messengers (- the angels) come to them to take away their souls. They (- the angels) will say, `Where is (now) that which you used to call upon besides Allâh?' They will reply, `They are lost to us;' and they will bear witness against themselves that they were disbelievers.

38. He (- God) will say, `Enter into the Fire along with the communities that have passed away before you, from among the *jinn*s and ordinary people.' Every time a (new) community enters it, it curses its sister (evil-doing community), until when they have all followed one another into it, the last of them will say with regard to the first of them (-the leaders), `Our Lord! these led us astray so give them punishment of the Fire over and over again.' He will say, `Everyone is having (his punishment) over and over again, but you do not know (about one another).'

39. And the first of them, (- their leaders) will say to the last of them (- the followers), `(If we are to blame), you (too) are no better than we. Suffer therefore, the punishment of your (evil) deeds.'

SECTION 5

40. **Be** sure, those who cry lies to Our Messages and turn away from them disdainfully, the gates of the (spiritual) firmament shall not be opened for them, nor shall they enter Paradise until a camel passes through the eye of a needle. In this way do We award punishment to those who cut their ties (with Allâh).

41. They shall have Gehenna for their bed and above them awnings (of fire for cover), and thus do We requit the wrong-doers.

42. (As for) those who believe and do deeds of righteousness - We charge no soul except according to its capacity. It is these who are the rightful owners of Paradise where they shall abide for ever.

43. We shall strip their hearts of whatever rancour there may be (for others). They shall have streams rolling at their feet, and they shall say, `All perfect and true praise

belongs to Allâh Who guided us to attain to this (Paradise). We could never have been led aright (to this) if Allâh had not guided us. The Messengers of Our Lord did come (to us) with the truth.' It will be proclaimed to them, 'This is the very Paradise which you are made to inherit as a reward of your (good) deeds.'

44. The owners of Paradise will call out to the fellows of the Fire, 'We have found, what Our Lord had promised, to be true. Have you (too) found what your Lord had promised (to you) to be true?' They will say, 'Yes.' Then a herald will proclaim amongst them, 'Let the disapproval of Allâh be on these wrong-doers

45. 'Who hinder (the people) from Allâh's way and seek to make it (look as) crooked, and who are disbelievers in the Hereafter.'

46. And between the two (- the Fire and the Paradise) is a barrier, and on the elevated places there shall be men (like the Prophets and other exalted spiritual dignitaries) who will recognise every one by his appearance. And they shall call out to the (prospective) inmates of Paradise, 'Peace be on you!' These (prospective inmates of Paradise) will not have (yet) entered therein, though they will be hoping (for this entry).

47. And when their eyes are turned towards the fellows of the Fire, they will say, 'Our Lord! place us not with these wrong-doing people.'

SECTION 6

48. The occupants of the elevated places will call out to certain men (from the fellows of the Fire), whom they will recognise by their appearance, 'Behold! neither your multitude nor that (amassing) in which you took pride have been of any avail to you.

49. 'Are these (owners of Paradise) the ones about whom you swore that Allâh would not extend His mercy to them?' (Allâh has ordered them,) 'Enter Paradise! No fear shall remain on you, nor ever shall you grieve.'

50. Now the fellows of the Fire will call out to the owners of Paradise, 'Pour down upon us some water or (give us) some of that which Allâh has provided for you.' They will say, 'Allâh has forbidden them both to the disbelievers;

51. 'Those who took their faith for a futile and frivolous thing causing diversion (from Allâh), they were beguiled by the worldly life.' (And God will say,) 'So on this day We shall forsake them as they forsook (the idea of) the meeting of this day of theirs, and as they denied Our Messages deliberately.'

52. 'Although We had brought them a Book which We had made clear with knowledge, as a guidance and as a mercy for a people who believe.'

53. Do these (disbelievers) just await the final sequel (of the warning) thereof? The day its final sequel comes, those who had forsaken it before (in this life) would say, 'The Messengers of our Lord did indeed come with the truth. Have we (now) any intercessors so that they may intercede for us? Or could we be sent back so that we might act otherwise than we used to act?' They have indeed ruined their souls and that which they used to forge has failed them.

SECTION 7

54. As a matter of fact your Lord is Allâh, Who created the heavens and the earth in six aeons and at the same time He is well established on the Throne of Authority. He covers the night with the day which follows (the night) incessantly. And He created the sun and the moon and the stars all subservient (to mankind) by His command. Beware! His is all, the creation and the command. Blessed be Allâh, Lord of the worlds.

55. Call upon your Lord with humility and open supplication. In fact He does not love the transgressors.

56. And do not create disorder in the land after the fair ordering thereof and call on Him with fear (of His displeasure) and with hope (of His mercy). Surely the mercy of Allâh is always close to the doers of good to others.

57. He it is Who sends the winds as good tidings heralding His mercy, till when they (those winds) bear heavy clouds, find them light, We drive (the clouds) to a dead land, then We make it rain, then We bring forth (from the dead land) by means of that (water) all manner of fruit; that is how We will bring forth the dead so that you may achieve eminence and honour.

58. And (as for) the fertile land, its vegetation comes forth (flourishing and well) by the leave of its Lord, and that (land) which is inferior (its herbage) comes forth but scantily and (that too) defective. That is how We expound (Our) Messages in diverse ways for a people who give thanks.

SECTION 8

59. We sent Noah to his people and he said, 'O my people! worship Allâh, there is no One worthy of worship for you other than He. Surely, I fear lest there should befall you the punishment of an awful Day.'

60. The chiefs of his people said, 'Surely, we see you steeped in evident error.'

61. He said, 'O my people! I am in no error, (nor am I lost), rather I am Messenger from the Lord of the worlds.'

62. 'I deliver to you the Messages of my Lord, and I advise you sincerely, for I know from Allâh what you do not know.'

63. 'Well, does it make you wonder that an exhortation, leading to eminence and honour, has come to you from your Lord through a man from among you, so that he may warn you, and so that you may become secure against evil, and that you may be shown mercy?'

64. But they (to whom he delivered His Messages) cried lies to him, so We rescued him and those with him in the Ark (from the deluge), and We drowned those who cried lies to Our Messages. They were certainly a (spiritually) blind people.

SECTION 9

65. And to 'Âd (We sent) their brother Hûd. He said, 'O my people! worship Allâh, you have no deity other than He; will you not then guard against evil?'

66. The unbelieving chiefs of his people said, 'We surely see you in folly and in fact we deem you one of the liars.'

67. He said, 'O my people! there is no foolishness in me, on the contrary I am a Messenger from the Lord of the worlds.'

68. 'I deliver to you the Messages of my Lord and I am to you a counselor, sincere and trust-worthy.'

69. 'Do you wonder that an exhortation, leading to eminence and honour, should come to you from your Lord, through a man from among you so that he may warn you? Remember (His favour) when He made you (- the *Adites*) rulers after the people of Noah and increased you vastly in respect of (your bodily) constitution (by making you stout and strong and tall), remember then the favours of Allâh so that you may

attain the goal.'

70. They said, 'Have you come to us that we may worship Allâh alone and renounce that which our fathers worshipped? Bring down on us the punishment you threaten us with, if you are of the truthful.'

71. He said, 'There has already fallen upon you the punishment and the displeasure from your Lord. Would you dispute with me regarding mere names (of your false gods) which you have coined, you and your fathers, names in support of which Allâh has sent down no authority? (If so) then wait (for the consequences), I too, am with you, among those who wait.'

72. So We, in Our mercy, saved him and his companions, and We rooted out the last remnants of those who cried lies to Our Messages, for they would not believe.

SECTION 10

73. And to Thamûd (We sent) their brother Sâlih. He said, 'O my people! worship Allâh, you have no other god than Him. A clear proof has already come to you from your Lord. Here is a she-camel (let loose for the cause) of Allâh, a sign for you. Let her alone to pasture in Allâh's land and do her no harm or a woeful punishment shall overtake you.'

74. 'And recall (His favour) when He made you (- Thamûd) the ruler after `Âd and assigned you abode in the land after your sufferings. You build castles in its plains, and hew out of the mountains houses. Remember, therefore, the favours of Allâh and do not commit mischief in the land, (acting as) creators of disorder.'

75. The chieftains of his people who considered themselves strong and great said to those who were reckoned weak, to those of them who had believed, 'Are you sure that Sâlih is one sent from his Lord?' They replied, 'Surely, we are believers in that (Message) he has been sent with.'

76. Those who considered themselves great and strong said (scornfully), 'Lo! we are disbelievers in that which you believe in.'

77. So they hamstrung the she-camel and flouted the commandment of their Lord and

said, `O Sâlih! bring down on us the punishment you used to threaten us with, if you are really one of the sent ones (by God).'

78. So the earthquake seized them and the morning found them lying prostrate on the ground in their habitations.

79. Then he (- Sâlih) turned away from them and said, (lamenting upon their disaster), `O my people! I delivered to you the Messages of my Lord and offered you sincere advice but you do not like sincere counsellors.'

80. And (We sent) Lot, (and recall) when he said to his people, `Do you commit such abomination (of sodomy) as is unprecedented and unsurpassed in the whole world?

81. `You indeed approach men rather than (your) women to satisfy your lust. The fact is that you are a people who transgress all limits.'

82. His people had no reply to make but that they said (to one another), `Turn them (- Lot and his followers) out of your township, for they are a people who show off to be pure.'

83. And We saved him and his followers, except his wife who chose to be of those who stayed behind.

84. And We pelted (the rest of) them with a severe rain (- a rain of stones due to volcanic eruption combined with an earthquake). Behold! how (evil) was the end of those who cut off their ties (with Allâh).

SECTION 11

85. And to (the people of) Midian (We sent) their brother Shu`aib. He said, `O my people! worship Allâh for you have no One worthy of worship other than Him. A clear proof (to this effect) has already come to you from your Lord, so give full measure and (full) weight, and do not cheat people of their goods, nor create disorder in the land after the fair ordering therein. This indeed is best for you, if you are true believers.

86. `And do not sit in every path holding out threats (to the wayfarers), and turning those who believe in Him, away from the path of Allâh and seeking to make it (appear as) crooked. And remember (His favours) when you were but a few then He multiplied you. Behold! what was the end of the spreader of corruption.

87. `And if there be a party of you who believes in what I am sent with, and a party who does not believe then wait with patience until Allâh judges between us, for He is

the Best of Judges.'

Part IX

88. The chiefs who considered themselves strong and great among his people said, 'We will certainly turn you O Shu`aib! and also those who believe with you, out of our township or else you (all) shall have to revert to our creed.' He said, 'What! (shall we be forced to accept your creed) even though we are unwilling (at heart)?'

89. 'We should indeed be forging a lie against Allâh, if we revert to your creed after Allâh has delivered us from it, and it is in no way possible for us to revert thereto unless Allâh, our Lord, should (so) will. Our Lord comprehends all things in His knowledge. In Allâh alone do we put our trust, (so Him do we beseech,) "O our Lord! decide between us and our people rightly for You are the Best of all Who open (the truth)".'

90. The chiefs who had disbelieved from among his people then said, 'If you follow Shu`aib you shall then, truly be the losers.'

91. Then they were caught in an earthquake and the morning found them lying prostrate on the ground in their habitations.

92. Those who cried lies to Shu`aib became (so extinct) as though they had never dwelt therein. Those alone who had cried lies to Shu`aib were the losers.

93. So he turned away from them and said, 'O my people! I did deliver to you the Messages of my Lord and I did offer you sincere advice; how can I lament over a disbelieving people.'

SECTION 12

94. And never did We send any Prophet to any township but We afflicted its people with destitution (from Our blessings) and with tribulations so that they might grow humble (before the Almighty).

95. Then We brought comfort (for them) in place of (their) distress until they grew in affluence, (number and excess) and said, 'Surely, tribulations and prosperity visited our fathers (also, so it is a normal course of events).'

So We seized them unawares while they perceived not (the peril they were in).

96. And if the people of the townships had believed and guarded against transgression, We would invariably have opened for them (the gates of) blessings of

the heaven and the earth, but they cried lies (to the Prophets), so We punished them on account of what they used to accomplish.

97. Do the people of these townships feel secure against the coming of Our punishment upon them by night while they are asleep?

98. And do the people of these townships feel secure against the coming of Our punishment upon them in the early part of the forenoon while they are engaged in futile and frivolous (worldly) pursuits?

99. Do they feel secure from the design of Allâh? No one at all feels secure from Allâh's design, except the people who are (doomed to be) losers.

SECTION 13

100. Does it not serve as guidance to those who have inherited the earth from its (previous) occupants that, if We will, We can afflict them (with some punishment) for their sins and put a seal upon their hearts, so that they will not be able to listen (to some guiding advice).

101. Such were the (people of) townships, We have related to you some of their news. Their Messengers did indeed come to them with clear proofs but they would not believe because they had cried lies (to them) in the beginning. That is how Allâh seals up the hearts of the disbelievers.

102. We did not find in most of them any (regard for the observance of their) covenant; indeed, We found most of them disobedient (and transgressors).

103. Then after these (Messengers), We sent Moses with Our signs to Pharaoh and his chiefs, but they did injustice to these (signs by denying them), now see how (bad) was the end of the mischief-makers.

104. And Moses said, `O Pharaoh! truly, I am a Messenger from the Lord of the worlds;

105. `I stand upon it (-the prophethood), worthy to say nothing (in the name) of Allâh but the truth. I have indeed brought to you a clear proof (of my truthfulness) from your Lord, therefore let the Children of Israel go with me.'

106. (Pharaoh) said, `If you have indeed come with a sign, then bring it forth, if you are of the truthful.'

107. So he (- Moses) flung down his staff, and behold! it was a serpent, plainly

visible.

108. And he drew forth his hand then lo! it was shining white (-blemishless) for the beholders.

SECTION 14

109. The chiefs of Pharaoh's people said (to each other), `This (fellow here) is most surely a skilled sorcerer,

110. `Who desires to turn you out from your land, now what do you advise?'

111. (After their deliberations) they said (to Pharaoh), `Put him and his brother off a while and send to the cities heralds,

112. `Who would (collect and) bring to you every skilled sorcerer.'

113. And the (most reputed) sorcerers came to Pharaoh. They said, `We shall indeed be richly rewarded if we be the prevailing ones?'

114. (Pharaoh) said, `Yes, and you shall also be even of those drawn near and close (to me).'

115. They said, `Moses! either you present (first what you have), or shall we be the (first) ones to present?'

116. (Moses) said, `You may present (first, what you have).' And when they presented (their devices) they cast a spell on the peoples' eyes and sought to strike awe into them and they came out with a mighty enchantment.

117. And We sent a revelation to Moses (saying), `Cast your staff (now).' Then it began to destroy (as he did it) all their lying show.

118. So was the truth established and all their efforts (to frustrate it) proved vain.

119. Thus they (-Pharaoh and his people) were vanquished then and there, and they

went back humiliated.

120. And the sorcerer were impelled (by divine mercy) to fall down prostrate.

121. They (-the sorcerers) said, `We believe in the Lord of the Worlds;

122. `The Lord of Moses and Aaron.'

123. Pharaoh said, `Dared you believe in Him before I gave you permission? Surely, this is some secret device which you have devised in this (central) city that you may expel from it its inhabitants. You shall come to know then (the consequence of your doings) very soon.

124. `I will certainly have your hands and your feet cut off on alternate sides on account of (your) disobedience, then will I crucify you to death one and all making your death all the more painful.'

125. They, (however, remained firm and) said, `(Never mind) we have all to return to our Lord after all.

126. `And you find no fault in us but that we have believed in the signs of our Lord when they came to us (and we pray to Him), "Our Lord! pour forth upon us patience and perseverance and grant that we die in a state of complete submission (to You)"!'

SECTION 15

127. Then the chiefs of the people of Pharaoh said (to Pharaoh), `Will you leave Moses and his people (free) to create disorder in the land and to desert you and your gods?' He said, `We shall certainly go on gradually killing their sons and will let their women live, seeking to make them immodest. Surely, we are dominant over them.'

128. Moses said to his people, `Pray to Allâh imploring Him for help and be patiently persevering. Verily, the earth belongs to Allâh. He gives it as a heritage to such of His servants as He will, and the (happy) end is for those who become secure against evil and keep their duty (to Allâh).

129. They (- the persons of superficial thinking of the Children of Israel) said, `We were persecuted before you came to us and (are being persecuted) even after you have come to us.' (Moses) said, `It is well nigh that your Lord will destroy your enemy and make you rulers in the (promised) land and then He will see how you act.'

SECTION 16

130. And We, surely, seized Pharaoh's followers with years of drought and scarcity of fruits and children so that they might take heed.

131. But when something good came their way, they said, 'This is ours (as we deserved it),' and if something adverse befell them they would attribute their ill luck to Moses and his companions. Beware! surely, their deeds are (recorded) with Allâh but most of them do not know (this).

132. And they said (to Moses), 'Whatsoever sign you may bring to us to cast a spell upon us with it, we will not be believers in you at all.'

133. Then We sent upon them widespread death and destruction (caused by storms, epidemics,) and the locusts, the lice, the frogs and the blood (-wars); signs (all) distinct and well defined, but they continued to behave arrogantly for they were a people who had cut off their ties (with God).

134. And whenever a punishment fell upon them they said, 'O Moses! pray for us to your Lord invoking the promise He has made to you. If you avert the punishment from us we will certainly believe in you, and we will let the Children of Israel go with you.'

135. But no sooner did We avert that punishment from them upto a (scheduled) term which they were to reach (in all events) than they at once broke their promise.

136. We then inflicted (the last) punishment on them; We drowned them in the sea for they had cried lies to Our Messages and were heedless of them.

137. And We made the people who were deemed weak (and were oppressed) inherit the eastern and western parts of the (promised) land which We had blessed. Thus was fulfilled the most gracious word of your Lord in favour of the Children of Israel, for they had patiently persevered; and We annihilated all that Pharaoh and his people had wrought and what they had erected.

138. And We brought the Children of Israel across the sea. Then they came to a people who clung to some idols they had (for worship). They said, 'O Moses! make for us a god like the gods they have.' He (-Moses) said, 'You are a foolish people who act through lack of knowledge.'

139. `Verily, as to these (idolaters) that (cult of idolatry) wherein they are engrossed is doomed to be shattered and utterly vain is all that they are doing.'

140. (Moses) added, `Am I to seek for you a god other than Allâh? Whereas He has made you excel the peoples of your time.

141. `And (recall the word of God) when (He said), "We rescued you from Pharaoh's people, who subjected you to the worst torment, they gradually went on killing your sons and let your women live and thus sought to make them immodest. And in this indeed was a great ordeal from your Lord".'

SECTION 17

142. And We made an appointment with Moses for thirty nights (and days to pray in solitude) which We supplemented with another ten (to receive the Law) so that the period appointed by his Lord came to be full forty nights (and days). (When leaving) Moses said to his brother Aaron, `Act for me (taking my place) in my absence among my people and reform and manage (them) well and do not follow the way of those who create disorder.'

143. And when Moses came at the time and place appointed by Us, and his Lord spoke to him, he said, `My Lord! reveal Yourself to me that I may look at You.' He said, `You cannot stand My revelation. Yet look at the mountain, and if it stands firm in its place, (only) then you shall stand My revelation.' Then when his Lord manifested His glory to the mountain, He sent it crashing down into pieces and Moses fell down unconscious, so that when he recovered he said, `Glory be to You! I turn towards You and I am the first to believe.'

144. He said, `O Moses! Verily, I have preferred you to all the people (of your time) by (entrusting you with) My Messages and by My discourse (with you), so take (firm hold of that) what I have given you and be of the grateful.'

145. And We preserved (in writing) for him on the Tablets all kinds of precepts and clear details of everything (which the Children of Israel needed). Then (We bade him), `Hold them fast and bid your people to carry out its best (teachings in its true significance). I will soon show you people the resort of the transgressors.' (- This nation will become corrupt and will meet an evil end.)

146. I shall soon turn away from My Messages those who behave haughtily in the land without any justification. Even if they witness every (possible) sign they will not believe therein and even if they see the path of rectitude they will not adopt it as (their) way; but if they see the way of error and falsehood they will adopt it as (their)

way. This (state of theirs) is because they cried lies to Our Messages and they were heedless to them.

147. And those who cry lies to Our Messages and the meeting of the Hereafter, vain and void are their deeds. They shall only be recompensed according to (the nature of) their deeds.

SECTION 18

148. And the people of Moses in his absence, made out of their ornaments a calf; a mere frame (of saffron hue), with a lowing sound. Could they not see that it neither spoke to them, nor guided them to any way? Yet they took it (for god to worship) and became wrongdoers.

149. And when (the magic spell was broken) they were smitten with remorse and realised that they had indeed gone astray, they said, 'Unless our Lord have mercy on us and protect us (against the consequences of our sins) we shall surely be of the losers.'

150. And when Moses returned to his people indignant and sorrowful he said, 'How evil is that (course) which you adopted in my place in my absence! Did you seek to hasten on the command of your Lord (for punishment)?' And he put down the Tablets and caught hold of his brother (Aaron, who was entrusted to carry out Moses' mission in his absence) by the head, pulling him towards himself. He (- Aaron) said, 'Son of my Mother! surely (I am not to be blamed for it), these people deemed me weak and were about to kill me. Therefore let not the enemies rejoice over my misery and count me not with these idolaters.'

151. He (- Moses) said, 'My Lord! protect me and my brother and admit us to Your mercy. You are indeed the Most

Merciful of those who show mercy.'

SECTION 19

152. (The Lord said in answer to Moses' supplications,) 'The displeasure of their Lord and disgrace in the present life shall surely overtake those who took the calf (for worship).' That is how do We repay the forgers of lies with punishment.

153. But those who do evil deeds and turn with repentance thereafter and believe truly (shall find that) your Lord, after this (change in them) is indeed Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

154. When the anger of Moses calmed down, he took up the Tablets. These inscriptions contained guidance and mercy for all those who hold their Lord in awe (with every care).

155. Now Moses selected from his people seventy men (to take with him) to Our appointed place and time, but when the earthquake seized them he said, 'My Lord! if You so willed You could have destroyed them as well as me before (this). But would You destroy us on account of that which the foolish among us have done? This (matter of the calf) is nothing but (an ordeal from You) that You may distinguish the good from the bad (of us). You adjudge, by such means, to be astray whomsoever You will and You guide whomsoever You will. You are our Patron, protect us therefore, and have mercy on us, for You are the Best of Protectors (against the consequence of our faults).

156. 'And ordain for us what is good in this world and in the Hereafter for to You alone we turn (repenting).' He (the Almighty) said, 'As for My punishment, I inflict on whom I will, but My mercy embraces all things. So I will ordain it for those who guard against evil and spend in charity, and for those who believe in Our Messages;

157. 'Those who follow this perfect Messenger, the Arab Prophet whom they find described in the Torah and the Evangel which are with them, who enjoins upon them that which is right and forbids them that which is wrong, and who makes lawful for them all the pure and good things, and makes unlawful all the impure and bad things, and who relieves them of their heavy burden and shackles that weigh them down. Indeed those who believe in him and honour him and serve him and follow the light that has been sent down with him, it is these who will attain their goal.'

SECTION 20

158. Say, 'O mankind! I am a Messenger to you all from Allâh to whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. There is no other, cannot be and will never be

One worthy of worship but He, Who gives life and causes death, so believe in Allâh and in His Messenger, the Arab, the Prophet who believes in Allâh and in (all) His words, and follow him so that you may be rightly guided so as to reach the goal.'

159. There is a community among the people of Moses who guide (the people) to the truth and with it they dispense justice.

160. We divided them (- the people of Moses) into twelve tribes according to the ancestral lineage (to which they belonged). And We sent Our revelation to Moses when his people asked of him (something) to drink (saying), 'Strike that rock with your staff.' Then (as he did), there gushed out from it twelve springs, so that all the people now knew their (respective) drinking place. And We outspread the rain clouds to be a shade over them and We sent down for them Manna and quails (saying), 'Eat of the pure things wherewith We have provided you.' And they did Us no harm (when they went wrong) but it was to themselves that they had been doing harm.

161. And (recall the time) when it was said to them, 'Dwell in this township (- Yathrib) and eat therefrom when you will and pray, "Relieve us of the burden of our sins," and enter its gate submissively. (If you do so) We will protect you against (the consequences of) your sins. We shall multiply the reward of the doers of excellent deeds.'

162. But those amongst them who were unjust changed the word to something different from that which they were told. So We sent down upon them unavoidable punishment from heaven because they had always been wrongdoers.

SECTION 21

163. And ask them as to (what happened to the people of) the township (- Eila) which was on the seashore (of the Red Sea) when they profaned the Sabbath. On the day of their Sabbath their fish appeared to them in shoals upon shoals on the surface (of the water), but on the day when they did not observe the Sabbath (and fishing was open), it did not appear to them. Thus did We go on making a distinction between the good and the evil ones of them by means of their acts of disobedience.

164. And (ask them what happened to those people) when a section from amongst them said (to another section), 'Why do you admonish a people whom Allâh is going to destroy completely, or whom He is going to punish with a severe punishment?' They answered, 'We do it so that it may serve as an excuse (to be absolved from blame) before your Lord

and that they may become secure (against the punishment).'

165. But when they disregarded the warning that had been given them, We saved those who forbade evil and We seized those who did wrong, with a serious punishment of extreme destitution because they were exceeding the bounds of obedience.

166. So when they insolently refused to keep away from that which they were forbidden, We condemned them to be (as) apes despised.

167. And (imagine the time) when your Lord proclaimed (to the Children of Israel) that He would certainly continue to subject them, till the Day of Resurrection, to the people who would afflict them with the worst torment. Verily, your Lord is Quick to punish the evil but He is (all the same) Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

168. And We broke them up into (separate) sections of peoples on the earth, of which some are the righteous and some otherwise, and We went on distinguishing the good among them from the evil ones, through prosperity and adversity (both) so that they might turn (to Us).

169. Then there succeeded them an evil generation who having inherited the Scripture (of Moses), go on taking the paltry goods of this base (life) and say, 'We shall surely be protected.' And if the like of these goods (again) come their way, they will take them (and sin persistently). Were they not bound to the covenant mentioned in the Scripture that they would not say of Allâh anything but the truth? And they have read for themselves what it (- the Scripture) contains. And the abode of the Hereafter is better only for those who become secure against evil. Have you then no sense?

170. And (as to) those who hold fast to the Scripture and establish worship, (let them bear in mind that) We will not at all allow the reward of those who set things right to be lost.

171. And (make them recall the time) when We shook (due to the quake) the Mount (Sinai) above them, as though it were to be a shade above them (like a wall) and they thought it was about to fall on them. (We said,) 'Hold fast to that which We have given you and remember its contents that you might become secure against evil.'

SECTION 22

172. Behold! when your Lord brings forth from Adam's children - from their loins, their offspring, and makes them bear witness to themselves when He says, `Am I not your Lord who sustains you?' They say (in evidence which human nature itself bears), `Yes we bear witness (to it and acknowledge it).' (Allâh does that) lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, `Surely, we were unaware of this (that you are our Lord).'

173. Or (lest) you should say, `It were only our forefathers who associated partners (with God) in the past and we only happened to be their children who came after them (to follow in their footsteps). Will You then destroy us for the vain doings of the perpetrators of falsehood?'

174. And in this manner do We explain the Messages in detail (in order that they may give up evil ways) and that they may turn (to Us).

175. And relate to them the news of him to whom We gave Our commandments but he withdrew himself therefrom, the satan followed him with the result that he became one of those led astray (and became a pervert).

176. Had We so willed We would have exalted him (in ranks) thereby (- by means of these Our commandments), but he remained inclined to (the material things of) this world and followed his low desires. His case therefore is like that of a dog, if you bear down upon it, it lolls its tongue out or if you leave it alone, it still lolls out its tongue. Such is the case with the people who cry lies to Our commandments; (they do not give up their evil ways whether you warn them or not). So narrate to them the account (of the people of old) that they may reflect.

177. Sad is the case of the people who cry lies to Our commandments and it is their own selves that they have wronged.

178. Those alone are rightly guided to whom Allâh shows guidance, but whom He adjudges to be astray and leaves them in error, it is these who are the losers.

179. And, verily, We have created many of the *jinn*s and the ordinary people whose end is Gehenna. They have hearts wherewith they do not understand and they have eyes but they do not see with them (the truth), and they have ears but they do not hear (the Messages) with them. They are like cattle, nay, they are (even) worse. It is these who are utterly heedless (to the warnings).

180. And to Allâh alone belong all the fairest and most perfect attributes, so call on Him by these, and leave alone those who deviate from the right way with respect to His attributes (and violate their sanctity). They shall be repaid with punishment for their (evil) deeds.

181. And of those whom We have created are a community who give true guidance to the truth and who dispense justice therewith.

SECTION 23

182. And (as for) those who cry lies to Our Messages We shall lead them (to destruction) step by step, in a manner unknown to them.

183. And I give them respite, My device is very strong and sure.

184. Have they not reflected (so that they may see) that their comrade (Muḥammad) has no vestige of insanity but is a plain Warner?

185. Have they not pondered over the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and every thing that Allâh has created? And (have they not looked into the fact) that it may be that their (own) term (of destruction) has already drawn nigh? In what announcement other than this (Prophet and the Qur'ân) will they believe?

186. Whomsoever Allâh adjudges to be astray and leaves in error, there can be no guide for him. And He leaves them (alone) in their transgression (blindly) wandering in distraction.

187. They ask you about the Hour, when it will come to pass. Say, `Surely, the knowledge thereof is with my Lord. He alone will reveal it at its proper time. It shall be heavy on the heavens and on the earth. It shall not come upon you but all of a sudden.' They ask you (about it) as if you were curiously solicitous about it (from Allâh). Say, `The knowledge of it is only with Allâh, but most people do not know (this fact).'

188. Say, `I have no power over (bringing) any gain or (avoiding) any harm to myself save to the extent that Allâh will. And had I known the unseen I would surely have secured a great deal of good (for myself) and no harm would ever have come to me. I am only a Warner (to the wicked) and a Bearer of good tidings (to the people who believe).

SECTION 24

189. It is He Who has created you from one living entity, and from the same stock (that He created a human being) He brought into being his mate that he might find comfort in her. When he covers her (in conjugal relationship) she conceives a light burden and carries it about, then when she grows heavy (with the child), they both pray to Allâh, their Lord, (saying) `If You give us a good one (- a child with a sound mind in a sound body), we shall surely be of the grateful (to You).'

190. But when He gives them a good (child), they both ascribe to Him associates in respect of (the birth of) that (child) which He has given them. Allâh is Highly Exalted far above the things they associate (with Him).

191. Do they associate (with Him as partners) those who create nothing but are themselves created.

192. And they (the associated gods) will have no power to give them (who associate partners with Allâh) any help, nor can they help themselves (but will themselves perish).

193. And if you (O Polytheists!) invite these (associated gods) for (your) guidance, they will not respond to you. It makes no difference to you whether you call them or you remain silent.

194. Verily, those whom you call on beside Allâh are (merely helpless maids or) servants like yourselves. (If it is not so then) call on them, they should then make a response to you if you are right.

195. Have these (false gods) feet with which they walk, or have they hands with which they hold, or have they eyes with which they see, or have they ears with which they hear? Say, `Call upon your associate gods, then contrive you all against me and give me no respite, (yet you will see that I am triumphant because)

196. `Verily, My Protecting-Friend is Allâh Who has revealed this perfect Book and He takes into (His) protection all the righteous.

197. `And those whom you call upon besides Him have no power to help you, nor can they help themselves.'

198. And if you call these (polytheists) to guidance they will not even be able to hear (you speak). And though you see them (as if they are) looking at you while (as a matter of fact) they do not see (anything being absent minded as they are).

199. Take to forgiveness and ever forbear and enjoin (the doing of) good and turn away from (those who intentionally want to remain) ignorant.

200. Should any imputation from satan (who spreads reports for sowing dissension) afflict you then seek refuge in Allâh. He is indeed All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

201. Verily, (as for) those who (really wish to) guard (against calamities) when some (enraging) suggestion from satan assails them, they remember (Allâh and His guidance), then behold, they begin to see (things in their true light).

202. And their brethren (the human associates of satan) draw them into error and they do not relax (in their evil designs).

203. And when you do not bring to them a (fresh) revelation they say, `Why do you not forge a verse (and invent it as a revelation)?' Say, `I only follow what is revealed to me by my Lord. These (Qur'ânic verses) are enlightening (and) proofs from your Lord and source of guidance and mercy (of Allâh) for a people who would believe,

204. Hence, when the Qur'ân is recited, give ear to it and keep silent (to remain attentive) so that you may be shown mercy.

205. Keep on remembering Your Lord in your mind with humility and awe and in a voice not loud, in the mornings

and the evenings, and do not be of the heedless.

206. Verily, those who are near to your Lord (and feel His presence with them) do not wax too proud to worship Him but they glorify Him and prostrate themselves in obedience to Him.

[Prostration]

Chapter

8

Al-Anfâl

(The Voluntary Gifts)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Anfâl).

1. People ask you about the voluntary gifts (for the advancement of the cause of Allâh). Say, `The voluntary gifts are at the disposal of Allâh and His Messenger (to administer). So take Allâh as a shield and reconcile your mutual differences and obey Allâh and His Messenger if you are (true) believers.
2. Verily, the (true) believers are only those whose hearts tremble when the name of Allâh is mentioned before them, and when His Messages are recited to them, it increases them in faith and in their Lord only do they put their trust;
3. Who observe Prayer and go on spending from that which We have provided for them.
4. It is these who are the believers in truth. There awaits them with their Lord exalted degrees (of rank) as well as (His) protection and an honourable provision.
5. (This reward is) because your Lord brought you forth from your house (for the Battle of *Badr*) for a righteous purpose, even though a party of the believers considered it very difficult.
6. These (disbelievers) disputed with you concerning the truth (of Islam) after it had been made clear (by signs and proofs). (On being invited to accept Islam they were behaving) as though they were being driven towards death, but they will actually be facing death very soon.
7. And (O Companions of the Prophet! recall the time) when Allâh promised you (victory over) one of the two (enemy) parties; (the well-equipped Makkan army and the other ill-equipped caravan from Syria), that it should be yours (for fighting against), while you wanted the unarmed party to fall into your hands (to get an easy victory), but Allâh wanted to establish the truth by fulfilling His words (of prophecy) and to cut off the very root of the disbelievers;
8. So that He might establish the truth and wipe out the falsehood, though those who had cut their ties with Allâh considered it hard.

9. (Recall the time) when you (O Companions of the Prophet!) implored your Lord to aid you in distress, and He responded to you (saying), 'I shall reinforce you with a thousand of the angels coming in continuous succession.'

10. And Allâh made this (coming of the angels) only as good tidings (of your victory) and (that was) so that your hearts might thereby be at rest, for (in any case) victory comes only by the help of Allâh. Verily, Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

SECTION 2

11. (Recall the time) when He caused a sort of slumber to prevail upon you to give you a sense of peaceful security from Himself, and He sent down upon you water from the clouds that He might thereby purify you and remove from you the scourge of satan, that He might strengthen your hearts and thereby make your feet firm and strong.

12. (It was the time) when your Lord revealed to the angels (to convey to the believers), 'I am with you;' (and He commanded the angels) to make those who believe stand firm and fast, and '(O believers!) I will indeed strike terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. So smite on (your enemy's) necks and above these (- on their heads) and strike off all their finger-tips.'

13. This (punishment) is (given them) because they have cut themselves off from Allâh and His Messenger, and whosoever opposes Allâh and His Messenger, as its result Allâh (too) is Severe in punishment (to such).

14. That is (your punishment), so suffer some of it (in this life), and (know) that (in the Hereafter) there awaits the disbelievers the torment of the Fire.

15. O you who believe! when you meet those who disbelieve in battle array, do not show them your backs.

16. And he that shows his back to them at such a time, unless he is maneuvering in warfare or as a measure to rally to

another company, has truly incurred the displeasure of Allâh, and his refuge is Gehenna. What an evil destined end it is!

17. Therefore (in this war O Muslims!) you killed them not. (As a matter of fact) it was Allâh Who killed them. And (O Prophet!) it was not you who threw (a handful of small stones) when you did (apparently) throw them (towards the enemy) but it was Allâh Who threw (that He might vanquish your enemies) and that He might confer on the believers from Himself a bounteous favour. Verily, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

18. That is (what happened at the Battle of *Badr*), and (know for the future too) that Allâh will always go on thwarting the (war) strategies of the disbelievers.

19. If you (O disbelievers!), sought a decision then such a decision (in the form of the results of the Battle of *Badr*) has of course come to you. And if you (now) desist (from persecuting the believers), it is better for you. And if you return (to hostilities), We too will return (to their help), and your hosts, though they may be numerous, will be of no avail to you; and (know) that Allâh is with the believers.

SECTION 3

20. O you who believe! obey Allâh and His Messenger and do not turn away from him whilst you hear (him speak).

21. And be not like those who say, 'We listen' while they do not listen and do not accept .

22. Surely, the worst of animal that walk or crawl in the sight of Allâh are those that are deaf and dumb and who are devoid of understanding.

23. Had Allâh found any good in them, He would have certainly made them listen (to the Qur'ân). And if (in the present situation) He makes them listen, they will turn away and they are averse.

24. O you who believe! respond to Allâh and the Messenger when he calls you to that which will give you life and know that Allâh intervenes between a person and (the inclinations of) his heart and that it is He to Whom you shall all be gathered (after having been raised to life).

25. And guard against an affliction which surely will not afflict only those of you in particular who have acted unjustly (but it will involve others also who are inclined towards them); and know that Allâh is Severe in requiting.

26. And (recall the time) when you were only a few and were looked upon as weak in the land, you were afraid lest the people should take you by storm, but He provided you refuge (in Madînah) and strengthened you with His help and provided you with good and pure things so that you might give thanks.

27. O you who believe! do not be dishonest to Allâh and His Messenger, nor betray your trusts knowingly.

28. And bear in mind that your possessions and your children are but an ordeal and it is Allâh alone with Whom there is a mighty reward.

SECTION 4

29. O you who believe! if you take Allâh as a shield He will grant you Discrimination (between right and wrong as is the Battle of *Badr*) and rid you of all your evil thoughts and deeds, and will protect you (against their adverse consequences), for Allâh is Possessor of great bounties.

30. And (O Prophet! recall the time) when those who disbelieved plotted (evil) against you, (and when so devised) they might confine you or kill you or turn you out. And even now they are devising (means and methods to harm you), and Allâh also devised (to counteract their evil designs); and Allâh is the Best of devisers.

31. And when Our verses are recited to them they say, 'We have already heard (them before). If we so wish, we could certainly compose the like of this. These are nothing but fables of the former peoples.'

32. And (recall the time) when they said, 'O Allâh! if this (faith of Islam) indeed be the truth revealed by You, then rain down upon us stones from heaven, or bring down upon us (some other) grievous punishment.'

33. Allâh was not going to punish them so long as you (O Prophet!) were among them, nor would He punish them while they were seeking His protection.

34. But what plea have they (now) that Allâh should not punish them when they keep (His worshippers) back from the Holy Mosque (at Makkah), whilst they are not (fit to be) its (true) trustees. Its (true) trustees are only those who have become secure against evil but most of these (disbelievers) know not (this fact).

35. (How can they be the trustees of the Holy Mosque as) their prayer at the House is nothing but (sacrilegious activities like) whistling and clapping of hands. (O disbelievers! you asked for punishment) therefore suffer the punishment (at the Battle of *Badr*) on account of your disbelief.

36. Those who disbelieve spend their possessions to hinder (the people) from the way of Allâh. They will surely continue to spend it thereafter. Then, in the long run, (this expenditure) will be to them a (source of) regret and after

that they shall be overcome. Such of them who persist in disbelief shall be gathered into Gehenna;

37. So that Allâh may distinguish and separate the impure from the pure and (in doing so) He will pile the impure one upon another, then He will huddle them all together, then He will consign them (-the huddled pile) to Gehenna. Such, in fact, are the very losers.

SECTION 5

38. Say to these who disbelieve that if they desist (now from persecuting the Muslims) they will be protected against the past (misdeeds), but if they revert (to their old ways of mischief), then the example of their predecessors has already gone before (and they will meet the same doom).

39. And (O Muslims!) fight them until there is no more persecution (in the name of religion) and adopting a (certain) religion is wholly for the sake of Allâh, but if they desist, then surely Allâh is Watchful of what they do (and they will not be done injustice to).

40. But if they turn back (and refuse all these terms and fight you) then know that Allâh is your Protecting Friend, what an excellent Protecting Friend! and what an Excellent Helper!

Part X

41. And know that whatever you acquire on winning a victory, a fifth of it belongs to Allâh, to the Messenger and to the kindred and the orphan, and the needy and the wayfarer; (this you must observe) if you believe in Allâh and in what We sent down upon Our servant on the Day of Discrimination (between the truth and the falsehood), the day the two armies encountered each other (at the Battle of *Badr*). Indeed, Allâh is Possessor of power to do all He will.

42. When (on that day) you were on the nearer end (-the side nearer to Madînah of the valley of *Badr*) and those (of the hostile forces of disbelievers) were at its farther end (- the side which was farther from Madînah) and the caravan (of the *Quraish* from Syria) was on a level lower than yours (- towards the sea-coast). And had you made a mutual appointment beforehand (as to when and where to meet the foe) you would have differed with regard to the place and time of the appointment, (but the encounter did take place), that Allâh brought about that which was already decreed (by Him), so that he who had (already spiritually) perished on the altar of reason might perish (physically also), and he who has (already spiritually) come to life through a clear sign might live (physically also). Most surely, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

43. (Prophet! recall the time) when Allâh showed these (disbelievers) to you in your dream to be only a few, and had He shown them to you as many (O believers!) you would surely have been demoralised and would have disputed one with another about the matter (of waging war), but Allâh saved (you). Indeed, He has the best knowledge of that which is in (your) hearts.

44. And when you encountered (them), He made them appear as a few in your eyes and He made you appear as a few in their eyes, in order that Allâh might bring about the thing that had already been decreed. And to Allâh all matters stand referred (for decision).

SECTION 6

45. O you who believe! when you encounter a host, remain steadfast, and remember Allâh much that you may triumph.

46. And obey Allâh and His Messenger and dispute not with one another or you will be demoralised and your strength will depart (from you) and do persevere, for Allâh is surely with the patiently persevering ones.

47. And be not like those who marched forth from their homes (at the time of Battle of *Badr*) boastfully and making an ostentatious display of themselves to the people, and who hindered (the people) from following the path of Allâh. And Allâh is the Destroyer of whatever they do (against Islam).

48. And (recall the time) when satan made their deeds fair-seeming to them and said, 'Today none among the people shall overpower you, for surely, I am your protecting helper.' But when the two hosts came face to face with each other, he (- satan) retraced his steps and said, 'Surely I have nothing to do with you, I see that which you do not see. I am surely afraid of Allâh, for Allâh is Severe in requital.'

SECTION 7

49. (This was the time) when the hypocrites and those who carried in their hearts a disease were saying, 'Their religion has deluded these (Muslims).' But (the truth of the matter is that) whoso puts his trust in Allâh finds that surely Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

50. Could you but see the angels carrying away the souls of those who disbelieve, smiting their faces and their backs (saying), 'Suffer the punishment of burning.'

51. 'This (punishment) is because of (the deeds) which your (own) hands have sent forward and (know) Allâh is by no means unjust to His servants.'

52. (Their ways are) like the ways of the followers of Pharaoh and those before them. They disbelieved in the Messages of Allâh, so Allâh seized them for their sins. Mighty is Allâh and Severe in punishing (the evil done).

53. It happened thus because Allâh is One Who would never withdraw a favour which He has conferred on a people until they themselves change their own state of mind, and that is because Allâh is (all the same) All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

54. Just as it happened to the followers of Pharaoh and those before them (so the same fate will meet them) for they had cried lies to the commandments of their Lord. So We destroyed them on account of their sins, and We drowned the followers of Pharaoh because they were all wrong-doers.

55. Surely, the worst of beasts in the sight of Allâh are those who denied to believe (in the truth in the first instance) so they would not believe;

56. (Particularly) those with whom you entered into a pact, but every time they break their pact and they do not guard

(against breach of trusts).

57. Therefore if you find these (breakers of trust) in battle array, then (by inflicting an exemplary punishment upon them) disperse those behind them so that they may be admonished.

58. And if you fear (and have reasons to fear) treachery from a people, then annul (their pact) on terms of equality. Indeed, Allâh loves not the treacherous.

SECTION 8

59. And let not those who disbelieve think that they have outstripped (Us). They shall not be able to frustrate (Our purpose).

60. (Believers! it is your duty also that you) keep prepared to meet them with whatever you can afford of armed force and of mounted pickets at the frontier, to strike terror thereby into the hearts of the enemies of Allâh and your enemies and such others besides them that you do not know, (but) Allâh knows them. And whatever you spend in the cause of Allâh, it shall be repaid to you in full and you will not be dealt with unjustly.

61. And if they incline towards peace, you should also incline towards it and put your trust in Allâh. Surely, it is He Who is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

62. But if they intend to desert you, (remember that) Allâh surely suffices you. It is He Who has strengthened you with His help and with the believers;

63. And He has united their (- believers') hearts in mutual affection. Had you spent all that is in the earth you could not have united their hearts so, but Allâh united their hearts in mutual affection. He is indeed All-Mighty, All-Wise.

64. O Prophet! Allâh is sufficient for you and for the believers who follow you.

SECTION 9

65. **O Prophet!** urge the believers frequently and strongly to (defensive) fighting. If there be of you twenty steadfast, they shall overcome two hundred and if there be a hundred of you they shall overcome a thousand of those who disbelieve, because these are a people devoid of understanding.

66. For the present Allâh has lightened your burden, for He knows that there is yet some weakness in you, thus, if there be of you one hundred persevering and steadfast persons they shall (still) overcome (at least) two hundred and if there be a thousand of you they shall overcome two thousand by the leave of Allâh. And Allâh is with the steadfast.

67. It does not behove a Prophet to keep captives unless He has triumphed after a regular bloody fighting in the land. (If you take captives without warfare,) you desire the temporary and frail goods of this world, while Allâh desires (for you the good of) the Hereafter. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

68. Had there not been a prior decree (of a war at *Badr*) from Allâh you would certainly have come to grief as a result of that which you were going to undertake (by attacking the caravan of *Quraish* from Syria).

69. So eat (and spend) of that which you have acquired after winning the war as is lawful, good and pure, and take Allâh as a shield, for Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 10

70. **Prophet!** say to those captives (of war) who are in your custody, `If Allâh finds any good in your heart, He will give you even better than that which has been taken away from you (as ransom) and will protect you (against your sins), for Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful,

71. But if they intend to play false with you, (remember that) they were false to Allâh before, but He delivered them into your control. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

72. Surely, those who have believed and have emigrated and strove hard with their possessions and their persons in the cause of Allâh (- the *Muhâjirs*), and who have given (them) refuge and helped (- the *Anṣâr*), are friends one to another. But you are not responsible for the protection of those who have believed but have not emigrated until they do emigrate. However if they seek your help in (the matter of) faith, then it is binding upon you to help them except against a people between whom and yourselves is a treaty. Indeed, Allâh knows well all that you do.

73. And (as for) those who disbelieve, they are friends one to another. Hence if you (O Muslims!) do not act (as has been ordained for you to help one another) there will be persecution and great corruption in the land.

74. And those who have believed and emigrated and strove hard for the cause of Allâh, and those who have given (them) refuge and have helped, it is these indeed who are the true believers. For them is (His) protection (against sins) and an honourable provision (from Him).

75. And (even) those who have believed afterwards, and emigrated and strove hard jointly with you for the cause of Allâh, they of course belong to you. And (as to) blood relations they are nearer one to another (to inheritance)

according to the law of Allâh. Surely, Allâh has perfect knowledge of everything.

Chapter

9

Al-Taubah

(The Repentance)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

1. (This is) a declaration of complete absolution on the part of Allâh and His Messenger (from all obligations) to those of the polytheists with whom you had entered into a treaty (but they broke it repeatedly).
2. So you may go about (freely O you breakers of the treaties!) in the land for four months (since the date of this declaration), and know that you cannot frustrate (the will of) Allâh, and (know) that Allâh will humiliate the disbelievers.
3. And this is a proclamation from Allâh and His Messenger to the people on the occasion of the Greater Pilgrimage (on the day of Sacrifice) that Allâh and His Messenger owe no obligation to these polytheists. If you (O polytheists!) turn to Him

in repentance it is better for you. But if you turn away then know that you cannot frustrate (the will of) Allâh. And proclaim (O Prophet!) the news of a grievous punishment to these disbelievers;

4. Excepting those of the polytheists with whom you have entered into a treaty (and who subsequently did not fail you in any manner, nor did they back up anyone against you. So abide by the treaty you had entered with them to the end of the term you have fixed with them. Allâh, surely loves those who keep their duty.

5. But when the prohibited (four) months (when no attack on the breakers of the treaties was permissible) have expired, slay such polytheists (who broke their treaties) wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every place from which it is possible to perceive the enemy and watch their movements. But if they turn in repentance and keep up Prayer and go on presenting the *Zakât*, leave their path free. Indeed, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

6. And if any of the polytheists seeks your protection, grant him protection so that he may hear the word of Allâh, then conduct him to a place where he feels himself safe and secure. That (treatment) is (to be meted out to them) because they are a people who have no knowledge (of Islam).

SECTION 2

7. There can be no treaty (on the part) of these Polytheists (after their repeated violations of the same) in the sight of Allâh and His Messenger. This, however, does not apply to those with whom you entered into a treaty near the Holy Mosque (at Makkah). So long as they keep true to (the treaty for) you, you should also keep true (in maintaining the treaty) for them. Allâh, surely, loves those who become secure (against the breach of trusts).

8. How (can there be a treaty with deliberate violators of agreements) while, if they get the better of you they would respect no bond, nor words of honour in dealing with you. They would try to please you with (mere words of) their mouths whereas their hearts dissent (from what they say), and most of them are perfidious.

9. They have preferred paltry gains (- this world) to the revelations of Allâh and thus have turned (people) away from His path. Surely, evil is what they do!

10. They observe no bond nor any word of honour while dealing with one who trusts (them). It is these who are the transgressors.

11. But if (even) such (sworn antagonists) turn in repentance and keep up Prayer and go on presenting the *Zakât*, they are your brethren in faith. And We explain the

commandments in detail for a people who know.

12. If they break their oaths after (they have ratified) their pledge and revile and commit aggression against your Faith, then fight such leaders of disbelief that they may desist. Indeed, solemn (binding) oaths have no value with them.

13. Will you not fight a people who have broken their solemn oaths and proposed to turn out the Messenger and were the first to commence (the fight) against you. Are you afraid of them? Nay, Allâh is more worthy that you should stand in awe of Him if you be (true) believers.

14. Fight them, Allâh will punish them at your hands and humiliate them and will grant you victory over them, and He will heal (the agonies of) the minds of a believing people.

15. And He may take away the suppressed rage of their (- the disbeliever's) hearts. And Allâh turns (with mercy) to him who wishes (Him to turn to him with grace). Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

16. Do you think that you will be left (alone in peace) while Allâh has not yet distinguished those who strove hard (for

His cause) from among you and who have taken no protecting friend apart from Allâh and His Messenger and the believers? Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

SECTION 3

17. It is not for the polytheists to keep the mosques of Allâh in a good and flourishing state while they bear witness to their own disbelief. It is these whose deeds have all gone in vain and in the Fire they shall abide.

18. He alone keeps the mosques of Allâh in a good and flourishing state who believes in Allâh and the Last Day and observes Prayer and goes on presenting the *Zakât* and holds none but Allâh in awe. Therefore it is these alone who are likely to be among those who attain true guidance.

19. Do you hold the giving of drink to the Pilgrims and keeping the Holy Mosque in a good and flourishing state as equal to (the deeds of) him who believes in Allâh and the Last Day and strives hard in the cause of Allâh? They are not equal in the sight of Allâh. Allâh guides not to ultimate success the people who have no sense of proportion.

20. Those who believe and emigrate (for the sake of God) and strive hard for the cause of Allâh with their possessions and their persons, have the highest rank with Allâh and it is these who are the triumphant.

21. Their Lord gives them good tidings of great mercy from Him and of good pleasure and of Gardens obtaining lasting and abundant bliss for them.

22. They shall abide therein for ever and ever. Indeed Allâh is He with Whom there awaits a great reward (for them).

23. O you who believe! take not your fathers and brothers for allies, if they prefer disbelief to belief. And whoever of you ally themselves with them, it is then these who are the real wrong doers.

24. Say, `If your fathers and your sons and your brethren and your mates and your kinsfolk and the belongings you have acquired and the trade, the slump of which you fear and the homes you love are dearer to you than Allâh and His Messenger and striving hard for the cause of Allâh, then wait till Allâh brings about His judgment. Indeed, Allâh guides no sinful people to success.

SECTION 4

25. Allâh has already helped you on many a battle field and on the day of (the battle of) *Hunain* when your multitude made you feel proud but it availed you nought and the land with all its spaciousness became straitened for you then you turned back retreating.

26. Then Allâh sent down His *Shechinah*(- peace of mind and tranquility) upon His Messenger and upon the believers and He sent down troops which were not visible to you and He punished those who disbelieved. And such is the recompense of the disbelievers.

27. Yet after this (punishment) Allâh will turn (with His mercy) to him who wishes (Him to turn to him with His grace), for Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

28. O you who believe! the polytheists are (spiritually) altogether unclean, so they shall not come near the Holy Mosque after this year of theirs. And if you fear (this

will spell) poverty (for you) then (rest contented) Allâh will soon make you rich out of His bounty if He will. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

29. Fight against such of the people who despite having been given the Scripture do not (really) believe in Allâh and the Last Day, and who do not hold unlawful what Allâh and His Messenger have declared to be unlawful, and do not subscribe to the true faith, until they pay the *Jizyah* (- the commutation tax), provided they can afford it, and they are content with their state of subjection (having become incorporated in the Islamic government).

SECTION 5

30. There are some of the Jews who say, 'Ezra is the son of Allâh,' while the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the son of Allâh.' These are mere words that they speak. They only imitate the words of the infidels of old. Allâh assail them! Whither they are deluded away!

31. They have taken their learned men and their monks for lords apart from Allâh, and (similarly they have taken) the Messiah, son of Mary, whilst they were enjoined to worship none but One God. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. Too glorified is He for what they associate (with Him).

32. They seek to put out the light of Allâh with (the breath of) their mouths, but Allâh disdains every other thing save that He will perfect His light; however much the disbelievers may consider (it) hard.

33. It is He who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the Faith of Truth that He may make it triumph over every (other) faith, even though the polytheists consider (it) hard.

34. O you who believe! many of the learned men (of the Jews) and the (Christian) monks wrongfully appropriate the belongings of the people and turn (the people) away from, and themselves forsake the path of Allâh. Give the news

of woeful punishment to them and to those who treasure gold and silver and do not spend it in the cause of Allâh.

35. The day (will come) when these (treasures) shall be heated in the Fire of Gehenna and their foreheads and their sides and their backs be branded with it; (and it shall be said to them,) `This is what you hoarded up for yourselves, therefore suffer (now the punishment) for what you have been (unlawfully) treasuring up.

36. Verily, the number of months with Allâh is twelve months (in a year) according to the law of Allâh since the day He created the heavens and the earth. Of these four (months) are sacred (- *Rajab*, *Muharram*, *Dhul-Qa`dah* and *Dhul-Hijjah*). That is the established law. Do not do injustice to yourselves (by waging wars) during these (sacred months). And fight the polytheists all together (in your defence) just as they fight you all together. And know that Allâh is indeed with those who become secure against evil.

37. The postponement (of a sacred month to some other month) is an excess (committed in the days of) disbelief; the disbelievers are led astray by this (practice). They hold it lawful (for waging a war) one year and forbid it another year, thus adjusting the term of the ban prescribed by Allâh and making lawful what Allâh has made unlawful. The evil of their deeds has been made (by satan) fair-seeming to them. And Allâh guides not the disbelieving people in the ways of success.

SECTION 6

38. **O** you the (so called) believers! what (excuse) have you that when it is said to you to go forth for the cause of Allâh (to *Tabûk*) you incline heavily towards the earth. Would you be contented with the present life in preference to the Hereafter? (If it is so then remember that) the provision of this present life, as compared with the Hereafter, is but little.

39. If you do not go forth on the expedition, He will make you endure a grievous suffering and will choose instead of you a people better than you and you will do Him no harm at all. For Allâh is Possessor of every power to do all He will.

40. If you do not help him (- the Prophet), then (know) Allâh has already helped him when those who disbelieved turned him out (from Makkah with only one companion); he being the second of the two when they were both in the cave (of *Thaur*); and when he said to his companion (- *Abû Bakr*), `Grieve not (about me). Surely, Allâh is with us.' Then Allâh sent down His *Shechinah* (- peace and tranquility) upon him, and helped him with troops which were not visible to you, and He humbled the word of those who disbelieved to the lowest, and it is the word of Allâh alone which is the supermost (and so prevails). Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

41. Go forth (all whether) light (- being ill-equipped) or heavy (- being well-equipped) and strive hard with your possessions and your persons in the cause of Allâh. That is better for you, if only you knew (your own gain or loss).

42. Had it been an immediate gain and a short journey these (hypocrites) would certainly have followed you, but the hard journey seemed too distant to them, still they will swear (after your successful return) by Allâh (saying), 'If only we could, we would surely have marched forth with you.' They spell their own ruin, Allâh knows well that they are liars.

SECTION 7

43. Allâh set your affairs aright (and brought honour and glory to you since you pardoned the hypocrites). Why did you give them leave (to stay behind)? (You should not have given them leave) until you had clearly known those who spoke the truth (and offered genuine excuses) and you had come to know the liars.

44. Those who believe in Allâh and the Last Day do not beg leave of you (to be excused) from striving hard with their possessions and their persons. And Allâh is Well-Aware of those who keep their duty (to Him).

45. They alone will beg leave of you who do not believe in Allâh and the Last Day and whose hearts are full of doubts, so overwhelmed by their doubts they waver.

46. If they had (really) intended to go forth they would certainly have made some preparations (for the expedition), but Allâh disliked their attending (to their duty) and He held them back and it was said (to them), 'Remain back with those who stay behind.'

47. Had they set forth with you (O believers!) they would have only added to your trouble, and they would have moved about hurriedly in your midst seeking to create disruption among you, and there are some spies in your midst who would have listened to them on their (- your enemies) behalf. And Allâh is Well-Aware of these wrong-doers.

48. They already sought to create dissension before this and they had been meditating plots to upset your plans till the truth became manifest and the decree of Allâh prevailed, though they considered (it) hard.

49. And among these (hypocrites) are those who said (to you), 'Grant us leave (to stay behind) and spare us the trial.' Behold! they have already fallen into the trial. And certainly Gehenna encompasses the disbelievers (for punishing

them).

50. If good befalls you it grieves them, but if some hardship afflicts you they say, 'We had indeed taken our precautions beforehand,' and they turn away rejoicing.

51. Say, 'Nothing will afflict us but what Allâh has ordained for us, He is our Patron.' And in Allâh let the believers put their trust.

52. Say, 'You only await for us one of the two good things (- victory or martyrdom), while we await for you (one of two evils to befall) that Allâh will afflict you with punishment either from Himself or at our hands. Wait then, we are (also) waiting with you (as to our respective ends).

53. Say, 'Whether you spend willingly or unwillingly, this (- your charity) shall never be accepted from you, for you are indeed a people ever disobedient.'

54. And nothing prevents their contributions from being accepted except that they (practically) disbelieve in Allâh and His Messenger and they perform not the Prayer but lazily and they spend not (in the cause of Allâh) but reluctantly.

55. So let not their riches nor their children make you wonder. Allâh only intends to punish them therewith in the present life and (that) their souls may depart while they are disbelievers.

56. And they swear by Allâh that they indeed belong to you, but they do not belong to you, on the other hand they are too timid a people (to appear in their true colours).

57. Could they find a shelter or some caverns or any (other) place to enter into, they would certainly have turned thereto rushing headlong (for it).

58. And some of these (hypocrites) are those who find fault with you in the (distribution of) charities. If they are given a share out of it, they are pleased, but if they are not given any share out of it, they at once feel offended.

59. (It would have been better for them) if they had been well content with what Allâh and His Messenger had given them, and had said, 'Sufficient for us is Allâh.

Allâh will grant us out of His bounty and so will His Messenger. Surely, to Allâh alone do we turn in supplication.'

SECTION 8

60. Compulsory charities (- *Zakât*) are meant for the destitute and the needy, and for its functionaries, and (for) those whose hearts require to be consoled (in all sincerity), and for the emancipation of the slaves, and for (the relief of) those in debt, and (for spending) in the cause of Allâh, and for the wayfarer. (This is) an obligation imposed by Allâh, for Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

61. And among these (hypocrites) are those who talk ill of the Prophet and say, 'He gives ear to all.' Say, 'His giving ear to all is to your own good. He believes in Allâh and trusts the faithful, and he is a great mercy for those of you who believe.' And there awaits a grievous punishment for those who talk ill of the Messenger of Allâh.

62. They swear by Allâh to you to please you (O believers!). If they were true believers they should realize that Allâh, as well as His Messenger, is more worthy that they should please Him (with their belief in the truth and their righteous deeds).

63. Have they not (yet) known that whosoever opposes Allâh and His Messenger merits, of course, the Fire of Gehenna wherein he shall abide? That is the great humiliation indeed!

64. Some of the hypocrites (only pretend to) fear that a *Sûrah* might be revealed to them(- the believers) against them, that may acquaint them of what is hidden in their (- hypocrites') minds. Say, 'Take it lightly (if you must), Allâh will surely bring to light what you (simply pretend to) fear (about being disclosed).'

65. And if you (thereupon) ask them (to explain their conduct) they will certainly say, 'We were talking idly and just making a jest.' Say, 'Is it of (the Almighty Being like) Allâh and His revelations and His Messenger that you (dare to) talk so lightly (could you find none else for the purpose!).

66. 'Make no (false) excuses (now), you have certainly disbelieved after your confession of belief. Even if We forgive one party of you, We will punish the (people of the) other party for they are steeped in sin.'

SECTION 9

67. The hypocrites, both men and women, are all (strictly) alike. They enjoin the wrong and forbid the right and withhold their hands (from spending for the cause of Allâh). They have forsaken Allâh, so He (too) has forsaken them. It is the hypocrites

who have truly been the rebellious.

68. Allâh has promised the hypocrites, both men and women, and the disbelievers, the Fire of Gehenna; they shall abide therein. It is sufficient for them. Allâh has rejected them. And for them there awaits a long-lasting punishment.

69. (Say to hypocrites,) `You are like your predecessors. (But) they were mightier than you in strength and richer in possessions and children. Then they enjoyed their lot for a short time; so you too have enjoyed your lot as your predecessors enjoyed theirs. And you indulged in idle talk as they did (but remember), it is these whose deeds have

gone in vain in this world and the Hereafter, and it is these who are completely lost.'

70. Have they not heard the news of their predecessors, of the people of Noah, `Âd and Thamûd and of the people of Abraham and of the dwellers of Midian, and of the cities (of Sodom and Gomorrah) which were overthrown? There had come to them their Messengers (of God) with clear proofs (but they denied them and suffered the consequences thereof). So it was not Allâh who dealt with them unjustly but they did injustice to themselves.

71. And the believing men and women both are friends one of another. They enjoin the right and forbid the wrong and observe Prayer and go on presenting the *Zakât* and obey Allâh and His Messenger. It is these on whom Allâh will certainly have mercy. Surely, Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

72. Allâh has promised the believing men and women both, Gardens served with running streams, they shall abide therein; and (He has also promised them) delightful and goodly dwelling places in Gardens of Eternity. And Allâh's good pleasure is the greatest (blessing) of all. That is the most sublime achievement.

SECTION 10

73. **O** Prophet! strive hard against the disbelievers and the hypocrites and remain strictly firm against them. Their abode is Gehenna. What an evil resort it is!

74. These(hypocrites) swear by Allâh that they have said nothing (wrong), whereas

they had certainly spoken the word of blasphemy and took to the ways of disbelief after their having embraced Islam, and they meditated that which they could never attain. And they cherished hatred (against believers) for no other reason but that Allâh and His Messenger had enriched them out of His bounty, If they repent it would be good for them, but if they remain averse Allâh will punish them with a grievous punishment in this world and in the Hereafter, and they shall find neither a patron nor a helper in the entire land.

75. Some among them are those who made a covenant with Allâh (saying), `If He grants us of His bounty we would most assuredly give alms and be certainly of the righteous (after reforming ourselves).

76. But when He granted them of His bounty they hoarded it and they went back (upon their covenant) and they were averse (to righteousness).

77. Consequently He has punished them by infesting their hearts with hypocrisy lasting till the day they shall meet Him. (This was) because they broke their word to Allâh which they had given Him and because they indulged in lies.

78. Have they not known (yet) that Allâh is aware of their hidden thoughts and their private counsels and that Allâh is fully Aware of all hidden realities?

79. (It is the hypocrites) who find fault with those of the believers who give alms voluntarily and freely and deride such believers who find nothing (to contribute) except their service (or the meager fruit of their toil). Allâh shall look down upon them (for their derision) and for them is a grievous punishment.

80. (It makes no difference to them) whether you ask protection (of God from sins) for these (hypocrites) or you do not ask protection for them. Even if you ask protection for them seventy times Allâh will never protect them (against the consequences of their sins). That is because they disbelieved in Allâh and His Messenger, and Allâh guides no perfidious people (in the ways of success).

SECTION 11

81. Those who were left behind (in the *Tabûk* expedition because of their making false excuses) rejoiced in their staying (at home) behind the Messenger of Allâh. They found it hard to strive with their possessions and their persons in the cause of Allâh. And they said (one to another), `Go not forth to fight in the heat.' Say, `The fire of Gehenna is even more intense in heat.' If only they could understand (it).

82. (Well!) let them laugh a little (now) as they have to weep much more to recompense for what they have wrought.

83. Should Allâh bring you (safe and sound) back (from *Tabûk* expedition) and you meet a party of them (- the hypocrites), and they ask leave of you to go forth (to join the next expedition with you) say, `You shall never go forth with me, nor ever fight an enemy with me. You chose to stay (at home) the first time, now stay with those who remain behind.'

84. Nor shall you ever offer (*Janâzah* or a funeral) Prayer for any one of them who dies, nor stand by the grave of any one of them (to pray), for they disbelieved in Allâh and His Messenger and died while they were (still) disobedient.

85. And let not their possessions and their children cause you to wonder. Allâh only intends to punish them in this life through them (their possessions and children), and that their souls depart while they are still disbelievers.

86. And when a Sûrah (- Qur'ânic chapter) is revealed (enjoining), `Believe in Allâh and strive along with His Messenger (in the cause of Allâh) even the well-to-do among them ask leave of you and say, `Leave us alone to be with those who stay (at home).'

87. They are pleased to be (counted) with the misbehaved and worthless (folk) and a seal has been set upon their hearts so that they do not understand.

88. But the Messenger and those who believed with him strove hard (in the cause of Allâh) with their possessions and their persons, it is these who shall have all the good things and it is these who shall attain their goal.

89. Allâh has provided them Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). Therein they shall abide. That is the sublime achievement.

SECTION 12

90. And those who make false excuses from among the Arabs of the desert, came (with the request) that leave (- to stay away from defensive fighting) might be given them. And those who made false promises to Allâh and His Messenger stayed (at home). There shall befall those who stuck to disbelief from among them a grievous punishment.

91. (For being unable to proceed on to defensive fighting) no blame lies on the weak, nor on the sick, nor on those who find nothing that they could spend, provided they are sincere and true to Allâh and His Messenger. There is no way (of reproach) against the doers of good to others. And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

92. Nor (a blame lies) on those whom when they came to you (Prophet! with the request) that you should mount them, you said, `I find not whereon I may mount you.' They then turned away (helpless as they were) while their eyes were overflowing with tears of grief because they could find nothing that they could spend.

93. Blame shall lie only on those who beg leave of you though they are rich. They have chosen to be (numbered) with the misbehaved and worthless (folk). And Allâh has set a seal upon their hearts so that they are not aware (of their loss).

Part XI

94. These (hypocrites) will make (false) excuses to you when you return to them (after the expedition to *Tabûk*. You should at that time) say (to them), 'Make no excuses, we shall never believe you; Allâh has already fully informed us of all the facts relating to you. Allâh will (henceforth) watch your conduct and (so will) His Messenger. Then (at length) you will be brought before Him Who knows the hidden as well as the manifest realities He will then inform you fully about your deeds.'

95. When you go back to them they will certainly swear to you by Allâh (that they had a genuine excuse) so that you may leave them alone (without reproaching them). So let them alone. Surely, they are altogether unclean and their resort is Gehenna; a deserving recompense for what they want to do.

96. They will swear to you that you may be pleased with them; but even if you are pleased with them (they should know that) Allâh will not be pleased with the disobedient people.

97. The (disbelievers among the) Arabs of the desert are the most stubborn in disbelief and hypocrisy and the most prone not to know the limits of (law) which Allâh has revealed to His Messenger. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

98. And some of the Arabs of the desert regard whatever they spend (in the cause of Allâh) as an undue fine, and they wait for the calamities to (befall) you. On themselves (shall fall) an even worse calamity. And Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

99. And some of the Arabs of the desert are such as believe in Allâh and the Last Day and regard whatever they spend (in the cause of Allâh) as means of bringing themselves close to Allâh and (of earning) the blessings of the Messenger. Listen, it is surely a means of bringing them close (to Him). Allâh will certainly admit them to His mercy. Surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 13

100. And (as for) the foremost (in spiritual rank, outstripping others in faith and righteous actions) and the first (to embrace Islam) from among the Emigrants and the Helpers and those who followed their example in the best possible manner, Allâh is well-pleased with them and they are well-pleased with Him, He has provided for them Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing).

They will abide therein for ever. That indeed is the most sublime achievement.

101. Some of the Arabs of the desert living around you and some of the people of Madīnah (also) are hypocrites. They persist in and are habituated to hypocrisy, you know them not, but We know them. We will punish them again and again (in this life), then they shall be made to revert to a greater punishment (in the Hereafter).

102. And there are others, (among those who stayed behind), who have confessed their faults, they have linked up one good deed with another which is bad, (so their deeds are both good and bad). Allāh is likely to turn to them with mercy. Verily, Allāh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

103. (Prophet!) take a portion of their possessions as *Zakât* so that you may thereby purify them (of their evils) and enhance them in their virtuous deeds, and pray for them, your prayer is indeed a (source of) solace for them. And Allāh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

104. Do they not know that Allāh is He Who accepts repentance from His servants and accepts their alms and that Allāh is He Who is Oft-Returning (with compassion), Ever Merciful?

105. And say, `Go on doing (as you like), Allāh will surely keep an eye on your deeds and (so will) His Messenger and the believers, and you will surely be brought back to Him Who knows the hidden and the manifest realities, then He will tell you all that you have been doing.

106. And there are (yet) others (among those who stayed behind and whose case has been deferred and) who are made to wait for the decree of Allāh. May be He punishes them or may be He turns to them (with mercy). Allāh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

107. And (there are among the hypocrites) those who have built a mosque to cause harm (to Islam) and to promote disbelief and in order to cause discord among the believers, and to provide a hiding place for him who had already made war against Allāh and His Messenger. And they will certainly swear (saying), `We meant nothing but good (in building the mosque).' But Allāh bears witness that they are certainly liars.

108. (Prophet!) never shall you stand in that (mosque for prayer). Certainly, the mosque which was founded upon piety (and observance of duty) from the (very) first day is more worthy that you stand (for Prayer) therein. In this (mosque) there are men (performers of Prayers) who love to become purified; and Allāh loves those who purify themselves externally and internally.

109. Is he, who founded his edifice on taking Allâh as a shield and (on) His good pleasure, better or he who founded his edifice on the brink of a hollowed and crumbling water-worn bank so that it toppled along with him into the Fire of Gehenna? And Allâh guides not the wrong doing people (to the ways of success).

110. This building of theirs which they have built will never cease to rankle in their hearts unless their hearts are torn to pieces (with anguish and repentance). And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

SECTION 14

111. Allâh has indeed purchased from the believers their persons and their possessions. Theirs, in return, is the (Heavenly) Garden; they fight in the cause of Allâh, so they slay and are slain, an unfailing promise (that He has made) binding upon Himself (as mentioned) in the Torah and the Evangel and the Qur'ân. And who is more faithful and true to his covenant than Allâh? (Believers!) rejoice over the bargain you have made with Him and this indeed is a great achievement.

112. (These believers are) those who turn to Allâh (in repentance), who worship Him, who praise Him, who fast, who bow down (before Him), who prostrate themselves (in Prayer), who enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and who keep the limits set by Allâh. Proclaim to such believers good tidings (of untold gifts in the Heavenly Garden).

113. It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe that they should pray for protection for the polytheists (who have died without repentance) even if they be their near kinsmen, after it has become clear to them that they are the fellows of the flaming Fire.

114. And Abraham's praying for protection for his (idolatrous) sire was only because of a promise he had made to him, but when it became clear to him that he (- his sire) was an enemy to Allâh, he (- Abraham) dissociated himself from him. Abraham was, as a matter of fact, soft of heart (and) forbearing.

115. It is not for Allâh to condemn a people as lost after He has guided them, unless He has made clear to them the things they ought to guard against. Surely, Allâh has

full knowledge of everything.

116. Verily, it is Allâh to Whom belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He gives life and causes death. And you have, apart from Allâh, no friend nor helper.

117. Certainly, Allâh has turned with mercy to the Prophet and to the Emigrants and the Helpers who stood by him in the hour of distress (- in the expedition to *Tabûk*) after the hearts of some of the people were about to swerve (from the duty). Again He turned to them with mercy. In fact, He is towards them Most-Loving, Ever Merciful.

118. And (He also turned with mercy) to the three (Companions of the Prophet, *Ka`b* son of *Mâlik*, *Hilâl* son of *'Umayyah* and *Murârah* son of *Rabî`ah*); whose case was deferred (for decree of Allâh), until the earth, for (all) its spaciousness became narrow for them, and their lives (also) became unbearable for them, and they were convinced that there was no refuge (to escape the punishment) from Allâh save in Him. Then He turned to them with mercy that they might also turn (with repentance to Him). Surely, it is Allâh Who is the Oft-Returning with compassion, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 15

119. O you who believe! keep your duty to Allâh and be with the truthful.

120. It was not proper for the people of Madînah and (for) the Arabs of the desert (who live) around them to have stayed behind the Messenger of Allâh (at the time of expedition to *Tabûk*) nor (was it proper for them) to have preferred their own lives to his. That is because they suffer no thirst, nor fatigue, nor hunger in Allâh's way nor do they make a journey which enrages the disbelievers, nor do they gain an advantage over an enemy, but a righteous deed is credited to their account (in the record of their deeds) because of it. Verily, Allâh suffers not the reward of the doers of good to be lost.

121. Nor do they spend any sum, little or much, nor do they traverse a valley (during their *Jihâd* expedition) but it is recorded to their account, that Allâh may award them the highest (reward) for their deeds.

122. It is not possible for the believers to go forth (from their homes learning for religious learning) all together. Then, why should not a party from every section of them go forth, that they may (learn and) become well-versed in religion, and may warn their people when they return (home) to them, so that they too may guard against (unislamic ways of life).

SECTION 16

123. **O** you who believe! fight such of the disbelievers as dwell near to you and let them find firmness in you and know that Allâh is with those who become secure against evil.

124. And whenever a *Sûrah* is revealed there are some of these (hypocrites) who say (scornfully), `Which one of you has this (chapter) increased in faith?' As for the believers it (- the revelation of the chapter) does certainly increase their faith and they do rejoice (therefore).

125. But (as regards) those in whose heart is a disease (of hypocrisy), it (- every new revelation of a chapter) certainly adds more uncleanness to their previous uncleanness and they die while they are still disbelievers.

126. Do they not see that they are tried every year once or twice. Still they do not repent nor would they take heed.

127. And whenever a *Surah* is revealed, these (hypocrites) look one at another (as if to ask), `Is anyone watching you?' Then they turn away. Allâh has turned away their hearts (from the Light) because they are a people devoid of understanding.

128. (People!) certainly, there has come to you a Messenger from among yourselves; your sufferings tell hard upon him; he is ardently desirous of your (welfare) and (he is) very loving and merciful to the believers.

129. But if they turn their backs (upon you) say, `Allâh is sufficient for me. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, in Him do I put my trust, and He is the Lord of the Mighty throne.'

Chapter

10

Yûnus

(Jonah)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Yûnus).

1. Alif Lâm Râ - I am Allâh, the All-Seeing. These are the verses of the perfect Book (which is) full of wisdom.
2. Is this a (matter of) wonder for the people that We have sent Our revelation to a man from among themselves (saying), 'Warn the people (against the evils of disbelief and sin) and give glad tidings to those who believe that they stand on a strong and honourable footing with their Lord?' The disbelievers say, 'Certainly, this (man) is an evident enchanter.'
3. Verily, your Lord is Allâh who created the heavens and the earth in six aeons and (at the same time) He is well-established on the Throne (of authority). He regulates all affairs. As an intercessor, there can be none (to intercede with Him) save after His leave. Such is Allâh, your Lord, so worship Him. Will you not, then, mind?
4. To Him is the return of you all (at length). (This) promise of Allâh is certain to be true. He it is Who originates the creation, then He reproduces it, so that He may justly reward those who believe and do deeds of righteousness. And those who disbelieve, they shall have a drink of boiling water and a grievous punishment, because of their disbelieving.
5. He it is Who made the sun (radiate) brilliant light and the moon (reflect) a lustre, and fixed for it (each one of them) stages according to an estimated measure that you might know the counting (and number) of the years and the reckoning (of time). Allâh created all this only to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. He explains in detail these signs for a people who would know.
6. Certainly, in the alternation of night and day and in all that Allâh has created in the heavens and the earth there are sure signs for a people who guard against evil.
7. Verily, those who fear not the meeting with Us, nor do they cherish a hope (for the same) and are pleased to choose the life of this world and feel contented therewith, and (similarly) those who are heedless of Our signs,
8. It is these indeed whose resort is the Fire, because of their (such) deeds.
9. As to those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, their Lord shall lead them,

because of their faith, into Gardens of bliss served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing).

10. Their prayer therein will be, 'Glory be to You, O Allâh!' and their greeting therein (to each other) shall be 'Peace!' and the conclusion of their prayer will be, 'All type of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh the Lord of the worlds.'

SECTION 2

11. If Allâh were to hasten on the evil for the people (as a consequence of their evil actions), just as they would seek to hasten on (for themselves) the good, (the end of) their term (of life) would certainly have been brought upon them (forthwith). But We leave alone those who fear not the meeting with Us, nor do they cherish any hope (for the same). They are wandering distractedly in their transgression.

12. When a person is in a certain affliction he calls on Us (lying) on his sides, or sitting or standing; but when We remove his affliction he passes on (with his face turned away) as if he had never called on Us for (the removal of) the affliction that befell him. Thus it is that their (base) doings are made fair seeming to these extravagant.

13. And We certainly destroyed several generations before you when they went wrong inspite of the fact that there had

come to them their Messengers (of God) with clear proofs but they would not believe. Just (as We repaid them) so We repay all such guilty people (with punishment).

14. Then We made you inherit the land after these (generations) that We might see how you would act.

15. When Our clear verses are recited to them, those who fear not the meeting with Us, nor do they cherish any hope (for the same,) say, 'Bring a Qur'ân other than this one or (at least) make some changes in it.' Say (to them), 'It is not for me to introduce changes in it of my own accord. I follow nothing but what is revealed to me. Truly if I disobey my Lord I fear the punishment of a great (dreadful) Day.'

16. Say, 'Had Allâh (so) willed (that He should replace the teachings of the Qur'ân

with some other teachings), I should not have recited this (Qur'ân) to you, nor would He have made it known to you. I had indeed lived among you a (whole) lifetime before this (claim to Prophethood. Was not my truthfulness undisputed?). Will you not then refrain (from opposing me)?'

17. Who is then more unjust than he who forges a lie in the name of Allâh or cries lies to His Messages? It is but certain that the guilty shall never attain their goal.

18. And (some) people worship, apart from Allâh, things that can neither harm them (of their own accord) nor can help them. They say, 'These are our intercessors with Allâh.' Say, 'Do you (presume to) inform Allâh of the things of whose existence in the heavens or in the earth He does not know?' Glory be to Him! High be He, exalted above (all the things) they associate (with Him).

19. And mankind were but a single nation, then they fell into variance. Had it not been for a word (-the postponement of their punishment, see 8:33) that preceded from your Lord (as His promise), the issue wherein they disagreed would have (long been) decided between them.

20. And they say, 'Why is not a (decisive) sign (of destruction) sent down to him from his Lord?' Say then, 'The hidden reality (will come to pass. The knowledge of it) belongs to Allâh alone, so wait (for the time ordained). Surely, I am with you among those who wait.'

SECTION 3

21. When We show mercy to people after adversity has visited them, they at once start scheming (devices) against Our revelations. Say, 'Allâh is Quicker at scheming (counter-devices). Indeed Our messengers (- the angels appointed for the purpose) are recording all that you devise.

22. He it is Who enables you to journey through the land and on the sea. When you are on the ships, and these (means of transport) with those (on board) sail with a fair breeze, while they are taking a joyful pride in them, a violent wind overtakes them, wave (after wave) surges on them from every side, and they feel sure that they are caught in a disaster, (then) they call upon Allâh with a sincere faith in Him (saying), 'If You deliver us from this (calamity) we will certainly be of the thankful.'

23. Nevertheless when He delivers them, behold! they begin to commit excesses in the land for no just reason. O people! your excesses will only recoil upon your ownselves. Have a temporary enjoyment of the life of this world, then to Us shall be your return (and) then We will tell you all that you have been doing.

24. The life of this world is simply like water. We send it down from the clouds so that the produce of the earth, whereof people and cattle eat, grows with this (water) abundantly until when the earth (by means of it) receives its excellent ornament and has decked itself fairly beautiful and its owners feel sure that they are its masters, unexpectedly We command its destruction either by night or by day, so We render it a field that is mown down as though nothing had existed there the day before. Thus do We explain in detail the signs for a people who reflect.

25. Allâh invites (us all) to the abode of peace and He guides him who wishes to be guided to the exact right path leading to the goal.

26. There shall be the fairest reward and (yet) a good deal more (of blessings) for those who do good to others. Neither gloom (of sorrow) nor (traces of) ignominy shall overspread their faces. It is these who are the (rightful) owners of the Paradise, there they shall abide for ever.

27. And (as for) those who knowingly committed evil deeds, they shall be punished in measure with the evil done and ignominy shall cover them. They shall have none to protect them against (the punishment of) Allâh. And (they shall look) as if their faces have been covered with patches of night with no light. It is these who are the fellows of the Fire, they shall abide in it for long.

28. And (imagine) the day when We shall muster all the people together, then We shall say to those who associated partners (with God), 'Keep to your places (in Gehenna) you and your (associated) partners (with God).' Then We shall separate them thoroughly one from another, and their (associated) partners (with God) will say (to them), 'Surely, it was not us that you worshipped;

29. `So (this day) Allâh suffices as a witness between us and you. We were surely quite ignorant of all that you worshipped.'

30. At that time every soul shall find explicitly that what it had done in the past and they will be brought back before Allâh, their True Patron, and all that they used to forge shall be lost to them.

SECTION 4

31. Ask, `Who provides you sustenance from the heaven and the earth? Or who controls hearing and sight? And who brings forth the living out of the dead and brings forth the dead out of the living? And who directs and regulates all the affairs (of the universe)?' They will certainly say thereupon, `It is Allâh.' Then say, `Will you not even then guard against evil (doings).

32. `Such, then, is Allâh, your true Lord; so what (would you have) after (discarding) the truth save perdition? Whither are you being turned away (from the truth)?'

33. Just as (He is your true Lord), the verdict of your Lord shall be confirmed against those who rebel, because they do not believe.

34. Say, `Is there anyone of your (associated) partners (with God) who starts the cycle of creation and then continues it?' Say, `It is Allâh who starts the cycle of creation and then continues it. Whither then are you being deviated away (from the truth)?'

35. Ask, `Is there any of your (associated) partners (with God) who leads to the truth?' Say, `It is Allâh alone Who leads to the truth. Is then He who leads to the truth more worthy to be followed or he (assumed to be god) that cannot find the way (himself) unless he be guided? What, then, is the matter with you? How do you judge?'

36. And most of them follow nothing but mere conjecture whereas, by no means, can a conjecture do away with the need of the truth. The fact is, Allâh is Well-Aware of what they do.

37. This Qur'ân is not such as could have been devised (by anyone), besides Allâh. On the contrary (Allâh has revealed it as) a confirmation of all the previous Scriptures and is a clear and detailed explanation of the divine Law. It is wanting in nought, containing nothing doubtful, disturbing, harmful or destructive and there is no false charge in it. (It proceeds) from the Lord of the worlds.

38. And yet they say, `He has forged it.' Then produce a (single) chapter like it, calling upon whomsoever you can (for your help), apart from Allâh, if you are

truthful (in your this assertion).

39. Nay, (the thing is that) they have cried lies to that the (full) knowledge of which they could not comprehend and whose (true) significance has not yet been explained to them. Their predecessors cried lies (to the truth) just in the same manner. But behold, how was the end of the wrong doers!

40. There are some who will believe in this (Qur'ân) and there are others among them who will never believe therein, and your Lord knows very well those who act wrongfully.

SECTION 5

41. If they still cry lies to you, say (to them), `I will reap the fruit of my actions (useful or harmful as it is) and you will reap the fruit of yours. You are not to blame for what I do, and I am not responsible to account for what you do.

42. And some of them (appear to) give ear to you. Can you make the deaf hear, even though they would not (care to) perceive (in order to be guided aright)?

43. And some of them (appear to) look at you, but can you guide the blind even though they would not care to see (the right guidance)?

44. Verily, Allâh does no injustice to the people at all but the people do injustice to themselves.

45. And on the day when He shall gather them all together (they will feel) as if they had not lived (in this world) but for a fraction of a day. They will recognise (the repentance of) one another. Losers, indeed, were those who denied the (truth of the) meeting with Allâh and would not receive (true) guidance.

46. And We shall show you (O Muḥammad! the visitation on them of) some of that (punishment) with which We have threatened these (disbelievers) before We cause you to die. Anyhow they shall all have to return to Us. Moreover Allâh is Witness to all that they do.

47. And for every nation there is a Messenger. So when their Messenger (of God) comes, the issue between them is judged with all fairness, and they are not done injustice to.

48. And they say, `Tell if you are truthful, when this promise is to be fulfilled?'

49. Say, `I have no power to hurt or to do good to myself. It shall happen as Allâh

will. There is a term appointed for every nation (for the recompense of their actions). When their term comes they cannot remain behind (it) a single moment (to escape from it), nor can they get ahead (of it to avoid it).'

50. Say, `Tell me, if His punishment overtakes you (unexpectedly) by night or by day. How can those who cut off their ties (with Allâh) hasten away (to escape) from it?

51. `Will you then believe in it when this (punishment) has (actually) befallen (you)? (It will be useless then and you will be told), "Now (you believe!) whereas you were keen on hastening it on before the appointed time".'

52. At that time it will be said to the wrong doers, `Suffer the abiding punishment. You are only repaid (with punishment) for those actions of yours that you deliberately committed.'

53. They inquire of you (to inform them), `Is this (warning about punishment) certain to be true?' Say, `Yes, by my Lord! it is most surely bound to be true. You cannot frustrate Him (in His purpose in order to avert it).'

SECTION 6

54. And if every soul that has committed wrong had all the treasures of the earth, it would surely offer (the whole of) it to ransom (itself) therewith. And they will express (their) hidden remorse (and repent) when they see the punishment; but the matter will be judged between them equitably and no injustice shall be done to them.

55. Behold! whatever is in the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh. Behold! surely Allâh's promise is true, though most of them do not know (this truth).

56. It is He Who gives life and causes death and to Him you shall all be made to return.

57. O mankind! there has come to you an exhortation (to do away with your weaknesses) from your Lord and a cure for whatever (disease) is in your hearts, and (a Book full of) excellent guidance and a mercy, (and full of blessings) to the believers (in the ultimate form of the Qur'ân).

58. Say, `All this (revelation of the Qur'ân) is through the grace of Allâh and His mercy. In this, therefore, let them rejoice, (because) this (Qur'ân) is better than all that they hoard.'

59. Say, `Have you considered that, out of the provisions Allâh has provided for you, you have classified by yourselves some as unlawful and some lawful?' Say, `Has Allâh given you leave (to do so) or do you forge lies in the name of Allâh?'

60. What do those, who forge lies in the name of Allâh, think of the Day of Resurrection? Surely, Allâh is Gracious towards mankind but most of them do not thank (Him).

SECTION 7

61. And (O Prophet!) in whatever state you may be and whatever portion of the Qur'ân you recite from Him, and (O people!) you do no work but We are watching over you when you are engrossed therein. There does not escape from your Lord even so much as an atom's weight in the earth or in the heavens, neither is there anything smaller than that nor greater but it is recorded in a plain book (of divine law and is governed thereby).

62. Behold! the friends of Allâh, neither fear shall overwhelm them, nor shall they (ever) remain in grief.

63. (It is) those who believed and ever kept on guarding against evil.

64. They shall have glad tidings (for they commune with their Lord) in the present life and (also) in the Hereafter. There is no changing the words of Allâh; that indeed is the supreme achievement.

65. And do not let their (-your opponents' hostile) words grieve you, (because) all power belongs to Allâh. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

66. Behold! surely to Allâh belongs whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth. Those who call on gods other than Allâh (as a matter of fact) do not follow their (associated) partners (with Allâh), they follow nothing but (their own) surmises and they do nothing but conjecture.

67. It is He Who made for you the night (dark) so that you may rest in it, and (Who) made the day full of light (that you may work in it). Surely, in this there are many signs for the people who would listen (to the Messages of God).

68. (Some of) these people (have gone so far as to) say, `Allâh has taken to Him a son?' Holy is He! He is Self-Sufficient. Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth belongs to Him. You have no authority for (attributing) this (to Him). Do you attribute to Allâh what you do not know (yourselves)?

69. Say, `Surely, those who forge a lie in the name of Allâh will never attain the goal.'

70. (They will have) some provision (to enjoy) in this world then to Us shall be their return, then We shall make them suffer a terrible punishment because of their hiding (the truth) and because they continue to disbelieve.

SECTION 8

71. **Relate to them (some of) the life-events of Noah, because he (also) had said to his people, `O my people! if my station (with God) and my reminding you (of your duty to God) through the Messages of Allâh is hard upon you, (you**

should bear in mind that as for me) I put my trust in Allâh. (And on your part you should) decide upon your course of action (mustering all your resources to gain success), and call your allies to your help, then do not let your designs be vague to you, then carry them out against me and give me no respite.

72. `But if you turn back (you will suffer for it). I have asked of you no reward (for any of my services to you). My reward lies with Allâh alone. And I have been commanded to be of those who fully resign themselves (to Him).'

73. But still they cried lies to him. So We saved him (-Noah) and all those who were with him in the Ark and We made them rulers while We drowned those who had cried lies to Our Messages. Behold then, how evil was the end of those who had been warned (beforehand).

74. Then We sent after him (-Noah, many) Messengers to their (respective) people and they brought them clear proofs; but they would not believe (in them), because they had already cried lies to them. In this way We seal the hearts of the transgressors (because of their own stubborn and unjustified refusal to listen).

75. Then We sent after them Moses and Aaron with Our signs to Pharaoh and his

chiefs, but they behaved arrogantly. And they were a people who had cut off their ties (with Allâh).

76. And when there came to them the truth from Us, they said, 'This is, of course, enchantment creating dissension.'

77. Moses said, 'Is that how you talk of the truth when it has come to you? Can this be an enchantment, whereas the enchanters never attain their goal?'

78. They said, 'Have you come to us that you may turn us away from what we found our forefathers practising and to make sure that you two reign supreme in the land? But (remember) we will not believe in either of you at all.'

79. And Pharaoh said (to his people), 'Bring every skilled sorcerer to me.'

80. Now when the sorcerers came, Moses said to them, 'Present whatever you have to present.'

81. Then, when they had presented (what they would present), Moses said, 'What you have brought is a mere deception. Allâh will soon render it void (because) Allâh does not at all allow the machination of the mischief-makers to thrive.'

82. 'And Allâh will establish the truth by dint of His decrees even though the guilty may find (it) hard.'

SECTION 9

83. None, however, but a few youths from among his people accepted Moses (while others held back), for fear of Pharaoh and their chiefs lest he should persecute them. And surely Pharaoh was ever a tyrant in the land and truthfully he was of those who committed excesses (and high-handedness).

84. And Moses said, 'O my people! put your trust in Allâh, if you have (really) believed in Him (and) if you have (truly) submitted (to His will).'

85. Thereupon they said, 'In Allâh alone do we put our trust. Our Lord! do not make us a target of persecution of the wrongdoing people.'

86. 'And deliver us by your mercy from (the evil designs of) the disbelieving people.'

87. And We spoke to Moses and his brother (Aaron saying), 'You both should prepare lodging for your people (bringing them together from different parts of the country) in the central town (of Egypt) and make your houses so as to face one

another and perform worship.' And (We also revealed to them to) proclaim good tidings (of success) to the believers.

88. And Moses said (praying and Aaron joined him in prayer), `Our Lord! You have given Pharaoh and his chiefs pomp and wealth in the present life with the result, Our Lord! that they lead people astray from Your path. Our Lord! destroy their wealth and attack their hearts, so that they believe not until they see the grievous punishment.'

89. (The Lord) said, `The prayer of you both has been accepted, so remain you two steadfast and follow not the way of those who do not know.'

90. And We brought the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh and his legion pursued them in wanton aggression and for no justified cause till when he (Pharaoh) was about to be drowned, he cried, `I (confess and) believe that there is no One worthy of worship but He in Whom the Children of Israel have believed in, and I am of those who submit (to Him).'

91. (The Lord) said, `What! (do you remember) now (while dying), whereas you had (always) disobeyed before (this), and you had been of the miscreants!

92. `So, on this day We will preserve you in your body (only) that you may be a sign (to learn a lesson from) for the coming generations, though most of the people are quite heedless of Our signs.'

SECTION 10

93. And We assigned to the Children of Israel an excellent place to settle (in Palestine), and We provided them with good and pure things; and they differed not (among themselves) until there had come to them true knowledge. Surely,

your Lord will, on the Day of Resurrection, settle the issue between them concerning which they differ (now).

94. And if you (O reader!) are in doubt regarding that which We have revealed to you, ask those who have read this Book (- the Qur'ân) before you. (They will tell you that) there has, infact, come to you the perfect truth from your Lord, so be not of the contenders at all.

95. And be not of those who cry lies to the Messages of Allâh, for then you shall be of the losers.

96. Verily, those against whom the verdict (of punishment) of your Lord has been confirmed will not believe,

97. Till they see the grievous punishment, even though they have witnessed every (kind of) sign.

98. Why was there no community other than the people of Jonah who should have believed (as a whole), so that their belief would have done them good? (If it had been so it would have been much better), for when they (-the people of Jonah) believed, We spared them a humiliating punishment in the present life and We gave them provision (to avail themselves therefrom) for a time.

99. And if your Lord had (enforced) His will those who are on the earth would have believed one and all. Would you then constrain the people to become believers (while Allâh has not forced them to believe)?

100. Indeed, no one can believe save by the leave of Allâh. Yet He will inflict (His) punishment on those who would not refrain (from evil).

101. Say, `Behold (the miracles) which are happening in the heavens and the earth (in support of the Prophet Muḥammad,) though, (it is true at the same time) that signs and warnings are of no good to a people who do not believe (owing to obstinacy and ignorance).

102. They only wait for the like of the calamities (to be repeated) as were suffered by those who passed away before them. Say, `Wait then (and) I am with you among those who wait.'

103. Then (when the punishment descends, We shall destroy the evil doers, but) We shall save Our Messengers and those who believed. Thus (does it always happen), We have made it binding upon Ourselves to save the believers.

SECTION 11

104. Say, `O you people! if you are in doubt regarding my creed, then (be sure that) I do not worship those whom you worship apart from Allâh, but I worship Allâh (alone), Who causes you to die. And I have been commanded that I should be of the believers.

105. `And (I have also been commanded to convey to you God's Message), "Devote your attention to the true faith in an upright manner, and be not of the polytheists.

106. "And do not call upon, apart from Allâh any other that can neither do good to you, nor can harm you (of his own) for if you do so you shall certainly be of the unjust".'

107. And if Allâh afflicts you with harm, none can remove it but He, and if He desires any good for you, none can stop His bounty. He bestows it on whomsoever of His servants He wishes. And He is the Great Protector, the Ever Merciful.

108. Say, `O you people! there has come to you the truth from your Lord, so whosoever follows guidance follows it only for (the good of) his own soul, and he who goes astray, only goes astray against it. And I am not responsible for you.

109. And follow that which is revealed to you and patiently persevere till Allâh gives His judgment, for He is the Best of judges.

Chapter

11

Hûd

(Hûd)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Hûd).

1. Alif Lâm Râ - I am Allâh, the All-Seeing. (This is) a Book, whose verses have been characterised by wisdom and

they have been explained in detail. It is from One All-Wise, All-Aware (God).

2. (Say, O Prophet!) `You worship none but Allâh, (and) I am indeed to you a Warner (warning you against the evil consequences of disbelief and evil doings), and a Bearer of good tidings (to the righteous) from Him.

3. `And that you seek the protection of your Lord (against your faults) and then turn to Him (in repentance). He will provide for you a goodly provision (in this life) till an appointed term. And He will grant of His abounding bounty to every one possessed of abundant merit. And if you turn away, then surely I fear the punishment of a great (dreadful) Day for you.

4. `To Allâh is your return and He is the Possessor of full power to do all that He will.'

5. Behold! they fold up their bosoms (refusing to accept the truth with open minds and in an effort) that they may hide (their enmity and hatred) from Him. Behold even (as they try to hide their true selves) when they wrap themselves in their garments (so that they might not see Divine signs, nor hear His Messages), He knows what they conceal and what they reveal. He is Well-Aware of what is in the (depths of their) hearts.

Part XII

6. There is not a single moving creature on the earth but its sustenance rests with Allâh. He knows its permanent lodging place and its temporary sojourn. Everyone is governed by a clear law.

7. And it is He Who created the heavens and the earth in six aeons and His Throne (of power ever) rests on water (to which the life is due), that He might show whoever of you is best in deeds and conduct. And if you were to say (to them), 'You are indeed going to be raised after death,' those who disbelieve will certainly say, 'This is naught but an obvious hoax.'

8. Infact, if We defer the punishment from them till a reckoned time they would certainly ask, 'What is that which withholds it?' Behold! the day this (punishment) befalls them, it shall not be such as to be averted from them. And that (punishment) which they used to hold in scorn, shall overwhelm them.

SECTION 2

9. And if We bestow upon a human being mercy from Us and then withdraw it from him, he is totally despairing (and) completely ungrateful.

10. And if We confer upon him (Our) blessings after adversity has afflicted him, he will certainly say, 'Gone are all my woes (now).' He is, of course, exultant and boastful (over a little favour).

11. Such, however, is not the case with those who steadfastly persevere (in virtues) and do deeds of righteousness. It is these for whom there awaits protection and a great reward.

12. (The disbelievers vainly hope that) you may omit a part of the revelations made to you; and that you will be distressed and worried because of the fact that they say, 'Why has not a treasure been sent down to him, or why has no angel come with him?' (This is far from you that you do such things,) for you are only a Warner (against the evil consequences of disbelief and rebellion), and Allâh is Guardian over every thing.

13. Do they say, 'He has forged this (Qur'ân)?' Say (to them in reply), 'If you are truthful (in your objection then) bring ten forged chapters like it, calling upon whom you can (for your help) apart from Allâh.'

14. But if they do not respond to you, then know that this (Qur'ân) which has been revealed is (replete) with (that which is only within) Allâh's knowledge and that there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship save Him. Will you then be the submitting ones (after knowing all this)?

15. Those who desire (the provisions of) this present life and its ornature, We will repay them in full (the reward) for their deeds in this (very life) and they will be made to suffer no loss therein.

16. It is these for whom waits nothing in the Hereafter but the Fire. And all that they do for the sake of this (life) shall come to naught (in the next) and all their activities shall prove vain and futile.

17. How can he, who stands upon a clear proof from his Lord and (to testify to whose truth) a witness from Him follows him and (to witness whom) he is preceded by the Book of Moses, which was a guide and a mercy, (be an impostor)? Those (who keep in view all these clear proofs from their Lord) believe in him (- this Messenger of God). And whoever of these parties disbelieves in him, the Fire is his promised place. So (O reader!) be you not in doubt about this (Qur'ân). It is indeed the Truth. It is from your Lord, but most people do not believe.

18. And who is more unjust than those who forge lies in the name of Allâh. They shall be produced before their Lord and the witnesses will all say, 'These are they who lied against their Lord.' Beware! the disapproval of Allâh lies upon the unjust,

19. Those who keep (the people) away from the path of Allâh and seek to paint it as crooked, it is these who are the disbelievers in the Hereafter.

20. Such cannot frustrate (God's designs) in the land nor is there any protecting friend for them apart from Allâh. They shall have their punishment doubled. They could neither bear to hear (the truth) nor did they see (it).

21. It is these who have suffered a loss in respect of their own souls and that (false deities) which they forged have failed them.

22. No doubt, it is these who shall be the worst losers in the Hereafter.

23. Verily, those who believe and do deeds of righteousness and humble themselves before their Lord, it is these who are the owners of Paradise, they shall abide in it.

24. The case of these two groups (of disbelievers and believers) is like (the case of) the blind and the deaf (on the one hand) and the seeing and the hearing (on the other). Can the case of the two be alike? Will you not even then take heed?

SECTION 3

25. And (similar were the circumstances when) We sent Noah to his people (and he said), `Verily, I am a plain

Warner to you.

26. `(And my Message is) that you worship none but Allâh; otherwise I fear lest there should overtake you the punishment of a woeful day.'

27. Thereupon the chiefs of his people who had disbelieved said, `We find you but a human being like ourselves, and we find none have followed you except those who are the meanest of us, having only superficial views. And we find you (and your followers) possessing no superiority over us. Rather we take you all to be liars.'

28. He said, `O my people, have you considered that if I stand on a clear proof from my Lord and He has conferred upon me a great mercy (- Prophethood) from Himself and it has been obscured to you, shall we thrust it upon you (to accept) while you are averse to it?

29. `And O my people! I ask you in return for this (- my teaching) no wealth. My reward is due only from Allâh. I am not at all one to drive away those who believe, for they are going to meet their Lord (to be blessed) and I see you are a people who are acting through lack of knowledge.

30. `And O my people! who would save me from (the punishment of) Allâh if I were to drive them away? Will you not then consider?

31. `And I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of Allâh, nor that I know the hidden realities, nor do I say that I am an angel, nor do I say concerning those whom your eyes despise that Allâh will not grant them any good. Allâh knows best whatever is in their minds. I shall indeed be of the unjust (if I say anything of the kind).'

32. They said, `Noah! you have disputed with us long and have disputed with us many a time; bring down on us now that (punishment) you threaten us with, if you

are of the truthful ones.'

33. He said, 'Allâh alone will bring it down on you if He will and you cannot frustrate Him (in His purpose).

34. 'And my sincere counsel will do you no good, choose as I may to counsel you in case Allâh intends to destroy you. (All the same,) He is your Lord and to Him you shall be made to return.'

35. Or do they say, 'He (- Muḥammad) has forged it.' Say (O Muḥammad!), 'If I have forged it then on me will be the penalty of my crime and I am quit of (all the responsibilities of) the sin you commit (by denying me).'

SECTION 4

36. And it was revealed to Noah, 'No one of your people besides those who have so far believed, will henceforth believe, therefore grieve not over what they have been doing.

37. 'And build the Ark under Our eyes and in accordance with Our revelation, and address not (to plead with) Me in favour of those who act unjustly. Verily, they are doomed to be drowned.'

38. And he set himself to making the Ark and every time the chiefs of his people passed by him they looked down upon him, (thereupon) he said, 'Surely, we (in our turn) will look down on you just as you look down (on us now).

39. 'You shall soon know for yourself who it is who will be overtaken by the punishment that will disgrace him, and on whom descends a long lasting penalty.'

40. (Thus it was) till Our command (about the punishment) came and waters of the springs (of the valley) swelled and gushed forth, We said, 'Embark in it two of every kind (needed) male and female and (all the members of) your family except those about the destruction of whom (Our) verdict has already been announced and (embark in it) also those who believe.' Yet there had not believed in him excepting a few.

41. And (Noah) said, 'Embark in it. With the name of Allâh and His help be its course and its mooring. Surely, my Lord is indeed Great Protector, Ever Merciful.'

42. Now this (Ark) moved carrying them amidst waves as (high as) mountains. And Noah called out to his son who was (standing) aloof, 'My dear son, embark with us and do not be with the disbelievers.'

43. He said, 'I shall betake myself to a mountain for refuge which will protect me from this water.' (Noah) said, 'There is no protection (for anyone) this day, from the decree of Allâh (about this punishment), but he (will be safe) on whom He has mercy.' And (lo!) a wave separated the two so he (- Noah's son) was among the drowned.

44. And it was said, 'O earth! swallow back your water, and O cloud! abate and stop (pouring).' So the water was made to subside and the matter was decided. And this (Ark) came to rest on (the mount) Al-Jûdî. And the word went forth, 'Away with the unjust people!'

45. And Noah called to his Lord and said, 'My Lord! my son belongs to my family and surely Your promise is (also) true; yet You are the Most Just of the judges.'

46. (The Lord) said, 'He decidedly does not belong to your family as he is given to unrighteous conduct, so do not ask of Me that of which you have no knowledge. I advise you not to be of those wanting in knowledge.'

47. He said, 'My Lord! I beg You to protect me that I should ask You that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have mercy on me I shall be of the losers.'

48. There came the command, 'Noah! descend (from the Ark) with peace from Us and (varied) blessings (We shall

bestow) on you and upon peoples (to be born) of those with you. There shall be other peoples whom We shall grant provisions (of this world for a time), then they will receive from Us a grievous punishment (as a result of their transgression).'

49. These (announcements full of warnings) are some of the important news of the hidden realities We have revealed them to you. You did not know them, neither you, nor your people before this. Therefore, persevere (in doing good), for those who become secure against evil shall surely have the (good and successful) end.

SECTION 5

50. And (We sent) to (the tribe of) 'Âd, their kinsman Hûd (as a Messenger). He said, 'My people! worship Allâh (alone). You have no One worthy of worship other than He. You are but fabricators (of lies by assigning partners with Him in His sovereignty).

51. 'My people! I ask of you no reward for this (teaching). My reward is not due but from Him Who created me. Will you not then understand?

52. 'And my people! seek protection of your Lord, and turn to Him in repentance. (If you do so) He will send clouds over you pouring down abundance of rain, and He will add more strength to your (present) strength. And do not turn away (from Him) as those who sever their ties (with God).'

53. They said, 'O Hûd, you have brought us no clear proof (about your truthfulness), and we will not forsake our gods (merely) for your saying, nor are we going to be believers in you at all.

54. 'All that we can say is that some of our gods have smitten you with evil (rendering you insane).' (Hûd) said, 'Surely I call Allâh to witness; and do you also bear witness that I have nothing to do with the gods you associate (with Allâh)

55. 'Apart from Him, so you and all (your gods) together devise concerted plans against me and give me no respite.

56. 'I have definitely put my trust in Allâh, (Who is) my Lord and your Lord. There is no living and moving creature but He holds its forelock, (having absolute power over it). Surely, right and just are the ways of my Lord.

57. 'If you turn away (from Him, remember that) I have fully conveyed to you that (Message) I have been sent with to you. (If you do not accept it,) my Lord will replace you with another people to be rulers. And you shall be able to do Him no harm at all. Surely, my Lord is Preserver of all things.'

58. And when Our command (about the punishment) came, We saved Hûd and those who believed with him by a special mercy from Us. And We delivered them from a severe torment.

59. And such were 'Âd, they deliberately denied the commandments of their Lord and disobeyed His Messengers and followed the bidding of every haughty enemy (of truth).

60. And there was sent following them a curse in this world and on the Day of Resurrection (they will meet the same fate). Behold! (the tribe of) 'Âd behaved

ungratefully towards their Lord (by denying His favours). Look! destruction is decreed for 'Âd, the people of Hûd.

SECTION 6

61. And to the tribe of Thamûd (We sent as a Messenger) their kinsman Sâlih. He said, `My people! worship Allâh, you have no One worthy of worship other than He. It is He Who brought you forth from the earth and made you dwell therein. So seek protection of Him and turn to Him in repentance. Verily, my Lord is Nigh, Responsive (to prayers).'

62. They said, `Sâlih! you have hitherto been among us as one in whom we placed our hopes. Do you forbid us to worship what our fore fathers have been worshipping? And as a matter of fact we are in disquieting doubt about that (faith) you call us to.'

63. He said, `My people! have you considered that if (in my claim to Prophethood) I stand on a clear proof from my Lord and He has granted me Mercy (- Prophethood) from Himself, who then will help (to save) me against (the punishment of) Allâh if I disobey Him? For then you will increase me in nothing but in leading me to loss.

64. `My people! this is a she-camel appointed by Allâh as a sign for you; so leave her alone to pasture on Allâh's earth and afflict her not with any harm or an imminent torment shall seize you.'

65. But they hamstrung her, so that he (- Sâlih) said, `You shall enjoy the provision of Allâh in your worldly abodes only for (another) three days. This is a promise which will never prove false.'

66. And when Our command (about punishment) came (to pass), We saved Sâlih and with him the believers by a (special) mercy from Us and (We saved them) from the ignominy of that day. Surely, All-Powerful is your Lord (and) All Mighty.

67. And a thunderbolt (caused by an earthquake) seized those who had acted unjustly. And the next morning found them lying prostrate in their habitations,

68. As if they had never dwelt in them. Behold! Thamûd behaved ungratefully to their Lord (denying His favours upon them). So away with (the tribe of) Thamûd!

SECTION 7

69. And certainly, Our messengers came to Abraham with good tidings. They said, `(We bid you) peace.' He said, `Peace be (on you too) always.' And he lost no time in bringing them a roasted calf.

70. But when he saw that their hands did not extend to that (meal) he considered it strange on their part and apprehended evil from them. They said, `Have no fear for we have been sent to the people of Lot.'

71. And his wife was standing (nearby) and she too was inspired with awe. So we gave her good tidings of (the birth of) Isaac and after Isaac of (his son) Jacob.

72. She said, `O wonder for me! Shall I bear a child while I am a very old woman and this husband of mine (also) a very old man? This is a wonderful thing indeed!'

73. They (- Our messengers) said, `Do you marvel at the decree of Allâh? Members of this house! the mercy of Allâh and His blessings are upon you. Surely, He is the Lord of all praise, Owner of all glory.'

74. And when awe departed from Abraham and the good tidings came to him, he started pleading with Us for the people of Lot.

75. Surely, Abraham was gentle, tender-hearted and oft-returning (to Us).

76. (Thereupon We said to him,) `Abraham! turn away from this (pleading now), for your Lords command has decidedly come. They are certainly going to receive a punishment that cannot be averted.'

77. And when Our messengers came to Lot he was grieved on their account and felt helpless on their behalf (- of his people, for he had no means to protect them) and he said, `This is a distressful and hard day.'

78. And (on hearing the news of the strangers' arrival) his people came (as if) driven on towards him and before this they were given to evil practices. He said, `My people! these are my daughters. They can be purer (guarantee against any conspiracy on my part) for you and take Allâh as a shield (against His punishment) and do not disgrace me in the matter of my guests. Is there not among you any right-minded man?'

79. They said, `You certainly know we have no claim on your daughters, and you know well what we want (from you about the strangers).'

80. He said, `Would that I had power to deal with you, rather I should betake myself for refuge to a strong support (of God).'

81. (The messengers) said, `Lot! we are messengers of your Lord. They shall not at all reach you, so set forth (from here) with your family in the latter part of the night and let not anyone of you look about, but your wife (will not obey). Surely, she shall be smitten by that calamity which is going to smite the rest of them; the appointed time of theirs is the morning. Is not the morning nigh?'

82. So when Our command (about the punishment) came to pass We turned those (townships) upside down and We rained upon them, layer upon layer, with many stones of petrified clay,

83. Ear-marked (for them) by (the decree of) your Lord. And this (sort of punishment) is not far from the unjust people (of the opponents of the Prophet).

SECTION 8

84. And to Midian (We sent) their kinsman Shu`aib (as a Messenger). He said, `My people! worship Allâh, you have no One worthy of worship other than He. And give not short measure and (short) weight. (Today) I see you in (a state of) prosperity. But (for tomorrow) I fear lest there should befall you the punishment of a (dreadful) day that encompasses all (for destruction).

85. `And my people! give true measure and full weight with equity and defraud not people of their possession and commit not inequity in the land as peace-breakers.

86. `The residue left to you by Allâh (after your paying the dues of others) is better for you, if you are true believers. Yet I am not a guardian over you.'

87. They said, `O Shu`aib! does your prayer enjoin you that we should give up what our fathers worshipped or (does it bid you) that we cease to do with our possessions as we like? You (O Shu`aib!) are you (so to say,) the only intelligent and the right-directing one?'

88. He said, `My people! what do you think? While I stand (by His grace) on a clear proof from my Lord (then why should not I guide people to the path of peace?), He has provided me from Himself with a goodly and honest livelihood (I cannot therefore be dishonest to Him). I have no intention to practise contrary to you the very thing which I forbid you to do. All that I desire is to set things right as far as I

can. There is no power in me to do something (for setting things right) except through the help of Allâh. In Him do I put my trust and to Him do I always turn.

89. `And my people! let not your breach with and hostility towards me make you guilty, so that there may befall you the like of that calamity which befell the people of Noah, and the people of Hûd and the people of Sâlih. And the people of Lot are not far off from you. (You should ponder over their destruction and learn a lesson therefrom.)

90. `And seek protection of your Lord and turn to Him (in repentance). Verily, my Lord is Ever Merciful, Most Loving.'

91. They said, `Shu`aib! we do not understand much of what you say and truly we find you a weakling among us. And had it not been (a consideration) for your tribe, we would surely have stoned you to death. And you occupy no strong and respectable position at all as compared with us.'

92. He said, `My people! does my tribe occupy stronger and more respectable position with you than Allâh? And (He has occupied no importance in your eyes that) you have cast Him behind your backs neglected. Surely, my Lord encompasses all your activities (in His knowledge).

93. `And my people! do your worst, I (too) am doing (my best). You will soon know who is overtaken by a punishment that will disgrace him, and who it is that is a liar. And be on watch, I shall be with you watching.'

94. And when Our command (about the punishment) came We saved Shu`aib and with him the believers by Our mercy, and the calamity seized those who had acted unjustly so that the morning found them lying prostrate in their habitations;

95. (They were so destroyed and desolated) as if they had never dwelt there. So away with Midian; even as Thamûd were done away.

SECTION 9

96. And surely We sent Moses with Our signs and manifest strong arguments,

97. To Pharaoh and the nobles of his court, but they carried out Pharaoh's bidding; whereas the bidding of Pharaoh was not at all right directed.

98. He (- Pharaoh) will lead his people on the Day of Resurrection and will land them down into the Fire, and evil is the arriving place to be arrived at (by them).

99. There was sent following after them a curse in this (life) and on the Day of Resurrection (they shall be the victims of it too). Evil is the gift which shall be given (them)!

100. That is a part of the important news of the (ruined) townships (of the past), We relate them to you. Some of these (cities) still exist while others have been mown down (and perished).

101. We did no wrong to them (- their inhabitants) but they wronged themselves. And when their Lord's command (about their punishment) came to pass, their gods, whom they called upon apart from Allâh, were of no avail to them. Infact, they added nothing to them except (leading them to) destruction.

102. Such is the punishing grasp of your Lord when He takes to task the peoples of the townships (after bringing home to them the truth) while they are steeped in wrongdoings. Surely, painful is His punishing grasp (and) severe.

103. Infact, there is in that a sign (to learn a lesson from) for him who fears the punishment of the Hereafter. That is a day on which the whole of mankind is to be gathered together and that is a day to be witnessed (by all, to be sure).

104. And We defer it not but for a computed term.

105. The day it comes, no soul shall speak save by His leave; (on that day) some will turn out wretched and (others) fortunate.

106. As for the wretched, they shall be in the Fire, where they shall moan and cry,

107. And they shall abide therein, unless your Lord otherwise will, so long as the heavens and the earth (thereof) endure. Surely, your Lord does bring about very well what He intends (to do).

108. As for those who turn out fortunate they shall be in Paradise. They will abide therein so long as the heavens and the earth (thereof) endure, unless your Lord otherwise will. This is a gift that shall never be cut off.

109. So (O people!) have no doubt about the (falsehood of) gods of those

(polytheistic) people. They worship (these gods) only because their fathers worshipped (them) before (them), and We shall surely pay them their dues in full, undiminished.

SECTION 10

110. And We gave Moses the Book, but differences arose about it and had it not been for a word (- promise of mercy) that had gone forth from your Lord the issue between them (- the believers and the disbelievers) must have been decided (long before) and (now) they (- the disbelievers) are in a disquieting doubt about it (- the Qur'ân).

111. Your Lord will certainly repay them all in full (the reward of) their deeds (when they will be presented before

Him); for He is Well-Aware of all what they do.

112. So stand you upright, as you have been commanded, and (also) those who (have left their evil ways and) turned to Allâh (in repentance) and joined you. Do not exceed the bounds (set by Allâh, O people!). He indeed is Observer of your deeds.

113. Do not incline towards those who have committed wrong; lest the Fire (of Gehenna) should reach you while you shall find none to protect you, apart from Allâh, nor shall you be helped.

114. And observe Prayer at the two ends of the day and in some early hours of the night. Surely, the good deeds wipe out the evil ones. That is a reminder for those who would remember.

115. And be you patiently persevering, for surely Allâh suffers not the reward of the doers of good to others to go waste.

116. Why, then, were there not among the generations that preceded you persons possessed of excellence who would forbid the perpetration of evil in the land. But there were only a few of those (who acted righteously and) whom We had saved from among them. And (all others) who had committed wrong pursued that (wanton) ease and plenty they were afforded with (and this led to their rebellion and disobedience), and they became those who cut off their ties (with Allâh).

117. And your Lord is not the One Who would destroy the townships unjustly (simply for their disbelief) while the inhabitants thereof (live in peace and) set things right.

118. Had your Lord (enforced) His will He would have certainly made the whole of mankind one community, but (since He did not like to enforce His will upon people) they would not cease to differ.

119. Different, however, is the case of those on whom your Lord has had mercy. Indeed, it is for (the bestowal of mercy) that He has created them; yet (this) word of your Lord, 'Verily I will fill Gehenna with the (rebellious) *jinn* and (ordinary) people all together,' has perfectly come true.

120. And all that We relate to you of the important news of the Messengers is to make your heart firm and strong thereby. And there has come to you, implied in these (news) the truth, an exhortation, and a reminder for the believers.

121. And say to those who do not believe, 'Do your worst, we too are doing (Our best).'

122. 'And you may await (our end), we (too) are awaiting (yours).'

123. To Allâh belongs the hidden realities of the heavens and the earth. To Him all matters stand referred. So worship Him and put your trust in Him; for your Lord is not at all unmindful of what you do.

Chapter

12

Yûsuf

(Joseph)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Yûsuf).

1. Alif Lâm Râ - I am Allâh, the All-Seeing. These are the verses of the perfect Book, containing luminous (truths) that tell the right from the wrong.
2. We have, indeed revealed this Qur'ân which explains its object eloquently well that you may abstain (from evils).
3. We narrate (rightly) to you with the best explanation because We revealed to you this Qur'ân; otherwise you were of those not possessed of the (requisite) knowledge before this.
4. (Remember the time) when Joseph said to his father, 'My dear father! I have seen (in a vision) eleven stars and the sun and the moon. I saw them falling down prostrate (before God) because of me.'
5. He said, 'My dear son! relate not your vision to your brothers lest they should intrigue against you, for satan is to a human being an enemy disuniting.
6. 'And thus (shall it be as He has shown you in this vision). Your Lord will make you His chosen one and impart you knowledge of the true interpretation of (Divine) sayings and will perfect His favours upon you and upon the family of Jacob, just as He perfected it formerly upon two of your forefathers - Abraham and Isaac. Verily, your Lord is All-Knowing, All-Wise.'

SECTION 2

7. The fact is that there are many signs in (the account of) Joseph and his brothers for the inquirers (about the prophethood of Muḥammad and about his opponents).
8. (Recall) when they (- brothers of Joseph) said (to one another), 'Surely, Joseph and his brother (Benjamin) are dearer to our father than we are, though we are a formidable party. Surely, our father is cherishing a love that has gone too far.
9. 'So you (had better either) kill Joseph or remove him to some distant land. (In this way) your father's favour will be exclusively yours. After that you can (repent and) become a pious people.'

10. (At this) a speaker among them said, 'If you are bent upon doing something at all, do not kill Joseph but put him into the dark depths of the dry well; (perhaps) some caravan of travellers may pick him out.'

11. (On making this resolution) they (went to their father and) said, 'Our father! why do you not trust us with regard to Joseph, while, as a matter of fact, we are his sincere well-wishers?'

12. 'Send him forth with us (for an outing) tomorrow, that he may enjoy himself and play. Surely, we will keep guard over him.'

13. He said, 'It worries me that you should take him away. Moreover, I fear lest a wolf should devour him while you are heedless of him.'

14. They said, 'If the wolf were to devour him inspite of the fact we are a formidable party, in that case we shall be indeed losers.'

15. So when (after forcing their father) they took him away and agreed to put him into the depths of a dry well (and carried their plan out), We revealed to him (- Joseph), 'You shall certainly tell them (one day) of this (treacherous) doing of theirs while they perceive not.'

16. And they came weeping to their father at nightfall.

17. They said, 'Our father! we went forth racing one with another and left Joseph (behind) with our belongings and the wolf devoured him. But you would never believe us though we be the truthful ones.'

18. And (to assure their father) they came (to him) with (stains of) false blood on his (- Joseph's) shirt. He (- Jacob) said, 'This is not true, but you yourselves have made a (malicious) thing seem fair to you. So (now showing) patience is befitting (for me). And it is Allâh (alone) whose help can be sought to avert what you describe.'

19. (Now) there came a caravan of travellers and they sent their water-drawer (to fetch water) and he let down his bucket (into the well). And behold! he cried, 'Oh, glad tidings, here is a young boy.' So they (- Joseph's brothers) presented him (in this way) as (if) a piece of merchandise, and Allâh was Well-Aware of their doings.

20. And they (- the brothers of Joseph) sold him, (claiming him to be their slave, to the travellers) for a trifling price - a few *dirhams* (- silver coins), and they were not (even) desirous of it.

SECTION 3

21. And (Joseph was taken to Egypt and resold there;) the man from Egypt who bought him (from the travellers) said to his wife, 'Make his stay honourable. He may prove useful to us or we may adopt him as a son.' In this way did We grant Joseph an honourable position in the country and (We did it) that We might impart to him knowledge of the interpretation of some (Divine) sayings. And Allâh has full power over His decree, but most people do not know (this).

22. And when he attained his (age of) full strength, We granted him judgment and knowledge, and thus do We reward the doers of good deeds to others.

23. Now the woman in whose house he was (putting up) sought to seduce him against his will and she bolted the doors well and said, 'Now come, I am ready to receive you.' He (- Joseph) said, '(How can it be possible,) I seek refuge with Allâh, He alone is my Lord. He has made my stay (with you) honourable. Verily, the wrong doers never flourish.'

24. And she made up her mind with regard to him, and he made up his mind with regard to her (and would have fallen into her snares as the temptations were so strong) if he had not seen the manifest evidence of his Lord. (It happened thus) so that We might turn away from him every evil and indecency. Surely, he was one of Our purified servants.

25. And both of them ran for the door, one trying to outdo the other. And (in the struggle) she tore his shirt from behind. They encountered her husband (all of a sudden) by the door. She said, 'There can be no punishment less than imprisonment or some other painful torture for the man who intended evil with your wife.'

26. He (- Joseph) said, `No, (it is not so as she describes but) she it was who sought to seduce me against my will.' Now a (learned) witness of her own family bore a (circumstantial) evidence (saying), `If his shirt has been torn from the front then she speaks the truth and he is of the liars.

27. `But if his shirt has been torn from behind then she is a liar and he speaks the truth.'

28. So when he (- her husband) saw his shirt torn from behind, he (at once understood the truth of the matter and) said (to his wife), `This is surely a (deceiving) device which you women practise. Your (cunning) device is indeed great.'

29. (Turning to Joseph) he said, `Joseph! leave the matter alone and you (- woman) seek forgiveness for your sin. It is you, of course who are of the sinful.'

SECTION 4

30. And the women talked in the city, `The wife of the 'Azîz (- Potiphar, the captain of king's guard) seeks to seduce her young slave against his will. His love has indeed penetrated deep in her heart. Indeed, we see her in obvious error (in going too far in her love).'

31. And when she heard of their sly whisperings (and taunting remarks), she sent for them and prepared a repast for them, then (on the women's arrival) she gave to each one of them a knife (to eat fruit therewith) and said (to Joseph then), `Come forth in their presence.' So when they saw him they found him a dignified personality and cut their hands (through wonder and) said, `Glory be to Allâh! He is not a human being. He is but a noble angel.'

32. She said, `So (you have seen) this is he about whom you blamed me. I did seek to seduce him against his will, but he preserved himself (from sin), yet (I tell him aloud) if he do not what I bid him, he shall certainly be imprisoned, and he shall indeed be of the humiliated ones.'

33. (Hearing this) he (- Joseph) said, `My Lord, the prison is more to my liking than that to which they call me to, and unless you turn away their guile from me I might yield to their allurements and be of those devoid of knowledge.'

34. So his Lord accepted his prayer and turned away their (- women's) guile from him. Verily, He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

35. Then it occurred to them (-the companions of the `Azîz) after they had examined all the circumstances and signs (of Joseph's innocence) that they had better imprison

him for a time. (So Joseph was consigned to the prison.)

SECTION 5

36. And with him there entered the prison two young men (- the butler and the baker of the king). One of them said to him, `I see myself (in a dream) pressing grapes.' And the other said, `I see myself carrying upon my head bread of which the birds are eating. Inform us of the interpretation of these (dreams) for we surely find you of the doers of good to others.'

37. He said, `(Do not worry,) I shall inform you of the interpretation of these (dreams) before the meal you two are given comes to you. This (my ability to interpret, you should bear in mind) is a part of that knowledge which my Lord has imparted to me. I have indeed renounced the creed of the people who do not believe in Allâh and who, moreover, are disbelievers in the Hereafter.

38. `And I have followed the creed of my fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is not proper for us to associate anything as a partner with Allâh. That (He taught us unity of God) is entirely due to Allâh's grace upon us and upon (other) people. But most people do not render thanks (for this blessing).

39. `My two fellow-prisoners! what is better? Diverse and numerous gods or Allâh, the One, the Most Supreme?

40. `You worship nothing, apart from Him but some mere (imaginary) names coined by you and by your fathers. Allâh has sent down no authority for (worshipping) that. The judgment rests with Allâh alone. He has commanded that you shall worship none but Him alone. That is the right (and lasting) faith, yet most people know (it) not.

41. `My two fellow-prisoners! as for one of you, he will pour out wine for his lord to drink and as for the other, he shall be crucified so that the birds will eat (flesh) from off his head. The matter about which you inquired stands decreed.'

42. And of the two, he knew to be the one who would be released, he said, `Mention me to your lord.' But satan made him (-the released person) forget to mention (Joseph) to his lord so that he (- Joseph) remained confined in the prison for a few years.

SECTION 6

43. Now (it so happened that one day) the king said, `I saw (in a dream) seven fat kine which seven lean ones were eating, and seven green ears of corn and (as many) others withered. You nobles of the court! explain to me the real significance of my

dream if you can interpret dreams.'

44. They said, '(These are) confused dreams and we do not know the interpretation of such confused dreams.'

45 And of the two (prisoners) the one who had got his release and who (now) recalled (Joseph) to his mind after a long time, said, 'I will inform you of its (true) interpretation, therefore send me (for the purpose to Joseph in prison).'

46 (So he went to Joseph in the prison and exclaimed,) 'Joseph, you, the man of truth, explain to us the (real) significance of (a dream in which) seven fat kine which seven lean ones devour; and (of) seven green ears of corn and as many others withered, so that I may return to the people and they may know (the interpretation and thereby your exalted position).'

47. He (- Joseph) replied, 'You shall sow for seven years working hard and continuously and let what you have harvested remain in its ear excepting a little whereof you may eat.

48. 'Then there shall follow seven (years of famine) of great severity (and) these (years) shall consume all the stores you have laid by in advance for them except a little which you may have preserved.

49. 'Then, thereafter shall come a year of rains in which people shall be relieved and in which (season) they will press (fruit and seeds).'

SECTION 7

50. And the King (after hearing the interpretation by Joseph) said, 'Bring him to me!' But when the messengers came to him he said, 'Go back to your lord and ask him (on my behalf), 'How does the matter (deserving of your attention) stands with regard to the women who cut their hands; for my Lord has full knowledge of their crafty designs.'

51. (The king then sent for the ladies and to them) he said, 'What was that important matter (in reality) that you had in view when you sought to seduce Joseph against his will?' They said, 'He kept away (from committing sin) for the sake of Allâh. We did

not perceive the least evil (intention) on his part.' The wife of the `Azîz said, `Now the truth has come to light (at last). It was I who sought to seduce him against his will and most surely he is of the truthful.'

52. (When the news was brought to Joseph he said,) `This (course of action I adopted) so that he (- the `Azîz) might know that I had not betrayed him in (his) absence and that Allâh suffers not the device of the unfaithful to succeed.'

Part XIII

53. `Yet I do not hold myself to be free from weakness, for human nature is surely prone to enjoin evil, except on whom my Lord has mercy. My Lord is of course Protector (against sins), Ever Merciful.'

54. And the king said, `Bring him to me. I will make him my special attache.' And when he (- Joseph came and) spoke to him, he (- the king) said, `From this day you hold a (notable) position of honour (and) trust with us.'

55. (Joseph) said, `Appoint me over the treasures (- granaries and stores) of the land, for I am a careful keeper and possessed of knowledge (of the Job).'

56. That is how We granted Joseph high power in the country. He wielded authority therein wherever he chose. We bestow Our mercy on whomsoever We will and We suffer not the reward of the doers of excellent deeds to be lost.

57. Yet those who believe and have been guarding against sin and dutiful, shall have a much better reward in the Hereafter.

SECTION 8

58. And (in the years of famine) Joseph's brothers came (from Kin`ân to Egypt) and they presented themselves to him. But though he knew them they recognized him not.

59. When he had provided them with their provision he said, `(When you come next) bring me your brother from your father's side. Do you not see that I give full measure (of corn) and I am the best of hosts?

60. `But if you do not bring him to me, there shall be no more measure (of corn) for you from me, nor shall you find access to me.'

61. They said, `We will certainly persuade his father to part with him and we are sure to do (it).'

62. And he said to his servants, `Put their cash (they paid for the corn) in their saddlebags,' (and to himself,) `that they may recognize it (as benevolence) when they return to their family and perhaps they may come back (with his brother on this account).'

63. So when they returned to their father they said, `Our father! (a further) measure

(of corn) has been denied us (unless we take our brother Benjamin with us), therefore send our brother with us that we may have (our) measure (of corn) and we will surely be able to take (due) care of him.'

64. (Jacob) said, 'Shall I trust you with him as I trusted you with his brother before? (I would rather trust Allâh.) Allâh is the best Guardian and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.'

65. And when they unpacked their goods they found their cash (too) returned to them. They said, 'Our father! what more should we desire? Here is our cash returned to us. And (if Benjamin accompanies us we will make the best use of it,) we will bring food for our family and we will take care of our brother, and we shall have the measure of a camel-load in addition. That measure of corn (we have already brought) is a light one (and so little and insufficient).

66. He said, 'Never will I send him with you until you give me a solemn pledge in the name of Allâh that you shall surely bring him to me unless it be that you yourselves are beset with difficult circumstances.' When they had given him their solemn pledge he said, 'Allâh shall be Guardian over what we have agreed.'

67. And he also said (on their departure), 'My sons! (reaching Egypt) enter (the city) not by one gate rather enter (it) by different gates. Yet I can avail you naught against (the decree of) Allâh. The decision only rests with Allâh. In Him do I put my trust and in Him let all who would trust, put their trust (in the like manner).'

68. And when they entered the city after the manner their father had bidden them (Jacob's object was achieved but) it could not at all help them against the decree of Allâh. All that it came to was that Jacob's desire he had in his mind was (thus) satisfied (and his purpose achieved) and he was surely possessed of knowledge because We had imparted full knowledge to him. But most people do not know (these things).

SECTION 9

69. When they entered upon Joseph he betook his brother to himself for restful lodging (making him his personal guest). He (- Joseph) said (to Benjamin), 'I am your (real) brother (Joseph), so now do not grieve over what they (- our other brothers) have been doing.'

70. When he had provided them with their provision (to set on a return journey), someone put a drinking cup in the saddle-bag of his brother (Benjamin). Then (it so happened that) a crier called, 'O (men of) the caravan carrying the corn, you are most surely thieves.'

71. They (- men of the caravan) said turning towards them (- the heralds), 'What is it that you are missing?'

72. They said, 'We find the king's measuring vessel missing' and (added), 'Whoever restores it shall receive a camel-load (of corn as a reward),' (and one of them said), 'I am surely responsible for it.'

73. They replied, 'By Allâh, you know well that we did not come to commit mischief in this country, nor are we (professional) thieves.'

74. They (- the Egyptians) said, 'What shall be the punishment for this (theft) if you are (proved to be) liars?'

75. They replied, 'The punishment for this is that he in whose saddle-bag this (vessel) is found shall himself be the penalty for it (and so he himself shall be confiscated as its forfeit). This is how we punish the wrong doers.'

76. Then he (- the king's herald) began (the search) with the sacks of others before (he came to) the sack of his (- Joseph's) brother (Benjamin). (Finding the vessel therein) he brought it out of his brother's sack. That is how We contrived for Joseph (to keep Benjamin with him, otherwise) he could not have taken his brother according to the king's law. Yet it came about as Allâh willed. We raise in degrees (of rank) whomsoever We will. And over and above every possessor of knowledge there is One (Almighty God), Who is All Knowing.

77. (Joseph's brothers) said, 'If he has stolen, (no wonder) a brother of his had (also) committed theft before (this).' But Joseph kept it secret in his heart and did not disclose it to them. He (simply) said, 'You are a worse case and Allâh knows best what you are alleging.'

78. (Brothers of Joseph) said, 'O noble chief! surely he has an old father, advanced in years, so retain one of us in his place. Surely, we see you to be of the doers of good (to all).'

79. He said, 'God forbid that we take anyone except the one with whom we found our property, for (otherwise) we would, of course, be unjust.'

SECTION 10

80. When they were despaired of (moving) him, they retired to confer together in private. One of their leaders said, `Are you not aware that your father has bound you to a solemn pledge in the name of Allâh? And how before this, you fell short of your duty in respect of Joseph? Never will I, therefore, leave this land until my father gives me permission or Allâh, Who is the best of Judges, decides (the matter) for me.

81. `Return all of you to your father and say, "Our father! your son has committed the theft, and we say no more than what we know (and we did not witness him stealing), and we could not be guardians over what was unseen (by us).

82. "And you may inquire of (the inhabitants of) the city we were in, and of (the people of) the caravan carrying the corn we accompanied. We speak nothing but the truth".'

83. (So when, reaching home Jacob's sons gave all this information to him, Jacob) said, `Nay, it is not so, rather your (baser) selves have embellished to you an other (abominable) thing. So (now showing) patience is befitting. It is not far from (the grace of) Allâh to bring them all to me for He is indeed the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.'

84. And he turned away from them and said, `O my grief for Joseph!' and his eyes were drowned (with tears) for the pangs of grief and he was suppressing (his sorrow).

85. They said, `By Allâh! you will not cease mentioning Joseph until you are consumed away (for some disease) or become of the perished.'

86. He replied, `I complain of my anguish and of my sorrow to Allâh alone. I know from Allâh what you do not know.

87. `Go, my sons, and make a thorough search for Joseph and his brother. Do not despair of Allâh's soothing mercy. Verily, none but the people who deny (the truth) can ever lose hope of Allâh's soothing mercy.'

88. And when they (- Joseph's brothers) came again before him (- Joseph) they said, `O noble chief! distress and poverty (due to famine) has befallen us and our family. We have brought only a scanty amount of money. Give us (nonetheless) full measure (of corn) and show us charity. Surely, Allâh rewards the charitable.'

89. (Joseph) said, `Are you aware what you did to Joseph and his brother (- Benjamin to involve him in trouble) in your ignorance?'

90. They (were startled and) said, `Are you (Joseph)? Yes you are Joseph indeed!' He said, `(Yes) I am Joseph, and this is my brother (Benjamin), Allâh has indeed been gracious to us. As a matter of fact, he who guards against evil (seeking refuge in Him) and patiently perseveres, will find that Allâh suffers not the reward of the doers of good to others to be lost.'

91. They said, `By Allâh, Allâh has surely exalted you above us and we have indeed been guilty.'

92. (Joseph) said, `No reproach (from me shall be) on you this day. May Allâh forgive you; He is the Most Merciful to those who show mercy.'

93. `Go with this my shirt and lay it before my father he will come to know (the whole affair and as well believe). And bring to me the whole of your family.'

SECTION 11

94. So when the caravan with the corn departed (from Egypt) their father said (in Kin`ân), `If you do not pronounce my judgment to be weak and unsound (let me tell you that) I do scent the power of Joseph.'

95. They (- people of Joseph's household) said, `By Allâh! you are (still) suffering from your old delusion.'

96. And when the bearer of the happy tidings came (to Jacob) he laid it (- the shirt) before him and he became enlightened (about the true state of affairs), he said, `Did I not tell you I know from Allâh what you do not know.'

97. They said, `Our father! pray that our sins are forgiven to us, for certainly we have been sinful.'

98. He (- Jacob) said, `I will certainly pray to my Lord to forgive you. Surely, He is the Most Forgiving, the Ever Merciful.'

99. And when they all came to Joseph he betook his parents to himself for a restful lodging (making them his personal guests) and said, `Enter the city, if Allâh will, you

shall always be safe and secure.'

100. And he took his parents to the royal court and they all fell down prostrate (before God) because of him and he said, 'My father! this is the real fulfillment of my vision of old. My Lord has made it come true. He has been gracious to me, indeed, when he released me out of the prison and brought you from the desert. (This all happened) after satan had stirred up discord between me and my brothers. Surely, my Lord is Benignant to whomsoever He pleases. He it is, Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.'

101. (Addressing his Lord, Joseph then said,) 'My Lord! You have bestowed a part of the sovereignty upon me and it is You Who have imparted me true knowledge of the significance of (divine) sayings. O You, the Originator of the heavens and the earth! You alone are my Patron in this world and the Hereafter. Let it be that I die in a state of complete submission (to You), let it be that I join the righteous.'

102. (Prophet!) this (narrative) is a part of the important news of the hidden realities which We reveal to you. You were not present with these (enemies of yours) when they agreed upon their plan (against you) and they are (still) hatching subtle plots.

103. And many people, even though you ardently desire (it), will not at all believe.

104. While you ask from them no wages for it (- bringing this teaching contained in the Qur'ân). On the other hand this (Qur'ân) is but (a source of) eminence and glory for all mankind.

SECTION 12

105. And many are the signs in the heavens and the earth, which they pass by turning away (arrogantly) from them.

106. Infact, most of them believe not in Allâh without (at the same time) ascribing partners (to Him).

107. Do they then, feel secure from the coming of an overwhelming punishment on them from Allâh, or the sudden coming of the Hour upon them, taking them unawares.

108. Say, 'This is my path. I call to Allâh. I am on sure knowledge verifiable by reason and (so are) those who follow me. (I believe that) Holy is Allâh. I am not of the polytheists.'

109. And We sent none (as Messengers) before you but they were men from among

the people of the townships to whom We revealed (Our will). Have they not then journeyed in the land and seen how was the end of their predecessors? Indeed, the abode of the Hereafter holds out better promises for those who guard against evil and keep their duty. Will you not then refrain (from disbelief and unrighteous deeds)?

110. (It always happened with the previous Messengers as well, they went on with their teachings) till when those Messengers despaired (of believing on the part of their people) and they (the people of their nation) thought that they have been told only lies (in the name of revelations), Our help reached these (Messengers) suddenly, delivering those whom We pleased. Surely, Our punishment is not averted from the people who sever their ties (with Us).

111. Most assuredly the narratives of the people (gone by) contain lessons for the people possessed of pure and clear understanding. This (Qur'ân) is no forged narrative. It is a fulfillment of those (prophecies contained in the Scriptures) which were before it and is a detailed exposition of all things, and a guide, and a mercy to a people who believe.

Chapter

13

Al-Ra`d

(The Thunder)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Ra`d).

1. Alif Lâh Mîm Râ - I am Allâh, the Best Knowing, the All-Seeing. These are the verses of the perfect Book, and that which has been revealed to you by your Lord is the complete truth. But most people do not (still) believe (in it).

2. Allâh is He Who raised up the heavens without any pillars that you can see, and He occupied the throne (of sovereignty). And He made the sun and the moon subservient (to you), each one of these (planets) pursues its course for a specified term. He regulates all affairs (of this universe). He explains in detail His Messages so that you may have firm conviction of the meeting with your Lord.

3. And it is He Who drew forth the earth (from another heavenly body) and made it productive and fertile by means of particles (of other planets), and made firm mountains and rivers on it. He has grown therein fruit of every kind in a pair comprising both sexes (the male stamens and female pistils). He causes the night to cover the day. Behold! in all this there are signs for a people who reflect.

4. And in the earth are (diverse) tracts side by side, and (in them there are) gardens of vines and (different kinds of) cornfields and date-palms; growing in clusters (many together from one root) and (others) growing separately from different roots. They are all watered with the same water, yet We make some of them excel others in (respect of) bearing fruit and (their) tastes. Behold! in all this, there are signs (to recognize their Lord) for a people who use their understanding.

5. And (you, O reader! are right) if you would wonder (at the disbelievers for) wondrous indeed are their words: 'Is it true that we shall be raised to a new creation when we are reduced to dust (after death?).' These are the ones who disbelieve in their Lord and these are the ones who shall have halters around their necks. They shall be the fellows of the Fire wherein they shall abide.

6. They want you to hasten on (their) punishment in preference to (your doing them) good, whereas there has already been awarded (to the people) before them exemplary punishment. Verily, your Lord is full of forgiveness to mankind despite their unjust doings, yet your Lord is (likewise) Strict in inflicting punishment.

7. And those who disbelieve say, 'Why has no sign (of destruction) been sent down to him from his Lord?' While you are nought but a Warner and a Guide for every people.

SECTION 2

8. Allâh knows what every female carries and (He knows) what the wombs miscarry

and what they nourish and help to grow. He has the (proper and fixed) measure of everything.

9. (He is the) Knower of the hidden realities and the visible, the Incomparably Great, the Most Exalted.

10. He among you, who conceals his thoughts and he who speaks them aloud, and (also) he who lurks by night and he who goes forth (openly) by day are all alike (in His knowledge).

11. He (- the Messenger) has companies (of angels) successively ranged before him and behind him. They guard him by the command of Allâh. Verily, Allâh does not change the condition of a people until they (first) change their ways and their minds. When Allâh decides upon punishing a people there is no averting it. (At that time) they have no helping friend apart from Him.

12. He it is, Who shows you the lightning to induce fear and to inspire hope (in you); and (it is He) Who raises the heavy clouds.

13. And the thunder glorifies Him with His true praise and (so do) the angels in awe of Him. He sends the thunderbolts and therewith smites whom He will. Yet they dispute about Allâh, though He is Mighty in prowess.

14. He alone deserves being called upon (in prayer). Those they call upon, apart from Him, give them no response whatsoever, but (these polytheists pray to them) like one who stretches forth both of his hands towards the water (wishing) that it may reach his mouth while it never reaches it. And the call of the disbelievers is nought but in vain.

15. All those that are in the heavens and on the earth submit to Allâh alone; whether they choose to obey willingly or not, and likewise do their shadows, in the mornings and evenings, (and they are all subject to the divine law (- His law of nature).

[Prostration]

16. Ask (them), 'Who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth?' (They will not be able to answer it, therefore) say, 'It is Allâh.' Say (again), 'Have you, even then, taken, apart from Him (such other) helpers as have no power to receive good or avoid harm even for themselves?.' Say, 'Is the blind person as good as the person who can see? Or are the different kinds of darkness the same as the light? Or have they ascribed to Allâh associate partners who have created the things as He has created, with the result that the two creations look similar to them?' Say, 'Allâh (alone) is the Creator of all things and He is the One, the Most Supreme.'

17. He sends down some water from the clouds so that the water courses flow up to their capacity, and the torrent carries

(on its surface) swelling foam. And out of that (metal) which the people heat in the fire seeking to make ornaments and other articles a similar foam rises to (the surface of) it. In this way does Allâh illustrate truth and falsehood. As for the foam it goes away as (does all) dross, but as to that which does good to mankind it stays in the earth. That is how Allâh sets forth excellent description of things.

18. There is an everlasting good (in store) for those who respond to the call of their Lord. And (as for) those who do not respond to His call, even though they had possessed all that is on the earth and as much more, they would certainly offer it to ransom (themselves) with it. It is these for whom an evil reckoning awaits and their refuge is Gehenna. What a wretched place to rest!

SECTION 3

19. **H**ow can then he, who knows that what has been revealed to you from your Lord, is the truth, be like the person who is blind? Only those possessed of pure and clear understanding do give thought.

20. These are the persons who fulfill the covenant (they made) with Allâh and do not break their solemn pledge.

21. These are the persons who keep the ties (of love and relationship) Allâh has commanded to be kept, who hold their Lord in awe and who dread the evil reckoning.

22. And these are the persons who patiently persevere (in virtues and in guarding against evil), seek the favour of their Lord, and observe Prayer, and who spend of what We have provided them, secretly and openly, and who avert evil (by repaying it) with good. It is these who shall have the best end of the (present) abode -

23. Everlasting Gardens of Paradise where they themselves, and (also) such of them as are righteous and fit (for earning a place in Heaven) from among their fathers and their spouses and their children shall enter. And angels shall attend on them from every door (saying),

24. 'Peace be ever upon you because you patiently persevered (in virtues and guarded against sin).' How excellent and blissful is the reward of this abode in the Hereafter!

25. But as for those who break the covenant (they made) with Allâh after having ratified it, and sever the ties Allâh has commanded to be kept and disturb the peace of the country. It is these on whom lies the disapproval (of Allâh) and they shall have an evil end of this abode.

26. Allâh amplifies the means of livelihood for such of (His) people as He will and straitens them (for such of them as He will). (Some) people are happy with the present life whereas the present life, as compared with the Hereafter, is but a fleeting (and insignificant) enjoyment.

SECTION 4

27. And those who disbelieve say, 'Why has no sign (of the destruction of his opponents) been revealed to this (Prophet) from his Lord?' Say, 'Verily, Allâh lets him go astray who wishes (to be left in error) and guides to Himself (only) those who turn again and again (to Him);

28. 'Those who believe and whose hearts find peace in the remembrance of Allâh. Look! it is in the remembrance of Allâh alone that the hearts really find peace;

29. 'Those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, an enviable state (of bliss) is theirs (in this world), and an excellent and blissful place of return (awaits them in the Hereafter).'

30. It is therefore, We have sent you to a people before whom other peoples have passed away, so that you may recite to them that (Qur'ân) which We have revealed to you, Yet they disbelieve in (God) the Most Gracious. Say, 'He is my Lord, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. In Him do I put my trust and to Him is my complete return.'

31. Had there been a Qur'ân whereby mountains could be moved, or whereby the earth could be torn asunder, or whereby the dead could be made to speak (it is this very Qur'ân indeed). Behold! the commandment and all power belongs to Allâh. Have not those who believe realized yet that if Allâh had (enforced) His will He would have indeed guided all mankind. And as for those who disbelieve, one calamity or the other will continue to befall them owing to their (evil) activities till you come to alight in their neighborhood, until the promise of Allâh (about the conquest of Makkah) comes to pass. Verily, Allâh will not fail (this) promise (of His).

SECTION 5

32. And surely Messengers before you were treated scornfully. But (at first) I granted respite to those who disbelieved, after that I took them to task; and (behold) how (exemplary) was then My punishment.

33. How shall He Who stands (watchful) over each and every soul as to what it accomplishes (let them go unpunished inspite of His knowledge)? And yet they ascribe to Allâh several partners. Say, `(Would) you name their attributes;

and would you inform Him of something important which is on the earth but unknown to Him, or are these merely empty (and false) words?' Nay, the fact of the matter is that their designing and their activities are made fair-seeming to the disbelievers (by satan), and they have been barred from the (right) path. And he whom Allâh forsakes has no guide.

34. They are doomed to punishment in the present life (and the next). But the punishment of the Hereafter will of course, be graver still. They will have no saviour at all from (the punishment of) Allâh.

35. The likeness of (the Garden of) Paradise which has been promised to those who become secure against sin and are dutiful is that (of a garden) served with running streams (to keep it green and flourishing). It has ever-lasting fruit and (so will be) its shade. Such is the end of those who guard against sins but the end of disbelievers is the Fire.

36. And those to whom We have given the insight of the Book (- the Qur'ân) rejoice at what has been revealed to you. But there are some factions (of other religions) who deny some of its parts. Say, `I have only been commanded to worship Allâh and not to associate (anything) with Him. To Him do I call (you) and to Him is my return.'

37. (Just as We revealed other Scriptures) so have We revealed it (- the Qur'ân) as a clear judgment (couched) in Arabic and if you (O reader!) were to follow their vain desires after the knowledge has come to you you will have not a single helper nor a saviour against (the punishment of) Allâh.

SECTION 6

38. And most surely, We sent before you many Messengers and We gave them wives and children. Yet it was not possible for a Messenger to bring a sign but by Allâh's command. For everything that has an appointed term, there is a (divine) law (to regulate it).

39. Allâh repeals (the law relating to punishment) what He will and He establishes and confirms (what He pleases) and with Him is the source and origin of all laws and commandments.

40. We will indeed let you witness (O Muḥammad! the realisation of) some of the punishments with which We threaten them (- the disbelievers) with before We cause you to die. You are responsible only for the delivery (of the Message) and the reckoning is Our Own responsibility.

41. Do they not see that We are invading the land (of disbelief and are gradually) reducing and curtailing it from its sides? Allâh judges the matter, there is none to reverse His judgment. Swift is He at calling to account.

42. And their predecessors did devise plans (against the truth) but all effective devising (and the success) of the plans rests with Allâh. He knows what every person accomplishes. The disbelievers will soon come to know who will gain the (good and successful) end of this abode.

43. And those who disbelieve say, `You are not a sent one (of God)'. Say, `Allâh suffices as a Witness between me and you, and (so are) those who possess knowledge of the Divine Book.'

Chapter

14

Ibrâhîm

(Abraham)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Ibrâhîm).

1. Alif Lãm Râ - I am Allâh, the All-Seeing. (This is) a great Book which We have revealed to you that you may bring mankind, by the leave of their Lord, out of different kinds of darkness into light, to the path of the All-Mighty, the Praiseworthy,
2. (To the path of) Allâh, to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And woe to the disbelievers for a dreadful punishment (that will befall them)!
3. Such as prefer the present life to the Hereafter, and forsake the path of Allâh and hinder (the people) from it, and try to paint it as crooked, seeking to undertake it by remaining crooked. It is these who have gone far off in error.
4. And We sent no Messenger but (he spoke) in the language of his people so that he might make (all Our Messages) clear to them, yet Allâh leaves in error those who wish to remain in error and guides him who wishes to be guided (to

the right path). And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

5. And We sent Moses with Our signs saying, `Bring forth your people from different kinds of darkness into light and remind them of Allâh's favours and punishments. Behold! there are signs in these (narratives) for every patiently persevering and grateful person.'

6. And (call to mind) when Moses said to his people, `Remember Allâh's blessings upon you, when He delivered you from the people of Pharaoh, who afflicted you with painful sufferings and slew your sons and spared your women to make them immodest and in that (deliverance) there was a great reward from your Lord.

SECTION 2

7. And (recall) when your Lord made it known (to you), `If you indeed be thankful, I will bestow more (favours) on you, but if you are ungrateful, (you will find that) My punishment is of course most severe.'

8. Moses said, `If you turn ungrateful, you and everyone on this earth altogether (remember that) Allâh stands in need of no thanks. Verily, Allâh is Self-Sufficient,

Praiseworthy (in His Own right).

9. Has not the important news come to you of your predecessors, the people of Noah, (the tribes of) `Âd and Thamûd and those who came after them. None knows them (now) but Allâh. Their Messengers (of God) came to them with clear proofs, but they put their hands again and again on their mouths (showing great resentment and out of rage) saying, `We have already rejected that (revelation) you have been sent with and infact we are in disquieting doubt as to that (faith) you call us to.'

10. Their Messengers (of God) said, `Is there any doubt about Allâh, the Originator of the heavens and the earth? He calls you (to Himself) that He may protect you against your sins and grant you respite till an appointed time (to the end of your lives).' They said, `You are nothing but a human being like ourselves. You desire to stop us from (worshipping) that our fathers have been worshipping, well better bring us some manifest authority.'

11. Their Messengers (of God) said to them, `It is true we are nothing but human beings like yourselves but Allâh shows (His) favours (by sending revelations and prophethood) to such of His servants as He will. It is not (possible) for us to bring you an authority except by the leave of Allâh. (We put our trust in Him) and in Allâh (alone) should the believers put their trust.

12. `And why should we not put our trust in Allâh while He has guided us in our ways? We will surely endure patiently all persecutions you have subjected us to. So in Allâh alone let those put their trust who have learnt to put their trust in Him.'

SECTION 3

13. And those who disbelieved, then said to their Messengers (of God), `We will, assuredly, turn you out of our country or you will have to return to our creed.' Then did their Lord send (His) revelation to them (- the Messengers) saying, `We will invariably destroy these wrong doers.

14. `And We will surely make you occupy the country after them. That (promise) shall hold good for everyone of him who fears to stand before My tribunal and fears My threatful warning.'

15. They sought a judgment, (but when it came) every haughty person (and) enemy (of truth) met with no success (and was utterly disappointed).

16. Gehenna lies before him where he shall be made to drink boiling and repulsive water.

17. He will try to sip it but shall not be able to swallow it easily, and death shall come to him from every quarter; yet he shall not die. Moreover he shall see before him further harsh doom.

18. The works of those who disbelieve in (the Messages and blessings of) their Lord, are like ashes on which the wind blows violently on a tempestuous day. They shall have no power to reap the fruit of their deeds. That is indeed an extremely ruinous error.

19. Have you (O reader!) not considered that Allâh created the heavens and the earth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. If He (so) will, He can do away with you and bring forth a new creation.

20. And that is not at all difficult for Allâh.

21. (Beware of the Day when) the people shall appear before Allâh in a body so that the weak shall say to those who considered themselves great, `We were your followers definitely. Can you not help (to save) us (today) in any manner against the punishment of Allâh?' They will reply, `Had Allâh guided us (to a way of deliverance) we would have surely guided you. It makes no difference for us (now) whether we show impatience or remain patient. There is no way of escape for us (this day).'

SECTION 4

22. When the judgment (of God) has been passed (and matter decided), satan will say (to these people), `Verily, Allâh

made you a true promise, and I (also) made you a promise but I failed you. I had no authority over you, however, I called you and you obeyed me. Therefore blame me not (now) but you should blame your ownelves. I can render you no help, nor can you render me any help. In as much as your associating me as partner (with God), I have already declared that I have nothing to do with it. As for the wrong doers, there awaits them a grievous punishment.'

23. But those who believe and do righteous deeds shall be made to enter Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). There they shall abide in for ever by the leave of their Lord. Their greeting therein shall be, 'Peace.'

24. Have you (O reader!) not considered how Allâh compares a holy word to a good tree whose (each) root is firm and whose (every) branch (spreads out) to the very sky.

25. This (tree) goes on bringing forth its fruit at all times by the leave of its Lord. And Allâh gives excellent descriptions (of things) for the people so that they may take heed.

26. And the likeness of an evil word is as an evil tree which can be uprooted from above the earth; it has no stability.

27. Allâh strengthens those who have believed with the (true) word firmly established, (both) in the present life and in the Hereafter. Allâh perishes the wrongdoers and Allâh does whatever He will.

SECTION 5

28. **H**ave you not seen those who have done away with Allâh's favour for (their) ingratitude. They have landed their people into the abode of ruin -

29. In Gehenna; they shall enter it. What a wretched place to settle in!

30. And they set up compeers to Allâh to lead (people) astray from His path, say, '(Well) enjoy yourselves a while; you are heading towards the Fire.'

31. Say to My servants who have believed, to observe Prayer and to spend secretly and openly out of that We have provided for them, before there comes the day (of reckoning) when neither bargaining, nor fast-friendship shall help them (to get salvation).

32. Allâh is He Who created the heavens and the earth and He causes water to come down from the clouds and He brings forth fruits therewith to be your sustenance. He has made subservient to you the ships that they may sail through the sea by His leave

and He has made subservient to you the rivers (also).

33. And He has made subservient to you the sun and the moon, both moving constantly (according to some fixed laws), and He has made subservient to you the night and the day.

34. He has given you of all that you wanted of Him (by your natural demand). And if you try to count Allâh's bounties, you will not be able to number them. Surely, a human being is very unjust, very ungrateful.

SECTION 6

35. (**R**ecall the time) when Abraham said, `My Lord, make this (would be) city (of Makkah) secure and a haven of peace, and keep me and my children away from worshipping idols.

36. `My Lord! a large number of people has gone astray because of these (idols) to be sure. Then whoso follows me he is certainly of me. As for the person who disobeys me, (I can say only,) You are indeed Great Protector (against faults), Ever Merciful.

37. `Our Lord! I have settled some of my children in an uncultivable valley (of Makkah), in the vicinity of your Holy House. Our Lord! (I have done) so that they may observe prayer. Then make the hearts of the people incline towards them and provide them with fruits so that they may always give thanks.

38. `Our Lord! You know all that we keep secret and all that we make known. There is nothing either on the earth or in the heaven that may be hidden from Allâh.

39. `All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh Who has given me despite my old age (two sons) - Ismâîl and Isaac. My Lord is of course, the Hearer of prayers.

40. `My Lord! make me a constant and steadfast observer of prayer and my children (as well). Our Lord! (bestow Your Grace on us) and accept my prayer.

41. `Our Lord! protect me, my parents and the believers, against faults on the day when the reckoning takes place.'

SECTION 7

42. **A**nd (O reader!) do not think that Allâh is unaware of all that these wrongdoers do. He only defers their punishment to the day when the eyes (of the people) will fixedly stare (in horror).

43. They will be running in panic with their necks outstretched and heads erect, they will not be able to wink their eyes, and their hearts (utterly) void (of courage and hope).

44. Warn these people of the day when the (threatened) punishment overtakes them, and those who are unjust will say, `Our Lord! grant us respite for a short term, we will respond to Your call and follow the Messengers.' (It will be said to them), `Did you not swear before now (that) you would never have a fall?

45. `(You said this though) you occupied the dwelling places of those who had wronged themselves and it had been clear to you how We had dealt with them (- the unjust). We have set forth all these descriptions for you clearly.'

46. They have (already) hatched their plots. But even though they have plots that can move mountains, Allâh has power over (rendering) their plots (ineffective).

47. So (O reader!) do not think that Allâh is going to break His Promise He made to His Messengers. Allâh is All-Mighty, Lord of retribution.

48. Beware of the day when this earth will be changed into another earth and the heavens (as well shall be superseded by other heavens) and they (- all people) shall appear before Allâh, the One, the Most Supreme.

49. And on that day you shall see these guilty bound together in chains.

50. Pitch will form their raiments and the fire shall envelop their faces;

51. (This will be) so that Allâh may reward every soul according to his deeds. Verily, Allâh is Swift at reckoning.

52. This (Qur'ân) is a Message to, (and sufficient to meet all the requirements of) all mankind. (It has other aims to serve,) and that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is the only One God, and that those possessed of pure knowledge may take heed.

Chapter

A 1 - Hijr

(The Rock)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hijr).

1. Alif Lâm Râ - I am Allâh, the All-Seeing. These are the verses of the perfect Book and of the Qur'ân, that distinguishes the right from the wrong.

Part XIV

2. Often those who disbelieve (in the verses of this perfect Book) would wish they had been Muslims.
3. Leave them alone to eat and enjoy themselves and let vain hopes beguile them, but they will soon know (the reality).
4. And never did We destroy a township but it had a decree made known.
5. No people can outstrip its term and none can ever remain behind.
6. And they say, `O you to whom this Reminder (- the Qur'ân) has been revealed! you are a mad man indeed.
7. `Why do you not bring the angels (for punishment) to us, if you are of the truthful?'
8. We send no angels until (the punishment becomes) rightly due and (when once We do send them) these (disbelievers) will not be the respited ones.
9. Verily, it was We, We Ourselves Who have revealed this Reminder (- the Qur'ân); and it is We Who are, most certainly, its Guardian.
10. Indeed, We sent (Messengers) before you to the sects of the former peoples,
11. Yet not a single Messenger ever came to them but they treated him scornfully.
12. (Just as We made this a habit with the peoples gone by,) so do We cause this (tendency of scornful treatment) enter the minds of these people who sever their ties (with God).
13. They will not believe in this (Qur'ân), though the precedence of the former peoples has already gone (before them showing how the opposition of truth makes them deserving of the punishment of God).
14. And if We opened to them a gate of the heaven and they (-the angels) began ascending through it,
15. Even then these people would surely say, `Our eyes have only been dazed; rather We are a bewitched people.'

SECTION 2

16. We have indeed set up constellations in the heaven, and We have decked it fair for the beholders,

17. And We have guarded it against (the intrusion of) every rebellious rejected satan.

18. As to one who wishes to steal a hearing (of the revelation to distort it) a bright fiery flame pursues him.

19. We have spread out and put fertilizers in the earth from outside, and set up firm mountains therein, and We have caused to grow upon it every suitable thing in due proportion.

20. And We have provided in it means of livelihood for you and even for (all) others whom it is not for you to provide.

21. And there is not a thing but We have the vast treasures of it; and We do not send it down but according to a proper and prescribed measure.

22. And We send impregnating winds and pour water from the clouds and give it to you to drink. You are not the ones to store it up.

23. And surely it is We, Ourselves Who give life and cause death; and it is We Who are the (sole) survivors (after every thing perishes).

24. And indeed We know those among you who are the foremost in accepting the truth, and We indeed know those who are the laggards.

25. And certainly it is your Lord Who will gather them together; verily, He is All-Wise, All-Knowing.

SECTION 3

26. Surely, We created human being from dry ringing clay, (transformed) from black mud moulded into shape.

27. And We created the *jinn* before (him) from the fire of intensely hot wind.

28. And (recall the time) when your Lord said to the angels, `I am, indeed, going to create a human being from dry ringing clay (formed) from black mud, moulded into

shape.

29. `So when I have shaped him in perfection and have breathed My revelation into him, fall you down in submission to him.'

30. And (when He created the human being,) the angels submitted, all of them together.

31. But *Iblîs* (though he was separately bidden to do the same, did not). He stubbornly refused to be with those who submit.

32. (Lord) said, `*Iblîs!* what is (the reason) with you that you would not be with those who submit?'

33. He replied, `I would never submit to a human being whom You have created from dry ringing clay (formed) from black mud, moulded into shape.'

34. (Lord) said, `(If it is so) then get out from this (state), for, surely, you are rejected.

35. `And of course (My) disapproval shall be on you till the Day of Requit.

36. He said, `My Lord, then grant me respite till the day when these (human beings) shall be raised (to spiritual life).'

37. (Lord) said, `You are indeed of those already granted respite,

38. `Till the day of which the time is known (to Me).'

39. He said, `My Lord! since You have condemned me as astray (and erring), I will surely make (evil of straying from the straight path) fair-seeming to them (as long as they stay) on the earth; I shall seduce them all,

40. `Except your (sincere) servants from among them; (Your) chosen and purified ones, (whom I shall not be able to seduce).'

41. (Lord) said, `The path (that My sincere servants follow) leads straight to Me.

42. `As for My servants, you have no authority over them. Different, however, is the case of such of the deviators who (choose to) follow you.

43. `And, of course, Gehenna is the promised place for such of them all.

44. `It has seven gates. Each gate shall have an assigned portion of them (who have gone astray).

SECTION 4

45. `Surely, those who guard against evil and are dutiful (to Me and mankind) shall live amidst gardens and fountains.

46. `(It will be said to them,) "Enter therein (to live) in peace (and be) secure".'

47. And We shall remove every vestige of rancour that may be in their hearts. They will be like brothers (seated cheerfully) on raised couches (of happiness), face to face.

48. They shall suffer no fatigue, nor shall they ever be ejected from there.

49. (O Prophet!) give My servants the important news that I - I alone - am most certainly the One Great Protector, the Ever Merciful.

50. And (also tell them) that My punishment is a very grievous one.

51. And (also) give them the important news about Abraham's guests.

52. When they entered upon him and greeted him saying, `Peace (be upon you)' he answered, `We feel afraid of you.'

53. They said, `Have no fear, we give you good tidings of (the birth of) a son endowed with knowledge.'

54. He (-Abraham) said, `Do you give me the good tidings inspite of the fact that old age has come upon me. So on what (basis) are you giving (me this) good tidings.'

55. They said, `We give you good tidings on the basis of (the revelation of) truth; therefore do not be of the despairing ones (of the mercy of Allâh).'

56. He said, `And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord, but the erring ones?'

57. He added, `O you messengers! what is your real business then?'

58. They said, `We have been sent to (destroy) a guilty people.

59. `Excepting the followers of Lot (because they are not guilty). We shall invariably deliver them all.

60. `Excepting his wife, (of whom God says,) "We have decided that she (will not accompany those ordained to be delivered but) shall be really of those staying behind".'

SECTION 5

61. When the messengers came to Lot (and his) followers,

62. (Lot) said, `Surely, you are an unknown people, I apprehend evil from you (because of your coming).'

63. They said, `(You need no apprehensions.) But we have come to you with (the news of) that (punishment) about (the truth of) which they doubted.

64. `And we have come to you with sure news and most certainly we are truthful;

65. `So set forth (from here) with your people in the (latter) part of the night and yourself following in their wake. Let none of you look about (and lag behind) but proceed to where you are commanded.'

66. And We appraised him (-Lot) with certainty that the roots (and last remnants) of these people are to be cut off when they rise at dawn.

67. And the residents of the city came rejoicing (to the house of Lot).

68. (Lot) said, `Surely, these are my guests, therefore do not put me to shame (by your disrespectful behaviour towards them).

69. `And keep your duty to Allâh and disgrace me not.'

70. They said, `Have we not told you not to entertain (all sorts of unknown) people?'

71. He said, `Here are my daughters (as hostages to serve as a guarantee that the strangers will not make a mischief), if you must do something (to make any investigation against me).'

72. (Prophet!) by your (holy) life and by your true faith these (your opponents) are

(also) wandering distractedly in a

fit of frenzy.

73. Then a dreadful punishment overtook these (opponents of Lot) at sunrise.

74. We turned it (- the city) upside down, and rained upon the people petrified hard stones of clay (constantly).

75. Surely, in this (narrative) there are many signs for such as can interpret (signs).

76. And (the ruins of) these (townships) lie on a road that still exists (right on the highway between Arabia and Syria).

77. Behold! in this (narration) is indeed a sign for the believers.

78. Certainly, the dwellers of the thicket (of Midian) were (also) a wrong doing people.

79. Therefore We inflicted punishment on them; and (the ruins of) both their cities (- the city of Sodomites and the city of Aikah) lie indeed on the open highway (traversed by the caravans from Hijâz to Syria).

SECTION 6

80. And the dwellers of the Hijr (- a township of Thamûd lying between Tabûk and Madînah, also) cried lies to the Messengers.

81. And We gave them Our commandments but they were averse to them.

82. And they (in search of a life of peace and security,) used to hew some parts of the mountains into houses feeling secure (therein).

83. But the dreadful punishment overtook them in the morning.

84. So that all that they had accomplished was of no avail to them.

85. And We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between the two but to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. And the (threatened) Hour (of punishment) is sure to come. So turn away from them with goodly grace.

86. Surely, it is your Lord Who is the Great Creator, the Possessor of perfect knowledge.

87. And infact We have given you the seven oft-recited (verses of *Sûrah Al-Fâtihah*) and the Grand Qur'ân.

88. Extend not your eyes desirously towards the fleeting enjoyments We have bestowed on some classes (of people) among them, nor grieve over (this destruction of) them and be kind and gentle to the believers,

89. And proclaim, 'I am, indeed, the plain Warner (promised by God).'

90. Since We (have decided to) send down (this revelation full of warnings) to those who have formed themselves into factions by taking oaths (against you).

91. And who have pronounced the Qur'ân to be a pack of lies.

92. So by your Lord, We will surely question them all,

93. About their (mis)deeds.

94. Therefore declare openly what you are commanded (to deliver) and turn away from the polytheists.

95. We do suffice you (to punish) those who treat (you) scornfully.

96. Who set up an other god beside Allâh; but they shall soon come to know (the consequences).

97. And We know, indeed, that your mind is distressed because of (polytheistic things) that they say,

98. So (the remedy of this distress is that you) glorify your Lord with all His true praise and be of those who prostrate themselves (before Him).

99. And go on worshipping your Lord until there comes to you that which is certain (and you breathe your last).

Chapter

16

Al-Nahl

(The Bee)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Nahl).

1. The command of Allâh (regarding the punishment to the disbelievers) has come, therefore you need not seek to expedite it before its appointed time; and He is beyond and far above (all the things) they associate (with Him).

2. He sends down the angels with the revelation by His command to such of His servants as He will, (saying,) `Warn the people that there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but I, therefore take (only) Me as a shield.

3. `He has created the heavens and the earth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. He is beyond and far above (all) the things they associate (with Him).'

4. He has created human being from a mere drop of fluid, (a small life germ) then look! what a perspicuous and sound debater he has turned out to be.

5. And the cattle (too) He has created; they provide you with the things giving warmth and (various) other benefits, and through some of these (cattle) you obtain your food.

6. And in them there is for you provision of graceful beauty (and a matter of pride and honour), when you bring them home in the evening and when you drive them out

to pasture in the morning.

7. And it is (these cattle) that carry your heavy loads to lands that you could never reach except by putting yourselves to great hardships. Indeed, your Lord is Most Compassionate, Ever Merciful.

8. And (He has created) horses, mules and donkeys that you may ride them and look graceful. And He will yet create (for you) things of which (today) you have no knowledge.

9. And (because He is our Creator) upon Allâh lies (the responsibility of) leading to the right path, for there are some (paths) deviating (from the right and moderate course and so they lead astray). And if He had (enforced) His will, He would have guided you all.

SECTION 2

10. He it is Who poured down water from the clouds for you. It provides you with drink; it produces the plants on which you pasture (your herds of cattle).

11. He thereby grows for you the crops (of corn) and olives and date-palms and vines and all kinds of other fruit. Surely, in that there is a sign for a people who reflect.

12. And He has made subservient to you the night and the day and the sun and the moon. And (similarly) the stars (too) are made subservient to you by His command. Surely, in that there are many a sign for a people who make use of their understanding.

13. And (consider over) that what He has created for you in the earth which is of varying colours and qualities. verily, in that is, of course, a sign for a people who take heed.

14. And He it is Who has made subservient (to you) the sea that you may eat of its fresh flesh (of fish), and may bring forth out of it (precious and beautiful things of) ornaments for your wear. And you see the ships cleaving through it. (They do so that you may journey with ease) and that you may seek of His bounty (in other ways) and that you may render thanks (to Him).

15. And He has placed firm mountains in the earth lest it shall quake and that they may be a source of benefit and provision of food for you, and (has made) rivers (flow on it), and many routes that you may take the right way to reach your goal.

16. And (He has established many other) landmarks as well; (it is by these) and by

the stars (too) that the people can follow the right direction.

17. Can He then Who creates (out of nothing) be like those who can create nought? Will you not then take heed?

18. If you count Allâh's blessings and bounties (upon you, they are so many that) you will never be able to number them. Most surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

19. Allâh knows all that you conceal and all that you profess and do openly.

20. And the things whom they call upon apart from Allâh can create nothing. Rather they are themselves created.

21. They are dead, not alive. And they do not perceive when they shall be raised (to life again).

SECTION 3

22. Your God is One God. But as for those who do not believe in the Hereafter, their hearts are strangers (to the truth), and they are full of vanity.

23. As a matter of fact, Allâh knows what they conceal and all that they profess and do openly. Surely, He does not love such vain persons at all.

24. And when these (disbelievers) are asked, `What is (in your opinion) that which your Lord has sent down?' They say, `They are (mere) stories of the ancients.'

25. (They say it) with the result that they will bear their own burdens in full on the Day of Resurrection and (also) a portion of the burdens of those (who are) without knowledge and whom they are leading astray (because of their

ignorance). Look! how evil is the burden which they bear!

SECTION 4

26. Their predecessors did (also) hatch schemes (against the Prophets), Allâh struck at the very root of their foundations, so that the roof fell down from above them and the punishment came upon them from quarters they did not perceive.

27. (That is not all,) then on the Day of Resurrection He will disgrace them and will say, 'Where are My (so called) partners (associated with Me by you), for whose sake you used to oppose (My Prophets and the believers in truth).' At that time those who have been given the knowledge would say, 'Surely, this day disgrace and calamity shall be the lot of the disbelievers.'

28. Those whom the angels cause to die while they are (still engrossed) in doing wrong to themselves; (when they are on the point of death) they will offer submission (saying), 'We used to do no evil.' (The angels will say,) 'It is not as you say. Surely, Allâh knows well all that you have been doing.'

29. 'Therefore enter the gates of Gehenna to abide therein.' Evil indeed is the abode of those whose hearts are full of vanity and pride.

30. And (when) it is said to those who guarded against evil, 'What (do you think) is that which your Lord has revealed?' They said, 'The best.' There is a good reward in this world for those who do good but the abode of the Hereafter they shall have is indeed far better. How excellent is the abode of those who become secure against evil!

31. (These abodes) they shall enter (are) Gardens of Eternity, served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). They shall have therein all that they desire. That is how Allâh rewards those who become secure against evil.

32. Those (are happy indeed) whom the angels cause to die while they are pure saying, 'Peace be upon you! Enter Paradise because of that (noble deeds) you have been doing.'

33. These (disbelievers) only wait for the angels to descend upon them (with the punishment), or that the decisive decree of your Lord should come to pass. Their predecessors acted in a (wrong) way as they do. Allâh did not deal with them unjustly but they have been doing injustice to themselves.

34. So that the evil consequences of their deeds afflicted them. And (that punishment) which they used to look down upon encompassed them.

SECTION 5

35. Those who associated partners (with Allâh) said (also), 'Had Allâh so willed, neither we nor our fathers would have worshipped anything apart from Him, nor would we have forbidden anything without (sanction from) Him.' Their predecessors acted as they do. But there is no other responsibility upon the Messengers except the delivery (of the Message) in plain terms.

36. And We raised a Messenger among every community (teaching,) 'Worship Allâh and shun the transgressor (- satan).' Thus there were some among them whom Allâh guided and there were some among them who were condemned to be lost. So travel in the land and behold how evil was the end of those who cried lies (to the truth).

37. (Prophet!) if you are solicitous of their guidance, then (know that) Allâh never guides those who lead (others) astray (knowingly), and they shall have no helpers (to protect them against the evil consequences of their deeds).

38. And they have sworn by Allâh their most earnest oaths that Allâh will not raise the dead to life. Why not? It is a promise binding (in accordance with His will) upon Him. (He has guaranteed it,) but most people do not know (this true fact).

39. (It is a fact that He will raise the dead to life) so that He may make plain to them the things over which they were at variance (in the present life), and so that the disbelievers may know that they were truly liars.

40. Our word to a thing when We intend it (to come into being) is only that We say to it, 'Be' and it comes to be.

SECTION 6

41. We will certainly provide a goodly abode in this world for those who emigrated (from their homes) in the cause of Allâh after they were dealt with unjustly. And truly the reward (that they shall have) in the Hereafter is greater still. If the disbelievers but knew (it would have been much better for them).

42. These are those (emigrants) who patiently persevered and put their trust in their Lord (alone).

43. And we sent not (as Messengers) before you but they were men to whom We revealed (Our teachings). So ask the people of the Reminder (-the Qur'ân), if you do not know.

44. (We sent these above mentioned men) with clear proofs and Scriptures. And (similarly now) We have revealed to you the Reminder that you may explain to mankind (the commandments) that have been sent down to them so that they may ponder and reflect (over it).

45. Do they, who have been hatching evil plots (against you), feel secure that Allâh will not abase them in this very earth and that punishment will not befall them from quarters they perceive not.

46. Or (do they feel secure) that He will not seize them in their going to and fro so that they shall not be able to frustrate (Him in His designs and plans).

47. Or it may be that He will take them to task through (a process of) gradual diminution (until disbelief is completely annihilated)? For surely your Lord is All-Compassionate, Ever Merciful.

48. Have they not considered that the shadow of everything which Allâh has created shift from the right and from the left, prostrating themselves to Allâh (in obedience to His laws) in humble supplication?

49. All that is in the heavens and on the earth of the crawling and moving creatures and the angels (too), make obeisance to Allâh and they do not disdain (to worship Him).

50. They fear (disobedience to) their Lord above them, and do whatever they are commanded.

[Prostration]

SECTION 7

51. Allâh has said, `Take not to you two gods (to worship) He is the only One God. Therefore stand in awe of Me and (I repeat) Me alone.

52. All that is in the heavens and on the earth belongs to Him. Obedience is due to Him forever. Will you still take something other than Allâh as (your) shield?

53. And whatever blessings you have, come from Allâh. And when affliction befalls you it is to Him that you cry (for redress).

54. Yet as soon as He removes the affliction from you some among you (begin to) associate (others as) partners with their Lord (in His worship),

55. With the result that they show ingratitude for the favours which We have bestowed upon them. Well, enjoy yourselves a little, for soon you will know (the evil consequences of your ingratitude).

56. And they set apart (for the false gods) a portion of that (gift) We have provided them with, about (the reality of) which they know not. By Allâh, you will be called upon to account for all that you have forged.

57. And they assign daughters to Allâh; Holy is He, whereas they (wish to) have for themselves what they desire.

58. When one of them is given the tidings (of the birth) of a female, his face clouds up and darkens (in sorrow) and he is full of grief and anger suppressed up.

59. He hides himself (in shame) from the people because of the (so called) bad news he has received, (considering) whether he should keep her (alive) inspite of disgrace, or commit her somewhere in the dust. Look! evil (in every way) is the judgment they make.

60. Evil (in every way) is the state of those who do not believe in the Hereafter; while sublime are the attributes of Allâh (in every respect). And He is the All-Mighty, All-Wise.

SECTION 8

61. And if Allâh were to seize the people (immediately) for their (committing) injustice (and their ascribing partners with Him), He would not leave any (unjust and polytheistic) living and crawling creature on the face of the earth, but He gives them respite till an appointed term. So when their time (of punishment) comes, they cannot delay (it) by a single moment (and escape it), nor can they go ahead (of it to save themselves from it).

62. And they ascribe to Allâh what they dislike (for themselves), nevertheless their tongues utter the lie that they shall have the best of every thing (in the Hereafter). As a matter of fact there awaits them the Fire, and indeed they are the ones to be sent (therein) in advance and abandoned.

63. By Allâh! We did send (Messengers) to (all) nations before you but (it so happened that) satan made their (evil) deeds fair-seeming to them. So he is their (-disbelievers') patron (again) this day, and there awaits them a grievous punishment.

64. We have sent to you this perfect Book (for no other purpose) but that you may explain to the people things over which they differ (among themselves), and (that it may serve as) a guidance and a mercy for a people who would believe (in it).

65. And Allâh has sent down water (and divine revelation) from above and with it He has given life to (the whole of)

earth after its death. Surely, there is a sign in this for a people who would listen (to the truth).

SECTION 9

66. And most surely, you have an evidence in the cattle (also, which should lead you from ignorance to knowledge). We feed you with pure milk which lies in their bellies; betwixt the faeces and the blood, (which is) agreeable and sweet for those who drink (it).

67. And (We feed you with the) fruits of the date-palms and the vine (too); you obtain from it intoxicants and wholesome food. In that there is a remarkable sign for a people who make use of their understanding.

68. And your Lord inspired the bees (saying), `Make your hives in the hills and in the trees and in the trellises which the people erect,

69. `Then eat of every (kind of) fruit and follow the ways (and laws) of your Lord as that have been made easy (for you).' There comes forth from their insides a fine fluid of varying hues which is a cure for the people. Infact, in this there is a sign for a people who reflect.

70. Allâh has created you, then He causes you to die; and there are some of you who are driven to the worst part of life (-very advanced old age), with the result that he knows nothing after (having had) knowledge. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-

Powerful.

SECTION 10

71. And Allâh has given to some of you better means of sustenance than to others; but the preferred ones would not give away and restore to their bondsmen their (share of) sustenance, even though they are equal (sharers) with them. Do they then deny the bounty of Allâh?

72. And Allâh has made for you mates from your own species and has given you sons, (daughters) and grand children from your mates and has provided you with good and pure things. Will the people still believe in vain and false things and deny the blessing of Allâh?

73. And they worship, apart from Allâh, such things as possess no authority to grant them any provision from the heavens and the earth, nor can they (ever) have such power in fact.

74. So coin not similitudes to Allâh. Allâh knows (its evil) and you do not know.

75. Allâh sets forth (for your knowledge) an excellent description of a slave who is owned (by another), (and) who has no power over anything. On the other hand there is another (a free man) whom We have provided with goodly provision from Ourselves and he spends out of it secretly and openly (in Our cause). Can they both be alike? (No, not at all.) All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh, but the thing is, most of these people do not know.

76. And Allâh sets forth an excellent description of (other) two men. One of them is dumb and has no power over anything and he is a useless burden on his master; wherever he sends him he fetches no good. Can he be like the man who enjoins justice and who follows the exact right path? (No, not at all.)

SECTION 11

77. And to Allâh belongs (the knowledge of) the hidden realities of the heavens and the earth, and the matter of the (coming of the promised) Hour is just like the twinkling of an eye. May be, it is nearer still. Behold! Allâh is Possessor of every power (to do) all He will.

78. And Allâh brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers, while you were void of all knowledge, He gave you ears, eyes and hearts, so that you might render (Him) thanks.

79. Have they not seen the birds held under subjection (while flying) in the vault of the heaven? None withholds them (from falling down) but Allâh. In this there are signs for a people who believe.

80. Allâh has made your houses a place of rest (for you), and He has (also) made for you of the skins of the cattle houses (of tents) which you find light (to carry) at the time of your journey and useful at the time when you halt. And out of their wool and their furs and their hair, (He has supplied you with) household goods and (other) articles of temporary use and utility.

81. And Allâh has provided you shelter from the sun in the things that He has created, He has made places of retreat in the mountains and He has made for you such garments as protect you from heat (and cold) and coats of mail to guard you in intensity of your wars. (Just as He has given you these things,) thus does He complete His favours upon you that you may submit (wholly to Him).

82. But if still these (opponents) turn away, you should know that upon you is (only the responsibility of) delivery (of the divine Message) in plain terms.

83. They recognize the bounty of Allâh, yet they deny it. Most of them have no sense of gratitude (for His favours).

SECTION 12

84. And (beware of) the day when We shall raise a witness from every nation, then those who were ungrateful shall not be given leave (to make amends) nor shall they be afforded an opportunity to approach the threshold (of God) to offer a plea or an excuse (and thus solicit His good will).

85. And when those who behaved unjustly actually face the punishment (in the Hereafter), it shall neither be reduced for them (after that) nor shall they be given respite.

86. And when those who associate partners (with God) will see their associate-gods they will say, 'Our Lord! these are partners associated with You by us, whom we used to call upon instead of You.' But they (-the so-called partners) will retort them with the words, 'Most surely, you are liars.'

87. And on that day they shall tender submission to Allâh, and all that they used to forge shall forsake them.

88. (As to) those who disbelieve and hinder (the people) from Allâh's way, We shall enhance many times over their punishment because of the evil they wrought.

89. (Beware of) the day when We shall raise from every people a witness who shall hail from among themselves and who shall testify against them. And We shall bring you (O Muḥammad!) as a witness against (all) these. And (that is why) We have revealed to you this perfect Book explaining every (basic) thing and (which serves as) a guidance and a mercy, and (gives) good tidings to those who submit (to God).

SECTION 13

90. Allâh enjoins justice and the doing of good to others and giving like kindred and He forbids indecencies and manifest evil and transgression. He admonishes you that you may take heed and attain eminence.

91. And keep your covenant with Allâh when you have once made any covenant (with Him). And do not break your oaths once you have ratified them, while you have already made Allâh your surety. Verily, Allâh knows how you conduct yourselves.

92. And be not like the woman who breaks her yarn after spinning it strong with hard labour into thread. You use your oaths to deceive one another (for fear) lest one nation should become more powerful than the other nation. Surely, Allâh tries you thereby and on the Day of Resurrection will make clear to you all the things about which you had been differing (from one another).

93. Had Allâh (enforced) His will He would surely have made you (all) one nation (following one and the same faith). But He leaves in error him who wishes (to remain so) and guides him who wishes (to be guided). And you shall surely be called upon to account for your deeds and conduct.

94. Do not use your oaths to deceive one another or you will lose your foothold (again) after having gained stability and you will suffer evil consequences for your barring (the people) from (following) Allâh's way and for forsaking the path of Allâh and you shall receive great punishment.

95. And do not sell the covenant you made with Allâh for a paltry price (-worldly gains). That reward (of righteousness) which is with Allâh is better for you, if only you knew.

96. (Did you but know) that which is with you shall pass away (being transitory) but

that which is with Allâh is enduring and will last. And We will certainly give those who patiently persevere their reward according to the best of their deeds.

97. Whoever acts righteously, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will certainly enable him lead a pure life and surely We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their deeds.

98. And when you recite the Qur'ân, seek refuge with Allâh from satan, the rejected.

99. Surely, he has no authority over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord.

100. His authority is over those only who take him as their friend and who associate partners with Him (under his influence).

SECTION 14

101. And Allâh knows very well the need of what He reveals, yet when We replace a revelation with another revelation they say (to you), `You are only a fabricator (of lies).' The truth is, however, that most of them know nothing.

102. Say, `The Spirit of Holiness has brought this (Qur'ân) down from your Lord to suit the requirement of truth and wisdom, (Allâh has revealed it) so that He may strengthen those who believe in their faith and so that (this may serve as) a guidance and good tidings for Muslims.

103. And We know fully well what they say (by way of objection) that this (Qur'ân) is (not revealed by God but it is)

only what a human being instructs to him (- to Muḥammad). But (strange it is) that the tongue of him to whom they (unjustly) allude (of making this insinuation) is foreign and wanting in clearness, whereas the language of this (Qur'ân) is chaste Arabic, plain and clear.

104. Surely, Allâh will not guide those (to success) who do not believe in the Messages of Allâh (intentionally). There awaits them a grievous punishment.

105. It is only those who do not believe in Allâh's Messages, who forge lies. And it is they who are the liars themselves.

106. Those who disbelieve in Allâh after they have believed in Him - but not those who are compelled (to recant) while their hearts find peace (and are firm) in the faith - (and) those who accept disbelief from the core of their hearts shall incur the displeasure of Allâh and shall receive a stern punishment.

107. That is because they have preferred the present life to the Hereafter and because Allâh does not guide the disbelieving people (to their goal).

108. It is these people on whose hearts, hearing and eyes Allâh has set a seal (for their disbelief). And it is these people who are really heedless.

109. Undoubtedly, it is they who will be the very losers in the Hereafter.

110. Again those who emigrated (from their homes) after they had been persecuted and strove hard (in the cause of Allâh) and patiently persevered, will ultimately find that your Lord, yes, your own Lord is indeed Great Protector, Ever Merciful (to them).

SECTION 15

111. (The perfect manifestation of such a recompense will be) on the day when every soul shall come pleading for (protection for) itself, and every soul shall be repaid in full for its deeds and they shall, in no way, be dealt with unjustly.

112. And Allâh sets-forth an excellent description of a township (-Makkah). It enjoyed a state of security and peace. It received its provision in plenty from every quarter. But (it so happened) that it began to show ingratitude for the bounties of Allâh. So Allâh made (the citizens of) it taste a pall of hunger and fear (which covered it like a garment -the conditions of famine and war prevailed there) because of what its citizens had wrought.

113. And certainly there had come to them a (great) Messenger from among their

own men, but they cried lies to him so the (promised) punishment overtook them while they were behaving transgressingly.

114. So (believers!) eat of the lawful, good and pure things Allâh has provided you and give thanks for Allâh's bounty, if it is, in fact, Him that you worship.

115. He has made unlawful for you only carrion (that which dies of itself), blood (flowed out), the flesh of swine and that which has been sacrificed in some other name than Allâh's. But he who is constrained (to do this) not desiring it and having no intention either to disobey or to exceed the limits (of necessity), will find that Allâh surely is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

116. And do not say because of the lies which your tongues utter, 'This is lawful and that is unlawful,' lest you should forge a lie against Allâh. Those who forge lies against Allâh will never attain the goal.

117. (Though in forging lies) they may enjoy themselves for a brief spell in this life, yet a grievous punishment awaits them (in the Hereafter).

118. We have already made unlawful to those (also) who judaised, all that We have related to you already. And We did not deal with them unjustly. Rather they wronged themselves.

119. Again, those who commit evil in ignorance and then after that turn to Him in repentance and mend their ways, will find that surely after that, (for those who repent) your Lord is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

SECTION 16

120. The truth of the matter is that Abraham was a paragon of virtue; obedient to Allâh, upright, and he was not of the polytheists,

121. Highly thankful for His favours. He chose him and guided him on to the exact right path.

122. And We granted him great success (and all comforts) of this life, and in the Hereafter he is most surely among the righteous.

123. Again, (Prophet! to complete Our favours on Abraham) We have revealed to you (saying), 'Follow the creed of Abraham (who was an) upright, (devotee of God) and was not of the polytheists.'

124. The (punishment for profaning the) Sabbath was made to recoil on those only

who were at odds over it, and your Lord will surely judge between them concerning all their differences on the Day of Resurrection.

125. (Prophet!) call the people to the way of your Lord with wisdom and goodly and kind exhortation, and argue with them in the most pleasant and best manner. Surely, your Lord knows very well who has gone astray from His path, and

He knows very well the guided ones to the right path.

126. (Believers!) if you have to punish (the oppressors) then punish them to the extent you have been persecuted. But if you endure patiently, remember it is far better for the patiently persevering.

127. And be patiently-persevering. Verily, you can exercise patient endurance only with (the help of) Allâh. Do not grieve at their state, nor feel distressed on account of their intrigues (out of enmity for you).

128. Allâh is, of course, with those who guard against evil, and those who are doers of good to others.

Part XV

Chapter

17

Isrâ'

(The Night-Journey)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Isrâ').

1. Glory be to Him Who carried His servant by night from the Holy Mosque (at Makkah) to the Distant Mosque (at Jerusalem), the precincts of which (too) We have blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs. Infact, He alone is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.
2. And (similarly) We gave Moses the Scripture and We made it a guidance for the Children of Israel, saying, `Take no (one as) disposer of affairs apart from Me.
3. `O You the progeny of those whom We bore (in the Ark) with Noah (to protect them from the deluge)!' He was indeed a grateful servant (of Ours).
4. And in the Scripture We have conveyed to the Children of Israel with certainty (saying), `Twice you shall create disorder in the land and shall surely become exceedingly overbearing and arrogant.'
5. So when (*in 588 B.C.* the time for) the first of the two warnings came, We roused against you, (O Children of Israel! some of) Our servants possessed of great valour and might in warfare, and they penetrated into the innermost recesses of your country and habitations. Indeed, it was a warning (about the punishment) of Allâh bound to be carried out.
6. Then We gave you back the power to prevail over these (enemies of yours through

Cyrus and Zerubbabel), and We helped you with (various) possessions and sons and We increased your man-power (militarily).

7. (We said,) `If you did good, you did it for your ownselves, and if you did evil it was only to the same end.' So when (the time for carrying out) the latter warning came (We raised certain other people - Romans under *Titus* in 70 A.D., against you to destroy your glory), so that they might do evil to (you and) your leading men and invade and enter the Mosque (at Jerusalem) in the same way as others (of your enemies) had invaded and entered it the first time, and so that they might destroy utterly all that they had conquered.

8. Still it is well-nigh that your Lord will again have mercy on you, (through Islam) but if you return (to mischief, We warn,) We too will return (to Our punishment), We have made Gehenna a prison-house for the ungrateful.

9. This Qur'ân, assuredly, guides to that which is most upright and gives to the believers, who do righteous deeds, the glad tidings that there awaits them a great reward,

10. And (also warns) that We have grievous punishment in store for those who do not believe in the Hereafter.

SECTION 2

11. As it is (many a time) a human being prays and calls for evil to himself as he ought to pray and call for good. Human being is ever extremely hasty.

12. And We have made the night and the day (such as they became) two signs, (in a way that) We obliterated the sign of the night (- darkness of ignorance and disbelief) and We displayed the sign of the day as sight - giving that you may seek the bounty of your Lord and that you may learn (from the alternation of night and day) the computation of years and (the science of) all sorts of counting and measuring. We have clearly explained every thing in detail.

13. And every human being We have made his deeds cling to his neck and on the Day of Resurrection We shall bring out for him a book (recording all his deeds) which he will find wide open.

14. (It will be said to him,) `Read your book. Sufficient is your own conscience this day as a reckoner against you.'

15. He who follows the right way follows it to his own good and he who goes astray, surely, he goes astray to his own loss. And no soul that bears the burden shall bear the

burden of another. And We never punish unless We have sent a Messenger.

16. And when We intend to destroy a township, We (first) address Our command to its lawless people who lead lazy lives (to show obedience), but they revolt therein so that it stands condemned and We destroy it with an utter destruction.

17. (In accordance with this rule of Ours) We have destroyed many a generation after Noah. And your Lord suffices as One Who is Aware and Beholder of the sins of His servants.

18. For him who desires the present (transitory) life (only) We shall hasten an immediate reward for him in this very life (giving) what We will to whom We will. But We have prepared Gehenna for him, he shall enter it, condemned and rejected.

19. As for those who choose the Hereafter and strive for it, the striving that is its due, and are believers, it is these whose striving shall find favour (with their Lord).

20. To all of them, these (who hanker after this world) as well as those (whose choice is the life to come) We render aid, (and this is) out of the bounty of your Lord; the bounty of your Lord is not confined (to any one section of the people).

21. Behold! how We have exalted some of them over others (in the present life), yet the Hereafter holds out greater degrees of rank and (confers) greater merits and excellence.

22. Do not set up another god with Allâh, lest you remain debased and forsaken.

SECTION 3

23. Your Lord has enjoined you to worship none but Him and to be good to parents. If either or both attain old age (while living) with you, never say to them, 'Fie!' (- any word expressive of disgust or dislike), nor reproach them (by your action). Rather address them with kind and respectful words (always).

24. And lower to them the wings of submissiveness out of tenderness (treating them with humility and compassion). And say (praying for them), 'My Lord! have mercy upon them just as they nourished and brought me up as a child.'

25. Your Lord knows very well what is in your minds. If (He will find that) you are righteous, surely, He is a great Protector of those who turn to Him (for forgiveness) again and again.

26. And give to the near of kin and the needy, and the wayfarer their dues, and do not squander (your wealth) wastefully.

27. Certainly, the squanderers are like satans and satan is always ungrateful to his Lord.

28. If you have to turn away from them seeking the mercy from your Lord that you hope for, even then speak to them a kind word.

29. And do not keep your hand shackled to your neck (out of miserliness), nor stretch it out to an entire stretching (extravagantly), lest you sit down reproached (incurring blame) and exhausted (on becoming penniless).

30. Surely, your Lord multiplies His provisions and means of livelihood for such of His people as He will and He measures it out (justly), for He is Well-Aware and Seeing of (the true needs of) His people inside out.

SECTION 4

31. And do not kill your children for fear of want. It is We Who provide for them as well as for you. Indeed, the killing of them is a great sin.

32. And Keep away from adultery and fornication; surely, it is an abominable act and an (extremely) evil practice.

33. And do not kill anyone, the sanctity of which Allâh has upheld (and has forbidden you to slay) except for a just cause. And We have given, of course, to the heir of the person who is killed unjustly the right (to demand retribution or to forgive). But let him not exceed the (prescribed) limits in killing (the murderer) because he is indeed helped (and protected by law).

34. And go not near (to utilize) the property of an orphan, except in the fairest manner and intention (in favour of the orphan) until he attains his (age of) full strength, (when the property is to be returned to him,) and fulfill (your) agreements, (for every) agreement is certainly questioned about and has to be accounted for.

35. And give full measure when you measure out, and weigh with a right (and even) balance. That is best and most commendable in the long run.

36. And do not follow and utter that of which you have no knowledge. Surely, the ear and eye and the heart, all of these, shall be called upon to account (for it).

37. And do not walk haughtily in the land, for you cannot (thus) rend the earth asunder, nor can you match the mountains in height.

38. All these (doings) are such that the evil in them is simply hateful in the sight of your Lord.

39. These (teachings) are a part of the wisdom which your Lord has revealed to you and (the basis of all these acts of righteousness is that you) set up no other god beside Allâh, lest you be cast into Gehenna condemned, rejected.

40. (Disbelievers!) has your Lord favoured you with sons and chosen for Himself daughters from among the angels? Surely, most grievous is the blasphemy you utter.

SECTION 5

41. And certainly, in this Qur'ân, We have explained (for the people the truth) in a variety of forms that they may take heed and become great. But (their condition is such that) it increases them only in aversion.

42. Say, `Had there been other gods as they allege beside Him (- the One God), in that case these (polytheists) would have certainly sought out (by their help) a way to the Lord of the Mighty throne.

43. Glory be to Him! and far High indeed be He exalted above the things these (polytheists) say.

44. The seven heavens, the earth and all those inhabiting them extol His glory. Infact, there is not even a single thing but glorifies Him with His true and perfect praise, but you do not understand their glorification. Verily, Most Forbearing is He, Great Protector.

45. And when you recite the Qur'ân, We place between you and those who do not believe in the Hereafter, an impregnable screen,

46. And We cover their hearts with veils and plug their ears with something heavy, lest they should understand it. And when you mention the name of your Lord Who is the Only One, in the Qur'ân, they turn their backs (on it) in aversion.

47. We know very well the purpose of their listening when they listen to you (and the purpose with which they confer) when they confer in private (and) when the unjust say, 'You follow none but a man who is defrauded and deprived of reason.'

48. Behold! how they coin similitudes to depict you, as a result of which they have gone astray; so they will not be able to find a way (of their salvation).

49. And they (also) say, 'What! when we are reduced to bones and (that too) broken particles (of dust) shall we then be really raised again to a new life?'

50. Say, 'Yes, even if you be reduced to stones or iron,

51. 'Or some other creation yet more hard (that you can possibly conceive) in your mind, (even then you shall be raised to a new life).' Thereupon they will say, 'Who will restore us (to life)?' Say, 'The same Who originated you the first time.' At this, then, they will shake their heads at you (expressing wonder and disbelief in being raised) and will say, 'When will it come to pass?' Say, 'May be it is near.'

52. (This promise will be fulfilled) on the day when He will call you forth, then you will respond (to Him) saying His praises and you will think that you have tarried (in the world) only for a little while.

SECTION 6

53. And say to My servants that they should speak only what is gracious, for satan (is keen to) provoke discord among them. Satan indeed is an enemy to the people, disuniting (one another).

54. Your Lord knows you best. He will have mercy on you if He will or He will punish you if He will. And We have not sent you to be a disposer of their affairs (authorising you to punish them or reward them).

55. And your Lord knows best those that are in the heavens and on the earth. And most surely We have exalted some of the Prophets above others, and it is We Who gave David the *Zabûr* (- the Psalms).

56. Say, 'Call upon those whom you assert (to be gods) apart from Him, then (you will realize) they have no power to rid you of affliction nor to avert (it) or transfer it to others.'

57. Those whom they call upon (apart from Him, thinking them to be a means of gaining nearness to God,) themselves seek nearness to their Lord and solicit His favour (even) those of them who are nearest (to God are still competing to be closer to Him) and hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. As a matter of fact the punishment of your Lord is a thing to beware of.

58. And there is no township but We shall destroy it or We shall subject it to a severe chastisement before the Day of Resurrection. That is written down in the book (- in the knowledge of God).

59. And nothing could prevent Us from going on sending (Our) signs though the former people cried lies to them. And We gave to Thamûd the she-camel as an enlightenment and an eye opener, but they dealt with her unjustly. And We do not send (Our) signs except to warn the people (against the evil consequences of disbelief and transgression).

60. And (Prophet! recall the time) when We said to you, 'Surely, your Lord has encompassed all people (for destruction) and has power over them (still they remained indifferent).' We made the vision which We showed you (being carried to Jerusalem from Makkah by night) and also the tree (- evil word; see 14:26) disapproved of in the Qur'ân, a means of distinction between the good and the bad for the people. (Despite the fact that) We have been warning them (by sending Our signs), this (warning from Us) only leads them to unrestrained inordinacy.

SECTION 7

61. And (recall the time) when We said to the angels, 'Submit to Adam!' Then they all submitted. But *Iblîs* (who too was told to do the same, did not), he said, 'Shall I submit to one whom You have created out of clay?'

62. And he added, 'What do You think? This is he whom You have honoured and placed above me. If You grant me respite till the Day of Resurrection, I will most certainly bring his progeny under my sway, having overpowered them, I shall destroy them for sure, except a few.'

63. 'Be gone!' said He; 'As for those of them who follow you, Gehenna is the

recompense of you all, an ample recompense.

64. `And beguile whomsoever of them you can with your speech and rally your horsemen against them, and your foot men (- fast riders and slow walkers in disobedience, with all your might) and share with them their wealth and children and hold out promises to them (what you like).' Indeed, satan promises them nothing but mere fraud.

65. `As to My true servants, you shall have certainly no authority over them. And sufficient is your Lord as Disposer of affairs.'

66. Your Lord is He Who drives the ships on the sea for you that you may seek of His bounty. He is certainly Ever Merciful to you.

67. And when you encounter some distress on the sea, (at that time all) those (gods) whom you call upon are lost (to you), but not He. Yet when He brings you safe to the land, you turn away (from Him). Of course, such a person is very ungrateful.

68. Do you then feel secure that He will not humiliate you in the side of the land and make you sink (in the earth on the side of) the shore, or send against you a violent squall of pebbles. For (if He does) you shall find none responsible to protect and help you.

69. Or do you feel secure and have made sure that He will (not) send you back in it (- the sea) a second time (and) then send against you a fierce storm blast and drown you because of your ingratitude, for (if He does), you will find no helper in the matter for yourselves to protect you against Us.

70. And most surely We have made the Children of Adam greatly honoured and have carried them over land and sea, and We have provided them with good and pure things and have distinctly exalted them far above most of Our creation.

SECTION 8

71. (**Beware of**) the day when We shall call all people along with their leaders. Now whoever is given his book (- recording his deeds) in his right hand, such will read their book (eagerly) and they will not be dealt with unjustly in the least.

72. But whoever remained (spiritually) blind in this world shall also be blind in the Hereafter. Rather he will be even farther removed from the right path.

73. And they had spared nothing in causing you (the severest) affliction with the purpose to turn you away from the revelations given to you, that you might forge in

Our name something different from that which We have revealed to you. In that case they would surely have taken you for a special friend.

74. And if We had not made you firm and steadfast, you might have inclined towards them a little.

75. In that case (if you had been one to forge a lie against Us) We would have made you taste multiple sufferings in this life and multiple sufferings in death, (and) then you would have found for yourself no helper against Us. (But you remained steadfast).

76. They had spared nothing in unsettling you from the land (of Makkah), that they might drive you out from it. But in that case they (themselves) would not have stayed after you except for a little while.

77. Such (has been Our) practice with those of Our Messengers whom We sent before you and you will find no change in Our practice.

SECTION 9

78. **Observe Prayer** at the declining and paling of the sun, on to the complete darkness (in diverse hours) of the night, and recite the Qur'ân at dawn. Verily, the regular recital (of the Qur'ân) at dawn is (specially) acceptable (to God) and witnessed (by the angels).

79. And remain awake for it (- the recitation of the Qur'ân and Prayer) for a part of the night after having risen from sleep as a supererogatory service for you. Thus it may be that your Lord will raise you to a laudable exalted position.

80. And say (in Prayer), `My Lord, grant that when I enter (wherever you take me to while migrating) I enter with

truth (in every way) and when I depart, I depart with truth, and grant me by Your grace authoritative help (which should sustain me in my activities).'

81. And say, 'Truth has come and falsehood has vanished away.' Falsehood is indeed ever bound to vanish away.

82. And We are gradually revealing of the Qur'ân (that teaching) which is (the cause of) healing and mercy for the believers. But this (revelation) only leads the unjust persons from loss to loss.

83. And when We bestow favours on a human being, he turns away and withdraws himself aside, but when evil overtakes him he is given to despair.

84. Say, 'Everyone acts after his own way and fashion and your Lord knows very well who is best guided in the right path.'

SECTION 10

85. And they question you about the revelation, and the human soul. say, 'The revelation and the soul is by the command of my Lord, (because) little is the knowledge there of that you have been given.'

86. Had We so willed We could surely take away that which We have revealed to you. If We did so you could find none to plead your cause (to restore it to you) against Our will.

87. But (it is) the special mercy from your Lord (that He will not do so); His grace and favour upon you is very great infact.

88. Say, 'If there should join together all human beings and the *jinn* to produce the like of this Qur'ân, they would never be able to produce anything like it, even though some of them might be the helpers of others.'

89. And in this Qur'ân We have explained in various ways and forms every kind of rare things of exquisite beauty to mankind but most people choose to reject everything except (following the way of) disbelief.

90. And they say, 'We will never believe unless you cause a spring to gush forth for us from the earth,

91. 'Or there be a garden of date-palms and vines for you, and you cause the streams to gush forth abundantly in its midst,

92. `Or, as you assert (and claim that it shall happen), cause the heaven to fall down upon us in fragments, or bring Allâh and the angels face to face with us,

93. `Or, there be a house made of gold for you, or you ascend into the heaven; but we will not believe in your ascending till you bring down to us a book that we can read.' (Say), `Glory be to my Lord! I am not but a human being (sent as) a Messenger.'

SECTION 11

94. And nothing has prevented the people from believing when the guidance came to them except their sayings, `Has Allâh raised a human being (like us) as a Messenger?'

95. Say, `Had there been angels on the earth (in place of human beings) walking about secure and sound We (too) would have invariably sent down an angel from heaven as a Messenger to them.'

96. Say, `Allâh suffices as a witness between me and you. Surely, He is Ever Aware of and sees His servants full well.'

97. He whom Allâh guides (to the straight and right path) is the only one rightly guided, but those whom He abandons to perish, you will find no protecting friends for them apart from Him. And We shall gather them on the Day of Resurrection (dragging them) on their faces. They shall be blind, dumb and deaf. Gehenna is their resort. As often as it (- the flames of the Hell-fire) abate, We shall add (fuel) to the blaze for them.

98. Such shall be their recompense because they rejected Our commandments and said, `Shall we really be raised up as a new creation when (after our death) we are reduced to mere bones and broken particles (of dust).

99. Have they not seen that Allâh, Who created the heavens and the earth, has the power to create their like? And He has appointed for them a term, no doubt about it. Yet the unjust would reject everything except (following in the way of) disbelief.

100. Say, `Even if you possessed all the treasures of the mercy and blessings of my Lord yet you would hold (them) back for fear of depleting, for a human being is very niggardly indeed.'

SECTION 12

101. And most certainly, We gave Moses nine clear signs. So ask the Children of Israel (about it). When he (- Moses) came to them, Pharaoh said to him, `Moses! I

think you to be under a spell and a victim of deception.'

102. He said, `You know fully well that none other but the Lord of the heavens and the earth has revealed these signs as (means of) enlightenment. Surely, I believe you, O Pharaoh! to be doomed to perish.'

103. So he resolved to weaken them by humiliating them in and thus scare them out of the country; but We drowned him and those with him, one and all.

104. And We said after (it was all over with Pharaoh), to the Children of Israel, `Settle down occupying the (promised) land (of Palestine). When the time of fulfillment of the second Prophecy comes, We shall bring you back gathering you (from various lands).'

105. We revealed it (- the Qur'ân) to suit all the requirement of truth and wisdom and it has come down (to you) with truth and wisdom. (Prophet!) We have sent you (on one hand) as a Bearer of good tidings and as a Warner (on the other).

106. We have divided this Qur'ân into distinct chapters and have revealed it in stages that you may recite it to mankind at intervals and (that is why) We have revealed it piece by piece, and in stages.

107. Say, `You may believe in it (- the Qur'ân) or you may not believe, those who have been given the (spiritual) knowledge before it (- its revelation) fall down on their faces prostrating submissively (before their Lord) when it is recited to them.'

108. And they say, `Glory be to Our Lord! The promise of our Lord is really bound to be fulfilled.'

109. They fall down on their faces weeping and (as they listen to the divine words) it adds to their humility.

[Prostration]

110. Say, `Call upon (Him by the name of) Allâh or call upon (Him by the name of) *Al-Rahmân* (the Most Gracious). (In short) call upon Him by whichever name you like, all beautiful names belong to Him (- the One God). And utter not your prayer in

a loud voice nor utter it in too low tones (completely concealing it) but seek a middle course.'

111. And say, `All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh Who has not taken to Himself a son, and Who has no associate-partner in His kingdom, nor has He any helper because of any weakness. And extol His glory with repeated glorification.'

Chapter

18

Al-Kahf

(The Place of Refuge)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Kahf).

1. All type of true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh Who has revealed this perfect Book to His servant, and has not assigned to it any crookedness.
2. (He has made it) rightly directing, that it may warn (the disbelievers) of a severe calamity (coming) from Him and that it may give good tidings to the believers who do deeds of righteousness, that there awaits them a (place of) goodly reward,
3. Wherein they shall stay for ever.
4. And that it may warn those who say, `Allâh has begotten a son.'
5. (This is absolutely wrong.) They have no real knowledge of Him, nor (had) their fathers. Grievous is the word that comes out of their mouths. They speak naught but a lie.
6. Will you worry yourself to death sorrowing after them, if they do not believe in this (great) discourse (- the Qur'ân).
7. Verily, We have made all that is on the earth as an embellishment for it, that We

may try them as to which of them is the most excellent in (respect of) performing the noblest deeds.

8. Yet it is We Who shall (one day) reduce all that is on it to a barren soil.

9. Do you think that the People of the Place of Refuge and of the Inscriptions were a wonder among Our signs.

10. (Recall the time) when the young men betook themselves to the Place of Refuge and said (in prayer), `Our Lord! grant us mercy from Yourself and provide for us right course in our affair (setting all things right for us).'

11. So We sealed up their ears (to cut them off from the outside world) in their Place of Refuge for (only) a number of years.

12. Then We raised them up (for making certain efforts) that We might distinguish as to which of the two groups had made better use of the time they had stayed there according to its rightful requirement.

SECTION 2

13. We relate to you their true story. They were a few young men who believed in their Lord and whom We had led from guidance to guidance.

14. And We strengthened their hearts when they stood up (in the cause of God) and (said), `Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Never shall we call upon any god apart from Him (for in that case) we would certainly be uttering a preposterous thing far from the truth.

15. `These people of ours have taken to them (for worship) other gods apart from Him. Why do they not bring any clear proof and authority in support (of their belief). (Infact they have no such proof,) Who can be more unjust than the person who forges a lie against Allâh?'

16. (They said one to another), `So (now) when you have left them and that which they worship apart from Allâh, you should take shelter in the Place of Refuge. (If you do so) your Lord will extend to you His mercy and will provide some ease for you in

(this) affair of yours.'

17. And (O people!) you could see the sun when it rose, inclining to the right of their (spacious) Place of Refuge, and when it set declining to their left, while they were in the open space of this (refuge of theirs); this was one of the signs of Allâh. He alone is rightly guided whom Allâh guides. As for the person whom He forsakes, you will find no helper, no guide, for him.

SECTION 3

18. You might think them wary while they are dormant and asleep. We shall make them turn over (now) to the right and (then) to the left while their dog is (present with them) stretching its paws forward on the threshold in the courtyard. If you had become aware of their (true) state you would have turned back from them in fright and you would have surely been filled with great awe of them.

19. And (just as We made them dormant) We raised them (to life from the state of lethargy). So that they questioned one another. One of them asked, 'How long have you remained (dormant)?' (Some of them) said, 'We have remained (in this state of inactivity) a day or a part of a day.' (Others) said, 'Only your Lord knows best (the time) you have remained so. Now send one of you with these silver coins of yours to the city, he should see which of its (inhabitants) has the best and purest food and let him bring for you provisions from it. And let him be courteous and let him not at all apprise anyone about you.'

20. '(For) if they come to know of you they will condemn you or make you revert to their faith (by force) and in that case (that you revert to their faith), you will never attain your goal and prosper ever.'

21. That is how We let (other people) know about them (- their intentions and the real state of their affairs), that people might know that the promise of Allâh is true and that as to the (coming of the promised) hour there is no doubt about it. And (recall the time) when the people (that followed) argued among themselves about their affairs and they said, 'Build a monument over them;' their Lord knows them best. Those (of them) who won their point said, 'We will certainly build a mosque (- place of worship) over them.'

22. Guessing at random (- about them) some say, '(They were) three, their dog being the fourth,' while others say, '(They were) five and their dog being the sixth.' Yet there are others who say, '(They were) seven and their dog being the eighth.' Say, 'My Lord knows best their real number. None knows them except a few.' So do not argue about them save with arguing on known premise (which is) overpowering and seek no legal order concerning them from anyone of them, (from those who make random guesses).

SECTION 4

23. And never say of anything, 'I am going to do it tomorrow,'

24. Unless (you add to it) 'God willing.' And remember your Lord whenever you forget (and make a mistake) and say, 'I hope my Lord will guide me to a course even shorter than this to the right path (leading to success).

25. And they (- the early Christians) stayed in this Place of Refuge three hundred years and extended (their stay) another nine (years).

26. Say, 'Allâh knows best how long they stayed. To Him belong the hidden realities in the heavens and the earth. How clear He sees and how well He hears! They have no helper beside Him. He lets none associate with Him and

share His judgment.

27. And recite (to these people) what is revealed to you of the commandment of your Lord. There is none who can change His words, and you will find no refuge apart from Him.

28. And keep yourself attached to those who call upon their Lord morning and evening, constantly seeking His pleasure, and do not let your eyes turn away from them to pursue the glamour of the present life and do not follow him whose heart We have declared unmindful of Our remembrance; who follows his evil inclinations, and whose affair exceeds all legitimate limits.

29. And say, 'It is the truth from your Lord, therefore let him who wishes (it) believe (in it) and let him who wishes (otherwise) disbelieve (in it).' (But let everyone remember,) We have prepared for the unjust a fire whose (flaming) enclosure will surround (and fumes envelope) them. If they cry for water, they shall be helped with water (boiling) like molten lead, which will scald their faces. How dreadful the drink and how dismal is (the Fire as) a resting place!

30. But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness (should know that) We

surely do not suffer the reward of those who do good deeds to be lost.

31. It is these for whom there await the Gardens of Eternity served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). There they shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and wear green robes of fine silk and rich brocade. They will be reclining in these (Gardens) upon raised couches. How excellent the reward! and how beautiful the resting place!

SECTION 5

32. And relate to these (opponents of yours) the parable (and description of the conditions) of two men. We had provided to one of them two vine-gardens which We fenced with date-palms and We placed cornfields between the two.

33. Each of the two gardens brought forth its fruit (in abundance); failing not the least in them. And We had made a stream to flow (as well) in between the two.

34. Thus he (- the owner) had an abundance of fruit (and substance of diverse kinds). So he said to his companion (- the other man) while he was arguing (boastfully and vainly) with him, 'I am richer than you in wealth and mightier in respect of manpower.'

35. And (it so happened that) he entered his garden while he was unjust to his own soul. He said, (to his companion), 'I do not think that this wealth will ever perish.'

36. 'And I do not think that the (promised) Hour (of Resurrection) will ever come. But if I am ever made to return to my Lord I will certainly find (there) an even better resort than this.'

37. His companion said to him, while he was arguing with him, 'Do you disbelieve in Him Who created you (first) from dust and then from a sperm drop, then He fashioned you into a (perfect) man.'

38. 'But as for myself (I believe that) He, Allâh alone is my Lord, and I will associate none with my Lord.'

39. 'And why did you not say when you entered your garden, "(Only) that which Allâh wills (comes to pass)", for power belongs only to Allâh; though you see me inferior to yourself in riches and children,

40. 'There is every hope that my Lord will give me a garden better than yours and He may visit this (garden of yours) with thunderbolts from above, so that it is turned into a barren waste.'

41. 'Or its water may be drained (into the earth) so that you will not be able to find it.'

42. Now (it came to pass that) his fruit (and substance) was utterly destroyed and while it (- the vine garden) lay toppled over on its trellises, he began to wring his hands on account of what he had spent on it and said, 'Would that I had associated none with my Lord.'

43. But (then) there was no party left to defend him against Allâh, nor could he defend himself, (for it was Allâh alone Who could help him).

44. At such a time (it is thus established that) protection belongs only to Allâh (and help comes from Him alone), the true (God), He is the Best in respect of rewarding and the Best in respect of bringing about good results.

SECTION 6

45. And give them the similitude of the life of this world. It is like water which We send down from the clouds, so the vegetation and plants of the earth flourish with it. And then it turns into chaff which the winds scatter about. Behold! Allâh is the Holder of all power over what He will.

46. Wealth and children are an adornment of the life of this world. But with regard to (immediate) reward, ever-abiding righteous deeds are the best in the sight of your Lord, they (also) promise the best hope (in respect of the future).

47. And beware of the day when We shall set the mountains in motion and make them vanish and you shall find (the nations of) the earth march forth (against one another), and We shall gather all peoples together and We shall leave

none of them behind.

48. And they shall be presented before your Lord ranged in rows, (and it will be said to them,) `Now certainly you have come to Us (no better than) We created you the first time. But you had thought that We would appoint for you no time for the fulfillment of (Our) promise.'

49. And (on that day) the record (of their deeds) will be exhibited (before them), and you will see those who cut off their ties (with Allâh) fearful as to that which is (recorded) in it. They will say, `Woe to us! what sort of record is this! It leaves out neither a small thing nor a great one but has recounted everything.' And they will find all they did confronting (them) and your Lord does injustice to no one ever.

SECTION 7

50. And (recall the time) when We said to the angels, `Submit to Adam.' So they all submitted (bowing), but *Iblîs* (did not); he was one of the *jinn*, he disobeyed the command of his Lord. (Mankind!) would you (then) take him and his progeny (and cohorts) for friends rather than Me while they are your enemies? How evil is the substitute (of God) the unjust have chosen!

51. I did not call them (- *Iblîs* and his cohorts) to make them witness and to help at (the time of) the creation of the heavens and the earth nor at (the time of) their own creation. I would never take those who lead (others) astray for (My) helpers.

52. And (beware of) the day when He will say, `Call on My (so called) partners about whom you had many pretensions.' Thereupon they will call on them but they will give them no answer, and We shall make their association with them a (cause of their) perdition.

53. And those who cut off their ties (with Allâh) will see the fire and realize that they are going to fall into it, and they shall find no way of escape from it.

SECTION 8

54. And We have explained in various ways in this Qur'ân every kind of excellent thing for the good of the people; but of all things human being is the most contentious.

55. Unless the precedence of the ancients should be repeated in their case or the punishment should stare them in the face, there is nothing to hinder people from believing in the guidance when it comes to them and from seeking protection and pardon of their Lord.

56. And We send no Apostles but as Bearers of good tidings (to the obedient on the one hand) and as Warners (to the disobedient on the other). And those who disbelieve contend by means of falsehood that they may refute the truth thereby. And they scoff at My commandments and (the punishment) of which they had been warned.

57. And who is more unjust than he who is reminded of the Messages of his Lord but he turns away from them and forgets what he has forwarded with his own hands (to be stored). In fact We have placed veils upon their hearts which prevent them from understanding it (- the Qur'ân) and in their ears is (created) heaviness (so that they have turned deaf). You call them to the right path as you may they will never follow the right course and accept guidance.

58. Your Lord is All-Protecting, Full of mercy. If He were to take them to task for all that they have done He would certainly have hastened for them the punishment. Yet there is a time appointed for them. They will never find an escape from it.

59. And these are townships (of the people committed to punishment), We destroyed them when they committed inequities and wrong. And We appointed a fixed time for their destruction.

SECTION 9

60. And (recall the time) when Moses said to his (sincere) young (comrade), 'I will not stop till I reach the confluence of the two rivers (the Niles at Khartoum); even if I must have to go on (journeying) for years.'

61. But when they reached the confluence (where the two rivers met) they forgot (all about) their fish (which they had brought with them) so that it took its way straight into the river burrowing (in to it).

62. And when they had gone further he said to his (sincere) young (comrade), 'Bring us our breakfast; indeed the journey of today has been very tiring for us.'

63. He (- the young comrade) replied, 'Did you see (what happened) when we betook ourselves to the rock for shelter, I forgot (all about) the fish; and none but satan made me forget to mention this (to you) and behold! it made its way into the river. What a wonder (that I should thus forget)!'

64. (Moses) said, 'That is (the place) which we have been seeking.' So both of them returned retracing their steps.

65. So that they found a (noble and great) servant of Ours to whom We had granted mercy from Us and whom We had taught (great) Knowledge from Ourselves.

66. Moses said to him, `May I follow you so that you may teach me (some of) the ways of rectitude which you have been taught?'

67. He (- the great man) said, `(Yes, but) while keeping company with me you will never be able to bear (and keep company) with me in patience,

68. `And how can you have patience about things the knowledge of which you do not comprehend.'

69. (Moses) said, `You will find me patient, God willing, and I shall not disobey you in any matter.'

70. He (- the great man) said, `Well, if you would follow me, (mind that) you shall ask me no question about anything unless I myself broach the subject to you.'

SECTION 10

71. So both of them set out until when they embarked in a boat he scuttled it. (Thereupon Moses) said, `Have you scuttled it that you may drown (its) occupants? It is indeed a strangely grievous thing you have done.'

72. He replied, `Did I not say that you would not be able to bear with me (and keep company with me patiently).'

73. (Moses) said, `Do not take me to task for what I forgot; do not be too hard on me for this lapse of mine.'

74. Then they both set out again till when they met a boy, he (- the great man) slew him. (At this Moses) said, `Why have you slain an innocent person without (his having slain) any one. Most certainly, it is a strangely wondrous act you have committed.'

Part XVI

75. **He** (- the great divine being) said, `Did I not tell you that you would not certainly be able to bear with me patiently?'

76. (Moses) said, `If I question you about anything after this keep me in your company no more, for (in that case) you shall have reached the extent of being excused by me (- I shall have no excuse to offer).'

77. So both of them again set out till when they came upon the inhabitants of a town they asked them for food, but they refused to entertain them as guests. Then they found therein (- the town) a wall which was on the point of falling down and he (- the divine being) repaired it. (Moses) said, `If you had wanted, you could have charged for it.'

78. (The divine being thereupon) said, `This is the parting (of the ways) between me and you. Now I shall tell you the significance of that with which you could not have patience:

79. `As for the boat it belonged to (certain) poor people who worked on the river, and in their rear there was a (brutal) king who seized every (good) boat by force, so I chose to damage it (the boat).

80. `And as for the boy, his parents were believers and we feared that he should involve them in trouble through transgression and disbelief,

81. `So we desired that their Lord should give them in his place (a child) superior to him in virtue and purity and more regardful to attend to the right of relationships.

82. `As for the wall it belonged to two orphan boys of the town and under this (wall there) was a treasure belonging to them and their father had been a righteous man. So your Lord desired that they should attain their (age of) full strength and then take out their treasure; a mercy from your Lord, and I did not do it of my own accord, (whatever I did was the will of the Lord). This is the significance of that which you were not able to bear with patience.'

SECTION 11

83. **And** they ask you about Dhul-Qarnain (- Cyrus of Persia). Say, `I will just recite to you (in the word of Lord) some of his account,'

84. Verily, We granted him authority on the earth, (his empire extended from Persia to the Black Sea on one side and from Asia Minor to Afghanistan and Baluchistan on the other) and provided him with all sorts of means.

85. Then (it so happened that) he launched out on a (particular) course (to the western part of his empire).

86. So that when he reached (the land of) the setting of the sun, (the western most part of his empire,) he found it (- the sun) disappearing (as if) in a vast muddy pool of murky water (- the Black Sea), and close to it he found a certain people. We said, `Dhul-Qarnain! you may either punish (them) or treat them with kindness. (They being at your disposal.)'

87. He said, `(Well) as for him who transgresses and does wrong we shall certainly punish him, then will he be produced before his Lord Who will inflict upon him a dreadful punishment.

88. `But as for him who submits and believes and acts righteously, there is for him a handsome reward (with his Lord) and we shall speak to him easy (words) of our command (dealing indulgently with him).'

89. Then he launched out on (another) course (to the eastern part of his empire).

90. So that when he reached the land of the rising of the sun (- eastern most point of his empire) he found it rising on a people for whom We had provided no shelter against it (- the sun).

91. That is how (it was). As for him, We alone had full knowledge of all that he had with him.

92. Then he launched out on (yet another) course (to the northern part of his empire, - to the territory between the Caspian Sea and the Caucasian Mountains).

93. So that when he reached a place (- Derbent) between two barriers (on one side the Caspian Sea and on the other the Caucasian mountains) he found in their vicinity a people who could hardly understand speech (in his Persian language).

94. They said, `Dhul-Qarnain! Gog and Magog (-respectively the ancestors of the present Teutonic and Slavonic races) are playing havoc in this country. Shall we pay you tribute on condition that you set up a barrier between us and them?'

95. He said, `The power which my Lord has endowed me with about this is better

(than this your tribute), you (only) help me with (your resources and human endeavour of physical) strength. I will raise a rampart between you and them.'

96. (Then he said,) `Bring me ingots of iron.' (So that when all was provided for and he had filled the space between the two barriers, he said, `Now blow (with your bellows).' (They blew) till when he had made it (- the ignots red hot as) fire, he said, `Bring me molten copper that I may pour (it) thereon.'

97. So (there was built the rampart which) they (- Gog and Magog) could neither scale nor they had the strength to cause

a breach through it.

98. He said (thereupon), `This (rampart signifies) a great mercy of my Lord. But when the promise of my Lord (about the spread of the tentacles of Gog and Magog all over the world) shall come to pass, He will raze it to the ground (crumbling it to pieces), and the promise of my Lord is certainly true.'

99. And We shall leave them (- Gog and Magog) alone at that time surging as waves (in furious attacks) one over another. And the trumpet shall be blown. Then shall We gather them all together.

100. And We shall (in a way) present hell on that day, face to face to the disbelievers,

101. Those (of them) whose eyes were under a cover (not heeding) My Reminder, and they could not even afford to hear (to the voice of truth).

SECTION 12

102. **Do** those disbelievers think, even then, that they can take My servants as patrons to My exclusion? (Let them know) surely We have prepared Gehenna for the disbelievers as an entertainment.

103. Say, `Shall We inform you of those whose deeds shall spell their utter loss?'

104. (They are) those whose efforts are (all) lost in (pursuit of things relating to) the

life of this world, yet they think they are doing works of good manufacturing.

105. It is these who disbelieve in and deny the Messages of Allâh and the meeting with Him. So their deeds have gone vain, and on the Day of Resurrection We shall assign them no weight.

106. That is their recompense, Gehenna, because they disbelieved and they looked down upon My signs and My Messengers.

107. Those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, will have Gardens of Paradise for an entertainment and an abode;

108. Wherein they shall abide for ever, having no desire to be removed from there.

109. Say, `If every ocean became ink for (recording) the words and creation of my Lord, surely, the oceans would be spent up before the words and creation of my Lord came to an end, even if we brought to add (therewith) as many more (oceans).

110. Say, `I am but a human being like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is only One God. So let him who hopes to meet his Lord do deeds of righteousness and let him associate no one in the worship of his Lord.

Chapter

19

Maryam

(Mary)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Maryam).

1. Kâf Hâ Yâ `Ain Şâd - Allâh is sufficient for all, and He is the True Guide, Bestower of mercy and security and blessings, the All-Knowing, the Supermost, Truthful.

2. (This is) an account of the mercy of your Lord (shown) to His servant Zachariah,
 3. When he called upon his God, crying aloud (in humble supplication).
 4. He said (praying), `My Lord! now the very bones within me have waxed feeble and the hair of (my) head are all gray and hoary, my Lord! never have I been (hitherto) deprived of a favourable response to my prayer to You.
 5. `I fear (for the unrighteousness of) my kinsfolk after me, and my wife is barren. Grant me by Your (special) grace a (pious and righteous) successor,
 6. `Who may be an heir to me and inherit (the divine blessings promised to) the House of Jacob and make him, my Lord! well-pleasing (to You).'
 7. (God accepted his prayer and said,) `Zachariah! We give you the glad tidings of (the birth of) a son, named Yahyâ
-

(- John, - who will live long). We have made none like him (in your house) before this.'

8. He (- Zachariah) said, `My Lord! how shall I beget a son when my wife is barren and I have (already) reached the extreme (limit of) old age?'

9. (The Lord) said, `So shall it be,' and (the angel bearing the revelation) said, `Your Lord says, "It is easy for Me, and behold, I have created you before this whereas you (too) were nothing".'

10. He (- Zachariah) said, `My Lord! appoint for me a commandment.' (The Lord) said, `The commandment for you is that you shall not speak to people for three successive (days and) nights, being in sound health.

11. Then he (- Zachariah) went forth to his people from the Sanctuary and told them in a low voice and by signs, to glorify (their Lord) morning and evening.

12. (We said to John,) `Yahyâ! hold fast the (divine) Book.' And while he was yet a child We gave him wisdom,

13. And tenderheartedness and purity by Our (special) grace. He was one who carefully guarded against evil.

14. And (he was) dutiful towards his parents and he was neither arrogant nor rebellious.

15. Blessed was he the day he was born and the day he died and (peace will be upon him) the day he will be raised to life (again).

SECTION 2

16. And give an account of Mary in this Book when she withdrew from her people to an eastern spacious place (of the temple).

17. Then she screened herself off from them. Then We sent to her Our (angel of) revelation and he presented himself to her in the form of a perfect and well-proportioned man.

18. Mary said, `I invoke the Most Gracious (God) to defend me from you. If you guard the least against evil (leave me alone).'

19. He said, `I am but a messenger of your Lord. I give you (glad tidings of) a most pure son.'

20. She said, `How can I bear a son while no man (has married me and) has yet touched me, nor have I been unchaste.'

21. (The angel) said, `So the fact is (just as you describe). Your Lord has said, "It is easy for Me. (We shall do it) so that We make him a sign and a (source of) blessing from Us for the people. It is a matter ordained".'

22. She (- Mary) conceived him (- the child) and withdrew with him to a remote place.

23. (At the time of the delivery of the child) the throes of child birth drove her to the trunk of the palm-tree. She said, `Oh! would that I had become unconscious before this and had become a thing gone and forgotten.'

24. Then a voice called her from the side of the slope by her (saying), `Do not grieve, your Lord has placed a rivulet on the side of the slope by you (and a chief of the nation has born to you).

25. `Shake the branch of the palm-tree, drawing it towards you, it will cause fresh and

ripe dates to fall upon you.

26. `Eat therefore and drink and be happy. Then if you see any human being tell (him), "I have vowed a fast to the Gracious God so I will not speak to any human being today".'

27. (When Jesus grew up) she took him to her people carrying him on a mount. They said, `Mary! you have brought a strange thing.

28. `O sister of Aaron! your father was not a bad man, nor was your mother unchaste.'

29. Thereupon she pointed to him (- her son Jesus meaning thereby that he will answer them). They said, `How should we speak to one who was (till recently) a child in the cradle?'

30. (It came to pass that the son of Mary) said, `I am indeed a servant of Allâh, He has given me the Book, and made me a Prophet.

31. `And He has made me blessed wherever I may be, and He has enjoined upon me prayer and alms-giving so long as I live.

32. `And (He has made me) dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me arrogant, graceless.

33. `And peace was upon me the day I was born, and (peace will be upon me) the day I die, and the day I shall be raised up to life (again).'

34. Such was Jesus, son of Mary. (This is) a statement of true facts (about him), concerning which they so deeply disagree.

35. It does not behove (the Majesty of) Allâh to take to Himself a son. Holy is He. When He decrees a matter He only commands it `Be' and it comes to be.

36. (Jesus said), `Surely, Allâh is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him (alone). This is the exact right path.'

37. Yet the various sects were divided among themselves. Woe shall befall those who deny the meeting of the great day.

38. How clear they will hear and how well they will see on the day they come to Us. But this day the unjust are steeped in manifest error.

39. Warn them of the day of intense regret when the matter is decided and it is all over, and they are (still) steeped in ignorance and negligence and they do not believe.

40. It is We Who will remain after the earth and (all) who are inhabiting it have perished. To Us shall they all be returned.

SECTION 3

41. Give an account of Abraham in this Book. Surely, he was a very truthful man, a Prophet.

42. Behold! he said to his sire, `My dear sire, why do you worship that which can neither hear, nor see, nor can be of any avail to you?

43. `My dear sire, indeed I have been given the sort of knowledge which has not been given to you, so follow me, I will guide you along the straight path.

44. `My dear sire, do not serve satan, surely satan is disobedient to the Most Gracious (God).

45. `My dear sire, if you went on serving satan, I fear lest some punishment from the Most Gracious (God) should seize you so that you should become an associate of satan.'

46. (Thereupon Abraham's uncle) replied, `Do you dare to be averse to my gods, O Abraham? If you do not give up, I shall certainly cut off all relations with you. You had better leave me alone for a time.'

47. (Abraham) said (leaving him), `Peace be upon you. I will ask protection for you from my Lord. He is indeed gracious to me.

48. `I shall keep away from you and from that which you call upon besides Allâh. I will pray to my Lord. I hope that in praying to my Lord I shall not be disappointed.'

49. So he (- Abraham) kept away from them and from that which they worshipped besides Allâh. We bestowed on him Isaac and Jacob. We made each one (of them) a Prophet.

50. And We bestowed Our blessings upon them, and We granted them a sublime and lasting good name, and made the people remember and mention them.

SECTION 4

51. Give an account of Moses in this Book. He was indeed a purified and chosen one and he was a Messenger, a Prophet.

52. And We called out to him from the blessed side of the Mount (Sinai) and We made him draw near (to Us) for close and special communion.

53. And out of Our mercy We bestowed upon him (as his helper) his brother Aaron, (also) a Prophet.

54. Give an account of Ismâîl in this Book. He (too) was strictly true to his promise. And he was a Messenger, a Prophet.

55. He enjoined his people to observe prayer and present alms. He was well pleasing to his Lord.

56. And give an account of Idrîs (- Enoch) in this Book. He was a very truthful man, a Prophet.

57. And We raised him to an exalted position.

58. It is these people on whom Allâh did bestow His blessings. They were all Prophets. They were of the posterity of Adam and of those whom We carried (in the Ark) with Noah. Some of them were of the posterity of Abraham and Israel, and of those whom We guided and chose. They would fall prostrating (glorifying God) and weeping when the Messages of the Most Gracious (Lord) were recited to them.

[Prostration]

59. But after them evil descendants came, who neglected prayer and pursued (their) evil passions. They are doomed to meet perdition.

60. Different, however, will be the case of those who turn (to God in repentance) and believe and do righteous deeds. It is these to whom no injustice shall be done in the least (and will get their due rewards). They shall enter Paradise,

61. Gardens of Eternity which the Most Gracious (God) has promised to his servants while (these Gardens are) yet hidden (from the sight). His promise is sure to come to

pass.

62. There they will hear no idle talk, but all that they hear will be only (greetings of) peace. There they shall remain, provided with their sustenance, morning and evening (regularly and eternally).

63. Such is the Paradise which We give for a free gift and for an inheritance to those of Our servants who guard against evil.

64. And (the angels will say to them), `We (the angels) do not descend without the command of your Lord. To Him belongs all that is before us (- the future) and all that is behind us (-the past) and all that is in between that

(-the present). Your Lord is never forgetful (and will not neglect you).

65. `(He is the) Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between the two. Worship Him, therefore, and remain constant and steadfast in His worship. Do you not know that no one is His peer?'

SECTION 5

66. A human being (disbelieving in the Day of Resurrection) says, `What! shall I be really raised to life (again) when I am dead?'

67. Does not such a human being remember that We created him before, when he was nothing at all?

68. By your Lord! We will most certainly gather them together and (their) satans as well, then We shall bring them, in every case, crouching on their knees to the environs of Gehenna.

69. Then shall We pick out from every group the vilest of them in disobedience to the Most Gracious (God).

70. Behold! We surely know best those who are the most deserving of being cast and burnt therein (- the Hell).

71. There is none among you, (O those condemned to Hell!), but he shall reach there (- the Hell). This is (a promise) binding on your Lord, an absolute decree.

72. And (let Us tell you another thing,) We shall save those who guard against evil and are righteous. We shall leave only the wrong doing people therein (the Hell) fallen on their knees.

73. When Our clear Messages are recited to them the disbelievers say to those who believe, 'Which of the two parties of us is better in respect of position and (makes) more impressive society?'

74. And how many a generation have We destroyed before them, who were better off in assets and better in outward show and splendour (than these).

75. Say, 'The Most Gracious (God) gives those, who are steeped in error, long respite.' But when such people see that with which they are threatened, be it some (worldly) punishment or the Hour (of complete and final destruction), they shall realize who is worse placed and weaker in forces.

76. To those who follow guidance Allâh gives increased guidance. And from the point of view of reward and ultimate return, (you should bear in mind that) the righteous deeds that last and endure are best in the sight of your Lord.

77. Have you considered the case of one who denies Our Messages and says 'I shall indeed be given great wealth and a number of children.'

78. Has he looked into and gained knowledge of the unseen or has he taken a promise from the Most Gracious (God)?

79. Indeed not. We shall certainly record what he goes on saying and We shall continue prolonging for him the punishment to a great extent.

80. And We shall remain after his leaving behind all that of which he talks (so boastfully), and he shall come to Us all alone.

81. And they have chosen other gods besides Allâh that they may be a source of strength and honour to them.

82. Not at all! (they are utterly mistaken.) They (-their gods) will deny (one day) their worshipping them; they will turn hostile to them.

SECTION 6

83. **H**ave you not considered that We do not keep away satans from the disbelievers (by force). These (satans) incite them greatly (in their acts of disobedience).

84. So do not be impatient with regard to (punishment against) them. We are counting their time out (and We are also keeping full account of their deeds).

85. (Look forward to) the day when the Most Gracious (God) shall gather those who guard against evil before Him as honoured delegates (to bestow honours on them).

86. And We shall drive those who cut off their ties (with Allâh) to Gehenna (like) a herd of thirsty animals (to quench their thirst).

87. (On that day,) intercession shall be denied to all, save him who holds a promise from the Most Gracious (God).

88. Some say, 'The Most Gracious (God) has taken to Himself a son (who will be our intercessor).'

89. (Say,) 'You have indeed uttered something exceedingly abominable and hideous.

90. 'The heavens are about to burst on account of that, and the earth about to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in pieces.

91. 'Because they have ascribed a son to the Most Gracious (God).

92. 'Whereas it does not behove the Most Gracious (God) that He should take to Himself a son.'

93. Whoever is in the heavens and the earth shall come before the Most Gracious (God) in complete submission as a bondsman (would).

94. He indeed comprehends them (by His infinite knowledge) and having full power over them. He has numbered them

(all) exactly.

95. And they shall all come to Him on the Day of Resurrection, all by themselves.

96. Those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, the Most Gracious (God) will surely bring about (in the hearts of the people) fondest love for them.

97. (Prophet!) We have made this (Qur'ân) easy (by revealing it) in your own tongue, that you may give glad tidings thereby to those who guard against evil and warn thereby a people stubbornly given to contention.

98. Many a generation have We destroyed before them! Can you find (so much as) a single one of them or can you hear (even) a whisper of them?

Chapter

20

Tâ Hâ

(Perfect Man! be at Rest)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Tâ Hâ).

1. Tâ Hâ - O perfect man! be at rest.
2. We have not revealed this Qur'ân to you that you should fail in your mission.
3. But it is a reminder (of things inherent in human nature) to him who stands in awe (to God),
4. (And) a revelation from Him Who created the earth and the high heavens.
5. (He is) the Most Gracious (God, Who) is firmly and flawlessly established on (His) Throne (of Power).

6. All that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth and all that lies between them, and all that lies deep under the moist sub-soil, belongs to Him.
7. If you speak aloud, (He does not stand in need of it), He knows the secret (thought) as well that which is yet deeper hidden.
8. He is Allâh. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. All the most beautiful attributes belong to Him.
9. You must have surely received the narrative about Moses.
10. When he saw a fire, he said to his companions, `Stay here for I perceive a fire (creating feelings of love and affection). I hope, I may bring you a fire brand from there. Rather I feel that I would find some guidance at the fire.'
11. And when he came close to this (fire) he was hailed, `O Moses!
12. `Verily, I alone am your Lord. So take off your shoes (and stay, and make your heart free from every care), for you are in the sacred Valley of Tuwâ.
13. `And I have chosen you, therefore listen to what is revealed to you.
14. `I, and I alone am Allâh. There cannot be, is no other and will never be One worthy of worship but I, therefore worship Me alone. And observe prayer so that you may keep Me in mind.
15. `Surely, the Hour (of Resurrection) is bound to come. I am about to unveil it, so that every soul may be rewarded in accordance with its endeavour.
16. `So do not allow the person who does not believe in it but pursues his (own) low desires, turn you away from (believing) it, lest you perish.
17. `Moses, What is that you have in your right hand?'
18. (Moses) replied, `This is my staff. I lean on it, and beat down leaves for my sheep with it, and it serves (also) my many other needs.'
19. (The Lord) said, `Moses! cast it down.'
20. So he cast it down and lo! it was (like) a serpent; running about.
21. (The Lord) said, `Get hold of it and do not fear. We shall restore it to its former state.

22. `And put your hand close under your armpit, it shall come forth (shining) white, without any disease, (providing you with) another sign.
23. `(We have given you these signs) so that we may show you some of Our greater signs.
24. `Go to Pharaoh, he has indeed exceeded (all) limits.'

SECTION 2

25. (Moses) said, `My Lord! (if you have chosen me for this mission) enlighten my mind,
26. `And make my task easy for me.
27. `And remove the impediments from my tongue,
28. `So that they may understand my speech,
29. `And grant me a helper from my family,
30. `Aaron, my brother,
31. `Raise my strength through him,
32. `And associate him in my task;
33. `That we may glorify You over and over;
34. `And spread Your name far and wide,
35. `Surely, You are indeed Ever-Watchful over us.'
36. (The Lord) said, `Moses! you are granted what you have prayed for.

37. `And We did confer on you a favour once before;

38. `When We revealed to your mother that, which was an important revelation (saying),

39. "Place him (- Moses) in the chest and put it into the river. The river will cast it on to the bank and the person who is My enemy as well as his will pick him up." And I endowed you with My love with the result that you were brought up before My eyes and under My protection.

40. `(We bestowed another favour on you) when your sister walked along (the bank by the floating chest) and said (to those who picked up the chest from the bank of the river), "Shall I guide you to one (- a nurse) who will take charge of him?" In this way We restored you to your mother that she might be consoled and should not grieve. And (it came to pass that) you killed a person, but We delivered you from anguish. Then We purified you with various trials and you stayed for a number of years among the people of Midian. It was only then when you were properly groomed and came up to the standard (set by Us).

41. `And I, (having made you perfect,) have chosen you for Myself.

42. `Go you and your brother (Aaron) with My Messages and do not be remiss in remembering Me.

43. `Go to Pharaoh, both of you, for he has transgressed all limits.

44. `But speak to him a gentle speech, may be he pays heed and fears (the consequences).'

45. Both (Moses and Aaron) said, `Our Lord! we fear lest he (- Pharaoh) should hasten to do us some harm or exceed all limits in transgression (against You).'

46. (The Lord) said, `Have no fear. I am with you both. I hear (prayers) and I see (your condition).

47. `So go to him (- Pharaoh), both of you, and say, "We are the Messengers of your Lord, so let the Children of Israel go with us and do not torture them. We have come to you with a Message from your Lord. Peace will be upon him who follows the guidance.

48. "It has been revealed to us that the punishment comes upon him who cries lies to (His Messages) and turns away".'

49. (When they had delivered the Message of God, Pharaoh) said, `Moses! who, then, is the Lord of you two, (in whose kingdom you want to settle down)?'

50. (Moses) said, `Our Lord is He Who gives every creation its (proper) form and character and then guides them along the path (of evolution in order to attain perfection and to do proper functions).'

51. (Pharaoh) said, `What will be the fate of the former generations (who did not believe in these things)?'

52. (Moses) said, `The knowledge of that is with my Lord (recorded) in a book. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.

53. `It is He Who made the earth a bed for you and has threaded it with pathways for you. He sends down rain from the clouds. We bring forth by means of this (water) pairs of vegetation of diverse kinds.

54. `(So that you may) eat it and pasture your cattle (upon it). Verily, in all this there are signs for the people possessing sound reason.'

SECTION 3

55. We have created you from this (universe) and into this We will make you return and from this We will raise you to life a second time.

56. And We showed him (- Pharaoh) all sorts of Our signs, but (even then) he went on denying (them) and refused (to believe).

57. He said, `Moses! have you come to us to turn us out of our country on the basis of your sorcery?

58. `But we (too) shall certainly meet you with a matching sorcery. Make an appointment of time and place between us, which (appointment) neither we nor you shall fail to keep, (let the meeting be) at a place fair (for us both).'

59. (Moses) said, `The day of the festival will be the day of your appointment, and let the people be assembled when the sun is risen high.'

60. Pharaoh then withdrew and concerted his plan then came (at the appointed time and place for the contest).

61. Moses said to them, `Woe to you, forge no lies in the name of Allâh or He shall destroy you utterly by some calamity and surely he who forges a lie in the name of Allâh has ever been unsuccessful.'

62. Upon this they (- Pharaoh and his courtiers) began arguing their affair among themselves, and kept (their) discourse secret.

63. They said, `Surely, these two (brothers, Moses and Aaron) are sorcerers who seek to drive you out of your country by dint of their sorcery and to do away with your ideal religious traditions.

64. `Therefore you had better consolidate your resources, then come forward arrayed in a body and indeed he alone who gains the upper hand (and wins) shall be successful today.'

65. (The sorcerers) said, `Moses! either you present (first what you have) or we shall be the first to present (what we have).'

66. (Moses) said, `Nay, you present first what you have.' (Accordingly they were the first to present. No sooner did they present them) lo! their cords and their staves, appeared to him (- Moses) by their trickstery only as though they ran about.

67. So Moses felt afraid in his mind (lest the people be misled by their glittering tricks).

68. We said (to him), `Have no fear. Surely, it is you who shall be the uppermost.

69. `Now, cast down (on the ground) that (staff} which you have in your right hand. It will destroy all their artifices, for all they have wrought is nothing more than a device of a sorcerer, and the beguiler shall never succeed whichever way he may

choose (to beguile).'

70. Then (it so happened that) the sorcerers were instantly made to fall down prostrate. They said, 'We believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses.'

71. Pharaoh said, 'Dared you believe in him (- Moses) before I gave you permission? He (- Moses) must be your chief who has taught you sorcery. I will certainly cut off your hands and feet on alternate sides (by way of punishment) because of (your) disobedience. I will surely crucify you to death on the trunks of palm-trees and you shall, of a certainty, come to know which of us can inflict a more severe and more abiding punishment.'

72. They (- the sorcerers) said, 'We will certainly never prefer you to the clear proofs and signs that have come to us, nor to Him Who originated us. You may decide what you like to decide. You can only decree concerning this present life and put an end to it (this our life).

73. 'We have surely believed in our Lord that He may protect us against our faults and (particularly forgive us) the sorcery which you did constrain us (to practise). Allâh is the Best and Ever Abiding.'

74. Verily, he who comes to his Lord in a state of sin, he will surely be consigned to Gehenna, where he shall neither die nor live.

75. But those who come to Him as believers, having done deeds of righteousness, there await them, indeed, exalted ranks,

76. Gardens of Eternity served with running streams; there they will abide. Such is the reward of those who keep themselves ever pure.

SECTION 4

77. And We directed Moses by revelation, 'Take away My servants by night and take them along a dry path through the wide plane. You will not be afraid of being overtaken nor will you have any cause of fear (of being drowned).'

78. Now Pharaoh pursued them with his armies. But there covered them (- Pharaoh and his host) that (tide of the) sea which engulfed them completely.

79. Indeed, Pharaoh caused his people to perish, and did not lead them in the right way.

80. O Children of Israel! We delivered you from your enemy and made a covenant

with you on the right and blessed side of the Mount (Sinai), and We got Manna and quail to be sent down to you.

81. (And it was also said,) `Eat of the good and pure things We have provided you, and do not exceed the limits in this respect or My dis-pleasure shall descend upon you. Indeed, lost are those on whom My displeasure descends.'

82. But surely I am greatly protecting to him who turns (to Me) in repentance and believes and does righteous deeds and then sticks to guidance.

83. (When Moses went to the Mount, God said,) `Moses! what has made you depart from your people in such haste?'

84. Moses said, `They are close on my heels and I have hastened to You, my Lord, that You might be pleased.'

85. (The Lord) said, `We have distinguished your people, the good from the bad in your absence and the Sâmirî has led them astray?'

86. So Moses returned to his people indignant and sorrowful. (Reaching there) he said, `My people! did your Lord not make you a gracious promise? Did then the promised time (of forty nights and days) seem too long to you. Rather you desired that displeasure from your Lord should descend upon you that is why you failed in (your) promise with me.'

87. They said, `We have not willfully failed to keep (our) promise with you but (the thing is that) we were laden with loads of the jewelry of the (Egyptian) people and we threw them away (into the fire). That was what the Sâmirî suggested.'

88. Then (it came to pass that) he (- Sâmirî) produced (an effigy of) a calf for the people (to worship), a mere body (without a soul) which emitted a lowing sound. And then they (- Sâmirî and his followers) said, `This is your god as well as that of Moses,' so he (- Sâmirî) gave up (the religion of Moses).

89. Could they not see that this (calf) made them no answer and could neither avoid harm to them nor do good (to any).

SECTION 5

90. Aaron had, indeed, said to them before (the return of Moses from the Mount), `My people! you have only been tried by this (calf). Surely, the Most Gracious (God) is your Lord, so follow me and carry out my biddings.'

91. They said, `We will never give up to cleave to the worship of this (calf) until Moses returns to us.'

92. (Moses turning to Aaron) said, `Aaron! when you saw them going astray what prevented you

93. `From following me (and punishing them)? Dared you then disobey my biddings?'

94. (Aaron) said, `O son of my mother! do not hold me by my beard nor (pull me) by my head. (If I was not strict to them it was because) I was afraid lest you should say, "You have caused a disruption among the Children of Israel and did not preserve my word".'

95. (Moses now called upon Sâmirî to account for it and) said, `What were you after (by acting as you did) O Sâmirî?'

96. He said, `I perceived that which they did not perceive. (My perception and insight being stronger than theirs.) I had adopted only some of the traditions (and the teachings) of the Messenger (- Moses), but that (too) I cast away. That is what my mind made fair-seeming to me.'

97. (Moses) said, `Begone then (if it is so). It shall be your punishment to proclaim (yourself) an untouchable throughout (your) life. Not only that there awaits yet another threat (of punishment of the Hereafter) for you from which you will have no escape. Now, look at the god to which you remained so ardently devoted (as a worshipper). We will destroy it utterly and then we will scatter it away into the sea.'

98. (Moses then addressing his people said,) `Your God is only Allâh, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. He comprehends all things in (His) knowledge.'

99. In this way do We relate to you some of the important news of the days gone by. And We have indeed granted you from Us a (sublime) Reminder (- the Qur'ân).

100. Those who turn away from this shall bear a (heavy) burden on the Day of Resurrection,

101. Abiding thereunder, and grievous will the encumbrance be to them on the Day of Resurrection;

102. The Day when the trumpet shall be blown, and on that Day We shall gather the sinners together, blue-eyed (- the spiritually blind ones).

103. They will talk one to another in a hushed voice (consulting together and planning in secret and saying,) `You have lived only for ten (centuries).'

104. We know best what they will say, when the one of the most upright conduct among them will say, `You have lived (here) only for a day.'

SECTION 6

105. They ask you about mountains. Say, `My Lord will (blow them up completely and) scatter them as dust.

106. `And He will render them a desolate and a level plane.

107. `Where you will find no curve, no depression and no elevation.'

108. On that day they will follow the call of him (-the Holy Prophet) in (the teachings of) whom is no crookedness.

(All) voices shall be hushed up before the Most Gracious (God), so you will hear nothing but a faint murmur.

109. On that day no intercession shall help (anybody) except that of him whom the Most Gracious (God) grants permission and with whose sayings (and doings) He is pleased.

110. (God the Almighty) knows all that is before (-the people - their future) and all that is behind them (-their past); they cannot encompass Him with (their) knowledge.

111. And all persons shall humble themselves before the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining (God). And he who bears (the burden of) iniquity shall indeed fail

in his objective.

112. But he who does deeds of righteousness and is a believer, will have no fear that he will be deprived of his reward or suffer any withholding of his dues.

113. Just as (We have revealed these verses) We have revealed the entire Qur'ân in Arabic. We have explained in it in various ways Our warnings (against refusal and evil doings), so that the people may guard against evil and become righteous; or rather this (Qur'ân) will bring forth for them a great glory and eminence.

114. Highly Exalted is therefore Allâh, the true King. And make no haste to recite the Qur'ân (and anticipate the early fulfillment of its prophecies) before its revelation is completed to you. But say (in prayer), 'My Lord, increase my knowledge.'

115. We had given a stern command to Adam before this but he forgot; and We found no resolve on his part (to disobey Us).

SECTION 7

116. And (recall the time) when We said to the angels, 'Make obeisance to Adam (and his sons).' They (all) made obeisance, but *Iblîs* (did not), he refused (to submit).

117. At this We said, 'Adam! surely this fellow is an enemy to you and to your wife. Take care that he does not turn you both out of the garden (of earthly bliss) lest you fall into trouble.

118. 'It is (provided) for you that here you shall not feel hunger, nor shall you go naked,

119. 'And that here you shall feel no thirst nor will you be exposed to the sun.'

120. But satan made an evil suggestion to him. He said, 'Adam! shall I direct you to the tree which leads to eternal life and a kingdom which never decays.

121. So they (Adam and his wife) ate from that (tree), so that their shortcomings became unveiled to them and they began to cover themselves with the leaves of the garden. Adam did not observe the commandment of his Lord, so he became miserable.

122. Then (it came to pass that) his Lord chose him (for His benedictions) and turned to him with mercy and guided (him) to the right path.

123. (The Lord) said, 'Go hence! both parties one and all, you being enemies one to

another. There shall most certainly come to you guidance from Me, (bear in mind the law that) he who follows My guidance shall not be lost, nor shall he be unhappy.

124. `But he who turns away from My remembrance, he shall surely lead a straitened life. And (what is more,) We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection.'

125. He will say, `My Lord! what for have You raised me up in a state of blindness, while I possessed good sight before?'

126. He (the Lord) will say, `That is how (you acted). Our signs came to you but you disregarded them. This day you will be disregarded in the like manner.'

127. That is how We recompense him who transgresses and does not believe in the Messages of his Lord. Indeed, the punishment of the Hereafter is extremely terrible and even more enduring.

128. Does it afford them no guidance that We destroyed before them many a generation in whose dwellings they now go about. Indeed, in this there are signs for those who possess understanding.

SECTION 8

129. **But** for a word (of promise) already made by your Lord and the term (already) fixed (for them), the inevitable would surely have befallen them by now.

130. Hence put up patiently with what they say and glorify your Lord with (His) praise before the rising of the sun and before its setting. And glorify (Him) during the hours of the night and at the ends of the day (in Prayers), that you may attain (real) happiness (and true bliss).

131. Do not strain your eyes towards (and hanker after) the glammers of this life which some groups of these

(disbelievers) have been provided by Us, that We may distinguish the good from the bad through that. The provisions of your Lord (and His gifts) are far better and more lasting (than all this).

132. And bid your people to Pray and be constant and steadfast therein. We do not ask you to provide sustenance (for Us). It is We who provide sustenance for you. The good future is for guarding against evil.

133. And these (opponents) say, `Why does he bring us no sign from his Lord?' Has there not come to them a clear evidence (about the advent of this Prophet) from what is (contained) in the former scriptures?

134. Had We punished and destroyed them with a calamity before (the advent of) this (Prophet), they would have certainly said, `Our Lord! why did you not send a Messenger to us so that we might have followed your commandments before we were humiliated and disgraced?'

135. Say, `Each one (of us) awaits (the end), therefore wait you (also). You will soon come to know who are the people of the right path and who followed right guidance (and who do not)?'

Part XVII

Chapter

21

Al-Ambiyâ'

(The Prophets)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Anbiyâ').

1. There has drawn nigh for the people (the Day of) their reckoning, yet they turn away in heedlessness.
2. No new Reminder comes to them from their Lord but they listen to it in a playful mood,
3. While their minds are inattentive. Those of them who have transgressed the limits, keep their counsels (against the Prophet of their time) secret (and say), 'He is only a human being like yourselves. Will you be seduced by his skillful eloquence while you see and know?'
4. (On the contrary the Prophet's way is different.) He replied, 'My Lord knows what is conceived in the heaven and the earth. And He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.'
5. Nay, they say, 'This (Qur'ân) is (no revelation), but a jumble of confused dreams, rather he (- the Prophet) has forged it himself; he is a poet. (If it is not) so let him then bring us some sign (of destruction) just as the former (Prophets) were sent with.'
6. (Whereas) before them no people of a township whom We destroyed had ever believed. Would they then believe (to escape destruction).

7. (Prophet!) We sent none (as Messengers) before you but (they were) men to whom We made Our revelations. Therefore (O disbelievers!) ask the followers of the Reminder if you do not know (this).

8. Nor did We give them such bodies as could go without food, neither were they people given unusually long lives (to enjoy).

9. (We sent Our revelations to them) then We fulfilled the promise We made to them so that We delivered them, and those whom We pleased (beside them), and We destroyed the transgressors.

10. (Mankind!) now We have revealed to you a (highly perfect) Book wherein there is a provision for your eminence. Why do you not then make use of your understanding?

SECTION 2

11. And We have utterly destroyed many a wrong-doing people of townships, and We raised up another people after them.

12. No sooner did they perceive Our punishment than they began to flee from it.

13. (Thereupon We called out to them,) 'Flee not but return to that (state of luxury) in which you were provided comforts and to your dwellings so that you might be called to account for (your conduct).'

14. They said, 'Woe to us! we were indeed wrong-doers.'

15. Then they continued repeating this cry of theirs, till We made them (like) mown down field (and extinguished their spark of life leaving them like) smouldering ashes.

16. We did not create the heaven and the earth and all that is between the two in idle sport.

17. If We had meant to make something vain and idle We would surely have made it so on Our part. (But) We were by no means to do (such a thing).

18. Nay, We hurl the truth at falsehood so that it knocks out its brains (and defeats it); and behold, it (- the falsehood) vanishes. And you deserve to be punished (with Gehenna) for what you ascribe (to God).

19. And whosoever is in the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. And those who are close to Him do not disdain to worship Him, nor do they (ever) grow weary (to

serve Him).

20. They glorify (Him) night and day (and) they flag not.

21. And yet some people have chosen (false) gods from the earth who (are supposed to) raise (the dead) to life.

22. Had there been in them (- the heaven and the earth) other gods beside Allâh, then surely both would have gone to ruin (because of chaos, disorder and confusion).
Glorified then be Allâh the Lord of the Throne of power, far above

what they attribute (to Him).

23. He cannot be questioned for what He does, (because the cause for an objection does not exist,) whereas all (others) will be questioned (for what they do).

24. Or have they chosen (other) gods beside Him? Say, `Bring forth your clear proof (if there are other gods).' This (Unity of God) is the message of those who are with Me and the message of those (who have gone) before Me. The only thing is that most of them have no knowledge of the truth and that is why they have turned away (from it).

25. And We sent no Messenger before you but We revealed to him, (saying), `The truth is that there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but I, therefore worship Me (alone).'

26. And they say, `The Most Gracious (God) has taken to Himself a son.' Holy is He. Rather they (whom they so designate) are (only His) honoured servants.

27. They do not precede Him in speech and they only carry out His biddings.

28. He knows all that is before them (- their future) and all that is behind them (- their past). And they do not intercede except for the person for whom He is pleased to accord permission. And they are full of awe and reverence out of His Majesty.

29. Should anyone of them say, `I am a deity apart from Him;' him We will

recompense with Gehenna for that is how We recompense the unjust.

SECTION 3

30. Do those who disbelieve not see that the heavens and the earth were (once) one mass all closed up, then We rent them apart. And it is from water that We created all life. Will they not believe (in the face of all this).

31. And We have made firm mountains on the earth so that they may be a source of benefit and provision for the people and lest it should quake with them. And We made on it wide pathways that people may find right guidance to reach the goal.

32. And We have made the heaven a roof, well protected, still they turn away paying no heed to its (heavenly) signs.

33. And it is He Who created the night and the day, the sun and the moon. They are all gliding along smoothly in (their respective) orbits.

34. And We have not assigned to any human being before you an unusually prolonged life. If you should die shall they live unusually long while (here).

35. Every soul is bound to taste of death; and We prove (worth of) you now with evil, now with good, by way of trial. And you shall be made to return to Us.

36. And when those who disbelieve see you, they hold you for a mere trifle (and say), 'Is this the fellow who speaks (ill) of your gods?' While it is they themselves who deny (disdainfully) the great Eminence of the Most Gracious (God).

37. A human being is hasty by nature. I will certainly show you (O people!) My signs, but do not ask Me to hasten (them) before their (appointed) time.

38. And they say, 'When will this promise of punishment be fulfilled, (let us know) if you are truthful?'

39. How good it would be if those who disbelieve could know the time when they will not be able to ward off (the flames of) the fire from their faces nor from their backs and they shall not be helped!

40. Nay it (- the punishment) shall come upon them unawares, so that it will confound them completely, and they will not be able to avert it and no respite shall be given them.

41. And certainly Messengers have (also) been treated as mere trifles even before

you with the result that those who made light of them (- the Messengers) were caught by the very thing they held as vain and unimportant.

SECTION 4

42. Say, 'Who can protect you by night and in the daytime from (the punishment of) the Most Gracious (God)?' But rather (than thank Him) they are (truly) averse to proclaiming the greatness of their Lord.

43. Or do they have gods that can defend them against Us? They are not able to help (even) themselves, nor shall they receive any help from Us.

44. The thing is that We provided those and their fathers with the good things (of this world), until a long period (of enjoyment) passed over them (and now they are steeped in negligence). But do they not see that We are invading the land (of disbelief) and are gradually reducing it from its outlying borders? Can they even then be the victors?

45. Say, 'It is on the basis of (divine) revelation that I warn you.' But the deaf do not hear the call when they are warned.

46. And if the slightest punishment of your Lord befalls them they would surely cry out, 'Ah, Woe to Us! We were indeed unjust.'

47. And We shall set up scales of justice (to weigh their deeds) on the Day of Resurrection so that no soul shall be done the least injustice. And even if it (the deeds of a person) were (as little as) the weight of a grain of mustard seed, We would bring it forth (for accurate account). And sufficient are We as Reckoners.

48. And We gave Moses and Aaron the arguments (telling the right from the wrong) and a light and a Reminder for those who guard against evil;

49. Those who stand in awe of their Lord even in their heart of hearts and who dread the Hour (of Judgment).

50. And (like those earlier Scriptures) We have revealed this (Qur'ân) as a Reminder,

full of bliss. Will you then be the rejecters of this (Perfect Book)?

SECTION 5

51. And We gave Abraham his rectitude (befitting his station as a Prophet of God) before (this). We knew him fully well (for his personal qualities).

52. (Recall the time) when he said to his sire and his people, `What (good) are these images to which you sit down to worship with so much devotion?'

53. They said, `We found our fathers worshipping them.'

54. He said, `Surely, you yourselves and your fathers have been plainly mistaken.'

55. They said, `Is it (really) the truth that you have brought us or are you of those playing a joke (on us)?'

56. (Abraham) said, `(I am playing no jokes on you.) Your (true) Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, Who originated them; and I am of those who bear witness to (the truth of) this before you.

57. `And, by Allâh, I will indeed plan a stern plan against your idols after you have left turning your backs.'

58. So he smashed them all into pieces, except their chief (idol), that they might return to it (for inquiry as he planned).

59. (When they saw their idols broken,) they said, `Who has done this to our gods? He (who has done this) must be of the wrong-doers indeed.'

60. Some (of the people) said, `We heard a young man speaking (ill) of them, he is called Abraham.'

61. They said, 'Then bring him before the eyes of the people so that they may bear witness (against him).'

62. (When he was brought) they said, `O Abraham! is it you who did this to our gods?'

63. (Abraham) said, `Well, of course, someone has done it. Here is their chief (idol which witnessed all this). So better ask (him and) them, if they can speak.'

64. Then they turned to their leaders and to one another and said, `You, yourselves

are surely in the wrong.'

65. Then they were made to hang down their heads (in shame and said to Abraham),
`Indeed, you know very well that these (idols) do not speak.'

66. (Abraham) said, `Do you then worship, apart from Allâh, the things which can do no good to you, (who are their worshippers), nor can do harm to (those of) you (who are their destroyers).

67. `Shame on you and on the things you worship apart from Allâh! Will you not then make use of (your) understanding?'

68. They said, (among themselves,) `Burn him and help your gods if (at all) you would do (anything against Abraham).'

69. We said, `O fire, be you a means of coolness and safety for Abraham.'

70. They intended a mistreatment of him, but We made them the worst losers (and they could not carry out their evil design of burning him).

71. And We delivered him and Lot (as well and brought them) towards the land (of Can`ân) which We had blessed for the peoples.

72. And We gave him Isaac out of Our bounty and Jacob, (an additional bounty), as a grandson. We made all (of them) righteous.

73. And We appointed them leaders, who guide (people) by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good deeds and the observing of prayer and the giving of alms. And they were all worshippers of Us (alone).

74. And (We showed Our favours to) Lot, We gave him wisdom and knowledge and delivered him from the people of the town who indulged in abominable practices. They were indeed wicked and lawless people.

75. And We admitted him (- Lot) to Our mercy, for he was surely of the righteous.

SECTION 6

76. And (We showed Our favours to) Noah. Behold! he called (to Us) in the days bygone. So We heard his prayer and

delivered him and his companions from the great distressful calamity.

77. And We helped him against the people who cried lies to Our Messages. They were surely people given to evil, so We drowned them all.

78. And (We bestowed Our favours on) David and Solomon. Behold! they gave their (respective) judgment in the disputed matter about a certain crop when the sheep of a certain people strayed into it at night, and We were bearers of witness to the judgment they gave (them).

79. So We gave Solomon the true appreciation of it (- the matter); to each one of them We gave wisdom and knowledge. And We had subjected the mountains and the birds which celebrated (Our) glory along with David. That is what We always do.

80. And We taught him (the art of) making coats of mail for you (people), that they designed to fortify you against (one another's) violence (in your wars). Will you then be grateful?

81. And (We subjected) to Solomon the violent wind; it blew according to his commandments towards the land (of Can`ân) which We had blessed and We have knowledge of all things.

82. And (We subjected to him) some of the expert deep divers who dived for him and did other (sundry) works besides that; and it was We who kept watch over them.

83. And (We showed Our favours to) Job. Behold! he called out to his Lord, `I am afflicted with some distress, and You are the Most- Merciful of all who show mercy.'

84. So We heard his prayer and removed the affliction which he had and We restored his family to him and as many more (followers) with them by way of mercy from Ourselves. This (event) serves as a reminder for (Our) devotees.

85. And (We showed Our favours to) Ismâîl, Idrîs (- Enoch), Dhul-Kifl (- Ezekiel, possessed of abundant portion), all of them were of the patiently persevering people.

86. And We admitted them to Our mercy. They were of the righteous indeed.

87. And (We showed Our favours to) Dhul-Nûn (Jonah). Behold! he left in anger (his people for the sake of God). He was sure in his mind that We would not cause him

any distress. (But when We did,) he cried out in the midst of afflictions, 'There is no other God but you. Holy are You. I have indeed been of those hard pressed with difficulties and distress.'

88. So We heard his prayer and We delivered him from grief, and in this way do We deliver the (true) believers.

89. And (We showed Our favours to) Zachariah. Behold! he called out to his Lord and prayed to Him, 'My Lord, do not leave me solitary, alone (and heirless), You are Best of those who remain after (-You alone are the Everlasting God).'

90. So We heard his prayer and granted him (a son) John, and cured his wife (of sterility) making her fit (for bearing children) for him. They used to vie one with another in (doing) good deeds and call upon Us with (mixed feelings of) hope and fear, and they were humble before Us.

91. And (We showed Our favours to) the woman (- Mary) who preserved her chastity, so We revealed to her some of Our words and We made her and her son (- Jesus) a sign (of eminence) for the nations.

92. (Mankind!) surely, this your religion is the one single religion (of all the Prophets), and I am your Lord, so worship Me.

93. But they (- the latter generations) split up their affair (of religion) among themselves (and became divided into factions), and all will return to Us.

SECTION 7

94. So whoever does deeds of righteousness and is a believer (will find) there is no disapproval of his endeavours (and his strivings are not lost); and surely We are recorders (of his virtues) for him.

95. And it is not permissible to (the people of) a township whom We have destroyed to come back (to life of this world).

96. (This inviolable law will remain in force) even when (the great powers like) Gog and Magog are let loose and come crashing down from every height and from the crest of every wave, and when they occupy every point of vantage (dominating the whole world and when they excel all other nations).

97. And when the time (of the fulfillment) of the true promise (about the destruction of the forces of falsehood and materialism as represented by Gog and Magog) draws near, behold! the eyes of those who do not believe (in the triumph of truth), will be

transfixed (and they will exclaim), `Ah, woe to us! we were really forgetful of this (day), nay, we were of course unjust.'

98. (It will be said to them,) `Surely, you and the things which you worship apart from Allâh are, of course, fuel of Gehenna, where you shall enter.'

99. Had these things been true gods (as you claim to be) they would not have come to it. But (as it is) they shall all enter it and abide in it for long.

100. Groaning shall be their lot therein and they will not hear in it (anything else).

101. But those to whom We have already promised a most fair treatment from Us, shall be kept far removed from it (-the Hell).

102. (Not to speak of entering it;) they will not hear the faintest sound of it and they shall be abiding in (the midst of all the blessings) which their souls desire.

103. The great terror (of the Judgment Day) will cause them no grief and the angels will receive them (with the greetings), `This is your day which you were promised.'

104. This is the day when We shall roll up the heavens like the rolling up of the written scrolls by a scribe. Just as We started the process of the first creation so shall We reproduce it. This is a promise binding on Us; We shall certainly bring it about.

105. We have already stated in the *Zabûr* (Psalms - the Book of David) after (stating it in) the Reminder (-Torah) that My servants with right capacity (to rule) shall inherit the land.

106. Verily, in this (Qur'ân) is an important Message for a people who worship (Us).

107. And We did not send you (O Muḥammad!) but as a blessing and mercy, for all beings.

108. Say, `Indeed it has been revealed to me that your God is but One God. Will you then, be the ones who submit (to Him)?'

109. But if they still turn back say, `I have given you clear warning in all fairness. I

do not know, however, whether that threat held out to you will be (fulfilled in the) near or distant (future).

110. `Verily, He knows the words you speak openly and He knows (the thoughts) which you hide.

111. `And I do not know whether it (- the respite referred to above) is meant to put you on trial or it may be affording you a (worldly) provision for a short while.'

112. (The Prophet praying to his Lord) said, `My Lord! judge with truth,' Our Lord is the Most Gracious whose help is ever to be sought against what you (O disbelievers!) ascribe (to Him).'

Chapter

22

Al-Hajj

(The Pilgrimage)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hajj).

1. **O** people! take your Lord as a shield (for) as a matter of fact the shock of the Hour is a tremendously dreadful thing;
2. On the day you behold it, you will find every woman giving suck abandoning (even) her suckling (in the confusion), and every pregnant one miscarrying, and people will appear to you to be drunk while they are not actually drunk; the punishment of Allâh will be (so) severe (that it will leave people in a terrible state of horror and dread).
3. And there are some people who argue about Allâh without any knowledge and follow every satan (who is) devoid of all good.
4. About whom it is decreed that whoever makes friends with him, he will invariably lead him astray and conduct him to the sufferings of the flaming fire.

5. O people! if you doubt the Resurrection (then consider Our scheme of unformed things); We have indeed created you from dust, then, from a sperm-drop, then from a blood clot, and then from a lump of flesh (partly) formed and (partly) unformed that We make (Our power and the real state of things) clear to you. And We cause to stay in the wombs (that drop of fluid) when We please (to make a perfectly formed being) for a given period of time, then We bring you forth (formed) as infants, then (We bring you up) with the result that you reach your prime. And there are some of you who are called to death (early) and there are others of you who are made to live to the worst part of life; a miserable very old age, with the result that they know nothing after (having had) knowledge. While the earth appears to you lifeless and barren, it throbs (with life) and swells (with growth) and puts forth every kind of beautiful herbage, when

We send down water upon it.

6. Such is (the epithet of life and nature) to prove that Allâh alone is the Truth and it is He Who brings the dead to life and He indeed is Possessor of power to do all that He will,

7. And that the Hour is bound to come, there is no doubt about it, and that Allâh will raise up those who are in the graves.

8. And among the people there is he who argues about Allâh though he has neither knowledge nor guidance and nor an illuminating Book;

9. Turning his side (out of pride) with the result that he leads (some) astray from the path of Allâh. There is for him disgrace in this world and on the Day of Resurrection, We will make him suffer the punishment of burning.

10. And (to such it will be said,) `This is the result of what your own hands have sent on before (- your deeds); and Allâh is not the least unjust to (His) servants.'

SECTION 2

11. And among people there is such a one who worships Allâh (as it were) on the very verge (in a wavering state of mind). If any good befalls him he is satisfied with

it, but if there befalls a trial he returns to his (former) ways. He has lost both this world as well as the next. That indeed is the obvious loss.

12. He calls, apart from Allâh, upon the things which can do him neither harm nor good. That, indeed, is straying far away.

13. He calls upon him whose harm is much more likely than his good. How evil is this false god to be his patron and how evil is (he to be) his associate!

14. Allâh will surely cause those who believe and do righteous deeds to enter Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). Surely, Allâh does what He has a mind to.

15. Whoso thinks that Allâh will not help him (- the Prophet) in this present life nor in the next, let him help himself to go into the heaven by some means and cut (the divine help) off and then see if his device can take away that (God's help to the Prophet) which enrages (him).

16. That is how it is. We have revealed this (Qur'ân) comprising clear arguments. Yet the truth is that Allâh guides him (to the right way) who wishes (to be guided).

17. (Let) those who believe and those who judaised and the Sabians and the Christians and the Magians and those who associate gods with God know that Allâh will decide between them on the Day of Resurrection. Surely, Allâh is Witness over all things.

18. Have you not considered that whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth, and (also) the sun, the moon and the stars, the mountains, the trees, the moving creatures and many of mankind make obeisance to Allâh? Yet many of (mankind) are those who become deserving of punishment (because of their disobedience). None can honour the person whom Allâh disgraces. Verily, Allâh does what He pleases.

[Prostration]

19. These two (- the believers and the disbelievers) are two adversaries who dispute about their Lord. As for those who disbelieve, garments of fire have been tailored for them and boiling water shall be poured down over their heads,

20. Whereby whatever is in their bellies will be melted, and (their) skins as well (will come off their bones).

21. And (further more) there will be whips of iron for (punishing) them.

22. Every time they seek to escape from there in (their) anguish (and from its sorrows) they will be hurled back into it (and it will be said to them), 'Keep on suffering the torment of burning.'

SECTION 3

23. As for those who believe and do righteous deeds, Allâh will admit them to Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). Therein they shall be given for ornaments bracelets of gold and pearls and therein their raiments shall be of silk,

24. Because they were inspired to speak noble words and do noble deeds and were guided to the path of the Highly Praiseworthy (God).

25. (As to) those who disbelieve and hinder (people) from (following) the path of Allâh and (from going to) the Holy Mosque which We have made (a source of goodness and benefit) for all people, and where the inhabitants thereof (- of Makkah) and the visitors from outside are equal; and whoever seeks wrongfully to promote crookedness in it, We shall make him suffer woeful punishment.

SECTION 4

26. And (recall the time) when We assigned to Abraham the site of the (Holy) House (bidding him), 'Associate none with Me and keep My House clean and pure for those who (go round it to) perform the circuits and for those who stay

in it (for worshipping Me) devotedly, and for those who bow down, (and) fall prostrate (in Prayer before Me).'

27. (Prophet!) call on people to make the Pilgrimage, they will come to you on foot and riding on all sorts of lean and fast (means of transport), coming from every distant deep highway (and mount track).

28. So that they (- the Pilgrims) may witness benefits (that lay therein) for them, and that (at the time of making a sacrifice) on days prescribed they may mention the name of Allâh over the beasts of the family of cattle He has given them. (When you have sacrificed the animal) then eat from this, (flesh of the animal thus sacrificed),

yourselves and (also) feed the poor distressed one and the needy (on that).

29. Then let the people perform their needful rituals regarding the cleansing (of their bodies and shaving) and fulfill their voluntary promises made to Allâh and perform the (last) circuit of the Ancient, Free, Invulnerable House.

30. That is (the purpose behind the construction of the House), so he who honours the things declared sacred by Allâh (will find that) it is good for him in the sight of his Lord. And (remember that) all the cattle are made lawful to you except those already mentioned to you (as unlawful in the Qur'ân). And abstain from unclean practice of idolatry and shun false speech.

31. Remaining upright (devoting yourselves in worship and obedience entirely) to Allâh, not associating anything with Him. Indeed, he who associates anything with Allâh falls, as it were, from on high, and either the birds snatch him away or the wind blows him off to some deep place very far away.

32. That is (the law which you should bear in mind). He who respects Symbols appointed by Allâh, will find that this (respect) proceeds from and leads to the piety of hearts.

33. It is lawful for you to take benefits from these (cattle to be offered for sacrifice) for an appointed term (- they can be used for riding, carrying burdens, for milk etc.), then the lawful place of their sacrifice is by the Ancient, Free and Invulnerable House.

SECTION 5

34. And We have prescribed certain rites of sacrifice for every people that they may mention the name of Allâh over the beasts of the family of cattle He has provided for them. So (O people!) your God is One God, therefore you should all submit to Him alone. And give glad tidings (of success) to the humble and the submissive ones (to Him);

35. Whose hearts are filled with awe when the name of Allâh is mentioned and who are patiently persevering in whatever (of the afflictions) befalls them, and who observe Prayer and spend from that which We have provided them.

36. We have made the sacrificial animals among the Symbols appointed by Allâh for you. They are of immense good to you. So (whenever you offer them for sacrifice do it) in the name of Allâh (while they) stand (drawn up) in lines. When their flanks collapse, (on being slaughtered), eat from (the meat of) them and feed him who is (in need but) contented and him who begs. In this way We have made these (animals)

subservient to you so that you may render thanks.

37. It is neither their flesh nor their blood (of these sacrifices) which matters to Allâh but it is guarding against evil and devotion to duty on your part that matters to Him. Thus He has made them subservient to you that you may proclaim the greatness of Allâh for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to the doers of good to others.

38. Allâh will certainly defend those who believe because Allâh loves no perfidious, ungrateful person.

SECTION 6

39. **Permission** (to fight in self-defense) is (now) given to those (Muslims) against whom war is waged (for no reason), because they have been done injustice to, and Allâh has indeed might and power to help them;

40. Those who have been driven out of their homes without any just cause. Their only fault was that they said, 'Our Lord is Allâh.' If Allâh had not repelled some peoples by means of others, cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques wherein the name of Allâh is mentioned very frequently, would have been razed to the ground in large numbers. And Allâh will surely help one who helps His cause. Allâh is, indeed, All-Powerful, All-Mighty.

41. They are (the persecuted people) who, if We establish them in the land (giving them power) will observe Prayer and keep on presenting the *Zakât*, and enjoin (people) to do good and forbid evil. And Allâh will finally settle all issues.

42. And (Prophet!) if they cry lies to you (there is nothing new in it) even so before them, the people of Noah and (the tribes of) `âd and Thamûd also cried lies (to their Apostles of God).

43. (So did) the people of Abraham and the people of Lot;

44. And the inhabitants of Midian. And Moses (also) was cried lies to. But I granted respite the disbelievers for long, then I took them to task. (Imagine) how (terrible) was (the result of their) denial of Me! and how (awful) the change I effected (in them).

45. We have destroyed so many townships because (the people thereof) were given to wicked ways so that they have fallen down on their roofs, and how many a well is completely deserted: (similarly) many a strongly built lofty castles

(met the same doom because We destroyed their occupants).

46. Why do they not travel in the land so that they should have hearts that help them to understand and ears which can help them hear? As a matter of fact (when going astray) it is not the (physical) eyes that are blind but blind are the hearts which lie in the bosoms.

47. And they (- the disbelievers) demand of you to expedite (their) punishment. Allâh will not fail His promise. (Remember however that) one day with your Lord is (sometimes) equal to one thousand years by your counting.

48. And so many (people of) townships were given to wicked ways but I respited them long. Then I took them to task and to Me alone shall be the return (of all of them).

SECTION 7

49. Say, `O mankind! I am but a plain Warner to you all (against the evil consequences of refusal and misdeeds).'

50. There awaits protection and a generous and honourable provision for those who believe and do deeds of righteousness.

51. But those who strive hard against Our Messages seeking to frustrate (Us in Our aims and ends), it is they who will be the inmates of the flaming Fire.

52. And We have sent no Messenger, nor a Prophet before you but when he longed (to attain what he sought), satan (interfered and) put hindrances in the way of what he sought after. But Allâh removes (the hindrances) that are placed by satan, then Allâh firmly establishes His Messages. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

53. (Allâh permits the interference of satan) so that He may make (the hindrance which satan puts in the way of the Messengers) serve as a trial for those whose hearts carry disease (of hypocrisy) and for those whose hearts are hardened (because of disbelief). Infact the wrongdoers have gone far (in their antagonism).

54. And (He permits this) so that those who have been given knowledge may know that this (Qur'ân) is the truth from your Lord and may believe in it and humble themselves before Him from their very hearts. And Allâh will indeed be the Guide of those who believe, to the straight and right path.

55. And those who have disbelieved will continue to have doubt about this (Qur'ân) until the Hour overtakes them suddenly, or the scourge of a destructive day befalls them.

56. On that day the kingdom shall belong to Allâh alone, He will judge between people so that those who believe and do deeds of righteousness will be (admitted) into blissful Gardens.

57. But those who disbelieve and cried lies to Our Messages, shall suffer a humiliating punishment.

SECTION 8

58. And Allâh will certainly provide for ever a goodly provision to those who leave their homes for the cause of Allâh and are then slain or die a natural death. Surely, Allâh, He is indeed the Best of constant Providers.

59. He will make them enter a place which they will like. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, Forbearing (in the matter of punishment).

60. That is (how it will be); and whoso retaliates in proportion to that (injury) which is inflicted on him, and again is transgressed against, Allâh will certainly help him. Verily, Allâh is All-Pardoning (absolving people of their sins), All-Protecting.

61. That (system of requital) is to prove that it is Allâh Who makes the night gain on the day and makes the day gain on the night and that Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

62. That is also (to show) that it is Allâh Who is the Ultimate Truth (- Self-Subsisting, All- Sustaining) and that which they call upon apart from Him is falsehood and perishable, and because Allâh is the High, the Great.

63. Do you not see that Allâh sends down water from the clouds and the (dry) earth becomes green? Verily, Allâh is the Knower of subtleties, the All-Aware.

64. All that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth belongs to Him and Allâh is Self- Sufficient (having no needs) and Worthy of all praise (in His Own right).

SECTION 9

65. Do you not consider that Allâh has made subservient to you all that is on the earth? (Do you not see that) the ships sail through the sea by His command? And He holds the rain back from falling upon the earth save by His permission. Verily, Allâh is Most Compassionate to mankind (and) Ever Merciful (to them).

66. And it is He Who gave you life, then He will call you to death, then will He bring you back to life (again). The thing is, a human being is most ungrateful.

67. We have prescribed for every people modes of worship which they should observe. Let them not, therefore, dispute with you in the matter (of Islamic mode of worship). And call (the people) to your Lord for you are indeed on the exact and right guidance.

68. And if they still contend with you, say, `Allâh knows best all that you do.

69. `Allâh will judge between you (and us) on the Day of Resurrection concerning all that in which you differ (from us).

70. `Do you not know that Allâh knows whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth? Surely, this is (all recorded) in a Book (of laws) and, indeed, it is easy for Allâh (to bind them to a law).'

71. And they worship apart from Allâh the things for which He has revealed no authority and about which they themselves have no knowledge. And the wrong doers will find no helper.

72. And when Our clear Messages are recited to them you will notice an expression of disapproval on the faces of those who disbelieve. They would almost assault those who recite Our Messages to them. Say, `Shall I then inform you of something even worse than this (which hurts you). (It is) the Fire! Allâh has promised it to those who disbelieve. And what a vile resort it is!'

SECTION 10

73. O people! here is a parable, so listen to it. Those whom you call upon apart from

Allâh cannot create even a fly, though they may all join hands for it. And if the fly should snatch away something from them, they cannot recover it from it. Feeble indeed is the seeker (- the worshippers) and (feeble) the sought after (- the worshipped one).

74. They do not appreciate Allâh as He should be appreciated (and no true concept of His attribute they have formed to pay Him the respect He deserves). Surely, Allâh is All-Powerful, All-Mighty.

75. Allâh chooses His messengers from among angels and from among men. Verily, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

76. He knows the future of the people and their past; and to Allâh do all matters stand referred (for judgment).

77. O you who believe! bow down and prostrate yourself, and worship your Lord and do good deeds so that you may attain your goal.

[Prostration]

78. And strive your hardest to win the pleasure of Allâh, so hard a striving as is possible and as it behoves you. He has chosen you and has imposed no hardship upon you in the matter of your faith, (so follow) the creed of your father Abraham. He named you Muslims (both) before this and (again) in this (Book the Qur'ân), so that the Messenger may be a guardian over you and that you may be guardians over people. Therefore, observe Prayer, keep on presenting the *Zakât* and hold fast to Allâh. He is your Patron, what a gracious Patron, and what a gracious Helper.

Part XVIII

Chapter

23

Al-Mu'minûn

(The Believers)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mu'minûn).

1. Truly, success in this life and in the Hereafter does come to the believers,
2. Who turn (to God) in all humility in their Prayer,
3. And who keep aloof from all that is vain and idle,
4. And who act conscientiously for the sake of purity (and regularly present the *Zakât*),
5. And who guard their private parts,
6. Except from their spouses, that is those whom they justly and rightfully own in proper wedlock, in that case they are not to be blamed,
7. But those who seek anything else (to satisfy their sexual desire) beyond this, it is they who are the transgressors,
8. And who look after their trusts and their covenants,
9. And who are strict in the observance of their Prayers.

10. It is they who are the real heirs;
11. Who will own Paradise where they shall abide for ever.
12. We create a human being from an extract of clay;
13. Then We reduce him to a drop of sperm (and place him) in a safe depository;
14. Then We form the sperm into a clot; then We develop the clot into a lump of flesh; then We fashion bones out of this lump of flesh, then We clothe the bones with flesh, thereafter We evolve him into another being. Therefore blessed be Allâh the Best of Creators.
15. Then as you have passed (these seven stages of physical creation parallel to the above seven spiritual stages) you are heading towards death.
16. Then (after death), you will certainly be raised up to life on the Day of Resurrection.
17. And We have created above you seven ways, and We have never been neglectful of (the needs of) the creation.
18. And We send down water out of the cloud according to (a certain) measure and We lodge it in the earth (as long as it is required), and remember, surely it is We who determine its taking away (through the process of evaporation and many more),
19. And then with it (- the water) We grow for you gardens of date-palms and vines and you have plenty of fruit in these (gardens) and of these (fruit) you eat.
20. And (with the water We produce) a tree which grows on Mount Sinai (- olive tree) which bears (in it) oil and (supplies) a condiment (also) for those who use it for food.
21. And you have an evidence in (the creation of) the cattle (too), which should lead you from ignorance to knowledge, We give you to drink of that (milk) which is in their bellies. You derive many other benefits from them and you (also) get food from some of them.
22. You are borne on them as well as on the ships.

SECTION 2

23. And We sent Noah to his people and he said, `O my people! worship Allâh alone.

You have no God other than He. Will you not then guard against evil and seek (His) protection?'

24. But the chiefs of those who disbelieved from among his people said, 'He is nothing but a human being like yourselves, (only) he seeks to assert (his) superiority over you. And if Allâh had so willed He could have certainly sent down angels (with him). We have never heard of this (sort of a thing) happen in the times of our fathers of yore.

25. 'He is but a man gone mad, you had better bear with him for a while (and see the consequences).'

26. (Noah) said (praying), 'My Lord! help me for they treat me as a liar.'

27. Then We sent Our revelation to him (directing him), 'Make the Ark under Our eyes and (according to the dictates of) Our revelation. And when (the time of) Our judgment comes and the waters of the valley gush forth, then embark there in (the Ark) two of every species, a pair (of every thing that you may need), and your companions, except those of them against whom (Our) word (of condemnation for their misdeeds) has already gone forth. But do not plead with Me in favour of those who have acted unjustly for they are (doomed) to be drowned.

28. 'Then when you and your companions are seated perfectly well in the Ark say (praying), "All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh Who has delivered us from the wicked people."

29. 'And say (while praying), "My Lord! enable me to make a blessed landing, for You are the Best of those who provide (people) with the fairest landing place".'

30. Verily, this (account of Noah) is full of (many) signs. Surely, thus do We reveal the hidden truth (about the people and We did try the people of Noah).

31. Then We raised another generation after them.

32. And We sent to them a Messenger from among themselves, (who said,) 'Worship Allâh. You have no god other than He. Will you not then guard against evil (deeds)?'

SECTION 3

33. And the chiefs of his people who disbelieved and cried lies to the meeting (with the Lord) in the Hereafter, and whom We had given ease and comfort in the present life, said, `He is but a human being like yourselves. He eats of (the food) which you eat and drinks of (the drinks) which you drink.

34. `And, surely, if you obey a human being like yourselves you will then be the losers indeed.

35. `Does he promise you that when you are dead and reduced to dust and bones you shall be brought forth (alive again from the graves)?

36. `How very far and away (from truth and understanding) is that which you are promised!

37. `There is no life beyond our present life. (It is here) we die and (here) we live, and we shall not at all be raised up (to life again, so that there awaits us no Resurrection).

38. `He is only an ordinary man who has forged a lie in the name of Allâh and we are not at all going to believe in him.'

39. He said (praying), `My Lord! help me for they treat me as a liar.'

40. (The Lord) said, `They shall be remorseful before long (when caught by some punishment).'

41. Then the punishment overtook them justly and rightfully and We made them as scum (of the flood), so the people who do wrong are far removed (from the mercy of God).

42. Then We raised other generations after them.

43. No community can go ahead of its appointed time (and thus manage to escape their doom) nor can they remain behind (it, or delay it).

44. Then We sent Our Messengers successively (one after the other). Whenever there came to a community its Messenger (of God), they treated him as a liar. So We made some of them follow others (to destruction) and We reduced them to mere legendary tales. Therefore the people who do not believe are far removed (from the mercy of their Lord).

45. Then We sent Moses and his brother Aaron with Our Messages and a clear

authority,

46. To Pharaoh and his courtiers but they waxed proud for they were a haughty (type of) people.

47. And they said, `Shall we believe in two human beings like ourselves while their people (- the Israelites) are our bondsmen?'

48. So they cried lies to both of them with the result they became of those who were destroyed.

49. And (after this event) We gave Moses the Book (-the Torah) so that they (- his people) might receive guidance (through it).

50. And We made the son of Mary and his mother a sign, (and a model of virtue), and We gave them both refuge upon a worth-living lofty plateau abounding in (green and fruitful) valleys and springs of running water.

SECTION 4

51. **O** you Messengers! eat of the things which are clean, good and pure and (thus) do good works. Verily, I am Well-Aware of what you do.

52. Surely, (know that) this community of yours is (infact) one community (and your religion one religion), and I am your Lord, so take Me as (your) shield.

53. But the people, (rather than preserve their unity) split up their affair among themselves (forming themselves into factions) considering (each portion thus split up) as (the real) Scripture, every faction rejoicing in that which was with

them.

54. So leave them in their utter confusion (due to their ignorance) for a time.

55. Do they think that because of what We go on adding to their (worldly) wealth and children,

56. We are in a hurry to do them good? Nay, but they do not realise (the true state of things).

57. As for those who out of the Majesty of their Lord are full of awe and reverence to Him,

58. And those who believe in the revelations of their Lord,

59. And those who associate not partners with their Lord,

60. And those who give whatever they can afford to give (as alms in the way of their Lord), while their hearts tremble (at the thought) that they are returning to their Lord (and whether their deeds will find His approval or not).

61. It is they who are quick and eager to do good works to outdo others and it is they who are (the) foremost for these (virtues, and shall win the race).

62. And We do not lay down responsibility upon any soul beyond its capacity and We have a book (of law) which speaks and acts justly and no injustice is done to anyone.

63. Nay, their (- the disbelievers') minds are in utter confusion (due to ignorance) about this (Qur'ân), and they are (engrossed) in deeds different from the (bindings of) revelations and they go on doing them.

64. Yet as soon as We take those of them given to a life of luxury to task, behold! they start appealing for succour.

65. (Whereupon it will be said to them,) `Do not appeal for succour this day, you shall receive no help from Us.

66. `My Messages were recited to you but you used to turn back on your heels,

67. `Treating them with disdain and arrogance, talking nonsense about this (Qur'ân) by night (in your meetings), you gave (it) up.'

68. Have they not then pondered over the (Divine) word? As a matter of fact there has

come to them that which had not come to their fathers of old.

69. Or do they deny their Messenger because they do not recognise him?

70. Or do they say, 'He is possessed?' Nay, but the fact is that he has brought them the truth while most of them are averse to the truth.

71. And had the Eternal Truth (true God) followed their vain and low desires, the heavens and the earth and all those who are (living) in them would have surely gone to ruin. But We have brought them that which will raise them to eminence, yet they are turning aside from their own means of (raising them to) eminence.

72. Or do you ask of them a tribute? (There is no such thing) as the tribute of your Lord is the best, for He is the Best of Providers.

73. And most surely you are calling them to a straight and right path.

74. But those who do not believe in the Here after, are indeed deviating from that path.

75. And even if We had shown them mercy and relieved them of their distress they would still persist in their transgression, wandering on blindly.

76. And We did seize them with punishment (in the past) but they did not humble themselves before their Lord, nor would they supplicate (to Him for mercy).

77. Behold! no sooner did We let loose on them a severe punishment than they are utterly despaired (of God's mercy) thereat.

SECTION 5

78. And (disbelievers!) it is He Who has given you ears, eyes and hearts (yet) little is the gratitude you express.

79. And it is He Who has multiplied you in the earth and to Him you shall be gathered.

80. It is He Who gives life and causes death and He alone controls the alternation of night and day. Will you not then make use of your understanding?

81. But (rather than trying to understand) they repeated what the former people had said.

82. They had said, `What! shall we be certainly raised up to life when we are dead and reduced to mere dust and bones?

83. `Surely, we and our forefathers have already been given such promises before. These are nothing but only fables of the former people.'

84. Ask, `(Tell me) if you know whom the earth and all the creatures therein belong to.'

85. They will certainly say, `To Allâh.' (Thereupon) say, `Will you still pay no heed?'

86. Say, `Who is the Lord of the seven heavens and the Lord of the Great Throne (of power)?'

87. They will surely say, `(They all belong) to Allâh.' Say, `Will you not then guard against (refusal and evil deeds).'

88. Ask, `(Tell me) if you know who is it in whose hands lies the dominating control of everything and who protects (all) while against whom no protection can be had?'

89. They will indeed say, `All these (attributes) belong to Allâh.' Say, `How and whither are you then being led away?'

90. The thing is that We have brought them the truth (about the unity of God) but they are sticking to lies (by refusing it repeatedly).

91. Allâh has taken to Himself no son, nor is there any other god along with Him. (Had there been any) each god would have left with what he had created, and some of them would surely have dominated over others. Holy is Allâh, far above all they attribute (to Him).

92. He has knowledge of (both) the hidden and the manifest realities. He is Highly-Exalted above (all the things) they associate (with Him).

SECTION 6

93. Say (in prayer), `My Lord! if you should show me (in my-life time) that (punishment) they are threatened with,

94. `My Lord! then do not leave me among the wrong-doing people.'

95. As a matter of fact, We have every power of showing you (in your life-time) that (punishment) We threaten them with.

96. Repel (their) evil (by repaying it) with that which is the fairest. We know very well (the things) they allege (about you).

97. And say (in prayer), `My Lord! I seek refuge in You from the mischief-mongerings of the rebellious (people);

98. `Rather, I (also) seek refuge in You, my Lord! lest they should even come near me.'

99. Behold! when death approaches one of them (- the rebellious ones) he says (making entreaties repeatedly), `Send me back, My Lord! send me back,

100. `So that I may do righteous (deeds) which I failed to do (in the worldly life).'
`Never, that can never be,' (is the answer he receives). It is but a word (of excuse) which he utters. And there is a barrier behind them which shall remain till the day when they shall be raised to life (again).

101. So when the trumpet is blown, ties of kinship will cease to exist between them (- the people to render assistance) that day, nor will they ask after one another.

102. Then (on that day there shall be a true weighing so that) whose scales are heavy (and their deeds of righteousness preponderant and manifold) it is they who are the triumphant.

103. But whose scales are light (and their deeds of righteousness of no account), it is they who have ruined their souls and who shall abide in Gehenna for long.

104 The Fire shall scorch their faces (so they will lie there disfigured with burning) and they will wear a grin (of pain and anguish).

105. (It will be said to them), `Is it not true that My Messages were recited to you but you went on crying them lies?'

106. They will say, `Our Lord! our misfortune got the better of us (when we gave ourselves up to evil doings) and we were actually an erring people;

107. `Our Lord! deliver us from this (Hell), we shall indeed be unjust if we return (to our evil ways of disobedience).'

108. (God) will say, `Begone with you, despised therein (the Hell), and do not speak to Me.

109. `There was a section from among My servants who said, "Our Lord! we believe, so protect us (against our sins) and have mercy on us, for you are the Best of those who show mercy."

110. `But you treated them as a laughing-stock and (you continued to laugh at them) until they, (so to say,) made you give up (even) My remembrance while you ever went on laughing at them.

111. `This day I have rewarded them for their patient endurance so that they are the ones who have attained their goals and achieved bliss.'

112. (God) will (then) say, `What number of years have you tarried on the earth?'

113. They will say, `We tarried only for a day or part of a day (we have no exact idea), but ask those who keep the count.'

114. (God) will say, `You tarried but a little while, if only you knew (what loss you have incurred by missing doing good).

115. `Did you then think that We had created you without purpose and that you would not be brought back to Us?'

116. Whereas Highly Exalted is Allâh, the Monarch, the Truly Existing One. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, the Lord of the Glorious Throne!

117. And he who calls upon another god along with Allâh for (the god head of) which he has no proof, shall have to render an account to his Lord. Certainly, such disbelievers will never gain their object.

118. And say (in your prayer), `My Lord! protect and have mercy, and you are the Best of those who show mercy.'

Chapter

Al-Nûr

(The Light)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Nûr).

1. (This is) a (highly dignified) Sûrah which We have revealed and (the ordinances of) which We have made obligatory and We have revealed in it clear commandments so that you may rise to great eminence.

2. Strike the fornicatress and adulteress and the fornicator and adulterer on the body of each one of them a hundred times. (This is the extreme limit,) and let no feelings of pity for the two hold you from obedience to Allâh (in executing His judgment), if you believe in Allâh and the Last Day. And let a section of the believers be present (there at the time of the execution of) their punishment.

3. The fornicator and adulterer cannot have sexual relations (without lawful marriage) except with a fornicatress and adulteress or polytheistic woman (of low morality), and the fornicatress and adulteress, none can have sexual relations with her except a fornicator and adulterer or a polytheistic man (of low morality). And this (adultery and fornication) is forbidden to the believers.

4. Strike eighty times on the bodies of those who calumniate chaste women and who do not support (their accusation) with four witnesses, and never accept their testimony (because) it is they who are the disobedient (and break the law);

5. Except those who repent after this and make amends, they will find Allâh Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

6. And those who charge their wives of adultery and have no witnesses (to support

their charge) except their own selves, let each (husband) bear testimony (repeating it) four times over calling Allâh to witness that he is surely of those who speak the truth in (the matter of) charging his wife (of adultery).

7. And the fifth (time he should say on oath) that Allâh's wrath be upon him if he be of the liars.

8. But it shall avert the punishment from her (- the wife) if she calling Allâh to witness testifies four times over that he is of the liars (in bringing this charge against her).

9. And the fifth (time she should say on oath) that the wrath of Allâh be upon her if he (- her husband) has spoken the truth (about her).

10. But for Allâh's grace and His mercy (which rests) upon you and (but for the fact) that Allâh is Oft-Returning (with compassion), All-Wise (you would have come to grief).

SECTION 2

11. Verily, those (- hypocrites) who brought the false accusation (against *âishah*, the wife of the Prophet), are a section of your own people. Do not think this (- incident) to be bad for you, rather it is good for you. (As for the accusers,) everyone of them shall receive (his due punishment according to) that which he has accomplished in the form) of sin. As for him (- *Abdullâh bin Ubayy bin Salûl*) who among them took the principal part thereof (in fabricating and spreading malicious scandal against her) there awaits him a grievous punishment.

12. When you heard of this (accusation) why did not the believing men and believing women have a better opinion in respect of their own people and say, 'This (charge) is an obvious lie?'

13. Why did they (- the fabricators of this charge) not bring four witnesses in support of this (accusation of theirs)? Since they failed to produce the (required) witnesses, it is they who are the very liars in the sight of Allâh.

14. But for the fact that Allâh has shown His grace and mercy to you in the present world, and in the next a great punishment would have certainly befallen you on account of that (slander) which you spread.

15. When (some of) you began to learn this (slander) from each others tongues, you gave tongue to that (rumour and made statements) of which you had no knowledge; and you considered it a trivial thing while it was grave in the sight of Allâh.

16. And why did you not say as soon as you heard of it, 'It does not behove us to talk like this. Holy are You (O Gracious God). This is a monstrous calumny,'

17. If you are (true) believers (you should bear in mind that) Allâh admonishes you never to repeat such a thing again.

18. And Allâh explains to you (His) commandments and Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

19. Those who love to spread immorality among the disbelievers, will have a woeful punishment in this world and the next. And Allâh knows while you do not know (the consequences of this evil).

20. But for the grace of Allâh and His mercy (that rests) upon you and (but for the fact) that Allâh is most Compassionate, Ever Merciful (none of you would have ever been so chaste and pure).

SECTION 3

21. **O** you who believe! do not follow the footsteps of satan. He that follows the footsteps of satan (should remember that) he (- satan) surely enjoins immorality and indecency. But for the grace of Allâh and His mercy (that rests) upon you, not one of you would ever have been pure, but Allâh purifies him who wishes (to be purified). And Allâh is All-Hearing, All- Knowing.

22. And let not those of you who are possessed of grace (with moral virtue) and of plenty (of riches like *Abû Bakr*) swear that they will give nothing to the kindred, the needy and those who have left their homes for the cause of Allâh, but let them forgive and forbear (the offence). Do you not desire that Allâh should protect you (against your faults)? And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

23. Those who calumniate chaste, unwary, innocent believing women stand cursed in the present life and the Hereafter, and there awaits them a grievous punishment.

24. On the Day (of Requit) when their tongues and their hands and their feet shall bear witness against them for the (evil) deeds they used to do.

25. On that Day Allâh will pay them in full their just dues and they shall know that Allâh alone is the Absolute Truth, (and as well makes the Truth) manifest.

26. The evil and impure deeds are (a characteristic) of impure people and the bad and impure people are (inclined) towards the bad and impure deeds. Similarly good and pure deeds are (a characteristic) of good and pure people and the good and pure people are (inclined) towards good and pure deeds. It is they (- the good and pure) who are innocent of all that they (- the accusers) may allege (about them). There awaits them protection and an honourable and generous provision.

SECTION 4

27. **O** you who believe! do not enter houses other than your own unless you have obtained willing permission and (mind!) you should greet the inmates of these (houses). That is better for you. You have been given this commandment that you may be heedful.

28. But if you find nobody in them do not enter therein, unless you have got (from the owners or the rightful care-taker previous) permission. And go back if you are told to go back, that would be pure and best for you. Indeed, Allâh is Well-Aware of all that you do.

29. It is no sin on your part to enter (freely) non-residential houses wherein your goods are lying. And Allâh knows all that you profess and all that you conceal.

30. Tell the believers to restrain their looks (in the presence of women not closely related to them and so lawful for marriage) and guard their chastity. That is purer and best for them. Surely, Allâh is Well-Aware of what they do.

31. And tell the believing women to restrain their looks (also in the presence of men who are not near of kin and so lawful for marriage) and guard their chastity and not to disclose their (natural and make-up) beauty except such as cannot be helped (and is apparent) and draw their head coverings over their bosoms, and they should not display their beauty save to their husbands or to their fathers or to their fathers-in-law or to their own sons or to the sons of their husbands or to their own brothers, or to the sons of their brothers or to the sons of their sisters or their women (who are their decent companions) or to their bondsmen or to such of their male attendants as have no sexual appetite or to such young children as have yet no knowledge of the frailties of women. And let them not strike (the ground with) their feet so that which they (must) hide of their beauty or adornment) may become known. And (O believers!) turn to Allâh; one and all, that you may attain (true happiness and) your ultimate goal.

32. Arrange marriages for those of you who are single and for your male and female

slaves as are deserving and fit (to lead a married life). If they are poor Allâh will grant them means out of His bounty; Bountiful is Allâh, All-Knowing.

33. And those who find no (means of) marriage should (exercise restraint and) keep themselves chaste until Allâh grants them means (to marry) out of His grace and bounty. (There is another commandment,) as for those of your bondsmen (or women) as ask for a written contract (of freedom for themselves on payment of ransom), write this (deed of manumission for them) provided you find good capabilities in them and give them out of Allâh's wealth which He has given you. (Another commandment for you is that,) with a mind to gain (by this unrighteous means) the benefits of the present life do not constrain your slave-girls to unchaste life (by keeping them unmarried) when they desire (to marry) to preserve their virtue. But if anybody forces them (to abstain from marrying and to become unchaste) they will find, after they are forced, that God is Most Forgiving, Ever Merciful.

34. And We have sent down to you revelations which explain (to you the truth) and (have also revealed) some accounts of those who have passed away before you, and (we have sent in addition) an exhortation for those who guard against

evil.

SECTION 5

35. Allâh is the Extensive Light of the heavens and the earth. His light can be compared to a (lustrous) pillar on which a lamp is put. The lamp is inside a crystal globe. The globe of glass is as if it were a glittering star. It (- the lamp) is lit by (the oil of) a blessed olive tree which belongs neither to the east nor to the west (rather welds the whole world in its fold). Its oil is likely to glow forth of itself even if no fire touch it. This (lamp) is a combination of many lights over and over. Allâh guides towards His light whoever desires (to be enlightened). And Allâh sets forth excellent parables for the people, and Allâh alone has full knowledge of every thing.

36. (This light is now lit) in houses (of the Companions) which Allâh has ordained to be exalted and His name be commemorated in them. Therein (are such as) glorify Him in the mornings and the evenings,

37. Men whom neither trade nor sale distracts from exalting (the name of) Allâh and

from the observance of Prayer and from presenting *Zakât* (- purifying dues) regularly. They dread the day when the hearts and the eyes will be in a state of agitation and anguish;

38. With the result that Allâh will give them the reward according to their fairest deeds and will (even) give them much more by His grace and bounty. And Allâh does provide without measure to whom He will.

39. And (as to) those who disbelieve, their deeds are like a mirage in a desert, the thirsty man assumes it to be water until he comes up to it and finds it is nothing at all. And (instead of water by his side) he finds (that) Allâh (has always been present) with him, and He then pays him his account in full, and Allâh is Swift at reckoning.

40. Or (the deeds of the disbelievers are) like thick utter darkness of the fathomless deep sea, waves on top of which there are higher waves covering its surface which is overcast by clouds. These are (layers of) darkness (piled) one upon the other (as opposed to light upon light for the believers) so that a person, however much he may try, can hardly see his hand when he holds it out. Indeed, there is no light at all for the person whom Allâh gives no light.

SECTION 6

41. **H**ave you not pondered that it is Allâh Whose praises celebrate those who are in the heavens and on the earth, and (so do) the birds on the wings. Each one of them knows his own (way of) prayer and glorification (according to his or its own faculties). And Allâh knows well what they do.

42. And to Allâh belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and to Allâh shall all (human beings) eventually return.

43. Have you not seen that Allâh drives the clouds steadily then He draws them together and then He makes them piled up so that you can see the rain pouring forth from their midst? And He sends down clouds (looking) like mountain, wherein is hail and He smites with them whom He pleases and averts them from whom He pleases. The (brilliant) flash of its lightening almost snatches away the sight (rendering the eyes sometimes blind).

44. Allâh sets the cycle of the night and the day. Surely, in this (law of retardation and acceleration working in this phenomenon of nature) is indeed a lesson (about the spiritual evolution of a human being) for those possessed of understanding.

45. And Allâh has created every animal from water. Some of them move upon their bellies and some move upon two feet and some among them move upon four. Allâh

creates what He please. Verily, Allâh is Possessor of every power to do what He will.

46. We have certainly sent down revelations which explain the truth. And Allâh guides him who desires (to be guided) to the exact straight path.

47. And (some of the) people say, `We believe in Allâh and the Messenger and obey (them). But even after (professing) this a section of them (- the hypocrites) turn away. Such are no believers at all.

48. When they are summoned before Allâh and His Messenger, that he may judge between them, lo! a party of them turn away.

49. But if (they consider that) the right is on their side they come to him running showing submission.

50. Is it that their minds are diseased? Or do they suffer from doubts? Or do they fear that Allâh and His Messenger will deal with them unjustly? Nay, (wrong are their misgivings,) it is they themselves who are the unjust.

SECTION 7

51. The only response of the believers, when they are summoned before Allâh and His Messenger so that he may judge between them, is that they say, `We hear and we obey.' It is they who will attain their goal.

52. And those who obey Allâh and His Messenger and hold Allâh in awe and take Him as a shield (for protection) it

is they who shall be triumphant.

53. They (- the hypocrites) swear to Allâh by their most earnest oaths that if you only command them (for defensive fight) they will certainly march forth (from their homes). Say, `Do not swear, only reasonable obedience in what is right and lawful (is all that is required from you).' Surely, Allâh is Aware of what you do.

54. Say, `Obey Allâh and obey the Messenger.' But if you turn your back (remember that) he (- the Messenger) is responsible for what he is charged with (- the responsibility of conveying the Message) and you are responsible for what you are charged with (- the responsibility of following him). Indeed if you obey him you will be following the right path. (But if you do not, bear in mind,) the Messenger is not responsible but for the delivery (of the message to all) in clear terms.

55. Allâh has promised those of you who believe and do deeds of righteousness that surely, He will make them successors (vouchsafed with both spiritual and temporal leadership) on the earth as He made successors (from among) their predecessors, and that He will surely establish for them their Faith which He has approved for them, and that He will surely replace their state of fear with a state of security and peace. They will worship Me (alone) and they will not associate anything with Me. And those who show ingratitude for all the favours done to them after that (His promise is fulfilled), it is they who will be reckoned as the worst disobedient.

56. And (believers!) observe the Prayer, keep on presenting the *Zakât* (purifying dues) and obey the Messenger that you may be shown mercy.

57. Think not (O reader!) that those who disbelieve can ever be able to frustrate (Our plan on the earth) and escape Us. Their abode is Fire; what an evil resort!

SECTION 8

58. **O** you who believe! it is binding on those whom your right hands possess (domestic servants) and those (of your children) who have not reached the age of puberty to ask your permission (before coming into your private rooms) in three instances, before the morning Prayer, and when you lay aside your clothes due to the heat (in summer) at noon and after the night Prayer. These are three times when your privacy should be respected. At other times no blame shall lie on you or on them (if they come to you without permission), for they have to move about (waiting upon you) some of you (attending) upon others (according to need). That is how Allâh explains to you His commandments, for Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

59. When the children among you reach the age of puberty they (too) should seek permission (to come to your rooms) just as those (elderly people mentioned) before them do. That is how Allâh explains to you His commandments and Allâh is All-

Knowing, All-Wise.

60. And (as to the elderly spinsters who are past child-bearing age and) who do not hope for sexual intercourse, it is no offence for them to lay aside their outer garments provided they do not do it to display their beauty. But if they abstain (even from that) it is much better for them. Indeed Allâh is All-Hearing, All- Knowing.

61. There is no bar on (and not improper for) the blind, nor is there any bar on (nor improper for) the lame, nor is any bar on (nor improper for) the sick, nor on your people that you eat from your own houses, or the houses of your fathers (and children) or the houses of your mothers, or the houses of your brothers, or the houses of your sisters, or the houses of your paternal uncles, or the houses of your paternal aunts, or the houses of your maternal uncles, or the houses of your maternal aunts, or (from) that of which the keys are in your possessions (- which is under your charge), or (from the house of) a friend of yours. No blame lies on you whether you eat together or separately. And when you enter houses greet your people (present therein) with the salutation prescribed by Allâh (a salutation) full of blessings and purity. That is how Allâh explains to you (His) commandments that you may abstain (from evils).

SECTION 9

62. True believers are only those who believe in Allâh and His Messenger, and who when they are with him (- the Messenger to confer) upon any matter of common importance which has brought (them) together, do not leave (the Messenger) until they have asked permission of him. Surely, it is those who ask your permission who (truly) believe in Allâh and His Messenger. So when they ask your permission for some (urgent and important) affair of their own, give your permission to whom you will of them and ask Allâh's protection for them. Verily, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

63. (Believers!) do not treat the call of the Messenger among yourselves like the call of one of you to another. Allâh indeed knows those of you who sneak away stealthily (from the conference). So let those who go against His command beware, lest some calamity should befall them or they receive some painful punishment.

64. Beware! whatever is in the heavens and on the earth belongs to Allâh. He ever knows in what state you are (and

He knows what you are holding to). The day when all people shall be made to return to Him, He will tell them all they had been doing, for Allâh is the Possessor of full knowledge of everything.

Chapter

25

Al-Furqân

(The Standard of True and False)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Furqân).

1. **Blessed is He Who revealed *Al-Furqân* (- this Qur'ân) to His servant that he may be a Warner to all the peoples.**
2. It is He to Whom the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth belongs. And He has begotten nor taken to Himself a son, nor is there any associate with Him in the sovereignty. He has created everything and has determined its proper measure.
3. Yet people worship apart from Him gods who, rather than create anything, are themselves created and who have no power of (averting) harm or (doing) good to themselves, nor have they any control over death or life or Resurrection.
4. But those who disbelieve say, `This (Qur'ân) is nothing but a big lie which he (- the false claimant to Prophethood) has forged and other people have helped him in this,' (by) so (saying) they have perpetrated a great injustice and a big falsehood.
5. They (also) say, `(This Qur'ân consists of) fables of the ancients that he has got written down and now they are read out to him morning and evening.'
6. Say, `He Who knows every secret of the heavens and the earth has revealed this (Qur'ân). Verily, He is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.'

7. They say, 'What sort of a Messenger is this that he even eats food and (also) goes about in the market-places? Why has no angel been sent down to him that he may (help him and) be a warner along with him?'

8. 'Or a treasure should have been sent to him or there should have been a garden from which he might eat.' Not only that, these unjust people say, 'You follow none but a (mere) man who is given food.'

9. Look, what fantastic stories they concoct with regard to you! It is therefore that they have gone astray and are unable to find a way.

SECTION 2

10. **Blessed is He Who** is pleased to assign to you (at the time of the Final victory of the Muslims) better than that (garden they devise for you) gardens (of Mesopotamia) served with running streams (rivers like Euphrates, Tigris and *Jihûn* and *Sihûn*), and will also assign to you palaces (of the Persian and Byzantine Emperors, and also the treasures of Chosroes and Caesars would be placed at your feet).

11. Nay, (the real fact is) they (- the disbelievers) cry lies to the Hour (of the evil doom of the disbelievers and final victory of the Muslims) and We have in store a blazing hell for him who cries lies to the Hour.

12. When it (- the blazing Fire) sees them from afar, they will hear its raging and roaring.

13. And when they are thrown into some narrow place of it, chained in fetters, they will call out for (total) destruction, there and then.

14. (It will be said to them,) 'This is no time to call out for a single death, you had better call out for a series of deaths.'

15. Say, 'Is this (end) better or the everlasting Paradise which is promised to those who guard against evil and which is their due reward and (ultimate) resort.'

16. They shall have there all that they desire and they will abide (in this state of bliss for ever). It is a promise binding on your Lord (and) to be always earnestly prayed for (from Him).

17. Beware of the day when He will gather them together, and the things they worship, apart from Allâh. He will ask,

`Was it you who led these servants of mine astray or did they themselves stray away from the right path?'

18. They will say, `Holy is Your name! It did not behove us to take patrons apart from You. But You bestowed on them and their fathers the good things of life to such an extent that they gave up remembrance of You and became a ruined people.'

19. (Then We shall say to the idol-worshipers), `Now these (deities) have given you the lie (and contradict you) with regard to what you said, so (today) you have no power to avert (the penalty) or get help (of any sort for yourselves); (remember) whosoever of you acts unjustly and goes wrong we shall make him suffer a great punishment.'

20. And We sent no Messengers before you but they surely ate food and walked in the market-places (and were human models for you to follow in every walk of life). And We try you one with another (to show) if you will (then) patiently persevere. And your Lord is ever All-Seeing.

Part XIX

SECTION 3

21. Those who entertain no fear about being present before Us, nor do they expect it, say, 'Why should not the angels be sent down to us? Or we see our Lord?' They have indeed thought very highly of themselves and have exceeded all limits of transgression.

22. (Do they not realize that) the day when they will see the angels there will be no good tidings that day for those who cut off their ties (with God), and they will say (in distress), 'Would that there were some strong barrier (between us and this punishment).'

23. And We have turned (Our attention) to whatsoever attempt they have made (against Islam) and so We will render this (attempt) like thin dust particles scattered about (as it was in the battle of *Badr*).

24. (Only) the owners of Paradise will be better off with regard to (their) abode and happier still in respect of (their) place of repose.

25. (Call to mind) the day when the heaven shall burst and melt into raining clouds and the angels shall be made to descend in large numbers;

26. The true sovereignty that day shall belong only to the Most Gracious (God) and it shall be really a (very) hard day for the disbelievers.

27. On that day the unjust shall bite his hands (in regret); he will say, 'If only I had followed the (same) path along with the Messenger!

28. 'Ah, woe is me! would that I had not made friends with so and so.

29. 'He indeed led me astray from this source of rising to eminence (- the Qur'ân) after it had come to me. And satan is ever a deserter of human being (in the hour of need).

30. And (on that Day) the Messenger will say, 'My Lord! my people treated even this Qur'ân (full of blessings) as (a thing) abandoned.

31. (Just as We have turned them into your enemies) so do We make those who cut

off their ties (with Allâh) as the enemies of each and every Prophet. Yet your Lord is sufficient to guide and (enough) in respect of rendering help.

32. And those who disbelieve say, `Why has not (the whole of) the Qur'ân been revealed to him all at once? (But We have revealed it) in this manner (- piece by piece out of necessity). And (inspite of the fact that it has not been revealed all at once,) We have arranged it in an excellent (form and order of) arrangement (and free of all contradictions) so that We may thereby lend strength to your heart.

33. They bring you no parable (by way of an objection) but We have provided you with the true fact and perfect interpretation (of it, in answer to the objection beforehand).

34. And those who shall be brought to Gehenna dragged on their faces (and along with their leaders) are the worst placed and they have completely lost the straight path.

SECTION 4

35. And We gave Moses the Scripture and made with him his brother Aaron a sharer of (his) burden.

36. We said, `Go both of you to the people who have cried lies to Our commandments. Then (when they had accomplished their mission of conveying the Message and were again rejected) We destroyed these disbelievers with an utter destruction.

37. And (We destroyed) the people of Noah (too), when they treated (Our) Messengers as liars, We drowned them and made them a sign (to learn a lesson from) for mankind. Indeed We have in store a woeful punishment for (such of) the wrongdoers.

38. And (tribes of) `âd and Thamûd and the People of the Rass and many a generation in between them (were all destroyed).

39. And for (the guidance of) each one (of them) We quoted excellent pieces of advice and (when they still persisted in refusal) We ruined each one of them, a complete ruination.

40. And certainly these (Makkan disbelievers) pass by the (ruined) township (of Sodom situated on the highway between Arabia and Syria) which suffered a painful rain (of stones). Have they not been seeing (the ruins of) this (township of the people of Lot). Why, they have been, (but the reason behind their refusal is) they do not

(believe and) expect not to be resurrected (after death and to be called to account for their deeds).

41. And Whenever they see you they treat you disdainfully (saying), `What! is this the man whom Allâh has raised for

a Messenger?

42. `He indeed had well-nigh led us astray from our gods if we had not adhered to them steadfastly.' And they shall soon know for certain, when they see the punishment who had completely lost the straight path.

43. Have you considered (over the plight of) one who has taken his own low desires for his deity? Can you then be a guardian over such a one?

44. Do you think that most of these (opponents) can hear and understand (what you say)? They are only like cattle, rather they are even worse in their ways and behaviour.

SECTION 5

45. **Do** you not see (the wonderful doing of) your Lord how He stretches the shadow? If He had pleased He could have made it still. Not only that (We stretch the shadow) We make (the position of) the sun its indicator.

46. Then (as the sun rises higher in the sky), We withdraw it (- the shadow) to Ourselves; a gradual withdrawing.

47. It is He Who has made the night as a covering mantle for you and (Who has made) sleep for (a short) rest (as well as a sign of eternal rest - the death), and (has made) the day for rising up and going about (to seek livelihood and also a sign of Resurrection).

48. And it is He Who sends the winds as happy heralds of His mercy, and We send down from above water (also representing Divine revelation) for the purification (of the souls as well).

49. That We may thereby bring the dead land to life and give it as a drink to (most of the things) whom We have created, beasts and mankind in large numbers.

50. And We have explained this (topic) to them in diverse ways so that they may take heed, but most of the people would refuse (to adopt any other attitude) except (that of) disbelief.

51. If We had so willed We would surely have raised (in place of universal Prophethood) a Warner in every town.

52. So do not follow the disbelievers, and strive hard against them with the help of this (Qur'ân), a mighty striving.

53. It is He Who has let the two spans of water loose to flow, one of them (- a river) sweet and thirst-quenching while the other (a sea) saltish (and) bitter, and He has set a barrier and an insurmountable partition between them; (still both exist side by side in the world and would continue).

54. And it is He Who created human being from water and has given him relations by descent and (kindred) by marriage (and thus sought to establish a civilization and social life based on oneness of humanity under oneness of God). And your Lord is All-Powerful.

55. Yet they (- the disbelievers) worship apart from Allâh the things which can neither do them good nor avert harm from them. And the disbeliever is ever a helper (of the upholders of the cause of untruth) against his Lord.

56. But We have sent you only as a Bearer of happy tidings (to the doers of good) and as a Warner (to the wicked and the unjust).

57. Say, `I ask of you no recompense for it (- the services I render). All that I ask is that whosoever chooses may follow the path (that leads) to his Lord.'

58. Hence put your trust in the Ever-Living (God) Who is free from death, and glorify His holiness along with (celebrating) His praise and (also tell,) `Sufficient is He as being Well-Aware of the short-comings of His servants.'

59. It is He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them in six aeons. Besides He is firmly established on the Throne (of Power). He is the Most Gracious (God). And ask concerning Him one who knows (- the Prophet Muḥammad).

60. And when it is said to them, `Prostrate (to show submission) to the Most Gracious

(God).' They say, 'What (thing) is this the Most Gracious (God)? Shall we prostrate to whatever you bid us to show submission?' So this (bidding of the Prophet to submit to the Lord) increased them in aversion (to the truth).

[Prostration]

SECTION 6

61. **Blessed is He Who has placed stars in the heaven and has set in it the glowing sun (that produces light) and the glittering moon (that reflects light).**

62. And it is He Who has made the night and the day, one following the other; (He has done it) for (the benefit of) the person who would care to receive exhortation and who would care to be grateful.

63. Those alone are the true servants of the Most Gracious (God) who walk upon the earth in all humility, (but in a dignified manner), and when the ignorant address them, they (do not wrangle but) observe a peaceful attitude.

64. And who pass the nights for the sake of their Lord prostrating and standing up (before Him in Prayer).

65. And who say (while praying), 'Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Gehenna, for its punishment is indeed most vehement and unshakable.

66. 'It is of course, an evil place to lodge temporarily and an evil abode to remain therein permanently.'

67. And (the true servants of God are those) who, when spending, are neither extravagant nor niggardly, (but their spendings follow) a middle course, ever moderate;

68. And who invoke none as god along with Allâh and who do not kill anyone whom Allâh has forbidden (to be killed), except for a just and lawful cause, and who do not commit fornication and adultery; and he who does (these things) shall meet the punishment of (his) sin.

69. His punishment shall be doubled on the Day of Resurrection. Humiliated and disgraced he shall suffer the punishment for long.

70. Different however shall be the case of him who turns (to God in repentance) and believes and does righteous deeds. For such people only Allâh will replace their evil deeds with good ones. And Allâh is Great Protector, Most Merciful.

71. And he who turns (to God in sincere repentance) and accordingly does righteous deeds, no doubt he turns to Allâh in proper and true repentance.

72. And those who do not give false evidence and when they pass by something vain they (do not indulge in it, but) pass on with dignity.

73. And who do not shut their ears and eyes to the commandments of their Lord (but listen to them attentively and with their eyes open) when they are reminded of them (so that their belief is based on conviction and not on mere hearsay).

74. And who (in their prayers) say, 'Grant that our wives and our children be (a source of) comfort for (our) eyes and make us a model for those who guard against evil.'

75. It is such of those who will be rewarded the highest place (in Paradise) for their fortitude and they will be received therein with greeting and salutation of peace.

76. They will abide therein (for ever). How excellent it is as a lodging place (to rest) and how noble as an abode for permanent stay.

77. Say (to the disbelievers), 'My Lord will not hold you to be of any worth if you do not call on Him (in your prayers seeking His protection). Since you cried lies (to the word of God), so you must now encounter a lasting punishment.'

Chapter

26

Al-Shu`arâ'

(The Poets)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Shu`arâ').

1. Tâ Sîn Mîm - Allâh is Benign, All-Hearing and All-Knowing.
2. These are the verses of the perfect Book which tells the right from the wrong (and which also makes the meaning and significance of the verses clear).
3. Perhaps you will consume yourself away (with anxiety) because they do not become believers.
4. If We so please We can send down upon them such a sign from above that their necks would bend (and heads bow down) in submission to it.
5. There never comes to them a fresh Reminder (in a new form and with new details) from the Most Gracious (God) but they turn away from it.
6. Now, when they have cried lies (to the Messages of their Lord and denied the Qur'ân), there will soon come to them the great tidings (about their own doom and predominance of Islam) which they used to take lightly.
7. Do they not see the earth, how many excellent and useful things of all species We have caused to grow on it?
8. Indeed, there is a sign in this, yet most of them would not believe.
9. And your Lord, of course, He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 2

10. And (recall the time) when your Lord called to Moses (directing him), `Go to the wrongdoing people,
11. `The people of Pharaoh (and say to them), "Will they not guard against evil?"
12. (Moses) said, `My Lord! I am afraid they will cry me lies.
13. `And my bosom straitens, (and my heart fails me), and my tongue is not fluent (for feeling inadequate to deliver

the message I am entrusted with), therefore send to Aaron (to help me).

14. `Moreover, they have a charge (of the murder of an Egyptian) against me, so I fear they will kill me (before I am able to deliver Your Message to them).'

15. (The Lord) said, `That shall not be, go then both of you, with Our Messages and We are assuredly with you listening (to your prayers).

16. `Go to Pharaoh both of you and say, "We are bearers of a Message from the Lord of the worlds.

17. "(Who commands you) to send the Children of Israel with us".'

18. (So when Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh) he said (to Moses), `Did we not bring you up among us when you were a mere babe? And you stayed with us many years of your life.

19. `And you have surely committed an act (of homicide), and you are of the ungrateful.'

20. (Moses) said, `Indeed I did it (then inadvertently and) as I was lost (for the love of my people and was in a perplexed state of mind).

21. `So I fled from you when I apprehended (injustice from) you; then (it came to pass that) my Lord granted me knowledge and (right) judgment and made me (one) of the Messengers.

22. `And this insignificant favour (of your bringing me up) that you (so tauntingly) remind me of (can be no reasonable excuse) for you have enslaved (the whole community of) the Children of Israel (for no fault of theirs).'

23. Pharaoh (was confounded and turning the topic of the conversation) said, `What is (this) Lord of the world (by whom you claim to be sent?)'

24. (Moses) said, `(In respect of space) He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth

and of all that lies between the two; if you (and your companions) be convinced (of this true knowledge and have faith in Him).'

25. (Thereupon Pharaoh) said to those around him, 'Do you not hear (what is being said)?'

26. (Moses continued, 'He is the same Who is) your Lord and the Lord of your fathers of yore.'

27. (Pharaoh) said, 'Most surely, this Messenger of yours who has been sent to you is a mad man indeed.'

28. (Moses) said (continuing his speech), '(In respect of time the Lord of the worlds is the same as) the Lord of the east and of the west and of all that lies between the two. (You can be rightly guided) if you could only use your senses.'

29. (Pharaoh) said, 'If you worship any god other than me, I will certainly make you one of the imprisoned.'

30. (Moses) said, '(Will you do this,) even though I bring to you something that makes (the truth of my statement) clear to you?'

31. (Pharaoh) said, 'Bring it then, if you are of the truthful.'

32. So he put his staff (on the ground) and behold, it was a serpent plainly visible.

33. And he stuck his hand out and lo! it was (shining) white to the beholders.

SECTION 3

34. (Pharaoh) said to the courtiers around him, 'This (man) is surely a skilled sorcerer,

35. 'Who seeks to turn you out of your country by dint of his sorcery. Now, what do you advise?'

36. They said, 'Detain him and his brother for a while and send heralds into the cities to collect;

37. 'And bring to you all skilled and very expert sorcerers.'

38. So the sorcerers were gathered together at the appointed time and place on a fixed day.

39. And it was said to the people, `Will you (also) assemble together (in the field of contest);

40. `So that we may follow the sorcerers if they win clear supremacy.'

41. So when all the sorcerers came they said to Pharaoh, `Shall we be really and richly rewarded if we gain clear supremacy?'

42. He said, `Yes, and surely you will in that case be among my close companions.'

43. Moses said to them, `(Now) put forward (of your things of sorcery), what you have to put forward.'

44. So they put down (on the ground) their ropes and their staffs and said, `By Pharaoh's honour and might it is we who will certainly be the winners.'

45. Then Moses put down (on the ground) his staff; lo! it instantly destroyed all that they had fabricated.

46. Thereupon the sorcerers were impelled to fall down prostrating;

47. And they said, `We believe in the Lord of the worlds;

48. `The Lord of Moses and Aaron.'

49. (Pharaoh) said, `Have you believed in him before I gave you leave? Indeed he is your chief, the same who taught you sorcery. So you will soon know (your horrible end). I will most surely cut off your hands and your feet on alternate sides for (your this) opposition (to me); and I will crucify you to death one and all.'

50. They said, `It does not matter at all. We have, after all, to return to our Lord.

51. `We do hope that our Lord will forgive us our offences, since we are the first to believe.'

SECTION 4

52. And We revealed to Moses (directing him), `Take away My servants by night for you shall certainly be pursued.'

53. Pharaoh (when he came to know of the exodus) sent heralds to the towns to collect (troops and announce saying),

54. `These (Israelites) are indeed a despicable party, a few in number,

55. `Yet they have offended us (by defying us and making good their escape),

56. `And we are, (as compared with them,) a united multitude, fully equipped and vigilant.'

57. So We made them (- Pharaoh and his troops) leave the land of gardens and springs,

58. As well as (every place with) treasures and every abode of honour (and grandeur).

59. That is what We did (for their wrong- doings). And We gave (the like of) these (- gardens and springs) as a free gift to the Children of Israel.

60. And they (- the hosts of Pharaoh) pursued them at sunrise.

61. And when the two hosts sighted each other the companions of Moses said, `We are surely overtaken.'

62. (Moses) said, `No, not at all, my Lord is with me, He will lead me out of the impasse (and to safety).'

63. Then We revealed to Moses (saying), `Strike the sea with your staff. (And as he did) so it parted, and each part (of the two hosts) looked like a huge mound.

64. And We caused the others (the pursuers, the people of Pharaoh,) draw near the same place.

65. And We saved Moses and those who were with him all together.

66. Then We drowned the others.

67. Behold! there is a (marvelous) sign in this (episode), yet most of them would not be believers.

68. And indeed your Lord, He is the All-Mighty (to crush His enemies), the Ever Merciful (towards His servants).

SECTION 5

69. And narrate to them the important event (of the life) of Abraham.

70. When he said to his sire and his people, 'What things are those which you worship?'

71. 'We worship idols and will remain constantly devoted to them,' said they.

72. Abraham said, 'Can they listen to you when you call (on them)?'

73. 'Or can they do you good or avert harm from you?'

74. They said, 'Nay, it is not so, but we found our fathers doing likewise.'

75. (Abraham) said, 'But have you (ever) considered what you have been worshipping,

76. 'You and your fathers before you,

77. 'They are (all) enemies to me. Different however is the case of the Lord of the world (Who is kind to me).

78. 'He has created me and it is He Who will guide me to reach the goal.

79. 'And Who gives me food and drink,

80. 'And Who restores me to health, (through His grace and mercy), whenever I am taken ill (due to some fault of mine),

81. 'And Who will call me to death and then will raise me to life (again).

82. 'And Who, I eagerly hope, will protect me from (the undesirable consequences of) my faults on the Day of Requital.'

83. (Abraham then turned to his Lord and said,) `My Lord! grant me strong and right judgment and make me follow and join the righteous.

84. `And ordain for me a noble, true and lasting reputation among posterity;

85. `And make me one of the heirs of the Garden of Great Bliss.

86. `And protect my sire (- âzar against his faults), he is of course of the erring ones.

87. `And do not put me to shame and disgrace on the day when people will be resurrected,

88. `The day when wealth will not avail, nor sons (be of any good),

89. `But (he alone will be saved) who comes to Allâh with a sound and pure heart.'

90. (The day when) Paradise will be brought near to those who guard against evil,

91. And Gehenna shall be unveiled and placed in full view to those (wretched ones) who had deviated from the right path;

92. And who shall be asked, `Where are (your deities) that you worshipped,

93. `Apart from Allâh? Can they come to your help or inflict punishment?'

94. Then they (- the false deities) shall all be hurled headlong into the depths of it (- the Hell), again and again, and along with them all those (wretched fellows) who had deviated from the right path.

95. And the supporters of *Iblîs* all together.

96. They will say disputing therein (- in the Hell) among themselves,

97. `By Allâh! we were certainly in manifest (and deep) error,

98. `In holding you (- deities) as equal with the Lord of the worlds,

99. `And none but those who cut off their ties with Allâh led us astray,

100. `So that (now) we have none of the intercessors,

101. `Nor any warm-hearted true friend.

102. `Could we have but another (chance to) return (to the world) then we would surely become of the (true) believers.'

103. Verily, there is a remarkable sign in this (episode of Abraham's life), yet most of the people would not be believers.

104. And of course your Lord, He is the All-Mighty (to crush and obliterate His enemies and), the Ever Merciful (to the supporters of true faith).

SECTION 6

105. The people of Noah cried lies to the Messengers.

106. (Recall the time) when their kinsman Noah said to them, `Will you not guard against evil?

107. `Surely, I am to you a Messenger, faithful to (my) trust.

108. `So take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

109. `And I ask no reward from you for it (- the delivery of the Message of God). My reward lies with the Lord of the worlds alone.

110. `So take Allâh as a shield and obey me.'

111. They (- the disbelievers) said, `Shall we believe in you whereas (we see that) only the people of a very low status follow you?'

112. He said, `I have no knowledge what (good) deeds they did (in the past that now they have the honour to accept the truth).

113. `It is only up to my Lord to call them to account; if you could but perceive.

114. `I cannot drive away the believers (thinking them to be of low status).

115. `I am but a plain Warner.'

116. `Noah!' they said, `If you do not desist, you shall be excommunicated or done away with.'

117. (Noah) said (praying), `My Lord! my people have treated me as a liar,

118. `So judge between me and them, a decisive judgment, and deliver me and the believers who are with me.'

119. So We delivered him and all those who were with him by means of the fully-laden Ark.

120. Then after that We drowned the remaining ones.

121. Behold! there is a great sign in this (episode), yet most of them would not be believers.

122. And indeed your Lord, He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 7

123. (The tribe of) `âd (too) cried lies to the Messengers (sent to them).

124. (Recall the time) when their kinsman Hûd said to them, `Will you not guard against evil?

125. `Surely, I am to you a Messenger; faithful to (my) trust.

126. `Therefore take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

127. `I ask no reward from you for this (service I render). My reward lies only with the Lord of the worlds.

128. `What is (wrong with you)? You build a monument on every prominent place, in vain you do it.

129. `And you raise fortresses in the hope that you will abide till long.

130. `And when you lay hold (on anyone), you do it like tyrants.

131. `You should take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

132. `And take Him as a shield Who has helped you with all (the favours and blessings) that you know of.

133. `He has helped you with cattle and sons,

134. `And gardens and springs.

135. `Indeed, I fear lest the punishment of an awful day should befall you.'

136. They said, `It makes no difference with us whether you admonish us or be not of the admonishers.

137. `This way (of admonition) is merely the manner of the ancients.

138. `And we are not at all going to be punished.'

139. Thus they cried him lies and We destroyed them. There is indeed, a remarkable sign in this (episode), yet most of them would not be believers.

140. And infact your Lord, He is the All-Mighty (to crush and obliterate His enemies), and the Ever Merciful (towards His obedient servants).

SECTION 8

141. (The tribe of) Thamûd (too) cried lies to the Messengers.

142. (Recall the time) when their kinsman Sâlih said to them, `Will you not guard against evil?

143. `Surely, I am to you a Messenger, faithful to (my) trust.

144. `So take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

145. `I ask no reward from you for this (service I render). My reward lies with the Lord of the worlds alone.

146. `(Do you think that) you will be left in peace amidst all (enjoyable things) which you have here,

147. `Amidst gardens and springs,

148. `And cornfields and date-palms having (fine and heavy) spathes near breaking.

149. `And you hew out houses in the mountains with great skill and elated with your greatness.

150. `Take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

151. `And do not obey the biddings of those who exceed the bounds.

152. `Who create disorder in the country and set not (things) in order (to promote security and peace).'

153. They said, `You are merely one of those (mortals) who are (dependent on being) given food.

154. `You are nothing but a human being like ourselves. So bring (us) a sign if you are of the truthful.'

155. (Sâlih) said, `Here is a she-camel. She will have her share of water (at the water-course), while you will have your share of water at a time appointed (for you).

156. `And you shall do her no harm otherwise the punishment of an awful day shall befall you.'

157. Notwithstanding (all this warning) they hamstrung her and then they became regretful.

158. Consequently (the threatened) punishment overtook them. Behold! there is a remarkably great sign in this (episode); yet most of them would not be believers.

159. And indeed your Lord, He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 9

160. And the people of Lot cried lies to the Messengers.

161. (Recall the time) when their kinsman Lot said to them, `Will you not guard against evil?

162. `Verily, I am to you a Messenger, faithful to (my) trust.

163. `So take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

164. `And I ask no reward from you for this (service I render). My reward lies with the Lord of the worlds alone.

165. `(Is it not true that) of all people you alone approach males (for sexual satisfaction),

166. `And leave that (abode of love) which your Lord has created for you in your wives. `Nay, (the real fact is) you are a people who know no limits.'

167. They said, `If you desist not (of admonishing us for sodomy) O Lot! you shall indeed be of the banished ones.'

168. He said, `I surely abhor your practice (of going to males),

169. `My Lord! save me and my followers from (the evil consequences) of their deeds.'

170. So We saved him and his followers, all of them,

171. Except an old woman (- wife of Lot), who was among those who stayed behind,

172. Then We destroyed the others.

173. And We pelted them with a terrible rain (of stones). Look! how terrible was the rain (that descended) upon those who were warned.

174. There is a great sign in this (episode), yet most of them would not be believers.

175. And indeed your Lord, He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 10

176. The dwellers of the Wood (in Midian) cried lies to the Messengers.

177. (Recall) when Shu`aib said to them, `Will you not guard against evil?

178. `Indeed, I am to you a Messenger, faithful to (my) trust.

179. `Therefore take Allâh for (your) shield and obey me.

180. `And I ask no reward from you for it (- the services I render). Surely, my reward lies with the Lord of the worlds alone.

181. `Give full measure and be not of those who give short;

182. `And weigh with even and balanced scales.

183. `And do not defraud people of their things. Do not go about acting corruptly, creating disorder in the country.

184. `Take Him Who has created you and former generations as a shield.'

185. They said, `You are simply of those who stand in need of being given food.

186. `And you are but a human being like ourselves; as a matter of fact we believe you to be of the liars.

187. `So let a fragment of the cloud fall upon us (by way of punishment) if you are of the truthful.'

188. (Shu`aib thereupon) said, `My Lord knows best all that you do.'

189. Yet they cried him lies, so the punishment of the gloomy day with dark overshadowing clouds overtook them; it was indeed the punishment of an awful day.

190. Behold! there is a great sign in this (episode), yet most of them would not be believers.

191. Though infact your Lord, He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful

SECTION 11

192. And verily this (Qur'ân) is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds.
193. The Spirit, Faithful to the Trust (- Gabriel) has descended with it.
194. (Revealing it) to your heart with the result that you became of the Warners (- a Prophet of God);
195. (The Qur'ân has been revealed) in plain and clear Arabic language.
196. Verily, it (is the Book which) finds mention in the Scriptures of the earlier peoples.
197. Is it not a sufficient proof for them that the learned among the Children of Israel recognize it (- the Qur'ân)?
198. And if We had revealed it to one of the non-Arabs,
199. And he had recited this (eloquent word of God in Arabic) to them, (even then) they would never have believed in it.
200. That is how We cause it (- the disbelief) take root in the hearts of those who cut off their ties (with God),
201. (That) they will not believe in it until they see the grievous punishment.
202. So this (punishment) will come upon them all of a sudden (taking them unaware), while they do not perceive (and calculate it).
203. They will say then, `Shall we be given some respite?'
204. Is that why they seek to expedite Our punishment?
205. Do you not see that even if We let them enjoy (worldly bounties) for some more years,
206. And then that (punishment) with which they are threatened befalls them;
207. That (respite) which they were allowed to enjoy will be of no avail to them?

208. And never did We destroy (any people of) a township but it had (its) Warners;

209. So that they may be admonished and We are never unjust.

210. It was not the evil ones who have brought this (Qur'ân) down.

211. It does neither suit them nor have they the power (to reveal it).

212. Infact, they (- the evil ones) are precluded from listening (to the Divine revelation).

213. Therefore call on no god beside Allâh, for (if you do) you will become of those who are (severely) punished.

214. And (Prophet!) warn your nearest kinsmen,

215. And be gentle and affectionate to the believers who follow you.

216. But if they (- your kinsmen) disobey you, say (to them), 'Surely, I am not responsible for what you do.'

217. And put your trust in the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful (God),

218. Who sees you (at the time) when you stand up (in Prayer, and also for calling the people to the right path).

219. And (Who sees) your moving about among those (Companions) who prostrate themselves (before the All-Mighty Lord).

220. Verily, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing

221. Shall I tell you to whom the evil ones appear?

222. They appear to every habitual and hardened liar (and) great sinner;

223. Who listen eagerly (to what the evil ones say), yet mostly they tell them lies.

224. And (as for) the poets, it is the erring ones who follow them.

225. Do you not see how they wander distracted in every valley,

226. And they say (such things) which they do not practice (themselves),

227. Except those (poets) who believe and do deeds of righteousness and who mention the greatness of Allâh over and over again and who retaliate (and defend themselves) only after they are done injustice to. Behold! those who acted unjustly will soon know to what (a wretched) end they are heading for.

Chapter

27

Al-Naml

(The Tribe of Naml)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Naml).

1. Tâ Sîn - I am the Benign, the All-Hearing (God). These are the verses of the Qur'ân, of the Book that tells the right from the wrong and makes (the truth) manifest.
2. (It is) a guidance and good tidings to the believers;
3. Who observe Prayer and (regularly) spend in charity and who are such people as have firm faith in the Hereafter.
4. (As to those) who do not believe in the Hereafter We had made their deeds (they ought to do) fair-seeming to them, but they wander on aimlessly (making all sorts of blunders).
5. It is they for whom there awaits a grievous punishment. It is these alone who shall be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.

6. And as a matter of fact you are being made to learn the Qur'ân from the presence of the All-Wise, the All-Knowing (God).

7. (Recall) when Moses said to his companions, `Surely I see with feelings of warmth, of love, something like a fire. I will soon bring you some important information from there or at least bring you a flaming brand so that you may warm yourselves.'

8. So when he came (close) to it (- the fire) he was called by a voice, `Blessed be he who is in quest of the fire (of Divine light) and blessed are those around this (place of the fire), Holy is Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.

9. `O Moses! the fact is that I am Allâh, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

10. `And put down your staff (on the ground).' When (Moses put down his staff) he saw it shifting about as if it were a tiny serpent with quick movements, he turned his back retreating and did not look behind. (Whereupon We said,) `O Moses! do not fear. Verily, I am the One in Whose presence the Messengers need have no fear.

11. `Nor (does he fear) who acts unjustly and commits some evil deed and then changes over to good after giving up evil. I am to such a person a Great Protector, Ever Merciful, indeed.

12. `And put your hand into your bosom, it will come forth (sparkling) white without any disease. (These are two signs) from among the nine signs (which you shall show) to Pharaoh and his people. They are truly a rebellious people.'

13. But when Our eye-opening signs were shown to them (- Pharaoh and his people) they said, `This is plain witchcraft (to cause disruption among the people).'

14. And they strongly rejected them (- the signs) out of spite and arrogance, although their minds were convinced of (the truth in) them. Look, then how (evil) was the end of those who acted corruptly.

SECTION 2

15. And We granted knowledge to David and Solomon, and they said, `All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh alone Who has exalted us over many of His believing servants.'

16. And Solomon succeeded David and he said, `O you people! we have been taught the language of the birds (and also the technique of horsemanship), and bestowed with everything (essential for us). This indeed is a distinct favour (of God and His

grace).'

17. And there were gathered together before Solomon his hosts comprising of *jinn* (- haughty) and (ordinary) men and birds and swift footed horses, and they were then arranged in separate well-disciplined columns.

18. (Once he was marching with them) until when they (his armies) reached the valley of (the tribe named) al-Naml, a distinguished Namlite said, 'O al-Naml! get into your habitations lest Solomon and his hosts should crush you unknowingly.'

19. Thereupon he (- Solomon) wondered and was pleased with (the good opinion the Namlite expressed about his own and his army's power and piety) and said (praying), 'My Lord! rouse me up that I may offer thanks for the favours You have shown me and my forefathers and that I should do such deeds as are righteous and may please You, and count

me through Your mercy with Your righteous servants.'

20. And (once) he reviewed the birds and the (cavalry of) swift running horses and said, 'How is it that I do not see (my officer named) Hudhud? Is he deliberately absent?'

21. 'I will certainly punish him very severely, rather I will execute him or else he must give me some valid excuse (for remaining absent).'

22. But he (- Solomon) had not to wait long (before Hudhud came) and said, 'I have acquired that information which you do not possess. I have come to you from (the territory of a Yemanite tribe) Saba' with sure and important news (to tell).'

23. 'I found (there) a (wonderful) woman ruling over them (- the Sabaeans) and she has been given everything (she requires) and owns a magnificent throne.'

24. 'I (also) found her and her people worshipping the sun instead of Allâh. And satan has made their deeds fair-seeming to them (so that they take pride in their practices), and has thus hindered them from the right way, so that they do not follow true guidance.'

25. `And (satan has done this) so that they do not worship Allâh while Allâh is He Who brings to light all that lies hidden in the heavens and the earth and knows all that you (O people!) conceal (in your minds) and all that you make known (of your designs).

26. `Allâh! there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, the Lord of the Mighty Throne.'

[Prostration]

27. (Thereupon Solomon) said, `We will now look into it and see whether you have spoken the truth or whether you are of the liars.

28. `Take this letter of mine, deliver it to them (-the people of Saba') then withdraw from them and wait what (answer) they make in return,

29. (When the Queen saw the letter) she said, `Chieftains! there has been delivered to me a noble letter.

30. `It is from Solomon and it says, "With the name of Allâh, the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful (I commence to write to you).

31. "Do not rise up against me but come to me (surrendering yourselves) in submission".'

SECTION 3

32. She said, `Chieftains! give me your sound and mature advice in the matter which confronts me, (for) I decide no important matter except when you are present with me (to advise).'

33. They said, `We are a people possessing (extraordinary) power and are gallant fighters; but as for the decision it rests with you, therefore you may thoroughly consider what order you want to give.'

34. She said, `Surely, when the kings enter a township (as invaders) they ruin it and reduce its most honourable residents to the most degraded positions. And such indeed will be their (- of Solomon and his men's) ways.

35. `I am going to send them a (significant) gift and shall wait to see what (answer) the envoys bring back.'

36. So when he (- the Queen's envoy) came (with the present) to Solomon he (-

Solomon) said, `Do you mean to help me with (your) wealth? Well, what Allâh has given me is far better than what He has given you. You seem to be rather proud of your gift.

37. `Go back to them (and tell your people that), we shall certainly come down upon them with hosts they have no power to withstand and we shall, surely, drive them out from there (- their country) disgraced, while they are subjugated?'

38. (Later on addressing his courtiers Solomon) said, `Nobles! which one of you will bring me a throne befitting her (- the Queen) before they come to me surrendering in submission.'

39. A stalwart from among the *jinn* said, `I will bring it to you (prepared as you desire), before you rise and depart from your place of encampment. Surely, I am strong and expert enough (to accomplish this task and can be) trusted (with it).'

40. One (Israelite) who had knowledge of the Scripture said, `I will bring it to you before your Yemanite (noble guests) come to you.' And when he (- Solomon) saw it (- the throne) set before him he said, `This is due to the grace of my Lord; so that He may reveal my inner self to show whether I am grateful (for all His favours) or ungrateful. Indeed, he who thanks, his thanksgiving is for his own good, and he who shows ingratitude (let him remember that) My Lord is truly Self-Sufficient (and is in need of no praise), Oft-Generous (and Noble in His own right).'

41. He (further) said, `Make her own (old) throne seem discredited to her (in her own estimation by making this new throne of a very excellent standard). We shall see (thereby) whether she follows the right way (by discarding her old idolatrous throne) or whether she is (one) of those who do not follow the right way.'

42. When she came (to Solomon) it was said to her, `Is your throne like this?' She said, `It is as though it were much

the same. We had been given the knowledge (about your excellence and perfection) before this and we have already surrendered in submission (to you).'

43. And (Solomon) held her back from the things she used to worship apart from Allâh, for she belonged to an unbelieving people.

44. It was said to her, 'Enter the palace.' And when she saw it she took it for a great expanse of water. She was greatly perturbed. (Solomon) said, 'It is a palace paved smooth with slabs of glass.' She (realizing the truth that she worshipped outward objects like the sun in place of Reality, the true God,) said, 'My Lord! I have done injustice to myself and (now) I submit myself through Solomon to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.'

SECTION 4

45. And (likewise) We sent to Thamûd their kinsman Sâlih, (who said), 'Worship Allâh.' But (as soon as they heard this preaching) they broke up into two factions who contended with each another.

46. He said, 'O my people! why do you seek to hasten on evil, rather than good, (and you ask for a sign of destruction instead of that of bliss for you)? Why do you not ask for Allâh's protection so that you may be shown mercy?'

47. They said, 'We have suffered due to you and your companions.' (Sâlih) said, 'Your deeds and true cause of your sufferings is with Allâh (Who is punishing you for your evil deeds). Nay, you are a people who are being tried (to distinguish the good of you from the bad).

48. And there were in the city a gang of nine (persons) who had upset the order and peace in the country and would not reform (themselves).

49. They said one to another, 'Let us swear by Allâh that we will surely make a raid on him (-Sâlih) and his family by night and then we will say to his claimant (- the next of kin, if he seeks vengeance) that we were not present at the time and place of the destruction of his family and most surely we speak the truth.'

50. And they hatched a plot and We likewise brought forth a counter plan of which they were not aware (that their plotting would go in vain).

51. Look, then how (evil) was the end their planning met; We utterly destroyed them and their people one and all.

52. So their houses are lying deserted over there because of their acting unjustly.

Indeed, in this (episode) there is a great sign for a people who would know.

53. (Whereas We destroyed them,) We saved those who had believed and used to guard against evil.

54. And (We also sent) Lot (as a Messenger). (Recall) when he said to his people, `Do you commit obscenity while you see (the evil thereof).

55. `What! (is it true) you approach men instead of (your) women to satisfy (your) lust? Nay, you are indeed a people who act senselessly.'

56. But his people had no reply except that they said, `Drive the followers of Lot out of your township. They are a people who would pose (and parade) to be extra pure and righteous (internally and externally).'

57. So the result was that We saved him and his followers except his wife. We had ordained about her (for her foul deeds) to be with those who stayed behind (and thus would not be saved).

58. And We pelted them with a terrible rain (of stones). So (look,) how evil was the rain which descended upon those who had been warned!

SECTION 5

59. Say, `All kind of true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh. And peace be upon those of His servants whom He has chosen.' Who is to be preferred, Allâh or the things they associate (with Him)?

Part XX

60. Or Who is it that created the heavens and the earth, and sends down water for you from the clouds? (It is We.) Then We cause to grow with it orchards full of bloom and loveliness. You had no power to cause their trees to grow. Is there any god with Allâh? (There is none;) yet there are a people who ascribe (to Him) equals (in all these works, and deviate from the right path).

61. Or Who is it that made the earth a resting place; and made the rivers flow in it; and raised (on the earth) firm mountains for its advantage; and put a barrier between the two waters? Is there a god with Allâh (as an associate with Him in His works)? Nay, not so, yet most of them do not know (the truth).

62. Or Who is it that answers the distressed person when he calls on Him, and removes (his) distress? And Who is it that makes you (the) rulers in the land? Is there any other god with Allâh? Little is the heed you take!

63. Or Who is it that guides you (to the path of salvation) in all kinds of darkness (and vicissitudes) on the land and the sea; and Who is it that sends the winds as heralds of His mercy. Is there any god with Allâh (to do such things)? Highly-Exalted is Allâh above all the things they associate (with Him).

64. Or Who is it that originates the creation then keeps on repeating and reproducing it, and Who is it that provides for your sustenance (both physical and spiritual) from the heaven and the earth? Is there any other god with Allâh (capable of being a partner with Him in all these works)? Say, `Bring forward your proof (in support of your polytheistic beliefs) if you are truthful (in what you claim).'

65. Say, `There is no one in the heavens and the earth who knows the hidden realities save Allâh. And they (- the disbelievers) do not perceive when they will be raised up (to life again after death).'

66. Nay, (the fact is) their knowledge about the Hereafter has found its limit. Rather they are in doubt about it (- the life after death). Rather they are totally blind to it (- the existence of God Himself).

SECTION 6

67. And those who disbelieve say, `Is it that when we and our forefathers have been reduced to dust we shall really be brought forth (alive again)?

68. `We have been surely given this promise once before (this) and also our forefathers. But such a thing is nothing but tales of the ancients.'

69. Say, `Travel through the land and behold how (evil) has been the end of those who cut off their ties (with God).'

70. (Prophet!) do not grieve for them, nor feel distressed on account of their (hostile) intrigues (against you).

71. They say, `When will this promise (of your victory) come to pass if you are truthful?'

72. Say, `It is possible that a part of that (victory) which you are keen to precipitate may be close on your heels.'

73. And infact your Lord is full of grace to mankind, yet most of them render (Him) no thanks.

74. And surely your Lord knows the things which they hide in their hearts and those which they profess.

75. There is nothing hidden in the heavens and the earth but it is recorded in a Book revealing (the Divine decree).

76. Verily, this Qur'ân explains to the Children of Israel (both the Jews and the Christians) most of the things concerning which they are at variance.

77. And surely, this is a (source of) guidance and mercy for the believers.

78. (Prophet!) your Lord will rightly judge between them (- the believing and the disbelieving people) with His command (- the Qur'ân). He is the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.

79. So put your trust in Allâh, for surely you stand on manifest truth.

80. Of course you cannot make the dead hear nor can you make the deaf hear (your) call when they retreat turning their backs (on you).

81. And you cannot guide the blind (as well) out of their error. You can make only those to hear who believe in Our Messages and so have surrendered themselves in submission (to Our will).

82. And when the judgment becomes due against them (-the unjust) We shall bring forth for them a (grossly) materialistic person which will rule over them (and also an insect which shall wound them to cause plague). That is because the people did not have firm faith in Our Messages.

SECTION 7

83. And (remind them of) the day when We shall gather together from every people a large group of those who cried lies to Our Messages; then they shall be arranged in separate columns.

84. Until when they arrive (before their Lord) He will say, 'Did you not cry lies to My Messages before you had gained full knowledge about them? Or what (else) was it that you had been doing (about them)?'

85. And the judgment becomes due against them because they acted wrongly and they will not be able to speak (in their defence).

86. Do they not consider that We have made the night for them to rest and (have made) the day for giving light. Surely, in this there are signs for a people who would believe.

87. And (remind them of) the day when the trumpet will be blown, then, excepting those whom Allâh will (to keep them safe from terror), all those who are in the heavens and all those who are on the earth will be stricken with fear. And everyone shall come in submission to Him.

88. You see the mountains and think them to be firmly fixed while in fact they are passing away like clouds. (Such are) the works of Allâh Who has made everything perfect (in every way). Verily, He is fully Aware of your deeds.

89. Those who come with good deeds (before their Lord) shall have (even) better reward than they actually deserve. Such people will be secure from fear that day.

90. Those who come with (something) evil shall be hurled headlong into the Fire (and it will be said to them,) 'You are certainly reaping the fruit of what you have been doing.'

91. Say, `In fact I am commanded to worship only the Lord of this city (- Makkah) which He has declared sacred. Everything belongs to Him. And I have also been commanded to be (one) of those who submit (to His will),

92. `And to recite (to the people), and follow the Qur'ân; so one who (on listening to it) follows guidance, does it for his own good. And (tell him) who goes astray (from the straight path) that my mission is only to give warning.'

93. And also say, `All true praise belongs to Allâh He will soon show you His signs and you shall recognise them. And your Lord is not at all unaware of what you do.

Chapter

28

Al-Qaşas

(The Narrative)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qaşas).

1. Tâ Sîn Mîm - the Benign, the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing (God is revealing this Sûrah).

2. These are the verses of the perfect Book which explains everything vividly.

3. We recount to you (a portion) of the true account of Moses and Pharaoh with all accuracy for the benefit of the people who would believe.

4. (The facts are,) Pharaoh behaved arrogantly in (his) land. He divided its inhabitants into parties. He (oppressed them and thus) sought to weaken a section of them (- the Israelites). He killed their sons and sought to make their women immodest by sparing them. Infact he was of the evil doers.

5. And We chose to confer favour upon those who had been rendered weak in the land and to make them leaders and to bestow a kingdom upon them, thus make them

inheritors (of Our blessings).

6. And (We chose) to establish them with all powers in the country and to visit Pharaoh and Hâmân and their hordes with that (power and supremacy) which they dreaded from those (Israelites rendered weak by them).

7. And We revealed to the mother of Moses (saying), `Give him (- Moses) suck. But when you have fear about him (- his life) cast him (placing him in a chest) into the river and entertain no fear, nor grief (about his welfare). Verily, We shall restore him to you and shall make him (one) of the Messengers.'

8. (Moses' mother cast him into the river according to the revelation,) then one of the family of Pharaoh picked him up with the result that he (one day) became an enemy to and (a source of) grief for them. Verily, Pharaoh, Hâmân and the hordes of them both were all wrong-doers.

9. And a woman of (the family of) Pharaoh said, `(This child will be) a (source of) joy and comfort to my and your eyes. Do not kill him, he may (prove to) be useful to us, or we may adopt him as a son.' And they did not perceive (Our purpose).

10. And the heart of the mother of Moses became free (from anxiety). She would have nearly disclosed his identity (out of joy, how Allâh had become guardian of her child) had We not strengthened her heart to help her remain of the (firm minded) believers.

11. She said to his (- Moses') sister, `Follow him.' So she (followed and) watched him from a distance while they (- Pharaoh's people) took no notice (that she was keeping a watch over him).

12. And We had already (ordained and) made him refuse the wet nurses (to be suckled). So (when the question of his suckling arose after Moses was picked up from the river,) she (- Moses sister) said, 'Shall I point out to you the people of a household who will bring him up for you and will be his sincere well-wishers?'

13. This was how We restored him to his mother so that she might be consoled (to see her child) and should no longer grieve and that she might know that the promise of Allâh was true; (a fact which) most of these (disbelievers of the Holy Prophet) do not know.

SECTION 2

14. And when he (- Moses) reached his (age of) full growth (and maturity) and attained perfection, We granted him wisdom and knowledge. That is how We reward the doers of good.

15. And (one day Moses) entered the city at a time when its inhabitants were idling (in a state of heedlessness), and found therein two men fighting with one another; one of his own party (- an Israelite), while the other (belonged to that) of his enemies. The one who belonged to his own people sought his (- Moses') help against the other who belonged to those of his enemies. Thereat Moses struck him (the latter) with his fist and this brought about his death. He (- Moses) said, 'This (death of his) has occurred owing to (his) satanic action; he (- satan) is of course an enemy (of yours) misleading (and) cutting your ties (with God).'

16. (Moses) said (praying), 'My Lord! I have involved myself into trouble, so protect me.' Thereupon He protected him (from the evil consequences of his act). Verily, He is the Great Protector, the Ever Merciful.

17. He (also) added, 'My Lord! since You have always been kind and gracious to me, I can never be a helper and a supporter of the guilty?'

18. (The next day) early in the morning he entered the city apprehensive (of the enemy and) observing (the situation). And lo! the man who had sought his help the day before (again that day) cried out to him for help. Moses said to him, 'You are a misguided fellow, away from the path of peace and piety.'

19. And when Moses intended to lay hold of the man (of the day before) who was (now) an enemy to both of them, the man said, 'Moses! do you intend to kill me (today) as you killed a person yesterday? You are only trying to figure as a tyrant in the country. You have no mind to be of the promoters of peace.'

20. (Then it came to pass that) a man came running from the far end of the city (and)

said, `Moses the chiefs are consulting together to kill you. Therefore leave (this place at once), I am, of course, your sincere well-wisher.'

21. So (Moses) left that (city) in fear and he kept watching (around) carefully. He said (praying at that time), `My Lord! deliver me from the unjust people.'

SECTION 3

22. When (Moses) set out turning his face towards Midian he said, `I hope my Lord will put me on the right course till I reach the goal.'

23. And when he arrived at the water of Midian, he found there a party of men watering (their flocks) and he found two ladies (standing) apart from them, holding (their flock) back. He said, `What is your problem?' they replied, `We cannot water (our flock) until the shepherds depart (having driven their flocks away), and our father is a very old man.'

24. So (Moses) watered (their flock) for them. Then he retired to (a place with) the shade and said, `My Lord! I stand in need of whatever good You may bestow on me.'

25. Now one of the two ladies came to him walking bashfully. She said, `My father calls you so that he may reward you for your having watered our flock (for us).' So when he (Moses) came to him and told him all that had taken place (with him), he (the father of the two ladies) said, `Have no fear, you have escaped from the unjust people.'

26. One of the two ladies said, `My dear father! take him into your service. You cannot do better than employ a man who is strong and trustworthy.'

27. He (their father) said (to Moses), `I intend to marry one of these two daughters of mine to you, provided you stay in my service for eight years. But if you extend (your stay) making it complete ten (years) it will be an act of grace on your part. I have no desire to be hard on you by laying any more burden (of responsibility) on you. Allâh willing, you will find me an upright person.'

28. (Moses) said, (accepting the proposal), `This is (a covenant) between us; whichever of the two terms I complete, I will be free from obligation and there shall be no injustice to me, and Allâh is witness over what we have agreed.'

SECTION 4

29. And when Moses had completed the agreed term and set forth with his family, he saw with feelings of warmth of affection and love, a sort of fire (on the way at a

place) in the direction of the mount. He said to his family, `You stay

(here) I have seen with feelings of warmth of love and affection a fire. I hope to bring you some useful and important information from there or (at least) a burning brand from the fire that you may warm yourselves.'

30. And when he came close to it (- the fire) a voice called out to him from a blessed spot on the right side of the valley, from the direction of a tree, `Moses! surely I am, Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.

31. `And put down your staff on the ground.' Then, no sooner did he see it (- the staff) shifting like a tiny quickly moving serpent, than he turned his back and retreated and would not even look back. (God said,) `Moses! come forward, and have no fear. Surely, you are of those who are safe.

32. `Insert your hand into your bosom, it will come forth flawless (sparkling) white and draw back your arm towards yourself (to compose yourself) when you encounter fear. So these (two signs) are two proofs from your Lord to (be presented before) Pharaoh and his courtiers. For surely they are lawless and disobedient people.

33. (Moses) said, `My Lord! I killed a person from among them (accidentally) and I fear that they will kill me (before I am able to fulfill my mission).

34. `And my brother Aaron is more fluent and eloquent in speech than I, so send him with me as a helper to bear me out (for) I fear that they will treat me as a liar.'

35. (God) said, `We will surely strengthen your arm with your brother and We will give both of you so much power that they shall not reach you (to do you harm). So (go armed) with Our signs; you two and your followers will come out victorious.'

36. So when Moses came to them (- the people of Pharaoh) with Our clear signs they said, `This is but a forged and unprecedented fraud. We never heard such a thing in the time of our forefathers.'

37. And Moses said, `My Lord knows best who it is that has brought true guidance from Him, and who shall meet a good end in this world (and will have the reward of final abode in the Hereafter). The truth is that these wrongdoers shall never prosper.'

38. And Pharaoh said, `O chiefs of my court! I know for you no god other than myself. And O Hâmân! light a fire for me on (the bricks of) clay and get a high building, (high like a tower) be built for me that I may (by climbing over it) have a look at the God of Moses, for I take him to be certainly of those who tell lies.'

39. And he (- Pharaoh) and his hosts behaved arrogantly in the land without any justification and as if they thought that they would never be brought back to Us.

40. So We seized him and his hosts and We cast them into the Sea. Behold, how (evil) was the end of these wrongdoers!

41. And We made them archetypes (of evil) who invited (people) to the Fire, and on the Day of Resurrection they will find no help.

42. And We have made them to be followed by a curse in this world and on the Day of Resurrection they will be among those deprived of all good.

SECTION 5

43. After We had destroyed the earlier generations We gave Moses the Scripture (which contained) enlightening arguments for the people (of Israel) and (served as) a guidance and (promised them) mercy so that they might take heed.

44. (Prophet!) you were not on the western side (of the Mount of Sinai) when We granted Moses the commission (of prophethood), nor were you (personally) present with the witnesses (there when they were making the prophecy about your advent).

45. But We have raised many a generation since then (after Moses) and a long period of time has passed over them. Nor have you been living among the people of Midian reciting Our Messages to them. Indeed it is We Who have sent (you as a Messenger) and have revealed all this information (to you).

46. And you were not (present) at the foot of the Mount (with Moses) when We called (to you); but all these (revelation) are from the mercy of your Lord, so that you may warn the people to whom no Warner had come (for a long time) before you, that they may attain eminence.

47. And (We have sent you to them) lest when some evil befalls them because of that their hands have sent forward, they should say, `Our Lord, why did You not send a Messenger to us? (If You had sent one) we would have followed Your commandments and would have been of the believers.'

48. But now that the truth has come to them from Us they say, 'Why has he (- this Messenger) not been given the like of that which was given to Moses?' Did the people (- the disbelievers) not reject before this that which was given to Moses? They say, 'They (- Moses and Muḥammad) are both frauds who support each other.' They also say, 'We reject (the claim of) each one of them.'

49. Say, 'If (Moses and Muḥammad are both fraudulent and) you speak the truth, then bring a Book from Allāh which is a better guide than these two (- the Torah and the Qur'ān), that I may follow it.'

50. If they (do not accept the challenge and) do not answer you, know that they are just following their own low and evil desires. And who should be more erring than one who leaving aside the guidance from Allāh only follows his own low and evil desires. Verily, Allāh does not guide the wrongdoing people to success.

SECTION 6

51. We have been sending uninterrupted revelations to them so that they may rise to eminence.

52. (Many of) the people to whom We gave the Scripture before this (- the Qur'ān) believe in it (too).

53. And when this (Qur'ān) is recited to them, they say, 'We believe in it. It is (a revelation) from our Lord, full of truth and wisdom. Indeed, we had submitted (to Him) even before it.'

54. They are the people who will be given their reward twice over for they have been suffering patiently (for the cause of the truth). They meet evil by repaying it with good and spend (in the cause of Allāh) out of that which We have provided them with.

55. And when they hear something vain they turn away from it and say (to those who indulge in vain talk), 'We shall reap the fruit of our deeds and you shall reap the fruit of yours.' (Bidding them good bye then say,) 'Peace be upon you. We have no desire to have any concern with the ignorant.'

56. (Prophet!) it is not possible for you to guide whomsoever you wish, but Allâh guides whomsoever He will. He knows fully well those who would accept guidance.

57. (Some of the) people say, `If we join you and follow (this Qur'ânic) guidance we shall be snatched away from our country.' (Tell them on Our behalf,) `Have We not settled them in a safe (and) secure place to which all kinds of fruit are brought? It is a goodly provision made by Us.' Yet most of them do not know (this true fact).

58. We destroyed (so many people of) many a township, who were proud of their civilization and their (easy and plentiful) means of livelihood. There lie their dwellings (all in ruin). They have been but little occupied since. It is We alone Who are Everlasting.

59. Your Lord would never destroy the towns until He has raised a Messenger in their central place to recite to the people thereof Our Messages, nor would We destroy the towns unless their citizens be unjust.

60. And (O people!) whatever of anything you have been given is only the passing enjoyment of the present life and its (mere) pomp and show. But that (reward) which Allâh has (for you) is much better and more lasting than this. Will you not then make use of your understanding?

SECTION 7

61. Can the person to whom We have made a fair promise, which will be also made good to him, be compared to the one whom We have provided with good things (of passing nature) of this life and who will be among those brought (before Us to render an account of his deeds).

62. (Let these people not forget) the day when He will call to them and say, `Where are My (so called) associated partners about whom you had made (such) pretensions?'

63. (Thus) those who have been doomed to condemnation will say, `Our Lord! these are the people whom we led astray, we led them astray even as we had gone astray ourselves. (Now we declare before You that) we have nothing to do with them and we turn to You. It was not us that they worshipped.'

64. It will be said (to them), `Call on your (so called) associated partners (with God).' So they will call on them but they will give them no answer. And they will (actually) see the punishment. (How good it would have been) if they had followed the right path!

65. (Let these disbelievers not forget) the day when He will call on them and say,

`What response did you make to (the call of) the Messengers?'

66. But on that day they will become confused and forget all their excuses and they will not even (be in a position to) consult one another.

67. Yet he who repents and believes and does deeds of righteousness, is likely to be of those who attain the goal.

68. And your Lord creates what He will, and chooses (for mankind) whatever is best for them. People have no (such power and) choice. Holy is Allâh and far above all that they associate with Him.

69. Your Lord knows what they keep secret in their hearts, and (He knows) all that they profess.

70. And He is Allâh, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. All kind of true and perfect praise belongs to Him in the beginning and the Hereafter. The sovereignty and the judgment belongs to Him and to Him shall you be brought back.

71. Say, `Have you (ever) considered that if Allâh should make the night continue over you perpetually till the Day of Resurrection there is no god other than Allâh Who could bring you light? Will you not (then) give ear (to the Message of God)?'

72. Say, `Have you (ever) considered that if Allâh should make the day to continue over you perpetually till the Day of Resurrection, there is no god other than Allâh Who could bring you night wherein you might take rest? Will you not (then) use your eyes (to witness the signs of Allâh)?'

73. Behold! it is through His mercy that He has made the night and the day for you so that you may take rest therein and seek of His bounty and so that you may render (Him) thanks.

74. And (let these disbelievers not forget) the day when He will call to them and say, `Where are My (so called) associated partners about whom you had many pretensions?'

75. And We shall (on that day) bring out a witness from every people and then say (to the polytheist), 'Bring a clear proof of your claim.' Then they will know that the true right (to Godhood) only belongs to Allâh and all (their false deities) that they used to forge will be lost to them.

SECTION 8

76. Verily, Korah belonged to the tribe of Moses (- the Israelites) but he rose against them (- his own people). We had given him so much riches that his hoarded wealth would have weighed down a party of strong men. (Recall the time) when his people said to him, 'Do not exult too much for Allâh surely does not love those who exult beyond measure.

77. 'And seek the home of the Hereafter by means of that which Allâh has given you. And do not neglect (to acquire) your portion (of righteous deeds) in the present life. And do good to others as Allâh has done good to you. And do not seek to promote evil in the land, for Allâh does not love the evil doers who create mischief.'

78. (Korah) said, '(All) this (wealth) that I have been given is because of the knowledge I possess.' But did he not know that Allâh had destroyed before him generations of people who were mightier than he and greater in riches and number? And the guilty shall not be questioned about their sins (their sins being self evident).

79. Then (it came to pass one day that) he (- Korah) appeared before his people in all his pomp and show. (Thereupon) those who were desirous of (the provisions and enjoyment of) the life of this world said, 'If only we could have the like of all that Korah has been given. He is, truly speaking, the master of a great fortune.'

80. But the men of knowledge said, 'Woe to you! The reward which Allâh has for those who believe and do good deeds is much better (than all this), but it shall be granted only to those who are patiently persevering.'

81. Then (it came about that) We made him and his household extinct into the bowels of the earth so that he had no party who could help him against Allâh, nor was he of those who could defend themselves and could ask for help.

82. Now the very people who had coveted his (lot and) position the day before began to say, 'Ruin seize you! it is indeed Allâh Who multiplies the means of livelihood for such of His servants as He will and makes them scant (for such of His people as He will). Had not Allâh been gracious to us He would have sunk us (also into the bowels of the earth). Ruin seize you! (the fact is that) those who are ungrateful never prosper.'

SECTION 9

83. This is the Abode of the Hereafter, We assign it to those only who do not seek self-exaltation in the earth, nor corruption. Indeed, those who guard against evil shall meet a happy end.

84. He who brings good deeds (into the presence of his Lord on the Day of judgment) shall have a reward (at His hand) better than he merits. But he who brings evil (let him bear in mind that) those who do evil shall only reap the fruit according to what they did.

85. (Prophet!) He who has made (the teaching of) the Qur'ân binding on you shall most surely bring you back to your ordained place of return, (the place of Pilgrimage - Makkah). Say, 'My Lord knows him best who has brought guidance as well as those who are steeped in clear error.'

86. (Prophet!) you had never expected that the Book would be revealed to you. It is only the mercy of your Lord (that it has been revealed to you). So do not be a supporter of the disbelievers.

87. And do not let them (the disbelievers) turn you away from the commandments of Allâh when once they have been revealed to you. And call (mankind) to your Lord and be not of those who associate partners (with Him).

88. Call on no other god beside Allâh. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. Every thing is liable to perish but those (righteous deeds) by means of which you seek His attention. The sovereignty as well as judgment belongs to Him and to Him you shall all be brought back.

Chapter

29

Al-`Ankabût

(The Spider)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-`Ankabût).

1. Alif Lâm Mîm - I am Allâh, the All-Knowing.
2. Do the people think that they will be left alone and not tried with hardships for the mere fact that they profess belief.
3. Whereas We did already try those who were before them with hardships. Allâh will surely bring to light those who are true in their faith as He will bring to light also the liars (by putting them into troubles).
4. Or do those who do evil deeds think that they will escape Our punishment? How ill they judge!
5. He that looks forward to meet Allâh (let him be prepared for it) for the time appointed by Allâh is bound to come. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.
6. And he who strives hard (in the way of Allâh) does it, infact, for his own good. Verily, Allâh is Independent of the worlds.
7. And those who believe and do deeds of righteousness We shall invariably rid them of their evils and We shall, of course, reward them according to the best of their deeds.
8. We have enjoined on a human being to be kind to his parents, but should they stress upon you to associate with Me things which you know to be nothing at all you shall not obey them. You shall all have to return to Me (after all). I shall tell you all that you have been doing (in your life).

9. And as to those who believe and do deeds of righteousness We will certainly admit them to (the fold of) the righteous.

10. There are some (hypocrites) among the people who say, 'We believe in Allâh.' But when they are made to suffer in the cause of Allâh they regard the persecution by people as it were the punishment from Allâh. Yet if help comes from your Lord (and He gives you victory) they are sure to say, 'Of course, we were with you, (we should also have a share in it).' Why! does not Allâh know well enough what lies hidden in the hearts of all beings?

11. Indeed, Allâh will bring to light those who believe, and He will also reveal the hypocrites.

12. And those who disbelieve say to those who believe, 'Follow our way and we will bear (the consequences of) your sins (at the time of judgment), whereas they can bear nothing whatsoever of their sins. They are as a matter of fact liars.

13. (On the other hand) they will certainly have to bear the burdens of their own sins as well as (some) burdens (of leading others astray) over and above their own burdens. And they will be questioned on the Day of Resurrection about (the lies) that they used to fabricate.

SECTION 2

14. And we indeed sent Noah to his people and he (- his teachings) stayed among them for (as long as) a thousand years short of fifty years (- nine hundred and fifty years). While his people were steeped in wrongdoings they were caught in the Deluge.

15. However, We delivered him and (along with him all) those who were in the Ark, and We made this (event) a sign for the peoples.

16. And (We sent) Abraham. (Recall the time) when he said to his people, 'Worship Allâh and take Him as a shield. That is best for you if you but knew.

17. '(The things) you worship apart from Allâh are only false gods. And (in calling them gods) you forge lies. Those (gods) whom you worship beside Allâh do not have the means to provide sustenance for you. Therefore seek sustenance and provision for yourselves from Allâh and worship Him and give Him thanks for you will be brought back to Him (one day).

18. 'And if you deny (me) then (you should not forget that) people before you have also cried lies (to their respective Messengers), and the Messenger is responsible only

for conveying (the Divine Message to the people) in clear terms.

19. `Do the people not (ever) consider how Allâh originates the creation, then continues repeating and reproducing it. This (work of creation and reproduction) is indeed easy for Allâh.'

20. Say, `Travel through the earth and observe how He brought about the first creation. Allâh will as well bring about the second creation in the Hereafter. Verily, Allâh is Possessor of (prudential) powers over all (His) desired things.

21. `He punishes whom He will (of the guilty) and shows mercy to whom He will and to Him you shall have to be turned back.

22. `You cannot escape (Him) on the earth or in the heaven and you have no patron nor (even) a helper apart from Allâh.'

SECTION 3

23. And those who deny the signs of Allâh and (deny) that they will meet Him are actually despaired of My mercy. It is they for whom awaits a grievous punishment.

24. His people had no response to make (to Abraham) but they said, `Kill him (- Abraham) or rather burn him.' (At last they decided upon burning him) but Allâh delivered him from the fire. There are sure signs in this (episode) for the people who would believe.

25. (Abraham) said, `You have certainly taken for yourselves idols (for worship) apart from Allâh as a mark of mutual love between you (all polytheist brethren) in the present life. But on the Day of Resurrection you will disown one another and curse one another and your resort will be the Fire and you will have none to help you.'

26. And Lot became a believer because of him, and (Abraham) said, `I shall migrate (where I have been commanded to) by my Lord. He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.'

27. And We bestowed on him (righteous offsprings,) Isaac (a son) and Jacob (a grandson), and We perpetuated (the gift of) prophethood and the Scripture in his descendants. And We gave him his reward in this life and he will most surely (occupy

an eminent place) among the righteous in the Hereafter.

28. And (We sent) Lot. Behold, he said to his people, `You indulge in such an obscenity as is unprecedented and unsurpassed in the whole world.

29. `Is it not true you approach men (lustfully) and commit highway robbery? (Is it not true also) you commit indecent action in your gatherings?' But his people had no response to make, (yet) they said, `Bring upon us the punishment of Allâh if you are of those who speak the truth.'

30. (Thereupon Lot) said, `Help me, my Lord! against these people who work corruption.'

SECTION 4

31. And when Our messengers came to Abraham with important news, they said, `We are going to destroy people of this township for its inhabitants are certainly wrongdoers.'

32. (Abraham) said, `But Lot is (living) there (in that township).' They said, `We know very well who are (living) in it. We will surely save him and his family except his wife, who is among those who stay behind.'

33. And when Our messengers came to Lot he felt distressed on account of their (coming) for he felt helpless to give them protection. But they (- the messenger) said, `Have no fear and do not grieve, (Allâh promises you protection saying,) "We will deliver you and all your household except your wife (who will not leave the place stricken with calamity and) who is among those staying behind.

34. `(As for) the inhabitants of this township; We are going to bring down upon them an unavoidable calamity, for they have been behaving disobediently.'"

35. Behold! We have left there (- in the ruins of this township) a clear sign for a people who would care to understand.

36. And to Midianites (We sent) their kinsman Shu`aib. He said, `My people worship Allâh and hope (putting your faithful confidence in it) for the Last Day and do not act corruptly, behaving lawlessly in the country.'

37. But (instead of obeying him) they cried him (-Shu`aib) lies. So they were caught in a violent earthquake and they became (corpses) laid down on their breasts on the ground in their dwellings.

38. And (We destroyed the tribes of) `âd and Thamûd; and (this) must have become clear to you from their dwellings. Satan made their (evil) deeds fair-seeming to them and (by making them take pride in their doings) turned them away from the right way, though they were enlightened and sagacious people.

39. And (similar was the fate met by) Korah, Pharaoh and Hâmân. Moses had come to them with manifest signs but they behaved arrogantly on the earth yet they could not outstrip (Us and thus escape Our punishment).

40. In short We took each one of them to task for his sins. Against some of them We sent a violent storm of sand and stones while others were overtaken by a roaring blast and some others We made extinct in (the bowls of) the earth, and yet others We drowned. It was far from Allâh to have done injustice to them. Rather they were doing wrong to themselves.

41. The case of those who take helping friends apart from Allâh is like the case of the spider that takes (to itself) a house, yet of (all) houses the house of the spider is the frailest. If they but knew (the flimsiness and fragility of their idols they would not have sought their protection).

42. Verily, Allâh knows whatever they call upon apart from Him. He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

43 These are the (various) situations which We set forth for the (benefit of) mankind, yet, except for the learned, nobody tries to grasp them.

44. Allâh has created the heavens and the earth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom (and for a significant end). In this there is, in fact, a great sign for the believers.

Part XXI

SECTION 5

45. **Recite** (preach, follow and meditate on) that which has been revealed to you of the Book (-the Qur'ân) and observe Prayer. Verily, Prayer restrains (the observer) from indecency and abominable things and loathsome deeds and from all that runs counter to reason and moral sense. Yet of all, the greatest thing is that Allâh will remember you and help you rise to eminence. And Allâh knows all that you do.

46. (Believers!) observe all the propriety when you argue with the people of the Scripture; but those who are bent upon behaving unjustly among them do not agree to these principles (so deal with them accordingly). And say (to them), 'We believe in all that is revealed to us and in that which has been revealed to you, and our God and your God is One, and to Him we stand resigned.'

47. And for a similar purpose (of confirming and testifying to the truth of all previous Scriptures) have We sent down to you this perfect Book. And those whom We have given (the true knowledge of) the Book (Torah) believe in it and of these (Makkans who possessed no sacred Scriptures before) there are some who believe in it (- the Qur'ân). And it is only the ungrateful (disbelievers) who deny Our revelations deliberately and persistently.

48. (Prophet!) you read no book, nor did you write one with your own hand before this (Qur'ân was revealed). (Had it been so,) those who declare (it) as false could then (have the cause to) entertain some doubts.

49. Nay, (far from being an invention) this (Qur'ân) is full of clear signs in the minds of those who have been given true knowledge. It is only the unjust indeed who deny Our signs deliberately.

50. And they say, 'Why have no signs (of punishment) been revealed to him from his Lord?' Say (to them), 'The signs are many with Allâh, accordingly I am about to give you plain warning (concerning some of the signs of punishment).'

51. Well, is this (sign of mercy) not enough for them that We have revealed to you this perfect Book which is recited to them. As a matter of fact it comprises mercy (and blessings) and is a means to rise to eminence for the people who would believe.

SECTION 6

52. Say, `Sufficient is Allâh as a Witness between me and you. He knows all that lies in the heavens and on the earth. And lost are those who believe in falsehood and disbelieve in Allâh.

53. They demand you to precipitate the (sign of their) punishment. Had not their term been stated (as a respite to mend their evil ways), the punishment would surely have come upon them. It shall come and will befall them unexpectedly and take them unawares.

54. They still demand you to precipitate (their) punishment, while Gehenna will most surely spell the end of these disbelievers.

55. (It shall be) the day when the punishment will overwhelm them from above their heads and (will come upon them) from below their feet. And He will say, `Suffer the consequences of your (evil) deeds.'

56. My believing servants! My earth is indeed vast. You should worship Me and Me alone.

57. Every living being shall encounter death, then you shall be made to return to Us.

58. And those who believe and do deeds of righteousness We shall certainly lodge them in lofty chambers of Paradise. (The Gardens of which are) served with running streams. There they shall abide for ever. The reward of those who take pains (for doing good) is always excellent,

59. Those who patiently persevere and put their trust in their Lord.

60. How many moving creatures there are that do not carry their own sustenance (but do not go without food). It is Allâh Who provides for them and for you. And He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

61. In case you ask them, `Who has created the heavens and the earth and harnessed the sun and the moon (into the service of mankind)?' They will answer, `Allâh.' Then whither are they being turned away (from accepting the truth).

62. Allâh multiplies (the means of) sustenance for such of His servants as He will and makes those (means) scant for whom He will. Verily, Allâh is fully Aware of each and everything.

63. And if you question them, `Who rains water from the clouds and thereby breathes life into the earth after its death (making it fertile and green)?' They will certainly say, `Allâh.' Say, `All sorts of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh.' Yet most of them

do not make use of their understanding.

SECTION 7

64. The life of this world is nothing but futile and frivolous and the abode of the Hereafter is the real life (being eternal).

If they but knew (they would have paid heed).

65. And when they board a ship (and find themselves in danger they pray to Allâh with sincere and single-minded faith in Him; but as soon as He lands them safe they begin to associate partners (with Him again),

66. With the result that they show ingratitude for what We have given them and also with the result that they indulge in worldly enjoyment (though only for a short time). But they will soon come to know (the consequences of their conduct).

67. Have the people not seen that We have made the Sanctuary (of Makkah) a place of peace and security while people are carried off (by force) all around them? Do they continue to believe in falsehood and (thus) deny the favour of Allâh?

68. And who is more unjust than he who forges a lie in the name of Allâh or cries lies to the truth when it comes to him. Is not Gehenna a (befitting) resort for such disbelievers.

69. And those who strive hard in Our cause We will certainly guide them in the ways that lead to Us. Verily, Allâh is always with the doers of good.

Chapter

30

Al-Rûm

(The Byzantines)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Rûm).

1. Alif Lâm Mîm - I am Allâh, the All- Knowing.
2. The Byzantines have been defeated,
3. In the land nearby (- Syria and Palestine); and they after their defeat shall overpower (their enemies, the Persians)
4. Within three to nine years. The power belongs to Allâh after (their defeat) as (it belonged to Him) before it. And on that day the believers (too) will rejoice
5. Over the victory (given to them) by Allâh. He gives victory to whom He will, and He is the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful.
6. (This is) Allâh's promise. It is far from Allâh to break His promise. Yet most of the people do not know (this).
7. They know only the apparent side of the present life, and they are completely unmindful of the next.
8. Do they never think over in their own minds that Allâh has created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between the two only to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom (and with a definite end in view), but for a stated term (after which the doom must come)? Yet many among the people do not believe in the meeting with their Lord ever.
9. Have they not travelled through the land and seen how (evil) was the end of those who were before them? They (- their predecessors) were superior to them in prowess and strength. They tilled the land (built structures and dug up minerals from it), and populated it more and better than these have populated it. And their Messengers (of God) had come to them with manifest signs (but they denied them and were destroyed). It was indeed far from Allâh to have done injustice to them but they themselves wronged their own souls.
10. Then evil was the end of those who did evil, because they cried lies to the Messages of Allâh and they treated them as something of least importance

.SECTION 2

11. Allâh originates creation then He keeps on repeating and reproducing it, then to Him shall you be brought back.

12. And on the day when the (promised) Hour (of Reckoning) will arrive those who have cut their ties (with Allâh and were lost in sin) will be confronted with despair.

13. None from among their associate-gods will intercede for them, though they had renounced their faith (in Allâh) because of these gods whom they associated (with Him).

14. And day when the Hour (of Reckoning) will arrive on that day they (the virtuous and the sinful) will be sorted out (into different groups).

15. Then as for those who had believed and done deeds of righteousness, they will be welcomed with all honours and entertained in a stately and delightful Garden.

16. But as for those who had disbelieved and cried lies to Our Messages and the meeting of the Hereafter, it is they

who shall be given over to punishment (lasting long).

17. So glorify Allâh when you enter the evening and when you enter the morning,

18. For to Him belongs all type of perfect and true praise in the heavens and the earth, and (glorify Him) in the afternoon and when you enter upon the hour of noon.

19. Out of the dead He brings forth the living and out of the living He brings forth the dead. And He gives life to the earth (making it look green and flourishing) after its death. That is how you shall be raised (to life from the state of death).

SECTION 3

20. And (it is one) of His signs that He created you of dust; and then lo, you are human beings who are spreading (far and wide over the earth).

21. And (it is one) of His signs that He has created spouses for you from your own species that you may find comfort in them. And He has induced mutual love and tenderness between you. Behold! there are signs in this for a people who would reflect.

22. The creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your tongues and colours are (also some) of His signs. Behold there are sure signs for the learned people in this (unity of mankind and Oneness of the Creator).

23. And among His signs is your sleeping and your seeking of His bounty by night and day. Behold, there are sure signs in this for a people who would listen.

24. And (one) of His signs is that He shows you (the flash of) lightning to create fear (of thunder and storm) and hope (for fruitful rain), and sends down water from the clouds and revives therewith the earth after its death (like barrenness). Behold there are (many) signs in this for a people who make use of their understanding.

25. And (it is one) of His signs that the heavens and the earth stand firm by His command. Then as soon as He calls you forth from the earth by a single call, behold you will come forth all at once and suddenly

26. All those who are in the heavens and the earth belong to Him (and serve Him); all are obedient to Him.

27. It is He Who originates the creation then keeps on repeating and reproducing it. This (work of creation and reproduction) is most easy, for Him. His is the most exalted state (and the noblest attributes) in the heavens and the earth; and He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

SECTION 4

28. **He** sets forth for you an illustration drawn from your own lives. Do any of those whom your right hands own equally share with you that which We have provided you with. It is, however, a fact that you all (the owner and the owned) are equal (partners) in it, so that you take care of them as you take care of your own selves. That is how We explain many of Our Messages to a people who make use of their understanding.

29. Nay, but those who behave unjustly, they pursue their own low desires without (any) knowledge (whatsoever). So who can guide one whom Allâh has adjudged as lost? There will be none to help them.

30. So pay your whole-hearted attention to (the cause of) faith as one devoted (to pure

faith), turning away from all that is false. (And follow) the Faith of Allâh (-Islam) to suit the requirements of which He has made the nature of mankind. There can be no change in the nature (of creation) which Allâh has made. That is the right and most perfect Faith, yet most people do not know (it).

31. (Believers! you should all be attentive to Him) turning to Him (in repentance), and take Him as (your) shield (for protection) and observe Prayer and be not of those who associate partners (with Him) -

32. Of those who have split up their faith and have divided themselves into sects so that every party is happy with what they have.

33. When some evil befalls the people they call on their Lord, turning sincerely to Him (in repentance). But no sooner He lets them enjoy mercy from Him than a section of them associate partners with Him (and starts worshipping gods besides Allâh),

34. With the result that they show ingratitude for what We have given them. So (you ungrateful people,) enjoy yourselves (for a while) but shortly you will come to know (the consequences).

35. Have We revealed to them some authoritative proof which speaks (highly in favour) of what they associate with Him?

36. And when We let people enjoy Our mercy they rejoice over it. But no sooner does an evil befall them, because of their own evil deeds, then they grow despondent.

37. Do they not see that Allâh multiplies the means of livelihood for whomsoever He will and makes them scant (for whomsoever He will). Behold there are signs in this for a people who would believe.

38. So present to the near of kin his due, and to the needy and the wayfarer. This is best for those who seek the pleasure

of Allâh, it is they alone who will attain their goal.

39. And that which you lay out as interest and usuary with a view to increase the wealth of the people does not help increase it in the sight of Allâh. But that which you present as *Zakât* (purifying dues) with a view to seek (thereby) the pleasure of Allâh, it is they (- the regular payers of *Zakât*) then who will increase (their wealth) many times over.

40. It is Allâh Who has created you, then He provides for you, then He will call you to death, (and) then He will bring you to life. Is there any of your (socalled) associate-gods who can do the least of these things? Holy is He and Highly-Exalted and far above the things they associate (with Him).

SECTION 5

41. Disorder and corruption has prevailed on land and sea owing to the evil (deeds) which people have wrought. The result will be that He will make them taste (in this world) the fruit of (some of) their misdeeds so that they may return (to the right path, giving up their evil ways).

42. Say, `Travel all over the earth and behold how (evil) the end of your predecessors was. Most of them were those who assigned associates (with God).'

43. So pay your whole-hearted attention to (the cause of) the right and perfect faith before there comes from Allâh the day for which there will be no averting. On that day they (- the believers and disbelievers) shall split up (into different groups).

44. So that those who disbelieve will pay for their disbelief while those who do righteous deeds will find that they have made provisions for their own good.

45. And so that He will reward those who believe and do deeds of righteousness through His bounty and grace. And He does not love the disbelievers, of course.

46. And (it is one) of His signs that He sends the winds as heralds of glad-tidings. He does it that He may let you enjoy (the blessings of) His mercy and that the ships may sail at His command and that you may seek His bounty and grace and so that you may render (Him) thanks.

47. Indeed, We have already sent Messengers to their (respective) people before you, and they came to them with clear proofs. Then We punished those who had (denied their Apostles and) cut their ties (with God). And it is of course ever incumbent upon Us to help the believers.

48. It is Allâh alone who sends forth the winds and they raise (the vapours to form) a cloud which He spreads out in the sky as He will and sets it layer upon layer, and you see the rain falling from its midst. And no sooner does He cause it to fall on whom He will of His servants than they are filled with joy,

49. Though shortly before it was sent down upon them they were in a state of despondency.

50. Look, therefore, at the evidences of Allâh's mercy! how He breathes life into the earth (making it green and flourishing) after its (state of) death. Surely, He (it is), the same (God), Who will raise the dead to life (in the Hereafter), for He is the Possessor of power over every desired thing.

51. And if We send (another kind of blasting) wind and they see it turn yellow (for its having taken the form of punishment) they will even after that continue to disbelieve (for their being engrossed in evil doings).

52. And you cannot make the dead hear, nor can you make the deaf hear the call when they retreat turning their backs (on you),

53. Nor can you guide the blind out of their error. You can make only those hear who would believe in Our Messages and submit (to Us).

SECTION 6

54. (It is) Allâh alone Who creates you in (a state of) weakness, He then replaces your weakness with strength (of youth) and again (replaces your) strength with weakness and gray hair (of old age). He creates what He will. He is the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful.

55. And on the day when the Hour shall arrive (and the Resurrection takes place) the guilty will swear that they stayed (in the world) for not more than a very brief period. Just as they had been turned away (from the right way so they will be turned away from Allâh's protection on that day).

56. And those who (in their present life) have been given (true) knowledge and the faith will say, `You have indeed stayed (behind) according to the Record of Allâh till the Day of being raised up (to life of the Hereafter). This then is the Day of being raised up (to life) but you did not (care to) know.

57. So on that Day no excuses (in their defence) will avail those who had acted unjustly, nor will they be allowed to approach the threshold (to be admitted into the fold of the near ones of God).

58. We have indeed described for mankind every excellent thing in this Qur'ân; and even if you bring them a sign those who disbelieve would certainly say, 'You and your followers are all devotees of falsehood.'

59. That is how Allâh seals the hearts of those who do not (bother to) know (and be guided).

60. Therefore, (Prophet!) have patience and perseverance. Surely, the promise of Allâh (about your victory and the defeat of the disbelievers) is (bound to be) true; so let not those who are not convinced of the truth hold you in light estimation (so as to move you from your stand).

Chapter

31

Luqmân

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Luqmân).

1. Alif Lâm Mîm - I am Allâh the All-Knowing.
2. These are the verses of the perfect Book (which is) full of wisdom.
3. (Promising) a thorough guidance and mercy for the doers of good to others,
4. Those who observe Prayer and present the *Zakât* (- purifying dues) and who have firm faith in (the requital of) the Hereafter,
5. It is they who follow guidance from their Lord and it is they who shall prosper (in

the Hereafter as well as in this world).

6. (On the other hand) there are some people who follow ways of causing diversion (from guidance), with the result that they, in their ignorance, lead (people) astray from Allâh's path and treat it (- Allâh's path) as something of least importance. A humiliating punishment awaits such people.

7. And when Our Messages are recited to such a person he turns his back (upon them) in disdain as though he never heard them (and) as if he were deaf in both ears. So give him the important tiding of a grievous punishment.

8. As for those who believe and do deeds of righteousness they will have Gardens full of delight and bliss (in Paradise).

9. There in they shall live for ever. (This is) a true promise of Allâh. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

10. He has created the heavens without any such pillars as you can see. And He has placed firm mountains in the earth that it may not quake with you and to provide you food. And He has scattered in it all kinds of creatures and has rained water from the clouds and caused to grow in it (animals and vegetation) of different fine species.

11. So this is Allâh's creation! Now, you show me the things that those (whom you worship as gods) other than Allâh, have created. Nay, but the unjust (who do not believe in One God) are (engrossed) in obvious error.

SECTION 2

12. Behold! We bestowed wisdom on Luqmân and said, `Give thanks to Allâh, for he who gives thanks does it only for his own good; and he who shows ingratitude (should know that) Allâh (needs no gratitude, He) is Self- Sufficient, Praiseworthy (in His own right).

13. And (recall the time) when Luqmân admonished his son and said, `My dear son! associate no partners with Allâh, surely this (act of) associating partners (with Him) is a grievous wrong.

14. `And (Allâh says), "We have enjoined on every human being concerning his parents (to be good to them). His mother is worn and wasted in bearing him and it takes her two years to wean him. And give thanks to Me and to your parents. To Me shall be the (ultimate) return (of you all).

15. "But if they (-the parents) impose upon you to set up equals with Me, the things

that you know to be nothing at all, do not obey them (so far as this wish of theirs is concerned). Yet keep company with them showing uniform courtesy, love and kindness to them in (all) worldly affairs. But (in spiritual matters) follow the way of one who turns to Me (in obedience and repentance). Then to Me will be the ultimate return of you all and I shall inform you all about your deeds".'

16. (Luqmân continued,) `My dear son! even if it (-the deed, good or bad) be as little as the weight of a grain of a mustard seed and even though it be hidden in (the hard layers of) a rock or in (the lofty heights of) the heavens or in (the dark womb of) the earth, Allâh is sure to bring it (to light and take an account of it). Verily, Allâh is the Knower of all subtleties (and all hidden secrets) and is All-Aware.

17. `My dear son! observe the prayer and enjoin what is good and just and forbid what is evil and wrong and endure with fortitude what befalls you. Verily, all these are matters (which stand in need) of strong resolve.

18. `And do not turn your face away from people in scorn and pride, nor walk about on the earth haughtily. Surely, Allâh does not love any self-conceited boaster.

19. `Rather walk with modest pace and talk in soft gentle tone. Surely, the most repugnant of voices is the braying of the donkey.'

SECTION 3

20. Do you not see how Allâh has made subservient to you all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth and lavished upon you His blessings (both) visible and invisible? Still there are some among mankind who argue about Allâh though they have no knowledge, no guidance and no illuminating Book.

21. And when it is said to them, `Follow that which Allâh has revealed.' They say, `We would rather follow that which we found our fore- fathers following.' (Would they do so) even though satan was inviting them (by that means) to the punishment of the flaming Fire?

22. And he who resigns himself wholly and solely to the will of Allâh and is a doer of good to others has indeed a hold on a support, firm and strong. And the end of all matters rests with Allâh (Who causes their results).

23. And as for him who disbelieves, let not his disbelief grieve you. To Us is their return (in the long run); We shall inform them all that they did. Verily, Allâh knows full well the innermost (thoughts) of their minds.

24. We shall let them enjoy (the worldly provisions) for a short while, then We shall drive them helplessly to a severe punishment.

25. And if you ask them, 'Who has created the heavens and the earth?' They will certainly answer, 'Allâh.' Say, 'All type of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh!' But most of them do not know (the meanings implied in it).

26. All that lies in the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh. Verily, Allâh is Self-Sufficient, and is Praiseworthy (in His own right).

27. And if all the trees on the earth were to be pens and the vast ocean (be full of ink) and besides that many (more) such oceans to replenish it (and were to supply ink to write the words of God) even then the words of Allâh would not be finished. Verily, Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

28. The creation of you all and your resurrection (for Him) are only like (the creation and resurrection of) one single soul; (all human beings are subject to the same laws of God). Verily, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

29. Do you not see that Allâh makes the night gain on the day and makes the day gain on the night and He has harnessed the sun and the moon (into the service of mankind) each one of them pursuing its course for a stated term? And (do you not see) that Allâh is Well-Aware of your deeds?

30. All this is (going on) because Allâh alone is the Ultimate Truth and because all that they call upon beside Him are false (gods) and because Allâh alone is the Most Exalted, the Incomparably Great.

SECTION 4

31. Do you not see that the ships sail through the sea carrying bounty by the favour of Allâh. (He has ordained it so) that He may show some of His signs to you. Surely, in this are important signs for every patiently persevering and grateful person.

32. And when a huge wave covers (the sailors) like (so many) canopies, they call upon Allâh bearing sincere faith in Him. But when He brings them safe to land then (only) some of them keep to the right course (and some of them become indifferent). Yet none denies Our signs except every perfidious ungrateful person.

33. Mankind! take your Lord as a shield and guard against the day when a father will be of no avail to his son, nor will (any of) the offspring be availing his father. Allâh's promise (about the coming of that day) is true indeed. Therefore, do not let the present life beguile you, nor let an arch-deceiver entice you away from Allâh.

34. Verily, Allâh alone has the knowledge of the Hour (of Resurrection). He sends down the rain. And He knows what the wombs contain. And nobody knows what he will accomplish on the morrow. And nobody knows the land where he will die. Verily, Allâh (alone) is the All-Knowing, All-Aware.

Chapter

32

Al-Sajdah

(The Prostration)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Sajdah).

1. Alif Lâm Mîm - I am Allâh, the All- Knowing.
2. This Book (-the Qur'ân) which is wanting in naught, containing nothing doubtful, disturbing and there is no false charge in it, has been revealed by the Lord of the worlds.
3. Do the people say, `He has invented it?' It is not so; it is the truth from your Lord. It has been revealed that you may warn the people to whom no Warner before you (for a long long time) has come so that they may receive guidance.

4. Allâh is He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between the two in six aeons. Again (listen to another great truth,) He is firmly settled on the Throne (of sovereignty). You have no real patron nor an intercessor beside Him; will you take no heed then?

5. He plans the scheme from the heaven (and sends it) to the earth, then it shall ascend to Him in (the course of) a day the duration of which is a thousand years according to your computation (in this world).

6. Such is He Who knows the hidden reality and the obvious, the All-Mighty, the Ever Merciful,

7. Who made perfectly well all that He created. And He originated the creation of a human being from clay.

8. Then He created his seed from an extract of an insignificant fluid (derived by his consuming food produced from clay or soil).

9. Then He endowed him with perfect faculties (of head and heart in accordance with what he is meant to be) and breathed into him of His spirit (thus made him the recipient of the Divine word). And He has given you hearing, eyes and hearts. Yet little are the thanks you give.

10. And they say, 'Shall we really be (raised to life as) a new creation when we are lost in the earth (after being buried in it)?' The truth is that they are disbelievers in the meeting with their Lord (that is why they are talking like this).

11. Say, 'The angel of death who has been put in charge of you will carry your soul off, then to your Lord you will be made to return.'

SECTION 2

12. Could you but see (their state) when the guilty will be (standing) before their Lord with their heads hanging down (and saying), 'Our Lord! we have seen and we have heard. So send us back (to worldly life), we will act righteously, for (now) we are convinced (of the truth about the Hereafter).'

13. Had We (enforced) Our will We would have (already) given every soul its (appropriate) guidance. But (as it is) the word from Me has come true (that) I will surely fill Gehenna with some of the *jinn* (- houghty) and (ordinary) men, all (the erring ones) together.

14. So suffer (the punishment for your evil deeds). Since you had given up (the idea

of) the meeting of this day of yours so We too have forsaken you (now). Suffer therefore the long-lasting punishment because of the misdeeds you used to do.

15. Only those believe in Our revelations who, when they are reminded by means of them, fall down prostrate and proclaim the (divine) glory with the praises of their Lord and they are not proud.

[Prostration]

16. (While getting up for late-night, *Tahajjud* Prayer) they forsake (their comfortable) beds calling upon their Lord with an awe-inspired and hopeful state of mind. And they spend out of that which We have provided them.

17. And no soul knows what (comforts) lie hidden for them (-the believers in the form) of a joy to the eyes as a reward for their righteous deeds.

18. What! can one who has been a believer (be treated) like one who has been a disobedient sinner. They cannot be alike.

19. There awaits those who believe and do deeds of righteousness Gardens of Eternal Abode in hospitality in return

for their good deeds.

20. But as for them who show disobedience their abode will be the Fire. Every time they try to get out of it they shall be hurled back into it and it shall be said to them, 'Suffer the torment of the Fire which you used to cry lies to.'

21. And of course We will let them suffer the minor and nearer punishment before the greater punishment befalls them so that they may turn to Us (in repentance).

22. And who is more unjust than the person who is reminded through the Messages of his Lord; yet he turns away from them? We will surely punish such of those who have severed their ties (with God).

SECTION 3

23. And We gave Moses the Scripture, therefore (Prophet!) have no doubt about receiving a similar perfect Book (yourself). And We made that (Torah a source of) guidance for the Children of Israel.

24. So long as they remained steadfast We raised leaders from among them. They guided (the people) by Our command; and the people had firm faith in Our signs.

25. And your Lord is One Who on the Day of Resurrection will judge between them concerning every issue over which they used to disagree;

26. Does this (fact) provide them no guidance that We destroyed many a generation in whose (ruined) dwelling places they (now) walk about? There are sure signs in all this. Will they not then listen (and pay heed).

27. Have they never seen (the sight) how We convey water to the barren land and produce thereby the crop of which they and their cattle eat? Will they not then see (and understand)?

28. And they say, `If you speak the truth tell us when this victory (of yours) will come.'

29. Say, `Those who have denied (the truth), their believing on the day of victory will not help them, nor shall they be given respite (to accept the true faith).'

30. So turn aside from them and wait. They are also waiting.

Chapter

33

Al-Ahzâb

(The Confederates)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Ahzâb).

1. O you Prophet!, take Allâh as a shield (seeking protection in Him) and do not follow (the wishes of) the disbelievers and the hypocrites. Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

2. And follow that which is revealed to you from your Lord. Verily, Allâh is Well Aware of what you people do.

3. And put your trust in Allâh. Allâh is sufficient as a Disposer of affairs.

4. Allâh has not placed two hearts in the bosom of any man, nor does He regard as your mothers those of your wives whom you desert by (*Zihâr*) calling them as such, nor does He regard those whom you adopt as your children as your own (real) children. These are mere words that you speak; but Allâh declares the truth and He guides to the (straight) path.

5. Call them (- the adopted ones) after (the names of) their (real) fathers. This is more just and equitable in the sight of Allâh. But if you do not know (the names of) their fathers then (they are) your brothers-in-faith and your friends or wards. And no blame shall lie on you with regard to any mistake you may have unintentionally made (before) in such a case. But (you are accountable for) that which you wilfully and premeditatingly do. And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

6. The Prophet has a better claim on the believers than (that) they even have on themselves. (Not only that) his wives are (as) mothers to them. (But in the matters of inheritance) the blood relations are nearer one to another (and more deserving to get the heritage) in (accordance with) the Law of Allâh than the other believers (from among the *Ansâr*) as well as the immigrants (-*Muhâjirs* whom the *Ansâr* took as brothers and united with themselves). Yet you can do an act of kindness (to do honourable favour) to your friends. This is also laid down in the Book of Law.

7. And (recall the time) when We made a covenant with the Prophets and We made it with you, and with Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, son of Mary; and We made a solemn covenant with them.

8. (The Lord did it) so that He may let the truthful give expression to their truthfulness (-whether they were true to their covenant). And (whereas He will reward the true believers); He has in store a woeful punishment for the disbelievers.

SECTION 2

9. **Believers!** remember how Allâh favoured you when (the combined) forces (of the *Quraish* and their allies) came against you (in the Battle of *Ahzâb*) and We sent against them (the forces of nature) a strong wind and hosts (of angels) that you could not see. And Allâh is ever a close observer of your (painstaking efforts and toilsome) deeds.

10. (Recall how He favoured you) when they (-your enemies) invaded you (at *Madînah*) from above you (from the highlands on the east) and from below you (-from the valley to the west) and when (your) eyes were dazed (in terror) and your hearts rose up to (your) throats while (some of) you entertained diverse thoughts about Allâh.

11. That was the time when the believers were put to hard trial and were violently shaken.

12. (Recall the time,) when the hypocrites and those who carried a (spiritual) disease in their hearts said, `Allâh and His Messenger only made us a false and delusive promise (of victory).

13. And (recall) when a party of them (also) said, `O people of *Yathrib* (- *Madînah*)! you can put up no stand (in the face of the enemy); you had better go back (to your homes or your old faith to save your lives). And a section of them asked the Prophet for leave saying, `Surely, our homes are lying exposed (to danger) whereas they were not actually lying exposed, but they only sought to flee (from the battlefield).

14. And if entry (of the enemy-forces) were effected (in the town of *Madînah*) against them from its diverse quarters and then they were incited to (treachery and) join in the disturbance (against the Companions) they would have readily gone for it. But (afterwards as it happened) they could not stay there (in their so called undefended houses) but a little while.

15. And previous to that they had made a covenant with Allâh that they would not turn (their) backs. And a covenant (made) with Allâh will have to be answered for.

16. Say, `It would be of no avail to you if you flee from death or the battlefield and in case you do, you will not (be allowed to) enjoy yourselves but for a short while.

17. Who will save you from (the punishment of) Allâh if it be His will to do you some harm or (who will withhold His favour from you) if it be His will to show you mercy? And they will not find apart from Allâh a patron or a helper for them.

18. Verily, Allâh knows those of you who turn others away (from fighting in the cause of Allâh), and (He knows) also those (of you) who say to their brethren, `Come to us (to follow the right course).' But they themselves seldom join the fight (in the cause of Allâh),

19. They are niggardly (having no desire) to help you. But when danger is in sight you can see them looking towards you, their eyes rolling like (the eyes of) one who swoons due to (the agony of) death. But when (the time of) danger passes away they lash you (tauntingly) with the sharp (edges of their) tongues being niggardly of any good (coming to your way). These people have never, infact, believed (sincerely), so Allâh has rendered void all their activities (against Islam). And (doing) that is always an easy thing for Allâh.

20. They (still) think that the (invading) confederates have not yet withdrawn. Should the confederates come (again) they would wish to be (desert dwellers) among the bedouins in the desert asking for news about you (whether you were safe or destroyed). And had they been among you they would not have fought (along with you), save a few.

SECTION 3

21. Certainly, you have an excellent model in the Messenger of Allâh for one who hopes (to meet) Allâh and the Last Day and who remembers Allâh again and again.

22. And as soon as the believers saw (the troops of) the confederates they said, `This is what Allâh and His Messenger promised us (about the defeat and discomfiture of the hosts of disbelievers and eventual victory of Islam); and Allâh and His Messenger spoke the truth. Look! this (entire episode) made them all the more faithful and obedient (to God).

23. There are some remarkable men among the believers who have been true to the covenant they made with Allâh. There are some among them who fulfilled their vow (and fell martyrs). And there are others among them who are (still) waiting to fulfill. They have never changed (their minds, their conduct or stand they had taken) in the least.

24. (The Muslims were granted victory in this battle) so that Allâh may reward the truthful for their having been true (to their covenant) and that He may punish the hypocrites or turn to them in mercy whichever pleases Him. Allâh is Great Protector (against faults), Ever Merciful.

25. And Allâh drove the disbelievers back (from Madînah and they turned back) with fire of rage (and full of spite for the Muslims); they gained no good. And Allâh sufficed the believers in (their) fighting. Allâh is Ever Powerful, All-Mighty.

26. And He brought down from their strongholds those of the people of the Scripture (- the Jews of Madînah, the perfidious *Banû Quraizâh*) who had backed them (-the invading enemies). He inspired awful terror into their hearts (so much so that) some of them you were able to slay and others you could take as captives.

27. And He allowed you to inherit their land, their homes and their belongings. And He shall give you yet more lands (the land of *Khaibar*; and the land of the Persian and Roman Empires) on which you have not so far set your foot. And Allâh is Possessor of prudential power over all that He will.

SECTION 4

28. **O** Prophet! say to your wives, `If you desire the present life and its beautiful things of adornment, come then, I will provide for you worldly provisions and allow you to depart in a handsome manner, a departing in kindness.

29. `But if you choose (the good will of) Allâh and (of) this Messenger and (in this way prefer) the Abode of the Hereafter, then truly Allâh has prepared a great reward for the doers of good among you.'

30. O wives of the Prophet! if any of you be guilty of manifest improper conduct (-a conduct falling short of the highest standard of faith, as you are made an excellent model for others) you will receive punishment twice over. It is indeed easy for Allâh (to double your punishment).

Part XXII

31. **B**ut whoever of you is obedient to Allâh and His Messenger and does righteous deeds, We shall give her reward twice over and We have prepared for her an honourable provision.

32. O wives of the Prophet! you are like no other women, if you would guard against evil, so be not soft in speech lest he who carries a disease in his heart should feel tempted, and you should speak decent words in a dignified tone.

33. And remain in your houses with grace and dignity (you being the mothers of the believers will not be allowed to merry) and do not show yourselves off as (did the women) in the bygone days of ignorance (who displayed their finery), and observe Prayer, present the *Zakât* (- the purifying dues) regularly and obey Allâh and His Messenger. Members of the house (of the Prophet of God)! verily, Allâh desires to rid you of (all) uncleanness and to purify you completely.

34. And keep in mind the Messages of Allâh and the (words of) wisdom which are recited in your homes. Verily, Benign is Allâh, All-Aware.

SECTION 5

35. Verily, Allâh has in store protection (from faults) and a great reward for the men and women who submit themselves (to the will of God), and for the men and women who believe, and for the men and women who are obedient to Allâh, and for the men and women who are patiently persevering (in their faith and righteousness,) and for the men and women who are humble (before God) and for the men and women who give alms and for the men and women who fast and for the men and women who guard their chastity, and for the men and women who remember and glorify Allâh (with all His praises) again and again.

36. It does not behove a believing man or a believing woman to exercise an option in their affair after Allâh and His Messenger have decided the matter. Indeed, he who disobeys Allâh and His Messenger surely strays far away in clear error.

37. And (recall the time) when you said to the man (- *Zaid* son of *Hârithah*, a slave freed by the Prophet) on whom Allâh had bestowed His favour and whom you also had favoured, `Keep your wife (- *Zainab*) to yourself (and do not divorce her) and take Allâh as a shield. And you (O *Zaid*!) conceal (the cause of the failure of the marriage) in your mind, what Allâh is going to bring to light (that the responsibility

of the failure rests more upon *Zaid* than upon *Zainab*); and you are (also) afraid of the people whereas Allâh has a better right that you should stand in awe of Him.' However when *Zaid* had done what he intended to do with her (- his wife and dissolved the marriage tie with her), We gave her (- the divorced lady) in marriage to you, so that the believers might incur no blame in (getting married to) the wives of their adopted sons after they had dissolved the marriage tie with them. Indeed, the decree of Allâh is ever executed.

38. No blame shall lie on the Prophet for (doing) that which Allâh has made incumbent upon him. (Such indeed has been) the law of Allâh with regard to those (Prophets) who have passed away. Indeed, the command of Allâh is a decree that is made absolute;

39. Those who deliver the Messages of Allâh and who stand in awe of Him and stand in awe of none except Allâh. And Sufficient is Allâh to take account.

40. Muḥammad is no father to any man among you but (he is rather) the Messenger of Allâh and the Seal of the Prophets. Indeed Allâh has full knowledge of all things.

SECTION 6

41. **Believers!** remember Allâh with much remembrance.

42. And glorify Him morning and evening.

43. It is He Who sends (His) blessings on you (and) His angels (pray for you) with the result that He brings you out of (all kinds) of utter darkness and leads you to light. And He is Ever Merciful to the believers.

44. They will be greeted with peace the day they meet Him. And He has an honourous reward in store for them.

45. Prophet! We have sent you to be a Witness, a Bearer of glad tidings and a Warner.

46. And (We have sent you) to be a Summoner to Allâh by His command and to serve as a bright sun which spreads light.

47. And (Prophet!) give the believers glad tidings that there awaits them great grace from Allâh.

48. And do not follow the disbelievers and the hypocrites and overlook their insulting remarks and annoying ways, and put your trust in Allâh, for Sufficient is Allâh as a

Disposer of affairs.

49. Believers! when you marry believing women and then divorce them before you have had access to them they are under no obligation to wait for *`Iddat* (- the prescribed period of waiting) that you count with regard to them (before

they can marry). You had better give them some provision and send them away in a handsome manner.

50. Prophet! We have made lawful to you, your wives whom you have paid their dowers and (similarly) those (wives) whom your right hand owns (after granting them freedom in lieu of their dower in marriage) from among those whom Allâh has given you as gains of war. (And also lawful for the marriage were) the daughters of your paternal uncles and of your paternal aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and of your maternal aunts as have emigrated with you. And (also has been made lawful to the Prophet) any other believing woman who offers herself to the Prophet (for marriage without claiming dower), provided the Prophet (too) desires to wed her. (This is a special permission of marrying more than four wives at a time) only for you to the exclusion of (other) believers in order that there may be no difficulty for you (in explaining the law to the believers). We know what We have enjoined on them (in the Qur'ân) regarding their wives (from among the free women) and also about (their marrying of) those whom their right hands own, in order that there may be no difficulty for you (in explaining the law to them). And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

51. (Prophet!) You may put aside such of them (- your wives) as you like and you may keep with yourself such of them as you like. (Similarly) no blame shall lie on you if you take back such of them as you desire of those (wives) whom you have had put aside (in the matter) provisionally. It is more likely this should console them and relieve them of their grief; and make everyone of them well-pleased with what you have given them. And Allâh knows best what lies hidden in your hearts. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Clement.

52. (Prophet!) you are not allowed (to marry) other woman after this, nor to change them (- your present wives)for other wives however much you may admire their good qualities. Only those (will remain with you) whom your right hand owns (after your having properly and lawfully wedded them). Remember that Allâh is Ever

Watchful over everything.

SECTION 7

53. **Believers!** do not enter the houses of the Prophet unless permission (to enter) has been given you for a meal (with him). Moreover do not wait (there) for the meal time. Rather you should come when you are invited, and disperse when you have had your meal, (nor should you stay over) seeking to listen to (idle) conversation. Surely, this behaviour of yours causes inconvenience to the Prophet, and he (being considerate of your feelings) forbears from (saying anything to) you. But Allâh forbears not from (saying) what is true. And when you ask the women for any commodity, ask them from behind a curtain. Such (a conduct) will better ensure the purity of your minds as well as theirs. And it is never proper for you to cause inconvenience to the Messenger of Allâh, nor (is it proper for you) that you should ever marry his wives after him. Indeed (if you do so) it would be a grievous thing in the sight of Allâh.

54. (It makes little difference) whether you do a thing openly or conceal it. Allâh has full knowledge of everything.

55. No blame shall lie on the women (if they appear) before their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their brothers' sons or the sons of their sisters or the womenfolk of their own (category) or those whom their right hands own. And you (all womenfolk) take (each of you) Allâh as a shield. Verily, Allâh is Ever Witness over all things.

56. Verily, Allâh and His angels bless this Prophet. Believers! you (also) invoke Allâh's blessings upon him and salute (him) with the salutation of peace.

57. Verily, those who malign Allâh and His Messenger (and are guilty of false accusation), Allâh has condemned them in this world and in the next and He has prepared a humiliating punishment for them.

58. And those who malign believing men and believing women for no fault of theirs, are guilty of false accusation and bear the burden of flagrant sin.

SECTION 8

59. **Prophet!** tell your wives, your daughters and women of the believers that (while going out of their houses) they should draw lower upon them the portions of their (loose) outer coverings from over their heads on to their bosoms (so as to veil therewith the arms, the neck, the hair and ornaments worn over them). This practice is more likely to help them to be distinguished (from other women who make a display of their beauty and ornamentation) and so saves them from trouble. Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

60. If the hypocrites, those who carry a disease in their hearts and the scandal-mongers (who circulate false rumours to cause agitation) in the city, do not give over (their evil designs and stop their activities), We shall (one day) make you exercise authority over them, then they will not dwell long in this (city) with you (as your neighbours).

61. (They are) bereft of Allâh's grace, and will be held wherever they are found and put to death.

62. Such has been the way of Allâh in the case of those who have gone before and you will find no change in the way of Allâh.

63. People ask you about this (promised) Hour (When the such people will be treated like that). Say, `Allâh alone has the knowledge of it. And what shall make you know that the Hour may be near at hand.

64. Allâh has surely condemned the disbelievers and has a blazing Fire in store for them.

65. They will live long in it. And they will find (therein) no patron nor helper.

66. The day when their leaders are turned over and over into the Fire, they will say, `O would that we had obeyed Allâh! would that we had obeyed the Messenger!"

67. The people (in general) will say, `Our Lord! we obeyed our leaders and our great ones but they led us astray from (Your) path.

68. `Our Lord! give them (their) punishment twice over (for their own evil deeds and for their misleading us), and deprive them totally of your grace.

SECTION 9

69. **Believers!** be not as those who maligned Moses. Indeed Allâh absolved him of their allegations. And he (- Moses) is ever high- honored in the sight of Allâh.

70. **Believers!** take Allâh as a shield and say the right thing in a straight forward

words that hits the mark (and is devoid of hidden meanings).

71. He will set right your actions for you, and protect you against (the consequences of) your sins. And one who obeys Allâh and His Messenger, has of course achieved a great achievement.

72. Verily, We presented the trust (- Our injunctions and laws) to the heavens and the earth and the mountains and they refused to prove false to it, and they were struck with awe of it. On the other hand a human-being has proved false to it (by betraying the trust and violating the Divine commandments), for he could be unjust and is forgetful.

73. With the result that Allâh will punish the hypocritical men and hypocritical women and the polytheistic men and the polytheistic women (who proved false to the trust). Whereas He turns with grace and mercy to the believing men and the believing women. Indeed, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

Chapter

34

Saba'

(Sheba)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Saba').

1. All kind of true and perfect praise is due to Allâh, to Whom belongs whatsoever lies in the heavens and whatsoever lies in the earth. To Him alone shall all praise belong in the Here-after. And He is the All-Wise, the All-Aware.

2. He (- God the Almighty) knows all that goes into the earth and all that comes forth from it, and all that comes down from the heaven and all that goes up to it. And He is the Ever Merciful, the Great Protector.

3. And those who disbelieve say, 'The Hour will never come upon us.' Say, 'Why not, by my Lord, Who knows the unseen, it is bound to come upon you. Nothing escapes

Him (unobserved), not even so much as an atom's weight in the heavens or in the earth, nor is anything there smaller or greater than that (but is recorded) in a book revealing (the truth, and is governed by a plain law).

4. (The Hour shall come) so that He may reward those who believe and do deeds of righteousness. It is they for whom there awaits protection (from the consequences of sin), and honourable and generous provision.

5. But (as to) those who strive hard against Our revelations seeking to frustrate (Our plan), it is they who will suffer a harrowing punishment of the worst sort.

6. Those who have been given knowledge know that whatever has been revealed to you from your Lord is the very lasting truth, and that it guides to the path of (One Who is) the All-Mighty, the Highly Praiseworthy (in His own right).

7. And those who disbelieve say (one to another), 'Shall we show you a man who gives you the important news (that) when you are (dead and) broken up into a complete disintegration, you shall then be raised to a new life.

8. 'Has he forged a lie in the name of Allâh? Or is he afflicted with madness?' Neither of the two, of course, (is true,) the thing is that those who do not believe in the Hereafter are courting a sure agony and are steeped in a dismal error.

9. Do they not see (how they are surrounded on all sides by) the heaven and the earth that lie before and behind them? If We (so) please, We can make them low (and abased) in the land (and thus show some signs of the earth), or let some portion of the clouds fall down upon them (showing some heavenly signs). Behold! there is a sign in this for every penitent servant (of God).

SECTION 2

10. And certainly We bestowed Our (gracious) favours on David. (We said,) 'O (you dwellers of the) mountains, obey him.' And (We assigned) the birds and the swift footed horses (their duty); and We made the iron soft and pliant for him.

11. (We said to him,) 'Make full length coats of mail (to cover the whole body) forging links of proper measure (for their smooth working).' (And We also said to

him and his followers,) `Do righteous deeds. I am a keen Observer of what you do.'

12. And We made such winds serve Solomon the blowing of which in the forenoon (and thus help sailing of his ships) was equal to (a voyage of) a month (by the other ships); similarly its blowing in the afternoon was (also) equal to (a voyage of) a month (by them). And We made a spring of molten copper to flow for him. Also (given into his service were) some of the *jinn*s (- wild and rebellious mountain tribes known as *Amalaqites*), who worked under him as trained craftsmen) by the command of his Lord. And (We also told them) whoever of them deviated from and disobeyed Our command (- that they should obey Solomon) We shall make him suffer the agony of burning.

13. Those (*jinn*s -handy craftsmen) made for him (- Solomon) whatever he desired, places for worship and plans and basins (as large) as the tanks and large and heavy cooking pots well-set (on their trivets due to their large size). (And We said,) `Act gratefully, O people of David.' Yet few are My people who are (really) grateful.

14. And when We ordained death for him (- Solomon) the people only came to know of his death through a (worthless) creature of earth (- Solomon's son) that was eating away his (father's) staff (- ruling power and glory). So when it fell down the *jinn* realized then plainly that had they known the secret (of the hollowness of the kingdom) they would have never remained in (a state of) humiliating torment.

15. There was indeed a great sign for Sheba in their homeland. (They had) two gardens (one) on the right and (one) on the left, (and We had said to them,) `Eat of the provisions (and enjoy the gifts) of your Lord and render Him thanks. (Yours is) a happy and beautiful land and Lord a Great Protector.'

16. But they turned away. Thereupon We sent against them a devastating flood. And We replaced their two (excellent) gardens by two (other) gardens bearing bitter fruit and (containing) Tamarisk and a few nettle shrubs (here and there).

17. That is how We recompensed them because of their ingratitude. It is only the ungrateful whom We recompense (in the like manner).

18. And We had placed between them (- the Shebians) and the towns (of Syria) which We had blessed, (other) towns facing each others and prominently visible, and We had fixed easy (journeying) stages between them. (We said to the people of Sheba), `Journey through them by night and day, safe and secure.'

19. But (due to their ingratitude) they wanted (as if) to say, `Our Lord! make longer the distance between (the stages of) our journeys.' And they did injustice to themselves. So We reduced them to mere legends and We broke them into complete disintegration (and scattered them far and wide). Behold! there are signs in this for all

those who are patiently- persevering and highly grateful persons.

20. And *Iblîs* found that he judged regarding them correctly, (that he would be successful in leading the progeny of Adam astray,) excepting (only) a party of true believers, so (all) the rest of the people followed him;

21. Though he (- *Iblîs*) had no authority over them (for it is by their own wrong beliefs and evil deeds that mankind brings about their spiritual ruin). (It happened thus) so that We might distinguish those who believed in the Hereafter from those who were suffering from doubts about it. Indeed, your Lord is Watchful over and Preserver of everything.

SECTION 3

22. Say, `Call on those whom you take (for gods) besides Allâh. They possess no power not even so much as the weight of an atom in the heavens or in the earth, nor do they share any control over either of them, nor does He receive any support from these (false gods).'

23. No intercession will avail with Him except (for him about) whom He permits (it). (Those for whom the intercession is permitted will keep waiting) until when their hearts are relieved of awe they would ask (one another), `What is it that your Lord said?' Some of them will reply, `(He said) the truth.' And He is the Highest, the Greatest.

24. Say, `Who provides you sustenance from the heavens and the earth?' (Then) tell, `(None other than) Allâh.' Surely, we (- the believers) are on the right guidance, nonetheless you (the disbelievers) are engrossed in evident error.

25. Say, `You will not be called upon to account for our sins, nor shall we be called upon to account for your doings.'

26. Say, `Our Lord will bring us together (in a battle-field as opponents) and then He will judge between us with truth for He alone is the Supreme Judge, the All-Knowing.

27. Say, `Show me those beings whom you number with Him as (His) associates. By no means (should you associate partners with Him) for it is Allâh (alone) Who is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

28. (Prophet!) We have sent you not but towards entire mankind (till the end of time) as a Bearer of glad-tidings and as a Warner but most people do not know (that the Message of Islam is universal and the Qur'ân the last revealed Book).

29. And they say, `Tell us, if you speak the truth when this promise will be (fulfilled).'

30. Say, `For you is the appointment of a day which you cannot delay by a single moment (and thus avoid it), nor shall you be able to go ahead (of it to find an escape from it for a single moment).'

SECTION 4

31. And those who disbelieve say, `We will never believe in this Qur'ân nor in (the Books) that preceded it.' Could you but see their condition when the wrongdoers will be made to stand before their Lord, they will be bandying words (and so throwing back the blame) on one another. Those who had been suppressed and made weak will say to those who considered themselves superior, `Had it not been for you we would surely have been believers.'

32. (Thereupon) those who considered themselves superior will say to those who had been suppressed and made weak (in the world), `Was it we who kept you away from (following) the guidance after it had come to you? No, this was not the case. Rather you were guilty in your own right.'

33. And those who were suppressed and made weak (in the world) will say to those who considered themselves superior, `Nay, (We did not become guilty in our own right) rather it was due to your schemes (which you hatched) by day and night (that kept us away from guidance); for then you urged us to disbelieve in Allâh and set up equals with Him (to be worshipped).'

And they will not be able to conceal their remorse when they see the punishment; We shall put shackles round the necks of these disbelievers. They will be recompensed only according to their (actual) deeds.

34. We sent no Warner to any town but its corrupted well-to-do people said, `Surely we disbelieve in the Messages that you have been sent with.'

35. And they (also) say, 'We are better off in respect of wealth and children (as compared with others) and we are not at all going to be made to suffer.'

36. Say, 'Verily, my Lord multiplies the means of livelihood for whom He will and makes them scant (for whom He pleases), but most people do not know (the reason behind).

SECTION 5

37. Neither your wealth nor your children are a means that can bring you near to Us in rank. But it is only those who believe and do righteous deeds (whose faith and virtue will be the means to bring them near to Us). They shall have the reward for their (virtuous) deeds many times over and shall be occupying the lofty places with peace and security.

38. But those who strive hard in their opposition to Our Messages seeking to render (Our plan) null and void (and thinking they will escape Us), it is they who will be brought to face punishment.

39. Say, 'Surely, my Lord multiplies the means of livelihood for such of His servants as He will and makes them scant for him (whom He pleases). And whatever you spend (in some noble cause) He exceeds it (in giving reward) so as to leave it (- your own contribution) behind; He is the Best of Providers.

40. (Never be oblivious of) the day when He will gather them all together, then He will say to the angels, 'Are these the ones who used to worship you?'

41. They will say, 'Holy is Your name. It is You Who are our Protector against them, not they. It was not us but the *jinn*s that they worshipped. It was in them that most of them believed (and not in Us).

42. So (it will be said to the false gods and their worshippers,) 'This day you have no power to help or harm one another.' And We shall say to the wrongdoers, 'Suffer the agony of the Fire which you used to cry lies to.'

43. And when Our clear Messages are recited to them they say, 'This fellow is but a man who wishes to keep you away from (worshipping the gods) that your fathers used to worship.' And they say (of the Qur'ân), 'This is nothing but a forged lie unprecedented.' And those who disbelieve say regarding this (perfect) truth when it has come to them, 'This is nothing but a hoax causing a split (among the people).'

44. Whereas We had given them none of (Our) Books which they studied, nor did We send to them any Warner (in the recent past) before you (that they should have known

the abuses involved in forging lies).

45. Their predecessors had also cried lies (to the Prophets of their time). And these (Makkans) have not attained (even) a tenth of that (resources of wealth and strength) which We had given their predecessors, yet they cried lies to My Messages so (let these see) how (terrible) was the change I brought about and how (tremendous) was (the result of)

My disapproval.

SECTION 6

46. Say, `I advise you (to do) one thing, (it is) that you keep Allâh (before) you, stand up in twos (- collectively) and ones (- singly) and then ponder (over the teachings of this Prophet). (You will come to the conclusion) that there is no vestige of insanity in (this) companion of yours (- Muḥammad). He is only a Warner to you of a great calamity which is impending (over you).

47. Say, `Whatever reward I might have asked of you (for my this exhortation) you can keep it with you. (I claim) my reward only from Allâh for He is the Witness over all things.'

48. Say, `My Lord will do away (with falsehood) by means of the truth. (He is) thoroughly Aware of the hidden realities.'

49. Say, `The perfect truth has come (in Makkah) and (as a prophecy keep it in mind that) falsehood (and idol-worship has gone) never to sprout (again from this soil) and never to return (to it).

50. Say, `If I am lost, it is I who suffer the loss (for my own faults), but if I am rightly guided, it is entirely due to (the truth) that my Lord has revealed to me. Verily, He is All-Hearing, Ever Nigh.

51. And (you will be simply astonished) if you could only see when these (disbelievers) will be in the grip of fear; but then there will be no escape and they will be seized (with punishment) at a place nearby (- at *Badr*).

52. Then they will say, `We (now) believe in this (- Qur'ân). But how can the attainment (of faith) be possible from a position (of disbelief) so far off,

53. While they had indeed disbelieved in it before this, and they were shooting at the unknown (and making far fetched and useless conjectures about the failure of the Prophet and their own triumph) from a place far off.

54. A barrier has been placed between them and their longings (and they will fail to see the realisation of their hearts desire, the failure of the Prophet in his mission), as was done with the people similar to them before (this). They (too) suffered from disquieting doubts.

Chapter

35

Fâṭir

(Originator)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Fâṭir).

1. All kind of true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh, the Originator of the heavens and the earth, Who employs as (His) messengers the angels, having two or three or four pairs of wings (and so possessed of powers, speed and qualities in varying degrees). He adds to the creation (of these wings and thus to the powers and abilities of the angels) as much as He will (in accordance with the importance of the work entrusted to each one of them), for Allâh is Possessor of power over (His) every desired thing.

2. Whatever (blessings of) mercy Allâh showers upon mankind there is none to withhold them. And none can grant that which He withholds after it (has once been withheld by Him). He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

3. Mankind! remember the favour of Allâh that rests upon you. Is there any Creator other than Allâh who provides (all sorts of provisions) for you from the heaven and the earth? There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but

He. Whither are you then being led astray?

4. If they cry lies to you (you need not bother because) other Messengers (of God) have already been cried lies to before you. Yet all matters stand referred to Allâh (for His final judgment).

5. Mankind! the promise of Allâh is undoubtedly true, so do not let the present life deceive you, and do not let the avowed seducer seduce you away from Allâh.

6. Surely, satan is an enemy to you, so treat him as an enemy. He calls his party only (to follow him) with the result that they become of the inmates of the blazing Fire.

7. There awaits a severe punishment for those who disbelieve. But there awaits His protection and a great reward for those who believe and (also) do deeds of righteousness.

SECTION 2

8. Can the person, the evil of whose conduct is made to appear pleasing and regards it as good, (be in a position to discern the truth and so be rightly guided). Allâh forsakes him who wishes to go astray (as it is His law). And He guides (him) aright who wishes (to get right guidance). So do not fret yourself to death because of them. Surely, Allâh knows what they do.

9. And Allâh is He Who sends the winds which raise (vapours in the form of) clouds. (When the clouds rise) We drive them towards a tract of land which has no sign of life and make thereby the barren land fertile, green and flourishing. That is how the quickening (of the dead shall come to pass).

10. Whoever seeks glory (let him turn to God as) all glory belongs to Allâh. All good and pure words (of faith) go up to Him and all the righteous deeds exalt that (faith). As for those who plan evil plots, there awaits them an agony of a severe nature; the evil planning of such is doomed to fail.

11. And Allâh created you out of dust and then from a drop of fluid and then made you pairs (- male and female). And no female conceives (a child) nor does she give birth (to it) but it is in accordance with His (- the Creator's) knowledge. And no one

who is granted long life gets his life prolonged or gets it reduced but (all this) is in (conformity with) some law. Verily, it is easy for Allâh (to impose such laws).

12. The two great bodies of water are not alike; this one is palatable, sweet and pleasant to drink while the other is saltish and bitter. Yet (inspite of all this) you take for food fresh and wholesome meat (of fish) from them both; and bring out from them (pearl-like things used in) ornaments for your wear. And you can see the ships cleaving (their way) through it so that you may seek of His bounty (by means of commercial navigation), and so that you may give (Him) thanks.

13. He causes the night to gain on the day and He causes the day to gain on the night and He has harnessed the sun and the moon into service. Each one (of them) will go on moving for a specified term. Such is (the majesty of) Allâh, your Lord! All power belongs to Him. But those whom you call upon apart from Him have no power at all, not even equal to the husk of a date stone.

14. If you pray to them they do not hear your call; and even if they could hear it at all they could make you no response (so as to be of any use to you). And on the Day of Resurrection they will deny that you associated (them as partners with God). And none can inform you (about the all important truth) like (Allâh) Who is All-Aware.

SECTION 3

15. **Mankind!** it is you who are dependent upon Allâh (for your physical and spiritual needs), but Allâh, He is Self-Sufficient (- independent of all needs), the Praiseworthy (in His Own right).

16. If He please, He may destroy you and replace you with another people;

17. And that is not at all difficult for Allâh (to do so).

18. And no soul that bears (its own) burden (of responsibility) can bear the burden of another. And if a soul heavily laden (with the weight of sins) calls to (be relieved of) its burden, not the least of its burden shall be borne (by the other) even though (it calls its) near kinsman. You can warn only those who hold their Lord in awe in the heart of their hearts and observe Prayer. And one who purifies oneself shall do it only for the good of one's own soul, for to Allâh shall be the eternal return.

19. The blind person and the person who sees are not alike;

20. Nor the thick darkness (of ignorance) and the light (of Islam);

21. Nor the shades (of the Heaven) and the horrid heat (of the Hell-fire).

22. The (spiritually) living and the (spiritually) dead are not alike. Allâh causes to hear whom He will. But you cannot make those hear who are (lying buried) in the graves (of ignorance and prejudice).

23. You are only a Warner.

24. Verily, We have sent you with the lasting truth (as) a Bearer of glad-tidings and (as) a Warner (to them), for there has been no people but have (been warned by) a Warner (from God).

25. And if they cry you lies, (remember) their predecessors (also) cried lies (to their Messengers of God) though their Messengers had brought to them clear proofs, the Scriptures and the illuminating Book.

26. Then I took those who disbelieved to task, then (you saw) how (terrible) was the result of My disapproval (of them, and how tremendous was the change I brought)!

SECTION 4

27. **Do** you not see that Allâh sends down water from above and brings forth therewith fruits of diverse varieties? And there are white and red strata in the mountains. They have various other colours (also) and (some are) jet-black.

28. Likewise there are some (species of) human beings, beasts and cattle of colours varying from one another. Only

those of His servants who are endowed with right knowledge (and who can visualize the unity of the Creator by pondering over the diversity of the Creation) hold Allâh in reverential awe. Mighty is Allâh, Great Protector.

29. Surely, (only) those who follow the Book of Allâh and observe Prayer and spend (for the cause of Allâh) privately and in public out of that which We have provided for them (thereby) hope (to do) a bargain which will never fail.

30. The result of it is that He will give them their full reward (for their righteous deeds) and (even) increase them out of His grace and bounty. Verily, He is Great Protector, Most Appreciating (of their right endeavours and Multiplier of reward).

31. And the perfect Book which We have revealed to you is the lasting truth (itself and contains all that is required). It confirms the truth (of the prophecies about the advent of Islam contained in the revelations) that preceded it. Verily, Allâh is All-Aware of His servants and a keen Observer (of them).

32. We (always) made only those whom We had chosen from among Our servants, the inheritors of (Our) Book. Some of them are (hard upon themselves and so) unjust to their souls (for suppressing their egos sternly). There are others among them who are moderate and are following the middle course. There are yet others among them who, by the leave of Allâh, are foremost in acts of goodness. That indeed is the great distinction.

33. (Their reward will be) Gardens of Eternity; they shall enter them. And there they shall be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls and their robes therein will be (made of) silk.

34. And (there) they will say, `All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh Who has rid us of all (our) sorrows. Surely, our Lord is Great Protector, Most Appreciating.

35. It is He Who has lodged us in the Lasting Abode by His grace. Herein we know no toil, herein we know no weariness.

36. But as to those who disbelieve, there awaits them the fire of Gehenna. It will not be the end of them so that they might die, (for decree of death would end all their agony) nor shall (some part of) its agony be reduced for them. That is how We requite every ungrateful person.

37. And therein they will clamour for help (saying), `Our Lord, take us out (of Hell) we will do righteous deeds different from those we used to do (in our previous life).' (We shall say to them,) `Did We not give you life long enough so that he who might have liked to take heed could take heed during its course? There came a

Warner to you as well. So suffer now (the agony of Hell). There is none to help the wrong doers (here).

SECTION 5

38. Verily, Allâh knows the hidden realities of the heavens and the earth. He knows full well the innermost secret of the minds (of the people).

39. It is He Who made you rulers on the earth. So one who chooses to disbelieve now will suffer the consequences of his disbelief. Their faithlessness will win for the disbelievers nothing but increased displeasure of their Lord. Indeed, their faithlessness will only make worse the loss of the disbelievers.

40. Say, `Have you considered regarding your associate-gods whom you call upon apart from Allâh? Show Me then what they have created of the earth. Or have they any partnership in (the creation of) the heavens? Or have We given these (worshippers of false deities) a Book so that they are supported by some clear proofs (mentioned) therein? Nay, not so at all, but (the truth is that) the wrongdoers hold out vain promises one to another only to deceive.

41. Verily, Allâh sustains the heavens and the earth lest they should swerve away from their course. Should they swerve away there is none to uphold them (and save them from destruction) but He. Verily, He is Ever-Forbearing, Great Protector.

42. These people used to swear by Allâh by their most ardent oaths that if ever a Warner should come to them from Allâh they would be more rightly guided than anyone of the nations. But when a Warner did come to them this (coming of his) only increased them in aversion,

43. And made them behave arrogantly on the earth and devise evil schemes; yet evil scheming recoils on none but its authors. They are, then, only waiting that We should follow (the same) practice which We did (in dealing) with the peoples of old. And you will find no change in that law of Allâh, nor will you ever find the law of Allâh shifting from its course.

44. Have they not travelled in the land and seen how (evil) was the end of their predecessors, while those were (a people) superior to and stronger than these in might? There is nothing in the heavens or on the earth that can render void (the plans) of Allâh. Verily, He is Possessor of perfect knowledge, All-Powerful.

45. If Allâh were to take people to task for (every little of) their evil doings He would not leave on the surface of this (earth) a single living creature. But He (out of His all embracing mercy) grants them respite till a stated term. And when their appointed

time comes (they come to realise that) Allâh has His servants well under (His) eyes (He deals with them according to the nature of their deeds).

Chapter

36

Yâ Sîn

(O Perfect Man!)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Yâ Sîn).

1. Yâ Sîn - O perfect man (Muhammad)!
2. I call to witness the perfect Qur'ân full of (convincing proofs and) wisdom.
3. (That) you are indeed one of the Messengers,
4. (Standing) on the right and straight path.
5. (This Qur'ân is) a great revelation sent by the All-Mighty (and) the Ever Merciful (God),
6. So that you may warn the people who are ignorant because their forefathers have not been warned (for a long time).
7. Surely, most of them merit the sentence of Our punishment for they would not believe.
8. Surely, We have put shackles (of customs and prejudices) round their necks and

they are (reaching right) up to their chins, so that they have become stiff-necked (due to their pride and false notions of superiority).

9. And We have placed barriers (of their stubbornness rendering them unable to look forward to the bright future of Islam and rise to eminence by accepting it) in front of them, and barriers (of their prejudices) behind them (thus rendering them unable to look back at the doom of those who rejected the truth in the past). Thus We have kept them behind the veil so that they cannot see (so have become totally devoid of spiritual light).

10. And it is all the same to them whether you warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe (for they have deliberately shut their eyes and ears to the truth).

11. You can warn only those who would follow the Reminder (- the Qur'ân) and are full of reverential awe of the Most Gracious (God) in the heart of their hearts. Therefore proclaim to them the glad tidings of protection (from the evil consequences of sins) and an honorable provision (from Us).

12. Surely, it is We alone Who raise the dead to life. And We shall preserve (their noble deeds) which they send forward and their prints (of virtue and knowledge which they leave behind for others to emulate). Every thing We have comprehensively preserved in a clear record.

SECTION 2

13. And set forth to them for their good a parable of a people of the town when the Messengers (of God) came to them.

14. (At first) We sent to them two (Messengers, Moses and Jesus) but they cried lies to them. Then We strengthened (Our Apostles) with a third (- the Prophet Muḥammad by fulfilling in his person their prophecies about his advent). So they said, (as a general Message to the people), 'We have been sent to you (as Messengers by God).'

15. They (- the contemporaries of the Messengers) gave (a general) reply, 'You are only human beings like ourselves. The Most Gracious (God) has revealed nothing (to you). You are simply telling lies.'

16. They said, 'Our Lord knows that we have been, of course, sent to you,

17. 'And our duty is only to convey (the Message) in clear terms.'

18. They (- the people of the town) said, 'We augur ill from you (for we are always

seize with one calamity or the other after your advent). If you do not give it (- your preaching) over we will certainly excommunicate you and a painful punishment shall befall you at our hands.'

19. They said, `Your ills are of your own making. (Do you say all this) because you have been admonished? Nay, but the real thing is you are a pack of transgressors.'

20. Now, there came a man running from the farthest end of the town. He said, `O my people! follow the Messengers.

21. `Follow those who ask no reward from you and who are following the right path.

Part XXIII

22. `What reason have I not to worship Him Who has created me, and to Whom you all shall be brought back?

23. `Shall I take apart from Him others as gods whose intercession, if the Most Gracious (God) should decide to do me some harm, will be of no avail to me, nor will they be able (even) to rescue me (from that harm)?

24. `Surely, in case (I do anything of the kind) I should be (falling) in (to) a clear error.

25. `I have believed in your (true) Lord, therefore listen to me.'

26. It was said (to him by God), `Enter Paradise (while you are still living).' He said, `O, would that my people knew,

27. `For what reason has my Lord granted me protection (from pitfalls in this life) and included me among the honoured (servants of His)!'

28. We sent no contingent (of force) from heaven, against his people (to destroy them), after that (he has believed) nor do We ever command (any of such things).

29. It was just a single blast and behold! they were all (extinct) like a (spark of) fire extinguished.

30. Alas for (My) servants! not a single Messenger comes to (reform) them but they treat him lightly.

31. Have they not seen how many generations We have ruined before them, and that those (generations) never come back to them (after their ruination)?

32. Indeed, they, one and all, shall most certainly, be brought before Us.

SECTION 3

33. The dead earth which We bring to life and from which We bring forth (a large variety of) grains, of which they eat, is an important sign for them.

34. And We have made to grow there on (the earth) gardens of date-palms and vine, and We have caused springs to gush forth from it;

35. So that they may enjoy its fruit and (enjoy) that which their hands have worked for. Will they then render (Us) no thanks (and follow Our guidance)?

36. Glory be to Him Who has created pairs of all type of the thing that the earth grows and of their own species and of the things yet unknown to them.

37. The night from which We strip off (the last vestige) of the day, so that (afterwards) they are left in pitch darkness, is a (great) sign for them.

38. And the sun is moving (on its ordained course) towards the goal determined for it. That is the determining of the All-Mighty, the Possessor of perfect knowledge.

39. And (think over the phase of) the moon, We have determined its various mansions, so that (after traversing these mansions) it returns (to the stage when it appears) like an old dry twig of a palm-tree.

40. It is not given to the sun to attain to (the purpose ordained for) the moon, nor is it given to the night to outstrip the day. All of these (luminaries) go on floating smoothly in an orbit (of their own).

41. And it is a sign for these people that We carry their children in the fully laden ships.

42. And We will make for them other (means of transport) such things as they will board.

43. If We (so) willed, We would drown them, then they would have no (one to) succour (them), nor would they be rescued.

44. It is only through mercy from Us (that We save them) and (let them have) an enjoyment of worldly gains for a while.

45. And when it is said to them, 'Guard yourself against that (punishment) which is (impending) before you and that which is behind you (and may befall you as a consequence of your evil past) so that you may be shown mercy (they turn away).'

46. There never comes to them a Message from the Messages of their Lord but they always turn away from it.

47. And when it is said to them, 'Spend out of that which Allâh has provided for you,'

those who disbelieve say to those who believe, 'Shall we feed those whom, if Allâh so will, He could feed? You are only steeped in obvious error.'

48. They (also) say, '(Tell us) if indeed you are truthful when this warning (about punishment) shall come to pass.'

49. They are (thus) only waiting for one sudden onslaught of calamity which will overtake them while they are yet disputing (about it) among themselves.

50. And so (sudden will be their end) that they will not be able to leave instructions about their affairs nor to their own people will they return.

SECTION 4

51. And the trumpet shall be blown, and behold! (rising) from their graves they will hasten on to their Lord.

52. They will say (to one another), 'O woe be on us! Who has aroused us from our sleeping place?' 'This is the same thing as the Most Gracious (God) had promised and the Messengers (of God) did indeed speak the truth' (will be the reply they receive).

53. It will only be a single blast, and behold! they shall all be brought before Us.

54. So on this Day no injustice whatsoever shall be done to any soul. You shall reap the fruit of your deeds.

55. On this Day, the owners of Paradise will be occupied (in their pursuits), rejoicing.

56. They and their companions will be in (pleasant) shades, reclining on raised couches.

57. Therein they shall have fruits, and they will have all that they ask for.

58. 'Peace (be upon you)' (shall be) the word (of greeting to them) from the Ever Merciful Lord.

59. And (it will be said to the sinners), `O guilty ones! remain apart (as distinguished from the righteous) this day.

60. `O Children of Adam! did I not enjoin on you never to worship satan, for he is to you an enemy severing (your) ties (with Me).

61. `And (did I not charge you) to worship Me, (for) this is the straight and right path?

62. `Yet he (- satan) has certainly led astray a number of people from among you. Why do you not even then make use of your understanding (so as to rectify your error)?

63. `This is the Gehenna you were warned against.

64. `Enter it this day, because of your disbelief.'

65. On that day We shall seal the mouths of these (disbelievers). Their hands will speak to Us (about the actions they wrought), and their feet shall bear witness to all their (sinful) doings.

66. If We had (so) willed, We could certainly have deprived these (disbelievers) of their eyesight so that they would have gone ahead on their path (unseeing). But, how should they find (the path) now (in this state of their blindness).

67. If We had (so) willed, We could have surely destroyed them where they were, so that they would not be able to move forward nor turn back.

SECTION 5

68. We reverse the mechanism of the person to whom We grant (extraordinary) long life by making the state of his constitution weak. Do they not (even then) make use of their understanding?

69. We have not taught him (- the Prophet Muḥammad the art of composing) verses, nor does it become him (to be a poet). This (Qur'ân) is but a means to attain to eminence; a (Book) that is widely read, and tells the right from the wrong.

70. (It has been revealed) so that he (- the Prophet) may warn those who are still (somewhat spiritually) alive (and so capable of receiving and responding to the call of truth), and (that) the verdict (of condemnation) be justified against the disbelievers.

71. Do they not see that among the things that We have made with Our power are the

cattle which We have created for them, and of which they are masters (now).

72. And We have subdued these (cattle) for their use and benefit. So that some of them serve as their riding (beasts) and through others they obtain their food.

73. They have many other uses in them. They provide them with drinks (of various kinds). Will they still give (Us) no thanks?

74. (In spite of all this) they worship other gods apart from Allâh (falsely) that they may find some help through them.

75. These (false gods) are not capable of helping them. On the contrary these (gods) will (turn out for them to) be a host (of rebels) brought (before the Almighty to receive their due punishment).

76. And do not let their words cause you grief. Verily, We know what they conceal and what they profess (and they will be paid back in their own coins).

77. Has not a human being seen how We have created him out of a (very insignificant) sperm drop? Yet behold! he is an open adversary (to Us).

78. And he coins strange things about Us and forgets his own creation. He says, 'Who will quicken the dead bones to life when they are decayed?'

79. Say, 'He Who evolved them the first time will again raise them to life. He is fully conversant with all (types and methods of) creation.

80. 'It is He Who produces fire for you out of the green tree, that you kindle (another fire) from it (even so new faith

is kindled when the spiritually weak come in contact with the Divine Reformer).'

81. Has He, Who has created the heavens and the earth, not the power of creating (other people) like them? Why not! He is the Supreme Creator (and) Possessor of all knowledge.

82. Verily, His command, when He intends (to evolve) a thing, is (only) that He says to it, `Be' and it comes into being (at proper time).

83. Therefore, glory be to Him in Whose hand lies the perfect control of every thing, and towards Whom you shall all be made to return.

Chapter

37

Al-Sâffât

(Those Ranging in Ranks)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Sâffât).

1. Cited as witness are those who range themselves in close ranks (in various fields of life),
2. And those who drive away (the forces of evil) vigorously,
3. And those who recite and follow the Reminder (- the Qur'ân),
4. Verily, your God is One,
5. Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them and Lord of the places of the rising and spreading of light.
6. Verily, We have beautified and embellished the nearer space (- the heaven visible to you) with an excellent embellishment, the stars and planets.

7. And (We have placed therein) an effective safeguard against every insolently disobedient satan.
8. They (having no access to the source of prophecy) cannot listen to (what goes on in) the exalted assembly (of the arch angels). They are reproached (for their false conjectures) from every side,
9. They are repulsed. A perpetual punishment awaits them.
10. Yet if anyone of them snatches away but once (to find out something), he is pursued by a bright shining flame.
11. Therefore, ask them (- your opponents) whether it is they (- the worldly people) who are harder in creation or those (spiritual beings) whom We have created. Them We have created out of adhesive sticking clay (so of firm and strong character).
12. Whereas you marvel (at this mighty spiritual revelation) they hold you in low estimation.
13. When they are admonished they pay no heed;
14. And when they see a sign they seek to scoff (at it),
15. And they say, `This is nothing but an enchantment; (a device) causing a split (among the people).
16. `Well (can it be possible that) when we are dead and reduced to dust and bones we shall be raised to life (again)?
17. `And shall our forefathers of earlier times be (also)?'
18. Say, `Yes, and you shall then be disgraced.'
19. Then there shall be but a single driving shout and behold! they will be (up and) looking on.
20. And they will say, `O woe be on us! this is the Day of Requital.'
21. (They will be told,) `This is the Day of the (last) judgment, (yes) the very day you used to cry lies to.'

SECTION 2

22. (Angels will be commanded,) `Round up those who acted unjustly and their companions and the things they used to worship

23. `Beside Allâh, then lead them towards the way of Hell.

24. `And hold them up for a while for they have to be questioned.'

25. (They will be asked,) `What is the matter with you that you do not help one another (this day)?'

26. Rather they will on that day (being ashamed) be completely submissive (bending their heads low).

27. Some of them will turn to the others, questioning to one another (reproachingly).

28. They (the seduced ones) will say (to the seducers), `Surely, you used to approach us with great force swearing (your sincerity to guide us aright).'

29. They (- seducers) will reply, `It was not so. Rather you yourselves were not (inclined to be) the believers.

30. `And we had no authority over you (to seduce you). The truth is that you yourselves were an unrestrained people (and given to excesses).

31. `So (today) we all deserve the judgment of our Lord. We are the sufferers (of the punishment for our own evil deeds).

32. `So (it is) we (who) led you astray, for we ourselves had indeed gone astray.'

33. On that day all of them shall surely share the punishment.

34. Surely, that is how We deal with the guilty.

35. For when it was said to them, `There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but Allâh,' they ever turned away in disdain.

36. And they used to say, `Are we to forsake our gods for the sake of a mad poet?'

37. Nay, (this Prophet is neither insane nor a poet,) the fact is that he brought the everlasting truth and has testified to the truth of (all) the Messengers (gone before him).

38. (Disbelievers!) you will suffer the woeful punishment, most certainly.

39. You shall be made to reap the fruit of your own deeds.

40. Different however is the case of the (chosen) servants of Allâh, the true and purified ones.

41. It is they for whom there awaits a provision (especially) earmarked,

42. Fruits, moreover they shall be the honored ones (and generously treated)

43. In the Gardens of Bliss.

44. (They shall be seated) on thrones (of happiness and dignity), face to face.

45. They will be served in a round with a bowl containing pure drink filled at a limpid flowing fountain,

46 (Sparkling) white, delicious to the drinkers, (as a reward for their leading pure sweet and flawless lives).

47. Neither these (drinks) will cause any ruinous effect, nor they will be deprived of intellectual faculties thereby.

48. And they will have (chaste wives) by their sides, damsels, with restrained and modest looks (and) with large beautiful eyes.

49. Just as though they were eggs carefully guarded (- of pure and unsoiled character).

50. Then (sipping their cups) they will turn one to another asking questions;

51. One of them will say, `Surely I had an intimate companion (in the world),

52. `Who used to say, "Are you indeed one of those who confirm (and really believe in the Resurrection)?

53. "Is it true that we shall be reunited when we are dead and reduced to dust and bones?"

54. He (- the confirmer of the Resurrection) will then add (saying), `Have a look (at that companion of mine to find how he fares!)?'

55. Then as he will have a look (at his companion) he will find him right in the midst of Hell.

56. He will then say (to that companion), `By Allâh, you had almost caused me to perish;

57. `But for the favour and grace of my Lord, I would have also been one of those who are facing (the punishment today).'

58. The owners of Paradise will then ask one another, `Is it not true that we are not going to suffer death (again)?

59. `Ours was only the death we have already met (in the world), and we are going to suffer no punishment.

60. `This indeed, is the mighty achievement (on our part).

61. `Let those who would strive, then strive for the like of this (supreme triumph)!'

62. Does all this (state of bliss) make a better welcome than the tree of *Zaqqûm* (which will serve as food for the people of Gehenna)?

63. For We have made this (tree) a scourge for the wrongdoers.

64. It is a tree which springs forth from the bottom of Hell.

65. Its produce is as though it were the heads of serpents.

66. And most surely they, (the inmates of Hell,) shall eat of it and fill (their) bellies with it.

67. In addition to (all) this, they will have (therein) a mixture of boiling water (to drink).

68. Then most surely they shall finally go to Hell.

69. The thing is, they found their forefathers erring,

70. And they are rushing on in their footsteps (as if driven by some inward urge).

71. And most of the ancient people had erred before them.

72. Though We had already sent Warners among them.

73. Behold! then, how (evil) was the end of those who were warned.

74. Different, however, was the case of the chosen servants of Allâh, the true and purified ones.

SECTION 3

75. And Noah did call upon Us (in his hour of trial); how Gracious We are in answering prayers! (and how excellent a response did We make!)

76. We delivered him and his people from the great distress.

77. And We let his progeny alone to survive.

78. And We left behind him (a blessed salutation) for the later generations (to remember him by).

79. `Peace be upon Noah,' (the prayer being invoked upon him) among all the peoples.

80. That is how We reward those who do good to others.

81. He was surely (one) of Our believing servants.

82. And (whereas We saved him and his people) We drowned the rest.

83. And Abraham also belonged to his (Noah's) school of thought.

84. (Recall the time) when he came to his Lord with a pure heart,

85. (And) when he asked his sire and his people, `What is it that you worship?

86. `Do you choose (to worship) gods made falsely leaving Allâh aside,

87. `So what do you take the Lord of the worlds to be (as you people worship false gods)?'

88. Then he cast a glance at the stars (intimating that their discussion has dragged far into the night);

89. And said, `I am indeed sick (of your worshipping false gods).'

90. So those people turned their backs upon him and left him.

91. Then he turned (his attention) towards their gods and (with a mind to make their worshippers realise their folly) said (addressing the gods), `Do you not eat (any of the things that lie before you)?

92. `What is wrong with you that you do not even speak?'

93. He then came upon them hitting them hard with the right hand.

94. (Hearing this news) the people came running to him.

95. He said (to them), `You worship the things you have chiselled yourselves;

96. `Whereas (it is) Allâh (Who) has created you, but what is it that you are doing?'

97. (His opponents) said, `Build up a pyre for him and throw him into the blazing fire.'

98. Thus they designed a plan against him, but We made them to be the most humiliated.

99. (Abraham) said, `I shall go where my Lord bids me. He will surely guide me right (to the path leading to success in my mission).'

100. (And he prayed,) `My Lord! grant me (an issue who is) of the righteous.'

101. So We gave him the good tidings of (the birth of) a wise and forbearing son.

102. Now, when that (son, Ismâîl) was (old enough) to work along with him, (his father, Abraham) said, `My dear son! I have seen in a dream that I sacrifice you. So consider (it and tell me) what you think (of it).' (The son) said, `My dear father! do as you are commanded. If Allâh will you will find me of the calm and steadfast.'

103. Now, (it so happened) when both of them submitted themselves (to the will of God) and he (- Abraham) had laid him (- Ismâîl) down on his forehead,

104. We called out to him (saying), `O Abraham!

105. `You have already fulfilled the vision.' That is how We reward those who perform excellent deeds.

106. That was obviously a disciplinary test (crowned with a mighty reward,)

107. And a great sacrifice was the ransom with which We redeemed him (- Ismâîl).

108. And We left behind him (- Abraham) among the succeeding generations (the noble salutation to invoke blessings upon him).

109. `Peace be upon Abraham!'

110. Thus indeed do We reward those who perform excellent deeds.

111. Surely, he was (one) of Our believing servants.

112. And We gave him (also) the good tidings of (the birth of) Isaac, a Prophet (and who is) one of the righteous.

113. And We bestowed (Our) blessings on him (- Ismâîl) and on Isaac. And among the progeny of both there are (some persons) who perform excellent deeds and (also some) who are clearly unjust to themselves.

SECTION 4

114. We did bestow (Our) favours on Moses and Aaron.

115. We delivered them both and their people from the great distress.

116. And We came to their help (against the people of Pharaoh). So it was they who gained clear supremacy.

117. And We gave them both the Manifesting Book.

118. And We guided them both to the right and straight path.

119. And We left behind both of them (a blessed salutation) among the generations to come.

120. `Peace be upon Moses and Aaron!'

121. That is how do We reward the performers of excellent deeds.

122. Surely, they were both among Our believing servants.

123. Verily, Elias was (also) one of the Messengers.

124. (Recall the time) when he said to his people, `Will you not guard against evil (deeds)?'

125. `Do you call upon *Ba`l* (- the sun-god), and forsake the Best Creator,

126 `Allâh, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers of old.'

127. But they cried lies to him and they will surely be brought (before God to account for their deeds).

128. Different, however, shall be the case of the chosen servants of Allâh, the purified ones.

129. And We left behind him (- Elias) among the succeeding generations (the blessed salutation to be invoked upon him),

130. `Peace be upon Elias and his people!'

131. That is how We reward the performers of excellent deeds.

132. Surely, he was (one) of Our believing servants.

133. And verily, Lot was (also one) of the

Messengers.

134. (Recall the time) when We delivered him and his followers all together,

135. Except an old woman (who) was among those who stayed behind (and did not go with those delivered).

136. And We utterly destroyed the rest.

137. And you surely pass by them, (their ruins sometimes), in the morning,

138. And (sometimes) by night. Do you not still make use of (your) understanding (and take heed)?

SECTION 5

139. And surely, Jonah (also) was (one) of the Messengers.

140. (Recall the time) when he fled (from his people) towards the fully laden ship.

141. So he was with those (crew) who cast lots (on board of the ill-fated ship, and his name was among those who were to be thrown overboard in order to keep the ship light and well-balanced on account of the storm) and so he was (also) of those who were cast off (in the sea).

142. Then (it came about that) a big fish took him in its mouth while he was reproaching (himself).

143. Had he not been of those who glorify (God)

144. He would have surely remained in its belly till the time people are raised up (after their death).

145. Then (it came to pass) that We cast him on a bare and wide tract of land and he was completely worn out and sick.

146. And We caused a plant (of the gourd type) bearing large-size fruit but the creeper of slender stem to grow near him.

147. And We sent him (back as a Messenger at Nineveh) to a people hundred thousand strong, rather they were even more.

148. They all believed (in him) so We provided them gains till the end of their lives.

149. Now ask these (disbelievers) whether daughters are for your Lord (as they assert), and sons for themselves.

150. Or did We create the angels as females (in their presence) while they were witnesses (of their birth).

151. Beware! it is (one) of their fabrications that they say,

152. 'Allâh has begotten (those as His children).' They are liars, of course.

153. Has He chosen daughters in preference to sons?

154. What is the matter with you? How (wrong) you judge!

155. Will you take no heed?

156. Or have you a clear authority (in your defence for your false beliefs)?

157. If so then come out with your (authoritative) scripture if you are truthful.

158. And they have set up a kinship between Him and the *jinn* (- strong and mighty men), whereas the *jinn* know fully well that they themselves shall be called to account for their deeds.

159. Holy is Allâh, far beyond the things they attribute (to Him).

160. But the chosen servants of Allâh, the purified ones (attribute nothing derogatory to Him).

161. (Disbelievers!) neither you of course, nor the things you worship;

162. None of you can mislead anyone against Him,

163. Excepting (only) the person who is (himself) going to enter Hell.

164. (The righteous say,) `Each one of us has his assigned place.

165. `And most surely we are the ones who stand ranged in rows (attending to the command of God).

166. `Verily, we are the ones who glorify Him (and sing His praise).

167. And surely, these (infidels) used to say,

168. `Had there been with us an exhortation from the people of old.

169. `We would surely have been the chosen servants of Allâh, the purified ones.'

170. But (now) they have disbelieved in this (Book, the Qur'ân when it has come to them). So they will soon come to know (the consequences of their disbelief).

171. And We have already given Our word (of promise) to Our servants, the Apostles,

172. That it is they alone who shall receive Our help (against the infidels).

173. And (that) it is Our armies that shall gain clear supremacy.

174. So turn away from them until a time (of your success),

175. And watch (what happens to) them, and they (too) will soon see (their own doom).

176. Do they seek to hasten on Our punishment?

177. But evil shall be the morning of those who were warned when this punishment

shall descend in their precincts.

178. So turn away from them until a time (- that of your supremacy);

179. And watch (what happens to) them and they (too) will soon see (their end).

180. Holy is your Lord, the Lord of all honour and power. He is far above the (polytheistic) things they attribute (to Him).

181. And peace be ever upon all the Messengers.

182. And all type of perfect and true praise belongs to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.

Chapter

38

Sâd

(The Truthful God)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Sâd).

1. Sâd - Allâh is the Truthful, (as proof of this fact) the Qur'ân which exalts (mankind) to eminence bears witness.
2. (There is nothing wrong with the Prophet,) the only thing is that the disbelievers are suffering from a sense of (false) pride and are hostile (to him).
3. (Do they not see that) We have destroyed so many generations before them? (They did not care to listen to the warning at first) then (later) they cried (for help) but the time for escape had passed.
4. They wonder that there should come to them a Warner from among themselves, and the disbelievers say, `He is a sorcerer, a great liar (in his claim).

5. `Has he turned (the whole lot of) gods (we worshipped) into One God? Very strange indeed is this thing.'

6. And the leaders among them go about saying, `Go (from here) and adhere constantly to (the worship of) your gods. This (claim of the Qur'ân about the unity of God) is a thing designed (with some purpose behind it).

7. `We heard nothing of its kind about any of the previous creeds. This is nothing but a forgery.

8. `Is it that this Reminder (- the Qur'ân) has been revealed only to him (the chosen Warner) in (preference to) all of us?' The thing is they have doubts about My Reminder (itself). As a matter of fact they have not (yet) suffered (the agony of) My punishment.

9. Do they possess the treasures of the mercy of your Lord, the All-Mighty, the Great Bestower?

10. Or does the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them belong to them? (If so) then let them rise higher with the means (at their disposal and stop the onward march of Islam).

11. (But bear in mind the prophecy:) there will be several hosts of the confederates which shall be completely routed here (at Madînah).

12. The people of Noah, (the tribe of) `âd and Pharaoh, lord of mighty hosts, treated (their Apostles) before them as liars.

13. So did (the tribe of) Thamûd and the people of Lot, and the dwellers of the Thicket. These were (all routed) groups of people.

14. Each one had cried lies to the Messengers. So My punishment rightly became due (on them).

SECTION 2

15. And also for these (people of your time) awaits a sudden punishment which shall

know no pause.

16. They say, `Our Lord! hurry up with our portion (of punishment in this very life) before the Day of Reckoning.'

17. Bear with patience what they say. And remember (the event of the life of) Our servant David, the possessor of might. Verily, he was ever turning (to God).

18. Indeed, We made (the people of) the mountains subservient to him (and) they celebrated (Our) praises at nightfall and at sunrise,

19. And (We made) the birds and the people (who were) full of dislike for habitations to flock together (to him). All of them were always turning in obedience (to God) on his account.

20. And We strengthened his kingdom, and We granted him wisdom and decisive judgment.

21. Have you heard the news of the adversaries (of David) who scaled the rampart of the fortress (to take David unawares in his chamber)?

22. When they intruded upon David and (found that) he had become alert (on account of) them, they said, (by way of an excuse,) `Have no fear. We are two parties litigants. One of us has transgressed against the other, therefore judge between us as justice demands, and delay not (by giving the date of decision,) and guide us (in our litigation) to the fair way.

23. `(The case of the litigation is that,) this is my brother. He has ninety nine ewes while I have one ewe; still he says, "Make it over to me," and he has been prevailing by his arguments upon me.'

24. (David) said, `He has certainly been unjust to you in demanding your ewe (to be added) to his own ewes. And surely many partners transgress against one another except those who believe (in God) and do deeds of righteousness. Yet how few are these!' (While saying this) David realised that We had tried him, therefore he sought protection of his Lord and fell down bowing in worship and turned (to his Lord) in repentance.

25. So We gave him that protection (sought for by him from that danger he felt). And verily he enjoyed Our close proximity and an excellent status.

26. (We said,) `O David! verily We have made you the ruler in this land. So rule among the people according to (the tenants of) justice, and do not follow their vain

desires, (for if you do) it will lead you astray from the path leading to Allâh. Behold! a severe punishment awaits those who go astray from Allâh's way, because they have forgotten the Day of Reckoning.

SECTION 3

27. And We have not created the heaven and the earth and all that lies between them in vain. That is the view of the disbelievers only. Therefore woe to those who disbelieve because of (the punishment by means of) the Fire (that awaits them).

28. Are We to treat those who believe and do deeds of righteousness in the same way as the creators of disorder in the land? Or are We to treat those who guard against evil in the same way as the wicked and impious?

29. (Behold! this Qur'ân is) a great Book which We have revealed to you; full of excellences, so that these (people) may ponder over its verses and so that those gifted with pure understanding may take heed.

30. And We gave (a pious son like) Solomon to David. How excellent a servant (of Ours) he was! For he turned to Us in obedience and repentance again and again.

31. (Think of the time) when towards the close of the day, steeds of the noblest breed and swift of foot were brought before him.

32. He said, 'I prefer the love of good things because they make (me) remember (God), my Lord.' And (he remained busy in his devotion and prayer), when these (horses) disappeared (while passing by) behind the veil (of distance),

33. (He said,) 'Bring them back to me.' Then (as they were brought) he began to stroke their hind legs and necks (with kindness).

34. Behold! We tried Solomon (too) and We placed on his throne (of kingdom) a (mere) body (without any spirit or faith). Then he turned (to God seeking His mercy).

35. He said (praying), 'My Lord! grant me protection and bestow on me a kingdom that belongs to none (by inheritance) after me. You indeed are the Great Bestower.'

36. So (We accepted his prayer and) We subjected to him a gentle wind. It blew gently according to his requirements in the direction he desired to go.

37. And (We also subjugated to him) the rebellious people (- the unruly *Amâliqah* people of far off lands), all (their) builders and divers;

38. And others (among them, who were) bound in chains.

39. (We said to him,) `This is Our gift that knows no measure. So give it freely or withhold it (from whomsoever you deem fit) without reckoning.

40. Behold! there is for him (- Solomon) Our close proximity and an excellent resort.

SECTION 4

41. And recall Our servant Job when he called to his Lord (saying), `The devil (of the desert - thirst) has afflicted me with weariness and torment.'

42. (We directed him,) `Urge (your riding beast) with your foot (and depart swiftly). There lies (yonder) a cool bathing place and a (refreshing) drink.'

43. (Not only that rather) We gave him his own family (and the followers he had before) and as many more with them (in the form of new adherents) by way of mercy from Ourselves (the lesson thus taught will serve) as a means to attain eminence for those gifted with pure and clear understanding.

44. And (We commanded him,) `Take in your hand a handful of twigs and strike (the riding beast) therewith. And do not ever incline towards falsehood. Indeed, We found him steadfast. An excellent servant was he. He was always turning (towards God) in obedience.

45. Recall Our servants Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (all) endowed with power for action, and insight.

46. We had indeed chosen them for one special purpose; for reminding (people) of the abode (of the Hereafter).

47. And of course they are in Our sight among the elect and the select.

48. And recall Ismâîl, Elisha and Dhul Kifl (- Ezekiel); they were all of (Our) chosen ones.

49. This (narrative) is the way to eminence. Behold! there awaits the righteous a beautiful and excellent resort;

50. Gardens of Eternity with their gates thrown open to receive them.

51. There they will be reclining (comfortably) on couches and there they will order (at pleasure) for many (sorts of) fruits and drinks.

52. And they will have by their sides chaste mates with downcast and restrained looks, and of suitable age (and matching in every aspect).

53. This is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning.

54. Verily, this is Our provision which knows no end.

55. This is (the reward for the righteous only). As for the rebellious, surely evil is their end,

56. Gehenna, wherein they will enter. And (it shall be) an evil cradling (for nursing them to spiritual growth).

57. This is (what the disbelievers will have), so let them suffer from it a burning despair and intensely cold and stinking drink.

58. And other various (torments) of similar nature.

59. (It will be said to their leaders of mischief,) `This is a whole army (of yours) which is rushing headlong with you (into Hell). There is no welcome for them. They are bound to enter the Fire.'

60. They (- their followers) will say (to their leaders), `Nay, it is rather you (who deserve Hell)! There is no welcome for you (either). In truth it was you that brought about this (evil punishment) for us (by leading us astray), what an evil resting place it is!'

61. They will (then) say, `Our Lord! whoso brought about this (evil end) for us, increase for him more and more agony in the Fire.'

62. And these (inmates of Hell) will say, `What is the matter with us that we do not see (here) the men whom we used

to count among the wicked.

63. `Is it because we (unjustly) held them in scorn or (is it) that (our) eyes have missed them?'

64. Behold! this is an invariable fact that the inmates of the Fire will be disputing together.

SECTION 5

65. Say, `I am only a Warner. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but Allâh, the One, the Subduer of all.

66. `The Lord of the heavens, and the earth and all that lies between the two, the All-Mighty, the Great Protector.'

67. Say, `This (universal call of Islam) is a very important announcement.

68. `Yet you are turning away from this.

69. `I had no knowledge of the Exalted assembly (comprising of the angels in the upper zones) when they discussed (the matter) among themselves.

70. `But all that has been revealed to me is that I am a Warner telling the right from the wrong.'

71. (Call to mind) when your Lord said to the angels, `I am about to create a human being from clay,

72. `And when I have fashioned him in perfection and I have inspired into him of My revelation then fall down submitting to him.'

73. So (when He inspired into him His revelation) the angels submitted one and all.

74. But *Iblîs* did not, he behaved arrogantly for he was of the disbelievers.

75. (God) said, `O *Iblîs*! what prevented you from submitting to him whom I have created with My own special powers (bestowing him with the maximum attributes). Is it that you seek to be great or is it that you are (really) of the highly proud ones

(above obeying My command)?'

76. (*Iblîs*) said, 'I am better than he. You created me from fire while him You created from clay.'

77. (God) said, 'Then get out of this (state); you are surely driven away (from My mercy).'

78. 'And surely upon you shall be My disapproval till the Day of Judgment.'

79. (*Iblîs*) said, 'My Lord! reprieve me till the day when the people are raised to life (spiritually whether here or in the Hereafter).'

80. (God) said, 'You are of course of the reprieved ones

81. 'Till the Day of which the time is known and fixed.'

82. (*Iblîs*) said, '(I swear) by Your might, I will surely seduce them all,

83. 'Except Your servants from among them, the true and purified ones (who are out of my powers).'

84. (God) said, 'Truth has dawned and I speak the truth,

85. 'That I will fill Gehenna with the like of you and with all those from among them who follow you.'

86. Say (O Prophet!), 'I ask no reward from you for it (for preaching the Message of truth, and for warning the people,) nor am I of those who are given to affectation (and are impostors).'

87. 'This (Qur'ân) is nothing but a means to rise to eminence for the peoples,

88. And you shall surely know (the truth of) the news thereof before long.'

Chapter

39

Al-Zumar

(The Multitudes)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Zumar).

1. The orderly arrangement and authentic compilation of this wonderfully perfect Book is from Allâh, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

2. Surely, it is We Who have revealed the Book to you with the established truth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. So worship Allâh, being truly sincere to Him in obedience.

3. Beware! sincere and true obedience is due to Allâh alone. Those who choose others as a patron beside Him (say), 'We serve them only that they may bring us near to Allâh in station.' (It is absolutely wrong.) Allâh will judge the

differences between these (believers and disbelievers). Indeed, Allâh does not guide him to success who is a liar, highly ungrateful.

4. If Allâh had intended to take to Himself a son He could have chosen from His creation the one He pleased (and would not have left it to you). Holy is He! He is Allâh, the One, the All-Dominant.

5. He created the heavens and the earth to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. He causes the night to revolve upon the day and causes the day to revolve upon the night and He has pressed the sun and the moon into service; each pursues its course for an appointed term. Behold! He is the All-Mighty, the Great Protector.

6. He created you from a single soul, then from that (same stock that He created a human being) He created his spouse. And He has given you eight (varieties of) cattle in pairs. He creates you in the wombs of your mothers, a creation, stage by stage, (making you pass) through three periods of darkness. Such is Allâh your Lord. The sovereignty and power belongs to Him alone. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. Where are you, then, being turned away?

7. If you show ingratitude, surely, Allâh is Independent of you (He does not require your thanks). Yet He does not approve of His people to be ungrateful. (Indeed it is for your own sake that) He approves of you being grateful. And no soul that bears a burden can bear the burden (of the sins) of another. Behold! to your Lord shall you all return so that He will inform you of all that you have been doing. He knows full well (even) the innermost secrets of the hearts.

8. And when an affliction befalls a person he prays to his Lord turning (penitently) to Him. But when He confers a favour upon him from Himself, he forgets (the affliction) for (the removal of) which he used to pray (to Him) and starts assigning peers with Allâh, with the result that he causes the people to go astray from His path (the path leading to One God). Say, `Enjoy your ingratitude for a little while, you are sure to be of the inmates of the Fire.'

9. Can he who is obedient and prays (to Allâh) devoutly in the hours of the night, (now) falling prostrate, (now) standing upright (in Prayer) taking precaution against (the grave sequel of) the Hereafter and hopes for the mercy of His Lord, (be treated like him who is disobedient)? Say, `Are those who know (their obligations) equal to those who know (them) not? Only those (endowed) with pure understanding do take heed.'

SECTION 2

10. Say, `O My servants who believe! take your Lord as a shield. There is a good reward for those who do good in (the life of) this world. And (if you are persecuted for your faith know that) the earth of Allâh is vast and spacious (enough to provide you shelter). Certainly the patiently, persevering and steadfast will be given their reward beyond measure.'

11. Say, `Verily, I have orders to worship Allâh, being truly sincere to Him alone in obedience.

12. `And I have orders to be the foremost among those who surrender themselves (to His will).'

13. Say, `If I disobey my Lord I have to fear the torment of a dreadful day.'

14. Say, `It is Allâh I worship, being purely sincere to Him in my obedience.

15. `Again, (as for you) you may go and worship whomsoever you please apart from Him.' Say, `The true losers are those who ruin their own souls and their families on the Day of Resurrection.' Beware! surely that is the manifest loss!

16. They shall have coverings of the fire over them and (sheets of similar) coverings below them (allowing them no escape). That is (the sort of punishment) against which Allâh warns His servants, `My servants! (do not invite My punishment, rather) take Me as (your) shield.'

17. But there await good tidings for those who restrain themselves from worshipping the transgressor (to the limit as defined by God) and turn to Allâh. So give glad tidings to My servants,

18. Who listen to the word (of advice) and follow the best (injunction productive of the best results) thereof. It is they whom Allâh has guided and it is they who are endowed with pure and clear understanding.

19. Can he then, against whom the verdict of punishment becomes due (and who therefore merits punishment, be saved?) Can you rescue him who is consigned to the Fire?

20. But for those who take their Lord as a shield, there awaits them lofty mansions, storey upon storey with streams running beneath them. (This is) the promise of Allâh; (and) Allâh will never fail in (His) promise.

21. Have you not seen (the sight) that Allâh sends down water from the clouds and causes it to flow (in the form of) streamlets on the earth and then brings forth herbage of various kinds and of diverse hues with it, then it dries up (after ripening) so that you see it turn yellow; then He turns it into chaff. Behold! in this (similitude) is a reminder for people endowed with pure and clear understanding.

SECTION 3

22. Is he whose mind Allâh has opened for (the acceptance of) Islam, so that he follows the light from his Lord, (like one who gropes in the darkness of disbelief)? Woe to those whose hearts are hardened against the remembrance of Allâh. Such indeed are (steeped) in clear error.

23. Allâh has revealed the best Message (the fairest discourse), this wonderfully coherent Book (the verses of which are mutually supplementing and) repeated, (narrating both sides of the case in various ways to drive home the divine injunctions to human minds). It makes the (very) skins of those who stand in awe of their Lord creep and their hearts tremble (at its recital). Yet their hearts and skins soften towards the remembrance of Allâh. This is Allâh's guidance, He guides him thereby who wishes (to be guided). Yet none can guide him whom Allâh forsakes and adjudges to be astray.

24. Is he, then, who has only his own person to shield him from the evil punishment on the Day of Resurrection (like him who is secure). And it will be said to the unjust (on that Day), 'Suffer the punishment of what you used to commit deliberately.'

25. Their predecessors also cried lies (to their Messengers of God,) so that (Our) punishment came upon them from quarters they little perceived.

26. So Allâh made them suffer humiliation in the present life, and the punishment (in store for them) in the Hereafter will be greater still, if they but realise (it).

27. And We have set forth for the people all sorts of excellent and useful proofs in this Qur'ân that they may take heed,

28. (We have revealed the) Qur'ân in Arabic, there is no deviation from rectitude (in it and is free from all flaws), that they may guard against sufferings.

29. Allâh describes the condition of a man belonging to several partners contending with one another; and (there is) another man devoted wholly to one person. Are the two alike in condition? (No how can they be?) All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh. But most of them do not know (this truth).

30. (One day), you will surely die and so shall they (after a brief span of life).

31. Then, on the Day of Resurrection, you will all dispute one with another before your Lord.

Part XXIV

SECTION 4

32. Who then is more unjust than the one who invents lies about Allâh and cries lies to the very truth when it comes to him? Is there not in Gehenna an abode for (such) disbelievers?

33. But he who brings the truth and testifies whole heartedly to it (by accepting it as true) these it is who become secure against evil.

34. They will have all that they desire with their Lord. Such is the reward of those who do excellent deeds.

35. It is they who best deserve that Allâh should rid them of the worst (of evils) which they committed (before accepting Islam) and reward them according to the best and the noblest of their deeds.

36. Is not Allâh sufficient for His servant? And yet they would try to frighten you with those (false gods they worship) other than Him (they cannot succeed). None can guide the person to success whom Allâh forsakes and adjudges to be astray.

37. And none can mislead the person whom Allâh guides. Is not Allâh All-Mighty, the Lord of retribution?

38. If you ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they will certainly say, `Allâh.' Say, `Have you ever judged (the worth of) that you call upon apart from Allâh? If Allâh ever intended to do me some harm, will these (whom you worship) be able to avert His harm (from me)? Or can they withhold His mercy if He is pleased to treat me with mercy?' Say, `Allâh is sufficient for me. (In Him do I put my trust.)' Those who have learnt to trust place their trust in Him alone.'

39. Say, `O my people, do your worst, I shall go on doing (my best). You shall soon know,

40. `Who receives a punishment that will disgrace him (in this life), and who suffers from a lasting torment (in the Hereafter)?'

41. Behold! We have revealed to you the perfect Book, it comprises the truth and wisdom. (It is) for the good of mankind. So he who follows (this) guidance will do so

for the good of his own soul, and he who goes astray will do so to its own detriment (and so will himself suffer the loss). You are not responsible for them.

SECTION 5

42. Allâh takes away the souls (of human being) at the time of their death and (also) of those who are not (yet) dead during their sleep. He detains (the souls of) those against whom He passes the verdict of death and sends (back those of) others till a fixed period of time. There are signs in this for a people who would reflect.

43. Have these (polytheists) chosen (certain other) intercessors apart from Allâh? Say, `What! (will they intercede for you?) though they have no authority at all and understand nothing.'

44. Say, `All intercession belongs to Allâh entirely. To Him belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, then towards Him you shall (all) be brought back.'

45. When (the name of) Allâh alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion but when (the names of) those who are below His high station are mentioned, behold they are at once filled with joy.

46. Say, `O Allâh! Originator of the heavens and the earth, Possessor of the knowledge of the unseen and the seen, You alone judge between Your servants concerning that wherein they differ.'

47. And had the wrongdoers owned all that the earth contains and as much in addition to it, they would certainly offer it on the Day of Resurrection to redeem themselves from the woeful punishment; yet there would appear to them from Allâh that which they had never even thought of.

48. And the evil (consequences) of the deeds they had deliberately done will become clear to them. And they will be caught by the very punishment they took no account of.

49. And when harm afflicts a human being he calls upon Us. But when We confer Our favour on him he says, `I have been given this only on account of (my own) knowledge. It is not right, it is only a trial, yet most people do not know.

50. Their predecessors had said the same thing, yet all their acquisitions were of no avail to them,

51. And the evil (consequences) of their deeds did overtake them. As for the wrongdoers from among these (rejecters of the truth), the evil (consequences) of their deeds

shall surely overtake them also. They will never be able to frustrate (God's plan).

52. Do they not know that Allâh multiplies the means of livelihood (for such of His people) as He will, and makes them scant (for such of them as He pleases.) Behold! there are signs in all this for the people who would believe.

SECTION 6

53. Say, `O My servants who have committed excesses against their own souls, do not despair of the mercy of Allâh. Surely, Allâh forgives all sins. Verily, He is the Great Protector, the Ever Merciful.'

54. And turn to your Lord (penitently), and submit yourselves to Him before the punishment befalls you; for (once it does) you shall not be helped.

55. And follow the best (teaching suiting your condition) that has been revealed to you from your Lord before you receive the punishment which will come upon you all of a sudden and take you unawares.

56. Lest (when it comes,) anyone (of you) should say, `Woe to me for failing in my duty towards Allâh! for I made fun (of His revelations.)'

57. Or lest anyone (of you) should say, `If Allâh had only guided me (by force) I would of course, have been of those who became secure against evil (by fully carrying out my duties).'

58. Or lest anyone of you should say when he sees the punishment, `If I could only have the chance to return (to the world), I (too) would then be of those who do good.'

59. (God will say,) `No! this cannot be. There did come to you My Messages but you cried them lies and you behaved arrogantly and were of the disbelievers.'

60. And on the Day of Resurrection you will find the faces of those who invented lies in the name of Allâh, overcast with gloom and sorrow. (It will be said to them,) `Is there not a resort in Gehenna for such arrogant people?'

61. (On the contrary) Allâh will deliver and grant salvation to those who guarded

against evil and will lead them to a place of security and success befitting their dignity. No evil shall touch them (there), nor shall they ever grieve.

62. Allâh is the Creator of all things and He is an Authority over every thing to control.

63. To Him belong all that encircle the heavens and the earth. Those who deny the Messages of Allâh these it is who are the very losers.

SECTION 7

64. Say, `Do you bid me to worship other (beings) than Allâh, O you ignorant ones!'

65. Mind! it has already been revealed to you and your predecessors, `In case you associate partners (with Allâh in your worship) all your (such) works shall go in vain entirely, and you shall certainly be of the losers.

66. `Rather you should worship Allâh alone and be of the thankful (to Him).'

67. They have not yet appreciated (the attributes of) Allâh with the importance and appreciation that He deserves. The earth altogether shall be in His grip of power on the Day of Resurrection, and the heavens shall be rolled up in His All-Powerful hand (and will so lie at His absolute disposal). Holy is He. (He is) far above and beyond the things these (polytheists) associate (with Him).

68. (That Day) there shall be a blast on the trumpet and all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth will fall into a swoon except whom Allâh will like (to spare). Then there will be a blast another time and behold! these people shall stand up awaiting (judgment before their Lord).

69. And the earth shall radiate with the light of her Lord. And the record (of their deeds) will be produced (before them), and the Prophets and the (other) witnesses shall be brought forward; people shall be judged in all fairness and no injustice shall be done to anyone of them.

70. And every soul shall be repaid in full for its deeds; for He (the Almighty Lord) is well-aware of all that they do.

SECTION 8

71. And those who disbelieve will be driven to Gehenna in multitudes, until when they reach it, its gates will be opened and its keepers will say to them, `Did there not come to you Messengers from among yourselves to proclaim to you the Messages of

your Lord and to warn you about the meeting of this Day of yours?' They will say, 'They did come, yet Allâh's verdict of the punishment was justly due to have proved true against the disbelievers.'

72. It will be said (to them), 'Enter the gates of Gehenna, (you will be) abiding therein for long.' How evil is the abode of the arrogant people!

73. And those who took their Lord as a shield will be conducted to Paradise in multitudes until when they reach it and its gates are opened (to welcome them) and its keepers say to them, 'Peace be upon you! Be you happy and prosperous! Enter it, (you will be) abiding (therein) for ever and ever.'

74. They will say, 'All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh alone Who has fulfilled His promise made to us; and has allowed us to inherit the land enabling us to dwell in Paradise wherever we please.' How excellent is the reward

of the doers of (righteous) deeds!

75. And you will see the angels thronging around the Throne (of Power), glorifying their Lord with (His) praise. And judgment will be given between the people with justice, and it will be said, 'All type of true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.'

Chapter

40

Ghâfir

(Granter of Protection).

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Ghâfir).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy and Lord of Honour.

2 The gradual revelation of this perfect Book is from Allâh, the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.

3. Granter of protection against all sins and Acceptor of repentance, Severe in respect of punishment and the Lord of beneficence. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. Towards Him is the eventual return.

4. None disputes with regard to the commandments of Allâh except those who choose disbelief. Therefore do not let their moving about and control in the land create misgivings in you.

5. The people of Noah cried lies (to Our Messages) before these (disbelievers) and (so did) various other groups after them (- the people of Noah). And every community strove to seize their Messenger (of God) with a mind to destroy his mission. And they had begun arguing (with him) by means of false reasoning that they might thereby refute the truth. At this I seized them (with punishment). Behold! how (terrible) was My retribution (as a sequel to their evil deeds).

6. And it was in this way that the verdict of your Lord, that they shall be the inmates of the Fire, was confirmed against those who persisted in disbelief.

7. Those who bear the Throne (of Power, the angels and the Prophets) and those who are around it declare the glory of their Lord along with extolling (His name and) praises. They believe in Him and seek protection for those who believe (saying,) `Our Lord, You embrace each and everything in Your mercy and knowledge, so grant protection to those who repent and follow the way shown by You and protect them from the torment of Hell.

8. `Our Lord! admit them together with such of their fathers, their spouses, and their children as are righteous and so worthy, to the Gardens of Eternity which You have promised them. You, indeed, are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

9. `And save them from all types of evils. Indeed, You will have shown mercy to the person whom, on that Day, you save from evils. And that (to be saved) is indeed the great achievement.'

SECTION 2

10. Those who disbelieve will be called and told (on the Day of Requit), `Of course,

Allâh's abhorrence (of you because of your persisting in disbelief) is greater than your own abhorrence of yourselves (this day). (Recall) when you were called to the faith but you refused (to come to it).'

11. They will say, `Our Lord! twice You have caused us to die (as the state without life before birth is a sort of death and the end of this life is the second) and twice You have given us life. We confess our sins (now). Is then, there, a way out (of the torment)?'

12. (They will be answered,) `This is because when Allâh alone was called upon (as One worthy to be worshipped) you rejected, but when partners were associated with Him, you accepted. So (the fact is established beyond doubt that) this day sovereignty belongs only to Allâh, the Most Sublime, the Incomparably Great.

13. It is He Who shows you His signs and sends down for you provision from above (for your physical and spiritual well-being), yet none heed (His revelations) except one who turns (to Him) again and again.

14. Therefore call upon Allâh being sincere to Him in obedience, though the disbelievers (and polytheists) may be averse (to it).

15. He it is Who exalts (the people) in ranks, Lord of the Throne (of Power); He sends His revelation by His own

command to such of His servants as He will (and judges as deserving), that He may warn (mankind) of the Day of Meeting (with the Lord).

16. The day when they will (all) appear (in their true light) and nothing about them is ever hidden from Allâh. (On that Day they will be asked,) `To whom belongs the sovereignty this day?' They will reply, `(It belongs) only to Allâh, the One, the All-Dominant.'

17. This day every soul shall be requited for deeds it has accomplished. No injustice (will be done) this day. Allâh's reckoning will be swift indeed.

18. And warn these people of the day drawing nigh, (day by day,) when the hearts will leap to their throats due to suppressed grief. The unjust will have no warm

(hearted) friend, nor any intercessor who will be listened to (and could prevail for them on that day).

19. He knows the treachery of the eyes even (when they commit sinful acts secretly) and what the hearts conceal.

20. And Allâh judges in all fairness, but those (idols) whom they call upon apart from Allâh can judge nothing at all. It is Allâh Who is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.

SECTION 3

21. **H**ave they never travelled in the land that they could see how (evil) was the end of their predecessors? They were mightier than these in power and in respect of leaving stronger marks (- monuments etc.) in the land. But Allâh took them to task (and destroyed them) for their sins and they had no saviour from (the punishment of) Allâh.

22. That was because their Messengers (of God) came to them with evident proofs but they refused to believe (in them). So Allâh seized them (with destruction). Powerful is He and Stern His retribution.

23. And indeed We had already sent Moses with Our Messages and a clear authority,

24. Towards Pharaoh, Hâmân and Korah, yet they said, `(This man is) a sorcerer, a great liar.'

25. So when he brought them the truth from Us they said, `Go on slaying the sons of those who have believed and joined with him, and go on sparing their womenfolk to make them immodest.' But futile are the schemes of the disbelievers (and ever bound to fail).

26. And Pharaoh said, `Leave me alone; I will kill Moses. Let him call on his Lord. I fear lest he should change your faith or cause disorder to spread in the land.'

27. (On the other hand) Moses said, (to his people,) `I seek refuge in (Him Who is) my Lord and your Lord from every arrogant (person) who does not believe in the Day of Reckoning.'

SECTION 4

28. And a man who was a believer and belonged to the people of Pharaoh (and) kept his faith hidden said, `Are you bent upon killing a man simply because he says, "Allâh alone is my Lord," while he has already brought you clear proofs from your

Lord? If he is a liar he will suffer (the sad consequences of) his lie, and if he is truthful then some of the things he threatens you with are sure to befall you. Indeed, Allâh does not guide (to success) the person who exceeds the bounds and is a great liar.

29. `O my people! yours is the sovereignty today and you dominate over the country. But who will help us and save us from the punishment of Allâh if it visits us?' Pharaoh said, `I only point out to you that which I see and understand myself, and I guide you only to the path of rectitude.'

30. And he who had infact believed (in the faith brought by Moses) said, `O my people! I fear lest you should encounter the like of the day (of disaster) which befell (other) parties of people (of the past);

31. `(And I fear lest you should meet) the like of fate which followed the ways of the people of Noah and `âd and (the people of) Thamûd and those who came after them. And Allâh does not want His servants to go wrong.

32. `My people! I fear lest you should have to suffer on the day of calling one another (for help in frightful distress);

33. `A day when you will retreat turning your backs. No defender shall you have against (the punishment of) Allâh. Yet none can guide him (to success) whom Allâh forsakes and adjudges to be astray.

34. `And Joseph did come to you before (this) with clear proofs but you continued to be in doubt about that which he brought to you, till when he died, you said, "Allâh will never raise a Messenger after him". That is how Allâh forsakes and adjudges him as having gone astray who is a transgressor and doubter.

35. `Those who dispute concerning the Messages of Allâh without any proof and authority having come to them (from Allâh to support them). This (attitude of theirs) is extremely abhorring to Allâh and to those who believe. That is how it is! Allâh sets a seal upon the heart of every arrogant (and) haughty person.'

36. And Pharaoh said, `O Hâmân! build for me a lofty tower that I may find access to the means -

37. `The means (of access) to the heavens, so that I may have a look at the God of Moses. Indeed, I consider him to

be a liar.' And in this way his own evil conduct was made fair- seeming to Pharaoh and so he was prevented from following the (right) path. Yet all the schemes of Pharaoh resulted only in ruin.

SECTION 5

38. And he who had believed (in Moses from the people of Pharaoh) said, `O my people! follow me and I will guide you in the way of rectitude.

39. `O my people! the life of this world is but a provision (of a passing nature), and the Hereafter alone is the permanent home.

40. `Those who do evil will be recompensed in proportion thereto (- to their evil deeds). But the men and women who believe and (at the same time) do righteous deeds, it is they who will enter Paradise where they will be provided for without measure.

41. `O my people! how (strange) it is with me that I call you to salvation whereas you call me to the Fire.

42. `You call me to renounce Allâh and to associate with Him that of which I have no knowledge (of being His associate at all), while I call you to the All-Mighty, the Great Protector.

43. `No doubt that what you call me to, has no title to be called upon in this world nor in the Hereafter. There is no doubt that we shall all return to Allâh and that the transgressors will be the inmates of the Fire.

44. `So you will soon remember what I say to you (by way of advice). I entrust my cause to Allâh. Indeed, Allâh keeps a keen watch over His servants.'

45. Thereupon Allâh saved him (- the believer) from the evil of their plans (against him) and the severest of punishment befell the people of Pharaoh.

46. (Their abode is) the Fire. They are presented to it morning and evening. And on the day when the (appointed) Hour comes to pass, (the angels will be commanded,) `Put Pharaoh's people into the severest torment.'

47. And (think of the time) when these (disbelievers) will argue one with another in the Fire and the humble will say to those who sought to be great, `Verily, we were

your followers, will you not then relieve us of a portion (of the punishment) of the Fire.'

48. Those who sought to be great will say, 'Now we are all (adjudged to suffer) in it. Verily, Allâh has already passed (His) true judgment between (His) servants.'

49. And those in the Fire will say to the Keepers of Gehenna, 'Call to your Lord that He may relieve us of our agony for a while.'

50. These (Keepers) will say, 'Did not your Messengers (of God) come to you with clear signs?' They will answer, 'Yes indeed!' They (the Keepers of Gehenna) will say, 'Then call (yourselves and your false deities).' But the call of the disbelievers will be of no avail.

SECTION 6

51. **Be** assured that We do help Our Messengers and those who believe (in them) in the present life and (shall help them) on the day when witnesses will stand forth (to give evidence).

52. The day when their apologies will not avail the wrongdoers and they shall have the disapproval of Allâh, and the evil abode will be their lot.

53. And indeed We gave Moses (Our) guidance and made the Children of Israel inherit the Scripture.

54. (It was a source of) guidance and (served as) a reminder for the possessors of pure and clear understanding.

55. So patiently persevere. The promise of Allâh is true. Ask His protection for (those who committed) offence against you and declare the holiness of your Lord along with His praise at nightfall and in the early hours of the morning.

56. Those who dispute regarding the Messages of Allâh without any authoritative proof having come to them (from God in their support), there is nothing in their minds but (an ambition for) greatness to which (goal) they can never attain. So (do not bother about them rather) go on seeking refuge in Allâh (against their mischiefs). Surely, He alone is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.

57. Of course, the creation of the heavens and the earth is (a) greater (performance) than the creation of mankind but most people do not know (it).

58. The blind and the seeing are not alike, nor are those who believe and do deeds of

righteousness (like) the evil doers; yet little is the heed you give.

59. (O disbelievers!) the Hour (of your destruction) is about to come. There is no doubt about it. Yet most people do not believe.

60. And your Lord says, `Call on Me, I will answer your prayer. But those who wax too proud to worship Me will surely

enter Gehenna, humbled and despised.'

SECTION 7

61. It is Allâh who made for your benefit the night so that you may repose in it, and the day giving light (enabling you to see). Verily, Allâh is full of Grace to mankind, but most people do not give thanks.

62. Such (Gracious Being) is Allâh, your Lord, the Creator of everything. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. Whither, then, are you being turned away?

63. Thus indeed were turned away those who persistently denied the Messages of Allâh.

64. It is Allâh Who made for you the earth a resting place, and the heaven a means of protection; and physically shaped you (endowing you with special faculties of reasoning and wisdom) and perfected your shapes and faculties (making them excellent in every respect), and provided you with good and pure things. Such is Allâh, your Lord. So blessed be Allâh, Lord of the worlds.

65. He alone is the Ever Living and the Fountain head of all life. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. So pray to Him; being sincere to Him in obedience (saying), `All true and perfect praise belongs to Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.'

66. Say, `I have, of course, been forbidden to worship those whom you call upon apart from Allâh; (how can I,) since there have come to me clear proofs (of their worthlessness) from my Lord. And I have been justly commanded to submit myself

solely to the will of the Lord of the worlds.'

67. It is He Who created you from dust then from a sperm drop, then from a blood clot, then He brings you forth as an infant, (then He lets you live and grow,) with the result, that you attain to your young age of full strength. Afterwards it so happens that you become old. Though there are some of you who are called to death earlier. Indeed, He lets you live that you may reach (and complete your) appointed term and that you may refrain (from evil).

68. He it is Who gives life and causes death. And when He decides a thing to be, He says to it only, 'Be' and it comes to be (in due course).

SECTION 8

69. **H**ave you not considered the case of those who dispute about the teachings of Allâh? How they are being turned away (from the right course).

70. Those who cried lies to the Book and to that (Message) with which We sent Our Messengers, shall soon come to know (the consequences of their denial);

71. When the shackles and the chains are (put) round their necks (and) they shall be dragged.

72. Into boiling water, then they shall be burnt in the Fire.

73. It will be said to them then, 'Where are those (false deities) whom you associated (with Him),

74. '(And worshipped them) apart from Allâh?' They will say, 'They are lost to us. Infact, we never prayed to anything (beside Allâh) before this.' Thus does Allâh adjudge the disbelievers to be lost.

75. (It will be said to them,) 'That is because you exulted in the land without any justification and because you behaved with vanity.

76. '(Now) enter the gates of Gehenna to abide therein for long. So (you see) how evil will be the resort of the arrogant!'

77. Patiently persevere then. Verily, the promise of Allâh is bound to be fulfilled, whether We let you see (descend on them in your lifetime) a part of that punishment We have promised them, and whether We cause you to die before (you see it, it matters little), to Us they will be brought back.

78. And indeed We have already sent (Our) Messengers before you. There are some of them whom We have mentioned to you and of them there are some whom We have not mentioned to you. And it is not given to a Messenger to bring a Message by himself except by the leave of Allâh. But when the judgment of Allâh comes to pass the issues are settled in all fairness, and it is then that who endeavour to nullify the truth suffer the loss.

SECTION 9

79. It is Allâh Who made for you the cattle so that you may ride on some of them and you obtain your food through some of them.

80. And indeed these (cattle) are of much use to you and through them you (satisfy other) desire which rests in your hearts. You are borne on them (by land) and on the ships (by sea).

81. And He is showing you His signs. Which of the signs of Allâh will you then deny?

82. Have they never travelled in the land so that they could see how (miserable) the end of their predecessors was? They were superior to them in numbers, mightier in force and stronger in respect of the (firm) marks, (fortification and

monumental buildings) in the land; yet all their acquisitions were of no avail to them.

83. And when their Messengers (of God) came to them with clear proofs they (vainly) boasted of their own partial knowledge. But they were caught by the very thing (- the calamity) which they used to treat very lightly.

84. So when they saw Our punishment they said, 'We believe in Allâh alone, and We reject (all) that we used to associate with Him.'

85. But their belief was of little use to them when they have (actually) seen Our calamity. Such is the law of Allâh that has ever been in vogue in respect of His servants. It is at such times that the disbelievers suffer a loss (and are reminded).

Chapter

Fussilat

(Detailed and Clear in Exposition)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Fussilat).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, Lord of Honour.
2. The compilation and orderly arrangement (of this Qur'ân) proceeds from the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful (God).
3. (It is) a Book, the verses of which are detailed and clear in exposition. It is beautifully inter linked, (and it is in a language that) makes the meanings eloquently clear. It is very useful for a people who have knowledge.
4. It is a bearer of good tidings and a warner, yet most of these (people) turn away (from it) because they do not (even) give (it) ear.
5. And they say, `Our hearts are (fortified) within a covering against that (Book) towards which you call us. We are deaf in the ear and there exists a barrier between us and you. So carry on your work (according to your creed) and surely we are the workers (in accordance with our own doctrines).'
6. Say, `I am but a human being like yourselves (with the only difference that) it is revealed to me that your God is One God, so stick to the straight path (leading) to Him and ask for His protection.' And woe be to the polytheists;
7. Those who do not present the *Zakât* (- purifying dues) and who are disbelievers in the Hereafter also.
8. (On the contrary) those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, there awaits them a reward never to be cut off.

SECTION 2

9. Say, 'Would you really disbelieve in Him Who created the earth in two aeons? And do you set up compeers with Him?' He alone is the Lord of the worlds.

10. He placed therein (- in the earth) firm mountains rising above (its surface) and showered it with His blessings and placed in it various provisions according to a set measure, (provisions to which) all those who require them have equal rights, (and all this He created) in four aeons.

11. Again, He directed Himself towards the space. Behold! it was (like) a mass of gas. (The Almighty God) said to it (- the space) and to the earth, 'Come both of you (in obedience to Me) willingly or unwillingly.' They said, 'We obey you with all our will.'

12. So He ordained them seven heavens in two aeons and assigned to each (heaven) its (relevant) function. And We decked the nearest heaven with lamps (- shining stars for light) and made it to guard. Such is the decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.

13. But if even now they turn away then say, 'I have warned you of a scourge which will be like the scourge (that befell the people) of `âd and Thamûd.'

14. When the Messengers (of God) came to them (successively) from before them and from behind them (- from all directions with the teaching) 'Worship none but Allâh.' They said, 'If Allâh had willed (to send Messengers), He would certainly have sent angels. So we are indeed disbelievers in that (teachings) with which you have been sent.'

15. As for (the people of) `âd, they behaved arrogantly in the land without any justification and said, 'Who is mightier

than we?' Do they not see that Allâh, Who had created them, is Mightier than they? And (not only that they behaved arrogantly) they went on denying Our Messages persistently.

16. So We sent upon them a furious wind for several (of their) ominous days in order to make them suffer a punishment of humiliation in this life, and the punishment which awaits them in the Hereafter will surely be more humiliating, and against which they will not be helped.

17. As for (the tribe of) Thamûd, We gave them guidance, but they preferred misguidance to guidance so the scourge of a humiliating punishment seized them on account of the (bad) deeds they had done.

18. Yet We delivered those who believed and guarded against evil.

SECTION 3

19. **Beware of the day when the enemies of Allâh will be resurrected (and) driven towards the Fire; while they will be formed into different groups.**

20. Till, when they all reach it (- the Hell) their hearing and their eyes and their skins will be (testifying to and) bearing witness against them as to their (mis)deeds.

21. And they will say to their skins, `Why did you bear witness against us?' They will reply, `Allâh made us speak as He had given speech to everything else. And (disbelievers!) it is He Who created you the first time and to Him you have been brought back.

22. `And (while committing sinful acts) you could not hide yourselves from the fact that neither your (own) hearing, nor your own eyes, nor your own skins should bear witness against you. As a matter of fact you had assumed that (even) Allâh did not know much of what you used to do,

23. `And it was this (very wrong) belief of yours which you hold about your Lord that has ruined you, so that you have now become of the losers.'

24. Now, if (in this state of theirs) they show patience (even then) the Fire is their resort. And if they ask to be allowed to approach the threshold (of God's Throne) they will not be of those who are allowed to approach the threshold (to seek His forgiveness and mercy).

25. And We had assigned to them certain companions who made (the sinful acts) which were being committed in their presence, and those which had been done

behind them (in their past), seem fair and attractive to them. The verdict (of punishment) stands confirmed against them as it did in the case of the sinful communities of *jinn* (- fiery and houghty natured) and (ordinary) people who had passed away before them. As a matter of fact they all were losers.

SECTION 4

26. And those who took to disbelief say, 'Do not listen to this Qur'ân, but (when it is recited) interrupt it by making noise so that you may gain the upper hand.'

27. We shall most surely make those who disbelieve meet with severe punishment and we shall certainly recompense them for the worst what they did.

28. Such is the punishment of the enemies of Allâh. It is the Fire. They shall find in it a long-lasting home. (The punishment is) a recompense of their persistently denying of Our Messages.

29. (There) the disbelievers will say, 'Our Lord! show us those (two sets of people) who led us astray from among both the *jinn* (- houghty) and (ordinary) people that we may trample them under our feet with the result that they become of the most abased and humiliated ones.'

30. Verily, those who say, 'Allâh is our Lord,' and then remain steadfast (and follow the straight path), the angels will descend upon them (saying), 'Have no fear nor grieve rather rejoice at the glad tidings of receiving the Gardens (of Paradise) which you have been promised.'

31. 'We are your Patron in the present life and in the Hereafter and you shall find in that (Paradise) all that you desire and you shall have therein all that you ask for,

32. 'By way of hospitality and reward from the Great Protector, Ever Merciful (God).'

SECTION 5

33. And who speaks more fair than the person who calls people towards Allâh and (accordingly) does what is right and says, 'I am invariably of those who submit (before God).'

34. And good and evil are not alike. Repel (evil) with that (benign and graceful way) which is best, and lo, the person between whom and you there is enmity will behave as if he were your warm-hearted friend.

35. Yet it is only the steadfast and patiently persevering who are allowed this (grace)

and it is only those who possess

a large share of good who are allowed this (moral standard).

36. Should some sort of trouble from satan vex you, seek refuge in Allâh. For surely He, only He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

37. And the night and the day, and the sun and the moon are some of His signs. Pay no homage to the sun or the moon, rather pay homage to Allâh Who created them, if it is Him Whom you really worship.

38. If they wax too proud (to prostrate before Him let them know that) those who are the near ones of your Lord glorify Him night and day and they never grow weary (of it).

(Prostration)

39. And it is (one) of His signs that the earth that looks to you desolate stirs up (with life) and swells (producing herbage) when We shower rain water on it. Verily, He (the Almighty Lord) Who gives it life will surely raise the dead to life (as well). Verily, He is the Possessor of power over every desired thing.

40. Surely, those who follow crooked ways regarding Our teachings, are not hidden from Us. (You can judge for yourselves) whether he who is cast into the Fire better or he who comes on the Day of Resurrection in peaceful security. (Now after this clarification you are free to) do what you will but (remember) He keeps a keen watch over all that you do.

41. Those who disbelieve in the Reminder (- the Qur'ân) when it comes to them, while it is truly an invincible Book (they will meet the fate of the lost ones).

42. Falsehood cannot approach it (- the Qur'ân) neither from the front nor from behind. (It is) a revelation that proceeds portion by portion from One All-Wise, the Most Praiseworthy (God).

43. Nothing is said (in the form of objection) to you what was not already said to the Messengers before you. Verily, your Lord is Master of Protection (for the believers)

and (also) Master of woeful retribution (for the disbelievers).

44. Had We made it a Qur'ân in indistinct and inexpressive language, these (faultfinders) would have surely said, 'Why has not (the subject matter of) its verses been made clear in exposition?' What! can indistinct and inexpressive language and an eloquently clear language (be one and the same thing). Say, 'It is a wonderful guidance and healing to those who believe.' But (as to those) who do not believe there is deafness in their ears and this (Qur'ân) is obscure to them (with regard to its factual truth). And they are (as if to say) being called to from a place afar.

SECTION 6

45. And indeed We gave Moses the Scripture but (when the followers of the Scripture began tampering with it) differences arose about it. Had it not been a word (of promise) already made by your Lord the judgment (between them the disbelievers) would have been passed long ago (by the destruction of those who dispute about the prophecy). And they are in disquieting and grave doubt concerning this (- the fulfillment of the prophecy).

46. He that does right, does it for the good of his own soul, and he that does evil, it shall recoil on him. And your Lord is the least unjust to (His) servants.

Part XXV

47. **H**e alone is accredited to have knowledge of the (promised) Hour. And no fruit come forth from their sheaths, nor does any female conceive nor does she give birth (to a being), but (every thing takes place) according to His knowledge. The day when He will call out to them (the polytheists, saying), `Where are My partners (you associated with Me)?' They will say, `We declare before You, none of us is a confessor (now that they are Your partners).'

48. (Not only that) those (false gods) whom they called upon (in their worship) before that, will be lost to them, they will know for certain that they have no place of escape.

49. A person does not grow weary of praying for good but if evil befalls him, he becomes despondent, despaired of all hope.

50. Yet if We show him mercy from Ourselves after he has suffered affliction, he will surely say, `This is my due. I do not believe that the (promised) Hour will (ever) come (to be established). And if I am (at all) brought back to my Lord, I shall of course, have with Him the very best (of all the goodly things). Yet (on the Day of Requital) We will surely tell those who disbelieve plainly all that they did, and accordingly We will make them suffer a terrible punishment.

51. And when We bestow a favour on a person he turns aside (ungratefully) and behaves with pride. But when evil befalls him, he is full of lengthy supplications and prayers.

52. Say, `Have you ever considered that if it (- the Qur'ân) be from Allâh and yet you disbelieve in it, who is steeped in greater error than the one who has gone far in opposition (to Him and His Qur'ân)?'

53. We shall soon show these (disbelievers for their guidance) Our signs even in the remotest regions (of the earth) and in their own persons until it becomes quite manifest to them that this (Qur'ân) is the lasting truth infact. Is it not enough (for them) that your Lord indeed keeps watch over everything?

54. Look! they are in disquieting and grave doubt about the meeting with their Lord. Beware! He certainly encompasses every thing (in His Knowledge and power).

Chapter

Al-Shûrâ

(The Counsel)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Shûrâ).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, Lord of all honour;
2. `Ain Sîn Qâf - All-Knowing, All-Hearing, All-Powerful.
3. (Just as He has sent this revelation) so does Allâh, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise reveals to you, and so has He also revealed to those (Messengers) who preceded you.
4. All that lies in the heavens and all that lies in the earth belongs to Him. And He is the Most Sublime, the All-Great.
5. The heavens may well-nigh rend asunder from above these (disbelievers due to His displeasure of them). But the angels are declaring the Holiness of their Lord along with His praise and they ask His protection for those on the earth. Behold! it is Allâh alone who is All-Protecting, the Ever Merciful.
6. As for those who have taken to themselves patrons apart from Him, Allâh is watchful over them and goes on keeping the record of the deeds (which serve as a proof) against them. And you are in no way responsible of their affairs.
7. (Just as We have sent this revelation,) so We have sent (as another favour) to you the Qur'ân in Arabic through revelation so that you may warn the (people of) Metropolis (- the Makkans) and (all) those around it and that you may warn (them) of the Day of (general) Gathering, (the Day) about the advent of which there is no doubt; (the Day) there will be a party (of those going) in to Paradise and another party (of those going) in the blazing Fire.
8. And if Allâh had wanted (to enforce His will) He would have made all these people one nation (of believers). But He admits (him) to His Mercy who wishes (so). As for the wrongdoers they will have neither a patron nor a helper (in

the Hereafter).

9. Have they taken to themselves (other) patrons apart from Him (the only God)? But the (real) Patron is Allâh alone. He alone raises the dead to life and He is the Possessor of every power over every desired thing.

SECTION 2

10. And whatever may your differences be in a thing, the (ultimate) decision of it rests with Allâh. Such is Allâh, my Lord! On Him alone have I (always) put my trust, and towards Him do I turn (seeking His mercy).

11. He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. He has made your mates from your own species and has made mates of the cattle (also from their own species). That is the way (of mating together) whereby He multiplies you. Naught is as His exegesis, (He is beyond all comparison,) and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.

12. The things encircling the heavens and the earth belong to Him. He multiplies the means of livelihood for such of them as He will, and makes them scant (for such of them as He will). He has indeed full-knowledge of each and everything.

13. He has ordained for you the same course of faith as He enjoined on Noah (to adopt), and which We have revealed to you, and it is that (same faith) which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, Jesus, so keep the faith and do not differ in it. (He ordains you) to establish obedience (to Allâh) and not to be divided (in sects) therein. Hard upon the polytheists is that (teaching) which you call them to. Allâh draws (him) towards Himself who wishes (to be drawn to Him), and guides him to Himself who turns (towards Him with a sincere heart).

14. And these (rejecters of the faith) split themselves into factions only after (true) knowledge (of the fundamental principles of faith) had come to them (and that too) out of jealousy among themselves and to spite one another. But for the word (of promise) already gone forth from your Lord, (that they would be given respite) for a fixed term, the judgment upon these (disbelievers) would surely have long been passed (by their complete annihilation). As for those who have been made to inherit the Scripture after these (Prophets) they are in a disquieting and grave doubt about this (Qur'ân).

15. (Since they are split up and divided,) call (them) to this (true faith), and go on following the straight path as you have been bidden. Do not follow their vain desires but say, `I believe in what Allâh has revealed of the Book, and I have orders to do justice between you. Allâh is Our Lord as well as your Lord. We shall reap (the fruit of) our deeds and you shall reap (the fruit of) yours. There exists no cause of dispute between us and you. Allâh will gather us together (to judge between us with justice) and towards Him is the (eventual) return (of us all).'

16. And as for those who dispute about Allâh after His call has generally been responded, futile and void will be their argument in the sight of their Lord and (His) displeasure will come down upon them and there awaits them a severe punishment.

17. Allâh is He Who has sent down the perfect Book, suiting your requirements, with the lasting truth, and an Equitable law. How should you know that the (promised) Hour may be near at hand?

18. Only those who do not believe in it, seek to hasten it. But those who believe (in the truth about the Hour) dread it and are full of awe regarding it. And they know that it is infact, a certainty. Beware! those who dispute about the Hour are (steeped) in far-gone error.

19. Allâh is Benignant to His servants. He bestows (His gifts) on whomsoever He pleases. He is All-Powerful, All-Mighty.

SECTION 3

20. For he who seeks the harvest (- the reward) of the Hereafter We shall add to his harvest. But he who seeks the harvest of this world We shall give him a portion of it and he shall have no share whatsoever in the Hereafter.

21. Do these (disbelievers) have such associate partners (with Allâh) who have decreed a law which is contrary to (the law) Allâh has sanctioned? Had We not given (Our) verdict (about the respited time) of (the final) judgment, the orders (of destruction) would have long been passed between them. Indeed, there awaits the wrongdoers a woeful punishment.

22. (On the Day of Judgment) you shall see these wrongdoers full of dread and awe on account of the evil deeds they have committed. Yet this (punishment as a consequence to their evil deeds) is sure to befall them. But those who believe and (accordingly) do deeds of righteousness will be in (flowering and delightful) meadows of the Gardens. There is (present) with their Lord whatever they desire. That indeed is the bounteous favour (of Allâh).

23. That is (the same bounteous favour) of which Allâh gives the glad tidings to His servants who believe and (accordingly) do deeds of righteousness. Say, `I ask no reward from you for it (- my preaching). All that I ask you is to cherish the strongest love to be near (to Him).' He that does a good deed, We make this (good deed) look all the more beautiful to him. Verily, Allâh is All-Protecting, Most Appreciating (of our service to Him).

24. Rather they say, `He has forged a lie against Allâh (by presenting this Qur'ân).' If Allâh so willed He would set

a seal (against them) upon your heart. But Allâh eradicates falsehood (through you) and establishes the truth by (dint of) His words (-prophecies and revelation). He is indeed, One knowing full well (even) the innermost thoughts of the hearts.

25. It is He Who accepts penitence of His servants and pardons (them their) evil deeds, and He knows all that you do.

26. And He responds to the prayers of those who believe and (accordingly) do deeds of righteousness and gives them (even) more (than they pray for) through His grace and bounty. As for the disbelievers there awaits them a severe punishment

27. And if Allâh were to grant abundant provision for all His people, they would certainly commit rebellious transgression in the land. But as it is He sends it down according to a set and proper measure as He deems fit. He is indeed Well-Aware of His people (and) All-Seeing (of their condition).

28. And He it is Who sends down rain after the people have lost all hope and unfolds His mercy. And He alone is the Patron, the Praiseworthy.

29. The creation of the heavens and the earth and (the creation of) each living thing He has spread forth in them both are some of His Signs. Indeed He is Possessor of every power over gathering them together whenever He will.

SECTION 4

30. And whatever calamity befalls you is of your own making. And (yet) He goes on forgiving a great many of your sins (out of His mercy).

31. And you cannot frustrate (Allâh's) purpose in the earth, nor have you, apart from Allâh, any real protecting friend or helper.

32. And the towering ships sailing in the sea like mountain-tops are some of His signs (as well).

33. And if He so will He can cause the wind to become still so that they stand motionless on its surface. Surely, there are signs in this for every patiently persevering (and) grateful person.

34. Or He (if He so will) can also destroy (the occupants of) these ships making them too heavy because of the (sinful) deeds they have committed; while He has pardoned a great many (of their sins and could save them).

35. (Yet He destroys them) so that those who dispute concerning Our teachings may know that there is no escape for them.

36. (People!) whatever you have been given is only the passing enjoyment of the present life. But much better and more lasting is that (reward) which Allâh has for those who believe and put their trust in their Lord;

37. Those who avoid the more grievous sins and acts of indecency and who forgive when their anger is aroused,

38. And those who respond to their Lord and observe Prayer and whose affairs are (decided by) mutual consultation, and who go on spending (in Our cause) out of what We have provided for them,

39. And those who, when they meet wrongful aggression, defend themselves.

40. And (they keep in mind that) the recompense of an evil done is a punishment equal to it (for an evil merits an equal evil). But he who pardons (an offender) and (thereby) improves the matter (and effects thereby a reform in the offender) shall have his reward from Allâh. Behold! He does not love the wrong doers.

41. No blame shall lie on those who defend themselves after a wrong is done to them.

42. The blame only lies on those who wrong people and commit aggression in the land without justification. It is they for whom there awaits a grievous punishment.

43. But the one who bears (the wrong done to him) and forgives, (let it be remembered that) surely to do so is a matter of great fortitude and high resolve.

SECTION 5

44. As for the person whom Allâh forsakes and adjudges as lost there is no protecting-friend for him except He. And you will find that when the wrongdoers see the punishment (about to overtake them) they will say, 'Is there any way back?'

45. And you shall see them being presented to it (the agony) humiliating themselves because of disgrace, looking with a furtive glance. And those who believe will say, 'As a matter of fact, the losers are those who have lost themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection.' Beware! the wrongdoers will be, infact, suffering from constant agony.

46. They will have no protecting-friends to help them apart from Allâh. And there is no way (of escape left) for him whom Allâh forsakes and adjudges as lost.

47. (Mankind!) respond to your Lord before there comes a day from Allâh for which there is no averting (contrary to the decree of God). There shall be no refuge for you on that day, nor will there be for you any (possibility of) denial (of your sins).

48. But if they turn away (inspite of all your exhortation) then (it is their own responsibility). We have not sent you as a custodian over them. Your duty is only to deliver (Our Message) well. Look! when We let a person to have a taste

of Our mercy he rejoices over it. But if some evil befalls them on account of what they have themselves done (they are displeased thereat); as a matter of fact such a person is (really) ungrateful.

49. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh. He creates what He will. He grants daughters to whom He will (according to His wise plan) and He grants sons to whom He will.

50. Or (to some) He grants mixed - sons and daughters, and He makes whom He will barren (of having a child). Indeed, He is All-Knowing, All-Powerful.

51. It is not given to a human being that Allâh should speak to him except by direct revelation or from behind a veil or by sending a messenger (- an angel) who should reveal (to him) by His command what He pleases. Indeed, He is the Most Sublime,

the All-Wise.

52. (Prophet!) just so (as We sent revelations to other Prophets), We revealed to you the Word by Our command. (Before this revelation) you did not know what the Divine Book was nor (which of) the faith (it teaches), but We made it (- Our revelation to you) a light, whereby We guide such of our servants as We will. And truly you are guiding (mankind) on to the straight and right path,

53. The path of Allâh to whom belongs all that lies in the heavens and all that lies in the earth. Behold! to Allâh do all things eventually return.

Chapter

43

Al-Zukhruf

(The Ornaments)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Zukhruf).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, the Lord of all Honour.
2. This perfect Book that makes (the truth) perspicuously clear bears witness (to the above truth).
3. Verily, We have made it a Qur'ân, such (a Scripture) as brings (the nations) together, and (a Scripture) eloquently expressive so that you may make use of your understanding.
4. And it (- the Qur'ân) lies (safe) with Us in the Mother of the Book (which is the source of all knowledge), and (it is) indeed eminently sublime and full of wisdom.
5. Should We then leave you altogether, and turn away from (giving) you the Reminder, the source of eminence (for you) just because you are a people exceeding all limits (and wasting your ownselves)?

6. And so many a Prophet did We send among the earlier peoples,
 7. Yet there never came to them a Prophet but they treated him as of no importance.
 8. Look! We destroyed those who were stronger than these (Makkans) in valour, and the example of the former peoples has already gone before. (So how can they escape meeting the same fate?)
 9. And if you ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they will certainly say, '(It is) the All-Mighty, (and) the All-Knowing (God) who has created them.'
 10. (It is He) Who made the earth a resting place for you and Who has, for your benefit, forged in it pathways so that you may follow the right path.
 11. And (it is He) Who sends down again and again water from the clouds according to a set decree and in proper measure and by this means We revive the dead territory. That is how you (too) shall be brought forth (alive).
 12. (It is He) Who has created pairs of all things, He has also made for you the ships and created the cattle whereon you ride;
 13. So that you may sit firmly on their backs (and) then you may remember the favour of your Lord when you are firmly seated (and settled) on them and say, 'Glory be to Him Who has made these things subservient to us, while we (if left to) ourselves were not capable of (the task of) subduing them.'
 14. 'Certainly, we are the ones bound to return to our Lord.'
 15. (Though they say that Allâh alone is the Creator of the heavens and the earth) yet they have made some of His
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servants His part (- His son), such a human being is evidently ungrateful.

SECTION 2

16. Or has He taken to Himself daughters from the things He Himself has created (as the pagans describe the angels to be God's daughters) and has chosen you for (honouring with) the sons.

17. Yet (as to themselves) when one of them is given the news (of the birth of a female child), the like of which (sex) he ascribes to the Most Gracious (God), his face becomes gloomy and he is choked with inward grief.

18. (Is he your god) who is brought up in the midst of ornaments and who is unable to make a clear expression (to an argument) and a plain speech in disputation (and discussions).

19. And they regard the angels who are the servants of the Most Gracious (God) as females. Did they witness their creation? In that case their testimony will be recorded and they will be questioned (about it).

20. And they say, 'If the Most Gracious (God) had (so) willed, we should never have worshipped them.' They have no real knowledge whatsoever in that matter. They do nothing but make conjectures.

21. Have We given them a Scripture before this (Qur'ân) so that they are thereby adducing an argument (in support of their conjectures)?

22. Nay, but they go on saying, 'We have found our forefathers on a certain course, and we (while walking) in their footsteps, are following the right course (of true guidance).'

23. It has always been the case, We never sent any Warner to any township before you but its insolent leaders and well-to-do persons said, 'We have found our forefathers on a certain course and we are the followers in their footsteps (to the right direction).'

24. (Thereupon the Warner to them) said, '(Would you still follow the wrong course in their footsteps) even though I bring a (teaching giving) better guidance than that on which you found your fathers.' They said, 'We are disbelievers altogether (in the teaching) with which you are sent.'

25. So We were displeased with them. Behold! how miserable was the end of those who cried lies (to Our Prophets).

SECTION 3

26. And (recall the time) when Abraham said to his sire and his people, 'I definitely disown what you worship;

27. 'But not Him (the true God) Who created me, and He will surely guide me to the right way.'

28. And he (- Abraham) made it (- the Divine Unity) a word to abide (as a permanent legacy) among his posterity, so that they might turn (to One God).

29. (Yet when these disbelievers took to idol-worship I did not obliterate them) rather I allowed them and their fathers to enjoy worldly provisions until there came to them this lasting truth and a great Messenger who tells the right from the wrong.

30. Yet no sooner did the lasting truth come to them than they said, 'This is enchanting, but we are disbelievers in it altogether.'

31. Moreover they said, 'Why has not this Qur'ân been revealed to some man of importance from (either of) the two townships (- Makkah or Tâ'if, the two centres of social and political life).'

32. What! is it they who distribute the grace of your Lord? Nay, but it is We Who distribute among them their livelihood pertaining to the present life. We exalt them (in rank) one over another so that some of them may take others in service. And the grace of your Lord is much better than what they amass (of the worldly provisions).

33. And were it not (for the fact) that all mankind would become (followers) of one course (of disbelief) We would have given to those who disbelieve in the Most Gracious (God) roofs of silver for their houses and (silver) stairways whereby they could ascend;

34. And for their houses (We would have given similar) doors and couches (too of silver) whereon they could recline.

35. And many more ornamental things (of silver and gold). Yet all this (pomp and show) is nothing but an enjoyment (of fleeting nature) pertaining only to the present life. And (the comfort of) the Hereafter with your Lord belongs exclusively to those who become secure against evil.

SECTION 4

36. As for him who forsakes the admonition of the Most Gracious (God), We appoint for him a satan who then becomes an intimate companion for him.

37. These (satans) turn the people away from the right path and the people think (about themselves) that they are following the right course of guidance;

38.. Till when such a person comes before Us (on the Day of Judgment) he will say (to his respective satan), `Would that there had been the distance of the east and the west between you and me. What an evil companion is he !

39. (It will be said to the satanic people that Day,) `Now, when (it has been once proved) that you have acted unjustly, (the fact) that you are sharers in the punishment (with those who misled you) will be of no use to you at all this Day.

40. (In this state of theirs, Prophet!) would you make the deaf to hear, or guide the blind and him who is (engrossed) in glaring error.

41. And even if We take you away (from this world) We shall punish them (in all events);

42. Or We shall show you (in your life-time) that (punishment) which We have promised them, for, evidently, We have absolute power over them.

43. Therefore hold fast to that which has been revealed to you, for you are surely on the exact right and straight path.

44. And truly this (Qur'ân) is a source of rising to eminence for you and for your people. And you shall all be asked about (whether you did the duty you owed to it).

45. And ask those of Our Messenger whom We sent before you whether We (ever) appointed any deities to be worshipped apart from the Most Gracious (God).

SECTION 5

46. And We sent Moses with Our Messages towards Pharaoh and his courtiers, accordingly he said (to them), `I am, truly, a Messenger from the Lord of the worlds.'

47. But no sooner did he bring them Our signs than they laughed at them.

48. We showed them no sign but it was greater than its kind (preceding it). And We seized them with the calamity so that they might return (to the ways of righteousness).

49. (Every time the calamity visited them) they said, `O man of vast learning, pray for us to your Lord, invoking Him in view of the promises He has made with you. (If He removes this affliction from us) we will surely follow the right course (of true guidance).'

50. But no sooner did We relieve them of their affliction than they broke their word.

51. Now, Pharaoh proclaimed among his people (wherein) he said, `O my people! does not the kingdom of Egypt belong to me? And these streams are flowing at my command. Do you not even see?

52. Nay, I am better than this (- Moses) who is a miserable wretch and can hardly express (himself) distinctly.

53. `(If he be a specially favoured one of God) why have not then bracelets of gold been bestowed on him (and thus a chiefdom conferred on him), or (rather why have no) angels accompanied him following him in procession formed in serried ranks?'

54. Thus did he (- Pharaoh) instigate his people (against Moses and demanded prompt obedience from them); and they obeyed him. They were indeed a wicked people.

55. And no sooner did they displease Us (with their wicked ways) than We punished them and drowned them all together.

56. And We made them a thing of the past and an example (to take warning from) for the coming generations.

SECTION 6

57. When (the case of Jesus,) the son of Mary is cited as an example, lo, your people start raising a clamour at it,

58. And they said, `What! are our gods better or he (- the Christ)?' They have mentioned his case to you only by way of disputation. Nay, but (the thing is that) they are a contentious people.

59. He was no more than a servant (of Ours) whom We graced with Our blessings

and favours and We made him (to be) an example (of virtue and piety) for the Children of Israel.

60. And if We so willed We could make some from among you (like) angels who could be Our vicegerents in the land.

61. And indeed this (Qur'ân) gives the knowledge of the (promised) Hour. So have no doubt about it, rather you should follow Me. This is the straight and right path.

62. Do not let the satan turn you away from following it, for he is your an enemy cutting off (your) ties (with God).

63. And when Jesus came (to his people) with clear proofs he said, `I have indeed brought to you wisdom, and (I have come) to explain to you clearly some of the things over which you differ. So take Allâh as a shield and obey me.

64. `The truth of the matter is that Allâh alone is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him, this is the straight path.'

65. But (hearing this) various groups (of the people addressed) fell into variance among themselves, therefore woe to those who act unjustly because of the torments of a woeful Day.

66. These (opponents of the truth) await only the (promised) Hour so that it may befall them suddenly and take them unawares.

67. On that Day friends will turn into foes one against another. Such, however, will not be the case with those who have become secure against evil.

SECTION 7

68. (God will say to the righteous,) `O My servants! this Day you have nothing to fear, nor shall you ever grieve;

69. `(You) who believed in Our teachings and submitted (to Our will);

70. `Enter Paradise, you and your spouses, you will be honoured and cheered (here).'

71. (Then it will so happen that) there they will be served in a round with bowls of gold and drinking cups and there, (in Paradise) will be (present) all that (their) souls desire and (their) eyes find delight in. And you will be abiding therein for ever.

72. And such is the Paradise which you shall have as your own, because of your (righteous) deeds.

73. Therein you shall have fruit in abundance, enough for you to eat (and spare).

74. (On the other side) the guilty will, of course, be abiding (long) in the torment of Gehenna.

75. That (torment) will not be allowed to abate for them, and once caught in it they shall completely despair.

76. (By punishing them so) We did them no injustice, rather, it was they themselves who were the unjust and wrongdoers indeed.

77. And they will cry, `O Mâlik (- the angel in charge of the Hell), let your Lord finish with us (and thus rid us of the torment once for all).' He will reply, `You have to remain (here) in this very state.'

78. (God will say,) `We really brought you the Truth, yet most of you were those who found the truth hard (to follow).'

79. (Now) these (opponents of truth) have taken a decision (to kill the Prophet), so We have also taken Our decision (of the case of his saving).

80. Nay, but they think that We do not hear their secret (talks) and their private consultation (against Our Prophet). Indeed, We do (hear)! Not only that (private talk) but Our envoys (who remain) by their side are noting down (everything).

81. Say, `The Most Gracious (God) has no son and I am the foremost to bear witness to this fact.

82. `Holy is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, and the Lord of the Throne (of

Power far) above and free from that (polytheistic things) they ascribe (to Him).'

83. So leave them alone to indulge in vain talk and to keep themselves occupied with unreal things until they meet their time (of punishment) which they have been promised.

84. He it is Who is (the Only) God in all the heavens and (the only) God in the whole of the earth and He alone is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing.

85. And blessed be He to Whom belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them and He alone has the knowledge of the promised Hour and to Him you shall all be made to return.

86. And all those whom they call upon, apart from Him, have no authority to intercede (with their Lord), but (this right is given to him) who bears witness to the truth and they know him (the Prophet) and his good conduct well.

87. If you were to ask them, 'Who created them.' They will no doubt say, 'Allâh.' Then whither are they being led astray?

88. And (He has the knowledge of) his (- the Prophet's repeated) cry (and appeal), 'O my Lord! these are a people who do not believe.'

89. So (Prophet!) leave them alone and (bidding them good-bye) say, 'Peace!' They shall soon know (the truth and the folly they are committing).

Chapter

44

Al-Dukhân

(The Drought)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Dukhân).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, the Lord of all Honour.

2. This perfect Book that makes (the truth) perspicuously clear bears testimony (to the above statement).

3. Truly, We revealed this (Book) in a Night full of blessings (*Lailatul Qadr*, as) it has been Our wont to warn (people against evil).

4. During this (night) every matter full of wisdom (and substance) is explained distinctly;

5. (Every matter to be decided and done) by Our own command. Verily, We have ever been sending (Messenger),

6. As a mercy from your Lord. Behold! He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing,

7. The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them, if you would (only) be convinced (to have faith in something) have faith in Him.

8. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. He alone gives life and causes to die. (He is) your Lord as well as the Lord of your forefathers.

9. Yet (they have no faith,) they are steeped in doubt (and) occupied with unreal things.

10. So (Prophet!) watch for the day when the sky will bring about a clear drought;

11. That will envelop these people. This is that woeful calamity (which is foretold).

12. (Seeing this the people will cry out,) `Our Lord! rid us of this calamity, truly we will be believers.'

13. How shall they take heed (now in this condition) for there has already come to them a Great Messenger telling the right from the wrong.

14. Yet they turned away from him and said, `He is a man tutored (by others), a man

bereft of his senses.'

15. Look! We shall relax your punishment for a short while (but) you are sure to revert (to your former evil ways).

16. (After this respite) We shall again seize (you) with the mighty onslaught one day, then We shall inflict a sure and stern punishment.

17. And We afflicted the people of Pharaoh with a torment before them for there had come to them (too) a noble and respectable Messenger,

18. (Saying,) `Deliver to me the servants of Allâh (- the Children of Israel). Infact I am to you a Messenger, faithful to (my) trust,

19. `And do not rise up in defiance of Allâh. Surely, I bring to you a clear authoritative proof.

20. `And I have taken refuge with my Lord and your Lord lest you should stone me (to death).

21. `You had better leave me alone if you do not believe in me.'

22. Thereupon (when they denied him) he (- Moses) called to his Lord (saying), `These are a people guilty indeed.'

23. Then (the order was), `Set forth with My servants in a watch of the night, (for) you are going to be chased.

24. `And leave (when) the sea (is calm and not in tide) by its depressed portion (crossing on the dunes). Surely, these (pursuers, Pharaoh and his people) are a host (of people) doomed to be drowned.'

25. (So they were drowned;) and many a garden and springs they left behind,

26. And the cornfields, and how beautiful a place of high status;

27. And the prosperity and comfort that they enjoyed and took delight in.

28. That is how it shall happen (now with the rejecters of the prophet). And We gave all such things to another people.

29. And neither (the residents of) the heaven nor (those of) the earth mourned over them, nor were they reprieved.

SECTION 2

30. Look! We delivered the Children of Israel from the disgraceful torment.
31. From (the torment of) Pharaoh. He was surely haughty (and one) of the transgressors.
32. And We chose them (- the Children of Israel) on the basis of Our knowledge, over all their contemporary people.
33. And We gave them some of the signs wherein were (placed) unmixed blessings.
34. These people (of this time) do say,
35. `It is but our first death (- the only one we will encounter) and (after that) we shall never be the revived ones.
36. `So bring our forefathers (back to life) if you (O Muslims!) are truthful (in what you say about Resurrection).'
37. Are they superior to the people of (Yemanite King) *Tubba`*, and to those (who flourished) even before them? We destroyed them (all) because they were certainly guilty.
38. And we did not create the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them just because We were doers of some purposeless work.
39. (That) We created them, (it was) only (for an eternal purpose) to establish the truth, yet most of them do not know this.
40. Verily, the Day of Decision is the promised time appointed for all of them,
41. The Day when no friend shall avail a friend in the least nor shall they be helped.
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42. Different however shall be the case of those to whom Allâh will show mercy. Verily, He alone is the Mighty, the Ever Merciful.

SECTION 3

43. Verily, the (despicable) tree of *Zaqqûm*

44. Shall be the food of the arch-sinners.

45. (It will act) like molten copper. It will boil in (their) bellies;

46. As the boiling of scalding water.

47. (The word shall then pass about the guilty,) `Take hold of him then drag him into the midst of Hell.

48. `Again pour boiling water upon his head, by way of torment (to him).'

49. (It will be said to him,) `Suffer this (punishment of yours which you doubted). You (deemed yourself) as if you were the mighty, the honourable one.

50. `This of course is (the very punishment) about which you used to wrangle.'

51. As for the righteous, they shall be (lodged) in havens of peace and security;

52. In the midst of (a land of) gardens and springs.

53. They shall wear fine silk and heavy brocade (and will be sitting) face to face.

54. Thus (shall it actually happen). And We shall pair them with pure maidens having beautiful large eyes.

55. They will order therein every (kind of) fruit, and will be safe and secure.

56. They will meet therein no death after the first death (met by them in the world). And Allâh saved them from the torment of the Hell.

57. (All this will take place by way of) grace from your Lord. That is the very great achievement indeed.

58. And We have made this (Qur'ân) easy (by revealing it) in your (Arabic) tongue, so that the people may take heed.

59. Now await (their end), for they are (also) awaiting (yours).

Chapter

45

Al-Jâthiyah

(The Fallen on the Knees)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Jâthiyah).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, the Lord of all Honour.
2. The gradual revelation of this perfect Book proceeds from Allâh, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
3. The fact is that there are signs for believers in the heavens and in the earth,
4. And for the people who have firm faith, there are signs in your own creation and (in) that of all (living) creatures which He spreads abroad.
5. And in the alternation of night and day and the sustenance that Allâh sends down through clouds, whereby He revives the earth after its desolation, and (in) the veering of the winds, there are signs for a people who make use of their understanding.
6. These are the signs of Allâh which We describe to you with precision. In what other announcement will they believe after (they have rejected the word of) Allâh and His signs?
7. Woeful agony awaits every sinful habitual liar,
8. Who hears the Messages of Allâh which are recited to him and then he very proudly persists (in his disbelief) as though he has not heard these (Messages). So give him the tidings of a woeful punishment.

9. And when he comes to know something of Our messages he holds them as of little importance. It is such people for whom there awaits a disgraceful punishment.

10. (In addition to this worldly punishment) they have Gehenna before them. The wealth they have acquired shall not avail them, nor shall these (guardians of theirs) whom they have taken for (their) helping friends apart from Allâh (be of any help to them). And there awaits them a dreadful punishment.

11. This (Qur'ân) is (true and) a complete guidance. But those who deny the commandment of their Lord shall suffer the scourge of a woeful punishment.

SECTION 2

12. It is Allâh Who has made the sea subservient to you so that the ships may sail upon it by His command and so that by means of these ships you may seek His bounty and give (Him) thanks.

13. And He has made subservient to you all that lies in the heavens and all that lies in the earth. All these (benedictions) are from Him. In all this there are signs for a people who would reflect.

14. Tell those who believe to let alone those who do not accept the (contesting) days of Allâh on which the righteous will be successful in the land and the wicked will suffer disaster in order that He may Himself recompense every people according to their deeds.

15. He who does good, does it for (the good of) his own soul and he who does evil (the sad consequences of it) shall befall him, (for, after all) you will be brought back to your Lord.

16. And indeed We gave the Children of Israel the Scripture (of mosaic law) and power of judgment and prophethood, and provided them with good and pure things and exalted them over the contemporary peoples.

17. And We gave them clear signs regarding this affair (of the advent of this Prophet). And they did not differ (about it) but after true knowledge (in the form of the Qur'ân) had come to them, (and this difference was) to spite one another. Behold!

your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning all their differences.

18. Then We (gave you a system of law and) set you on a clear highway regarding this affair. Follow it and do not follow the caprices of those who have no knowledge.

19. Verily, they can be of no avail to you against (the displeasure of) Allâh. Surely, the wrongdoers are helping-friends one of the other, but Allâh is the helping-friend of those who have become secure against evil.

20. Those (teachings of the Qur'ân) are a means to grant insight to mankind and a source of complete guidance and a mercy for a people who have firm faith.

21. Do those who commit evil deeds think that We will treat them like those who believe and (accordingly) do deeds of righteousness so that their lives and deaths be alike? How ill they judge!

SECTION 3

22. Allâh has created the heavens and the earth with an eternal purpose to ensure that every soul be recompensed according to his deeds and no one be done injustice to.

23. Have you considered the case of him who has taken his own low desires for his god and whom Allâh has forsaken and adjudged as lost on the basis of (His infinite) knowledge, and whose ears and heart He has sealed and whose eyes He has covered with a veil? Who then will guide him after Allâh (has condemned him for his being given to evil ways)? Will you then pay no heed?

24. They say, `We have only this our present life (to live). We (people of one generation) die and we (people of a new generation from among us) come to life again (here in this very world). It is (the passage of) time alone that deals us death. But they have no real knowledge whatsoever about the matter (- the Hereafter). They merely make conjectures.

25. And when Our clear messages are recited to them their only contention is that they say, `Bring back our forefathers (alive) if you are true (in your belief in the life after death).'

26. Say, `(It is) Allâh alone Who gives you life then He causes you to die, then He will gather you together on the Day of Resurrection, (the day) about the advent of which there is no doubt. Yet most of the people do not know (this truth).'

SECTION 4

27. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh. At the time when the (promised) Hour shall come to pass the falsifiers (of the truth with vanity) shall be in the loss on that day.

28. And (at that promised time) you shall see every community fallen on (their) knees. Every community will be summoned to (face) their records (of deeds). (And it shall be said to them,) `This day you shall be recompensed according to your deeds.

29. `Here is Our (prepared) record. It speaks the truth about you. Indeed, We have been getting all your deeds fully registered and preserved.'

30. Now as for those who believed and did deeds of righteousness, their Lord will admit them into His mercy. This indeed is a manifest achievement.

31. But as for those who disbelieved (God will say,) `Is it not that My Messages were recited to you yet you behaved arrogantly and you became those who cut off their ties (with us)?

32. `And when it was said (to you), "The promise of Allâh is of course true and the Hour (of Resurrection) there is no doubt about it," you said, "We do not know what the Hour may be, we have only a faint notion about it and we are, by no means, convinced (of its certainty)".'

33. And (on that day) the evils (inherent) in their deeds will become apparent to them. They will be caught by that (very destruction) they used to hold in very low estimation.

34. And it will be said (to them), `This Day We have given you up just as you gave up (the idea) that you will meet this Day of yours. Now, your resort is the Fire and you have no one for a helper.

35. `This (end of yours) is because you took no account of the commandments of Allâh, and the life of this world seduced you.' So that Day they will not be taken out of it nor will they be able to reach even the threshold (of the Divine Presence seeking to make amends and to win His favour).

36. All type of perfect and true praise, therefore, belongs to Allâh, Lord of the

heavens, Lord of the earth and Lord of the worlds.

37. And all the majesty in the heavens and the earth belongs to Him alone. And He alone is the All-Mighty, the All- Wise.

Part XXVI

Chapter

46

Al-Aḥqâf

(The Sand Dunes)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Aḥqâf).

1. Hâ Mîm - Allâh is Praiseworthy, the Lord of All Honour.
2. The gradual revelation of this perfect Book proceeds from Allâh the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
3. We have not created the heavens and the earth and what lies between them both but with an eternal purpose and for a term appointed. Yet those who have disbelieved in what they have been warned of are the ones who turn away (from this Qur'ân).
4. Say, `Do you realize what it is you call on, apart from Allâh? Show me what portion of the earth they have created. Or have they (played) a part in (the planning and creation of) the heavens? Bring me any Book (revealed) before this or some vestige of knowledge (to confirm your practices) if you are truthful (in your claim).'
5. And who is more misguided than the person who instead of (praying to) Allâh prays to those who will not answer him till the Day of Resurrection and these (deities they worship) are even unaware of their prayers (to them).
6. And when the people shall be gathered together (on the Day of Judgment and Justice) these (false gods) will become enemies to them (- their worshippers) and will (even) disown their worship.

7. When Our clear Messages are recited to them, these disbelievers say with regard to the Truth when it comes to them, `This is an obvious sorcery.'

8. Do they say, `He himself has forged this (Qur'ân)?' Say, `If I have forged it, you have no power to help me in anyway against Allâh, He knows what nonsensical talk you are indulging in. Sufficient is He for a witness between me and you. And He is the Great Protector, the Ever Merciful.'

9. Say, `I am no novel (Apostle) among the Messengers nor do I know what will be done to me (on your behalf) or to you. I simply follow what is revealed to me and I am nought but a plain Warner.'

10. Say, `Have you considered (that) if this (Qur'ân) is from Allâh and you do not believe in it (there will be no way of escape for you); (more so because) a witness (in the person of Moses) from among the Children of Israel has borne witness to (the advent of) his like. So, whereas he has believed (in those prophecies) but you turn away in disdain, (how should you fare then? Bear in mind) Allâh guides no unjust people (to success).

SECTION 2

11. And those who disbelieve say of those who believe, `If these (- the Qur'ânic doctrines) were any good they would not have taken precedence over us in believing in it.' Since they themselves have received no guidance from it they say (out of malice), `It is an old lie.'

12. Whereas the Scripture of Moses (which was) a guide and a mercy preceded it, this (Qur'ân) is a Book which fulfills (the prophecies contained in the previous Scriptures) making its meanings and significance eloquently clear. (It has been revealed) so that it may warn those who do wrong and give glad tidings to the doers of righteous deeds.

13. Verily, those who say, `Allâh is our Lord,' then remain steadfast (in their belief) shall have nothing to fear nor shall they grieve.

14. It is they who are the owners of the Paradise. They shall be abiding therein for ever as a reward for their deeds.

15. And We have enjoined on a human being to do good to his parents. His mother bears him with trouble and pain and brings him forth with trouble and pain. The bearing of him and his weaning (takes) thirty months, till when he attains his full maturity and reaches (the age of) forty years he says to his Lord, `My Lord! rouse me up that I may give thanks for the favours you have bestowed on me and on my

parents and that I may do such righteous deeds as may please You. And (my Lord!) establish righteousness among my progeny for me. To You indeed I turn penitently and I am surely of those who submit themselves (to You).'

16. Such are the people the best of whose deeds We accept and reward, and whose evil deeds We pass over. (They shall

be) among the owners of Paradise, (in fulfillment of) the true promise which was made to them.

17. Yet there is another (hard-hearted) one who says to his parents, 'Fie upon you both! Do you threaten me that I shall be resurrected (to live again after death), when so many generations have already passed away before me (without any one of them having been raised to life).'

While both (- the believing parents) ask Allâh's help (and say to their child), 'Alas for you. Have faith, surely the promise of Allâh is true.' But he says, 'This is nothing but mere fables of the ancients.'

18. Such are the people against whom the sentence of punishment becomes due along with the communities of the *jinn* (- hughty) and (ordinary) people that preceded them. Of course, they were the losers.

19. And all shall have positions and grades (with their Lord) according to the worth of their deeds; and (it shall be so) that He may repay them fully for their deeds and that they may not be treated unjustly.

20. And on that day those who disbelieve will be exposed to the (Hell) Fire. (It will be said to them,) 'You consumed your good things during your life of the world and you enjoyed them. So this day you shall be recompensed with disgraceful punishment, because you waxed proud on the earth without justification and because you committed transgression.'

SECTION 3

21. And make mention of the kinsman of `âd (- Hûd, a Messenger of God to them), when he warned his people (living) in wind-curved sand-dunes (in *Hadzramût*, south of Arabia) to whom Warners had already come before him and after him (saying), 'Worship none but Allâh. I, indeed, fear lest the agony of a dreadful day should befall

you.'

22. They said, 'Have you come to us to seduce us and turn us away from our gods. Bring down on us (the punishment) you threaten us with, if indeed you are of the truthful.'

23. He said, 'Allâh alone has the true knowledge (of the time of the punishment). I am only conveying to you that (Message) I have been sent with. But I see that you are a people behaving obstinately (for no reason).'

24. Then, when they saw this (punishment they were threatened with) in the form of a cloud (spreading in the sky) heading towards their valleys, they said, 'This is a cloud which will rain over us.' (They were told,) 'It is no such thing, rather it is that (punishment) which you sought to hasten. (It is) a hurricane carrying a woeful punishment.'

25. 'This (hurricane) will go on destroying everything by the command of its Lord.' Accordingly (the hurricane struck them and) they became such that nothing could be seen (of them) except their dwellings. That is how do We recompense the guilty people.

26. (Makkans!) We had given them power to do such things as We have not given you. We gave them hearing, eyes and hearts. But their hearing, their eyes and their hearts availed them not, since they persistently denied the signs of Allâh. And they were caught by that (punishment) which they held in very low estimation.

SECTION 4

27. And We have destroyed several of the townships (which were situated) around you. We have repeatedly explained the Messages in diverse ways so that the people might turn (to Us giving up their atrocity).

28. Why then, did not those beings whom they had taken up for gods apart from Allâh to bring (them) close (to Him) help them? Instead (of being any help to them) they were lost to them. Such was (the outcome of) their lie and (of) what they fabricated (that their gods were a means to bring them close to God).

29. And (Prophet! recall the time) when We brought some people from among the *jinn*s to you. They wished to listen to the Qur'ân. When they attended it (- its recitation) they said (one to another), 'Be silent (and listen).'

When this (recitation) was over they went back to their people as warners.

30. They (having gone there) said, 'O our people! we have listened to a Book which

has been revealed after (the time of) Moses confirming that (divine Scripture) which is before it. It guides to the truth and to the right and straight path.

31. `O our people! accept the call of one calling to Allâh and believe in Him. (If you do so) He will keep you safe from (the woeful consequences of) your sins and will screen you from the woeful punishment.

32. `But one who does not accept (the call of) one calling to Allâh, cannot be the frustrator (of God's purpose) in the earth (and will not escape His punishment), nor can he have protecting friends apart from Him. Such people are steeped in clear error'.

33. Have they not considered that Allâh Who has created the heavens and the earth and was not wearied by their creation, is (in every way) Possessor of power to give life to the dead? Yes, verily He is Possessor of prudential power to do every desired thing.

34. And the day those who disbelieve will be exposed to the Fire, (they will be asked,) `Has this (punishment) not actually come to pass?' They will say, `Yes, it has, by our Lord.' He will then say, `(Now) suffer the punishment because of your disbelief.'

35. Patiently persevere then (O Prophet!) as did all the Messengers possessed of high-resolve did, and do not seek to hasten on for them (- the disbelievers, the doom which they are being promised). On the day when they will witness that they have been threatened with (they will feel) as if they have not tarried (in this world) but for an hour of a day. (It is) enough as delivery (of fair-warning from God). Who shall be destroyed now, if not the disobedient sinful people?

Chapter

47

Muhammad

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Muḥammad).

1. Those who disbelieve and bar people from the path of Allâh, He renders their works go in vain,
2. But as for those who bear faith and do deeds of righteousness and believe in that which is revealed to Muḥammad, for it is the very Truth revealed by their Lord, He has purged them of their sins and has improved their (spiritual and temporal) condition.
3. That is because those who disbelieve follow falsehood while those who believe follow the Truth (revealed) from their Lord. That is how Allâh explains their condition to mankind (to make them understand).
4. So (believers! now that you know the will of your Lord), when you meet in (regular) battle those who disbelieve strike off their heads. After you have bound them fast in fetters (as prisoners of war), then, afterwards, (release them, a must), either by way of grace or by (accepting) ransom. (That is the law,) until war lays down its weapons (and it is over). Such is (the ordinance of Allâh). Indeed if Allâh pleased He could have punished them (in other ways). But (the ways of warfare have been resorted to) so that He may reveal your worth at the hands of one another. As of those who are slain in the cause of Allâh He will never let their works go in vain.
5. He will guide them (to success) and will improve their condition.
6. Rather He will admit them into the Garden which He has made known to them (in the Qur'ân).
7. O You who believe! if you help (the cause of) Allâh He will help you and make your steps firm.
8. As for those who disbelieve there awaits them perdition. He will make their works (to see Islam fail and come to nought) bear no fruit.
9. That is because they consider the revelations of Allâh a burden. That is why He has made their works all go waste.
10. Have they not travelled in the land and seen how (miserable) was the end to which their predecessors (who had disbelieved in the former Prophets) had come?

Allâh utterly destroyed them. The same fate awaits these disbelievers.

11. That is because, (whereas) Allâh is a protecting friend of those who believe, the disbelievers have no protecting-friend.

SECTION 2

12. Allâh will make those who believe and do deeds of righteousness enter the Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). As for the disbelievers they will enjoy themselves (a little in this life) and eat even as the cattle eat and the Fire will be the last resort for them.

13. (Prophet!) so many townships were more powerful than this your town (of Makkah) which has driven you out, but We destroyed them, and they had no helper.

14. Can those people who take their stand upon a clear proof from their Lord, be compared to those to whom the evils of their deeds are made to seem attractive and who follow their low desires?

15. (Here is) a description of the Garden promised to those who guard against evil. Therein are streams of water (which is) unstaling, and streams of milk the taste and flavour of which does not change, and streams of juice extracted from grapes, a delight to the drinkers, and streams (too) of clarified honey, and they will have in it all kinds of fruit, and (a provision of) protection from their Lord. Can (those who enjoy such blessings of this Garden) be like those who shall abide in the Fire for long and who will be given boiling water to drink so that it tears their bowels into pieces.

16. And there are some (hypocrites) among them who (pretend to) listen to you. Yet when they go out from your presence they say to those who have been given knowledge, 'What was it he said just now?' These are the people whose hearts Allâh has sealed and who follow their low desires.

17. As for those who follow true guidance He leads them far ahead in their right ways (in the light of His guidance)

and grants them piety and restraints from evil suited to their condition.

18. These (disbelievers) only wait for the (promised) Hour (of doom) to take them unaware. Its signs have already appeared. But of what (avail) will their admonition be to them (and how will they be able to repent) when it actually comes upon them (all of a sudden).

19. (Believer!) know, therefore, that there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship other than Allâh and seek His protection and forgiveness for your (human) shortcomings and (also) for believing men and believing women. Allâh knows your haunt (where you move about), and your resting-place.

SECTION 3

20. Those who believe say, 'Why is no Sûrah (- Qur'ânic chapter permitting us to go to war) revealed?' But when a (definite) Sûrah of basic and categorical meaning and speaking of war was revealed you find those in whose hearts is a disease (of hypocrisy) looking at you like the looking of a person whose understanding is clouded for (fear of approaching) death. Therefore woe to them!

21. (More fitting and proper for them was) to obey and to say what is just and good. And when the matter (of fighting) is (once) resolved upon (and war breaks out) it is better for them if they remain true to Allâh (and fulfill the covenant they made with Him).

22. (Hypocrites!) it is more likely that if you are given authority and power, you will create disorder in the land and violate your ties of kinship.

23. Such are the people whom Allâh has deprived of His mercy, so that He has made them deaf (to hear the truth) and has made their eyes blind (so they cannot see the right way).

24. Is it that they do not earnestly seek to understand the Qur'ân? Rather (their) hearts are securely locked up by their own locks.

25. Surely, those who turned back (to apostasy) after true guidance had dawned upon them, satan has made fair-seeming to them (this action of theirs) and has held out false hopes to them.

26. That is because they (- the hypocrites) said (in secret) to these (Jews) who consider the revelations of Allâh as a burden, 'We will obey you in some matters.' But Allâh knows their secrets.

27. But how (will they fare), when the angels cause them to die, smiting them on their faces and their backs?

28. (They will be treated) thus, because they followed that which called forth the displeasure of Allâh and were averse to (seeking) His good pleasure. That is why He will make their deeds fruitless.

SECTION 4

29. **Do** the people with diseased minds suppose that Allâh will never bring their malice to light?

30. Indeed, if We so will We could show them to you so that you would know them by their appearance, yet you shall of course recognise them from the tenor of (their) speech. (Allâh knows their empty words as) He knows your (solid) deeds.

31. (Muslims!) We will put you to trial until We make manifest those among you who strive their utmost (in the cause of Allâh), and those who persevere in patience, and We will (entrust you with such tasks as may) bring to light your reported mettle (and inner merits).

32. Those who disbelieve and hinder (people) from following the path of Allâh and oppose the Messenger after true guidance has become clear to them, can do no harm to Allâh. But He will let (such) deeds of theirs bear no fruit.

33. O you who believe! obey Allâh and obey the Messengers and do not let your deeds go in vain.

34. Allâh will never grant protection (from their sins) to those who disbelieved and hindered (people) from (following) the path of Allâh and then died while they were (still) disbelievers.

35. (Believers! when fighting once starts) do not be mean so as to sue for peace. You will certainly have the upper hand. Allâh is with you. He will never let you suffer a loss in (the reward) of your (good) deeds.

36. (Hypocrites!) the present life is only unreal and makes you ignore and forgetful (of your duties towards God). If you believe and guard against evil He will give you your reward and will not ask of you your wealth (to confiscate it from you but He wishes to repay the efforts you make with your wealth).

37. Should He ask you for it (- your wealth) and press you (for it), you would show stinginess and this (niggardliness) will bring to surface your malice (and hatred

towards the divine Faith).

38. Behold! you are those who are called upon to spend in the cause of Allâh. Yet some of you are niggardly. (Remember that) whoever is niggardly is niggardly only against his own self. Otherwise Allâh is Self-sufficient (having no needs) and it is you who are the needy ones. And if you turn back (from the truth), He will replace you with another people

and they will not (behave) like you.

Chapter

48

Al-Fath

(The Victory)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Fathh).

1. (Prophet! the treaty of *Hudaibiyah* is a great victory in that) We opened for you the way to (another) clear victory (which led to the preaching and expansion of Islam).
2. The result of this is that Allâh will protect you from (the ill consequences of) the fault attributed to you in the past and those to follow, and that He will make His favour perfect upon you and will lead you to the goal of the straight and right path;
3. And that Allâh will grant you His mighty help.
4. It is He Who gave to the believers tranquillity and peace of mind so that they might

grow all the more in faith over and above the faith they (already) possessed. Indeed all the hosts of the heavens and of the earth belong to Allâh. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

5. (Allâh has decreed the war against the aggressor) so that He may admit the believers both men and women to Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing), (the Gardens) where they will abide for ever, and so that He might absolve them of their evils. This indeed is a supreme achievement (for you) in the sight of Allâh.

6. And (He has decreed it so that) He may punish the hypocrites both men and women and the polytheists both men and women who entertain evil thoughts about Allâh. There awaits them an evil term (of calamity). Allâh is angry with them and has deprived them of His mercy and has Gehenna in store for them, and evil it is for destination.

7. And all the hosts of the heavens and of the earth belong to Allâh. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

8. (Prophet!) We have sent you as a Witness (to Our existence and attributes), and a Bearer of glad tidings and a Warner.

9. (Mankind! We have done it) so that you may have faith in Allâh and His Messenger and so that you may help him in a respectful manner and honour him, and so that you may glorify Him morning and evening.

10. (Prophet!) Those who swear allegiance to you as a matter of fact swear allegiance to Allâh. Allâh's (helpful and benign) hand is above their hands. So he who breaks (his oath of allegiance) breaks (it) to his own loss. And as for the person who fulfills the great covenant he made with Allâh (- at *Bai't al-Ridzwan*, by *Hudaibiyah*), He will surely give such a person a great reward.

SECTION 2

11. Those of the desert Arabs (who contrived to be) left behind will say to you (by way of apology), `We were occupied in looking after our belongings and families, so ask for protection for us (from God).' They say with their tongues that which is not in their hearts. Say, `Who has any power to help you against (the decree of) Allâh if He intends to do you some harm? Or (who can avert His grace) if He intends to do you some good. Indeed, Allâh is Well Aware of all that you do (and He will treat you accordingly).

12. `(Hypocrites!) Nay, the fact is that you thought that the Messenger and the

believers would never return to their families. (This was a thought) that was made to appear pleasing to your minds. You entertained an evil thought. And you were a people doomed to perish.'

13. Let such a person who does not believe in Allâh and His Messenger (bear in mind that) We have surely prepared a blazing Fire for the disbelievers.

14. The sovereignty of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allâh. He grants protection to the person who wishes (to come under His protection) and punishes whom He will. Yet the fact is that Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

15. When you are free to set out to take the spoils (of the war of *Khaibar*), those who (contrived to be) left behind (from joining you at *Hudaibiyah*) will say, 'Permit us to follow you.' They would like to change the word of Allâh (and His decree). Say, 'You shall not follow us. This is what Allâh has declared beforehand.' They will thereupon say, '(There is no such foreword,) you are infact jealous of us.' (What they say is in fact wrong.) Little do they understand (that this

is the punishment for their not being present at *Hudaibiyah*).

16. (Prophet!) say to those of the desert Arabs who (contrived to be) left behind, 'You shall soon be called upon (to take up arms) against a people (- the Byzantine and the Persians) who are fighters of mighty valour. Then you shall fight until they submit. Allâh will grant you a goodly reward if you obey. But if you turn your backs, as you did before, He will punish you, a woeful punishment.'

17. No blame shall lie on the blind, no blame shall lie on the lame, and no blame shall lie on the sick (if they do not join the fight). Yet he that obeys Allâh and His Messenger He will make him enter Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing), but he that turns his back He will inflict upon him a woeful punishment.

SECTION 3

18. (Prophet!) Allâh was well-pleased with the (fourteen hundred) believers when they swore allegiance to you (known as *Bai`at al-Ridzwan*) under the (acacia) tree (at *Hudaibiyah*) He revealed (the high standard of faith) that they had in their hearts and

sent down *Shechinah* (- peace and tranquillity) upon them and He rewarded them with an early victory (at *Khaibar*).

19. And a great many gains (await them) that they will take. Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise.

20. (Muslims!) Allâh has promised you many gains that you will take, and He has given you this (victory at *Khaibar*) in advance. And (as a result of the Treaty of *Hudaibiyah*) He restrained the hands of the people from (committing aggression against) you that it may serve the believers as a sign and that He may lead you on the straight and right path leading to the goal.

21. There are (in addition to this) other (victories) which you have not been able to achieve, yet Allâh has surely encompassed them (with His power and kept them safe for you). And Allâh has every power over every desired thing.

22. Should those who disbelieve fight you (at *Hudaibiyah*) they would have certainly turned their backs and then would find neither protecting-friend nor helper.

23. (Allâh has explained to you) His wont which has been in practice since the very past. You will find no change at all in Allâh's wont.

24. It is He Who restrained their hands from you and your hands from them in the Valley of Makkah (on the occasion of the Treaty of *Hudaibiyah*) after He had given you victory over them. Allâh observes all that you do.

25. These (your Makkan enemies) were the people who disbelieved and prevented you from the Holy Mosque while even the sacrificial animals were stopped from reaching their destination (- the place of sacrifice). Had not there been (at Makkah) some believing men and believing women as were unknown to you, and had there been no danger that (in case of war) you might have trodden them down and thus you might have incurred some harm unknowingly on their account, (We would have allowed you to invade Makkah but We did not allow this) so that Allâh might show His mercy to him who wishes (to be shown mercy). Had these (believers living in Makkah) left from there (and had been separated from them), We would have surely punished these of them (-the Makkans) who disbelieved, with a woeful punishment.

26. (These events belong to the time) when those who disbelieved nurtured in their hearts prideful indignation and cant, the indignation and cant (of the days) of Ignorance, and Allâh granted *Shechinah* (peace and tranquillity) from Himself to His Messenger and the believers and made them observe closely and firmly the code of self-restraint, (the code) they were best entitled to receive and were also really worthy of it. Allâh has full knowledge of everything.

SECTION 4

27. Allâh had surely fulfilled for His Messenger the vision, that conformed to the rules of wisdom. `(My faithful Companions!) you shall enter the Holy Mosque if Allâh will, safe and secure, some of you with your heads shaved and (others) with (their) hair only cut short (as is a prescribed rite for a Pilgrim), you will have nothing to fear.' (As for the time involved in its fulfillment) He knows what you do not know. He has, infact, ordained for you a victory (near at hand, at *Khaibar*) to be gained before (the fulfillment of) that (vision).

28. It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and true Faith so that He may help it prevail over all other faiths. Indeed, Allâh is Sufficient to bear witness (to the truth of Islam).

29. Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allâh, and those who are with him are (also) firm and strict against the disbelievers (to accept their influence), but soft-hearted and compassionate towards one another. (Reader!) you will find them kneeling and prostrating themselves (in Prayer). They seek grace from Allâh and His good pleasure. Their distinctive indication is (apparent) on their faces from the illuminous traces of (their) prostration. Such is the description (of these attributes of theirs) in the Torah, and their description in the Evangel is that they (will be) like a seed-produce that sends forth its sprout, then makes it strong. It then becomes stout and stands firm on its stem giving delight to the sowers; (Allâh will in a similar way raise the believers from strength to strength) with the result that He may make

the disbelievers suffer an impotent rage because of them. Allâh has promised His protection and a great reward to those who believe and do deeds of righteousness.

Chapter

49

Al-Hujurât

(The Chambers)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hujurât).

1. O you who believe! do not anticipate Allâh and His Messenger, (putting yourselves forward before their cause and) be full of reverence to Allâh and take Him as a shield. Behold, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

2. O you who believe! raise not your voices above the voice of the Prophet, nor address him in loud tones, the way you speak loudly to one another, lest your deeds should come to naught while you do not realise.

3. Those who keep their voices subdued in the presence of Allâh's Messenger are those whose hearts Allâh has purified for piety and restraint. There awaits such of them provision for protection and a great reward.

4. The people who call out to you (O Prophet of God!) from outside your (private) chambers (most of them) lack understanding.

5. If they only had patience to wait until you could come out to them it would be better for them, yet Allâh is Great Protector (against faults), Ever Merciful.

6. O you who believe! if a wicked person brings you any news, examine it carefully, lest you should harm some people in ignorance and afterwards you may have to repent for what you did.

7. Keep in mind that Allâh's Messenger is among you (at the time). If he were to follow your wishes in many matters, you would certainly land yourself in trouble. But (as it is) Allâh has inspired you with the love of the Faith, and has made it look beautiful to your minds and has made disbelief, transgression and disobedience hateful to you. Such indeed are those who follow the right course (of guidance).

8. This is sheer Allâh's grace and His favour. And Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

9. (O you who believe!) if two parties of the believers fall out and fight each other, make peace between them. And should one of them commit aggression against the other, then fight (you all) against the party that transgresses till it complies with the command of Allâh (and returns to peace and reconciliation). Then if it returns make peace between them with equity and act justly, for Allâh loves those who do justice.

10. Believers are but a single brotherhood, so make peace and effect reconciliation between the two (contending) brethren and take Allâh as (your) shield so that you may be shown mercy.

SECTION 2

11. O you who believe! let no people look down upon another people for the (latter) people may be better than they, nor let women (look down) upon other women, who (- the women who are treated lightly) may be better than the other ones. And find not fault in one another (in order to defame your own people), nor call one another by nick-names. Bad is the reputation of wickedness after the (profession of) belief. Highly unjust are the people who would not abstain from what they are forbidden.

12. O you who believe! eschew much suspicion, for suspicion in some cases is a sin. And do not spy into the secrets of one another, nor backbite one another, would anyone of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Why, you would loath it. Take Allâh as (your) shield. Surely, Allâh is Oft-Returning (with compassion and is) Ever Merciful.

13. O mankind! We have created you out of a male and a female, and We have made you tribes and sub-tribes that you may recognise (and do good to) one another. Surely the most honourable of you in the sight of Allâh is he who guards against evil the most. Verily, Allâh is All-knowing, All-Aware.

14. The Arabs of the desert say, 'We believe.' Say, 'You have not yet truly believed, (you should) rather say, "We obey and have submitted," for true faith has not yet entered your hearts. But if you obey Allâh and His Messenger He will not diminish aught of your deeds.' Surely, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

15. The believers are only those who (truly) believe in Allâh and His Messenger, and then doubt not, and who strive hard with their possessions and their lives in the cause of Allâh. It is they who are the true to their words (and Muslims of a high standard).'

16. Say, `Would you make known your faith to Allâh, while Allâh knows whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth? And Allâh knows all things full well.'

17. They lay you under obligation because they have embraced Islam. Say, `Lay me not under any obligation on account of your (embracing) Islam. On the contrary Allâh has bestowed a favour on you, because He has guided you to the true Faith, if you are truthful.'

18. Verily, Allâh knows the hidden realities of the heavens and the earth. And Allâh sees all your deeds.

Chapter

50

Qâf

(Allâh is Almighty)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Qâf).

1. Qâf - Allâh is Almighty. The glorious Qur'ân bears witness (to it).
2. Behold! these (disbelievers) wonder that there has come to them a Warner who hails from among themselves. And the disbelievers say, `This is a strange thing,
3. `What! when we are dead and reduced to dust, (shall we be raised to life again)? This (sort of) return is highly impossible.'
4. We know how much of them the earth consumes (and how much it adds to them). We have with Us a book that preserves (everything - the Law of conservation).

5. Nay, (the truth of the matter is that) they denied the truth when it came to them, and so they are in a state of confusion.

6. Do they not look at the sky above them, how We have made it and decked it out fair, so that it has no flaws?

7. (Do they not look at) the earth how We have spread it out and stretched it forth, and set firm mountains in it, and caused to grow in it every beautiful species (of growth).

8. (We have done all this so that it may serve as) a source of enlightenment and a means of admonition to every servant (of Ours) who turns to Us.

9. And We send down from the clouds water which is of great utility and blessings, and We cause to produce with it gardens and grains of the crop that is reaped,

10. And tall (and stately) palm-trees laden with spathes, clusters over clusters,

11. To serve Our servants for sustenance. And by means of this (water) We raise the dead land to life. That is how the Resurrection shall come to be.

12. The people of Noah denied (the Hereafter) before them and so did the people of the Rass, and (the tribe of) Thamûd,

13. And (the tribe of) `âd and Pharaoh and the kinsmen of Lot,

14. And the dwellers of the Thicket and the people of *Tubba`*. All of them cried lies to the Messengers (of God) so that My threatened punishment duly befell them.

15. Are We wearied with the first creation (that We will not be able to create them the second time on the Day of Resurrection)? The fact is that they are in confusing doubt about a new creation.

SECTION 2

16. We created a human being and We know what (dark) suggestions his mind makes to him. We are nearer to him than even (his) jugular vein.

17. Behold, the two recording (angels) sitting one on (his) right and one on (his) left go on preparing the record (of his deeds).

18. He utters not a word but (it is noted down by) a guardian (angel of his who) stands ready by his side (to record his words).

19. (Mankind!) the stupor of death has truly to come. This is the thing which you were trying to avoid.

20. And the trumpet shall be sounded. That will be the Day, the warning of which has (already) been given.

21. And every soul shall come forth (to account for his deeds). He will be accompanied by (an angel) who shall drive it and (an angel) who shall bear witness.

22. (Then We shall say,) `Certainly, you were heedless of this day. But (now) We have removed from you your veil and your sight is very sharp this day.'

23. And his (other angel) companion (who will come to bear witness) shall say, `Here is (the record of his deeds) ready with me.'

24. (The sentence will be,) `Cast you two (angels), yes, cast in to Gehenna every hardened disbelieving enemy (of truth),

25. `Forbidder of good, transgressor, entertainer of doubts,

26. `Who sets up (for worship) another deity beside Allâh. So cast you two, yes, cast him in the severe punishment.'

27. (The disbeliever will blame) his (evil) associate (who) will say, `O our Lord! it was not I that seduced him to transgress but he himself was deeply sunk in error.'

28. He (- God) will say, `Dispute not (with each other) in My presence. I had already given you the warning (of this punishment) beforehand.

29. `The judgment given by Me cannot be changed and I am not at all unjust to (My) servants.'

SECTION 3

30. **On that Day We will ask Gehenna, `Are you filled up (with the inmates of the**

hell)?' It will go on saying (expressing its state), `Are there anymore (that I can take)?'

31. (On that Day) Paradise will be brought near to those who had become secure against evil, (it will be) no more a thing distant (from them).

32. (It will be said,) `Here is that (Paradise) you were promised. (It is) for those who turned (to their Lord) again and again (seeking His mercy) and observed (His laws) with care,

33. `Those who stood in awe of the Gracious (God) in the heart of their hearts, even unseen and came to Him with a heart turned in sincere devotion (to Him).

34. `Enter this (Paradise) in peace. this is a period lasting for ever.'

35. They will have there all that they desire and We have in store much more (than this to give them).

36. So many (a guilty) generation, who were mightier than these people in prowess, have We destroyed (for their wrongs) before them. They journeyed from land to land (to escape). (But We seized them with Our punishment.) Was there any asylum (for them) to take refuge?

37. All this contains a lesson for every such person as has (an understanding) heart, or gives ear (while) his mind is attentive.

38. And verily, We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them in six aeons, and no weariness (even) touched Us.

39. So bear with patience what they say, and glorify your Lord with His praises and extol His Holiness before sunrise and sunset,

40. And celebrate His praises during parts of the night and after (prescribed) prostrations (in your Prayers).

41. (Reader) hearken! on the day when one that calls will call from a place quite near,

42. The day they hear the inevitable mighty blast, that will be the day of coming forth (from the graves).

43. It is We Who give life and cause death and to Us is the (final) return (of all).

44. The day when the earth shall cleave asunder from above the people and they be revealed. They will come rushing forth. It will be easy for Us to raise them to life and

gather them together.

45. We are well-aware of what they say. You are not one to overawe them and cannot reform them by means of force. (Therefore pay no heed to what they say,) rather admonish with the Qur'ân such of them as shall fear My warning.

Chapter

51

Al-Dhâriyât

(The Scatterers)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Dhâriyât).

1. I call to witness those (beings) who went forth to scatter (the Qur'ânic teachings) far and wide with a true scattering,
2. They carry (their blessed) load (of truth),
3. Then speed along (exposing the wrong belief and evil practices) with love and peace,
4. And then distribute and apportion the work by (Our) command,
5. Verily, the promise you are made (about the spread of Islam) is true,
6. And the Requital must indeed come to pass.

7. And I call to witness the sky with (its) numerous orbits (of celestial bodies),
8. That contradictory are the things you say (for your not believing in God's word and in His Prophet),
9. Through which are deluded away (from the truth) such as would be deluded (to falsehood).
10. Woe to the falsehood-mongers,
11. Who are in the depths of obstinacy and confusion (due to false-beliefs) and give no heed (to the truth).
12. They ask, `When will the Day of Requit be?'
13. (Say), `It shall be a day when they will be tormented at the Fire.'
14. (It will be said to them), `Taste your torment. This is what you used to ask to be hastened.'
15. But surely those who have become secure against evil will indeed be in (the land of) Gardens and Springs,
16. Receiving the gifts that their Lord will give them for they used to do excellent deeds before that.
17. They were in the habit of sleeping but a little by night (for their being occupied in God's worship).
18. Also in the hours of the early dawn as well they were (found) praying for His protection.
19. And in their wealth and belongings was a rightful share for those who asked (for help) and for those who could not.
20. There are signs on the earth for the people of knowledge and assured faith.
21. And (you have signs) in your own persons. Have you no eyes to perceive
22. Your sustenance is in the heavens, besides you shall have all that you are promised (-triumph and prosperity to the believers and warnings to disbelievers).

23. By the Lord of the heavens and the earth that which you are promised is true. It is as true as the fact that you can speak to one another.

SECTION 2

24. **H**ave you heard the news of the honoured guests of Abraham?

25. Behold! they came to him and greeted him with peace, he said (in reply), `(On you be) peace.' (He thought) they were all strangers.

26. And he went (quietly but) quickly to his household and brought a fatted calf (after getting it roasted for the guests).

27. And he placed it before them. (Seeing their hesitation) he said, `Will you not eat?'

28. (When they did not eat) he felt afraid of them. They said, `Have no fear.' And they proclaimed to him the good news of (the birth of) a son who would be blessed with knowledge

29. Then his wife came to him extremely embarrassed. She smote her forehead and said, `(I am but) an old woman then barren, how (can I ever be able to give birth to a child?)

30. They said, `Even so has your Lord said.' Surely, He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing.

Part XXVII

31. (Abraham) said (to them), `Now what is your errand, O you who have been sent (by God)!

32. They said, `We have been sent towards a guilty people who have severed their ties (with God).

33. `That we may rain stones of wet clay upon them,

34. `(Which are) ear-marked from your Lord for (inflicting punishment on) those guilty of excesses.'

35. (God says,) `Then (it came to pass) We brought forth all the believers who were there (in that township to keep them safe and secure).

36. But infact We found there only a single house of those who had submitted (to Us, and that was the house of Lot).

37. And (after destroying the townships) We left in them a sign (to serve as a lesson) to those who fear the woeful punishment.

38. And in (the case of) Moses (there is also a sign). (Remember the time) when We sent him to Pharaoh with a clear authoritative proof.

39. But he turned away (from Moses) in the pride of his power and said, `(He is) a sorcerer, or rather a madman.'

40. So We took him and his forces to task and threw them into the sea. Indeed, he (-Pharaoh) was himself blameworthy.

41. And (there is a sign) in (the destruction of the Tribe of) `âd, when We let loose on them the destructive wild-blowing wind.

42. It spared nothing whatever it came upon but reduced it to (dust-like stuff of) rotten bones.

43. And (there is a sign) in (the case of the tribe of) Thamûd. Behold! they were told, `Enjoy yourselves for a while.'

44. But they disdainfully disobeyed the commandment of their Lord, so a thunderbolt struck them while they looked on (utterly confused).

45. And they were not able (even) to get up on their feet nor could they get anybody's help to defend themselves.

46. And (We destroyed) the people of Noah before (them). They too were disobedient people.

SECTION 3

47. As for the heaven, We have built it with (Our) Mighty power, and verily We are Makers of the vast extent.

48. And the earth, We have spread it out and how excellently We lay things out.

49. And We have created all things in pairs so that you may give heed (to the wonderful creation of God).

50. Therefore (say to them), `Wing your way to Allâh. Verily, I am a plain Warner to you from Him.

51. `Never set up another god (to be worshipped) along with Allâh. Surely, I am a plain Warner to you from Him.'

52. Even so, no Messenger came to their predecessors but they said, `(He is) a sorcerer, or (rather) a madman,

53. Have they bequeathed this (way of saying things) to one another. The fact is they themselves are a people who transgress limits.

54. So turn away from them (and their foul way of talk). There lies no blame on you (for what they do).

55. Yet keep on exhorting (the people), for, verily, exhortation proves useful to the believers.

56. And I have created the *jinn* (fiery natured and houghty) and the (ordinary) people only that they may worship Me.

57. (Prophet! tell them that) no provision do I require from them, nor do I require that they should feed Me.

58. Surely, it is Allâh alone Who is the Great Sustainer, the Lord of immense power, the Almighty.

59. Those who do injustice (to Our Messengers) should meet the fate (of miseries) like the fate of their fellows (of old). Therefore do not let them ask Me to hasten on (the punishment which awaits them).

60. (Yet they should not forget that) destruction is in store for those who disbelieve, on account of that day of theirs the punishment of which they have been promised.

Chapter

52

Al-Tûr

(The Mount)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Tûr).

1. I call to witness the Mount (of revelation),

2. And a Book inscribed
3. On open unrolled parchments,
4. And the ever so much-frequented House (- Ka`abah),
5. And (its) Elevated Roof,
6. And the dry and empty sea,
7. That the punishment of your Lord is bound to descend.
8. None can avert it.
9. The day the sky shall reel and rock (in a state of terrific commotion),
10. And the mountains shall move fast,
11. On that day destruction awaits those who cry lies (to the Messengers of God),
12. Who indulge in idle talk and who are busy in vain pursuits.
13. On that day they shall be urged to and thrust into the Fire of Gehenna with a violent and irresistible urging.
14. (They will be told,) `This is the Fire you used to cry lies to.
15. `Is this an illusion or is it you who are still unable to see?
16. `Burn you in it, and whether you show patience or you show (it) not, will be the same to you, (for) you will be requited only for your deeds.'
17. Verily, those who guarded against evil will be in Gardens and in (a state of) bliss,
18. Rejoicing at those (gifts) which their Lord will have granted them, and (they will render Him thanks that) their Lord has guarded them against the torments of Hell.
19. (It will be said to them,) `Eat and drink and enjoy yourselves as a reward of your (good) deeds.'
20. They will (on that day) be reclining on couches ranged in parallel rows. And We shall pair them with fair and pure houris.

21. We shall unite with those who believe such of their children who follow them in Faith even (though they do not attain the high standard of their forefathers' righteousness) yet We will not deprive them the least of the reward of their deeds. Every soul stands pledged for his own deeds (and is neither deprived of the reward nor can escape the punishment of his bad deeds).

22. We shall provide these (owners of Paradise) with such fruit and meat in abundance as they desire.

23. Therein they will pass one to another a cup (of refreshing drink) which shall induce neither foul talk nor sin.

24. Their own young sons as pure as though they were (virgin) pearls embedded in their shells, shall go round them.

25. And they will accost one another asking mutual questions.

26. They will say, `Before (this) we were very much haunted by fear, in the midst of our family (about the consequences of our deeds).

27. `But Allâh has been gracious to us and has saved us from the torment of the burning blast;

28. `We used to call upon Him before (in prayer). Surely, He alone is the Most Beneficent, the Ever Merciful.'

SECTION 2

29. So (Prophet!) keep on exhorting, as by the grace of your Lord, you are neither a soothsayer, nor a mad man.

30. Yet they say (about you), `(He is only) a poet, (and) we await the vicissitudes, which time will bring upon him.'

31. Say, `Await you (the calamities), I too am with you among those who are awaiting.'

32. As a matter of fact their reason prompts them to (think of the Prophet in) these (terms). They are, rather, a people transgressing limits.

33. They say, `He has fabricated it (- the Qur'ân).' The fact is that they have no belief (in God).

34. Let them, then bring forth a discourse like this (Qur'ân) if they are truthful (in their objection).

35. Have they been created without a (creative) agency (or purpose)? Or are they their own creators?

36. Have they created the heavens and the earth? The thing is only that they have no faith (in God).

37. Do they hold the treasures of your Lord or are they the Lord Supreme?

38. Have they the means through which they can overhear (the Lord)? If so, let their listener bring forth a clear authoritative proof (just as the Prophet of God does).

39. (O disbelievers, as you believes,) does He have daughters while you have sons?

40. Do you ask a reward from them (for your conveying the Message) so that they are weighed down with a load of undue debts (and so are finding it hard to pay).

41. Do they have (the knowledge of) the unseen so that they write down (and judge things in its light).

42. Do they intend to wage a war (against you)? But (remember) it is those who disbelieve that will be the victims of (their own) strategy of war.

43. Have they a god other than Allâh? Indeed, Highly Exalted is Allâh far above all the things they associate with Him.

44. And (even) if they see a fragment of the sky falling down (in the form of punishment) they would say, `(It is only) piled up clouds (and not a sign of punishment whatsoever).

45. So leave them alone till they meet that day of theirs (- the day of the battle of *Badr*) when they will be driven into the fire (of warfare).

46. The day when their stratagem of warfare will be of no avail to them and no help will be rendered to them (from any quarter).

47. There awaits the wrongdoers yet another punishment even prior to that (punishment of war). But most of them do not know.

48. (Prophet!) await with patience and perseverance (the implementation of) the judgment of your Lord. You are under Our (loving care and) protection. And extol the Holiness of your Lord along with His praises when you rise (from sleep for Prayer).

49. And proclaim His glory for part of the night and also at the declining of the stars (when the night is about to end).

Chapter

53

Al-Najm

(Parts of the Qur'ân)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Najm).

1. I call to witness every part of the Qur'ân when it is revealed,

2. That your comrade (Muhammad) has neither deviated (from true guidance in his practices) nor has he erred (in his beliefs).
3. He does not say anything out of (his own) fanciful desire.
4. This (Qur'ân) is nothing but (pure) revelation, revealed (to him by God).
5. The Lord of Mighty Powers has taught him (this discourse).
6. (The Lord) Whose powers become manifest in manifold and frequent ways, with the result that he (- this Messenger of God) attained perfection and fullest vigour (both intellectually and physically).
7. And he attained to the zenith of heights (in his spiritual ascension).
8. Then he drew near to Him and afterwards he descended (to mankind, for their guidance).
9. So that he became (as it were) one chord to two bows or closer still.
10. Then He revealed that excellent and mighty (Qur'ânic) revelation which He had to send to His servant (Muhammad),
11. Whose mind made no mistake in (the interpretation of) that which he saw (during the ascension).
12. Will you doubt and dispute with him concerning that (sight) which he saw with his own eyes (it being no figment of imagination)?
13. And, of course, he saw Him (in His another manifestation to him) yet another time.
14. It was near the *Sidrah* which stands at the farthest end (of knowledge),
15. Near where also is the Garden which is the real eternal abode.
16. (This was) when the sublime thing (- the Divine Manifestation) which was to cover *Sidrah* had covered it.
17. (When he saw the Divine Manifestation) his eye deviated not (from the certainty of the Truth) nor did it wander away (from the invincible faith on which he stood).

18. (It was the moment when) he saw the greatly important signs of his Lord.
19. Have you had a look at *Lât* and *`Uzzâ* (the gods of idolaters),
20. And another, the third (goddess of no account) *Manât*?
21. What (an ignoble idea you have)! Are you to have sons and He daughters?
22. That indeed is an unjust division (and unbecoming from your own point of view which looks upon the birth of a

daughter with condemnation).

23. (The fact is that) these are mere names (bearing no significance) which you have coined, you and your forefathers, for which Allâh has revealed no authority (for their being worshipped as gods and goddesses). These (idol-worshippers) follow nothing but mere conjectures and the fancies of (their own) minds. (They do this) even though true guidance has already come to them from their Lord.

24. Can a person always have whatever he desires?

25. Rather (all the blessings of) the Hereafter as well as (those of) this present life belong to Allâh.

SECTION 2

26. **Behold!** so many an angel is there in the heavens but their intercession can be of no avail except after Allâh has given (them) permission regarding him whom He wills and with whom He is pleased.

27. (Verily, it is only) those who do not believe in the Hereafter and (who) give feminine names to the angels (because they ascribe them to Allâh as His daughters);

28. But they have no knowledge of the matter. They follow nothing but conjecture, yet by no means can a conjecture be a substitute for the established Truth.

29. So turn aside from him who turns away from Our remembrance, and seeks

nothing but the present life.

30. That is the highest attainment of their knowledge. Verily, your Lord knows very well those who go astray from His path, as He knows very well those who follow the right guidance.

31. And all that lies in the heavens and all that lies in the earth belongs to Allâh alone. The result of this is that He recompenses the evil doers according to (the evil of) their deeds and rewards those who do good deeds with the fairest reward.

32. Those who avoid grave sins and open shameful deeds but (who are sometimes guilty) only (of) minor offences (will find) your Lord is Lord of immense protection (and resorts to His mercy in such cases). He knows you full well (since) when He created you from the earth and when you were embryos in the wombs of your mothers. So make no pretensions to the purity of your souls. It is He Who knows best who (truly and fully) guards against evil.

SECTION 3

33. **H**ave you taken notice of the one who turns away (from guidance),

34. And gives but a little (in the cause of Allâh) and does it grudgingly.

35. Has he the knowledge of the unseen so that he can see (his own future)?

36. Has he not been informed of the contents of the Scriptures of Moses,

37. And (those of) Abraham who thoroughly and faithfully fulfilled (the commandments of his Lord).

38. (The Scriptures say that) no soul that bears a burden shall bear the burden of another (soul).

39. And that a human being will have (to his account) what he strives for.

40. And that his strivings shall necessarily be seen (and evaluated),

41. Then will he be recompensed fully and fairly.

42. And that to your Lord is the eventual return.

43. And that it is He alone Who makes people laugh and weep.

44. And that it is He alone Who causes death and brings to life.
 45. And that He Himself created the two species - male and female;
 46. From a sperm-drop when it is emitted.
 47. That it is He upon whom rests the raising (of the dead) again to life.
 48. And that it is He Who fulfills the needs and endows (the gift of) capital contentment, and grants wealth.
 49. And that it is He Who is the Lord of *Sirius* (- a star worshipped by some polytheists).
 50. And that He destroyed the ancient (tribe of) *âd*;
 51. And (the tribe of) Thamûd, so that He spared not a single soul of them.
 52. And (He destroyed) the people of Noah before (them). They were extremely wicked and most rebellious.
 53. And (that it is He) Who totally pulled down the subverted cities (- Sodom and Gomorrah of the people of Lot),
 54. So they were completely covered with that which overwhelms (when the punishment befalls).
 55. (O human being!) which of the bounties of your Lord will you then doubt and dispute?
 56. This (Prophet) is a Warner (towards all the peoples of the worlds) from among the (series of) Warners (to one particular people) of old.
 57. (The Hour of punishment) that was (promised) to come has drawn nigh.
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58. None can avert this (doom) besides Allâh.

59. Do you then wonder at this announcement (and yet pay no heed to it),

60. (For on hearing the mention of the Hour of punishment) you laugh rather than weep.

61. And you remain proudly heedless and haughty.

62. You should better prostrate yourselves before Allâh and worship (Him).

[Prostration]

Chapter

54

Al-Qamar

(The Moon)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qamar).

1. The Hour (of doom of the enemies of the Prophet) has drawn nigh and (to indicate it) the moon is rent asunder.

2. Yet, whenever these (disbelievers) see a sign they turn away (paying it no heed) and say, '(It is) an oft-repeated and tremendous illusion.'

3. They have cried lies (even to this sign) and have followed their low desires. Yet every decree (of God) shall certainly come to pass.

4. And certainly there has already come to them the important accounts (concerning the fate of the ancients) in which there is provision of abstaining (from obstinately following the wrong course).

5. (And wherein is) profound and perfect wisdom but the warnings were of no avail (to them).

6. Therefore turn away from them, (and await) the day when the summoner will summon them to a most disagreeable thing,

7. While (with the sense of remorse) their eyes will be downcast, they will come forth from (their) graves as though they were (swarms of) locusts being scattered about,

8. Rushing headlong towards the summoner. The disbelievers will say, `This is a hard day.'

9. The people of Noah cried lies (to Our Prophets) before them. Accordingly they rejected Our servant and said (about him), `A mad man and one who is spurned and chided (by our idols).'

10. At last he prayed to his Lord (saying), `I am overcome so come to (my) help to defend me.'

11. Thereupon We opened the gates of the clouds and allowed water to pour down in torrents.

12. And We caused the land to burst with gushing springs so that the (two) waters gathered together for a great purpose (of divine punishment) that was decreed.

13. And We bore him (- Noah) on that (Ark which was made) of planks and nails.

14. It floated on (the waters of the deluge) under Our supervision and care. This (punishment) was for the sake of him (- Noah) who had been denied.

15. And We left this (incident of deluge for the succeeding generations to serve them) as a sign. But is there anyone who would take heed?

16. Then (behold!) how terrible was My punishment and (how true) My warning!

17. Indeed, We have made the Qur'ân easy for admonition and to understand, follow and remember. But is there anyone who would take heed?

18. (The tribe of) `âd (too) cried lies (to the warning of the Prophet, Hûd) and behold, how (terrible) was My punishment and (how true) My warning!

19. We let loose upon them a clamorous and alarmingly furious wind on a day (when) the sky remained red like copper till long.

20. It (- the howling wind) tore the people away as though they were the hollowed stumps of uprooted palm-trees.

21. Behold how (terrible) was My punishment and (how true) My warning!

22. And We have indeed made the Qur'ân easy for admonition and to understand, follow and remember. But is there

anyone who would take heed?

SECTION 2

23. (The tribe of) Thamûd (too in rejecting Sâlih) cried lies to all the (Divine) Warners.

24. And they said, `Shall we follow a man who hails from ourselves and is all alone? (If we do) indeed we, in that case, would be (involved) in a great error and (suffering from) insanity.

25. `Is it that, from amongst all of us, the Reminder has been revealed to him (alone)? Nay (what he says is wrong), he is an impudent liar and self conceited.'

26. (God said to Sâlih.) `Very shortly shall they know who is the impudent liar and selfconceited.

27. `We, in order to distinguish the good from the bad of them, are going to send a she-camel (in a state that she is not to be interfered with, in anyway). Therefore, wait (till their end comes), and patiently persevere (against their insults).

28. `And inform them that their water is to be shared by them (and the she-camel), each time of drinking to be attended (by everyone) in turns.'

29. Thereupon they called their comrade who seized her (- the she-camel) quite unlawfully with the help of others and hamstrung (her, and they were then overtaken by a calamity).

30. And (behold!) how (terrible) then was My punishment and (how true) My warning!

31. And We let loose a single and sudden blast against them and they became crushed like dry twigs whittled down by an enclosure-maker.

32. And We have made the Qur'ân easy for admonition, and to understand, follow and remember. But is there anyone who would take heed?

33. Lot's people (also in rejecting Lot) cried lies to all (the Divine) Warners.

34. We let loose a (destructive) storm upon all of them except the family of Lot whom We delivered (through Our mercy from the punishment) by early dawn.

35. (It was) a favour from Us. That is how We reward those who give thanks.

36. While he (- Lot) had warned them of Our seizure (with punishment) but they doubted this warning and disputed over it.

37. And they (deceitfully) sought to turn him away from his guests. So We put a covering on their eyes. (And We said to them,) `Now taste My punishment and (suffer the consequences of ignoring) My warning.'

38. And certainly there overtook them early in the morning a lasting punishment.

39. Now taste My punishment and (suffer the consequences of ignoring) My warning.

40. And indeed We have made the Qur'ân easy for admonition and to understand, follow and remember. But is there anyone who would take heed?

SECTION 3

41. And surely the Warners came to the people of Pharaoh (also);

42. But they cried lies to all Our signs. So We took them to task such as befitted the Mighty, the Powerful.

43. Are those of you who are disbelievers better than these? Or have you been promised amnesty (from punishment) in the (previous) Scriptures.

44. Or do (Makkan disbelievers) say, `We are a united force, capable of defending one another (against any calamity)?

45. Soon that united force shall surely be routed. They will turn (their) backs (and flee before the Muslims).

46. The (promised) Hour (of their complete discomfiture) is their appointed time. The fact is that the Hour will be grievously calamitous and most bitter.

47. Surely, the guilty are (involved) in clear error and (suffering from) insanity.

48. On that day they shall be dragged on their faces into the fire (of the battle, it will be said to them), `Suffer the smite of fire.'

49. Verily, all things have We created in correct proportion and measure.

50. Our command is (at once carried out by) only one (word) as quickly as the twinkling of an eye.

51. We have surely destroyed (gangs of) people like you (O disbelievers! before). But is there anyone who would take heed?

52. Everything they did is (recorded) in scrolls (of deeds).

53. And everything, small and great, has been noted down.

54. (That is why) those who became secure against evil and were dutiful (to God) shall be amidst gardens and bounties;

55. Occupying positions of honour and excellence with the Omnipotent Sovereign.

Chapter

55

Al-Rahmân

(The Most Gracious)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Rahmân).

1. The Most Gracious (God)
2. Has taught this Qur'ân.
3. He created human being;
4. And taught him (the art of) intelligent and distinct speech.
5. The sun and the moon pursue their scheduled courses on their axis according to a fixed reckoning
6. And the stemless plants and the trees humbly submit (to His will);
7. And He raised the heaven high and set up the (law of) harmony and balance
8. (He explains this to you) that you should not violate the (law of) harmony and balance.
9. Hold balance with justice (giving every one his due avoiding extremes). Do not disturb the (law of) harmony in the least.
10. And He has set the earth for (the common good of) all (His) creatures.
11. In it there are all kinds of fruit and palm-trees (laden) with sheathed clusters,
12. And the grains with the husk-coverings and fragrant flowery plants.

13. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain (believers and disbelievers), then, deny?
14. He created human being from the essence extracted from dry ringing clay like a piece of baked pottery (-with the faculty of speech and possessing pliant and submissive nature).
15. And He created the *jinn* from a flame of fire (- possessing fiery nature).
16. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?
17. (He is) the Lord of the two easts and Lord of the two wests.
18. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?
19. He has let the two bodies of water flow freely they will (one day) join together.
20. (At present) a barrier stands between them. They cannot encroach one upon the other.
21. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?
22. Pearls and corals come out of both (these seas).
23. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?
24. And to Him belong the ships raised aloft in the sea like mountain peaks.
25. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

SECTION 2

26. All that is on it (- the earth) is subject to decay and doomed to pass away.
27. But (only) the Majesty of your Lord and that which is under the care of your Lord, the Lord of Glory and Honour endures for ever.
28. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?
29. All of the rational beings that are in the heavens and on the earth do beg of Him. Every moment He manifests Himself in a new state (of glory).

30. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

31. We shall reckon with you O you two big groups (of the righteous and the rebellious).

32. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

33. O body of *jinn* (- fiery natured) and (ordinary) the people! If you have the power and capacity to go beyond the confines of the heavens and the earth, then do go. But you will not be able to go unless you have the necessary and unusual power.

34. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

35. Flames of fire, smoke and molten copper will be let loose upon you and you will not be able to defend yourselves.

36. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

37. And when the heaven splits up and turns crimson like red hide (how will you fare then)?

38. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

39. On that day none of people nor of *jinn* will be questioned about his sin.

40. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

41. The guilty will be known by their appearance (and the expression of their faces), then they will be seized by (their) forelocks and the feet.

42. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

43. (They will be told) `This is the Gehenna that the guilty have cried lies to.

44. `They will take turns (restlessly) between it (- the hell-fire) and boiling hot liquid.'

45. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

SECTION 3

46. There are two Gardens (of bliss here and the Hereafter) for such as fear (the time) when they will stand before (the judgment seat of) your Lord (to account for their deeds).

47. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

48. Both (the Gardens of Paradise) are abounding in varieties (of trees and rich greenery accompanied with delightful comforts).

49. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

50. There are two springs flowing (free) in each of them.

51. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

52. In both of these (Gardens) there are fruit of all kinds in two varieties.

53. Which of the benefactions of your Lord, will you twain, then, deny?

54. They (- the owners of Paradise) will be reclining (on couches) over carpets, the linings of which will be of thick brocade. And the ripe fruit of both the Gardens will be bending (so) low (as to be within their easy reach to pluck).

55. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

56. There they shall have (chaste and modest) maidens restraining their glances (to look at them only), whom (in this state) neither man nor *jinn* has ever touched before them.

57. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

58. (These maidens will look) as if they were (made of) rubies and small pearls.

59. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

60. Goodness alone is the reward of goodness .

61. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

62. And besides these two (Paradises) there are two other Gardens,

63. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

64. Both of them are dark green with thick foliage.

65. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

66. Both of these two have two springs gushing forth.

67. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

68. Both of these two have all kinds of fruit and dates and pomegranates

69. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

70. Therein will be (maidens) pious (and) beautiful.

71. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

72. Pure and chaste houris confined to (their goodly) pavilions (enjoying the shade of God`s mercy).

73. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

74. Whom neither man nor *jinn* has ever touched before them (in this state).

75. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

76. (The owners of Paradise will be) reclining on green cushions and rich carpets of lovely beauty.

77. Which of the benefactions of your Lord will you twain, then, deny?

78. Blessed be the name of your Lord, the Master of Glory and Honour.

Chapter

56

Al-Wâqî`ah

(The Great Event)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Wâqî`ah).

1. (**B**eware of the time) when the inevitable (and the promised) Event shall come to pass.
2. There is no denying its coming to pass.
3. (This event shall be) lowering (the status of some and) exalting (that of others).
4. (This will take place) when the earth shall be shaken with a violent shaking
5. And the mountains shall be completely shattered,
6. So that they shall all be reduced to particles of dust scattered about.
7. And (at that time) you shall be (sorted out into) three distinct categories,
8. (First) those that are blessed. How (lucky) the blessed will be!
9. And (then) those that are wretched, how (miserable) the condition of the wretched will be!
10. And (third) those that are foremost (in faith). They are by all means the foremost (in the Hereafter).

11. It is they who have (really) achieved nearness (to their Lord).
12. (They shall abide) in Gardens of bliss.
13. A large party of them (will hail) from the early (believers);
14. While a few (of them will hail) from the later ones.
15. (They will be in the Garden seated) on couches inlaid (with gold and precious jewels).
16. (They will be) reclining thereupon (and sitting) face to face.
17. (Their) young sons will go round about them, who will remain as young as ever,
18. Carrying goblets and (shining) beakers and cups (full) of pure and clean drink
19. They will get no headache (or giddiness) from their (drinks), nor will they be inebriated and talk nonsense.
20. And (carrying) such fruits as they choose,
21. And (with) flesh of birds exactly to their taste.
22. And (there will be present) fair houris with lovely large eyes.
23. (Chaste) like pearls, well-guarded and well preserved.
24. (Such shall be) the reward of their (good) deeds.
25. There they shall hear no idle-talk, no sinful speech.
26. But (all that they hear on all sides will be) good and pure words (of salutation) - 'Peace be, peace be.'
27. Those that are blessed - how (lucky) the blessed will be!
28. They shall abide amidst (the land of thornless) *Sidrah* (- Lote tree, a symbol of bliss);
29. And (in the Garden of) clustered bananas;

30. And (in) extended shades;
31. And (near) water falling from heights;
32. And (amidst) abundant fruit;
33. (The season of) which is not limited, and (they are) never forbidden.
34. And (they will have) noble spouses.
35. Verily, We have made them (women) excellent and have raised them into a special new creation;
36. And have made them virgins, pure and undefiled.
37. They are the loving ones (of their husbands), suiting to their ages and matching them in every respect.
38. (They are meant) for the blessed ones.

SECTION 2

39. (This group will consist of) a large party from the earlier people (of Islam);
 40. And a large party from the later ones.
 41. But as for those that are wretched, how (sad) will be the plight of those that are wretched!
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42. (They shall dwell) in the midst of (painfully) scorching winds and scalding water;

43. And (under) the shadow of black smoke,

44. (Which is) neither cool (to refresh) nor honourable nor of any good to please at all.

45. They, of course, lived a life of ease and abundance before this (in the present world).

46. But (they) persisted in extreme sinfulness.

47. And they were wont to say, `Is it that when we are dead and reduced to dust and bones we shall then be raised to life (again)?

48. `And is it that our fathers of yore (shall also be raised to a new life with us)?'

49. Say, `Most surely, the earlier people and the later ones

50. `Shall all be gathered together at the fixed time of an appointed day.

51. `Then, O you that have gone astray and cried lies (to the truth)!

52. `You will certainly eat of *Zaqqûm*-tree (a symbol of agony),

53. `And will fill your bellies with it.

54. `Then you shall drink over it boiling water;

55. Lapping it down like the lapping of the camels that suffer from insatiable thirst.

56. This will be their (of the wretched ones) entertainment on the Day of Requit.

57. It is We Who have created you (the first time), why do you not then realise the reality (of the Resurrection).

58. Have you given thought to (the sperm drop, your life-germ) that you emit?

59. Is it you that create it yourselves, or are We the Creator (of it)?

60. It is We that have ordained death for all of you. And We cannot be stopped from (it),

61. From replacing you with beings similar to you, (or from) evolving you into a form which is unknown to you (at present).
62. And you certainly know of the first evolution. Then, why do you not reflect?
63. Have you ever given thought to that which you sow?
64. Is it you that cause it grow or is it We Who are the Growers?
65. If We (so) pleased We could reduce it to chaff (before it is ripe and ready to be harvested). And then you would remain lamenting and talking bitterly;
66. (And saying,) `Surely, we have been left indebted,
67. `Rather we have been left with nothing (indeed we are finished).'
68. Have you ever given thought to the water that you drink?
69. Is it you who bring it down from the clouds, or is it We Who rain it?
70. If We (so) pleased We could make it brackish. Then why do you not give thanks?
71. Have you given thought to the fire which you kindle?
72. Is it you who produce the tree for (kindling) it (into fire) or is it We the producer (of it)?
73. We have made it a source of admonition (for the people) and a means to live upon for the needy and the wayfarer.
74. Glorify, therefore, the name of your Lord, the Incomparably Great.

SECTION 3

75. As to me, I swear by the places and times of the revelation of the portions of the Qur'ân;
76. And behold! it is a mighty oath, if you only care to know;
77. That this is most surely a Holy Qur'ân (bestowing bounteous blessings of God),
78. In a Book well preserved (in all its purity).

79. No one can achieve true insight into it except those who are purified (by leading righteous lives).

80. (It is) a revelation from the Lord of the worlds.

81. Is it this (Divine) discourse that you are the deniers of?

82. And do you make the denial of it your lot?

83. Why, then, when the soul (of the dying person) reaches the throat,

84. And you are at that time looking on (helplessly),

85. And (when) We are nearer to him than you, though you do not see.

86. Why, then, if you are not governed by any authority and are not to be requited,

87. You do not bring it (- the soul) back (to the body of the dying person), if you are truthful (in your claim of being independent of the supreme authority)?

88. And if he (the departed person) belongs to those who have attained nearness (to God and are His chosen ones),

89. Then (he will have) happiness, comfort and plenty and Garden of Bliss.

90. And if he (- the departed person) belongs to the blessed people,

91. Then (it will be said to him,) `Peace be upon you ever, (O you) of the blessed people!'

92. But if he belongs to those who deny the truth and are steeped in error,

93. Then (he will be offered) boiling water for an entertainment,

94. And burning in Hell.

95. Verily, this (fact) is a perfect certainty (not merely a certainty by inference or sight),

96. Therefore glorify the name of your Lord, the Incomparably Great.

Chapter

57

Al-Hadîd

(The Iron)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hadîd).

1. Whatever is in the heavens and the earth declares the glory of Allâh. And He is the All-Mighty the All-Wise.

2. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. He gives life and causes death and He is the Possessor of power to do all that He will.

3. He is (from) the very First (there was nothing before Him), and (He will exist to) the Last (there will be nothing after Him), and when nothing remains He will remain (He being an eternal Being). He is the Supreme Being (subordinate to no one). And (whereas He comprehends everything) He is Incomprehensible. He has full knowledge of every thing.

4. It is He Who created the heavens and the earth in six aeons. And He is established on the Throne (of Power). He knows what goes down into the earth and what comes out of it, and what descends from above and what ascends to it. He is with you wherever you may be. Allâh is watchful of all that you do.

5. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. All matters are referred to Allâh (for His judgment).

6. He causes the night to gain on the day (in one season) and He causes the day to

gain on the night (in the other season). He has full knowledge of the inmost secrets of hearts.

7. (Mankind!) believe in Allâh and His Messenger and spend (in the cause of Allâh) out of the possessions He has entrusted you with as His vicegerent. Indeed, there awaits a great reward for such of you as believe and spend (in His cause).

8. What is wrong with you that you do not believe in Allâh, though the Messenger invites you to believe in your Lord, and though He has already bound you to a covenant. (Now is the time) if you care to believe.

9. It is He Who sends down clear signs to His servant that He may lead you from all kinds of darkness into the light (of faith). And behold, Allâh is Compassionate and Ever Merciful to you.

10. What is wrong with you that you do not spend in the way of Allâh, for all that the heavens and the earth contain shall finally revert to Allâh. Those of you who spent and fought (in the cause of Allâh) before the Victory (of *Hudaibiyah*) cannot be equal (to those who joined the ranks later). They are higher in rank than those who spent and fought afterwards (after the truth had gained ground). Yet Allâh has promised a good reward to them all. Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

SECTION 2

11. Who is he that will separate a handsome portion (of his possessions) to give (in the cause of) Allâh? (Let him remember) He will increase it manifold (to repay it to him many times over). Indeed, there awaits such a one a generous and honourable reward.

12. (Think of) the day when you will see the believing men and the believing women that their (faith having become a torch of) light is advancing rapidly in front of them and on their right sides. (It will be said to them,) `Glad tidings to you this day. (There await you) Gardens (of Paradise) served with running streams.' (The recipients of glad tidings)

will abide therein (for ever). This indeed is a mighty achievement!

13. That day the hypocritical men and hypocritical women will say to those who believe, 'Wait for us so that we might obtain some illumination from your (this) light.' It will be said to them, 'Go back (if you can) and seek for light.' Then a wall with a gateway will be set up separating them (and the believers). The inside of it will be all mercy (where the righteous have to go) and the outside of it shall be facing torment (where the hypocrites have to stay).

14. These (hypocrites) will call out to these (believers), 'Were we not with you (in the worldly life)?' They will reply, 'Yes, but you let yourselves fall into temptations and you waited (uselessly for our destruction), and you doubted (about the truth). Infact, your vain desires deceived you till the decree of Allâh (about your punishment) came to be implemented. And the arch-deceiver deceived you in respect of Allâh.

15. 'So this day, no ransom shall be accepted from you, nor from those who disbelieved. Hell-Fire is the final abode of you all. That is your friendly-protector. And very evil is that resort.'

16. Is it not yet time for those who believe that their hearts should feel humbled at the mention (of the name) of Allâh and at the truth that has been revealed to them (in the form of the Qur'ân), and that they do not become like those who were given the Scripture before (them). But their hearts hardened because a long period of time passed over them (enjoying the favours of Allâh. (As for their present state) they are mostly transgressors.

17. Know that Allâh brings (the inhabitants of) the earth to life after their death. We have indeed explained Our Messages to you that you may abstain (from evil deeds).

18. Verily, (as to) the men who give alms and the women who give alms and those who perform excellent deeds for the sake of Allâh, their recompense shall be increased manifold for them and (there awaits them) a generous and honourable reward.

19. And for those who believe in Allâh and His Messengers they alone are the truthful people and faithful witnesses in the sight of their Lord, they will have their full reward and their light. But those who disbelieve and cry lies to Our commandments are the very inmates of Hell.

SECTION 3

20. Know that the life of this world is but a sport, wanton, an empty show, (a source of) boasting among yourselves and an emulous quest for more riches and children. It

is like the rain, the vegetation produced whereby pleases the cultivators. Then it (- the vegetation) blooms and flourishes so that you can see it turn yellow (on ripening). Then (there comes a time when) it becomes (worthless) chaff. But the Hereafter promises both, a severe punishment (for the wicked) and (for the righteous there is) protection from Allâh and (His) pleasure. The life of this world is nothing but a (temporary) enjoyment of delusive things.

21. (Mankind!) advance quickly, outstripping one another, towards the protection from your Lord and (towards) a Garden the extensiveness of which is (beyond measure) as the extensiveness of the heaven and the earth. It has been prepared for those who believe in Allâh and His Messengers; that (protection) is Allâh's grace and bounty. He grants it to such of those who wish to attain it (and strive for it). Allâh is the Lord of immense grace and bounty.

22. No disaster befalls either on the earth or in your ownselves but it forms part of the divine Law before We bring it into being. Indeed, it is easy for Allâh (to make such a law).

23. (Allâh has apprised you of this) that you may neither grieve over that (good) which is lost to you, nor exult because of that which He has granted you. Allâh has no love for all those who are haughty and boastful.

24. (Neither has He love for) those who practice niggardliness themselves and (also) enjoin others to be niggardly. He who turns his back (upon His commandments should beware). Verily, Allâh is Self-Sufficient (free from all needs and) Worthy of all praise (in His own right).

25. Certainly, We sent Our Messengers with clear proofs and We (also) sent down with them the Code (of *Sharî`at* - law and justice) and the Balance (- the practice of the Prophet and right use of the Book of God) so that people might conduct themselves with equity and justice. And We have given (to them) iron (which has great strength and) wherein is (material for) violent warfare and for many (other) uses for mankind. All this has been done that Allâh may distinguish those who help Him and His Messengers without having seen Him. Indeed Allâh is All-Powerful, All-Mighty.

SECTION 4

26. Indeed, We sent Noah and Abraham and We set up among their children (a system of) Prophethood and the Book. So some of them followed true guidance but many of them became transgressors.

27. Then We caused a series of Our Messengers one after the other to follow them closely in their footsteps, and we caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow them, and We

gave him (- Jesus) the Evangel. And We placed compassion and

mercy in the hearts of those who followed him, but as for monasticism they invented it themselves, We did not enjoin it upon them. (They started monastic life) to seek Allâh's pleasure, but they did not observe it (as faithfully) as it should have been observed. Yet We duly rewarded such of them as (truly) believed but many of them were transgressors.

28. O you who believe! take Allâh as a shield and believe in His Messenger. (If you do so) Allâh will grant you double the share of His mercy (in this world and the Hereafter) and will provide for you a light with the help of which you will advance forward and will grant you protection (against pitfalls). And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

29. (You will be so treated) lest the people of the Scripture should think that they (- the Muslims) have no control over the attainment of the grace and bounty of Allâh and (so that they should know) that grace and bounty is entirely in the hands of Allâh; He bestows it upon such as wishes to be granted it (and strives for it). And Allâh is the Lord of immense grace and bounty.

Part XXVIII

Chapter

58

Al-Mujâdilah

(The Pleading Woman)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mujâdilah).

1. Allâh has indeed heard the plea of her (- *Khoulah* wife of *Aus bin Sâmî*) who pleads with you (O Muḥammad!) with regard to her husband and makes her complaint to Allâh (seeking His help). Allâh has heard both of you conversing together. Verily, Allâh is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.
2. Such of you who give up (conjugal relationship with) their wives by calling them mothers (should realise that) they do not thereby become their mothers. Their mothers are only those who have given them birth. And they (by calling their wives mothers by *Zihâr*) utter words that are most unseemingly and false. And of course Allâh is All-Pardoning, Great Protector (against faults).
3. Such of those who thus happen to call their wives their mothers and then retract what they have said, must free a slave before they two touch each other (for re-establishing conjugal relationship). This is what you are enjoined (to do in case you commit such a hateful thing). And Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.
4. He that cannot afford (a slave to be set free) shall then (observe) fasts for two consecutive months before he and his wife touch each other (for conjugal relationship). But he who has not even the strength (to fast for that time) shall feed sixty poor people. This has been so (ordained) that you may have faith in Allâh and really submit before Him and His Messenger. These are the limits (enjoining you to give up foul practices and injustice to women) prescribed by Allâh. And the deniers

of these shall receive grievous punishment.

5. Surely, those who oppose Allâh and His Messenger shall be laid low and humbled as those (opponents of the truth) who were before them were laid low and humble. And We have already revealed clear ordinances (as to how to uplift the status of women). And the deniers of (these ordinances) shall receive a humiliating punishment.

6. (This punishment will also take place on) the day when Allâh will raise them up all together, then He will inform them of all they have been doing. Allâh has kept a recorded account of it (- their deeds), while they have forgotten it. Allâh is Witness over every thing.

SECTION 2

7. Do you not see that Allâh knows whatever lies in the heavens and whatever lies in the earth? There are no three holding a secret counsel but He is their fourth. There are no such five but He is their sixth. Whether they are fewer than that or more, He is with them, no matter where they are. Then on the Day of Resurrection He will tell them (in the form of requital) all that they have been doing. Surely, Allâh is Possessor of full-knowledge of all things.

8. Have you not seen those who were forbidden (to hold) secret counsels and yet repeatedly returned to what they were forbidden to do, and they conferred together secretly (encouraging) sin, transgression and disobedience to the Messenger? When they come to you they greet you (with words) with which Allâh has not greeted you, but they say one to another, 'Why does Allâh not cause us to suffer for what we say (hypocritically).' Sufficient for them is Gehenna (to reckon with them satisfactorily). They shall enter it. What an evil resort!

9. O you who believe! when you hold secret counsels do not confer to promote sin, transgression and disobedience to the Messenger. Rather confer (to promote) piety, and righteousness and restrain from evil. And take Allâh as a shield, (Allâh) before whom you shall be gathered together.

10. Holding secret counsels (with evil intentions) is (the work) of satan (who does it) to cause unrest and distress to those who believe. Yet he can do them no harm at all except by the leave of Allâh. Therefore let the believers repose their trust in Allâh.

11. O you who believe! when you are asked to extend the circle (leaving reasonable space between one another when sitting together) in your assemblies, then do extend it. Allâh will make ample room for you. And disperse when you

are told to disperse. Allâh will exalt such of you as believe and such of you as have been given knowledge, to high degrees (of rank). And Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

12. O you who believe! when you want to consult the Messenger in private then advance a charity (for the needy) before your (such) consultations. This is best for you and will help you to better standards of purity. But if you cannot afford it then (never mind) remember that Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

13. Do you fear that you will not (be able to) give charity before your consultation? So when you do it not and Allâh has turned to you (mercifully), observe Prayer and present the *Zakât* and obey Allâh and His Messenger, and Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

SECTION 3

14. **H**ave you not seen those (hypocrites) who befriend a people who have incurred the displeasure of Allâh? Such people belong neither to you nor to them and they swear to falsehood, and that (they do it) knowingly.

15. Allâh has in store for them a severe punishment. Evil indeed are the deeds they used to do.

16. They have taken shelter behind their oaths (for their falsehood) so that they turn (people) away from Allâh's way. So there awaits them a humiliating punishment.

17. Neither their belongings nor their children will be of any avail to them against (the punishment of) Allâh. They are the inmates of the Fire wherein they will be abiding long.

18. The day when Allâh shall raise them (to life) all together, they will swear to Him as they swear to you and they will think that they have something (reasonable to serve them as a good plea). Beware! it is they who are in fact the liars.

19. Satan has gained mastery over them and has made them give up the remembrance of Allâh. They are the gang of satan. Now, as a matter of fact the gangsters of satan

are the losers.

20. Certainly, those who oppose Allâh and His Messenger will rank with the lowest of the low.

21. Allâh has decreed, 'Most certainly, I will prevail, I and My Messengers.' Verily, Allâh is All-Powerful, All-Mighty.

22. You will find no such people who (truly) believe in Allâh and the Last Day, loving those who oppose Allâh and His Messenger, even though they (the opponents of Allâh) be their fathers, or their sons or their brethren or their kindred. It is they in whose hearts Allâh has inscribed (true) faith and has strengthened them with His own revelation. He will admit them to Gardens served with running streams. They shall abide there for ever. Allâh is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. They are Allâh's party. Behold! it is Allâh's party alone that are the winners of the goal.

Chapter

59

Al-Hashr

(The Banishment)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hashr).

1. Whatever lies in the heavens and whatever lies in the earth declares the glory of Allâh. He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

2. It is He Who turned out from their homes those who had disbelieved (- *Banû Nadzîr*) from among the People of the Scripture on (the occasion of) the first banishment. You never thought that they would quit, while they (themselves) thought that their strongholds would defend them against (the judgment of) Allâh. But (the punishment from) Allâh came upon them from quarters they little expected. He struck their hearts with terror so that they demolished their houses (partly) with their own hands and (what remained of them was being destroyed) at the hands of the believers.

So take warning from them O you who have insight!

3. And had not Allâh decreed exile for them, He would have punished them (in some other way) in this world, and in the Hereafter they shall certainly have the punishment of the Fire,

4. Because they cut themselves off from Allâh and His Messenger and he who cut himself from Allâh (should bear in

mind) that Allâh is severe in retribution.

5. You cut down no palm-tree (of theirs) bearing small dates of inferior quality or left it standing on its roots but it was by Allâh's leave. (Allâh gave you this leave) so that He might disgrace the transgressors.

6. Whatever (property and goods) Allâh has given as spoils to His Messenger (and taken away) from these (enemies after they had made preparation for war against the Muslims, is of God's grace). You made no expedition with either cavalry or camelry for (the attainment of) this. Rather the fact is that Allâh gives His Messengers authority over whom He will. Allâh is Possessor of every prudential power to do all things desired (by Him).

7. Whatever (property and wealth) Allâh has given to His Messenger without warfare as spoils, (taking it) from the dwellers of the towns, it is for Allâh, His Messenger and for the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer. (It has been) so (ordained) that the (wealth) should not circulate (only) among your rich people. And take whatever the Messenger gives you and forbear from what he forbids you. Take Allâh as a shield. Surely, Allâh is Severe in retribution.

8. (The wealth so obtained is also meant) for the poor (indigent) Refugees (- *Muhâjirîn*) who have been turned out of their houses and (made to part with) their possessions (while they were) seeking the grace and bounty from Allâh and (His) good pleasure, and who helped (the cause of) Allâh and His Messenger. They are the people who prove their claim (of being sincere in their faith and) to be true.

9. And (in this wealth there is also a share) for those (*Anṣâr*, the Helpers) who had settled in the city (of Madînah) and had embraced the Faith before these (Refugees

arrived there). They love those who migrated to them for refuge and (who) even though poverty be their own lot, found no desire in their hearts for that which is given to these (Refugees) but they gave them (Refugees) preference over themselves. And (bear in mind that) those saved from the covetousness of their souls are the ones to achieve the goal.

10. And (this is also meant for) those who came (into the fold of Islam) after them. They say, `Our Lord! protect us and our brethren who took precedence over us in (accepting) the faith and let no rancour or spite occupy our hearts against those who believe. Our Lord! You are surely Compassionate, Ever Merciful.'

SECTION 2

11. **H**ave you not given thought to (the case of) those who practice hypocrisy. They say to their (friendly Jewish) brethren, those from the People of the Scripture who have committed breach of faith, `If you are turned out (of Madînah) we will certainly leave with you and we will never obey anyone where you are concerned. And if you are fought against, we will certainly help you.' But Allâh bears witness that they are surely liars.

12. If they are turned out they will never leave with them and if they are fought against, they will never help them. And if ever they come out to their help then they will surely run away showing (their) backs, and then they themselves will have none to help them.

13. (Muslims!) the truth is that you are (held) in a greater fear than (these hypocrites hold of) Allâh. That is because they are a people who are devoid of (all) reason.

14. They (- the Jews) will not (even) fight against you offering a joint front. They will fight only (from) within fortified towns or from behind ramparts. Their fighting spirit among themselves is (desperately) severe. You think them to be united but their hearts are divided. That is because they are a people who do not refrain (from mischief).

15. (Their case is) like the case of (*Banû Qainuqa`*, a Jew tribe at Madînah) their immediate predecessors (who were defeated). They suffered the evil consequences of their (evil) doings, and they received a woeful punishment.

16. Again, (the case of the hypocrites is) like (that of) satan. Behold! he says to a human being, `Disbelieve!' But when he disbelieves, he says, `I have nothing to do with you. I fear Allâh, the Lord of the worlds.'

17. And the end of both of them is that they are both in the fire. There these two shall

abide (for a long time). Such is the recompense of the wrongdoers.

SECTION 3

18. **O** you who believe! be mindful of your duty to Allâh. Let every soul look to what it sends forward for the morrow (- the Day of Requital). And take Allâh as a shield (to guard against the consequences of evils and further commitment of them). Verily, Allâh is Well Aware of all that you do.

19. And do not be like those who gave Allâh up so that He too made them give their ownselves up. It is they who are downright sinners.

20. The inmates of the Fire and the owners of the Garden of (Paradise) are not alike. It is the owners of the Garden that have achieved their goal.

21. Had We revealed this Qur'ân on a mountain, you would have surely seen it falling down in all humility and splitting asunder for awe of Allâh. These are wonderful things which We narrate for mankind that they may give thought.

22. He is Allâh, He is the One beside whom there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. (He is) the Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful.

23. He is Allâh, beside whom there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, (He is) the Supreme Sovereign, the Holy One, the Most Perfect, Bestower of peaceful Security, the Guardian, the All-Mighty, the Compensator of losses, the Possessor of all greatness. Holy is Allâh, far beyond and above the things they associate with Him.

24. He is Allâh, the Creator of (the matter and the spirit), the Maker, the Bestower of forms (and fashioner of everything suiting to its requirement). All fair attributes belong to Him. All that lies in the heavens and the earth declares His glory; He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

Chapter

Al-Mumtaḥanah

(She that is to be Examined)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mumtaḥanah).

1. **O** you who believe! do not take those who are enemies of Me and to you for friends. Would you send them messages of love and friendship while they have denied the Truth that has come to you (and) have driven out the Messenger and yourselves (from your homes merely) because you believe in Allâh, your Lord? (How can you do so) if you migrated indeed to strive in My cause and seek My pleasure? Would (some of) you make secret offers of friendship and love to them while I am fully aware of all that you conceal and all that you profess openly? And whoever of you does such a thing (let him realize that he) has indeed strayed away from the straight path.
2. If they (- your so-called friends from the disbelievers) somehow get the upper hand of you they will (turn out to) be active enemies to you and will lay their hand on you and (lash you with) their tongues to do (you) harm, and they ardently desire that you should disbelieve.
3. Neither your kinsfolk, nor your children will be of any good to you on the Day of Resurrection. He, (your true Lord) will separate you, one from another (and decide between you). And Allâh is a keen observer of all you do.
4. There is indeed a noble example for you (to follow) in Abraham and his companions. Behold! they said to their people, `We have nothing to do with you and We disown that you worship apart from Allâh. We disapprove of all that you say and do. A long lasting (type of) enmity and rancour has arisen and become apparent between you and us, no doubt. (It will last) till you believe in Allâh alone.' But (you have no example to emulate) in the words of Abraham to his sire (when he said), `I will surely ask forgiveness for you from Allâh though I can do nothing against (the will of) Allâh.' (Abraham and his companions also prayed to their Lord), `Our Lord! in You we put our trust, and to You alone do we turn (in repentance), and towards You alone is the (final) return.

5. `Our Lord! do not allow that we have to face ordeals at the hands of the disbelievers (thus providing them pleasure at our cost), and protect us (against the consequences of our faults). Our Lord! for you alone are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.'

6. Surely, you have a noble example (to follow) in these people, and (also) for everyone who hopes (to see) Allâh (and also fears Him) and the Last Day. And he who turns away from (following) it (should know that) Allâh is truly Self-Sufficient (free from all needs) and Praiseworthy (in His own right).

SECTION 2

7. It is well-nigh that (these disbelievers embrace the Faith and thus) Allâh may establish goodwill between you and those of them with whom you are at enmity (at present), for Allâh is All-Powerful, and Allâh is Great Protector, Ever-

Merciful.

8. Allâh does not forbid you to be kind and good and to deal justly with those who have not fought you because of your faith and have not turned you out of your homes. In fact Allâh loves those who are equitable.

9. Allâh only forbids you to make friends with those who have fought you because of your faith and who have turned you out of your homes, and have abetted your expulsion. Indeed, those who make friends with them are really the unjust.

10. O you who believe! when the believing women come to you having fled their homes, examine them. Allâh knows best the state of their faith. If you ascertain them to be (true) believers do not send them back to the disbelievers. These (believing women) are not lawful (wives) to those (disbelievers); nor are they lawful (husbands) to these (women). You shall however give them (their former disbelieving husbands) what they have spent on them. And you will be doing nothing unlawful if you marry these women after you have given them their dowries. And do not hold matrimonial ties with the disbelieving women, (should they join the disbelievers) you can claim what you have spent on them. So can (the disbelieving husbands) claim that which they have spent (on these believing women). This is the judgment of Allâh. He implements this judgment between you. Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

11. If any part of (the dowries of) your wives has passed over to the disbelievers from you and then your turn comes (to pay to the disbelievers when a woman from the disbelievers' side comes over to you), give to those whose wives have come over an amount equal to that which they have spent. Keep your duty to Allâh in Whom you believe.

12. Prophet! when women come to you after having believed and they take the oath of allegiance that they will not associate anything with Allâh, and that they will not steal and will not commit fornication and adultery, nor kill their children, nor bring forth a scandalous charge which they themselves have deliberately forged, nor disobey your just and rightful orders, then accept their allegiance and seek Allâh's protection for them. Indeed, Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

13. O you who believe! do not make friends with a people who have incurred the displeasure of Allâh. They are indeed despaired of the Hereafter (since they have no faith in it), just as the disbelievers are despaired of those who are in the graves (as they do not believe that the dead will ever come to life again).

Chapter

61

Al-Saff

(The Ranks)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Saff).

1. Whatever that lies in the heavens and whatever that lies in the earth glorifies Allâh, for He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
2. O you who believe! why should you say what you do not do.
3. It is very hateful in the sight of Allâh that you should profess what you do not practise.

4. Indeed, Allâh loves those who fight in His cause in compact ranks (so arrayed) as if they were a solid structure cemented with (molten) lead.

5. (Recall the time) when Moses said to his people, 'My people! why do you malign me when you know that I am certainly a Messenger from Allâh to you.' But when they deviated from the right course, Allâh let their hearts deviate (as they were), for Allâh guides no transgressing people to success.

6. And (recall the time) when Jesus, son of Mary, said, 'O Children of Israel! surely I am a Messenger sent to you by Allâh fulfilling (the prophecies contained in) the Torah which preceded me and pronouncing the good news of (the advent of) a great Messenger named Ahmad, who will come after me.' But when he (- the Prophet Muhammad) came to them with clear proofs, they said, 'His are the enchanting ways separating (us from our people).'

7. But who is more unjust than he (who believes in the trinity of God), who forges a lie in the name of Allâh (by calling Jesus the son of God), while he is called (to join the fold of Islam). And Allâh guides no unjust people to the ways of success.

8. They desire to extinguish the light of Allâh with (the breath of) their mouths. But Allâh will perfect His light even though the disbelievers consider it hard.

9. It is He Who sent His Messenger with (the source of) guidance and true lasting faith, that he may help it prevail over all other faith, even though the polytheists consider it difficult.

SECTION 2

10. **O** you who believe! shall I direct you to a bargain that will save you from a woeful punishment?

11. (The bargain is that) keep your faith in Allâh and His Messenger and keep on striving hard in the cause of Allâh with your possessions and your persons. That would be best for you if only you realise.

12. He will protect you against the evil consequences of your sins and admit you into Gardens served with running streams and (into) delightful and pure dwelling places (lying) in the Gardens of Eternity. This is the (way to) supreme achievement.

13. And (He will confer upon you) yet another (favour) which you love. (It is the) help from Allâh and an early victory (that you will win in this very world). So give glad tidings (of it) to the believers.

14. O you who believe! be helpers of (the cause of) Allâh (as did the disciples of Jesus), for when Jesus, son of Mary, said to the disciples, `Who will join me as my helper towards (the cause of) Allâh?' The disciples replied, `We are helpers of (the cause of) Allâh.' So a section of the Children of the Israel believed (firmly in Jesus), while another section rejected (him). Thereupon We helped those who believed, against their enemies and (at last) these (believers) gained predominant victory (over the nonbelievers).

Chapter

62

Al-Jumu`ah

(The Congregation)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Jumu`ah).

1. Whatever that lies in the heavens and whatever that lies in the earth glorifies Allâh, the Supreme Sovereign, the Holy, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
2. He it is Who has raised among the Arabs a grand Messenger (who hails) from among themselves, who recites to them His revelations to rid them of their impurities and teaches them the Book and Wisdom, though before (the advent of the Prophet) they were steeped in error which disconnected (them from God).
3. And (He will raise this Prophet among) others of them (their brethren) who have not yet joined them. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.
4. This is Allâh's grace. He bestows it on whom He pleases. And Allâh is the Lord of immense Grace.

5. The case of those who were charged to observe (the law of) Torah but did not carry out (its commandments in its true spirit), is like the case of a donkey that carries (a load of) volumes (of Books; he neither understands them nor gathers any advantage from them). Wretched is the case of the people who cry lies to the Message of Allâh. And Allâh guides no unjust people to success.

6. Say, `O you who stand on judaism! if you claim that you are the favourites of Allâh to the exclusion of all other peoples, then, if what you claim be true, express your wish (in prayer-contest) for death (either invoking it on yourselves if you are on falsehood or on me in case you think me an impostor).'

7. But they will never wish for it (- the death) because of (the sinful deeds) their hands have sent forward. And Allâh is fully Aware of the wrongdoers.

8. Say, `The death from which you flee is sure to overtake you. Then you will be brought before the Knower of the unseen and the seen, and He will inform you of the truth about all that you had been doing.'

SECTION 2

9. **O** you who believe! when the call is made for (the Congregational) Prayer on friday then hasten to extol the name of Allâh and leave off all business. That is best for you if you only knew.

10. And when the Prayer is finished, disperse in the land and seek Allâh's grace and bounty (and restart your business), and go on remembering Allâh much that you may achieve an all-round success.

11. But (Prophet!) when some people see some merchandise or any form of amusement, they run for it and leave you standing (on the pulpit), say, `That (reward of worshipping Allâh) which Allâh has (for you) is far better than any amusement or merchandise, and Allâh is the Best of Providers.

Chapter

63

Al-Munâfiqûn

(The Hypocrites)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Munâfiqûn).

1. When the hypocrites come to you, they say, `We bear witness that you are in fact the Messenger of Allâh.' And Allâh knows that you are indeed His Messenger. Yet Allâh (at the same time) bears witness that the hypocrites are truly liars.
2. They take shelter behind their oaths (to hide their evil designs). Thus they keep people back from the way of Allâh. Surely, evil is the practice they follow.
3. That (they follow this practice) is because (outwardly) they believed but (inwardly) they disbelieved, so that their hearts are sealed and (now) they do not even understand.
4. When you see them, their (handsome) figures please you, and if they speak (a masked and polished speech), you listen to their speech. (They look) as though they were wooden statues clad in garments. They think every loud cry is one (raised) against them. They themselves are (your) enemies (in reality), so beware of them. May Allâh ruin them! To what (perversities) are they being turned away (from the Truth)?
5. And when it is said to them, `Come so that the Messenger of Allâh may ask forgiveness for you,' they turn their heads aside (by way of refusal and out of scorn and pride). And you see them keeping others (also) back, while they swell big with pride.

6. It makes no difference to them whether you ask forgiveness for them or do not ask, Allâh will not forgive them. Indeed, Allâh will guide no transgressing people to success.

7. They are a people who say, `Do not spend on those who are with the Messenger of Allâh until they (are obliged to) disperse (and desert him). Yet the treasures of the heavens and the earth belong to Allâh, but the hypocrites do not understand (it).

8. They say, `If we return to Madînah, the most honourable and mightier will drive out the most mean from there.' But (true) power and honour belongs to Allâh and His Messenger and to the believers. Yet the hypocrites do not know (it).

SECTION 2

9. **O** you who believe! do not let your possessions and your children make you forget the remembrance of Allâh. And those who do so shall be the real losers.

10. And spend out of that with which We have provided you, before death visits one of you and he says, `My Lord! would that you had granted me reprieve for a short while, (for if you had,) I would have given alms and would have become of the righteous.'

11. And Allâh does not grant reprieve to a soul when its appointed time is come. And Allâh is Well-Aware of what you do.

Chapter

64

Al-Taghâbun

(Manifestation of Loss)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Taghâbun).

1. Whatever lies in the heavens and whatever lies in the earth glorifies Allâh. To Him belongs sovereignty and all true praises (as well). He is the Possessor of Power to do every desired thing.
2. It is He who created you. Some of you become disbelievers while others become believers. Allâh sees what you do.
3. He created the heavens and the earth with an eternal purpose and to suit the requirements of truth and wisdom. And He shaped you and made your shapes beautiful, and to Him is the ultimate return.
4. He knows whatever lies in the heavens and the earth and He knows what you conceal and what you do publicly. Allâh knows the innermost thoughts of the hearts.
5. (Disbelievers!) have you had no news of those who disbelieved in the past? They suffered the evil consequences of their conduct and for them is decreed a woeful punishment.
6. That was because their Messengers (of God) kept on coming to them with clear proofs but they said, 'Shall a mere human being guide us?' So they disbelieved and turned away (paying no heed). Thereupon Allâh showed them that He had no need of them. Indeed Allâh is Self-Sufficient (above all needs,) Worthy of All-Praise (in His own right).
7. Those who disbelieve claim that they will not be raised (from the dead). Say, 'No doubt, by my Lord, you shall surely be raised and then you shall be told all that you have done (in life). And that is easy for Allâh.'

8. Therefore believe in Allâh and His Messenger and the Light (- the Qur'ân) which We have revealed. And Allâh is Well-Aware of all that you do.

9. Beware of the day when He shall gather you together for the Day of Gathering. That will be the Day of the Manifestation of losses. Those who believe in Allâh and act to suit the requirement of it (- the true Faith), will be acquitted of their evil deeds. He will admit them to the Gardens served with running streams. They will abide therein for ever and ever. That is the grand achievement!

10. But those who disbelieved and cried lies to our Messages, these are the inmates of Fire. They will abide therein for a long time. What an evil resort it is!

SECTION 2

11. No calamity befalls, but by the leave of Allâh. (When it happens) Allâh guides the mind of the person who believes in Him (into the ways of its purification and enlightenment). And Allâh knows all things very well.

12. Obey Allâh and obey the Messenger. But if you turn away (paying no heed) then (bear in mind that) Our Messenger is responsible only for the plain conveying (the Messages).

13. Allâh, there is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He. So let the believers put their trust in Allâh.

14. O you who believe! some of your spouses and children are enemies to you, so beware of them. And (if you overlook their shortcomings) and forgive and pardon (them), you will find that surely Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.

15. Verily, your possessions and your children are a means to reveal your hidden attributes. As for Allâh there awaits an immense reward with Him.

16. Therefore do your duty towards Allâh to the best of your ability, and listen to Him and Obey Him, and go on spending in (His cause). (If you do so) it will be best for your own selves. For only those who are rid of covetousness of their souls shall be really successful in every way.

17. If you set apart a handsome portion of your wealth for (the cause of) Allâh, He will multiply it for you and will protect you (against your lapses). And Allâh is Most-Appreciating, All-Forbearing.

18. He is the Omniscient of the unseen and the seen. (He is) the All-Mighty, the All-

Wise.

Chapter

65

Al-Talâq

(The Divorce)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Talâq).

1. **Prophet!** (tell the believers that) when you decide to divorce (your) women divorce them at a time when their *`Iddat* (- period of three monthly courses, for which they must wait before they can remarry) can be calculated; (the divorce should be given when she has cleansed herself after the menstrual discharge) and after divorce calculate the period (of *`Iddat* exactly). And keep your duty to Allâh, your Lord. You shall not turn them out (during this period of *`Iddat*) from their homes except they commit flagrant sin, nor shall they themselves go out (of them). These are the limits imposed by Allâh and he that violates the limits imposed by Allâh, indeed does injustice to himself. You never know (Allâh's will), for it may be that after this (divorce) Allâh will bring about a new situation (of reconciliation between you).

2. And when they are about to reach their prescribed term (of *`Iddat*) either keep them (by revoking the divorce) in an honourable and fair manner or part with them in honourable and fair manner and two honest and just persons from among you witness (your decision). (Let the witnesses) bear true testimony for the sake of Allâh (regarding the situation that resulted in the pronouncement of divorce). Thus the person (who acts according to these guidelines and) who believes in Allâh and the Last Day is exhorted. And he who takes Allâh as (his) shield, He will always make a way out (of his ordeals) for him.

3. And He will provide him sustenance from where he least expects. And he who puts his trust in Allâh, He is sufficient for him (to fulfill his needs). Allâh is sure to accomplish His purpose. Allâh has set a measure for everything.

4. If you are in doubt (how to calculate the period) of such of your women as have despaired of monthly courses, then (know that) period for which they must wait is three months and (the same holds good) for such women as have not menstruated (for some other reasons). And (as to) pregnant women, their term (will end) when they are delivered of their burden (after giving birth to a child). And (bear in mind) for the one who keeps his duty to Allâh, He will provide facility in his affair for him.

5. That is the command of Allâh. He has revealed this to you. For the one who takes Allâh as a shield He will rid him of (the evil consequences of) his sins and will grant him a very great reward.

6. Lodge (the divorced) women (during the prescribed period in some part of the house) where you are lodging, according to (the best of) your means. Do not harass them so as to make (their stay) hard for them. If they be pregnant, bear their expanses until they are delivered of the child. And if they suckle (the child) for you (as the period of waiting is over with delivery) pay them their dues (for suckling), and (in order to settle it) consult together in all fairness (making only reasonable demands on one another). But if you find it mutually difficult (to come to a settled agreement) then let another woman suckle (the child) for him (- the father).

7. Let a man with (plentiful) means spend (for the maintenance of the suckling woman) according to his means. And let him whose means of subsistence are limited spend according to what Allâh has given him. Allâh burdens no person (with responsibility) beyond what He has given him. Allâh will soon bring about easy times after hardships.

SECTION 2

8. So many (people of) townships rebelled against the command of their Lord and His Messengers so that We reckoned with them sternly and punished them with a dire punishment.

9. So they suffered the (evil) consequences of their deeds, and the subsequent end of their affairs was (in the form of) loss.

10. Allâh has in store for them a terrible punishment. So take Allâh as a shield O you persons of excellent and pure understanding who have believed! Allâh has indeed sent down to you means of (attaining) eminence -

11. (In the form of) an eminent Messenger who recites to you the clear revelations of Allâh, which tell the right from the wrong and thus He brings those who believe and (accordingly) do good deeds, out of all kinds of darkness into light. And he who believes in Allâh and does good deeds He will admit him to the Gardens served with running streams to abide therein for ever. Allâh has indeed made a (very) handsome provision for him.

12. It is Allâh Who has created seven heavens and (He has created) as many earths. The (divine) law permeates through them. (He tells this to you) so that you may know that Allâh is Possessor of all power to do every desired thing and Allâh encompasses everything in His knowledge.

Chapter

66

Al-Tahrîm

(The Prohibition)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Tahrîm).

1. Prophet! why do you forbid yourself the things which Allâh has made lawful to you? You seek the pleasure (of Allâh) for your wives. And Allâh is Great Protector, Ever Merciful.
2. Allâh has indeed sanctioned to you (- the Muslims) the expiation of your (expiable) oaths. And Allâh is your Patron and He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.
3. (Recall the time) when the Prophet confided to one of his wives (-*Hafsah*) a certain (secret) matter. When she divulged it (to another of his wives *âishah*), and Allâh

informed him (- the Prophet) of this, he then made known (to her) a part of it (to reprove her for what she had done) and avoided mentioning the other part. So when he told her about it she said, 'Who has informed you of this?' He (- the Prophet) said, 'The All-Knowing, the All-Aware (God) has informed me.'

4. If both of you women (-*âishah* and *Hafsah*) turn to Allâh repentant, (He will accept your repentance,) for your hearts are already inclined (to God). But if you abet (each other) against him (- the Prophet), (then bear in mind) Allâh is his helper as also Gabriel and the righteous among the believers and further more all the angels are also his helpers.

5. It may be that in case he divorces you, his Lord will give him instead wives better than yourselves; (wives who will be) submissive (to Allâh), faithful, obedient, penitent, devout (worshippers of God), given to fasting. (And they may consist of) divorced, widows and virgins.

6. O you who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire of which (ordinary) human beings and stone (- hearted people) are fuel and over which angels are appointed, fierce and ferocious, who never disobey the command of Allâh and who do as they are told.

7. O you who disbelieve! (now when you are cast into the Fire) make no excuses this day. You are only requited for what you used to do.

SECTION 2

8. O you who believe! turn to Allâh in sincere repentance, may be that your Lord will acquit you of your evil deeds and admit you to Gardens served with running streams. On that day Allâh will not disgrace the Prophet nor those who have believed with him. Their light will advance swiftly (radiating) in front of them and on their right hands while they will go on (praying and) saying, 'Our Lord! perfect our light for us and protect us (against our lapses). Verily You are Possessor of prudential power to do every desired thing.'

9. Prophet! strive hard against the disbelievers and the hypocrites and be stern with them; their resort is Gehenna. What an evil destination!

10. Allâh compares those who disbelieve to the wife of Noah and the wife of Lot. They were both under (the wedlock of) two of Our righteous servants but acted treacherously towards them both. So they (- Noah and Lot) could do nothing to save them from (the punishment of) Allâh. And it was said to them, 'Enter you both into the (Hell) Fire along with those (of your category) who enter therein.'

11. And Allâh compares those who believe to the wife of Pharaoh. Behold! she said, `My Lord! make for me an abode in the Garden (of Paradise) close to You and deliver me from Pharaoh and his work and deliver me from the wrongdoing people.

12. And Allâh (next compares the believers to) Mary, the daughter of Amrân, she who took care to guard her chastity, so we breathed into *him* (the believer who is exemplified here) Our inspiration, while she declared her faith in the revelations of her Lord and His Scriptures and she became of the devoted ones to prayers and obedient to Him.

Part XXVIX

Chapter

67

Al-Mulk

(The Supreme Power)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mulk).

1. **Blessed is He Who holds complete Supreme power. He is the Possessor of prudential power to do every desired thing.**
2. It is He Who has created death and life so that He may reward you (after trying you as to) which of you excels in doing good deeds. He is the All-Mighty, the Great Protector.
3. It is He Who has created seven heavens, one upon another in conformity (with each other). You can see no flaw, no incongruity and no imperfection in the creation of the Most Gracious (God). Then look up once more (to heaven). Do you see any flaw?
4. Look again and yet again (to find out any confusion in Divine law). (The result will only be that) your eye will return to you dazzled while it is weary (and you will be unable to find any discordance).
5. We have, certainly, adorned the lowest heaven with (stars-like) lamps and We have made them as means of conjecture for the evil ones (and the astrologers who invent good or bad omens from the movement of the stars). (Remember) We have prepared for these (soothesayers) the punishment of the blazing Fire.
6. And there awaits the punishment of Gehenna for those who disbelieve in their Lord, what a horrid resort it is!

7. When they are cast therein they will hear its roaring and a loud moaning while it heaves up (boiling with them).

8. It almost bursts with the intense fury (of the fire). As often as a host (of wrongdoers) is cast into it, its wardens will ask them, 'Did no Warner come to you (from the Lord)?'

9. They will say, 'No doubt, a Warner did come to (warn) us but we cried lies (to him) and we said, "Allâh has revealed nothing, you are only in great error".'

10. And they will add, 'If we had only listened and tried to understand we would not have been among the inmates of the blazing Fire (this day).'

11. They will thus confess to their sins (when confession will be of no use). The inmates of the blazing Fire are far removed (from God's mercy).

12. Verily, as to those who hold their Lord in awe in their heart of hearts, there awaits them protection (against lapses) and a great reward.

13. (Mankind!) Whether you conceal your thoughts or speak them openly (it makes little difference to Him) for He knows well the innermost secrets of the hearts.

14. Does He Who has created (all things) not know (His own creation)? He knows all that is abstruse and subtle, and is All-Aware.

SECTION 2

15. **He** it is Who has made the earth smooth and subservient to you (for your benefit), so traverse (far and deep) into its spacious paths (for your spiritual and material advancement), and (thus by active labour) eat of His sustenance (and enjoy His gifts). To Him will you all return after your having been raised to life.

16. Do you feel secure from Him Who is overhead (to you all, thinking) that He may leave you downtrodden in the earth and may cause it to sink with you when all of a sudden it begins to shake?

17. Do you feel secure from Him Who reigns in the heaven (above you seeing), that He may send a violent storm raising dust and pebbles on you. Look! you shall soon realize how (true) was My warning!

18. And certainly their predecessors treated (My Messengers to them) as liars, then, see how (destructive) was My disapproval (at their denial).

19. Have they not seen above them the birds with spread out wings (in flight) which they also draw in (to swoop down on the prey). None but the Most Gracious (God) holds them (there). Verily, He has knowledge of each and everything.

20. Or who is it that can serve as an army to help you against the Most Gracious (God if He intends to do you harm). The disbelievers are only labouring under a misconception (in thinking to baffle the cause of God).

21. Or who is it that will provide sustenance for you if He withholds His gifts? The fact is that they persist in transgression and are running away (from the truth).

22. Is he, who goes groveling on his face, better guided or he who walks upright on a straight and right path?

23. Say, `It is He Who has brought you into being and made for you ears (to hear), eyes (to see) and hearts (to understand). Yet little thanks do you give!'

24. Say, `It is He Who has multiplied you in the earth and to Him you shall all be gathered.'

25. And they say (to the Muslims), `When will this threat be executed if you are truthful (in your assertions)?'

26. Say, `The knowledge (of the time of its occurrence) is with Allâh. I am only a plain Warner.'

27. But when they see it (- the threatened punishment) nigh, the faces of those who disbelieve will wear a grieved look. And it will be said (to them), `This is what you used to ask for so persistently.'

28. Say, `Have you considered if Allâh destroys me and those who are with me (my companions of faith)? Rather He will have mercy on us. Who is there to protect the disbelievers from a woeful punishment, (for the guilty will, all the same, reap the fruit of their evil deeds)?'

29. Say, `He is the Most Gracious (God), in Him have we believed and in Him have

we put our trust. And you will soon know which one of us is in manifest error.'

30. Say, 'Have you considered if (all) your water were to disappear (in the depths of the earth) who, then, will bring you pure flowing water?'

Chapter

68

Al-Qalam

(The Pen)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qalam).

1. The ink - stand and the pen and all that they (the owners of the pen - the scholars) write, bear witness (to the fact that),
2. By the grace of your Lord you are not a mad man at all.
3. (And) most surely, there awaits you a reward never to be cut off.
4. And you possess outstandingly high standard of moral (excellence).
5. And you shall soon know and so will these (- the disbelievers),
6. As to which of you is afflicted with madness.
7. Surely, your Lord knows best those who go astray from His path and He (also) knows best those who follow the right guidance.
8. So do not listen to those who cry lies to (the Truth).
9. They wish you to be (dishonestly) pliant (and not condemn their evil deeds in strong language) so they (too) would (in return) adopt a conciliatory attitude.

10. Do not listen to any wretched swearer,

11. Who is backbiter, one who goes about

with slander and evil talk,

12. Any hinderer of people from doing good, transgressor, a sinful (person).

13. (Nor listen to any) hard-hearted ruffian who is, above all this, utterly useless and known for mischief making,

14. Only because he owns wealth and (numerous) sons (and influence).

15. When Our Messages are recited to him he says, `(These are mere) stories of the ancients (so outdated rubbish).`

16. We will soon brand him on the snout (and stigmatize him with indelible disgrace).

17. (Thus) have We made these (opponents) undergo a trial just as We had made the owners of a garden undergo it when they swore (one to another) that they would pluck (all) its fruit with the next morning.

18. And (they were so sure of it that) they made no reservation (for the poor and did not say, `If it be Allâh's will`).

19. So a sudden and awful visitation (a calamity) from your Lord visited it while they were asleep.

20. So that this (garden) became as it were a dark desolate spot whose (all) fruit had been already plucked.

21. Meanwhile they called one to another at the break of dawn,

22. (Saying), `Go forth early at dawn to your field if you would pluck and gather the fruit.`

23. So they set out talking together in low tones,

24. (Saying), 'Let not a single indigent person break through you to enter this (garden) today.'

25. And they repaired to the garden early with the dawn (thinking about themselves as) having the power to shut out (the poor from entry).

26. When they saw it (desolated) they said, 'We have surely mistaken the way.

27. 'Rather we have been deprived (of all the fruit of our labour), Indeed we have lost every thing.'

28. The most upright (man) among them said, 'Did I not say to you why do you not give glory (to God)?'

29. (Thereupon) they said, 'Glory be to our Lord. Certainly we have been wrongdoers.'

30. Then some of them turned their faces to the others, reproaching one another.

31. They said, 'O Woe to us! we have been, indeed, transgressors.

32. 'We hope our Lord will give us something better instead of this. To our Lord surely we turn humbly.'

33. Such is the punishment (for the disbelieving Makkans) in the very life and greater still is the punishment of the Hereafter, if they but understand.

SECTION 2

34. There are indeed gardens of bliss with their Lord for those (dutiful) who (carefully) guard against evil.

35. Are We to treat those who submit (to Our will) as (We treat) those who sever their connection (with Us)?

36. What is wrong with you? How (ill) you judge!

37. (O Makkans!) have you a Book wherein you read;

38. That you will surely have in it (- in the Hereafter) whatever you choose?

39. Or have you taken a covenant (which is) binding on Us till the Day of Resurrection, that you shall have there all that you ask for?

40. Ask them, which of them will vouch for that?

41. Or have they any associate-gods (to vouch for it)? If so, (then) let them bring their associate-gods, if they are truthful.

42. On the day when there is severe affliction and the truth is laid bare and they will be called upon to prostrate (themselves), but they will not be able to do so.

43. Their looks will be downcast and they will be overwhelmed with disgrace. (Before this state of theirs) they had been called upon to prostrate themselves (before God) while they were (still) safe and sound (but they had refused).

44. Therefore leave Me alone to deal with those who deny this revelation. We shall overtake them (leading them to their ruin) step by step, in a manner they do not know.

45. Yet I shall give them respite (to mend their ways). Verily, My plan is invincible and firm.

46. (Prophet!) do you ask from them a reward (for conveying to them the Message of prophethood) so that they are weighed down by (this undue) debt (which they find hard to pay)?

47. Or have they (the knowledge of) the unseen so that they write it down (to judge things in its light)?

48. So persevere patiently (in carrying out) the commandment of your Lord and do not behave like the Man of the big fish (- Jonah) when he called (to his Lord), and he was depressed with grief.

49. Had not a gracious favour from his Lord reached him (and) saved him he would surely have been cast off on a barren tract of land while he was in this miserable plight.

50. But his Lord chose him and made him (one) of the righteous.

51. Those who disbelieve would fain have dislodged you (from your God-given mission) with their (angry) looks when they heard the Reminder full of admonition (- the Qur'ân, but you were firm and steadfast). And they say, 'He is certainly a mad man.'

52. And (they say so although) this (Qur'ân) is nothing less than a means to rise to eminence for all nations.

Chapter

69

Al-Hâqqah

(The Great Inevitable Reality)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Hâqqah).

1. The great inevitable reality!
2. What is that great inevitable reality?
3. (Before it actually takes place) you know little (what it is) and what should make you know what that great inevitable reality is?
4. (The tribe of) Thamûd and `âd treated (the news of) the calamity which strikes (peoples' hearts with terror to make them realize) as a lie.
5. As for Thamûd, they were destroyed by (the shock of) an exceedingly violent and thunderous blast.
6. As for `âd, they were destroyed by a furious wind blowing with extraordinary force,
7. Which He let loose on them for seven nights and eight days, with no break, so that

(if you had been there) you would have seen the people lying therein sprawled (looking) as though they were hollow trunks of palm-trees fallen down.

8. Now (when they are dead and gone) do you see any of their remnants?

9. Pharaoh and his predecessors and (the inhabitants of) the overthrown cities (of Sodom and Gomorrah) persistently indulged in evil ways.

10. They disobeyed (in their respective times) the Messenger of their Lord, so He seized them with an ever-increasing punishment.

11. (Similarly Noah was disobeyed) and no sooner did the water (begin to) rise high than We carried (people like) you in the floating Ark.

12. (We relate these events to you) so that We might make them an example for you (O mankind!), and so that the listening ear might listen (and bear in mind).

13. When the trumpet is blown with a single blast,

14. And the earth and the mountains are borne away and then crushed into fine dust with a single crash,

15. Then, on that day the great and sure Reality shall come to be.

16. And the heaven will cleave asunder for it will have become frail on that day.

17. And the angels will be (standing) on all sides (of the heaven) and eight (divine powers) will on that day be above them bearing the Throne of Power of your Lord.

18. On that day, you shall be brought (before God) and none of your secrets will remain hidden.

19. Now, he who is given his record (of deeds) in his right hand will say (joyfully to others), `Here, take and read my record (of deeds).

20. `Verily, I was sure that I would have to face my reckoning (one day)!.

21. So he shall lead an (everlasting) life of blissful happiness,

22. In a lofty Garden,

23. The clusters of fruit of which will be hanging low, within easy reach (to gather).

24. (It will be said to those therein,) `Eat and drink delightfully (and to your hearts' content) on account of the good deeds you accomplished in the past days.'

25. But he who will be given the record (of his deeds) in his left hand, will say, `O would that I had not been given my record!

26. `And I had not known my reckoning.

27. `Would that it (- the death) had made an end of me!

28. `My wealth has been of no avail to me (this day).

29. `My arguments have failed me, and my authority gone.'

30. (Orders shall be issued about such a one,) `Lay hold of him and bind him down with fetters,

31. `Then cast him into the burning Fire.

32. `And string him with a chain the length of which is seventy cubits (according to the average length of human life in years).

33. `Verily, he did not believe in Allâh, the Great.

34. `And he did not urge (the people) to feed the poor,

35. `He has, therefore, no warm friend here this day.

36. `Nor (will he be served with) any food excepting something extremely hot,

37. `Which none but the wrongdoers shall take.'

SECTION 2

38. **But nay!** I call to witness those (signs) which you see,

39. And that which you do not see,

40. That this (Qur'ân) is surely the word (brought) by an honourable Messenger.

41. It is not at all the word of a poet. Little is the faith you have!

42. Neither it is the word of a soothsayer. Little is the heed you give!

43. (It is) a revelation from the Lord of the worlds.

44. Had he (- Muḥammad) forged and attributed some saying to Us (and said, `This is what Allâh has revealed to me').

45. We would have certainly seized him strongly by the right hand (and so deprived him of all his power),

46. And then surely We would have cut off his jugular vein;

47. Then none of you could have stopped (Us) from (punishing) him (and thus stood in Our way of dealing justly).

48. Behold! this (Qur'ân) is a means to rise to eminence for those who are dutiful and guard against evil.

49. We know, indeed, that there are some among you who reject it (- the Qur'ân).

50. Verily, this will be a (source of) regret for the disbelievers.

51. It is the absolute truth, a certainty.

52. So glorify the name of your Lord, the Great.

Chapter

70

Al-Ma`ârij

(The Ways Of Ascents)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful,

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Ma`ârij).

1. A solicitor solicited the punishment which is bound to befall.
2. (Let him know) there will be none to ward it off from the disbelievers.
3. (It shall come) from Allâh the Master of the ways of ascent; (which even enable a person to rise higher and higher, so why not solicit His grace?)
4. The angels and the Spirit (of the faithful) ascend to Him in a day the measure of which is (equal to) fifty thousand years (a day of spiritual advancement of the faithful is equivalent to fifty thousand years of material advancement, thus the development and progress of the human soul knows no end).
5. So (while waiting) patiently persevere, an admirable and graceful persevering.
6. They think it (- the Day of Judgment) to be far off.
7. But We know it to be near (at hand).
8. The day (it befalls), the heaven shall become (red) like molten copper.
9. And the mountains shall become like flakes of multicoloured wool.
10. No warm friend will inquire after a warm friend.
11. (Though) they will be placed in sight of one another. The guilty person would wish to redeem himself from the punishment of that day (even) by (offering) his children (as ransom);
12. (The guilty will gladly sacrifice) his wife and his brother (to redeem himself);
13. And even his kinsfolk who gave him shelter (in time of distress)
14. And (by offering) all that is on the earth put together, (thinking) if only thus he might deliver himself (from the

punishment).

15. By no means! (He can never be redeemed). Surely, it (- the punishment you are warned against) is a blazing Fire,

16. Stripping off the skin even to the extremities (of the human body).

17. It will claim the person (for consumption) who drew back (from accepting the truth) and turned away (refusing to obey).

18. (It will claim) him who amassed (wealth) and withheld (it).

19. Verily, such a person is impatient and miserly by nature.

20. He loses heart and becomes fretful when evil afflicts him.

21. But is niggardly when good falls to his lot.

22. Different however is the case of those devoted to Prayers,

23. Those persons who remain constant and steadfast in their Prayers,

24. And those in whose wealth there is a recognised right (- a fixed share),

25. (Set apart) for one who asks (for help) and also (for one) who is prevented (even from asking for one reason or the other);

26. (Different also is the case of) those who accepted the truth of the Day of Requital;

27. And those who are fearful of the punishment from their Lord.

28. The fact is that the punishment of their Lord is not (a thing) to be felt secure from;

29. (Different as well is the case of) those who guard their private parts (by restraining their passions).

30. Except from their (free) wives or those (wives of theirs) whom their right hands own (- slave wives), for which they are not to blame.

31. But it is those who seek (to satisfy their lust) in any other way excepting that (of marriage) that are the transgressors.

32. And (different also is the case of) those persons who are watchful of their trusts and their covenants,

33. And those who are upright in their evidences (and bear true testimony),

34. And those persons who are strict in the observance of their Prayers.

35. All these (mentioned above) shall be dwelling in Gardens, honoured and treated generously.

SECTION 2

36. **What is wrong with those who disbelieve that they come running headlong towards you,**

37. **From the right hand and from the left (- from all directions) in various parties.**

38. **Does each and every one of them covet to be admitted to the Garden of Bliss.**

39. **No (never shall they enter it). We have created them for that substantial purpose (the worth of) which they know (- to discharge their obligations to God and mankind and to themselves).**

40. **But nay! I call to witness the Lord of the easts and the wests. We are certainly Powerful**

41. **To change (them into) better beings than they are and that We can never be frustrated (in Our purpose).**

42. **Therefore, leave them alone to indulge in unimportant conversation and to amuse themselves (in idle pursuits) until they meet that day of theirs that they are warned of,**

43. **The day when they (having risen to life) will come out hastily from their graves as though they were racing to a target (which they must meet).**

44. **Their eyes will be downcast and shameful; humiliation will be overwhelming**

them. Such shall be the punishment of the day with which they are being threatened.

Chapter

71

Nûh

(Noah)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Nûh).

1. We sent Noah to his people (saying), `Warn your people before a grievous punishment comes upon them.'

2. He said, `O my people! I am a plain Warner to you.

3. `(I say to you,) that you should worship Allâh and take Him as a shield and obey me.

4. `(If you do so,) He will protect you from (the commitment of sins and also the punishment of) your sins. And (by prolonging your lives) He will grant you reprieve till an appointed term. Verily, the time (of the divine decree) appointed by Allâh cannot be held back once it falls due. If only you had been possessor of true knowledge (you would have known this).'

5. (Then seeing his people's persistent denial) he (-Noah) said (at long last), `My Lord! I have called my people (to You) day in and day out,

6. `But the more I call them the more they flee (from me).

7. `As often as I called them to You so that You might protect them (against the commitment of further sins and also against the evil consequences of their sins) they plugged their ears with their fingers, and drew their cloaks around them (and thus covered their hearts), and persisted (in their stubbornness and denial) and behaved in an extremely insolent manner.
8. `Then I invited them (to You) openly.
9. `Then I spoke to them in public as well as in private (to make them understand the truth somehow).
10. `And I said, "Seek the protection of your Lord for He is Great Protector as ever.
11. "(If you listen to me) He will send upon you clouds raining over and over again, in abundance.
12. "He will add to you wealth and children. He will provide for you gardens and will place streams at your disposal (to make you prosperous)".'
13. (And so did Prophet Muḥammad said,) `People! what is wrong with you that you have no (faith in the Majesty of Allâh and no) hopes for (being granted) honour and greatness from Allâh.
14. `Whereas He has created you by (passing you through) various stages (and endowed you with different qualities).
15. `Do you not consider how Allâh created the seven heavens one upon another in (perfect) conformity with one another.
16. `And He has set the moon in their midst for light and the sun He has made as a glorious lamp.
17. `It is Allâh Who germinated you from the earth in a (wonderful) growth,
18. `Then will He return you to it and then raise you to (a new) life (on the Day of Awakening).
19. `Allâh has made the earth a vast expanse for you,
20. `That you may traverse its spacious paths (for the development of civilization and also to attain spiritual perfection).'

SECTION 2

21. Noah said, `My Lord! they (- my people) have disobeyed me. They follow (such leaders) whose wealth and children only add to their loss.'
22. They have devised a mighty and heinous plan (against the Prophet),
23. And they say (one to another), `Never abandon your gods; neither abandon *Wadd* (their idol in the form of man), nor *Suwâ`* (- in that of a woman), nor (should you abandon) *Yaghûth* (- in that of a lion), and *Ya`ûq* (- in that of a horse) and *Nasr* (- in that of an eagle).
24. (Thereupon the Prophet prayed, `(Lord!) and indeed they have led many people astray, and add to the disappointment of these wrongdoers.'
25. (Accordingly) these people were drowned and made to enter the Fire because of their wrong doings. They found none against Allâh who could help them.
26. And Noah had prayed (to his God), `My Lord! do not leave a single dweller from among the disbelievers on the land.
27. `For if you leave them (thus) they will (only) lead Your servants astray and will beget only immoral and ungrateful (children).
28. `My Lord! protect me and my parents and those who enter my house bearing true faith and all the believing men and believing women. (Lord!) as for the wrongdoers grant them no increase except in perdition.'
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Chapter

72

Al-Jinn

(The Jinn)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
 the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
 (I commence to read Sûrah Al-Jinn).

1. Say, `It has been revealed to me that a party of the *jinn* (- the non-Arab Jews of *Naşîbîn*, called *Jinn* because of their being strong, sharp and effective in affairs) listened (to the Qur'ân), so they said (to their people on their return), "Surely, we have heard a wonderful Qur'ân,
2. "It guides towards righteousness, so we declare our faith in it. We shall no longer worship any god besides our Lord.
3. "And the truth is that the Majesty of our Lord is exalted. He has taken to Himself no consort nor (has He begotten) a son,
4. "And (we admit) that the foolish among us used to say many exaggerated and blasphemous things against Allâh.
5. "And (we acknowledge) that (we believed in them because) we never thought that men and *jinn* could ever possibly utter a lie about Allâh.
6. "The fact is that some humble and lowly men from among the common folk used to seek refuge with some (big and influential) men from among the *jinnns* and (thus) they increased these (*jinnns*) in arrogance (and conceit).
7. "These men (from the *jinn*) believed even as you believe that Allâh would raise no one (as Messenger).
8. "And we (- the non-Arab Jews, the *jinn* who had listened to the Qur'ân, as diviners and astrologers) had primarily sought to probe the secrets of space above but we found it teeming with strong guards and shooting stars (a phenomenon which

generally occurs before the advent of a divine Reformer).

9. "And that we used to sit in some of the observatories to listen to something. But he that tries to listen (in order to forecast some event) now (with the advent of Islam) finds a shooting star in ambush for him.

10. "(We confess that) we do not know whether evil is (hereby) augured for those who are on the earth or whether their Lord (thereby) intends to bestow right guidance for them.

11. "And some of us are righteous and some of us are otherwise. We follow different ways.

12. "And we have come to know for certain that we can never frustrate the purpose of Allâh in the earth, nor can we escape Him by flight (in any direction).

13. "No sooner did we hear the guidance (contained in the Qur'ân) than we believed in it. And he who believes in His Lord does not have to fear that his reward will be reduced or injustice will be (done to him).

14. "And some of us submit (to the will of God) while some of us are deviators (from the right course)".' (It has also been revealed to the Prophet that) those who submit (to God's commandments) are actually those who earnestly aim at the right way and find it out;

15. And that the deviators from the right course are the fuel of Gehenna.

16. And that if these (Makkan disbelievers) keep to the right path (and accept the divine Message) We will certainly provide them with abundant water (-wealth and other material benefits in the present life) to avail from.

17. With the result that (in that case) We will thereby purify them thoroughly and well. And he who turns away from the remembrance of his Lord, He will drive him into an overwhelmingly stern punishment.

18. And that the mosques are meant for (the worship of) Allâh, so call on no one (therein) beside Allâh.

19. And when (- Muḥammad) Allâh's servant stands up calling to Him these (- disbelievers) crowd upon him, well nigh suffocating him (to stifle and smother his voice).

SECTION 2

20. Say, `I invoke only my Lord and I associate no one with Him (as His partner).'

21. Say, `I have no power to avoid either harm from you or to do some good to you.'

22. Say, `Surely, none can grant me shelter against Allâh if I disobey Him, nor can I find any refuge besides Him.

23. `(My responsibility is), only to convey what is revealed (to me) from Allâh and complete the mission of Prophethood.' And there awaits those who disobey Allâh and His Messenger the Fire of Gehenna wherein they shall

abide for a long time.

24. (They will continue to oppose the Prophet) until they see that (punishment) they are threatened with. And soon they will know who is weaker in respect of helpers and less in numbers.

25. Say, `I have no knowledge whether that (punishment) you are threatened with is near (at hand) or whether my Lord will fix a later term for it.'

26. He alone knows the hidden (future) and He does not grant predominance to any one over His secrets,

27. Except to him whom He chooses to be a Messenger (of His, to whom He frequently tells many news about the hidden future). (And when He does this) He orders an escort of (guarding angels) to go before him and behind him;

28. That He may make it known (to the people) that they (- the Divine Messengers) have properly delivered the Messages of their Lord. He encompasses (in His knowledge) all that they have, and keeps count of all things.

Chapter

73

Al-Muzzammil

(He That Has Wrapped Himself Up)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Muzzammil).

1. **O** you that have wrapped yourself up in robes (of Prophethood)!
2. Stand up (in Prayer) at night except for a small portion of it,
3. Half of it or you may however reduce it a little,
4. Or prolong it (a little more) and keep on reciting the Qur'ân distinctly and thoughtfully well.
5. Verily, We are soon going to charge you with the enormous and important responsibility of (conveying to mankind) the Message (of your Lord).
6. Verily, getting up at night (for Prayer) is the most effective means of subduing (one's self), and the most upright way to acquire firm control over one's actions and speech.
7. Indeed, you have a long (chain of) engagements during the day.
8. Therefore extol the name of your Lord and devote (yourself) to Him with exclusive and sincere devotion.
9. He is the Lord of the east and the west. There is no other, cannot be and will never be One worthy of worship but He, therefore take Him as Disposer of (your) affairs (putting your full trust in Him).
10. And patiently persevere in the face of all that these (enemies) say and withdraw from them in a graceful manner.
11. Leave Me to (deal with) those who belie (the truth) and who are possessors of ease and plenty. And give them a little respite.

12. We have (a variety of) fetters ready (to bind them with) and a raging Fire (to throw them into),

13. And food that chokes and a woeful punishment.

14. (That punishment will befall them) on the day when the earth and the mountains shall quake and the mountains shall crumble into heaps of sand dunes.

15. (Mankind!) We have indeed sent a (great) Messenger to you who is a Witness over you just as We sent (Moses as) a Messenger towards Pharaoh.

16. But Pharaoh disobeyed the Messenger so We seized him with a terrible punishment (so all of you be on your guard against such an attitude!)

17. But if you also disobey (the Messenger sent to you), how will you then guard yourselves from the (calamity of the) day which will turn (even) children (prematurely) gray-headed.

18. And because of which the heaven shall be rent asunder. (This is the promise of God,) remember His promise is bound to be fulfilled.

19. Verily, this (Qur'ân) is a Reminder, therefore, let him, who will, follow the way leading towards his Lord.

SECTION 2

20. Surely, your Lord knows that you remain standing (to say Night Prayers) for nearly two thirds of the night and (sometimes) half or one third of it; and so does a party of those (of your believing Companions) who are with you. And Allâh determines the night and the day (- sometime the nights are long and sometime they are short and sometime the day and the night are equal). He knows that you (- the Muslims in general) will not be able to keep up so long a vigil (to say Night Prayer). He has, therefore, turned to you with mercy. Recite then, as much of the Qur'ân (in your Night Prayer) as is easily possible. He knows that some of you may be taken ill and others may be moving about in the land seeking Allâh's bounty, and still others who may be fighting for the cause of Allâh, so (O Muslims!) recite as much of it (- the Qur'ân) as is easily possible (for you). You shall, however, observe Prayer

(regularly five times a day in all events). And go on presenting *Zakât* and set apart a goodly portion (of your possessions to give for (the sake of) Allâh. And whatever good you send on before for yourselves, you will find it with Allâh as the best of things meriting the greatest reward. And seek protection of Allâh. Verily, Allâh is All-Protecting, Ever Merciful.

Chapter

74

Al-Muddaththir

(One Endowed With Excellent Capabilities)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Muddaththir).

1. **O** you who have been endowed with excellent capabilities!
2. Arise (with the Divine Message) and warn.
3. And your Lord, do announce His supremacy.
4. And purify your clothes and your heart.
5. And idol-worship, (spare no pains to) exterminate it and shun all uncleanness.
6. And bestow no favour seeking to get more (in return).
7. And endure (your trials) with perseverance for the sake of your Lord.
8. And the day the trumpet (of the Prophet's call to the people) is sounded,
9. That will be a day full of woe and distress (for the opponents of Truth for this day will spell final defeat of disbelief).
10. For the disbelievers it will not be easy (to behold the complete triumph of Truth).

11. Leave Me alone to deal with him whom I created,
 12. To whom I gave abundant wealth,
 13. And sons that remain present (with him),
 14. And I provided for him all necessary equipment;
 15. Yet he covets that I should give (him) more.
 16. Certainly not, for he has been a stubborn opponent to Our Messages.
 17. Rather I will inflict on him an increasingly overwhelming torment.
 18. Lo! he pondered and planned,
 19. Ruin seize him! how (maliciously) he planned,
 20. Again ruin seize him! how (maliciously) he planned,
 21. Then he looked about (to give his calculations and planning another thought),
 22. Then he frowned and scowled (in disdain),
 23. Then he turned back (in scorn) and waxed proud,
 24. And said, `This (Qur'ân) is nothing but an age long magic handed down (by tradition).
 25. `This is nothing but mere words of a human being.'
 26. Soon I shall cast him into the Hell-fire.
 27. How should you realize what the Hell- fire is?
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28. It spares none. It leaves nothing (unconsumed).

29. It scorches the face, the skin and the body.

30. Nineteen (wardens) are appointed over it (- the Hell-fire in consonance with the nineteen human faculties the misuse of which results in punishment for the sinners).

31. None but angels have We appointed as wardens of the Hell-fire. We have fixed their number in order to purify (and purge) the sins of those who disbelieve. The result of this is that the people of the Scripture will be convinced, and those who believe will increase in faith (and act with righteousness). And those who have been given the Scriptures as well as the believers may (both) attain certainty (and will not be misguided). And the people with diseased hearts and the disbelievers will say, 'What does Allâh mean by such an illustration?' Thus does Allâh forsake him who wishes (to go astray), and guides him who wishes (to be guided). And none knows (the number) of the hosts of your Lord but He. And this (Qur'ân) is nothing but a means for human beings to rise to eminence.

SECTION 2

32. Nay, I call the moon to witness,

33. And also the night when it departs,

34. And the dawn when it shines forth,

35. Verily, it (- the Fire of Hell) in itself is one of the great calamities,

36. A warning to mankind.

37. Yet whosoever of you wants to go ahead (may do so), or whoever of you wants to lag behind (may do so, for warning avails only those who are really keen to be guided aright).

38. Every soul is bound to pay for its deeds.

39. Different, however, is the case of the blessed ones.

40. (They will be) in Gardens inquiring

41. Of the guilty ones,

42. 'What has brought you into Hell?'

43. They will reply, `We were not of those who offered Prayers;

44. `Nor did we feed the poor.

45. `And we indulged in vain talk along with those who indulged therein,

46. `And we always cried lies to the Day of Requital,

47. `Till death overtook us.'

48. That is why the intercession of the intercessors will be of no avail to them.

49. What is the wrong with them, then, that they are thus turning away from the exhortation (of the Qur'ân),

50. (They behave) as if they were frightened donkeys (making others frightful too),

51. Running away from a lion?

52. The fact is that everyone of them desires that he should (individually) be given open Scripture (direct from heaven).

53. This can never be so. The fact is that they have no fear of the Hereafter.

54. This should not be so. Verily, this (Qur'ân) is a means to rise to eminence.

55. Let him then, who will, remember it (to win glory and honour for himself),

56. But these (deniers) will not remember it unless Allâh (so) will. He alone is worthy to be taken as a shield and He alone is most worthy of granting protection.

Chapter

75

Al-Qiyâmah

(The Resurrection)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qiyâmah).

1. Nay, (it is not like what you imagine,) I swear by the Day of Resurrection;
2. And I swear by the self-reproaching soul (at the doing of an evil deed as an evidence to the truth of Final Resurrection).
3. Does a human-being think that We will not assemble his bones? (We will indeed.)
4. No doubt, We have the power to reproduce him to a complete form even to the very tips of his fingers.
5. (His denial of Resurrection is because) a human being likes to continue in his evil ways in (the life) that is before him (without fearing the consequences of his deeds).
6. He asks (with contempt and doubt), `When shall the Day of Resurrection come to be?'
7. (It shall be the day) when the sight (of a person) is confused (and he is confounded for being unable to find the right course).
8. And the moon will eclipse.
9. And the sun and the moon will be brought together.
10. The human being shall say on that day, `Whither to flee?'
11. To nowhere at all, there is no refuge.

12. Upon that day the recourse shall be to your Lord.
13. Upon that day every soul shall be informed about all his commissions and omissions.
14. Rather a human being is himself well-aware of his own self (and so himself is a witness against his own soul).
15. (No excuse will be accepted from him) even though he puts forth his (all possible) excuses, (to prove his innocence).
16. (Prophet! when We reveal the Qur'ân) do not move your tongue (with a mind) to repeat (this revelation in order to commit it to your memory) hurriedly.
17. The responsibility of its collection and its arrangement lies on Us.
18. When We recite it, then follow its recitation.
19. The responsibility of explaining it lies again on Us.
20. Behold! you people love the present transient (life),
21. And neglect the Hereafter.
22. On that day some faces will be fresh, beaming and bright,
23. Looking (absorbed in the vision of) their Lord;
24. And also on that day some faces will look gloomy and dismal,
25. Because they will realise that a back breaking calamity is about to befall them.
26. Behold! when it (- the soul of a dying person) reaches the throat (to leave his body in death)
27. And (when those around the dying person say), 'Who is the physician to cure and save him?'
28. And he himself realizes that it is the (time of) parting.
29. And one shank rubs against the other (in death agony) and one distress will be combined with another distress (for the departing soul).

30. On that day people will be driven towards your Lord (to reap the fruit of the deeds done in this life).

SECTION 2

31. For this person (being unmindful of the consequences) neither accepted the truth nor offered Prayer.

32. Rather he cried lies (to the truth and the Prophet) and turned away (refusing to obey His commandments).

33. Then he went to his kinsfolk strutting along (in false pride).

34. Woe be to you! then woe upon woe (in this very life).

35. Again (in the Hereafter) woe be to you, then woe upon woe!

36. Does a person think that he will be left alone without purpose.

37. Was he not a small drop of semen ejected (into a proper place).

38. (Which drop) then became a clot of blood, then He fashioned (him through various stages) and perfected (him in his make).

39. Then He made of him a pair, the male and the female.

40. Has not such a One (Who creates from an inanimate source) the power of raising the (physically and spiritually) dead to life.

Chapter

76

Al-Insân

(The Human Being)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Insân).

1. There did pass over a human being a while of a long space of time when he was not a thing worth mentioning.
2. We have surely created a human being from a sperm drop uniting (it) with (an ovum); We wanted to bestow Our favour on him. That is why We made him hearing and seeing (- enjoying discretion and volition, and so responsible for his actions).
3. Verily, We have shown him the path clearly (giving him the full choice) whether he be grateful or ungrateful.
4. We have indeed prepared for the ungrateful chains and shackles and the blazing Fire.
5. The virtuous shall truly drink of a cup tempered with camphor (a symbol of purity and coolness).
6. (The drink is from) a spring from which the devotees of Allâh shall drink. They will strive hard in directing it to flow in abundance (enabling others to drink from it).
7. They fulfill (their) vows (by doing their duty to God and mankind) and fear a day the woes of which shall be wide spread.
8. They give food for the love of Him to the indigent, the orphan and the captive.
9. (Assuring them by their gestures,) `We feed you only to seek the pleasure of Allâh, we desire no recompense from you nor thanks.
10. `We surely fear from our Lord (the punishment of) a day (on which the wrong doers will be) frowning and distressful.'
11. So Allâh will guard them from the evil of that day and will bestow on them cheerfulness (of face) and happiness (of mind).

12. And will reward them for their having persevered, with (a blissful) Garden (to live in) and silk (to wear).
 13. (They shall be) reclining on raised couches. They shall experience therein neither excessive heat of the sun nor intense cold.
 14. There shall be spreading close over them the shades of it (- the Garden full of trees), and their clustered fruit brought low within their easy reach.
 15. They shall be served round in vessels of silver and goblets of crystal,
 16. (Looking) crystal clear (but made) of silver, made in special mold determined (by the agents of the Lord of judgment and measure).
 17. And therein they shall be given to drink a cup which is tempered with ginger (a symbol of strength),
 18. (Which flows from) a spring therein called *Salsabîl* (- inquire about the way).
 19. Sons of perpetual bloom shall go round (waiting upon) them. When you see them you will take them to be pearls scattered about.
 20. When you look (considering the Garden as a whole) you will find therein blessings abounding everywhere and (all the equipments of) a splendid kingdom.
 21. Over them shall be robes of fine green silk and of thick brocade, and they shall be given bracelets of silver as ornaments. And their Lord shall give them to drink a purifying beverage.
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22. (It will be said,) `This is indeed a reward for you, and your striving has been fully appreciated.'

SECTION 2

23. Surely, it is We, yes We Who have revealed to you the Qur'ân by a gradual and piecemeal revelation.

24. Therefore abide perseveringly by the commandments of your Lord (and wait for the fulfillment of the prophecies) and yield to none of the sinful and ungrateful (disbelievers).

25. Extol the name of your Lord morning and evening,

26. And prostrate yourselves before Him for a part of the night and give Him glory for long hours of the night

27. Verily, these (disbelieving people) love the present transient life and neglect very hard day (which lies) ahead of them.

28 It is We Who have created them and strengthened their make, and We shall replace them with their like whenever We please.

29. Verily, this Qur'ân is a Reminder. So let him who wishes, take a way to his Lord.

30. And you (true believers) should wish no other way except as Allâh wishes (for you). Verily, Allâh is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

31. He admits to His mercy those who wish (and strive) for it. As to the wrong-doers, He has prepared a woeful punishment for them.

Chapter

77

Al-Mursalât

(Those Sent Forth)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mursalât).

1. I call to witness those (messengers of Truth) who are sent forth to spread goodness (in continual series),
2. Those that drive off forcefully (falsehood and forces of evil as chaff is carried before the wind),
3. And those that spread (the truth) far and wide,
4. And those that fully distinguish (the right from the wrong),
5. And those carrying the Message of (rising to) eminence far and wide (- the Qur'ân),
6. (And those presenting this source of eminence) in an attempt to purify (some) from the abomination of sin and to warn (others),
7. Verily, that which you are promised must come to pass.
8. So when the small stars will be made to lose their light,
9. And when the heaven shall be opened,
10. And when the mountains shall be blown down to pieces,
11. And when the Messengers shall be made to appear (in the guise of one person) at the appointed time. (It is after that the Resurrection shall take place).
12. To what day have these (portents) been deferred;
13. To the Day of Judgment.
14. How shall you know what the Day of Judgment is?
15. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).
16. Did We not destroy the earlier peoples?
17. We will now cause the later generations to follow suit.

18. That is how We deal with the guilty.

19. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).

20. Did We not create you from an insignificant fluid,

21. Then We placed it in a secure and safe place,

22. Till an appointed term?

23. Thus did We determine, and how good We are at determining!

24. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).

25. Have We not made the earth revolving and capable of drawing (other bodies) towards itself,

26. The living and the dead?

27. And (have We not) made therein lofty mountains and (by means of them) We provide you sweet and wholesome water to drink?

28. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).

29. (It will be said to the followers of Trinity,) `Now, move on towards that (punishment) which you cried lies to,

30. `Move on to the shadow that has three branches,

31. `(Which is) neither affording shade (to you) nor protects (you) from the flame.'

32. Rather it throws huge sparks as huge and high as towers,

33. (Sparks) that look like tawny camels.

34. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).

35. This is a day when they shall not be able to speak,

36. Nor shall they be allowed to offer excuses.

37. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth).

38. (God will tell them,) `This is the Day of Judgment (when) We have gathered you and all the earlier peoples together;

39. `If you have any device try it against Me (to escape this punishment).'

40. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth)

SECTION 2

41. (As for) those who guarded against evil and were dutiful (to God and mankind) they shall, indeed, on that day live in the midst of comforts and (in places with) springs,

42. And fruits, such as they desire.

43. (It will be said to them,) `Eat and drink delightfully as a reward for that which you used to do (in your life-time).'

44. Truly that is how We reward the doers of good.

45. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the Truth).

46. (Disbelievers!) eat and enjoy yourselves for a little while (in the world). Surely, you are the guilty (ones).

47. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the Truth).

48. When it is said to them, `Bow down (before your Lord)!' they bow not down.

49. On that day woe shall befall those who belie (the Truth).

50. Look! in what other revelation will they believe after this (when they have refused to accept such an infallible Book as this Qur'ân).

Part XXX

Chapter

78

Al-Naba'

(The Important Announcement)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Naba').

1. **What is that these (disbelievers) are asking one another about?**
2. (Is it) about the greatly important and very useful announcement leading to knowledge;
3. About which they differ (from the Muslims and among themselves)?
4. It is not as they assume. They shall surely know (the truth thereof).
5. (We say it) again, the real thing is not as they believe. They shall surely come to know (the truth thereof).
6. Have We not made the earth as a bed,
7. And the mountains as (a series of) pegs?
8. And We have created you in pairs (males and females);
9. And We have made your sleep a source of rest.
10. And We have made the night as a covering,

11. And We have made the day for the (various) pursuits of life.
12. And We have built above you seven strong (heavenly bodies of the solar system),
13. And We have made (therein) the sun providing immense light and heat from a long distance,
14. And We pour down from the dripping clouds water in torrent,
15. That We may bring forth therewith (all kinds of) grain and vegetation,
16. And (grow with it) gardens thick and luxuriant.
17. Surely, the Day of Judgment is an appointed time.
18. The day when the trumpet will be blown, and you will come in large troops.
19. And the heaven shall be flung open and it shall become (all) doors.
20. And the mountains shall be wiped out and shall become (as if reduced to) plains of sand.
21. Surely, only Gehenna shall be in wait (for those who deny the truth).
22. A (nursing) home for the rebellious.
23. There they shall be staying for ages (till all their maladies are completely treated).
24. There they shall find no (comfort of) coolness, nor drink.
25. All that they shall have will be boiling water or stinking fluid as a recompense,
26. A befitting recompense (for the evils done by them).
27. They did not fear any reckoning at all;
28. And they had belied Our Messages outright.
29. And everything (of their deeds) We have fully recorded in a book (of deeds).
30. (It shall be said to them when they are about to be punished,) `Suffer therefore

(the consequences of your evil deeds), We will do no more than increase your torment.

SECTION 2

31. As for those who guarded against evil there awaits them a triumph,

32. Orchards and vineyards;

33. And (blooming) young maidens suiting their age, and also matching in all other respects,

34. And overflowing cups of pure and clean drink.

35. Therein they will hear no vain discourse, no (topics based on) falsehood.

36. (It will be said to each, `All this is) bestowed (on you) by your Lord, (both) by way of gift, (and) by reckoning.'

37. The Lord of the heavens and the earth and of all that lies between them, the Most Gracious (God), Whom they dare

not address.

38. (All this will be) on the Day (of Resurrection) when the Perfect Spirit and the angels will stand in rows, none shall speak except he (- Muḥammad) to whom the Most Gracious (God) will grant permission and who will speak (only) what is right.

39. That day is bound to come, so let him, who will, seek recourse to his Lord.

40. Verily, We have warned you of a punishment which is close at hand, a day when a person shall see what (good or evil deeds) he has sent on before (for the next life), and the disbeliever will say, `Would that I were mere dust.'

Chapter

Al-Nâzi`ât

(Those Who Perform Their Duties

Vigorously)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Nâzi`ât).

1. I call to witness those groups of beings, who perform their duties (towards their Lord and mankind and themselves) with intense zeal and to the best of their capacity,
2. And those who exert themselves vigorously,
3. And those who steer their course swiftly and skillfully,
4. Then those who going foremost greatly excel (all others and attain the topmost positions),
5. Then those who administer the affairs in an excellent manner (shall reap the fruit of their striving).
6. (It shall be) on the day when the quacking (earth) shall quake;
7. Quakes after quakes shall follow this.
8. On that day many hearts will be trembling with fear,
9. Their eyes will be downcast (in disgrace).
10. (These are the people) who say, `Shall we (really) be restored to (our) former state (after we are dead)?
11. `Shall it be (even) when we are (reduced to) hollow bones?'

12. (And) who say, `Then such a resurrection shall indeed be fraught with loss.'
13. (Let them say what they think,) It will be no more than a single scare blast.
14. And behold! (after that) they will all be (awakened and come out) in the open.
15. The story of Moses has reached you.
16. When his Lord called out to him in the Sacred Valley of Tuwâ,
17. (And directed him,) `Go to Pharaoh, he has transgressed all limits.
18. `And say (to him), "Would you like to purify yourself;
19. "That I should guide you to your Lord so that you may stand in awe of Him?"
20. So (Moses went to Pharaoh and) he showed him the great sign (of the staff).
21. But he belied (Moses) and disobeyed,
22. Then he turned back striving (and devising schemes against him).
23. And he gathered (his people) and proclaimed,
24. Saying, `I (- Pharaoh) am your supreme lord.'
25. So Allâh seized him for the punishment of (both) the next and the present life.
26. Indeed, there is a lesson in this (event) for him who stands in awe (of his Lord).

SECTION 2

27. (O mankind!) are you harder to be created (again) or the heaven? He (the Almighty Lord) has made it.
28. He has raised the height thereof, and has made it flawlessly perfect and well-balanced.
29. And He gave darkness to its night, and brought forth the morn thereof.
30. And along with it He hurled the earth away (from a bigger mass) and spread it forth.

31. He produced from it its water and pasture.

32. He set the mountains firmly.

33. (He has done all this to serve as) a goodly provisions for you and your cattle.

34. Behold! when that great calamity comes to pass,

35. On that day every person will call to mind all that he strove for.

36. And Hell shall be brought in view of him who sees.

37. Then as for the one who transgresses,

38. And prefers the present life (to the Hereafter),

39. (Let him remember that) the Hell shall surely be (his) abode.

40. But as for the one who fears to stand before his Lord and restrains himself from evil desires,

41. Then Garden (of bliss) shall surely be (his permanent) abode.

42. The people ask you concerning the Hour (saying), `When shall it come to pass?'

43. Why (do they ask this question)? It is you who are its reminder (you being one of its signs).

44. The ultimate end of it is decreed by your Lord.

45. You are only a Warner to one who fears it.

46. The day they witness it (-the Hour, they will feel) as if they had stayed (in the world and the grave) for an afternoon or a (short) forenoon thereof.

Chapter

`Abasa

(He Frowned)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah `Abasa).

1. **He** (- the Prophet) frowned and turned aside,
2. Because the blind man (- *Ibn umme Maktûm*) came to him (interrupting him unknowingly).
3. And what could make you (O Prophet!) know that he might purify himself.
4. Or that he might have paid heed to the admonition (that God has revealed to you) and this admonition would have done him good as well.
5. But as to him who considers himself self-sufficient and is indifferent (to the Truth);
6. To this one you were very attentive,
7. Though you are not to blame if he does not purify himself.
8. Whereas (the blind man) who came to you striving in right earnest (to learn the Qur'ân),
9. And all the while he stands in awe (of God);
10. But you neglect him and pay him no regard.
11. This should not have been so. Verily, this (Qur'ân) is a means to rise to eminence (for you all).
12. So let him who desires, pay heed to it and rise to eminence.

13. (This Qur'ân is preserved) in such written leaves (of the Book) as are greatly honoured,

14. (Which are) ranked high (and) are rid of all impurities,

15. Which are in the hands of scribes,

16. Noble and virtuous.

17. Ruin seize the person (- one too proud to accept the reminder)! How ungrateful he is!

18. (Let him consider) from what (insignificant) material He has created him!

19. From a mere sperm-drop! He (at first) creates him, then endows him with infinite capacity (to make progress),

20. Then makes (his) passage (through all affair of life) easy for him.

21. Then He calls him to death and He assigns to him (an interim state of) a grave.

22. And He will again raise him to life when He will.

23. It cannot be (that there is no resurrection;) he has not yet carried out what He commanded him to do.

24. Therefore let such a person look at his food.

25. How (at first) We pour down water in abundance,

26. Then We cleave the earth, a proper cleaving,
27. So that We cause grain to grow therein,
28. As well as grapes, vegetables,
29. The olive, the date-palm,
30. Orchards with dense trees,
31. Fruits and herbage;
32. A goodly provision for you and your cattle.
33. Again (you should also consider) when the deafening shout shall come,
34. The day when a person shall flee from his brother,
35. And (from) his mother and his father,
36. And (from) his spouse and his sons,
37. On that day every person among them shall be concerned enough (regarding his own affairs to occupy him and) to make him indifferent (to others).
38. Some faces, that day, will be beaming,
39. Smiling (and) joyous.
40. Some other faces, on that day, will have dust upon them,
41. Gloom covering them.
42. Those will be (the faces of) the disbelievers and (of) the doers of evil.

Chapter

81

Al-Takwîr

(Loosing Of The Light)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Takwîr).

1. **When** the sun be folded up and so darkened,
2. And when the stars are obscured,
3. And when the mountains are made to pass away,
4. And when the excellent she-camels will be discarded,
5. And when the wild beast will be herded together,
6. And when the rivers will be drained away,
7. And when (various) people will be united together,
8. And when the girl-child who is buried alive will be questioned about;
9. For what offence was she killed?
10. And when books and papers will be spread abroad,
11. And when the heights will be discovered,
12. And when the Hell-Fire will be set ablaze,
13. And when the Paradise will be brought near,
14. Every soul will know then what (store of deeds) it has brought forward.
15. Nay, I call to witness those (planets) that recede while advancing in one direction,
16. Those (planets) that continue their forward course (along their orbits) and then disappear.

17. And (I call to witness) the night when its darkness begins to depart,
 18. And the dawn as it begins to breathe (and brightens up),
 19. That verily this (Qur'ân) is indeed the word (revealed to and) uttered by a noble (and illustrious) Messenger (- Muḥammad),
 20. Possessor of power, occupying a (glorious) secure position with the Lord of the Throne,
 21. Who is entitled to be obeyed and who is here also known as trust-worthy.
 22. And that this compatriot of yours (-Muḥammad) is not at all mad.
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23. And he has most surely seen himself (shining in the resplendence of his own light) in the clear horizon (- in the remotest corners of the world).
24. And he is not at all niggardly, nor a forgerer in disclosing the hidden realities.
25. Nor is this (Qur'ân) the word of satan who is driven away (from divine presence).
26. Where do you wander to (leaving this Qur'ân and the Messenger aside)?
27. This is but a means to rise to eminence for all people,
28. For such of you who wish to walk straight (to attain eminence).
29. And you should not desire (otherwise) except that which Allâh the Lord of the worlds desires (for you).

Chapter

82

Al-Infitâr

(The Cleaving Asunder)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Infîţâr).

1. When the sky will be cleft asunder,
2. And when the planets will become dispersed,
3. And when the rivers are widely split up and made to flow forth (into canals),
4. And when the graves will be laid open,
5. Every person shall know (then) what (evil) actions (which he should not have done) he has committed, and what (good actions he should have done) he has omitted.
6. O (ungrateful) human being! what has enticed you away from your Lord, the Honoured One,
7. Who created you, then perfected you (with wisdom), then endowed you with great natural powers and faculties,
8. And He fashioned you in whatever form it pleased Him.
9. Surely, (it is) not at all (as you think), the truth is that you treat the Requital as a lie.
10. Verily, there are (appointed) guardians over you,
11. Noble (angel) recorders (of your commissions and omissions),
12. Who know (all) that you do.
13. The virtuous shall invariably be in (a state of) bliss.
14. But the wicked shall, of course, be in the flaming Fire.

15. They will enter therein on the Day of Requital,
 16. And they shall not at all (be able to) keep themselves away (by escaping) from it.
 17. What should make you know what the Day of Requital is!
 18. Again (We repeat) how can you know what the Day of Requital is!
 19. (It is) the day when no person shall be able to do anything for another! On that day the (absolute) Judgment of every sort shall entirely belong to Allâh.
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Chapter

83

AL-Mutaffifîn

(The Defaulters In Duty)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Muṭaffifîn).

1. Woe be to those who make a default in any of their duties and give short measure.
2. When they receive measure from other people they receive in full (not allowing the least shortage and loss),
3. But when they give by measure to others or weigh to them they give them less (than what is due).
4. Do not such people realize that they will be raised (to life again),

5. To face (and hear the Judgment of) that Great Day?
6. The Day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of the worlds?
7. Nay, (not at all as they believe) the record of (the deeds) of the wicked is in *Sijjîn* (- the register of a prison)
8. What should make you know what that *Sijjîn* is?
9. (It is) a book written (distinctly and comprehensively).
10. On that Day woe shall befall those who belie (the truth);
11. Those that belie the Day of Requit.
12. No one can treat it as a lie except every sinful transgressor,
13. (Who) when Our Messages are recited to him says, `(These are) mere fables of the ancients.'
14. Nay (not at all so), the truth is that their (evil) deeds have rusted their hearts.
15. Nay (We repeat, not at all so). Verily, they shall be debarred from (the sight and mercy of) their Lord that day.
16. Then they shall surely enter into the flaming Fire,
17. Then it shall be said (to them), `This is that (very punishment) which you used to cry lies to.'
18. Behold! verily the record (of the righteous deeds) of the virtuous will be in *Illîyyîn* (- the register of those enjoying the most exalted ranks).
19. And what should make you know what *Illîyyîn* is?
20. It is a book (distinctly and comprehensively) written,
21. Which those drawn near (to their Lord) will find present.
22. The virtuous shall indeed be in (a state of) bliss (that Day).

23. (Reclining) upon raised couches they shall be looking (at every thing all around).
 24. You shall find freshness and bloom of bliss in their faces.
 25. They shall be given to drink a pure and delightfully refreshing beverage sealed (and secure from all contamination).
 26. (Even) the sealing and dregs of which will have flavour of musk, so to this (noble end) let (all) the aspirants aspire.
 27. And this (beverage) will be tempered with *Tasnîm* (flowing from on high).
 28. (This *Tasnîm* is) a spring of which those drawn near (to God) shall drink.
 29. Those who had severed their ties (with God) used to laugh at those who believed,
 30. And when they passed by them (- the believers) they winked at one another (by way of ridiculously finding fault with them),
 31. And when they returned to their companions they returned exulting with pride,
 32. And when they saw these (Muslims) they said, 'These are surely the straying ones!'
 33. Though they were not deputed as guardians (to guard) over them.
 34. Now, on this day (of Judgment) it is the believers who will wonder at the disbelievers,
 35. (Seated) on raised couches of (dignity). They (- the believers) will be looking (at the miserable state of the disbelievers in Gehenna).
 36. (Then it shall be said,) 'The disbelievers have been duly requited for (the misdeeds) that they used to do.'
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Chapter

84

Al-Inshiqâq

(The Bursting Asunder)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Inshiqâq).

1. When the sky bursts asunder,
2. And gives ear to (the command of) its Lord to obey, and it is fitly disposed (to do so),
3. And when the earth is stretched out and receives fresh manure (for the spiritual and physical progress of its dwellers),
4. And casts forth all that it has in it, and becomes (as if) empty,
5. And gives ear to (the command of) its Lord to obey, and it is fittingly disposed (to do so).
6. O Mankind! verily you are (by nature) toiling on towards your Lord a laborious toiling, then (through arduous service to Him) you shall surely meet Him.
7. Then as for the person who is given his record (of deeds) in his right hand,
8. He shall soon be reckoned an easy reckoning,
9. And he will return to his people joyfully.
10. But as for the one who will have his record (of deeds) given to him behind his back (as a sign that he had thrown the divine teachings behind his back),
11. He shall soon call (so to say) for complete destruction (to end his agonies).

12. And he will enter into a blazing Fire.
 13. Verily, (before this) he used to be joyful among his companions (and neglected the Hereafter).
 14. He deemed that he would never return (to God).
 15. Yet he did (return to God to account for his deeds), surely his Lord was ever watchful of him.
 16. Behold! I call to witness the twilight of sunset,
 17. And the night and (all) that it envelopes,
 18. And the moon when it become full,
 19. That you shall invariably pass on from one stage to another.
 20. So what is wrong with them that they do not believe?
 21. And they do not bow in submission when the Qur'ân is recited to them?
- [Prostration]*
22. On the contrary, these disbelievers cry lies (to the Qur'ân).
 23. And Allâh knows best all that they keep hidden (in their hearts).
 24. So (do not bother about them, rather) give them the news of a woeful punishment.
 25. Different, however, is the case of those who believe and do deeds of righteousness. There awaits them an unending reward.
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Chapter

85

Al-Burûj

(The Stary Spheres)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Burûj).

1. I call to witness the stary spangles of the sky,
2. And the Promised Day,
3. And the Bearer of witness (- the Prophet), and that to whom the witness is borne (- the Prophet's community),
4. (That these disbelievers will face destruction as were) destroyed the Fellows of the Trenches.
5. (These trenches had) the fire (fed) with fuel,
6. When they sat by them (- the trenches).
7. And they were the witnesses of those (wrongs) they were doing to the believers.
8. They hated and tortured these (believers) for no reason other than that they had believed in Allâh, the Almighty, the Praiseworthy,
9. To Whom belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth; and Allâh is Witness over all things.
10. Those who (deliberately) persecute the believing men and women and then do not repent, shall suffer the punishment of Gehenna and they shall suffer the torment of (heart) burning (in the present life).

11. But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness shall have Gardens served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing). This indeed is the great achievement.
12. Terrible indeed is the seizing of your Lord.
13. It is He Who originates and continues reproducing.
14. And He is the Protector, the Most Loving;
15. Lord of the Throne (of Power), the Lord of all Glory,
16. Absolute Performer of what He intends (to carry out).
17. There has reached you the account of the hosts
18. Of Pharaoh, and Thamûd.
19. The truth is that the disbelievers are persisting in belying (the Divine Messages),
20. And Allâh encompasses (them from all sides,) from behind (and from in front of) them (to punish them).
21. This is also the truth that it is a glorious Qur'ân,
22. (Inscribed) in a Tablet well-guarded (against corruption, distortion and destruction).

Chapter

86

Al-Târiq

(The Night Visitant)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Târiq).

1. I call to witness the heaven and the visitant (in the darkness) of the night.
 2. And what should make you know what the night-visitant is?
 3. (It is) the star of piercing brightness.
 4. Remember! a guardian is appointed (by God) over every soul.
 5. Therefore let (every) human being consider from what material he is created.
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6. He is created from a jetting fluid,
7. Which issues forth from between the loins and the breast-bones.
8. Verily, He (Who created him the first time) has the power of bringing him back to life (in the Hereafter).
9. On the Day, when the hidden things shall be exposed,
10. Then the person (who has engrossed himself in worldly affairs) shall have neither power to defend himself nor he will have any (other) helper.
11. I call to witness the clouds that rain over and over again,
12. And the earth that bursts forth (with herbage and with springs),
13. (That) verily, this (Qur'ân) is a decisive word.
14. And it is not a vain (revelation).
15. And they (- the disbelievers) devise a device (against it).
16. And (in return) I (too) devise a (counter) device.

17. Therefore grant the disbelievers respite, yes grant them respite for a little while.

Chapter

87

Al-A`lâ

(The Most High)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-A`lâ).

1. Extol the holiness of the name of your Lord, the Most High.
2. Who creates (all things) and gives (them) suitable and perfect shapes.
3. Who determines (the capacities and faculties) and furnishes them with (appropriate) guidance to achieve the final goal.
4. And Who brings forth the pasturage,
5. And then turns it into dried up rubbish, gray coloured.
6. We will soon teach (you and) make you recite (the Qur'ân) so that you shall not forget (any part of it).
7. Except whatever (other things which) Allâh will (and which things you are apt to forget as a human being). Indeed He knows all that is manifest and all that is hidden.
8. And We shall provide you (every) facility and make things easy for you.
9. Therefore keep on reminding (the people), surely reminding does good.
10. He who stands in awe (of God) will heed,
11. But the person steeped in wickedness goes on avoiding it.

12. He who will enter the great Fire,
 13. Then he shall neither die therein nor live.
 14. Verily, that person who purifies himself truly will succeed (both in this life and in the Hereafter),
 15. And remembers and extols the name of his Lord and offers Prayers.
 16. But the fact is that you people prefer the present life,
 17. Though the (the life in) the Hereafter is much better and more lasting.
 18. These (teachings) are so stated in the earlier Scriptures;
 19. The Scriptures of Abraham and Moses.
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Chapter

88

Al-Ghâshiyah

(The Overwhelming Event)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Ghâshiyah).

1. There has reached you the news of the overwhelming event (- the Resurrection).

2. Some persons shall be downcast and humble that day.
3. Toil-worn and weary.
4. They shall enter a blazing Fire.
5. They shall be made to drink from a spring of boiling hot water;
6. Dry, bitter and thorny herbage shall be their only food,
7. Which neither nourishes nor satisfies hunger.
8. On that day some (other) persons will be fresh and joyful,
9. Well-satisfied with (the fruit of) their (pious) strivings.
10. (They will live) in a sublime Garden,
11. Wherein you will hear no vain talk.
12. It shall have a running spring,
13. It shall have thrones raised high,
14. And goblets properly set,
15. And cushions (beautifully) ranged in rows,
16. And velvety carpets (tastefully) spread.
17. Do the people not then look at the clouds and the camels, how they are made,
18. And at the heaven, how it is raised high;
19. And at the mountains, how they are set up;
20. And at the earth, how it is spread out?
21. Keep on admonishing (them even if they insist on shutting their eyes), so your duty is one of an admonisher.
22. You are not (appointed) a keeper, stern and hard, to (compel) them.

23. But as to him who turns away and disbelieves,
24. Allâh shall punish him with the greatest punishment.
25. Verily, to Us is their ultimate return;
26. Then it is surely for Us to call them to account.

Chapter

89

Al-Fajr

(The Dawn)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Fajr).

1. I call to witness (all the times and places specially important for the acceptance of prayers including) the dawn (of the twentieth of *Ramadzân*),
 2. And the (last) ten Nights (of *Ramadzân*),
 3. And (the Prayers which consist of) the even and odd (number of *Rak`ats* performed during these nights).
 4. And the Night (- *Lailatul-Qadr*, the Blessed Night), when it moves on (to its close).
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5. In it there is surely a strong evidence for one who has sense and understanding.
6. Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with `âd
7. Of Iram, possessors of tall statures and lofty columns,
8. The like of whom have not been created in these parts of land?
9. And (how He dealt with the tribe of) Thamûd who hewed out huge rocks in the valley (to make their housings)?
10. And (how He dealt with) Pharaoh, lord of vast hosts?
11. (All these people were) those who committed (all sort of) excesses in the cities,
12. And they spread a lot of corruption and lawlessness therein,
13. (So much) so that your Lord let loose on them the scourge and various kinds of punishments.
14. Behold! your God is always on the watch.
15. Moreover a human being is such that when his Lord disciplines him (by prosperity) and (thus) honours him and bestows favours on him, he says, `My Lord has honoured me.'
16. And when He disciplines him (with affliction) and (thus) straitens for him his (means of) subsistence, he says, `My Lord has (for no reason) disgraced me.'
17. Nay, (what you think is wrong,) but (the reason for this degradation is that) you (for your part) do not honour the orphan,
18. And you do not urge one another to feed the poor,
19. And you devour the heritage (of others) wholly and indiscriminately,
20. And you are exceedingly fond of wealth.
21. By no means (will it be so as you think). When the earth is completely crushed into pieces,
22. And when (the judgment of) your Lord comes (to pass), and the angels (descend

also) ranged rank on rank (to execute His decree),

23. On that Day Gehenna shall be brought near. (It is) on that very Day that a person will remember (the admonition), but of what avail shall that remembrance be to him (at that time)?

24. He will say, `O would that I had sent forward (some good deeds as a provision) for this my life here (on this side).'

25. So on that day none but He shall execute His punishment,

26. And no one but He shall bind like His binding.

27. (As for the person who has been blessed with a contented and peaceful mind He will say to him,) `O you soul at peace!

28. `Come back to your Lord well-pleased with Him and He well-pleased with you.

29. `Enter the fold of My chosen servants,

30. `And enter the Garden made by Me.'

Chapter

90

Al-Balad

(The City)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Balad).

1. Nay, (it will never happen as the disbelievers desire.) I do swear by this city (of Makkah),

2. When you will surely alight (as a conqueror) in this city.

3. And (I cite as witness your) father (- Abraham) and (his exalted) son (- Ismâîl).
 4. We have certainly created a human being (to face obstacles and) to struggle hard (to achieve a marvelous goal).
 5. Does he think that no one will have power (to use) against him?
 6. He will say, `I have wasted enormous wealth.'
 7. But does he think that no one sees him?
 8. Have We not given him two eyes (to distinguish right from wrong);
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9. And a tongue and two lips (so that he can ask if he cannot see for himself),
10. And We have pointed out to him the two conspicuous high ways (of right and wrong)?
11. Yet he would not attempt the uphill path of steep and difficult ascent.
12. And what should make you know what the uphill path of steep and difficult ascent is?
13. (It is) the freeing of a captive (from the bondage of slavery, debt and other afflictions),
14. Or feeding in the time of famine
15. An orphan, near of kin,
16. Or a downtrodden poor man.
17. And what is even more, then he is of those who believe and exhort one another to be patiently persevering and exhort one another to be compassionate (towards God's creation).

18. These (who follow this hard path) are the blessed ones (- the people of the right hand).

19. But those who denied Our Messages are the wretched ones (- the people of the left hand).

20. There shall envelop them the Fire closed over (- a Fire the heat of which is not allowed to escape and they themselves cannot get out of it).

Chapter

91

Al-Shams

(The Sun)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Shams).

1. I call to witness the sun and its light and heat,
2. And the moon when it borrows light from it (- the sun),
3. And the day when it reveals its (- the sun's) glory,
4. And the night when it draws a veil over it,
5. And the heaven and That (Great Omniforce Divinity) Who made it,
6. And the earth and That (Great Being) Who expanded it,
7. And the (human) soul and That (Mighty Lord) Who made it perfect,
8. Then He revealed to it (- the soul, the ways of) its evil and its righteousness,
9. (All these are cited to witness that) one who purifies it (- his soul), certainly

succeeds,

10. And he indeed is ruined who corrupts it.

11. (The tribe of) Thamûd belied (Sâlih,) because of their rebelliousness.

12. (It was) when the wretched-most among them arose,

13. And Allâh's Messenger said to them, `(Do not interfere with) the she-camel (- a symbol appointed by the command) of Allâh and (do not obstruct) her (from) watering.'

14. But they belied (and disobeyed) him and hamstrung her. Then their Lord destroyed them completely for their sin, so much so that He leveled them (all to the ground).

15. And He did not care at all for their end (as to what an utterly miserable state they were reduced).

Chapter

92

Al-Lail

(The Night)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Lail).

1. **I** call to witness the night when it spreads (its) veil,

2. And the day when it becomes bright,
3. And all the males and the females that He created;
4. (That) diverse are the ends you strive to achieve.
5. Then as for the person who devotes (all his resources and capacities in the cause of God), gives (to others) and guards against evil,
6. And declares his faith in all that is best and right,
7. We will, then, invariably provide for him every facility (for doing good).
8. But as for him who is niggardly (and cripples his capacities) and is (disdainfully) indifferent (to God and the Hereafter),
9. And belies all that is best,
10. We will, then, of course make easy for him (the downhill path to) a state of distress,
11. And his wealth shall not avail him when he dies.
12. It is for Us to provide guidance,
13. And to Us belong (all the blessings of) both, the next world and the present.
14. (Mankind!) now I have warned you of a flaming Fire.
15. None shall enter it but the wretched (sinner),
16. Who belies (the Truth) and turns (his) back (on it).
17. But the one who guards against evil and keeps his duty (to God and others), shall most carefully be kept away from it (- the Fire).
18. A person who spends his wealth (seeking) to purify himself,
19. And not because he is under an obligation to anyone which (- obligation) has to be repaid,
20. But (he spends) only to seek the pleasure of his Lord, the Most High,

21. Surely, He will be well-pleased (with such a one).

Chapter

93

Al-Dzuhâ

(The Forenoon Brightness)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Dzuhâ).

1. I call to witness the growing brightness of the forenoon,
 2. And the night when it becomes still,
 3. (O Prophet!) your Lord has not forsaken you, nor is He displeased (with you).
 4. Surely, (your) future is better for you than your past.
 5. Your Lord will soon give you (what you desire), and you will be well pleased (with Him).
 6. Did He not find you an orphan and take (you) under (His) care?
 7. He found you lost in (His) love (and that of His people), and gave you guidance (so as to enable you help the people
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reach the goal),

8. And He found you having a large family to support, He freed you from want (of every kind).

9. Therefore as to the orphan, do not allow him to be an oppressed person.

10. And as for the person who seeks (your assistance) do not chide him away.

11. Then as to the blessings and favours of your Lord, keep on proclaiming (your gratitude by doing similar favours to your fellow beings).

Chapter

94

Al-Sharḥa

(The Expanding)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allāh,

the Most Gracious the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Sharḥa).

1. **H**ave We not (in fulfillment of your vision in your boyhood and again when you were entrusted with the Divine Mission) opened, expanded (and illuminated) for you your bosom,
2. And (have We not) relieved you of your burden (of various responsibilities)
3. Which had weighed your back down?
4. And have (We not) exalted for you your name and given you fame?
5. So surely every hardship is followed by ease.
6. Yes, every hardship shall be followed by an ease.

7. When you are free (having finished one task) strive hard to do (the next).
8. And to your Lord you do attend (whole-heartedly) and humble yourself before Him.

Chapter

95

Al-Tîn

(The Fig)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Tîn).

1. I call to witness (four periods of human evolution including) the Fig (symbolic of the era of Adam when the foundations of the human civilization were laid), and the Olive (that of Noah, the founder of *sharî`at*),
2. And Mount Sinai (that of Moses when the details of the Sharî`at were revealed),
3. And this Town of security (of Makkah where with the advent of the Prophet Muḥammad, the divine law was perfected and finalized),
4. (That) We have surely created the human being in the finest make and the best proportions (with enormous capabilities for an all round advancement through the process of evolution).
5. Then (according to Our law of cause and consequence) We degrade him to as the lowest of the low (if he does evil deeds).
6. Different, however, is the case of those who believe and do deeds of righteousness. There awaits them a never ending reward.
7. Who is there, after this to belie you (O Prophet!) with regard to (the day of) Requital?

8. Is (there still anyone to say that it is) not Allâh the Best of Judges.

Chapter

96

Al-`Alaq

(The Clot)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-`Alaq).

1. **Recite** with the name of your Lord Who created (all the universe),
2. Who (also) created human being from a clot of blood.
3. Proclaim, for your Lord is the Most Benignant;
4. Who taught knowledge by means of the pen,
5. He taught human being what he did not know.
6. Nay! (it is not at all as these people think), this human being does indeed indulge in transgression,
7. Because he thinks himself to be independent (of God).
8. (Mankind!) surely, to your Lord is the ultimate return (of you all to be accounted for your deeds).

9. Have you considered (the case of one) who forbids
10. A servant (of God) when he prays (to His Lord)?
11. (Mankind!) do you ever consider if he (who prays to God) follows the right guidance,
12. Or enjoins guarding against evil. (How bad will be the end of that forbidder?)
13. Do you (also) consider if a person (- the rejecter of Divine commandments) belies (them) and turns his back (upon the truth, what his end will be like)?
14. Does He not know that Allâh indeed observes (all)?
15. Nay, (it will never be as the rejecter desires.) If he does not desist (from these wicked ways), We shall assuredly (seize him and) drag him by the forelock -
16. A lying, sinful forelock!
17. Then let him call members of his association.
18. We will call Our brave defending guards.
19. Nay, (he will never succeed in his evil designs.) Yield not to him, rather continue to prostrate yourself (before your Lord) and draw near (to Him).

[Prostration]

Chapter

97

Al-Qadr

(The Majesty)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qadr).

1. We began to reveal it (- the Qur'ân) during the Night of Majesty (- a Night usually in the last ten days of the month of *Ramadzân*).
 2. And what shall make you know what the Night of Majesty is!
 3. The Night of Majesty is better than a thousand months.
 4. The angels and the Divine word come down therein, by the command of their Lord to (determine) each and every affair.
 5. (That Night is all) peace. It lasts till the rise of the dawn.
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Chapter

98

Bayyinah

(The Manifest Proof)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Bayyinah).

1. Those who disbelieve from among the people of the Scripture and (from among) those who associate gods with God, would not be rid of their bigotry and rejection of Faith until there should come to them the manifest proof -
2. A great Messenger (- Muḥammad) from Allâh reciting (to them) written leaves of the Book, free from all impurities,

3. Consisting of eternal laws and commandments.
4. Those to whom the Scripture was given became divided only after the manifest proof had come to them.
5. (They have done it) though (in Islam) they were enjoined nothing more than to serve Allâh, bearing true faith in Him, (and) being upright, and to observe Prayer and to keep on presenting the *Zakât*. That is the true and firm conduct of faith.
6. Verily, those who disbelieve from among the people of the Scripture and (from among) those who associate gods with God shall be consigned to the Fire of Gehenna. Therein they shall abide. It is they who are the worst of all creatures.
7. Verily, those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, it is they who are the noblest of all creatures.
8. Their reward is with their Lord - Gardens of Eternity served with running streams (to keep them green and flourishing), they shall abide therein, for ever and ever. Allâh is well-pleased with them and they are well-pleased with Him (in their state of highest bliss). Such is (the reward) for a person who stands in awe of his Lord.

Chapter

99

Al-Zalzalah

(The Shaking)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Zalzalah).

1. **When** the earth is shaken with its violent shaking,
2. And when the earth shall throw up all her treasures,
3. And when a person will say (in bewilderment at the extraordinary happenings on

the earth), `What is the matter with her?'

4. That day she will relate all her news (pertaining to every action done in secret on it).

5. For your Lord will have inspired her (to do so).

6. On that day (of Reckoning) all people will come forth in various groups to be shown (the results of) their deeds.

7. Then whosoever has done so much as an atom's weight of good will see (the good result of) it.

8. Similarly whosoever has done so much as an atom's weight of evil shall also see it.

Chapter

100

Al-`âdiyât

(The Charger)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-`âdiyât).

1. **I** call to witness the panting and snorting chargers (of the warriors).

2. And those that strike sparks of fire dashing (their hoofs) against the stones,

3. And those that make raids at dawn,

4. And raising up clouds of dust therewith.
5. They penetrate thus right into the middle of the (enemy) ranks,
6. That (good for nothing) human being is indeed very ungrateful to his Lord.
7. And he himself bears witness to all this (by his conduct).
8. And he is, truly speaking, the extreme limit in (his) love for wealth.
9. Does not, then, such a one know (the time) when all those in the graves will be raised up (in the Hereafter);
10. And (the time when) what is (hidden) in the bosoms (of people) shall be made known.
11. Verily, their Lord is, of course, fully Aware of (all regarding) them that day.

Chapter

101

Al-Qâri`ah

(The Disastrous Rattling)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Qâri`ah).

1. The Disastrous Rattling (of this life as seen in warfare is sure to visit the world).
2. How very terrible is the Disastrous Rattling!
3. What should make you know how very severe and destructive the Disastrous Rattling is!

4. On that day people shall be (in great confusion and distress) like moths scattered,
 5. And the mountains shall look like carded wool.
 6. Now as for the person whose scales (of virtues) are heavy (and good deeds are preponderant),
 7. He shall have a pleasant life.
 8. But as for the person whose scales (of good deeds) are light (and of no account),
 9. The abyss (- Gehenna) shall then be a (nursing) mother to him (till the souls are completely cleansed of the taint of sin and they are reborn).
 10. Ah! what should make you know what that (abyss) is!
 11. It is a blazing Fire (for burning out all the dross that people collect by leading a sinful life in this world).
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Chapter

102

Al-Takâthur

(The Vying With One Another)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Takâthur).

1. (Mankind! your) vying with one another to excel in multiplying worldly

possessions diverts you (from God and true values of life),

2. Until (on your death) you embrace the graves.

3. Nay, (you should never hanker after worldly gains, power and position,) you shall come to know in time (that you have been chasing at a shadow).

4. Nay, again (We repeat, never should you misuse your life of probation,) you shall come to know (the consequences of it) in time.

5. No, never! if you only knew the consequences thereof with sure and certain knowledge

6. You will certainly see the very hell-fire (in this present life by seeing the sad fate of the wicked).

7. Again, you shall most certainly see it (in the Hereafter) with the eye of certainty.

8. And then on that day (of Reckoning) you shall be called to account for the favours (bestowed upon you).

Chapter

103

Al-`Aṣr

(The Time)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-`Aṣr).

1. I cite as witness the Time.

2. Verily, a person (who is unmindful of God and higher values of his life) is pursuing a losing bargain.

3. Different, however, is the case of those who believe and do deeds of righteousness and (who) exhort one another to (accept and preach) the truth and exhort one another to (abide by it with) patience and perseverance.

Chapter

104

Al-Humazah

(The Slanderer)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Humazah).

1. **Disaster** is (decreed) for every slanderer, defamer,
2. Who amasses wealth (instead of spending it for the good of humanity), counts it over and over and depends upon

it as a safeguard (against his future possible hardships).

3. He thinks that his wealth will make him immortal.
4. No, never! he shall surely be cast into the crushing torment (of Hell).
5. And what should make you know what the crushing torment is?
6. (It is) the Fire set ablaze by Allâh,
7. And which rises over (the feelings of) the hearts (- the origin of a man's hell).

8. It (- Fire) will be closed in on them (so as not to let them escape from it and also increase for them the torture of heat).

9. (The flames of the Fire will rise) in (the form of) huge outstretched columns.

Chapter

105

Al-Fîl

(The Elephant)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Fîl).

1. **H**ave you not considered how your Lord dealt with the People of the Elephant (- the army of *Abrahah*, the viceroy of the Negus, king of Abyssînia, at Yeman)?

2. Did He not (cause the war to end in confusion and) ruin their plan (to destroy *Ka`bah* by making it revert on themselves)?

3. And He sent against them flocks of birds,

4. (Which tore off flesh from their bodies to eat by) striking them against stones of hardened and petrified clay.

5. And thus He reduced them to rotten chaff (and in a similar way will they be ruined who would ever make an attack to destroy *Ka`bah*).

Chapter

106

Al-Quraish

(The Quraish)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Quraish).

1. (Lord destroyed the People of the Elephants which event proved helpful) for making covenants of the Quraish (with their contemporary kings for trade).
 2. (And also) for their covenants of journeying (by taking caravans) in winter (to the south) and in summer (to the north).
 3. (They should be ever grateful to God for this favour and) therefore they should worship the Lord of this House (*Ka`bah* at Makkah),
 4. Who has fed them against hunger, and given them peace and security against all fear.
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Chapter

107

Al-Mâ`ûn

(The Acts Of Kindness)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Mâ`ûn).

1. **H**ave you considered the case of one who belies the Requit and Faith?
2. As a result of it this (despicable) fellow (instead of taking care of him with affection) repulses the orphan,
3. And does not urge in feeding of the needy.
4. So woe to those who Pray,
5. But are unmindful of their Prayer (and ignore the spirit and aim of it),
6. And they like (only) to be seen (of people while they make a show of their deeds),
7. And who withhold (legal) alms and other acts of kindness (starting from the *Zakât* to the lowest form of lending ordinary things of utility like a needle or a piece of thread to a neighbour).

Chapter

108

Al-Kauthar

(The Abundance Of Good)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Kauthar).

1. **V**erily, We have bestowed upon you (O Muḥammad!) abundance of good (both of this life and of the Hereafter).
2. Therefore observe Prayer for the sake of your Lord and offer sacrifice (to Him).
3. Surely, it is your enemy who is cut off entirely (from all good and prosperity and is deprived of Spiritual issues).

Chapter

109

Al-Kâfirûn

(The Disbelievers)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Kâfirûn).

1. Say (plainly to those present and who are not), `O you disbelievers!
 2. `I will not at all worship those (false deities) which you worship,
 3. `Nor are you worshippers of Him Whom I worship.
 4. `Neither have I ever been a worshipper of those (false ancestral customs, superstitions, and deities) which you worship,
 5. `Nor are you worshippers on the lines on which I worship.
 6. `For you is your recompense and for me is my recompense.'
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Chapter

110

Al-Naṣr

(The Help)

(Revealed after Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Naṣr).

1. The help of Allâh and the victory (over the Makkans) has indeed come (in fulfillment of the prophecies),
2. And you see people thronging in to the fold of the Faith of Allâh.
3. So glorify your Lord with His praises and extol His name and ask His protection. Surely, He is Oft-Returning (with grace and mercy).

Chapter

111

Al-Masad

(The Twisted Strands)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Masad).

1. Let the two hands of Abû Lahab (the Prophet's uncle, one of his most inveterate opponents and other fiery tempered enemies of Islam) perish, and let he himself

(also) perish!

2. His wealth and what he has accomplished shall avail him naught.

3. He shall soon enter a Fire full of leaping flames (to burn others of his kind as well),

4. And his wife too, the carrier of fire wood and bearer of slanders and calumnies (will also be enveloped in the flames);

5. Having round her neck a halter of twisted strands.

Chapter

112

Al-Ikh^lâs

(The Purification Of The Unity Of God)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Ikh^lâs).

1. Say, `(The fact is) He is Allâh, the One and Alone in His Being.

2. `Allâh is that Supreme Being Who is the Independent and Besought of all and Unique in all His attributes.

3. `He begets none and is begotten by no one.

4. `And there is none His equal.'

Chapter

113

Al-Falaq

(The Daybreak)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,

the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful

(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Falaq).

1. Say, `I seek refuge in the Lord of the day break, and the plain appearing and emergence of truth.
2. `From the evil of that which He has created,
3. `And from the evil (that usually prevails in the times) of darkness when it overspreads (at night),
4. `And from the evil of those who try (and whisper evil suggestions) to deter (people) from doing their duty,
5. `And from the evil of the envier when he envies.'

Chapter

114

Al-Nâs

(The Mankind)

(Revealed before Hijrah)

With the name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
(I commence to read Sûrah Al-Nâs).

1. Say, `I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind,
2. `The Sovereign, the Controller of all affairs of mankind,
3. `The God of mankind,
4. `(That He may protect me) from the evil (of the whisperings) of the whisperer, the sneaking one.
5. `Who whispers evil suggestions into the hearts of mankind,
6. `From among the *jinn* (- fiery natured, houghty) and the (ordinary) people.'