

servants of Ours, of great might, who ravaged your homes. So the warning was fulfilled,<sup>6</sup> and after a time We allowed you to prevail over them once again and aided you with wealth and offspring and made you greater in number.

<sup>7</sup> [We said], ‘If you persevere in doing good, you will be doing good to yourselves; but if you do evil, it will go against you.’ When the time of the second warning came, [We roused against you others] to disgrace you utterly and to enter the place of worship as they had entered it before, utterly destroying all that they laid their hands on.<sup>8</sup> We said, ‘Your Lord may yet have mercy on you, but if you do the same again, so shall We: We have made Hell a prison for those who deny the truth.’

<sup>9</sup> Surely, this Quran guides to the most upright way and gives good news to the believers who do good deeds, so that they will have a great reward<sup>10</sup> and warns those who deny the life to come with grievous punishment.

<sup>11</sup> Yet man asks for evil as

eagerly as he should ask for good. Truly, man is indeed hasty.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>12</sup> We have made the night and the day as two signs. We blotted out the sign of night and made the sign of the day illuminating, so that you may seek the bounty of your Lord and learn to compute the seasons and the years. We have set everything forth in detail.

<sup>13</sup> We have tied the fate of every man about his neck; and We shall produce a book for him on Resurrection Day that he will find spread open.<sup>14</sup> It will say, ‘Read your record, today there will be none but yourself to call you to account!’<sup>15</sup> Whoever

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<sup>a</sup> God wants man to be patient about acquiring the immediate luxuries of the world, so that he should keep to the right path on his journey towards the Hereafter. But man, due to his hasty nature, rushes to acquire ephemeral worldly luxuries, which prove to be impediments to his continuing his onward journey. Man’s desire for instant gratification is the greatest reason for his being deprived of the bounties of the Hereafter.

chooses to follow the right path, follows it for his own good; and whoever goes astray, goes astray at his own peril; no bearer of burdens shall bear the burdens of another. Nor do We punish until We have sent forth a messenger to forewarn them.

<sup>16</sup> When We decide to destroy a town, We command the affluent section of its people, but they transgress therein; thus the word [sentence of punishment] is justified, then We destroy the town utterly. <sup>17</sup> How many generations have We destroyed since Noah's time. Your Lord is well aware of the sins of His servants and observes them all.

<sup>18</sup> We give whatever We will to whoever desires immediate gains; but then We have prepared Hell for him which he will enter, disgraced and rejected.

<sup>19</sup> Anyone who desires the Hereafter and makes a proper effort to achieve it, being a true believer, shall find favour with God for his endeavours.

<sup>20</sup> Upon all, both these [who desire the world] and those [who

desire the Hereafter] We bestow the bounty of your Lord: none shall be denied the bounty of your Lord—<sup>21</sup> see how We have exalted some above others [in the present life]. Yet the Hereafter shall be greater in degrees of rank and greater in excellence.

<sup>22</sup> Do not set up any other deity beside God, lest you incur disgrace, and be forsaken. <sup>23</sup> Your Lord has commanded that you should worship none but Him, and show kindness to your parents. If either or both of them attain old age with you, say no word of contempt to them and do not rebuke them, but always speak gently to them <sup>24</sup> and treat them with humility and tenderness and say, 'Lord, be merciful to them both, as they raised me up when I was little.' <sup>25</sup> Your Lord knows best what is in your hearts; if you are righteous, He is most forgiving to those who constantly turn to Him.

<sup>26</sup> Give to your relatives their due, and also to the needy and the wayfarer. Yet do not spend

extravagantly;<sup>27</sup> spendthrifts are the brothers of Satan, and Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord—<sup>28</sup> but if, while waiting for your Lord's bounty which you are expecting, you turn them down, then at least speak to them kindly.

<sup>29</sup> Be neither miserly, nor so open-handed that you suffer reproach and become destitute.

<sup>30</sup> Your Lord gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases. He is informed and observant about His servants.

<sup>31</sup> You shall not kill your offspring for fear of want. It is We who provide for them, and for you. Indeed, killing them is a great sin. <sup>32</sup> Do not commit adultery,<sup>a</sup> for it is an indecent thing and an evil course.

<sup>33</sup> Do not take life which God has made inviolate—except by right. If anyone is killed wrongfully, We have given authority to his heirs to demand retribution, but let them not transgress the prescribed limits in exacting retribution; for then he will be assisted [by the law].

<sup>34</sup> Do not go near the orphans'

property, except with the best of intentions, until they reach maturity. Keep your promises; you will be called to account for every promise which you have made!<sup>35</sup> Give full measure, when you measure, and weigh with accurate scales. That is fair, and better in the end.

<sup>36</sup> Do not follow what you do not know; for the ear and the eye and the heart shall all be called to account. <sup>37</sup> Do not walk proudly on the earth. You cannot cleave the earth, nor can you rival the mountains in height. <sup>38</sup> All that is evil in the sight of your Lord, and is detestable.

<sup>39</sup> This is part of the wisdom that your Lord has revealed to you. Do not set up any other deity with God, lest you be cast into Hell, condemned and rejected.

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<sup>a</sup> One of the evils, which God wants to root out completely, is adultery, or *zina*. That is, adultery is such a great evil and is proof of such shamelessness, that man should abstain even from its initial stages. Here, only a basic command has been given on this subject.

<sup>40</sup> What! Has your Lord then favoured you with sons and Himself adopted females from among the angels? What you say is monstrous. <sup>41</sup> We have explained [the truth] in this Quran in various ways, so that they may take heed, but it has only increased their aversion. <sup>42</sup> Say, 'If there were [other] deities along with Him, as they claim, then they would surely have tried to find a way to the Lord of the Throne. <sup>43</sup> Glory be to Him! Exalted above all that they say! <sup>44</sup> The seven heavens and the earth and all who dwell therein glorify Him. There is not a single thing but glorifies Him with His praise; but you do not understand their glorification. Truly, He is forbearing and most forgiving.'

<sup>45</sup> When you recite the Quran, We place an invisible barrier between you and those who do not believe in the Hereafter. <sup>46</sup> We put veils over their hearts to prevent them from comprehending it, and We afflict their ears with deafness. When you mention your one and only

Lord in your recitation of the Quran, they turn their backs in aversion.

<sup>47</sup> We are fully aware of what they wish to hear when they listen to you; and what they say when they converse in private; and when the wrongdoers say, 'You are only following a man who is bewitched!' <sup>48</sup> See to what they liken you! But they are lost and cannot find the right path.

<sup>49</sup> 'What!' they say, 'When we are turned to bones and dust, shall we be restored to life?'

<sup>50</sup> Say, '[yes] even if you turned to stones or iron, <sup>51</sup> or any other substance which you think unlikely to be given life.' Then they will ask, 'Who is it that shall restore us to life?' Answer them, 'He who created you the first time.' They will then shake their heads at you and say, 'When will that be?' Say, 'It may well be very soon.' <sup>52</sup> On that Day He will call you, and you will answer by praising Him, thinking that you have stayed for only a little while.'

<sup>53</sup> Tell My servants that they

should always say what is best. Satan stirs up discord among them. Surely, Satan is an outright enemy to man.

<sup>54</sup> Your Lord is fully aware of you. He may show you mercy if He will, or punish you if He will. We have not sent you as their guardian. <sup>55</sup> Your Lord knows best about everyone in the heavens and on the earth. We gave some prophets more than others: We gave David the Psalms.

<sup>56</sup> Call upon those you claim to be deities besides God and you will know that they have no power to remove affliction from you or to bring about any change [that you may desire]. <sup>57</sup> Those whom they invoke are themselves seeking a way of approach to their Lord, vying with each other to be near Him. They hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Surely, the punishment of your Lord is to be feared: <sup>58</sup> there is not a town [community] but We shall destroy or sternly punish it before the Day of

Judgement. That is recorded in the Book.

<sup>59</sup> Nothing prevents Us from sending signs, except the fact that previous peoples denied them. We gave the people of Thamud the she-camel as a clear sign, yet they mistreated her. We give signs only by way of warning.

<sup>60</sup> We told you that your Lord encompasses mankind. We granted the vision which We showed you, as well as the tree that is cursed in the Quran, only as a test for mankind. We warn them, but this only increases their insolence.

<sup>61</sup> When We said to the angels, ‘Prostrate yourselves before Adam,’ they all prostrated themselves except Iblis. He said, ‘Am I to prostrate myself to someone You have created out of clay?’ <sup>62</sup> and [further] said, ‘Do you see this being whom You have exalted above me? If You reprieve me until the Day of Resurrection, I will bring all but a few of his descendents under my sway.’

<sup>63</sup> God said, 'Go away! Hell will be your reward and the reward of any of them who follow you—an ample recompense.

<sup>64</sup> Go ahead and entice whomsoever of them you can, with your voice, and mount assaults against them with your cavalry and infantry and be their partner in wealth and offspring, and make promises to them—Satan promises nothing but delusion—<sup>65</sup> but over My true servants you shall have no power. Your Lord will be their all-sufficient guardian.'

<sup>66</sup> Your Lord is He who causes the ships to move onward for you across the sea, so that you may go in quest of His bounty: He is most merciful towards you. <sup>67</sup> When danger threatens you at sea, you call upon Him, and forget all others you are wont to invoke. But when He brings you safe to land, you turn away from Him. Man is ever ungrateful.

<sup>68</sup> Do you then feel secure against His causing you to be swallowed up by the earth when

you are back on land, or His sending a deadly sand storm upon you? Then you will find none to protect you. <sup>69</sup> Or do you feel secure against His sending you back to sea once again, and raising a fierce gale against you and causing you to drown in requital for your ingratitude? You will find no helper against Us there.

<sup>70</sup> We have honoured the children of Adam, and have borne them on the land and the sea, given them for sustenance things which are good and pure; and exalted them above many of Our creatures.

<sup>71</sup> The Day will surely come when We shall summon every people with their leader. Then those who are given their records in their right hands will read their records [eagerly] and shall not in the least be wronged: <sup>72</sup> but whoever has been blind in this life will be blind in the life to come, and still farther astray from the path [of truth].

<sup>73</sup> They indeed sought to entice you away from what We revealed

to you, hoping that you might invent something else in Our name; and then they would have accepted you as a close friend.<sup>74</sup> If We had not made you stand firm, you would almost have inclined towards them a little.<sup>75</sup> In that case, We should have inflicted a double punishment in this life, and a double punishment after death. Then you would have found no one to help you against Us.

<sup>76</sup> Indeed they came near to unsettling you, so that they might expel you from the land, but in that case they themselves would not have stayed on for very long after you.<sup>77</sup> Such was Our way with the messengers We sent before you, and you will find no change in Our ways.

<sup>78</sup> Say your prayers from the decline of the sun, until nightfall; and at dawn—the recitation at dawn is indeed witnessed.<sup>79</sup> And during the night wake up and pray, as an additional prayer: it may well be that your Lord will raise you to a station of praise and glory.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Say, ‘Lord, grant me an

honourable entrance and an honourable exit, and sustain me with Your power.’<sup>81</sup> Say, ‘Truth has come and falsehood has disappeared. Falsehood is always bound to wither away.’

<sup>82</sup> We send down in the Quran that which is healing and a mercy to those who believe; as for the evil-doers, it only increases their loss.

<sup>83</sup> When We bestow a favour upon a person, he turns his back and draws aside; and when evil afflicts him he gives himself up to despair.<sup>84</sup> Say to them, ‘Everyone acts in his own way, and your Lord knows best who is rightly guided.’

<sup>85</sup> They question you about the Spirit. Say, ‘The Spirit is at my Lord’s command, and you have been granted but little knowledge.’

<sup>86</sup> If We pleased, We would certainly take away that which We have revealed to you—then you would find no guardian for you against Us—<sup>87</sup> except through the special mercy of your Lord. His favours towards you has been great indeed.

<sup>88</sup> Say, 'If all men and jinn gathered together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce one like it, however much they helped one another.'

<sup>89</sup> In this Quran, We have set out all kinds of examples for people, yet most of them persist in denying the truth. <sup>90</sup> They declare, 'We will never believe in you until you cause a spring to flow for us from the earth; <sup>91</sup> or you have a garden of date palms and vines, and cause streams to flow plentifully in the midst of them; <sup>92</sup> or you cause the heavens to fall down on us in pieces, as you have claimed; or you bring God and the angels before us face to face; <sup>93</sup> or you have a house made of gold; or you ascend to heaven; and we will not believe in your ascension until you send down to us a Book that we can read.' Tell them, 'Holy is my Lord. I am but a human being sent as a messenger.'

<sup>94</sup> Nothing has prevented men from believing whenever guidance came to them, save

their query, 'Has God sent a human being as a messenger?'

<sup>95</sup> Say, 'If there had been angels walking around on earth, We would have sent an angel down from Heaven as a messenger for them.'<sup>96</sup> Say, 'God suffices as a witness between me and you [all]. He is informed about and observant of His servants.'

<sup>97</sup> Those whom God guides are the truly guided, and for those whom He lets go astray, you will find no helper besides Him, on the Day of Judgement. We shall gather them together, lying upon their faces, blind, dumb and deaf. Their abode shall be Hell. Every time the fire dies down, We will make it blaze up again for them. <sup>98</sup> That is their recompense, because they rejected Our signs and asked, 'When we are reduced to bones and dust, shall we indeed be raised up as a new creation?'

<sup>99</sup> Do they not see that God, who has created heavens and earth, is able to create the like of them? He has appointed a definite term for them; there is

no doubt about it, but the wrongdoers persist in denying the truth. <sup>100</sup> Say, ‘Even if you possessed the treasures of the mercy of my Lord, you would surely hold them back for fear of spending. Man is indeed niggardly!’

<sup>101</sup> We did indeed give Moses nine manifest signs; you can enquire from the Children of Israel. When he came to them, Pharaoh said to him, ‘Moses, I can see that you are bewitched.’

<sup>102</sup> He said, ‘You know full well that none has sent down these signs but the Lord of the heavens and the earth as eye-opening evidence. Indeed, Pharaoh, I can see that you are doomed.’ <sup>103</sup> So he resolved to scare them out of the land: but We drowned him along with all those who were with him. <sup>104</sup> Thereafter, We said to the Israelites, ‘Dwell in the land. When the promise of the Hereafter comes to be fulfilled, We shall assemble you all together.’

<sup>105</sup> We have revealed the Quran with the truth, and with the truth

it has come down. We have sent you forth only to give good news and to give warning—<sup>106</sup> We have revealed the Quran bit by bit so that you may recite it to the people slowly and with deliberation. We have imparted it by gradual revelation.

<sup>107</sup> Say to them, ‘You may believe in it or not. Those to whom knowledge had been revealed, fall on their faces in prostration when it is recited, <sup>108</sup> and say, “Glory to our Lord! Our Lord’s promise is bound to be fulfilled.” <sup>109</sup> They fall down upon their faces weeping, and [the Quran] increases their humility.’

<sup>110</sup> Say, ‘Whether you call on God or on the Merciful One: His are the finest names.’ Pray neither in too loud a voice nor in silence, but between these two extremes. Seek a middle way <sup>111</sup> and say, ‘All praise is due to God who has never begotten a son and who has no partner in His kingdom; nor does anyone aid Him because of any weakness of His. Proclaim His greatness.’

## 18. THE CAVE

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

<sup>1</sup> Praise be to God who has sent down to His servant—the Book, which is free from any ambiguity <sup>2</sup> and which rightly directs, to give warning of stern punishment from Him, and to proclaim to the believers who do righteous deeds that they shall have an excellent recompense, <sup>3</sup> wherein they will remain [in a state of bliss] forever. <sup>4</sup> And to warn those who say, ‘God has taken to Himself a son.’ <sup>5</sup> They have no knowledge of this, nor did their forefathers have any either. What they say is monstrous: they are merely uttering falsehoods!

<sup>6</sup> Perhaps you may destroy yourself with grief if they do not believe in this message. <sup>7</sup> We have adorned the earth with attractive things, so that We may test mankind as to which one is best in conduct, <sup>8</sup> but We shall reduce all this to barren waste.

<sup>9</sup> Do you think that the Men of the Cave and the Inscription

were one of Our wondrous signs?

<sup>10</sup> When the young men sought refuge in the cave, they said, ‘Our Lord, grant us Your special mercy and give us right guidance in our affair.’ <sup>11</sup> Then We caused them to fall into a deep sleep for many years inside the cave. <sup>12</sup> Then We woke them up again so that We might see which of the two groups would better calculate the time they had stayed there.

<sup>13</sup> We shall tell you their story as it really was. They were young men who believed in their Lord, and on whom We bestowed further guidance. <sup>14</sup> We strengthened their hearts, when they rose up and declared, ‘Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Never shall we call upon any deity other than Him: for that would be an outrageous thing to do.’ <sup>15</sup> These people of ours have taken deities other than Him. Why do they not

produce clear evidence about them? Who is more wicked than the man who invents a falsehood against God?

<sup>16</sup> ‘Now that you have withdrawn from them and from all that they worship instead of God, take refuge in that cave; your Lord will extend His mercy to you and will make fitting provision for you in your situation.’

<sup>17</sup> The sun could be observed to incline away from their cave on the right, as it rose, and to turn away from them on the left, when it set, while they lay in the wide space inside the cave. This is one of the signs of God. He whom God guides is rightly guided; but for him whom He lets go astray, you will find no helper or guide.

<sup>18</sup> You would have thought they were awake, though they lay asleep. We turned them over, to the right and the left, while their dog lay at the cave’s entrance with legs outstretched. Had you looked down and seen them, you would have surely

turned your back and fled in terror.

<sup>19</sup> In the course of time, We raised them up again so that they might question one another. One of them asked, ‘How long have you stayed [here]?’ They said, ‘We have stayed a day, or part of a day.’ But others said, ‘Your Lord knows best how long you have stayed here. Let one of you go then with these silver coins to the town, and let him find out what food is purest there, and bring you back a supply of it. Let him conduct himself with caution and not disclose your whereabouts to anyone: <sup>20</sup> for if they find you out, they will stone you to death, or force you back into their faith. In that case you would never prosper.’

<sup>21</sup> Thus We disclosed things to them so that they might know that God’s promise was true and there was no doubt about the Hour [Judgement Day]. The people argued about them among themselves. They said, ‘Build a monument over them. Their Lord knows best concerning them.’

Those who prevailed in their affair said, 'Let us surely build a place of worship over them.'

<sup>22</sup> Some will say, 'They were three, the fourth was their dog,' and others will say, 'They were five, the sixth was their dog,' guessing at random. And yet others say, 'They were seven, the eighth was their dog.' Say, 'My Lord knows best their number.' Only a few know anything about them. Therefore, do not enter into controversies over them, nor seek information about them from any of them;<sup>23</sup> never say of anything, 'I shall certainly do this tomorrow,'<sup>24</sup> without [adding], "if God so wills." Remember your Lord whenever you might forget and say, 'I trust my Lord will guide me to that which is even nearer to the right path than this.'

<sup>25</sup> [Some say], 'They stayed in their cave three hundred years,' and to that some have added another nine years.<sup>26</sup> Say, 'God knows best how long they stayed in it.' Only God has knowledge of the unseen in the heavens and

on the earth. How well He sees and how well He hears! Man has no other guardian besides Him. He allows none to share His sovereignty.

<sup>27</sup> Proclaim what has been revealed to you from your Lord's Book. None can change His words. You shall find no refuge besides Him.<sup>28</sup> Keep yourself attached to those who call on their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His pleasure; and do not let your eyes turn away from them, desiring the attraction of worldly life; and do not obey one whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance, one who pursues his own whims and becomes dissolute.

<sup>29</sup> Say, 'This is the truth from your Lord. Let him who will, believe in it, and him who will, deny it.' For the wrongdoers We have prepared a Fire which will cover them like a canopy, and if they beg for water, they will be given water as hot as molten lead, which will scald their faces: how dreadful a drink, and how evil a resting place!

<sup>30</sup> As for those who believe and do good deeds—We do not let the reward of anyone who does a good deed go to waste—

<sup>31</sup> they shall dwell in the Gardens of eternity where rivers flow at their feet. Reclining upon raised couches, they will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and will wear green robes of fine silk and heavy brocade. An excellent reward and an excellent resting place!

<sup>32</sup> Recite to them the parable of two men! One of them We provided with two vineyards which We surrounded with date-palms, and placed a field of grain in between; <sup>33</sup> each garden produced its fruit and did not fail to yield its best; We even caused a river to gush forth in the midst of them, <sup>34</sup> and so he had fruit in abundance. While conversing with his companion, he said, ‘I am wealthier than you are, and have a bigger following!’

<sup>35</sup> Having thus harmed his own soul, he entered his garden saying, ‘I do not think this will ever perish, <sup>36</sup> and I do not believe

that the Hour will ever come. Even if I am returned to my Lord, I shall surely find a better place than this.’

<sup>37</sup> His companion replied, in the course of their discussion, ‘Do you deny Him who created you from dust, from a small drop of fluid, then formed you into a man? <sup>38</sup> But as far as I am concerned, God alone is my Lord and I set up no partners with Him. <sup>39</sup> When you entered your garden, why did you not say, “That which God wills [will surely come to pass], there is no power save with God?” Although you see I have less wealth and offspring than you, <sup>40</sup> my Lord may well give me a garden better than yours and send down thunderbolts from heaven upon your vineyard, turning it into a barren waste; <sup>41</sup> or its water may sink into the earth, so that you will never be able to find it again!’

<sup>42</sup> So it was, and all his fruit was destroyed. The vines had all fallen down on their trellises, and their owner wrung his hands,

bewailing all that he had spent on his garden. He said, 'Would that I had not associated anyone with my Lord!' <sup>43</sup> He had no party to help him against God, nor was he able to defend himself. <sup>44</sup> The only support is from God, the True God. He is the best in rewarding and the best in respect of the final outcome.

<sup>45</sup> Give them an example about worldly life. It is like the vegetation of the earth that thrives when watered by the rain, which We send down from the sky, and then it all becomes stubble which the wind blows away. God has power over all things. <sup>46</sup> Wealth and children are an ornament of the life of this world. But deeds of lasting merit are better rewarded by your Lord and a far better source of hope.

<sup>47</sup> The Day We shall make the mountains move and you will see the earth laid bare, and We shall gather all mankind together and shall not leave any one of them behind. <sup>48</sup> They will be ranged before your Lord,

standing in rows and He will say to them, 'Now you have come to Us as We created you at first. But you supposed that We would not appoint the time for the fulfillment of Our promise to you.'

<sup>49</sup> The Book [of deeds] will be placed before them and you will see the guilty apprehensive about its contents. They will say, 'Woe to us! What a record this is! It does not leave any deed, small or large, unaccounted for!' They will find everything they ever did laid in front of them: your Lord will not be unjust to anyone.

<sup>50</sup> When We said to the angels, 'Prostrate yourselves before Adam,' all prostrated themselves except Satan. He was one of the jinn and he disobeyed his Lord's command. Do you then take him and his offspring as protectors instead of Me, despite their enmity towards you? This is an evil exchange for the wrongdoers!

<sup>51</sup> I did not call them to witness at the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor at their own

creation; I do not take as My helpers those who lead others astray.

<sup>52</sup> On that Day He will say to them, ‘Call on those whom you thought to be My partners.’ And they will call on them, but their prayer will not be heard; and We shall place a barrier [of enmity] between them. <sup>53</sup> The guilty shall see the Fire and realize that they are going to fall into it: they shall find no way of escape from it.

<sup>54</sup> We have explained in various ways in this Quran, for the benefit of mankind, all kinds of examples, but man is most contentious. <sup>55</sup> Nothing prevents people from believing when they are given guidance or from asking forgiveness of their Lord, but the fact that the fate of the previous peoples should befall them or to have the punishment come upon them face to face.

<sup>56</sup> We only send the messengers to bring good news and to give warning. Those who deny use fallacious arguments to nullify the truth, treating My revelations and My warnings as a jest. <sup>57</sup> Who

is more wicked than he who has been reminded of the revelations of his Lord, then turns away from them and forgets what his own hands have done? We have cast veils over their hearts lest they understand Our words, and made them hard of hearing. Call them as you may to the right path, they shall never be guided.

<sup>58</sup> Your Lord is the Forgiving One, the possessor of mercy. If He had to take them to task for the wrongs they have done, He would have hastened their punishment. They have an appointed time beyond which there will be no escape for them. <sup>59</sup> We destroyed these communities when they went on doing wrong, and We appointed a time for their destruction.

<sup>60</sup> Recall how Moses said to his servant, ‘I shall not give up until I reach the place where both seas meet, even if it takes me years!’ <sup>61</sup> But when at last they came to the land where the two seas met, they forgot their fish and it swiftly made its way into the sea. <sup>62</sup> After they had

passed the place, Moses said to his young companion, 'Bring us our morning meal; we have indeed been fatigued by this journey.'

<sup>63</sup> He replied, 'Did you see when we were resting by the rock, that I forgot the fish? Satan made me forget it, so I did not mention it. It made its way to the sea in a miraculous way!'

<sup>64</sup> Moses said, 'That is just what we were looking for.' So they went back the way they had come, <sup>65</sup> and they found one of Our servants to whom We had granted Our mercy and had given a knowledge from Ourselves.

<sup>66</sup> Moses said to him, 'May I follow you, so that you may guide me by what you have been taught?' <sup>67</sup> He replied, 'You will not be able to bear with me patiently. <sup>68</sup> How could you be patient in matters beyond your knowledge?' <sup>69</sup> Moses said, 'God willing, you will find me patient, and I will not disobey you in any thing.' <sup>70</sup> He said, 'Well then, if you would follow me, do not ask me about anything till I speak of it to you.'

<sup>71</sup> So they set out, but, when they got into a boat, the man made a hole in it. Moses exclaimed, 'Have you made a hole in the boat to drown the people in it? You have indeed done a dreadful thing!' <sup>72</sup> He replied, 'Did I not tell you that you would never be able to bear with me patiently?' <sup>73</sup> He said, 'Do not take me to task for what I have forgotten, and do not be hard on me on account of what I have done!' <sup>74</sup> So they travelled on. Then they met a young boy and the man killed him. Moses said, 'Have you slain an innocent person without his having slain anyone? Indeed, you have done a terrible thing!'

<sup>75</sup> The man said, 'Did I not tell you that you would not be able to have any patience with me?' <sup>76</sup> Moses replied, 'If I ever ask you about anything after this, do not let me accompany you. I will have given you sufficient excuse.' <sup>77</sup> So they went on until they came to a town. They asked its people for food, but were refused hospitality. They found a

wall in the town which was about to fall down. His companion buttressed it and Moses said, 'Had you wished, you could have demanded payment for your labours.'<sup>78</sup> He answered, 'This is where you and I must part company. But first I will tell you the meaning of the things you could not bear with patiently.

<sup>79</sup> 'The boat belonged to some poor people who made their living from the sea. I wanted to damage it because there was a king coming behind them who was seizing every boat by force.

<sup>80</sup> As for the youth, his parents were believers and we feared that he would trouble them by rebellion and denial of truth.

<sup>81</sup> We wanted their Lord to replace him with someone purer than him and more compassionate.

<sup>82</sup> 'The wall belonged to two young orphans in the town whose father had been a righteous man, and a treasure of theirs lay underneath it. So your Lord wanted them to come of age and

then to dig up their treasure as a mercy from Him. I did not do [it] of my own accord. That is the explanation of the things about which you were not able to restrain yourself.'

<sup>83</sup> They will ask you about Dhu'l-Qarnayn. Say, 'I will give you an account of him.'<sup>84</sup> We established him in the land, and gave him the means to achieve all things.

<sup>85</sup> He travelled on a certain road;<sup>86</sup> until, when he reached the setting of the sun, he found it setting in a spring of murky water and near it he found some people. We said, 'Dhu'l-Qarnayn! You can either punish them or else you can treat them with gentleness.'<sup>87</sup> He said, 'We shall certainly punish him who does wrong; then he shall be brought back to his Lord who will punish him with a grievous punishment,<sup>88</sup> but whoever believes and does good works shall have a good reward and We shall facilitate his matter by Our command.'

<sup>89</sup> Then he followed yet another

path, <sup>90</sup> until he came to the rising-place of the sun, where he found it rising on a people for whom We had provided no shelter from it. <sup>91</sup> Thus indeed it was. We had full knowledge of him.

<sup>92</sup> Then he followed still another path, <sup>93</sup> until he came between two mountains. He found beside them a people who could scarcely understand a word [of his language]. <sup>94</sup> They said, 'O Dhu'l-Qarnayn! Gog and Magog are causing corruption in the land, so may we pay you tribute on condition that you set a barrier between us and them?'

<sup>95</sup> He said, 'What My Lord has given me is better [than any tribute]. Help me with a force of labourers and I will erect a barrier between you and them: <sup>96</sup> bring me blocks of iron.' Then, when he had filled the gap between the mountain sides [he said], 'Now blow on the fire with your bellows.' When the iron blocks were red with heat, he said, 'Bring me molten brass to pour on them.' <sup>97</sup> So they [Gog and

Magog] were not able to scale it, nor were they able to bore through it, <sup>98</sup> and he said, 'This is a mercy from my Lord. But when the promise of my Lord comes to pass, He will level it to dust. My Lord's promise is ever true!'

<sup>99</sup> On that Day, We shall let them surge against each other like waves and then the Trumpet will be blown and We shall gather them all together. <sup>100</sup> On that Day We shall lay Hell bare before those who deny the truth, <sup>101</sup> who have turned a blind eye to My reminder and a deaf ear to My warning.

<sup>102</sup> Do those who deny the truth, think that they can make My servants patrons instead of Me? We have reserved Hell as a lodging for those who deny the truth.

<sup>103</sup> Say, 'Shall I tell you of those who will lose the most through their actions? <sup>104</sup> They are those whose efforts have been wasted in the life of the world while they thought they were doing good. <sup>105</sup> They are

those who deny their Lord's signs and the meeting with Him.' So their works are in vain, and We shall give them no weight on the Day of Resurrection. <sup>106</sup> Hell will be their reward, because they denied the truth, and made a jest of My signs and My messengers.

<sup>107</sup> Those who believe and do good works shall have the gardens of Paradise for their abode. <sup>108</sup> They shall forever dwell in the Gardens of Paradise, desiring no change.

<sup>109</sup> Tell them, 'If the ocean became ink for writing the words of my Lord, surely the ocean would be exhausted before the words of my Lord came to an end—even if We were to add another ocean to it.'

<sup>110</sup> Say, 'I am only a human being like yourselves. It is revealed to me that your God is One God. So let him who hopes to meet his Lord do good deeds and let him associate no one else in the worship of his Lord.'

## 19. MARY

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

<sup>1</sup> *Kaf Ha Ya 'Ayn Sad*

<sup>2</sup> This is an account of your Lord's mercy bestowed upon His servant Zachariah, <sup>3</sup> when he called upon his Lord in low tones, saying, <sup>4</sup> 'Lord, my bones have weakened and my head has turned hoary with age, but never, Lord, have I been disappointed in my prayer to you: <sup>5</sup> now I fear

my kinsmen when I am gone. [I have no hope of their continuing my mission] for my wife is barren, so grant me a successor from Yourself, <sup>6</sup> to be my heir and to be the heir [of the blessings] of the House of Jacob; and make him, O my Lord, acceptable to you.'

<sup>7</sup> 'Zachariah, We bring you good news of a son whose name

shall be John. We have not given such a name to anyone before.’  
 8 ‘My Lord!’ [said Zachariah], ‘How shall I have a son when my wife is barren and I have reached such extreme old age?’

9 He said, ‘It will be so! Your Lord says, “It is easy for Me for I created you when you were nothing before.”’  
 10 He said, ‘My Lord, grant me a sign!’ He said, ‘Your sign will be that you will not speak to anyone for three successive days and nights, although sound in body.’  
 11 Then Zachariah came forth from the shrine to his people and told them by signs to glorify the Lord morning and evening.

12 To John We said, ‘Hold fast the Book,’ and while he was still a child, We bestowed upon him wisdom, 13 and tenderness [of heart] and purity. He was pious, 14 and dutiful towards his parents and was not haughty or disobedient. 15 Peace be on him on the day of his birth, and on the day of his death, and peace will be on him on the day he is raised up to life again.

16 Recount in the Book how Mary withdrew from her people to an eastern place 17 and kept herself in seclusion from them. We sent her Our angel, who presented himself to her as a full-grown human being. 18 When she saw him, she said, ‘I seek refuge in the compassionate God from you; [do not come near] if you fear the Lord.’ 19 ‘I am only the messenger of your Lord,’ he replied. ‘I shall bestow upon you the gift of a son endowed with purity.’  
 20 She said, ‘How can I have a son when no man has touched me; and neither have I been unchaste?’  
 21 [The angel] replied, ‘So shall it be; your Lord says, “This is easy for Me; and We shall make him a sign to people and a blessing, from Us. This has been decreed.”’

22 So she conceived him and withdrew with him to a distant place. 23 The pains of labour drove her to the trunk of a date-palm. She said, ‘Oh, if only I had died before this and passed into oblivion!’

<sup>24</sup> But a voice called out to her from below, ‘Do not despair. Your Lord has provided a brook that runs at your feet, <sup>25</sup> and if you shake the trunk of this palm-tree, it will drop fresh ripe dates on you. <sup>26</sup> Eat and drink and rejoice. And if you see any human being say, “I have vowed a fast [of silence] to the Gracious God, and will not speak with any human being today.”’

<sup>27</sup> Carrying her child, she brought him to her people. They said, ‘O Mary, you have indeed done something terrible!’ <sup>28</sup> Sister of Aaron, your father was not an evil man, nor was your mother an unchaste woman!’

<sup>29</sup> She pointed to the child. They said, ‘How shall we talk to someone who is a child in the cradle?’ <sup>30</sup> [But] he said, ‘I am God’s servant. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet; <sup>31</sup> He has made me blessed wherever I may be, and has enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving throughout my life. <sup>32</sup> He has made me dutiful toward my mother, and He has not made

me arrogant or wicked. <sup>33</sup> Blessed was I on the day I was born, and blessed I shall be on the day I die and on the day I am raised to life again.’

<sup>34</sup> Such was Jesus, the son of Mary. That is the whole truth, about which they still dispute: <sup>35</sup> it does not befit the majesty of God that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! He is far above that: when He decrees something, He says only, ‘Be!’ and it is.

<sup>36</sup> God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him alone. That is the right path. <sup>37</sup> Yet different groups differed among themselves. How awful it will be for those who have rejected the truth when a dreadful Day arrives! <sup>38</sup> How sharp of hearing, how sharp of sight they will be when they come to Us. But today, these evil-doers are obviously lost in error.

<sup>39</sup> Warn them of [the coming of] the Day of Remorse, when everything will have been decided, while they are heedless and do not believe. <sup>40</sup> It is We who will inherit the earth and all

who dwell upon it: they shall all return to Us.

<sup>41</sup> Also recount the story of Abraham in the Book. He was a man of truth, and a prophet.

<sup>42</sup> He said to his father, ‘Why do you worship something that can neither hear nor see nor benefit you in any way?’ <sup>43</sup> Father, I have been given some knowledge which has not come to you, so follow me: I shall guide you along a straight path. <sup>44</sup> Father! Do not worship Satan—for, truly, Satan is a rebel against the Most Gracious One! <sup>45</sup> Father, indeed I fear lest a punishment from the Gracious One afflict you, and you become a friend of Satan.’

<sup>46</sup> [His father] said, ‘Do you reject my deities, Abraham? If you do not desist, I shall surely stone you to death. Keep out of my way!’ <sup>47</sup> Abraham replied, ‘Peace be on you: I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness—He has indeed been gracious to me—’ <sup>48</sup> I will separate myself from you and from whatever you call upon besides God, and I will pray only to my Lord. It may

well be that, in calling on my Lord, I will not be disappointed.’

<sup>49</sup> So when he had separated himself from them and from what they worshipped besides God, We bestowed on him Isaac and Jacob, and We made each of them a prophet. <sup>50</sup> We granted them Our mercy and bestowed on them true and high renown.

<sup>51</sup> Tell also of Moses in the Book. He was indeed a chosen one, and was a messenger and a prophet. <sup>52</sup> We called out to him from the right side of the mount and made him draw near to be in close communion with Us; <sup>53</sup> and We gave him as his helper, out of Our mercy, his brother Aaron, having made him a prophet.

<sup>54</sup> Tell also of Ishmael in the Book. He was true to his promise and was a messenger and a prophet. <sup>55</sup> He exhorted his people to prayer and almsgiving, and his Lord was pleased with him. <sup>56</sup> Tell also of Idris in the Book. He was a man of truth and a prophet. <sup>57</sup> We raised him to a high position.

<sup>58</sup> These are the ones whom

God has favoured: the prophets from among the descendants of Adam and of those whom We carried in the Ark with Noah; the descendants of Abraham, of Israel, and of those whom We have guided and chosen. For when the revelations of the Merciful were recited to them, they fell down, prostrating themselves and weeping.

<sup>59</sup> But then they were succeeded by generations who neglected their prayers and were driven by their own desires. They will assuredly meet with destruction, <sup>60</sup> except for those who repent and believe and do good deeds. These will enter Heaven, and they will not be wronged in the least.

<sup>61</sup> Theirs shall be the Gardens of Eden, which the All Merciful has promised to His servants without their having seen them, and most surely His promise shall be fulfilled. <sup>62</sup> They will not hear therein anything vain, only greetings of peace. They will receive their provision there morning and evening. <sup>63</sup> That is

the Garden which We will grant to those of Our servants who have been God-fearing.

<sup>64</sup> We never descend except at your Lord's command. What is before us and behind us and all that lies between belong to Him. Your Lord is not forgetful. <sup>65</sup> He is the Lord of the heavens and of the earth and of all that is between the two. So worship Him alone and be steadfast in His worship. Do you know of anyone equal to Him in His attributes?

<sup>66</sup> Man asks, 'When I am once dead, shall I be raised to life?' <sup>67</sup> But does man not remember that We created him when he was nothing before? <sup>68</sup> By your Lord, We shall most surely gather them and the devils too; and bring them close to hell on their knees.

<sup>69</sup> Then We shall carry off from every group those who were most stubborn in their opposition to the Gracious One—<sup>70</sup> We surely know best those most deserving of the fires of hell—<sup>71</sup> and there is not one of you but shall pass through it: a decree

from your Lord which must be fulfilled. <sup>72</sup> Then We shall save those who feared God, but the wrongdoers shall be left there on their knees.

<sup>73</sup> When Our clear revelations are recited to them, those who deny the truth say to the faithful, ‘Which of the two sides is better in respect of position and makes a more impressive assembly?’

<sup>74</sup> We have destroyed so many generations before them, who surpassed them in material power and splendour.

<sup>75</sup> Say, ‘The Gracious One grants respite for a time to those who are in error until, when they are confronted with what they are promised, either in punishment [in the world] or in [the approach of] the Hour, they will realize who is worse in respect of position and who is weaker in resources.’

<sup>76</sup> God increases His guidance to those who follow guidance; and lasting good works are better in the sight of your Lord and are most rewarding.

<sup>77</sup> Have you seen him who

denies the truth in Our revelations and says, ‘I shall certainly be given wealth and children.’

<sup>78</sup> Has he looked to the unseen, or has he made a pledge to the Merciful One? <sup>79</sup> Indeed not. We shall record what he says and shall prolong the punishment for him. <sup>80</sup> We shall inherit all that he boasts of, and he will come to Us all alone. <sup>81</sup> They have taken other deities besides God, so that they may be a source of strength for them. <sup>82</sup> But they shall reject their worship and turn against them.

<sup>83</sup> Do you not see that We have appointed devils to incite those who deny the truth to disobedience? <sup>84</sup> So take no hasty action against them; their days are numbered. <sup>85</sup> The Day will surely come when We shall gather the God-fearing like [honoured] guests before the Compassionate God <sup>86</sup> and We shall drive the sinful like a thirsty herd into Hell. <sup>87</sup> No one will have power to intercede, except for those who have permission from the Lord of Mercy.

<sup>88</sup> They say, ‘The Gracious One has begotten a son.’ <sup>89</sup> Assuredly, you have uttered a monstrous falsehood: <sup>90</sup> the heavens might well-nigh burst thereat, and the earth break asunder, and the mountains fall down in pieces, <sup>91</sup> because they ascribe a son to the Gracious One. <sup>92</sup> It does not become the majesty of the Compassionate God to take to Himself a son: <sup>93</sup> there is none in the heavens or on the earth but shall return to the Merciful in utter submission— <sup>94</sup> He has counted them and numbered

them precisely— <sup>95</sup> each one of them shall come to Him one by one on the Day of Judgement. <sup>96</sup> The Lord of Mercy will bestow affection upon those who believe and perform righteous deeds.

<sup>97</sup> We have made it [the Quran] easy, in your own language [Prophet], so that you may convey glad news to the righteous and give warning to a stubborn people. <sup>98</sup> How many generations We have destroyed before them! Can you find a single one of them alive now, or hear so much as a whisper from them?

## 20. TA HA

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

<sup>1</sup> *Ta Ha*

<sup>2</sup> We have not sent the Quran down to you to distress you, <sup>3</sup> but only as an exhortation for him who fears God; <sup>4</sup> it is a revelation from Him who has created the earth and the high heavens, <sup>5</sup> the All Merciful

settled on the throne. <sup>6</sup> To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth, and whatever lies in between them, and all that lies under the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Whether you speak aloud [or in a low voice], He hears all, for He knows your secrets and what

is even more hidden.<sup>8</sup> God, there is no deity but Him. His are the most excellent names.

<sup>9</sup> Have you heard the story of Moses? <sup>10</sup> When he saw a fire, he said to his family, 'Wait here. I can see a fire. Perhaps I can bring you a brand from it, or find some guidance at the fire.'

<sup>11</sup> When he came close to it, a voice called out, 'Moses, <sup>12</sup> I am your Lord! Take off your sandals, for you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa. <sup>13</sup> I have chosen you. So listen to what is being revealed. <sup>14</sup> I am God. There is no deity save Me; so worship Me alone, and say your prayers in My remembrance. <sup>15</sup> The Hour is coming. But I choose to keep it hidden, so that every human being may be recompensed in accordance with his labours. <sup>16</sup> Do not let anyone who does not believe in it and follows his own desires turn you away from it and so bring you to ruin.'

<sup>17</sup> 'What do you have in your right hand, Moses?' <sup>18</sup> He replied, 'It is my staff. I lean on it, and with it, I beat down the leaves

for my flock; I also have other uses for it.'<sup>19</sup> God said, 'Moses, cast it down.'<sup>20</sup> So he threw it down, and all of a sudden, it turned into a fast-moving serpent. <sup>21</sup> God said, 'Take hold of it, and have no fear: We shall return it to its former state. <sup>22</sup> Put your hand under your armpit: it will come out [shining] white, without any blemish. This shall be another sign.<sup>a</sup> <sup>23</sup> We shall show you some of Our greatest signs. <sup>24</sup> Go to Pharaoh; he has transgressed all bounds.'

<sup>25</sup> Moses said, 'My Lord! open up my heart, <sup>26</sup> and make my task easy for me. <sup>27</sup> Loosen the knot in my tongue, <sup>28</sup> so that they may understand my speech, <sup>29</sup> and appoint for me a helper from among my family, <sup>30</sup> Aaron, my

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<sup>a</sup> The fact is that whatever there is in this world, or whatever the events, all are 'miracles' of God, be it the emerging of a sapling from the earth or a stick becoming a snake. 'Extraordinary' miracles are shown through prophets to make man take notice of the everyday miracles wrought by God.

brother.<sup>31</sup> Strengthen me through him,<sup>32</sup> and let him share my task,<sup>33</sup> so that we may glorify You much<sup>34</sup> and remember You much:<sup>35</sup> You are surely watching over us.<sup>36</sup> God said, ‘You have been granted your request, Moses.’

<sup>37</sup> Indeed, We showed Our favour to you before also,<sup>38</sup> when We revealed Our will to your mother, saying,<sup>39</sup> “Put him into a chest, then cast it into the river. The river will cast it on to the bank, and there he shall be taken up by an enemy of Mine and his.” I showered My love on you so that you might be reared under My watchful eye.<sup>40</sup> Recall when your sister walked along and said, “Shall I guide you to one who will take care of him?” Thus We returned you to your mother, so that her eyes might be cooled and that she might not grieve. And you killed a man and We delivered you from sorrow. We tested you with various trials. You stayed for a number of years among the people of Midian, then you came upto the standard, Moses.

<sup>41</sup> I have chosen you for Myself.<sup>42</sup> Go, you and your brother, with My signs, and do not be remiss in remembering Me.<sup>43</sup> Go, both of you to Pharaoh, for he has transgressed all bounds.<sup>44</sup> But speak gently to him; perhaps he may yet take heed or even feel afraid.’

<sup>45</sup> They both said, ‘Our Lord, We fear that he may commit some excess against us, or exceed all bounds in transgression.’

<sup>46</sup> God said, ‘Do not fear; I am with you both. I hear and I see.’

<sup>47</sup> Go to him and say, “We are both messengers from your Lord. Let the Children of Israel go with us, and do not oppress them. We have brought you a Sign from your Lord, and may peace be upon whoever follows the right guidance;<sup>48</sup> it has been revealed to us that punishment shall overtake him who rejects it and turns away!”

<sup>49</sup> Pharaoh said, ‘Who then is the Lord of you both, Moses?’

<sup>50</sup> Moses replied, ‘Our Lord is He who has given everything its form, then guided it.’<sup>51</sup> Pharaoh

asked, 'What about the previous generations?' <sup>52</sup> Moses said, 'My Lord alone has knowledge of that, recorded in a Book. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.'

<sup>53</sup> It is He who has laid out the earth for you and traced routes in it and sent down water from the sky. We have brought forth every sort of plant with it, <sup>54</sup> so eat and graze your cattle. In this there are signs for men of understanding. <sup>55</sup> From the earth We have created you and We will return you to it, and from it We shall bring you forth a second time.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>56</sup> We showed Pharaoh all Our signs but he rejected them and refused to believe in them. <sup>57</sup> He said, 'Have you come to us to turn us out of our land by means of your magic, Moses?' <sup>58</sup> We will certainly bring you magic to match it. So appoint a time between us and you, in an open space, which neither we nor you will fail to keep.'

<sup>59</sup> Moses said, 'The day of the encounter will be the day of the festival, and let the people

assemble when the sun has risen high.' <sup>60</sup> So Pharaoh withdrew, devised his stratagem and returned. <sup>61</sup> Moses said to them, 'Woe to you! Do not invent lies against God, lest He destroy you by some calamity: whoever invents lies is bound to fail.'

<sup>62</sup> Then they [the magicians] conferred among themselves, whispering to one another. <sup>63</sup> They said, 'Certainly they are both magicians who want to drive you out of your land by their magic, and destroy your best traditions. <sup>64</sup> Therefore, decide upon your plan and then come forward in ranks. Whoever gains the upper hand today shall surely triumph.'

<sup>65</sup> They said, 'Moses, will you throw down first, or shall we be

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<sup>a</sup> The creation of the earth, the institution of the system of rainfall, the growth of plants and greenery and other natural phenomena that have made the present world habitable for living things, are astonishingly great and wonderful manifestations.

the first to throw down?’<sup>66</sup> Moses said, ‘You throw down first.’ Suddenly their ropes and staffs appeared to him, by their magic, to be moving about rapidly,<sup>67</sup> and in his heart Moses became apprehensive,<sup>68</sup> but We said, ‘Do not be afraid. It is you who shall prevail.’<sup>69</sup> Throw down that [staff] which is in your right hand—it shall swallow up what they have wrought, for what they have wrought is only a magician’s trick. A magician shall never thrive, come whence he may.<sup>70</sup> The magicians then prostrated themselves. They said, ‘We believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses.’

<sup>71</sup> Pharaoh said, ‘Have you believed in him before I permit you? He must be your master who has taught you magic. I will cut your hands and feet off on opposite sides, and have you crucified on the trunks of palm-trees. You shall know whose punishment is more severe and more lasting.’

<sup>72</sup> They said, ‘Never shall we prefer you to all the evidence of

the truth that has come to us. Nor to Him who has brought us into being. So decide whatever you will. Your jurisdiction only covers the life of this world—<sup>73</sup> we have believed in our Lord so that He may forgive us our sins and forgive us the sorcery that you have forced us to practice. God is the best and the most abiding.’

<sup>74</sup> Indeed, he who comes to his Lord a sinner shall be consigned to Hell; he shall neither die therein nor live.<sup>75</sup> But he who comes to Him as a believer, having done good deeds, shall be exalted to the highest ranks,<sup>76</sup> he will abide forever in the Gardens of eternity, through which rivers flow. That is the recompense for those who purify themselves.

<sup>77</sup> We sent a revelation to Moses saying, ‘Take away My servants by night and strike for them a dry path through the sea. Have no fear of being overtaken and do not be afraid.’<sup>78</sup> Pharaoh pursued them with his hosts, but they were submerged by the

sea, which was destined to overwhelm them.<sup>79</sup> For Pharaoh had led his people astray and did not guide them.

<sup>80</sup> Children of Israel! We delivered you from your enemies and We made a covenant with you on the right side of the Mount. We sent down manna and quails for you,<sup>81</sup> 'Eat from the wholesome things with which We have provided you but do not transgress, lest you should incur My wrath.' [We said], 'He that incurs My wrath shall surely be ruined.'<sup>82</sup> But I am most forgiving towards him who turns in repentance and believes and acts righteously and follows the right path.'

<sup>83</sup> [When Moses was upon the Mount, God said,] 'O Moses, why have you come with such haste from your people?'<sup>84</sup> He said, 'They are following in my footsteps, while I have hastened to You, my Lord, to please You.'<sup>85</sup> But God said, 'We have tested your people in your absence. The Samiri has led them astray.'

<sup>86</sup> Moses returned to his people

in anger and great sorrow. He said, 'My people, did your Lord not make you a handsome promise? Was my absence too long for you? Did you desire that your Lord's wrath should descend upon you, when you broke your promise to me?'

<sup>87</sup> They answered, 'We did not break our promise to you of our own accord, but we had to carry loads of the people's ornaments and so we threw them [into the fire] for that was what the Samiri suggested.'<sup>88</sup> then he forged a calf for them—an image producing a lowing sound. They said, 'This is your deity, the deity of Moses; he has forgotten it.'<sup>89</sup> Why did they not see that it could not give them any response and had no power to harm or benefit them?

<sup>90</sup> Aaron had already told them, 'O my people! You are only being tested by this. Your Lord is the All Merciful, so follow me and obey my command.'<sup>91</sup> They replied, 'We shall not cease to worship it until Moses returns to us.'

<sup>92</sup> Moses said to Aaron, 'What

prevented you, when you saw that they had gone astray,<sup>93</sup> from following me? Why did you disobey my command?’<sup>94</sup> Aaron said, ‘Son of my mother! Do not seize me by my beard nor by my head. I was afraid that you would say, “You have caused dissension among the Children of Israel and did not pay heed to my words.”’

<sup>95</sup> Moses said, ‘What was the matter with you, Samiri?’<sup>96</sup> He said, ‘I perceived what they did not see. So I took a handful [of dust] from the footprint of the Messenger and threw it in [the calf]. That is what my inner self prompted me to do.’<sup>97</sup> Moses said, ‘Begone! It shall be your lot to say throughout your life, “Do not touch me,” and you will be faced with a fate from which there will be no escape. Now look at your deity to which you have become so devoted: we shall burn it up, and then scatter it into the sea.’<sup>98</sup> Your only deity is God, there is no deity but Him. His knowledge encompasses all things.’

<sup>99</sup> Thus We relate to you the

history of past events, and We have given you a reminder [the Quran] from Us.<sup>100</sup> Whoever turns away from it will bear a heavy burden on the Day of Judgement,<sup>101</sup> which they shall bear forever. It will be a grievous burden for them on the Day of Judgement,<sup>102</sup> the Day when the trumpet shall be blown: We shall gather all the sinners on that Day. Their eyes will turn blue with terror<sup>103</sup> and they shall murmur to one another, ‘You stayed only ten days on the earth’—<sup>104</sup> We know best what they will say. The most perceptive of them will say, ‘You stayed only one day.’

<sup>105</sup> They ask you about the mountains. Say, ‘My Lord will scatter them as dust<sup>106</sup> and leave the earth level and bare,<sup>107</sup> with neither hollows nor upthrust mounds to be seen.’<sup>108</sup> On that Day all will follow the summoning voice from which there is no escape; and all voices will be hushed before the Lord of Mercy, and nothing will be heard except a subdued murmur.

<sup>109</sup> On that Day no intercession will avail, except from one who has received the sanction of the Merciful and of whose words He approves—<sup>110</sup> He knows what is before them and what is behind them, but they cannot encompass Him with their knowledge—<sup>111</sup> on that Day all faces shall be humbled before the Living, Self-Subsisting One. Those burdened with evil deeds will come to grief, <sup>112</sup> but he who does good works, being a believer, shall fear no harm nor any injustice.’

<sup>113</sup> We have thus sent down the Quran in Arabic and given all kinds of warnings in it, so that they may fear God, or may take heed—<sup>114</sup> exalted is God, the True King. Do not be impatient with the Quran before its revelation is completed, and say, ‘My Lord, increase my knowledge.’

<sup>115</sup> We made a covenant with Adam before you, but he forgot, and We found him lacking in constancy. <sup>116</sup> When We said to the angels, ‘Prostrate yourselves before Adam,’ they all prostrated

themselves, except for Satan, who refused, <sup>117</sup> We said, ‘Adam, [Satan] is an enemy to you and to your wife. Let him not turn you both out of Paradise and thus make you come to grief.

<sup>118</sup> ‘Here you shall not go hungry or be naked, <sup>119</sup> you shall not thirst, nor feel the sun’s heat.’ <sup>120</sup> But Satan whispered evil to him, saying, ‘Adam, shall I lead you to the tree of immortality and to a kingdom that never declines?’ <sup>121</sup> They both ate the fruit of this tree, and so they became conscious of their nakedness and began to cover themselves with the leaves of the Garden. Thus Adam disobeyed his Lord and fell into error. <sup>122</sup> Then his Lord had mercy on him, accepted his repentance and guided him.

<sup>123</sup> God said, ‘Go down, both of you, from here, as enemies to one another.’ If there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My guidance will not lose his way, nor will he come to grief, <sup>124</sup> but whoever turns away from My reminder,

will lead a straitened existence and on the Day of Judgement We shall raise him up blind <sup>125</sup> and he will ask, 'Lord, why have You raised me up blind, while I possessed sight before?' <sup>126</sup> God will say, 'Just as Our signs came to you and you ignored them, so will you on this Day be ignored.' <sup>127</sup> Thus We shall reward the transgressor who denies the signs of his Lord. But the suffering of the life to come is more terrible and more lasting.

<sup>128</sup> Do they not learn a lesson from Our destruction of many generations before them in whose dwelling-places they walk about? Surely in this are signs for men of understanding. <sup>129</sup> But for a pre-ordained Word from your Lord, and a term [of respite] already fixed, immediate punishment would inevitably have taken place. <sup>130</sup> So be patient with anything they may say and glorify your Lord with His praise before the rising of the sun and before its setting; and glorify Him in the hours of the night and at the beginning and end of

the day, so that you may find comfort.

<sup>131</sup> Do not regard with envy the worldly benefits We have given some of them, for with these We seek only to test them. The provision of your Lord is better and more lasting. <sup>132</sup> Bid your people say their prayers, and be constant in their observance. We demand nothing from you. It is We who provide for you, and the best end is that of righteousness.

<sup>133</sup> They say, 'Why does he not bring us a sign from his Lord?' Have they not been given sufficient proof in previous scriptures? <sup>134</sup> If We had destroyed them with a punishment before this, they would have surely said, 'Our Lord, why did you not send to us a messenger so that we might have followed Your commandment before we were humiliated and disgraced?' <sup>135</sup> Say, 'Everyone is waiting; so wait if you will. You shall know who has followed the right path, and who has found guidance.'