

¹⁰ May the conjecturers perish,
¹¹ who flounder in the depths of
ignorance. ¹² They ask, 'When
will the Day of Judgement
come?' ¹³ It will be the Day
when they are tormented at the
Fire. ¹⁴ 'Taste your trial. This is
what you sought to hasten.'
¹⁵ Surely the God-fearing will
find themselves in the midst of
gardens and springs. ¹⁶ They shall
receive what their Lord will
bestow on them. They have done
good works in the past, ¹⁷ sleeping
little in the night-time, ¹⁸ praying
at dawn for God's pardon, ¹⁹ and
sharing their possessions with the
beggars and the deprived.

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

²⁴ Have you heard the story of
Abraham's honoured guests?
²⁵ When they came to him they
said, 'Peace!' He answered,

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

³¹ Abraham asked, 'What is
your errand, O messengers?'
³² They replied, 'We have been
sent to a sinful people, ³³ so that
we may bring down upon them a
shower of stones of clay, ³⁴ which
are marked by your Lord for the
punishment of those guilty of
excesses.' ³⁵ We saved all the
faithful in the town. ³⁶ We found
in it only one household of true
believers—³⁷ and We left therein
a sign for those who fear a
painful punishment.

³⁸ There is another sign in

Moses: We sent him to Pharaoh with clear authority.³⁹ But he turned his back, he and his courtiers, and said, ‘This is a sorcerer or a madman.’⁴⁰ Then We seized him and his army and cast them all into the sea: he himself [Pharaoh] was to blame.⁴¹ There is another sign in the [tribe of] ‘Ad, when We sent against them a life-destroying wind⁴² and it destroyed everything over which it passed and reduced it to dust.⁴³ In the Thamud [there was another sign], when they were told, ‘Make the most of your lives for a while.’⁴⁴ But they rebelled against the command of their Lord. So the thunderbolt overtook them while they looked on:⁴⁵ they could not stand up again, nor could they defend themselves.⁴⁶ [We destroyed] the people of Noah before them. They were certainly a sinful people.

⁴⁷ We built the universe with Our might, giving it its vast expanse.⁴⁸ We have spread out the earth—how well We have spread it out—⁴⁹ and We created

pairs of all things so that you might reflect.⁵⁰ Therefore hasten to God; truly, I am sent by Him to give you clear warning.⁵¹ Do not set up another god, along with God. I come from Him to warn you plainly.

⁵² Likewise, there came no messenger to those before them, but they said, ‘He is a sorcerer or a madman.’⁵³ Have they handed this down to one another? They are certainly a people who exceed all bounds,⁵⁴ so ignore them—you are not to blame—⁵⁵ but keep on exhorting them, for exhortation benefits the believers.

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

52. MOUNT SINAI

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

¹ By the Mount Sinai, ² and by the Scripture penned ³ on unrolled parchment, ⁴ by the much-visited House, ⁵ and by the lofty vault of the sky, ⁶ and by the swelling sea, ⁷ the punishment of your Lord shall certainly come to pass—⁸ there is no one who could avert it—⁹ on the Day when the skies are convulsed, ¹⁰ and the mountains shudder and shake. ¹¹ Woe on that Day to those who deny the truth, ¹² who divert themselves with idle chatter: ¹³ on that Day they shall be ruthlessly thrust into the Fire of Hell. ¹⁴ This is the fire which you used to deny. ¹⁵ Is this magic or do you not see? ¹⁶ Now enter it. Whether you behave patiently or impatiently will make no difference: you are only being repaid for what you have done.

¹⁷ Truly, the God-fearing will dwell [on that Day] in gardens and in bliss, ¹⁸ rejoicing in

whatever their Lord has given them. Their Lord has saved them from the torment of the Fire, ¹⁹ ‘Eat and drink with good cheer as a reward for your good deeds,’ ²⁰ reclining on couches arranged in rows. And We shall wed them to fair maidens with large beautiful eyes.

²¹ To those who have attained to faith We shall unite their offspring who have also followed them in faith, and We shall not let any of their good deeds go unrewarded; every human being is a pledge for whatever he has earned. ²² We shall provide them in abundance with such fruit and meat as they desire. ²³ There, they shall pass from hand to hand a cup which does not lead to any idle talk or sin. ²⁴ They will be waited upon by immortal youths, like pearls hidden in their shells. ²⁵ They will converse with one another, putting questions to each other,

²⁶ ‘Before this, when we were among our families, we were full of fear of God’s displeasure—²⁷ God has been gracious to us and has saved us from the torment of Hell’s intense heat—²⁸ before this, we used to pray to Him. Surely, He is the Beneficent, the Merciful.’

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

³⁵ Were they created out of nothing, or are they their own creators? ³⁶ Did they create the heavens and the earth? No! They have no faith. ³⁷ Do they own the treasures of your Lord, or

have they been given charge of them? ³⁸ Have they a ladder up to heaven by means of which they can overhear? Then let their listeners bring a clear proof. ³⁹ Does God have daughters while you have sons?

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

⁴⁴ If they should see a part of the heavens falling down, they would say, ‘A mass of clouds,’ ⁴⁵ so leave them alone till they face the Day on which they will be struck dumb, ⁴⁶ the Day when none of their scheming will be of the least avail to them, and they will receive no succour. ⁴⁷ Truly, for those who do wrong there is a punishment besides that, though most of them do not know it.

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

53. THE SETTING STAR

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

¹ By the setting star, ² your companion has neither strayed nor is he misguided, ³ nor does he speak out of his own desire.

⁴ It [the Quran] is nothing but revelation sent down to him.

⁵ He was taught by [an angel] who is mighty in power, ⁶ and endowed with wisdom; who in time manifested himself;

⁷ standing poised at the highest point on the horizon, ⁸ then came down close ⁹ until he was two bow-lengths away or even closer

¹⁰ and revealed to God's servant what he revealed. ¹¹ The heart [of the Prophet] did not misconstrue what he saw. ¹² Will you then dispute with him as to what he saw? ¹³ And certainly he saw him descend a second time:

¹⁴ by the lote tree beyond which none may pass ¹⁵ by the Garden of [Eternal] Repose, ¹⁶ when the lote tree was covered in mystic splendour. ¹⁷ His sight did not waver nor was it unduly bold.

¹⁸ He saw some of the greatest signs of his Lord.

¹⁹ Have you really considered al-Lat and al-'Uzza, ²⁰ and the third one, Manat? ^{a—21} 'What!

For you the males and for Him the females?' ²² That indeed is an unfair division—²³ these are nothing but names which you yourselves have devised, you and your forefathers. God has sent down no authority for them.

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

They follow nothing but conjecture and what their own selves desire, even though guidance has already come to them from their Lord! ²⁴ Shall man have whatever he craves? ²⁵ But it is to God that the Hereafter and this world belong.

²⁶ There may be countless angels in heaven, but their intercession will be of no avail until God has given permission to those whom he chooses and accepts. ²⁷ Those who do not believe in the life to come call the angels by female names. ²⁸ They have no knowledge to base this on. They merely indulge in guess-work which can never replace the truth. ²⁹ So ignore those who turn away from Our revelation and seek nothing but the life of this world. ³⁰ That is the ultimate extent of their knowledge. Surely your Lord knows best those who stray from His path and He knows best those who follow His guidance.

³¹ Everything in the heavens and on the earth belongs to God and so He will requite those who

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

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

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

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

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

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

54. THE MOON

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

¹ The Last Hour draws near and the moon is split asunder. ² Yet, when they see a sign they [who deny the truth] turn their backs and say, ‘The same old sorcery!’

³ They deny the truth and follow their own whims—every matter has its appointed time—⁴ there has come to them many a tidings wherein there are warnings,

⁵ profound in wisdom, but all warnings have been of no avail: ⁶so ignore them. On the Day when the Crier will call out about a horrible event, ⁷with downcast eyes they shall come out of their graves, as if they were locusts milling about ⁸hastening towards the Crier. Those who deny the truth will cry, ‘This is such a hard day!’

⁹The people of Noah denied [the truth] before them. They belied Our messenger saying, ‘He is mad!’ He was rebuffed, ¹⁰so he cried out to his Lord, saying, ‘I am overcome, so help me!’ ¹¹So We opened the gates of the sky with water pouring down in torrents, ¹²and We caused the earth to burst with gushing springs: so that the waters met for a purpose which had been decreed. ¹³We bore him on an [ark] which, made of planks and nails, ¹⁴floated on under Our eyes: a vindication of him who had been rejected. ¹⁵We have left this as a sign: but will anyone take heed? ¹⁶How terrible then was My punishment

and My warning. ¹⁷We have made it easy to learn lessons from the Quran. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

¹⁸The people of ‘Ad too rejected the truth. How terrible was My punishment and My warning. ¹⁹We sent a raging wind against them on a day of continuous calamity. ²⁰It swept people away as if they were trunks of uprooted palm trees.

²¹How [dreadful] was My punishment and My warning!

²²We have made it easy to learn lessons from the Quran: is there anyone who would receive admonition?

²³The tribe of Thamud also rejected Our warnings: ²⁴they said, ‘Are we to follow a man from amongst ourselves? We would surely then fall into error and madness. ²⁵Has the [Divine] message been revealed to him alone of all of us? No, he is a boastful liar.’ ²⁶[We said to him] ‘Tomorrow they shall know who is the boastful liar, ²⁷for We are [going to] send the she-camel as a trial for them, so watch them

and be patient. ²⁸ And tell them that the water [of the well] is to be divided between them, and that each one should drink in turn.’ ²⁹ But they called their companion who took a sword and hamstrung her. ³⁰ How [terrible] were My punishment and My warnings! ³¹ Then We sent a single blast against them and they became like dry stubble which has been trampled upon. ³² Indeed, We have made the Quran easy to learn lessons from. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

³³ The people of Lot rejected Our warnings. ³⁴ We sent a sandstorm against them which destroyed them all, except the family of Lot, whom We saved at the break of dawn, ³⁵ as a blessing from Us: this is how We reward the thankful. ³⁶ Lot warned them of Our punishment, but they disputed the warnings—³⁷ they even wanted to seduce his guests—but We blinded them, and said, ‘Taste My punishment now that you have scorned My warnings!’—³⁸ and early in the

morning the punishment decreed overtook them—³⁹ ‘Taste My punishment now that you have scorned My warnings!’ ⁴⁰ We have made it easy indeed to learn lessons from the Quran. Is there anyone who would receive admonition?

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

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

⁴⁹ We have created everything in due measure; ⁵⁰ We command but once: Our will is done in the twinkling of an eye; ⁵¹ We have indeed destroyed many a people like you. Is there anyone who would receive admonition? ⁵² All

their deeds are recorded in their books: ⁵³ every action, small or great, is noted down. ⁵⁴ The God-conscious will find themselves in gardens and rivers, ⁵⁵ in the seat of truth with an all-powerful sovereign.

55. THE MERCIFUL

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

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

¹⁰ He has laid out the earth for His creatures. ¹¹ On it are fruits and palm-trees with sheathed clusters [of dates], ¹² and grains with their husk and fragrant plants. ¹³ Which of your Lord's

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

deny? ²⁴ His are the lofty ships, that rear aloft on the sea like mountains. ²⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

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

³¹ Soon We shall attend to you—two big groups [of jinn and mankind]. ³² Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

³³ O company of jinn and men! If you have the power to go beyond the realms of the heavens and the earth, pass beyond them: you cannot pass out but with [Our] authority. ³⁴ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

³⁵ Flames of fire and molten brass shall be sent against both of you, and you will not be able to defend yourselves.^a ³⁶ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

³⁷ When the sky is rent asunder, and becomes red like red leather, ³⁸ which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ³⁹ For, on that Day, neither man nor jinn will be questioned about his sins.

⁴⁰ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴¹ The guilty shall be recognized by their marks so they shall be seized by their forelocks and their feet.

⁴² Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴³ This is the Hell which the guilty called a lie.

⁴⁴ They will go round between its flames and boiling water.

⁴⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

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

⁴⁶ There are two gardens for one who fears standing before his Lord. ⁴⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁴⁸ [There will be two gardens with] spreading branches. ⁴⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁰ In both of them, there are two springs flowing. ⁵¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵² In both of them, there will be two kinds of every fruit. ⁵³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁴ They will recline upon carpets lined with rich brocade; and the fruits of both these gardens will be within easy reach. ⁵⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁶ Therein are maidens of modest gaze, whom neither a man nor a jinn had ever touched before them. ⁵⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁵⁸ [There will be] maidens as fair as corals and rubies. ⁵⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁰ The reward of goodness shall be nothing but goodness. ⁶¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?

⁶² Besides those two there shall be two other gardens. ⁶³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁴ Both [gardens] of the darkest green. ⁶⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁶ In both of them live springs gush forth. ⁶⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁶⁸ In both of them there will be fruit trees and date-palms and pomegranates. ⁶⁹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁰ Therein will be maidens chaste and beautiful. ⁷¹ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷² [There the blessed will live with their] pure companions sheltered in pavilions. ⁷³ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁴ Whom neither a man or jinn had ever touched before them. ⁷⁵ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁶ [They will live in such a paradise] reclining upon green cushions and the finest carpets. ⁷⁷ Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny? ⁷⁸ Blessed be your Lord's name, full of glory and majesty!

56. THE INEVITABLE EVENT

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

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

⁸ Those on the Right—how blessed are those on the Right!

⁹ Those on the Left—how unlucky are those on the Left!

¹⁰ The third to the fore shall be the foremost. ¹¹ They shall be the nearest to God. ¹² They will dwell in the Gardens of Bliss: ¹³ a large group of the early believers,

¹⁴ and a lesser number from the later generations. ¹⁵ Seated on couches wrought in gold and encrusted with precious stones,

¹⁶ reclining on them facing each other; ¹⁷ they will be waited on by ageless youths ¹⁸ carrying

goblets and ewers and cups filled with the purest wine, ¹⁹ neither causing headaches, nor intoxication; ²⁰ along with fruits of their choice; ²¹ and the meat of any bird that they may desire; ²² and fair maidens with large, lustrous eyes ²³ like the pearls in their shells: ²⁴ shall be their recompense for their deeds. ²⁵ They will not hear therein any

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

vain or sinful talk, ²⁶ only the words of peace and tranquillity.

²⁷ Those on the Right, how fortunate are those on the Right!

²⁸ They shall recline on high amidst lote trees without thorns

²⁹ and clustered bananas, ³⁰ and spreading shade ³¹ and flowing water, ³² and fruits in abundance,

³³ never-ending and unrestricted, ³⁴ on raised couches. ³⁵ We have

created maidens perfectly ³⁶ and made them virgins, ³⁷ loving

companions, matching in age, ³⁸ for those on the Right, ³⁹ a

large group of the earlier people ⁴⁰ and a large group of those of

later times.

⁴¹ Those on the Left: how unfortunate are those on the Left!

⁴² They will find themselves in scorching wind and scalding

water, ⁴³ and under the shadow of black smoke, ⁴⁴ neither cool

nor refreshing. ⁴⁵ They had been affluent before, ⁴⁶ and they

persisted obstinately in awful sin, ⁴⁷ and they used to say,

‘What! After we have died and become dust and bones, shall we

indeed be raised up again?’ ⁴⁸ And

also our forefathers?’ ⁴⁹ Say,

‘Indeed, the earlier ones and the later ones ⁵⁰ will indeed be

gathered together at a fixed time on an appointed Day. ⁵¹ Then

you, you misguided ones, who deny the truth, ⁵² shall eat the

fruit of the tree of Zaqqum, ⁵³ and fill your bellies with it,

⁵⁴ and shall drink boiling water on top of that. ⁵⁵ You shall drink

it as the thirsty camels drink.’ ⁵⁶ This shall be their

entertainment on the Day of Judgement.

⁵⁷ We have created you: why then do you not accept the truth?

⁵⁸ Have you thought about [the semen] that you discharge—

⁵⁹ did you create it or did We?

⁶⁰ It is We who have ordained death for all of you; and We

cannot be prevented ⁶¹ from replacing you by others like

yourselves or changing your forms and re-creating you in

forms that you know nothing of. ⁶² You have certainly known the

first creation. Why, then, do you not take heed? ⁶³ Have you

thought about what crops you

plant? ⁶⁴ Is it you who cause them to grow or do We? ⁶⁵ If We so pleased, We could turn your harvest into chaff. Then you would start lamenting, ⁶⁶ ‘We are ruined, ⁶⁷ nay, we are deprived [altogether].’ ⁶⁸ Have you considered the water that you drink? ⁶⁹ Is it you who cause it to descend from the clouds, or do We? ⁷⁰ If We so pleased, We certainly could make it salty. Why, then, are you not grateful? ⁷¹ Have you thought about the fire that you kindle. ⁷² Did you produce the tree that serves as fuel or do We? ⁷³ We have made it to be a reminder and a benefit for the wayfarers. ⁷⁴ So glorify the name of your Lord, the Supreme.

⁷⁵ Nay, I swear by the setting of the stars—⁷⁶ and, indeed, that is a most mighty oath, if you only knew—⁷⁷ that this is indeed a noble Quran, ⁷⁸ in a well-guarded preserved Book, ⁷⁹ which none can touch except the purified. ⁸⁰ It is a revelation sent down from the Lord of the

worlds. ⁸¹ How can you regard this discourse with disdain? ⁸² Do you make its denial your means of livelihood?

⁸³ Why, then, when the soul of the dying man reaches the throat, ⁸⁴ and you are [at that moment] looking on [helplessly]—⁸⁵ and We are nearer to him than you, although you cannot see Us—⁸⁶ why, then, if you are not subject to Our command, ⁸⁷ do you not cause the soul to return to him if you are truthful in your claim? ⁸⁸ But if he [the dying person] is one of those brought near to God, ⁸⁹ then for him there shall be comfort and plenty and a Garden of Bliss; ⁹⁰ and if he is of those who are on the Right, ⁹¹ he will be greeted with, ‘Peace be to you,’ by those on the Right. ⁹² But if he is one of those who rejected [the truth] and went astray, ⁹³ he will be welcomed with boiling water. ⁹⁴ He will burn in Hell. ⁹⁵ This is indeed the indubitable truth. ⁹⁶ So glorify the name of your Lord, the Supreme.

57. IRON

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

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

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

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

^a See pages xiv to xvii of the Introduction.

¹¹ Who will offer God a generous loan? He will double it for him and give him a rich reward. ¹² On the Day, you [Prophet] shall see the faithful, both men and women, with their light streaming out before them and on their right hands, [and you shall hear a voice saying to them:] ‘Glad tidings for you today! You shall enter gardens with rivers flowing through them wherein you shall forever dwell. That is the supreme triumph.’ ¹³ On that Day, the hypocrites, both men and women, will say to the faithful, ‘Wait a while for us, so that we may have some of your light.’ They will be told, ‘Turn back and look for a light elsewhere.’ A wall will then be raised between them. It will have a gate on the inside of which will be grace and mercy and on the outside of which will be punishment. ¹⁴ The hypocrites will call out to the faithful: ‘Were we not on your side?’ They will reply, ‘Yes, but you gave in to temptation, you wavered and doubted and were deceived by

your wishful thinking until God’s will was done; then the Deceiver [Satan] misled you about God.’ ¹⁵ So this Day no ransom can be taken from you nor from those who were bent on denying the truth. Your home is the fire; that is your companion, and a hapless journey’s end.

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

¹⁸ Alms-givers, both men and women, who give a generous loan to God, shall have it multiplied and shall have an honourable reward. ¹⁹ Those who believe in God and His messengers are the truthful ones

and the witnesses in the sight of their Lord. They shall have their reward and their light. But those who are bent on denying the truth and reject Our signs shall be destined for Hell.

²⁰ Never forget that the life of this world is only a game and a passing delight, a show, and mutual boasting and trying to outrival each other in riches and children. It is like the growth of vegetation after the rain, which delights the planter, but which then withers away, turns yellow and becomes worthless stubble. In the life to come there will be a terrible punishment, or God's forgiveness and approval: the life of this world is nothing but means of deception. ²¹ Vie with one another for your Lord's forgiveness and for a Paradise as vast as heaven and earth, which has been made ready for those who believe in God and His messengers. Such is God's grace. He bestows it upon whoever He pleases. There is no limit to God's bounty.

²² No misfortune can affect

the earth or your own selves without its first having been recorded in a book, before We bring it into being. That is easy for God to do; ²³ so that you may not grieve for what has escaped you, nor be exultant over what you have gained. God loves neither the conceited nor the boastful, ²⁴ nor those who, being miserly themselves, urge others to be miserly. He who turns his back should remember that God alone is self-sufficient and worthy of all praise.

²⁵ We sent Our messengers with evidence and, with them, We sent down the Book and the Scales of Justice, so that men might act in all fairness. We sent down iron with its great inherent strength and its many benefits for mankind, so that God might know who would stand up for God, though unseen, and His messengers. God is powerful, and almighty.

²⁶ We sent forth Noah and Abraham and bestowed upon their offspring prophethood and the Book. Some of them were

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

were truly faithful, for many of them were disobedient.

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

58. THE PLEADING

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

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

² Those who separate themselves from their wives by

pronouncing, 'To me you are like my mother's back,' must concede that they are not their mothers; none are their mothers except those who gave birth to them—surely they utter an evil word and a lie. God is pardoning, forgiving. ³ Those who put away their wives by equating them

with their mothers, and then wish to go back on what they have said, must set free a slave before the couple may touch one another again. This is what you are exhorted to do. God is fully aware of what you do,⁴ and anyone who does not have the means must fast for two consecutive months before they touch each other, and who is not able to do that must feed sixty needy people. That is to affirm your faith in God and His messenger. These are the limits set by God. Those who deny the truth shall have a painful punishment.

⁵ Those who oppose God and His Messenger will be humiliated, as were their predecessors. We have sent down clear revelations. A humiliating punishment awaits those who deny the truth.⁶ On the day God raises them all up from the dead, He will make them understand what they have done. God has taken everything into account, even though they have forgotten, for God is a witness to all things.

⁷ Do you not see that God

knows all that is in the heavens and on the earth? There is not a secret consultation between three, but He makes the fourth among them—nor between five but He makes the sixth—nor between fewer nor more, but He is in their midst, wherever they may be: in the end He will tell them the truth about their conduct, on the Day of Judgement. For God has full knowledge of all things.⁸ Have you not seen how those who were forbidden to hold secret counsels yet revert to that which they were forbidden to do? And they conspire to indulge in wrongdoing, aggressive behaviour and disobedience to the Messenger. When they come to you, they greet you, but not in the words God would use, and inwardly they wonder, ‘Why does God not punish us for what we say?’ Hell will be a fitting punishment for them: they will burn in its flames—a wretched fate!

⁹ Believers, when you confer together in private, do not confer in support of sin and

transgression and disobedience to the Messenger, but confer for the promotion of virtue and righteousness. Fear God, before whom you shall all be gathered.

¹⁰ Conspiracy for evil purposes is the work of Satan, by which he means to bring grief to believers. But he cannot harm them in the least, unless it be by God's leave. Let the believers put their trust in God.

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

¹² Believers, when you come to consult the Messenger privately, give something in charity beforehand. That is best for you and most conducive to purity. But if you cannot find anything to give, know that God is Forgiving and Merciful. ¹³ Do you fear that you will not [be able to] give in charity before

your consultation? Then if you are unable to do so, [know that] God has turned to you in His mercy; then observe your prayers and pay the prescribed alms and obey God and His Messenger. God is aware of all that you do.

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

¹⁷ Neither their wealth nor their children will be of the least avail [in protecting them] against God—they are the inheritors of Hell, and there they shall remain forever. ¹⁸ On the day God raises them all up from the dead, they will swear to Him just as they have sworn to you, thinking that

they are on firm ground. But surely they are liars. ¹⁹ Satan has got the better of them and has caused them to forget the remembrance of God. They have gone over to the side of the devil, and it is as the devil's partisans that they shall be the losers: ²⁰ those who oppose God and His Messenger will [on Judgement Day] be among the most abased. ²¹ God has decreed, 'I and My messengers shall most certainly prevail.' Truly God is Powerful and Almighty.

²² You will find no believers in

God and the Last Day consorting with those who oppose God and His Messenger, even though they be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their close relatives. He has engraved faith on their very hearts and has strengthened them with a spirit of His own. He will usher them into Gardens through which rivers flow where they shall dwell forever. God is well-pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. They are God's party. God's party shall surely enter into a state of bliss.

59. BANISHMENT

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

¹ Everything in the heavens and on the earth glorifies God. He is the Almighty, the All Wise. ² It was He who turned those People of the Book who denied the truth out of their homes in the first banishment. You never thought they would go, and they thought their strongholds would protect

them against God. But God came upon them from where they least expected and cast such terror into their hearts that their houses were pulled down by their own hands as well as by the hands of the believers. Learn a lesson, then, you who are endowed with insight.

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

⁶ Whatever God has given to His Messenger as spoils from them is by His grace; you spurred neither horse nor camel for them, but God gives power to His messengers over anyone He wills. God has power over all things—⁷ whatever gains God has assigned to His Messenger from the inhabitants of the town is for God and for the Messenger and for his kinsfolk and for orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, so that they may not become the property of those of you who are rich. Whatever the Messenger gives you, take it;

and whatever he forbids you, abstain from it. Fear God; surely, God is severe in retribution.⁸ It is for the poor refugees who were driven from their homes and possessions, desiring the favour and the pleasure of God and supporting God and His Messenger. Such people are the truthful.

⁹ Those who were already settled in the city [Madinah] and firmly rooted in faith, love those who migrated to them for refuge, and harbour no desire in their hearts for what has been given to the [latter]. They give them preference over themselves, even if they too are needy: those who are saved from their own souls' greed are truly successful.

¹⁰ Those who came [into the faith] after them say, 'Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in the faith and leave no malice in our hearts towards those who believe. Lord, You are indeed compassionate and merciful.'

¹¹ Have you not seen those who act hypocritically? They say

to their disbelieving companions from among the People of the Book, 'If you are driven out we shall surely go out with you, and we shall never listen to anyone against you, and if war is waged against you, we shall help you.' God bears witness that they are indeed liars. ¹² If they are driven out, they will not go with them, nor, if they are attacked, will they help them. Indeed, if they go to their help, they will turn their backs in flight, and then they will not be helped.

¹³ They are more in dread of you than of God, because they are people devoid of understanding. ¹⁴ They will never fight against you in a body except from within fortified strongholds or from behind walls. There is much hostility between them. You think they are united, but their hearts are divided, because they are a people devoid of reason.

¹⁵ Like those who went just before them, they have tasted the evil consequences of their doings. And they shall have a

painful punishment. ¹⁶ They are like Satan, who says to man, 'Deny the truth!' but when man denied the truth, said, 'I disown you; I fear God, the Lord of the Universe.' ¹⁷ Thus, in the end, both will find themselves in the Fire, therein to abide: that is the reward of evil-doers.

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

²¹ Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, you would certainly have seen it falling down and splitting asunder, because of the fear of God. We set forth these parables to men so that they may reflect. ²² He is God: there is no deity save Him. He knows the unseen and the

visible. He is the Compassionate, the Merciful.²³ He is God, there is no deity save Him, the Sovereign, the Most Pure, the Source of Peace, the Granter of Security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Subduer, the Supreme, Glory be to God, who

is far above what they associate with Him.²⁴ He is God—the Creator, the Originator, the Giver of Form. His are the most excellent names. Everything in the heavens and earth declares His glory. He is the Mighty, the Wise One.

60. SHE WHO IS TESTED

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

¹ Believers! Do not offer friendship to those who are enemies of Mine and of yours. Would you show them affection when they have rejected the truth you have received; when they have driven you and the Messenger out [simply] because you believe in God, your Lord. If you have left your homes to strive for My cause and out of a desire to seek My goodwill, how can you secretly offer them friendship? I know all that you conceal and all that you reveal. Whoever of you does this will surely stray from the right path.

² If they gain ascendancy over you, they will behave towards you as enemies and stretch out their hands as well as their tongues with evil intent; they long for you to renounce your faith.³ Neither your relatives nor your children will be of any help to you on the Day of Resurrection. He will judge between you, and God sees all that you do.

⁴ Indeed you have an excellent example in Abraham and those who followed him, when they said to their people, ‘We disown you and whatever you worship besides God. We renounce you.

Enmity and hatred shall endure between us and you, until you believe in the one God.’ [The exception was] when Abraham said to his father, ‘I shall indeed pray for [God’s] forgiveness for you; although I do not have it in my power to obtain anything from God on your behalf.’ They prayed, ‘O our Lord, in You we have placed our trust and to You we turn in repentance and to You is the final return.’⁵ Our Lord, do not make us a prey for those who deny the truth, and forgive us our Lord. For You alone are the Mighty, the Wise One.’⁶ Surely, there is a good example in them for you; for those who place their hopes in God and the Last Day. Whoever turns away will surely learn that God is self-sufficient and worthy of all praise.⁷ It may well be that God will create goodwill between you and those of them with whom you are now at enmity—for God is all powerful, most forgiving and merciful.

⁸ He does not forbid you to deal kindly and justly with

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

¹⁰ Believers! When believing women come to you as refugees, submit them to a test. Their faith is best known to God. Then if you find them to be true believers, do not send them back to those who deny the truth. These [women] are not lawful for them, nor are those who deny the truth lawful for these women. But hand back to those who deny the truth the dowers they gave them; nor is it an offence for you to marry such women, provided you give them their dowers. Do not maintain your marriages with those women who deny the truth: demand repayment of the dowers you have given them and let the

disbelievers ask for the return of what they have spent. Such is God's judgement; He judges with justice between you. God is all knowing and all wise. ¹¹ If any of your wives desert you to go over to the disbelievers, and you subsequently have your turn, [by the coming over of a woman from the other side] give to those who have been deserted by their wives the equivalent of the dowers they gave them. Fear God in whom you believe.

¹² O Prophet! When believing women come to you and pledge themselves not to associate in

worship any other thing with God, not to steal or commit adultery or kill their children or indulge in slander, intentionally inventing falsehoods, and not to disobey you in that which is right, then accept their pledge of allegiance and pray to God to forgive them their sins, for God is forgiving and merciful.

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

61. RANKS

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

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

loves those who fight for His cause in ranks, as if they were a solid cemented structure.^a

⁵ Remember when Moses said

^a See pages xiv to xvii of the Introduction.