

(وَجَعَلْنَا فِيهَا جَنَّاتٍ مِّنْ نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ وَقَفْرًا  
فِيهَا مِنَ الْعُيُونِ )

(And We have made therein gardens of date palms and grapes, and We have caused springs of water to gush forth therein.) means, 'We have created therein rivers which flow to the places where they are needed, so that they may eat of their fruits.' When Allah reminds them of the blessing that He bestows upon His creation by creating crops and plants, He mentions the different types and kinds of fruits. Allah says:

(وَمَا عَمَلُهُمْ أَيْدِيهِمْ)

(and their hands made it not.) means, all of that could only come about by the mercy of Allah towards them, not by their own efforts and labor and strength. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas and Qatadah. Allah says:

(أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ)

(Will they not then give thanks) meaning, will they not then give thanks for the innumerable blessings that He has bestowed upon them. Ibn Jarir, however, understood the word Ma to mean Alladhi (i.e., a relative pronoun). In this case the meaning of the Ayah would be that they eat from the fruits provided by Allah's bounty and from what their own hands have done, i.e., by planting the seeds and tending the plants. Ibn Jarir mentioned other possible interpretations in his Tafsir, but this is the interpretation that he favored. This interpretation also fits with the recitation of Ibn Mas`ud: (يَشْكُرُونَ أَفَلَا أَيْدِيهِمْ عَمَلُهُ وَمِمَّا تَمَرَهُ مِنْ لِيَأْكُلُوا) (So that they may eat of the fruit thereof -- and from what their own hands have done.) Then Allah says:

(سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا مِمَّا تُنْبِتُ  
الْأَرْضُ)

(Glory be to Him Who has created all the pairs of that which the earth produces,) meaning, of crops and fruits and plants.

(وَمِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ)

(as well as of their own (human) kind, ) means, He made them into male and female.

(وَمِمَّا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(and of that which they know not.) means, different kinds of creatures of which they know nothing. This is like the Ayah:

(وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ )

(And of everything We have created pairs, that you may remember.) (51:49)

(وَعَايَةٌ لَهُمُ اللَّيْلُ نَسْلَخُ مِنْهُ النَّهَارَ فَإِذَا هُمُ  
مُظْلَمُونَ - وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا ذَلِكَ  
تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ - وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَرْنَاهُ مَنَازِلَ  
حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ - لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي  
لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ وَكُلٌّ  
فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ )

(37. And a sign for them is the night. We withdraw therefrom the day, and behold, they are in darkness.) (38. And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the decree of the Almighty, the All-Knowing.) (39. And the moon, We have decreed for it stages, till it returns like the old dried curved date stalk.) (40. It is not for the sun to overtake the moon, nor does the night outstrip the day. They all float, each in an orbit.)

**Among the Signs of the Might and Power of Allah are the Night and Day, and the Sun and Moon**

(يُعْشَى اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيئًا)

(He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly) (7:54). Allah says here:

(وَعَايَةٌ لَهُمُ اللَّيْلُ نَسْلَخُ مِنْهُ النَّهَارَ)

(And a sign for them is the night. We withdraw therefrom the day,) meaning, 'We take it away from it, so it goes away and the night comes.' Allah says:

(فَإِذَا هُمُ مُظْلَمُونَ)

(and behold, they are in darkness.) As it says in the Hadith:

«إِذَا أَقْبَلَ اللَّيْلُ مِنْ هُنَا، وَأَدْبَرَ النَّهَارُ مِنْ هُنَا، وَغَرَبَتِ الشَّمْسُ، فَقَدْ أَفْطَرَ الصَّائِمُ»

(When the night comes from here, and the day departs from here, and the sun has set, then the fasting person should break his fast.) This is the apparent meaning of the Ayah. Allah's saying:

(وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ)

(And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the decree of the Almighty, the All-Knowing) There are two views over the meaning of the phrase

(لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا)

(on its fixed course for a term (appointed). ) (The first view) is that it refers to its fixed course of location, which is beneath the Throne, beyond the earth in that direction. Wherever it goes, it is beneath the Throne, it and all of creation, because the Throne is the roof of creation and it is not a sphere as many astronomers claim. Rather it is a dome supported by legs or pillars, carried by the angels, and it is above the universe, above the heads of people. When the sun is at its zenith at noon, it is in its closest position to Throne, and when it runs in its fourth orbit at the opposite point to its zenith, at midnight, it is in its furthest position from the Throne. At that point it prostrates and asks for permission to rise, as mentioned in the Hadiths. Al-Bukhari recorded that Abu Dharr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I was with the Prophet in the Masjid at sunset, and he said: :

«يَا أَبَا ذَرٍّ، أَتَدْرِي أَيْنَ تَغْرُبُ الشَّمْسُ؟»

(O Abu Dharr! Do you know where the sun sets) I said, `Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said:

«فَإِنَّهَا تَذْهَبُ حَتَّى تَسْجُدَ تَحْتَ الْعَرْشِ، فَذَلِكَ قَوْلُهُ تَعَالَى:

(وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ)»

(It goes and prostrates beneath the Throne, and that is what Allah says: (And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term. That is the decree of the Almighty, the All-Knowing.))" It was also reported that Abu Dharr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I asked the Messenger of Allah about the Ayah:

(وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا)

(And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term. ) He said:

«مُسْتَقَرُّهَا تَحْتَ الْعَرْشِ»

(Its fixed course is beneath the Throne.)" (The second view) is that this refers to when the sun's appointed time comes to an end, which will be on the Day of Resurrection, when its fixed course will be abolished, it will come to a halt and it will be rolled up. This world will come to an end, and that will be the end of its appointed time. This is the fixed course of its time. Qatadah said:

(لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا)

(on its fixed course for a term (appointed).) means, "It has an appointed time and it will not go beyond that." It was also said that this means, it keeps moving in its summer orbit for a certain time, and it does not exceed that, then it moves to its winter orbit for a certain time, and it does not exceed that. This was narrated from `Abdullah bin `Amr, may Allah be pleased with him. Ibn Mas`ud and Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with them, recited this Ayah as: (وَالشَّمْسُ لَهَا لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ رِيْتَجُ) (And the sun runs with no fixed course for a term,) meaning that it has no destination and it does not settle in one place, rather it keeps moving night and day, never slowing down or stopping, as in the Ayah:

(وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبِينَ)

(And He has made the sun and the moon, both constantly pursuing their courses, to be of service to you) (14:33). which means, they will never slow down or stop, until the Day of Resurrection.

(ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ)

(That is the decree of the Almighty, ) means, which none can oppose or prevent.

(الْعَلِيمِ)

(the All-Knowing.) Who knows every movement and every cessation of movement, Who has decreed that and Who has set it in motion following a pattern in which there are no differences or inversions, as Allah says:

فَالِقُ الْإِصْبَاحِ وَجَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ سَكَنًا وَالشَّمْسَ  
وَالْقَمَرَ حُسْبَانًا ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ )

((He is the) Cleaver of the daybreak. He has appointed the night for resting, and the sun and the moon for reckoning. Such is the measuring of the Almighty, the All-Knowing.) (6:96) And this is how this Ayah ends:

(ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ)

(That is the decree of the Almighty, the All-Knowing.) Then Allah says:

(وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَّرْنَاهُ مَنَازِلَ)

(And the moon, We have decreed for it stages,) meaning, `We have caused it to run in a different orbit, from which passing of the months can be deduced, just as night and day are known from the sun.' This is like the Ayah:

(يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَهْلِةِ قُلْ هِيَ مَوَاقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ  
وَالْحَجِّ)

(They ask you about the crescent moons. Say: "These are signs to mark fixed periods of time for mankind and for the pilgrimage (Hajj). ") (2:189),

(هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا  
وَقَدَّرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِّينَ وَالْحِسَابَ)

(It is He Who made the sun a shining thing and the moon as a light and measured out for it stages that you might know the number of years and the reckoning) (10:5), and

(وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ آيَاتَيْنِ فَمَحَوْنَا آيَةَ اللَّيْلِ  
وَجَعَلْنَا آيَةَ النَّهَارِ مُبْصِرَةً لِتَبْتَغُوا فَضْلًا مِّنْ  
رَّبِّكُمْ وَلِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِّينَ وَالْحِسَابَ وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ  
فَصَلَّنَاهُ تَفْصِيلًا )

(And We have appointed the night and the day as two Ayat (signs). Then, We have obliterated the sign of the night while We have made the sign of the day illuminating, that you may seek bounty from your Lord, and that you may know the number of the years and the reckoning. And We have explained everything with full explanation.) (17:12) So, He has given the sun its own light, and the moon its (reflection of) light, and has given each its own orbit. So the sun rises each day and sets at the end of the day, giving one kind of light all the time, but it moves, rising and setting at different points in the summer and winter, thus making the days and nights longer or shorter alternatively according to the season. Its authority is in the daytime, for it is the heavenly body that dominates the day. As for the moon, Allah has decreed that it should pass through different phases. At the beginning of the month, the moon appears small when it rises. It gives off little light, then on the second night its light increases and it rises to a higher position, and the higher it rises the more light it gives -- even though it is reflected from the sun -- until it becomes full on the fourteenth night of the month. Then it starts to wane until the end of the month, until it appears like the old dried curved date stalk. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "This is the original stem (which connects the bunch of dates to the tree)." The Arabs have a name for each set of three nights in a month, according to the phases of the moon. They call the first three nights Ghurar; the next three nights Nufal; the next three nights Tusa` (nine) -- because the last of them is the ninth. The next three nights are called `Ushar (ten) -- because the first of them is the tenth. The next three nights are called Al-Bid (white) -- because of the light of the moon which shines brightly throughout these three nights. The next three nights are called Dura`, the plural of Dar`a', because on the first of them the night is dark from the moon rising late. Dar`a' refers to the black sheep, i.e., the one whose head is black; the next three nights Zulam; then Hanadis, then Da'adi; then Mihaq, because of the absence of moonlight at the beginning of the month. Abu `Ubayd did not recognize the names Tusa` and `Ushar, in the book Gharib Al-Musannaf.

(لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تَدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ)

(It is not for the sun to overtake the moon,) Mujahid said, "Each of them has a limit which it does not transgress or fall short of. When the time of one comes, the other goes away, and when the time for one to prevail comes, the time of the other ceases." `Ikrimah said concerning the Ayah,

(لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تَدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ)

(It is not for the sun to overtake the moon,) this means that each of them has its time when it prevails. So it is not appropriate for the sun to rise at night.

(وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَاقِيَةُ النَّهَارِ)

(nor does the night outstrip the day.) means, after night has passed, it is not right for another night to come until it has been day. The authority of the sun is during the day and the authority of the moon is at night. Ad-Dahhak said, "The night does not depart from here until the day comes from here -- and he pointed to the east." Mujahid said:

(وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَاقِيَةُ النَّهَارِ)

(nor does the night outstrip the day.) "They seek one another rapidly." The meaning is that there is no gap between night and day; each of them follows the other with no interval, because they have been subjugated and are both constantly pursuing one another.

(وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ)

(They all float, each in an orbit.) means, night and day, the sun and the moon, all of them are floating, i.e., revolving, in their orbits in the heaven. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, `Ikrimah, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan, Qatadah and `Ata' Al-Khurasani. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and others among the Salaf said, "In an orbit like the arc of a spinning wheel."

(وَأَيُّهُ لَهُمْ أَنَا حَمَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ فِي الْفَلَكِ الْمَشْحُونِ  
- وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مِثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ - وَإِنْ نَشَاءُ  
نُغْرِقْهُمْ فَلَا صَرِيخَ لَهُمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنقَدُونَ - إِلَّا  
رَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَمَتَاعًا إِلَىٰ حِينٍ )

(41. And an Ayah for them is that We bore their offspring in the laden ship.) (42. And We have created for them of the like thereunto, on which they ride.) (43. And if We will, We shall drown them, and there will be no shout for them, nor will they be saved.) (44. Unless it be a mercy from Us, and as an enjoyment for a while.)

### Among the Signs of Allah is that He carried Them in the laden Ship

Allah tells us: another sign for them of His might and power is that He has subjugated the sea to carry ships, including -- most significantly -- the ship of Nuh , peace be upon him, in which Allah saved him and the believers, apart from whom none of the descendants of Adam were left on the face of the earth. Allah says:

(وَأَيُّهُ لَهُمْ أَنَا حَمَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ)

(And an Ayah for them is that We bore their offspring) means, their forefathers,

(فِي الْفَلَكِ الْمَشْحُونِ)

(in the laden ship.) means, in the ship which was filled with luggage and animals, in which Allah commanded him to put two of every kind. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Laden means filled." This was also the view of Sa`id bin Jubayr, Ash-Sha`bi, Qatadah and As-Suddi. Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah and Ibn Zayd said, "This was the ship of Nuh peace be upon him."

(وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مِثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ )

(And We have created for them of the like thereunto, on which they ride.) Al-`Awfi said, narrating from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, "This means the camel, for it is the ship of the land on which they carry goods and on which they ride. " Ibn Jarir recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Do you know what the Ayah:

(وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مِثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ )

(And We have created for them of the like thereunto, on which they ride.) refers to" We said, "No." He said, "This refers to the ships which were made after the ship of Nuh, peace be upon him, which was similar to it." This was also the view of Abu Malik, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, Abu Salih and As-Suddi, that the Ayah

(وَخَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِنْ مِثْلِهِ مَا يَرْكَبُونَ )

(And We have created for them of the like thereunto, on which they ride.) refers to ships.

(وَإِنْ نَشَأْ نُغْرِقْهُمْ)

(And if We will, We shall drown them,) means, those who are on board the ships.

(فَلَا صَرِيخَ لَهُمْ)

(and there will be no shout for them) means, there will be no one to save them from their predicament.

(وَلَا هُمْ يُنْقَدُونَ)

(nor will they be saved. ) means, from what has befallen them.

(إِلَّا رَحْمَةً مِنَّا)

(Unless it be a mercy from Us,) means, ` but by Our mercy We make it easy for you to travel on land and sea, and We keep you safe until an appointed time.' Allah says:

(وَمَتَاعًا إِلَىٰ حِينٍ)

(and as an enjoyment for a while.) meaning, until a time that is known to Allah, may He be glorified and exalted.

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّقُوا مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَمَا خَلْفَكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ وَمَا تَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ آيَةٍ مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْطَعِمُ مَنْ لَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ أَطَعَمَهُ إِنَّ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ )

(45. And when it is said to them: "Beware of that which is before you, and that which is behind you, in order that you may receive mercy.") (46. And never came an Ayah from among the Ayat of their Lord to them, but they did turn away from it.) (47. And when it is said to them: "Spend of that with which Allah has provided you," those who disbelieve say to those who believe: "Shall we feed those whom, if Allah willed, He would have fed You are only in a plain error.")

### The Misguidance of the Idolators

Allah tells us how the idolators persisted in their misguidance and in not paying attention to the sins that they had committed in the past or what was to happen to them in the future, on the Day of Resurrection.

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّقُوا مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيكُمْ وَمَا خَلْفَكُمْ)

(And when it is said to them: "Fear of that which is before you, and that which is behind you...") Mujahid said, "This refers to sins." Others said it is the opposite.

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ)

(in order that you may receive mercy.) means, 'so that, if you fear such things Allah will have mercy on you and will save you from His punishment.' The wording implies that they would not respond. Rather that they would turn away and ignore that, as Allah says:

(وَمَا تَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ آيَةٍ مِنْ آيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ)

(And never came an Ayah from among the Ayat of their Lord to them,) meaning, signs of Tawhid and the truth of the Messengers,

(إِلَّا كَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ)

(but they did turn away from it,) means, they did not accept it or benefit from it.

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ أَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ)

(And when it is said to them: "Spend of that with which Allah has provided you,") means, when they are told to spend of that which Allah has provided to them on the poor and needy among the Muslims,

(قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(those who disbelieve say to those who believe) means, about the believers who are poor, i.e., they say to those believers who tell them to spend on the needy,

(أَنْطَعِمُ مَنْ لَوْ يَشَاءُ اللَّهُ أَطْعَمَهُ)

(Shall we feed those whom, if Allah willed, He (Himself) would have fed) meaning, those whom you are telling us to spend on, if Allah had wanted to, He would have made them independent and fed them from His provision, so we are in accordance with the will of Allah with regard to them.

(إِنَّ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(You are only in a plain error.) means, 'by telling us to do that.'

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ -  
قُلْ لَا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ  
لِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلٌ إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ فَلَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ  
سَاعَةً وَلَا يَسْتَقْدِمُونَ - قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَتَاكُمْ  
عَذَابُهُ بَيَاتًا أَوْ نَهَارًا مَادَا يَسْتَعْجِلُ مِنْهُ  
الْمُجْرِمُونَ )

(48. And they say: "When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are truthful") (49. They await only but a single Sayhah which will seize them while they are disputing!) (50. Then they will not be able to make bequest, nor they will return to their family.)

## **The Disbelievers thought that the Day of Resurrection would never come to pass**

Allah tells us how the disbelievers thought that the Day of Resurrection would never come to pass, as they said:

(مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ)

("When will this promise be fulfilled...")

(يَسْتَعْجِلُ بِهَا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهَا)

(Those who believe not therein seek to hasten it) (42:18). Allah says:

(مَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً تَأْخُذُهُمْ وَهُمْ يَخِصِّمُونَ)

(They await only but a single Sayhah which will seize them while they are disputing!) meaning, they are only waiting for a single shout which -- and Allah knows best -- will be the trumpet blast of terror when the Trumpet will be blown while the people are in their marketplaces and places of work, arguing and disputing as they usually do. While in this state, Allah will command Israfil to blow into the Trumpet, so he will sound a long note and there will be no one left on the face of the earth except he will tilt his head to listen to the sound coming from heaven. Then the people who are alive will be driven to the gathering place by a fire which will surround them on all sides. Allah says:

(فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ تَوْصِيَةً)

(Then they will not be able to make bequest, ) meaning, with regard to their possessions, because the matter is more serious than that,

(وَلَا إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِمْ يَرْجِعُونَ)

(nor they will return to their family.) Numerous Hadiths and reports have been narrated about this, which we have mentioned elsewhere. After this there will be the Trumpet blast which will cause everyone who is alive to die, besides the One Who is Ever Living, Eternal. Then after that the trumpet blast of the resurrection will be sounded.

(وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَإِذَا هُم مِّنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَنسِلُونَ - قَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِن مَّرْقَدِنَا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ - إِنْ كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ جَمِيعٌ لَّدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ - فَالْيَوْمَ لَا يُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَلَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ )

(51. And the Trumpet will be blown and behold from the graves they will come out quickly to their Lord.) (52. They will say: "Woe to us! Who has raised us up from our place of sleep." (It will be said to them): "This is what the Most Gracious had promised, and the Messengers spoke truth!") (53. It will be but a single Sayhah, so behold they will all be brought up before Us!) (54. This Day, none will be wronged in anything, nor will you be requited anything except that which you used to do.)

### The Trumpet Blast of the Resurrection

This will be the third blast of the trumpet, the trumpet blast of the resurrection when people will come forth from their graves. Allah says:

(فَإِذَا هُم مِّنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَنسِلُونَ)

(and behold from the graves they will come out quickly to their Lord.) Yansilun means they will be walking quickly. This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَّاعًا كَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ نُصُبٍ يُوفِضُونَ )

(The Day when they will come out of the graves quickly as racing to a goal.) (70:43).

(قَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِن مَّرْقَدِنَا)

(They will say: "Woe to us! Who has raised us up from our place of sleep.") meaning, their graves, which in this world they thought they would never be raised from. When they see with their own eyes that in which they had disbelieved,

(قَالُوا يَوْمَئِذٍ مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِنْ مَرْقَدِنَا)

(They will say: "Woe to us! Who has raised us up from our place of sleep.") This does not contradict the fact that they will be punished in their graves, because in comparison to what is to come afterwards, that will seem like a nap. Ubayy bin Ka`b, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, Al-Hasan and Qatadah said, "They will sleep before the Resurrection." Qatadah said, "That will be between the two trumpet blasts, they will say, `Who has raised us up from our place of sleep" When they say that, the believers will respond. This was the view of more than one of the Salaf.

(هَذَا مَا وَعَدَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ)

((It will be said to them): "This is what the Most Gracious had promised, and the Messengers spoke truth!") Al-Hasan said, "The angels will reply to them in this manner. There is no contradiction because both are possible. And Allah knows best.

(إِنْ كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ جَمِيعٌ لَدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ)

(It will be but a single Sayhah, so behold they will all be brought up before Us!) This is like the Ayat:

(فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ - فَإِذَا هُمْ بِالسَّاهِرَةِ)

(But it will be only a single Zajrah, when behold, they find themselves (on the surface of the earth) alive (after their death).) (79:13-14),

(وَمَا أَمْرُ السَّاعَةِ إِلَّا كَلَمْحِ الْبَصَرِ أَوْ هُوَ أَقْرَبُ)

(And the matter of the Hour is not but as a twinkling of the eye, or even nearer) (16:77), and

(يَوْمَ يَدْعُوكُمْ فَتَسْتَجِيبُونَ بِحَمْدِهِ وَتَظُنُّونَ إِن لَّبِئْتُمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا)

(On the Day when He will call you, and you will answer (His call) with (words of) His praise and obedience, and you will think that you have stayed (in this world) but a little while!) (17:52) which means, `We will issue but one command, and all of them will be gathered together.'

(فَالْيَوْمَ لَا نُظَلِّمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا)

(This Day, none will be wronged in anything,) means, with regard to his deeds.

(وَلَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(nor will you be requited anything except that which you used to do.)

(إِنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ الْيَوْمَ فِي شُغْلٍ فَكِهِونَ - هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلِّ عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَكِبُونَ - لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَلَهُمْ مَا يَدَّعُونَ - سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِّن رَّبِّ رَحِيمٍ)

(55. Verily, the dwellers of the Paradise, that Day, will be busy with joyful things.) (56. They and their wives will be in pleasant shade, reclining on thrones.) (57. They will have therein fruits and all that they ask for.) (58. (It will be said to them): "Salam (Peace!)" -- a Word from the Lord, Most Merciful.)

### The Life of the People of Paradise

Allah tells us that on the Day of Resurrection, when the people of Paradise have reached the arena of judgement, and have settled in the gardens of Paradise, they will be too preoccupied with their own victory and new life of eternal delights to worry about anyone else. Al-Hasan Al-Basri and Isma`il bin Abi Khalid said, "They will be too busy to think about the torment which the people of Hell are suffering. Mujahid said:

(فِي شُغْلٍ فَكِهِونَ)

(will be busy with joyful things.) "With the delights which they are enjoying." This was also the view of Qatadah. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "This means that they will be rejoicing."

(هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ)

(They and their wives) Mujahid said, "Their spouses,

(فِي ظِلِّ)

(will be in pleasant shade,) means, in the shade of trees."

(عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ مُتَكِبُونَ)

(reclining on thrones.) Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Khusayf said:

(الْأَرَائِكِ)

(throne) means beds beneath canopies.

(لَهُمْ فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ)

(They will have therein fruits) means, of all kinds.

(وَلَهُمْ مَا يَدْعُونَ)

(and all that they ask for.) means, whatever they ask for, they will find it, all kinds and types.

(سَلَامٌ قَوْلًا مِّن رَّبِّ رَحِيمٍ)

("Salam (Peace!)" -- a Word from the Lord (Allah), Most Merciful.) Ibn Jurayj said, "Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, concerning this Ayah, Allah Himself, Who is the Peace (As-Salam) will grant peace to the people of Paradise. This view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, is like the Ayah:

(تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ)

(Their greeting on the Day they shall meet Him will be "Salam") (33:44).

(وَأَمَّا زُورُ الْيَوْمِ أَيُّهَا الْمُجْرِمُونَ - أَلَمْ أَعْهَدَ إِلَيْكُمْ  
بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَ آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ  
مُّبِينٌ - وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ - وَلَقَدْ  
أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِلاً كَثِيراً أَقَلَّمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(59. (It will be said): "And O you the criminals! Get you apart this Day.") (60. "Did I not command you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship Shaytan Verily, he is a plain enemy to you.") (61. "And that you should worship Me. That is the straight path.") (62. "And indeed he did lead astray a great multitude of you. Did you not then understand")

## The Isolation of the Disbelievers and Their Rebuke on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us what the end of the disbelievers will be on the Day of Resurrection, when He commands them to get apart from the believers, i.e., to stand apart from the believers. This is like the Ayat:

(وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ نَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ أَشْرَكُوا مَكَانَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ وَشُرَكَائِكُمْ فزَيَّلْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ)

(And the Day whereon We shall gather them all together, then We shall say to those who did set partners in worship with Us: "Stop at your place! You and your partners." Then We shall separate them) (10:28).

(وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ يُنْفَرُونَ )

(And on the Day when the Hour will be established -- that Day shall they be separated.) (30:14)

(يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصَّدَّعُونَ)

(On that Day they shall be divided) (30:43) which means, they will be divided into two separate groups.

(احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ - مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ )

((It will be said to the angels): "Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions and what they used to worship, instead of Allah, and lead them on to the way of flaming Fire (Hell).") (37:22-23).

(أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَبْنَىٰ ءَادَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ )

(Did I not command you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship Shaytan Verily, he is a plain enemy to you.) This is a rebuke from Allah to the disbelievers among the sons of Adam,

those who obey the Shaytan even though he was a plain enemy to them, and they disobeyed Ar-Rahman Who created them and granted them provision. Allah says:

(وَأَنْ اعْبُدُونِي هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ )

(And that you should worship Me. That is the straight path.) meaning, 'I commanded you in the world to disobey the Shaytan, and I commanded you to worship Me, and this is the straight path, but you followed a different path and you followed the commands of the Shaytan.' Allah says:

(وَلَقَدْ أَضَلَّ مِنْكُمْ جِبِلًّا كَثِيرًا )

(And indeed he did lead astray a great multitude of you.) meaning, a large number of people. This was the view of Mujahid, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Sufyan bin `Uyaynah.

(أَفَلَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْقِلُونَ )

(Did you not then understand) means, 'did you not have any understanding, when you went against the command of your Lord to worship Him alone, with no partner or associate, and you preferred to follow the Shaytan'

(هَذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ - اصْلَوْهَا الْيَوْمَ  
بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ - الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ  
وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ  
- وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَطَمَسْنَا عَلَى أَعْيُنِهِمْ فَاسْتَبَقُوا  
الصِّرَاطَ فَأَنَّى يُبْصِرُونَ - وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَمَسَخْنَاهُمْ  
عَلَى مَكَانَتِهِمْ فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مُضِيًّا وَلَا يَرْجِعُونَ  
(

(63. This is Hell which you were promised!) (64. Burn (enter) therein this Day, for that you used to disbelieve.) (65. This Day, We shall seal up their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their legs will bear witness to what they used to earn.) (66. And if it had been Our will, We would surely have wiped out their eyes, so that they would struggle for the path, how then would they see) (67. And if it had been Our will, We could have transformed them in their places. Then they would have been unable to go forward (move about) nor they could have turned back.) On the Day of Resurrection, it will be said to the disbelievers among the sons of Adam, after Hell has been shown to them as a rebuke; and warning:

(هَذِهِ جَهَنَّمُ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ )

(This is Hell which you were promised!) meaning, `this is what the Messengers warned you about, and you did not believe them.'

(اصْلَوْهَا الْيَوْمَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ )

(Burn (enter) therein this Day, for that you used to disbelieve). This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً - هَذِهِ النَّارُ  
الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ - أَفَسِحْرٌ هَذَا أَمْ أَنْتُمْ لَا  
تُبْصِرُونَ )

(The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing. This is the Fire which you used to belie. Is this magic or do you not see) (52:13-15)

### The Mouths of the Disbelievers will be sealed on the Day of Resurrection

(الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ  
أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ )

(This Day, We shall seal up their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their legs will bear witness to what they used to earn.) eThis will be the state of the disbelievers and hypocrites on the Day of Resurrection, when they deny the sins they committed in this world and swear that they did not do that. Allah will seal their mouths and cause their limbs to speak about what they did. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "We were with the Prophet and he smiled so broadly that his molar could be seen, then he said:

«أَتَدْرُونَ مِمَّ أَضْحَكُ؟»

(Do you know why I am smiling) We said, `Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said:

«مِنْ مُجَادَلَةِ الْعَبْدِ رَبَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، يَقُولُ: رَبُّ  
 أَلَمْ تُجِرْنِي مِنَ الظُّلْمِ؟ فَيَقُولُ: بَلَى، فَيَقُولُ: لَأُحِيزُ  
 عَلَيْكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيَّ إِلَّا شَاهِدًا مِنْ نَفْسِي، فَيَقُولُ: كَفَى  
 بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا، وَيَالْكَرَامِ الْكَاتِبِينَ  
 شُهُودًا، فَيُخْتَمُ عَلَى فِيهِ، وَيُقَالُ لِأَرْكَانِهِ: انْطِقِي  
 فَتَنْطِقَ بِعَمَلِهِ، ثُمَّ يُخَلَى بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْكَلَامِ، فَيَقُولُ:  
 بَعْدًا لَكُنَّ وَسُحْقًا، فَعَنْكُنَّ كُنْتُ أَنْاضِلُ»

(Because of the way a servant will argue with his Lord on the Day of Resurrection. He will say, "O Lord, will You not protect me from injustice" )Allah( will say, "Of course." He will say, "I will not accept any witness against me except from myself." )Allah( will say, "Today you will be a sufficient witness against yourself, and the honorable scribes will serve as witnesses against you." Then his mouth will be sealed, and it will be said to his faculties, "Speak!" So they will speak of what he did. Then he will be permitted to speak, and he will say, "May you be doomed! It was for you that I was fighting.")" This was recorded by Muslim and An-Nasa'i. Ibn Jarir narrated that Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The believer will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection, and his Lord will show him his deeds, just between him and His Lord. He will admit it and will say, `Yes, O Lord, I did do that.' Then Allah will forgive him his sins and conceal them, and no creature on earth will see any of those sins, but his good deeds will be seen, and he will want all the people to see them. Then the disbeliever and the hypocrite will be brought to account, and his Lord will show him his deeds and he will deny them, saying, `O Lord, by Your glory, this angel has written down things that I did not do.' The angel will say to him, `Did you not do such and such on such a day and in such a place' He will say, `No, by Your glory, I did not do that.' When he says this, Allah will seal his mouth." Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I think that the first part of his body to speak will be his right thigh." Then he recited:

(الْيَوْمَ نَخْتِمُ عَلَى أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَتُكَلِّمُنَا أَيْدِيهِمْ وَتَشْهَدُ  
 أَرْجُلُهُمْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ )

(This Day, We shall seal up their mouths, and their hands will speak to Us, and their legs will bear witness to what they used to earn).

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَطَمَسْنَا عَلَىٰ أَعْيُنِهِمْ فَاسْتَبَقُوا  
الصِّرَاطَ فَأَنَّى يُبْصِرُونَ )

(And if it had been Our will, We would surely have wiped out their eyes, so that they would struggle for the path, how then would they see) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, explained it: "Allah says, `If We willed, We could have misguided them all away from true guidance, so how could they be guided" And on one occasion he said, " We could have blinded them." Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "If Allah willed, He could have covered their eyes and made them blind, stumbling about." Mujahid, Abu Salih, Qatadah and As-Suddi said, "So that they would struggle for the path, i.e., the right way." Ibn Zayd said, "The meaning of path here is the truth -- `How could they see when We have covered their eyes" Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him said:

(فَأَنَّى يُبْصِرُونَ)

(how then would they see) "They would not see the truth."

وَلَوْ نَشَاءُ لَمَسَخْنَاهُمْ عَلَىٰ مَكَانَتِهِمْ )

(And if it had been Our will, We could have transformed them in their places.) Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said; " We could have destroyed them." As-Suddi said, " We could have changed their form." Abu Salih said, " We could have turned them to stone." Al-Hasan Al-Basri and Qatadah said, " We could have caused them to sit on their feet." Allah says:

(فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مُضِيًِّا)

(Then they would have been unable to go forward) meaning, move to the front,

(وَلَا يَرْجِعُونَ)

(nor they could have turned back.) meaning, move backwards. They would have remained static, unable to move forwards or backwards.

(وَمَنْ تَعَمَّرَهُ نَكَّسَهُ فِي الْخَلْقِ أَقْلًا يَعْقِلُونَ -  
وَمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ الشُّعْرَ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لَهُ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ

وَقَرَأَنُ مُبِينٌ - لِيُنذِرَ مَنْ كَانَ حَيًّا وَيَحِقَّ الْقَوْلُ  
عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ )

(68. And he whom We grant long life -- We reverse him in creation. Will they not then understand) (69. And We have not taught him poetry, nor is it suitable for him. This is only a Reminder and a plain Qur'an.) (70. That he or it may give warning to him who is living, and that Word may be justified against the disbelievers.)

**Allah tells us that the longer the son of Adam lives, the more he becomes weak after being strong, and incapable after being able and active.**

This is like the Ayah:

(اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ ضَعْفٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ  
ضَعْفٍ قُوَّةً ثُمَّ جَعَلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ قُوَّةٍ ضَعْفًا وَشَيْبَةً  
يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْقَدِيرُ )

(Allah is He Who created you in (a state of) weakness, then gave you strength after weakness, then after strength gave weakness and gray hair. He creates what He wills. And it is He Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Powerful.) (30:54). And Allah says:

(وَمِنْكُمْ مَنْ يُرَدُّ إِلَىٰ أَرْدَلِ الْعُمُرِ لِكَيْلَا يَعْلَمَ مِنْ  
بَعْدِ عِلْمٍ شَيْئًا)

(And among you there is he who is brought back to the miserable old age, so that he knows nothing after having known) (22:5). The meaning here -- and Allah knows best -- is that Allah is telling us that this world is transient and will come to an end, it is not eternal and lasting. Allah says:

(أَفَلَا يَعْقِلُونَ)

(Will they not then understand) meaning, will they not think about how they were created, then they become gray-haired, then they become old and senile, so that they may know that they were created for another world that is not transient and will not pass away, and from which there is no way out, which is the Hereafter.

## Allah does not teach His Messenger Poetry

(وَمَا عَلَّمْنَاهُ الشُّعْرَ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لَهُ)

(And We have not taught him poetry, nor is it suitable for him.) Allah tells us that He has not taught His Prophet Muhammad poetry.

(وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لَهُ)

(nor is it suitable for him.) means, he did not know how to compose it, he did not like it and he had no natural inclination towards it. It was narrated that he never memorized a stanza of poetry with the correct meter or rhyme -- he would transpose words or memorize it incompletely. In Ad-Dala'il, Al-Bayhaqi recorded that the Messenger of Allah said to Al-` Abbas bin Mrdas As-Sulami, may Allah be pleased with him:

«أَنْتَ الْقَائِلُ: أَتَجْعَلُ نَهْيِي وَنَهْبَ الْعَبِيدِ بَيْنَ الْأَقْرَعِ وَعُيَيْنَةَ»

(You are the one who said: "Do you distribute my booty and the booty of the servants between Al-Aqra` and `Uyainah.") He said, "It is `Uyainah and Al-Aqra` ." He said:

«الْكُلُّ سَوَاءٌ»

(It is all the same.) i.e., it means the same thing. And Allah knows best. This is because Allah taught him the Qur'an, which

(لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَطْلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ  
تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ)

(Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it; sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.) (41:42). This is not poetry, as some of the ignorant disbelievers of the Quraysh claimed; neither is it sorcery, a fabrication or a magic spell, as the misguided and ignorant people variously suggested. The Prophet was naturally disinclined to compose verse, and was forbidden to do so by Divine Law.

(إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ وَقُرْءَانٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(This is only a Reminder and a plain Qur'an.) means, it is clear and self-explanatory to the one who ponders and comprehends its meanings, Allah says:

(لِيُنذِرَ مَنْ كَانَ حَيًّا)

(That he or it may give warning to him who is living,) meaning, so that this plain Qur'an might warn every living person on the face of the earth. This is like the Ayat:

(لَأُنذِرَكُم بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

(that I may therewith warn you and whomsoever it may reach) (6:19).

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ قَالَنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects that reject it, the Fire will be their promised meeting place) (11:17). Those who will benefit from his warning will be those whose hearts are alive and who have enlightened insight, as Qatadah said, "Alive of heart and alive of insight." Ad-Dahhak said, "This means wise."

(وَيَحِقُّ الْقَوْلُ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ)

(and that Word may be justified against the disbelievers.) means, it is a mercy to the believers and evidence against the disbelievers.

(أُولَئِكَ يَرَوْنَ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَا لَهُمْ مِمَّا عَمِلَتْ أَيْدِينَا أَنْعَمًا  
فَهُمْ لَهَا مَلِكُونَ - وَذَلَّلْنَاهَا لَهُمْ فَمِنْهَا رَكُوبُهُمْ  
وَمِنْهَا يَأْكُلُونَ - وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مَنَافِعُ وَمَشْرَبٌ أَفَلَا  
يَشْكُرُونَ )

(71. Do they not see that We have created for them of what Our Hands have fashioned, the cattle, so that they are their owners.) (72. And We have subdued them unto them so that some of them they have for riding and some they eat.) (73. And they have (other) benefits from them, and (they get to) drink. Will they not then be grateful)

### There is a Sign and a Blessing in Cattle

Allah mentions the blessing that He has bestowed upon His creation by subjugating these cattle for their use.

(فَهُمْ لَهَا مَلِكُونَ)

(so that they are their owners.) Qatadah said, "They are their masters." Meaning, He has made them subdue them. So they are submissive towards them and do not resist them; even if a young child comes to a camel he can make it kneel down, and if he wants to, he can make it stand up and can drive it, and it will meekly be led by him. Even if the train consists of a hundred or more camels, they could all be led by a young child.

(فَمِنْهَا رَكُوبُهُمْ وَمِنْهَا يَأْكُلُونَ)

(some of them they have for riding and some they eat.) means, some of them they ride on their journeys, and use them to carry their burdens to all regions.

(وَمِنْهَا يَأْكُلُونَ)

(and some they eat.) means, if they want to, and they slaughter and sacrifice them.

(وَلَهُمْ)

(And they have (other) benefits from them,) means, from their wool, fur, and hair, furnishings and articles of convenience, comfort for a time.

(فِيهَا)

(and (they get to) drink. ) means, their milk, and their urine for those who need it as medicine, and so on.

(أَفَلَا يَشْكُرُونَ)

(Will they not then be grateful) means, `will they not worship the Creator and Subduer of that, without showing gratitude to others'

(وَإِتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِهَالِهَةً لَعَلَّهُمْ يُنصَرُونَ -  
لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُحَضَّرُونَ  
- فَلَا يَحْزَنُكَ قَوْلُهُمْ إِنَّا نَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا  
يُعْلِنُونَ )

(74. And they have taken besides Allah, gods, hoping that they might be helped.) (75. They cannot help them, but they will be brought forward as a troop (against those who worshipped them).) (76. So, let not their speech then grieve you. Verily, We know what they conceal and what they reveal.)

## The gods of the Idolators are not able to help Them

Allah denounces the idolators for taking the idols as gods alongside Allah, hoping that those gods will help them and provide for them and bring them closer to Allah. Allah says:

(لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ)

(They cannot help them,) meaning, those gods cannot help their worshippers; they are too weak, too insignificant and too powerless. Rather they cannot even help themselves or take revenge on those who want to harm them, because they are inanimate and can neither hear nor comprehend. Allah's saying:

(وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّحَضَّرُونَ)

(but they will be brought forward as a troop.) means, at the time of Reckoning according to the view of Mujahid. This means that those idols will be gathered together and will be present when their worshippers are brought to account, as this will add to their grief and will be more effective in establishing proof against them. Qatadah said:

(لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ)

(They cannot help them,) means the gods.

(وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّحَضَّرُونَ)

(but they will be brought forward as a troop.) "The idolators used to get angry for the sake of their gods in this world, but they could not do them any benefit or protect them from any harm, for they were merely idols." This was also the view of Al-Hasan Al-Basri. This is a good opinion, and was the view favored by Ibn Jarir, may Allah have mercy on him.

## Consolation for the Mercy to the Worlds

(فَلَا يَحْزُنُكَ قَوْلُهُمْ)

(So, let not their speech then grieve you.) means, `their denying you and their disbelief in Allah.'

(إِنَّا نَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ)

(Verily, We know what they conceal and what they reveal.) means, `We know everything about them, and We will punish them for their false claims and deal with them accordingly on the

Day when none of their deeds, great or small, major or minor, will be overlooked, and every deed they did throughout their worldly lives will be laid open for examination.'

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ  
خَصِيمٌ مُّبِينٌ - وَضَرَبَ لَنَا مَثَلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ قَالَ  
مَنْ يُحْيِي الْعِظْمَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ - قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي  
أَنْشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ - الَّذِي  
جَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الشَّجَرِ الْأَخْضَرِ نَارًا فَإِذَا أَنْتُمْ مِّنْهُ  
تُوقَدُونَ )

(77. Does not man see that We have created him from Nutfah. Yet behold he (stands forth) as an open opponent.) (78. And he puts forth for Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says: "Who will give life to these bones after they are rotten and have become dust") (79. Say: "He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!") (80. He Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, when behold you kindle therewith.)

### The Denial of Life after Death, and the Refutation of this Idea

Mujahid, `Ikrimah, `Urwah bin Az-Zubayr, As-Suddi and Qatadah said, "Ubayy bin Khalaf, may Allah curse him, came to the Messenger of Allah with a dry bone in his hand, which he was crumbling and scattering in the air, saying, `O Muhammad! Are you claiming that Allah will resurrect this' He said:

«نَعَمْ، يُمِيتُكَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى، ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُكَ، ثُمَّ يَحْشُرُكَ  
إِلَى النَّارِ»

(Yes, Allah, may He be exalted, will cause you to die, then He will resurrect you and will gather you into the Fire.)" Then these Ayat at the end of Surah Ya Sin were revealed:

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ)

(Does not man see that We have created him from Nutfah.) -- until the end of the Surah. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Al-`As bin Wa'il took a bone from the bed of a valley and crumbled it in his hand, then he said to the Messenger of Allah : `Will Allah bring this back to life after it has disintegrated' The Messenger of Allah said:

«نَعَمْ، يُمِيتُكَ اللهُ، ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكَ، ثُمَّ يُدْخِلُكَ جَهَنَّمَ»

(Yes, Allah will cause you to die, then He will bring you back to life, then He will make you enter Hell.) Then the Ayat at the end of Surah Ya Sin were revealed." This was recorded by Ibn Jarir from Sa`id bin Jubayr. Whether these Ayat were revealed about Ubayy bin Khalaf or Al-`As bin Wa'il, or both of them, they apply to all those who deny the resurrection after death. The definite article "Al" in

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَ الْإِنْسَانُ)

(Does not man (Al-Insan) see...) is generic, applying to all those who deny the Resurrection.

(أَنَا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ خَصِيمٌ مُبِينٌ)

(that We have created him from Nutfah. Yet behold he (stands forth) as an open opponent.) means, the one who is denying the resurrection, cannot see that the One Who initiated creation can re-create it. For Allah initiated the creation of man from semen of despised fluid, creating him from something insignificant, weak and despised, as Allah says:

(أَلَمْ نَخْلُقْكُمْ مِنْ مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ - فَجَعَلْنَاهُ فِي قَرَارٍ مَكِينٍ - إِلَى قَدَرٍ مَعْلُومٍ )

(Did We not create you from a despised water Then We placed it in a place of safety, for a known period) (77:20-22)

(إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ)

(Verily, We have created man from Nutfah) (76:2). which means, from a mixture of different fluids. The One Who created man from this weak Nutfah is not unable to re-create him after his death. Imam Ahmad recorded in his Musnad that Bishr bin Jahhash said, "One day the Messenger of Allah spat in his hand and put his finger on it, then the Messenger of Allah said:

«قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ابْنُ آدَمَ أَنَّى تُعْجِزُنِي وَقَدْ خَلَقْتُكَ مِنْ مِثْلِ هَذِهِ، حَتَّى إِذَا سَوَّيْتُكَ وَعَدَلْتُكَ، مَشَيْتَ بَيْنَ بُرْدَيْكَ، وَلِلْأَرْضِ مِنْكَ وَيَدٌ،

فَجَمَعْتَ وَمَنَعْتَ، حَتَّى إِذَا بَلَغْتَ التَّرَاقِي قُلْتَ:  
أَتَصَدَّقُ، وَأَنْتَى أَوْ أَنْ الصَّدَقَةَ؟»

(Allah, may He be exalted, says: "Son of Adam, how can you outrun Me when I have created you from something like this, and when I have fashioned you and formed you, you walk in your cloak on the earth and it groans beneath your tread. You accumulate and do not spend until the death rattle reaches your throat, then you say, 'I want to give in charity,' but it is too late for charity.") It was also recorded by Ibn Majah. Allah says:

(وَضَرَبَ لَنَا مَثَلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ قَالَ مَنْ يُحْيِي  
الْعِظْمَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ)

(And he puts forth for Us a parable, and forgets his own creation. He says: "Who will give life to these bones after they are rotten and have become dust") meaning, he thinks it unlikely that Allah, the Almighty Who created the heavens and the earth, will re-create these bodies and dry bones. Man forgets about himself, that Allah created him from nothing and brought him into existence, and he knows by looking at himself that there is something greater than that which he denies and thinks impossible. Allah says:

(قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ  
عَلِيمٌ)

(Say: "He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!") meaning, He knows about the bones in all areas and regions of the earth, where they have gone when they disintegrated and dispersed. Imam Ahmad recorded that Rib`i said: ""Uqbah bin `Amr said to Hudhayfah, may Allah be pleased with him, `Will you not tell us what you heard from the Messenger of Allah ' He said, `I heard him say:

«إِنَّ رَجُلًا حَضَرَهُ الْمَوْتُ، فَلَمَّا أَيْسَ مِنَ الْحَيَاةِ  
أَوْصَى أَهْلَهُ: إِذَا أَنَا مُتُّ فَاجْمَعُوا لِي حَطْبًا  
كَثِيرًا جَزَلًا، ثُمَّ أَوْقِدُوا فِيهِ نَارًا، حَتَّى إِذَا أَكَلَتْ  
لَحْمِي، وَخَلَصَتْ إِلَى عَظْمِي فَامْتَحِشْتِ،  
فَخَذُوهَا فَذُقُّوْهَا فَذَرُّوْهَا فِي الْيَمِّ، فَفَعَلُوا، فَجَمَعَهُ

اللَّهُ تَعَالَى إِلَيْهِ، ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ: لِمَ فَعَلْتَ ذَلِكَ؟ قَالَ:  
مِنْ خَشْيَتِكَ، فَغَفَرَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لَهُ»

(Death approached a man and when there was no longer any hope for him, he said to his family, "When I die, gather a lot of firewood, then set it ablaze until my flesh is consumed and it reaches my bones and they become brittle. Then take them and grind them, and scatter them in the sea." So they did that, but Allah gathered him together and said to him: "Why did you do that?" He said, "Because I feared You." So Allah forgave him.)' `Uqbah bin `Amr said, `I heard him say that, and the man was a gravedigger.'" Many versions of this Hadith were recorded in the Two Sahihs. One of these versions mentions that he commanded his sons to burn him and then grind his remains into small pieces, and then scatter half of them on land and half of them on the sea on a windy day. So they did that, then Allah commanded the sea to gather together whatever remains were in it, and He commanded the land to do likewise, then he said to him, "Be!", and he was a man, standing. Allah said to him. "What made you do what you did?" He said, "The fear of You, and You know best." Straight away He forgave him.

(الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّجَرِ الْأَخْضَرِ نَارًا فَإِذَا  
أَنْتُمْ مِنْهُ تُوقِدُونَ )

(He Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, when behold you kindle therewith.) means, the One Who initiated the creation of this tree from water, when it has become green and beautiful, bearing fruit, then He changes it until it becomes dry wood with which fires are lit. For He does whatever He wills and He is able to do whatever He wills, and none can stop Him. Qatadah said concerning the Ayah:

(الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّجَرِ الْأَخْضَرِ نَارًا فَإِذَا  
أَنْتُمْ مِنْهُ تُوقِدُونَ )

(He Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, when behold you kindle therewith.) this means, the One Who brought forth this fire from this tree is able to resurrect him. It was said that this refers to the Markh tree and the `Afar tree, which grow in the Hijaz. If one wants to light a fire but has no kindling with him, then he takes two green branches from these trees and rubs one against the other, and fire is produced from them. So they are just like kindling. This was reported from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him.

(أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ يَقْدِرُ  
عَلَى أَنْ يَخْلُقَ مِنْهُمْ بَلَى وَهُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ -  
إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ -

فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي فِي يَدَيْهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ  
نُرْجَعُونَ )

(81. Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth, able to create the like of them Yes, indeed! He is the All-Knowing Supreme Creator.) (82. Verily, His command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, "Be!" -- and it is!) (83. So glorified be He and exalted (above all that they associate with Him), and in Whose Hand is the dominion of all things, and to Him you shall be returned.)

**Allah points out His great might and power in that He created the seven heavens with all their stars and planets, and the seven earths with everything in them of mountains, sands, oceans and wildernesses, and everything in between.**

He tells us to find the proof that He will re-create our bodies in His creation of these mighty things. This is like the Ayah:

(الْخَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ خَلْقِ  
النَّاسِ)

(The creation of the heavens and the earth is indeed greater than the creation of mankind) (40:57). And Allah says here:

(أَوْلَيْسَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِقَدِيرٍ  
عَلَى أَنْ يَخْلُقَ مِنْهُمْ)

(Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth, able to create the like of them) meaning, the like of mankind. So, He will re-create them as He created them in the first place. Ibn Jarir said, "This Ayah is like the Ayah:

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ  
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَمْ يَعْزُبْ عَنْهُ خَلْقُهُمْ عَلَى أَنْ يُحْيِيَ  
الْمَوْتَى بَلَى إِنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ )

(Do they not see that Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, and was not wearied by their creation, is able to give life to the dead Yes, He surely is able to do all things.) (46:33)" And Allah says here:

(أُولَئِكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ يَقْدِرُ  
عَلَى أَنْ يَخْلُقَ مِثْلَهُمْ بَلَى وَهُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ -  
إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ )

(Yes, indeed! He is the All-Knowing Supreme Creator. Verily, His command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, "Be!"-- and it is!) meaning, He only needs to command a thing once; it does not need to be repeated or confirmed. When Allah wants a thing to happen, He only says to it: "Be!" once, and it is. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Dharr, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يَقُولُ: يَا عِبَادِي، كُلُّكُمْ مُذْنِبٌ إِلَّا  
مَنْ عَافَيْتُ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُونِي أَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ، وَكُلُّكُمْ فَقِيرٌ  
إِلَّا مَنْ أَغْنَيْتُ، إِنِّي جَوَادٌ مَاجِدٌ وَاجِدٌ أَفْعَلُ مَا  
أَشَاءُ، عَطَائِي كَلَامٌ، وَعَذَابِي كَلَامٌ، إِذَا أَرَدْتُ  
شَيْئًا فَإِنَّمَا أَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ»

(Allah, may He be exalted, says: "O My servants, all of you are sinners apart from those whom I protect from sin. Seek My forgiveness and I will forgive you. All of you are in need except for those whom I make independent. I am Most Generous, Majestic, and I do whatever I will. My giving is a word and My punishment is a word. When I want a thing to happen I merely say to it 'Be!' and it is.")

(فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ  
نُرْجَعُونَ )

(So glorified be He and exalted (above all that they associate with Him), and in Whose Hand is the dominion of all things, and to Him you shall be returned.) means, glorified and exalted and sanctified above any evil be the Ever Living, the Self-Sufficient, in Whose hand is the control of the heavens and the earth, to Whom all matters return. His is the power to create and command, and to Him all mankind will return on the Day of Resurrection. Then He will reward or punish each one according to his deeds, and He is the Just, the Generous Bestower, the Graciously Disposed. The meaning of this Ayah,

(فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(So glorified be He and exalted (above all that they associate with Him), and in Whose Hand is the sovereignty (Malakut) of all things) is like the Ayat:

(قُلْ مَنْ بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(Say: "In Whose Hand is the sovereignty (Malakut) of everything") (23:88)

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ)

(Blessed be He in Whose Hand is the dominion (Al-Mulk)) (67:1) Al-Mulk and Al-Malakut mean the same thing, although some people claim that Al-Mulk has to do with the physical realm and Al-Malakut has to do with the spiritual realm. But the former view is the one which is correct, and this is the opinion of the majority of the scholars of Tafsir and others. Imam Ahmad recorded that Hudhayfah bin Al-Yaman, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I stood in prayer with the Messenger of Allah one night and he recited the seven long Surahs in seven Rak`ahs. When he raised his head from bowing, he said,

«سَمِعَ اللَّهُ لِمَنْ حَمِدَهُ»

(Allah hears the one who praises Him.) Then he said;

«الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي الْمَلَكُوتِ وَالْجَبْرُوتِ  
وَالْكِبْرِيَاءِ وَالْعِظْمَةِ»

(Praise be to Allah, the Owner of Malakut, might, pride and greatness.) His bowing was as long as his standing position, and his prostration was as long as his bowing. Then he finished and my legs were nearly broken." Abu Dawud recorded that `Awf bin Malik Al-Ashja'i, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I stood in prayer with the Messenger of Allah one night and he recited Al-Baqarah. He did not reach any Ayah that mentioned mercy but he paused and asked for it, and he did not reach any Ayah that mentioned punishment but he paused and sought refuge from it. Then he bowed for as long as he had stood, and while bowing he said,

«سُبْحَانَ ذِي الْجَبْرُوتِ وَالْمَلَكُوتِ وَالْكِبْرِيَاءِ  
وَالْعِظْمَةِ»

(Glory be to Allah, the Owner of might, Malakut, pride and greatness.) Then he prostrated for as long as he had bowed, and said something similar while prostrating. Then he stood and recited Al `Imran, then he recited one Surah after another." This was recorded by At-Tirmidhi in Ash-Shama'il and An-Nasa'i. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah Ya Sn. All praise and thanks are due to Allah.

**The Tafsir of Surat As-Saffat**

## (Chapter - 37)

### Which was revealed in Makkah

### The Virtues of Surat As-Saffat

An-Nasa'i recorded that `Abdullah bin `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah used to command us to make our prayers short and he used to recite As-Saffat when he lead us in prayer." This was recorded by An-Nasa'i only.

(بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ )

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

(وَالصّٰقَاتِ صَقًّا - فَالزّٰجِرَاتِ زَجْرًا - فَالْتّٰلِيَاتِ  
ذِكْرًا - اِنَّ اِلَهَكُمْ لَوٰاحِدٌ - رَبُّ السّٰمٰوٰتِ  
وَالْاَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَرَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ )

(1. By those ranged in ranks.) (2. By those who drive the clouds in a good way.) (3. By those who bring the Dhikr.) (4. Verily, your God is indeed One;) (5. Lord of the heavens and of the earth, and all that is between them, and Lord of every point of the sun's risings.)

It was reported that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said:

(وَالصّٰقَاتِ صَقًّا )

"(By those ranged in ranks.) -- they are the angels;

(فَالزّٰجِرَاتِ زَجْرًا )

(By those who drive the clouds in a good way. ) they are the angels;

(فَالْتّٰلِيَاتِ ذِكْرًا )

(By those who bring the Dhikr.) they are the angels." This was also the view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Masruq, Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ikrimah, Mujahid, As-Suddi, Qatadah and Ar-Rabi` bin Anas. Qatadah said, "The angels form ranks in the heavens." Muslim recorded that Hudhayfah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«فُضِّلْنَا عَلَى النَّاسِ بِثَلَاثٍ: جُعِلَتْ صُفُوفُنَا  
كَصُفُوفِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، وَجُعِلَتْ لَنَا الْأَرْضُ كُلُّهَا  
مَسْجِدًا، وَجُعِلَ لَنَا ثُرَابُهَا طَهُورًا، إِذَا لَمْ نَجِدِ  
الْمَاءَ»

(We have been favored over the rest of mankind in three ways: our ranks have been made like the ranks of the angels; the entire earth has been made a Masjid for us; and its soil has been made a means of purification for us if we cannot find water.)" Muslim, Abu Dawud, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah recorded that Jabir bin Samurah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَلَا تَصُفُّونَ كَمَا تَصُفُّ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ؟»

(Will you not form ranks as the angels form ranks in the presence of their Lord) We said, 'How do the angels form ranks in the presence of their Lord' He said:

«يُتِمُّونَ الصُّفُوفَ الْمُتَقَدِّمَةَ، وَيَتَرَاصُّونَ فِي  
الصَّفِّ»

(They complete the rows nearer the front and they consolidate the rows. )" As-Suddi and others said that the Ayah

(فَالزَّجْرَاتِ زَجْرًا )

(By those who drive the clouds in a good way. ) means that they drive the clouds.

(فَالذِّكْرَاتِ ذِكْرًا )

(By those who bring the Dhikr.) As-Suddi said, "The angels bring the Scriptures and the Qur'an from Allah to mankind."

(إِنَّ إِلَهُكُمْ لَوَاحِدٌ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(Verily, your God is indeed One, Lord of the heavens and the earth,) This is the One by Whom the oath is sworn, stating that there is no God worthy of worship but He, Lord of the heavens and the earth,

(وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا)

(and all that is between them,) means, of created beings.

(وَرَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ)

(and Lord of every point of the sun's risings.) means, He is the Sovereign Who is controlling His creation by subjugating it and all that is in it of stars, planets and heavenly bodies which appear from the east and set in the west. Mentioning the east is sufficient and there is no need for the west to be mentioned too, because it is implied in what is said. This has also been stated clearly elsewhere, in the Ayat:

(فَلَا أُقْسِمُ بِرَبِّ الْمَشَارِقِ وَالْمَغَارِبِ إِنَّا لَقَدِيرُونَ  
(

(So I swear by the Lord of all the points of sunrise and sunset in the east and the west that surely We are able.) (70:40)

(رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقَيْنِ وَرَبُّ الْمَغْرِبَيْنِ )

((He is) the Lord of the two easts and the Lord of the two wests. ) (55:17) which refers to the rising and setting points of the sun and the moon in both winter and summer.

(إِنَّا زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِزِينَةِ الْكَوَكِبِ - وَحِفْظًا  
مِّنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ مَّارِدٍ - لَا يَسْمَعُونَ إِلَى الْمَلَأِ  
الْأَعْلَى وَيُقَدِّفُونَ مِنْ كُلِّ جَانِبٍ - دُحُورًا وَلَهُمْ  
عَذَابٌ وَأَصِيبٌ - إِلَّا مَنْ خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ  
شِهَابٌ ثَاقِبٌ )

(6. Verily, We have adorned the near heaven with the stars.) (7. And to guard against every rebellious Shaytan.) (8. They cannot listen to the higher group for they are pelted from every side.) (9. Outcast, and theirs is a constant torment.) (10. Except such as snatch away something by stealing, and they are pursued by a flaming fire of piercing brightness.)

## The Adornment and Protection of the Heaven comes from Allah

Allah tells us that He has adorned the lowest heaven with the heavenly bodies for those among the people of the earth who look at it. The stars and planets in the sky give light to the people of earth, as Allah says:

(وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ وَجَعَلْنَاهَا رُجُومًا لِلشَّيَاطِينِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابَ السَّعِيرِ )

(And indeed We have adorned the nearest heaven with lamps, and We have made such lamps (as) missiles to drive away the Shayatin, and have prepared for them the torment of the blazing Fire.) (67:5),

(وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَّاهَا لِلنَّاظِرِينَ - وَحَفِظْنَاهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَجِيمٍ - إِلَّا مَنْ اسْتَرَقَ السَّمْعَ فَاتَّبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ مُبِينٌ )

(And indeed, We have put the big stars in the heaven and We beautified it for the beholders. And We have guarded it from every outcast Shaytan. Except him who steals the hearing then he is pursued by a clear flaming fire.) (15:16-18). And Allah says here:

(وَحِفْظًا)

(And to guard) meaning, to protect as it should be protected,

(مِّنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ مَّارِدٍ)

(against every rebellious Shaytan. ) means, every insolent and impudent devil, when he wants to eavesdrop (on news in the heavens), a piercing fire comes and burns him. Allah, may He be glorified, says:

(لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ إِلَى الْمَلَأِ الْأَعْلَى)

(They cannot listen to the higher group) meaning, they cannot reach the higher group -- which refers to the heavens and the angels in them -- when they speak of what has been revealed by Allah of His Laws and decrees. We have already mentioned this when explaining the Hadiths quoted when we discussed the Ayah,

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُزِّعَ عَن قُلُوبِهِمْ قَالُوا مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ  
قَالُوا الْحَقَّ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ

(when fear is banished from their hearts, they say: "What is it that your Lord has said" They say: "The truth. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.) (34:23). Allah says:

(وَيَقْدِفُونَ)

(for they are pelted) meaning, they are hit,

(مِنْ كُلِّ جَانِبٍ)

(from every side.) means, from all directions from which they try to reach the heaven.

(دُحُورًا)

(Outcast,) means, they are rejected, and are repelled and prevented from reaching it, and they are pelted.

(وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ وَاصِبٌ)

(and theirs is a constant torment.) means, in the Hereafter, they will have an ongoing, everlasting and painful torment, as Allah says:

(وَأَعْتَدْنَا لَهُمْ عَذَابَ السَّعِيرِ)

(and )We( have prepared for them the torment of the blazing Fire) (67:5).

(إِلَّا مَنْ خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ)

(Except such as snatch away something by stealing,) means, except for the one among the Shayatin who manages to get something, which is a word he has heard from the heaven. Then he throws it down to the one who is beneath him, who in turn throws it down to the one who is beneath him. Perhaps the flaming fire will strike him before he is able to throw it down, or perhaps he will throw it -- by the decree of Allah -- before the flaming fire strikes him and burns him. So the other devil takes it to the soothsayer, as we have seen previously in the Hadith. Allah says:

(إِلَّا مَنْ خَطِفَ الْخَطْفَةَ فَأَتْبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ ثَاقِبٌ )

(Except such as snatch away something by stealing, and they are pursued by a flaming fire of piercing brightness.) meaning, shining brightly. Ibn Jarir recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Shayatin had places where they sat in the heavens listening to what was being revealed by Allah. The stars did not move and the Shayatin were not struck. When they heard the revelation, they would come down to earth and to every word they would add nine of their own. When the Messenger of Allah was sent, if a Shaytan wanted to take his seat in the heavens, the flaming fire would come and would not miss him; it would burn him every time. They complained about this to Iblis, may Allah curse him, and he said, `Something must have happened.' He sent his troops out and they found the Messenger of Allah standing in prayer between the two mountains of Nakhlah." -- Waki` said, "This means in the valley of Nakhlah." -- "They went back to Iblis and told him about that, and he said, `This is what has happened.'"

(فَاسْتَفْتِهِمْ أَهُمْ أَشَدُّ خَلْقًا أَمْ مَنِ خَلَقْنَا إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ  
 مِنْ طِينٍ لَازِبٍ - بَلْ عَجِبْتَ وَيَسْخَرُونَ - وَإِذَا  
 دُكِّرُوا لَا يَذْكُرُونَ - وَإِذَا رَأَوْا آيَةً يَسْتَسْخَرُونَ  
 - وَقَالُوا إِن هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ - أَعِدَّا مِثْنَا وَكُنَّا  
 تُرَابًا وَعِظْمًا أَعِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ - أَوْ ءَابَاؤُنَا  
 الْأَوَّلُونَ - قُلْ نَعَمْ وَأَنْتُمْ دَخِرُونَ - فَايْمًا هِيَ  
 زَجْرَةٌ وَحِدَةٌ فَإِذَا هُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ )

(11. Then ask them: "Are they harder to create, or those whom We have created" Verily, We created them of a sticky clay.) (12. Nay, you wondered while they mock.) (13. And when they are reminded, they pay no attention.) (14. And when they see an Ayah (a sign) from Allah, they mock at it.) (15. And they say: "This is nothing but evident magic!") (16. "When we are dead and have become dust and bones, shall we verily be resurrected") (17. "And also our fathers of old") (18. Say : "Yes, and you shall then be humiliated.") (19. It will be a single Zajrah, and behold, they will be staring!)

### The Certainty of Life after Death

Allah says: `Ask these people, those who deny the resurrection, which is harder to create Are they more difficult to create or the heavens, the earth, the angels, devils, the mighty creatures -- everything in between them' Ibn Mas`ud said that they admitted that these things were harder to create than they were. If this is the case, then why do they deny the resurrection, when they see things that are greater than that which they deny As Allah says:

(لَخَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ خَلْقِ النَّاسِ  
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ )

(The creation of the heavens and the earth is indeed greater than the creation of mankind; yet, most of mankind know not) (40:57) Then Allah explains that they were created from something weak, as He says:

(إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِنْ طِينٍ لَازِبٍ)

(Verily, We created them of a sticky clay.) Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr and Ad-Dahhak said, "This is the useful kind of mud which sticks to itself." Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and `Ikrimah said, "It is sticky and useful." Qatadah said, "It is that which sticks to the hand."

(بَلْ عَجِبْتَ وَيَسْخَرُونَ )

(Nay, you wondered while they mock.) means, `you were astounded, O Muhammad, at these people who denied the resurrection whilst you were certain that it is true, when they disbelieved in what Allah told you of this wondrous matter, which is the re-creation of their bodies after they have disintegrated. They oppose what you say because of their intense disbelief and they make fun of what you tell them about that.' Qatadah said, "Muhammad was astounded by the mockery of the misguided ones among the sons of Adam."

(وَإِذَا رَأَوْا آيَةً)

(And when they see an Ayah) means, clear evidence and proof,

(يَسْتَسْخِرُونَ)

(they mock at it.) Mujahid and Qatadah said, "They make fun of it."

(وَقَالُوا إِن هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ )

(And they say: "This is nothing but evident magic!") means, `this that you have brought is nothing but plain magic.'

(أَعِدَّا مِثْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظْمًا أَعِنَّا لَمَبْعُوثُونَ -  
أَوْ ءَابَاؤُنَا الْأَوَّلُونَ )

(When we are dead and have become dust and bones, shall we (then) verily be resurrected And also our fathers of old) They thought that this was unlikely to happen, and they did not believe it.

(قُلْ نَعَمْ وَأَنْتُمْ دَخِرُونَ )

(Say: "Yes, and you shall then be humiliated".) means, `tell them, O Muhammad: Yes, you will be raised up on the Day of Resurrection, after you have become dust and bones, and you will be humiliated,' i.e., put to shame before His great might. This is like the Ayat:

(وَكُلُّ أُمَّةٍ آتَاهُ دَخِيرِينَ)

(And all shall come to Him, humbled) (27:87), and

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَخِرِينَ)

(Verily, those who scorn My worship, they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!) (40:60) Then Allah says:

(فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ فَإِذَا هُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ )

(It will be a single Zajrah, and behold, they will be staring!) means, it will be a single command from Allah, He will call them once to come forth from the earth, then they will be standing before Him, staring at the horrors of the Day of Resurrection. And Allah knows best.

(وَقَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا هَذَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ - هَذَا يَوْمُ الْفَصْلِ  
الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ - احْشَرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا  
وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ - مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ  
فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ - وَقِفُوهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ  
مَسْتَوْلُونَ - مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنْصَرُونَ - بَلْ هُمْ الْيَوْمَ  
مُسْتَسْلِمُونَ )

(20. They will say: "Woe to us! This is the Day of Recompense!") (21. (It will be said:) "This is the Day of Judgement which you used to deny.") (22. (It will be said to the angels:) Assemble

those who did wrong, together with their companions and what they used to worship,) (23. Instead of Allah, and lead them on to the way of flaming Fire (Hell);) (24. But stop them, verily, they are to be questioned.) (25. "What is the matter with you Why do you not help one another") (26. Nay, but that Day they shall surrender.)

## The Day of Recompense

Allah tells us what the disbeliever will say on the Day of Resurrection, how they will blame themselves and admit that they wronged themselves in this world. When they see the horrors of the Day of Resurrection with their own eyes, they will be filled with regret at the time when regret will not avail them anything.

(وَقَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا هَذَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ )

(They will say: "Woe to us! This is the Day of Recompense!") And the angels and the believers will say:

(هَذَا يَوْمُ الْفَصْلِ الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تُكَذِّبُونَ )

(This is the Day of Judgement which you used to deny.) This will be said to them as a rebuke and reproof. Allah will command the angels to separate the disbeliever from the believers in the place where they are standing. Allah says:

(احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ)

((It will be said to the angels:) Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions) An-Nu`man bin Bashir, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Their companions means their counterparts, those who are like them." This was also the view of Ibn `Abbas, Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ikrimah, Mujahid, As-Suddi, Abu Salih, Abu Al-`Aliyah and Zayd bin Aslam." Sharik said, narrating from Simak, from An-Nu`man: "I heard `Umar say:

(احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ)

(Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions) means, `Those who are like them. So those who committed Zina will be gathered with others who committed Zina, those who dealt in Riba will be gathered with others who dealt in Riba, those who drank wine will be gathered with others who drank wine.' Mujahid and Sa`id bin Jubayr narrated from Ibn `Abbas:

(وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ)

(their companions) means "Their friends."

(وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ)

(and what they used to worship. Instead of Allah,) means, instead of Allah, i.e., their idols and false gods will be gathered together with them in the same place.

(فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ)

(and lead them on to the way of flaming Fire.) means, take them to the way to Hell. This is like the Ayah:

(وَنَحْشُرُهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ عَلَىٰ وُجُوهِهِمْ عُمِيَآ  
وَبُكْمًا وَصُمًّا مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدْنَاهُمْ  
سَعِيرًا)

(and We shall gather them together on the Day of Resurrection on their faces, blind, dumb and deaf; their abode will be Hell; whenever it abates, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire) (17:97).

(وَقِفُّوهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ مَسْئُولُونَ)

(But stop them, verily, they are to be questioned.) means, stop them so that they may be questioned about the things they did and said in this world. As Ad-Dahhak said, narrating from Ibn `Abbas, this means, `detain them, for they are to be brought to account.' `Abdullah bin Al-Mubarak said, "I heard `Uthman bin Za'idah say, `The first thing about which a man will be asked is the company that he kept. Then by way of rebuke, it will be said to them:

(مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنْصُرُونَ)

(What is the matter with you Why do you not help one another).'" meaning, `as you claimed that you would all help one another.'

(بَلْ هُمْ الْيَوْمَ مُسْتَسْلِمُونَ)

(Nay, but that Day they shall surrender.) means, they will be subjected to the command of Allah, and they will not be able to resist it or avoid it. And Allah knows best.

(وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ - قَالُوا  
إِنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَأْتُونَنَا عَنِ الْيَمِينِ - قَالُوا بَلْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا  
مُؤْمِنِينَ - وَمَا كَانَ لَنَا عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنْ سُلْطٰنٍ بَلْ كُنْتُمْ

قَوْمًا طَغِين - فَحَقَّ عَلَيْنَا قَوْلُ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا لَذَائِقُونَ -  
فَأَغْوَيْنَكُمْ إِنَّا كُنَّا غَوِينَ - فَإِنَّهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ فِي  
الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ - إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَفَعُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ -  
إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ  
- وَيَقُولُونَ أَءِنَّا لَتَارِكُو ءَالِهَتِنَا لِشَاعِرٍ مَّجْنُونٍ -  
بَلْ جَاءَ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَدَّقَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ )

(27. And they will turn to one another and question one another.) (28. They will say: "It was you who used to come to us from the right side.") (29. They will reply: "Nay, you yourselves were not believers.") (30. "And we had no authority over you. Nay! But you were a transgressing people.") (31. "So now the Word of our Lord has been justified against us, that we shall certainly taste (the torment).") (32. "So we led you astray because we were ourselves astray.") (33. Then verily, that Day, they will (all) share in the torment.) (34. Certainly, that is how We deal with the criminals.) (35. Truly, when it was said to them: "La ilaha illallah," they puffed themselves up with pride.) (36. And (they) said: "Are we going to abandon our gods for the sake of a mad poet") (37. Nay! he has come with the truth and he confirms the Messengers.)

### The arguing of the Idolators on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us that the disbeliever will blame one another in the arena of Resurrection, just as they will argue with one another in the levels of Hell:

(وَإِذْ يَتَحَاجُّونَ فِي النَّارِ فَيَقُولُ الضُّعَفَاءُ لِلَّذِينَ  
اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا لَكُمْ تَبَعًا فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُعْتَدُونَ عَلَيْنَا  
نَصِيبًا مِّنَ النَّارِ - قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا كُلٌّ  
فِيهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ حَكَمَ بَيْنَ الْعِبَادِ )

(The weak will say to those who were arrogant: "Verily, we followed you, can you then take from us some portion of the Fire" Those who were arrogant will say: "We are all (together) in this (Fire)! Verily, Allah has judged between (His) servants!") (40:47-48)

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ مَوْقُوفُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ  
 يَرْجِعُ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضٍ الْقَوْلَ يَقُولُ الَّذِينَ  
 اسْتَضَعُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لَوْلَا أَنْتُمْ لَكُنَّا  
 مُؤْمِنِينَ قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا لِلَّذِينَ اسْتَضَعُوا  
 أَنَحْنُ صَدَدْنَاكُمْ عَنِ الْهُدَىٰ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَكُمْ بَلْ  
 كُنْتُمْ مُجْرِمِينَ وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَضَعُوا لِلَّذِينَ  
 اسْتَكْبَرُوا بَلْ مَكْرُ الْيَلِّ وَالنَّهَارِ إِذْ تَأْمُرُونَنَا أَنْ  
 نَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَنَجْعَلَ لَهُ أَنْدَادًا وَأَسْرُوا النَّدَامَةَ لَمَّا  
 رَأُوا الْعَذَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا الْأَغْلَالَ فِي أَعْنَاقِ الَّذِينَ  
 كَفَرُوا هَلْ يُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(But if you could see when the wrongdoers will be made to stand before their Lord, how they will cast the (blaming) word one to another! Those who were deemed weak will say to those who were arrogant: "Had it not been for you, we should certainly have been believers!" And those who were arrogant will say to those who were deemed weak: "Did we keep you back from guidance after it had come to you Nay, but you were criminals." Those who were deemed weak will say to those who were arrogant: "Nay, but it was your plotting by night and day, when you ordered us to disbelieve in Allah and set up rivals to Him!" And each of them (parties) will conceal their own regrets, when they behold the torment. And We shall put iron collars round the necks of those who disbelieved. Are they requited aught except what they used to do) (34:31-33) Similarly, they are described here as saying:

(إِنَّكُمْ كُنْتُمْ تَأْتُونَنَا عَنِ الْيَمِينِ)

(It was you who used to come to us from the right side.) Ad-Dahhak reported that Ibn `Abbas said; "They will say, `You used to force us because of your position of power over us, for we were weak and you were strong.'" Qatadah said, "Men will say to the Jinn, `You used to come to us from the right side to block every good deed, and you told us not to do it and you tried to put obstacles in our way.'" As-Suddi said, " You used to come to us to block the truth, and you made falsehood look attractive to us, and you prevented us from seeing the truth." Ibn Zayd said, it means: " You stood in the way between us and goodness, and you repelled us from Islam and faith and doing the good deeds that we had been commanded to do." Yazid Ar-Rishk said, "from La ilaha illallah."

(قَالُوا بَلْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ )

(They will reply: "Nay, you yourselves were not believers.") The leaders of the Jinn and mankind will say to their followers, "It is not as you say; your hearts denied faith and were open to disbelief and sin."

(وَمَا كَانَ لَنَا عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنْ سُلْطٰنٍ)

(And we had no authority over you.) means, `we had no proof of the truth of that to which we called you.'

(بَلْ كُنْتُمْ قَوْمًا طٰغِينَ)

(Nay! But you were a transgressing people.) `You yourselves were evildoers and transgressors against the truth, so you responded to us and neglected the truth which the Prophets brought with proof, and you went against them.'

(فَحَقَّ عَلَيْنَا قَوْلُ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا لَذٰئِقُونَ - فَأَغْوَيْنَاكُمْ إِنَّا  
كُنَّا غٰوِينَ )

(So now the Word of our Lord has been justified against us, that we shall certainly (have to) taste (the torment). So we led you astray because we were ourselves astray.) Those who were arrogant will say to those who were deemed weak, `the Word of Allah has been justified against us, that we are among the doomed who will taste the punishment of the Day of Resurrection.'

(فَأَغْوَيْنَاكُمْ)

(So we led you astray) means, `so we called you to misguidance,'

(إِنَّا كُنَّا غٰوِينَ)

(because we were ourselves astray. ) means, `we called you to follow the path which we were on, and you responded.' Allah says:

(فَإِنَّهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ فِي الْعَذَابِ مُشْتَرِكُونَ )

(Then verily, that Day, they will (all) share in the torment.) means, all of them will be in Hell, each according to what he deserves.

إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَفْعَلُ بِالْمُجْرِمِينَ - إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ )

(Certainly, that is how We deal with criminals. Truly, when it was said to them: "La ilaha illallah," they puffed themselves up with pride.) means, in this world they were too arrogant to say these words as the believers said them. Ibn Abi Hatim narrated that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«أَمَرْتُ أَنْ أُقَاتِلَ النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَقُولُوا: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، فَمَنْ قَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، فَقَدْ عَصَمَ مِنِّي مَالَهُ وَنَفْسَهُ إِلَّا بِحَقِّهِ، وَحِسَابُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ»

(I have been commanded to fight the people until they say La ilaha ill-Allah. Whoever says La ilaha illallah, he and his property are safe from me except for his obligation, and his reckoning will be with Allah, may He be glorified.) Allah revealed in His Book the story of people who were arrogant, as He says:

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ - وَيَقُولُونَ أَعْنَا لَتَارْكَوْا إِلَهَاتِنَا لِشَاعِرٍ مَجْنُونٍ )

(Truly, when it was said to them: "La ilaha illallah," they puffed themselves up with pride. And (they) said: "Are we going to abandon our gods for the sake of a mad poet") meaning, ' Shall we stop worshipping our gods and the gods of our forefathers just because of the words of this mad poet' -- meaning the Messenger of Allah . Allah said in refutation of their attitude:

(بَلْ جَاءَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(Nay! he has come with the truth) meaning, the Messenger of Allah has brought the truth with all that Allah has revealed to him of stories and commandments.

(وَصَدَّقَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(and he confirms the Messengers.) means, he fulfills their prophecies of his praiseworthy characteristics and his perfect way, and he tells people of the Laws and commands of Allah, as they said he would.

(مَا يُقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ قِيلَ لِلرُّسُلِ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ)

(Nothing is said to you except what was said to the Messengers before you) (41:43).

(إِنَّكُمْ لَذَائِقُو الْعَذَابِ الْأَلِيمِ - وَمَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا  
كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ - إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ - أُولَئِكَ  
لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَّعْلُومٌ - فَوْكِهِ وَهُمْ مُكْرَمُونَ - فِي  
جَنَّتِ النَّعِيمِ - عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ - يُطَافُ  
عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِّنْ مَّعِينٍ - بَيضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ -  
لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنْزَفُونَ - وَعِنْدَهُمْ  
قَصِيرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ عِينٌ - كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ )

(38. Verily, you are going to taste the painful torment;) (39. And you will be requited nothing except for what you used to do.) (40. Save the chosen servants of Allah.) (41. For them there will be a known provision,) (42. Fruits; and they shall be honored,) (43. In the Gardens of Delight,) (44. Facing one another on thrones.) (45. Round them will be passed a cup of pure wine) (46. White, delicious to the drinkers.) (47. Neither will they have Ghawl from that nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom.) (48. And beside them will be Qasirat-At-Tarf with (wide and beautiful) eyes.) (49. as if they were Bayd Maknun.)

### The Punishment of the Idolators and the Reward of the sincere Believers

Allah says, addressing the people:

(إِنَّكُمْ لَذَائِقُو الْعَذَابِ الْأَلِيمِ - وَمَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا  
كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ )

(Verily, you are going to taste the painful torment; and you will be requited nothing except for what you used to do.) Then He makes an exception in the case of His sincerely believing servants. This is like the Ayat:

(وَالْعَصْرُ - إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ  
ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(By the Time. Verily, man is in loss, Except those who believe and do righteous deeds...)  
(103:1-3),

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمٍ - ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ  
أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا  
الصَّالِحَاتِ

(Verily, We created man in the best stature. Then We reduced him to the lowest of the low.  
Save those who believe and do righteous deeds) (95:4-6).

وَإِنْ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا وَارِدُهَا كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ حَتْمًا  
مَقْضِيًّا - ثُمَّ نُنَجِّي الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَنَذَرُ الظَّالِمِينَ  
فِيهَا جِثْيًا )

(There is not one of you but will pass over it (Hell); this is with your Lord, a decree which must  
be accomplished. Then We shall save those who have Taqwa. And We shall leave the  
wrongdoers therein to their knees.) (19:71-72); and

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِينَةٌ - إِلَّا أَصْحَابَ  
الْيَمِينِ )

(Every person is a pledge for what he has earned, except those on the right) (74:38-39). Allah  
says here:

(إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

(Save the chosen servants of Allah.) meaning, they will not taste the painful torment nor will  
they be brought to account. Their evil acts, if there are any, will be overlooked, and each good  
deed will be rewarded in multiples of between ten and seven hundred, or as much as Allah  
wills.

(أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَعْلُومٌ )

(For them there will be a known provision,) Qatadah and As-Suddi said, "This means Paradise."  
It is explained further in the next Ayah:

(فَوَكَّهُ)

(Fruits) meaning, of different kinds.

(وَهُمْ مُكْرَمُونَ)

(and they shall be honored,) means, they will be served and will live a life of luxury.

(فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ - عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ )

(In the Gardens of Delight, facing one another on thrones.) Mujahid said, "One of them will not look at one another's backs."

(يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ - بَيضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ  
لِّلشَّرِبِينَ - لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنْزَفُونَ )

(Round them will be passed a cup of pure wine -- white, delicious to the drinkers. Neither will they have Ghawl from that nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom.) This is like the Ayah:

(يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَانٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ - بِأَكْوَابٍ  
وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ - لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا  
وَلَا يُنْزَفُونَ )

(Immortal boys will go around them (serving), with cups, and jugs, and a glass of flowing wine, from which they will get neither any aching of the head nor any intoxication.)(56:17-19). Allah refined the wine of Paradise from the bad effects of the wine of this world, which causes headaches and stomach aches -- which is the meaning of Ghawl -- causing people to lose their minds completely. So He says here:

(يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ )

(Round them will be passed a cup of pure wine) meaning, wine from a flowing stream which they do not fear will ever be cut off or cease. Malik narrated that Zayd bin Aslam said, "White flowing wine," meaning, with a bright, shining color, unlike the wine of this earth with its ugly, repulsive colors of red, black, yellow and turbid shades, and other features which are repugnant to anyone of a sound nature.

(لَذَّةٌ لِلشَّارِبِينَ)

(delicious to the drinkers.) means, its taste will be as good as its color, and a good taste indicates that it has a good smell, unlike the wine of this world.

(لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ)

(Neither will they have Ghawl from that) means, it will not have any effects on them such as causing stomach aches. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, Qatadah and Ibn Zayd. This is unlike the wine of this world, which causes colic and so on, because it is too watery.

(وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنْزَفُونَ)

(nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom.) Mujahid said, "It will not cause them to lose their minds." This was also the view of Ibn `Abbas, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Al-Hasan. `Ata' bin Abi Muslim Al-Khurasani, As-Suddi and others. Ad-Dahhak reported that Ibn Abbas said, "Wine causes four things: intoxication, headache, vomiting and urine." So, when Allah mentions the wine of Paradise, He states that it is free of these characteristics, as mentioned in Surat As-Saffat.

(وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصِيرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ)

(And beside them will be Qasirat At-Tarf) means, chaste females, who will not look at anyone other than their husbands, as Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Zayd bin Aslam, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others said.

(عَيْنٌ)

(with (wide and beautiful) eyes) means, with beautiful eyes. It was also said that it means with wide eyes, which is connected to the first meaning. They are wide-eyed and beautiful, and their eyes are described as being beautiful and chaste. Allah says:

(وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصِيرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ عَيْنٌ)

(And beside them will be Qasirat At-Tarf, with (wide and beautiful) eyes.)

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيضٌ مَّكْنُونٌ)

(as if they were Bayd Maknun.) Their bodies are described as having the most perfect color. `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him:

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكُونٌ )

(as if they were Bayd Maknun.) means, as if they were hidden pearls. Al-Hasan said:

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكُونٌ )

(as if they were Bayd Maknun. ) means, protected, never touched by any hands. As-Suddi said, "The well preserved egg in its nest." Sa` id bin Jubayr said:

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكُونٌ )

(as if they were Bayd Maknun.) means, "The inside of the egg." `Ata' Al-Khurasani said, "It is the membrane which is between its outer shell and its inner contents." As-Suddi said:

(كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَّكُونٌ )

(as if they were Bayd Maknun.) means, "The white of the egg when its shell is removed." Ibn Jarir's view concerning the meaning of Maknun (well preserved) is that the outer shell is touched by the wing of the bird and the nest, and by people's hands, unlike the interior of the egg. And Allah knows best.

(فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ - قَالَ قَائِلٌ  
مِّنْهُمْ إِنِّي كَانَ لِي قَرِينٌ - يَقُولُ أَءِنَّكَ لَمِنَ  
الْمُصَدِّقِينَ - أَءِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظْمًا أَءِنَّا  
لَمَدِينُونَ - قَالَ هَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُّطَّلِعُونَ - فَاطَّلَعَ فَرَءَاهُ  
فِي سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ - قَالَ تَاللَّهِ إِن كِدْتَ لَتُرْدِينَ -  
وَلَوْ لَا نِعْمَةُ رَبِّي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ - أَفَمَا  
نَحْنُ بِمَيِّتِينَ - إِلَّا مَوْتَتَنَا الْأُولَى وَمَا نَحْنُ  
بِمُعَدِّيْنَ - إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ - لِمِثْلِ هَذَا  
فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَمَلُونَ )

(50. Then they will turn to one another, mutually questioning.) (51. A speaker of them will say: "Verily, I had a companion (in the world),") (52. "Who used to say: `Are you among those who believe.) (53. (That) when we die and become dust and bones, shall we indeed be indebted (Madinun)"" (54. (The speaker) said: "Will you look down") (55. So he looked down and saw him in the midst of the Fire.) (56. He said: "By Allah! You have nearly ruined me.") (57. "Had it not been for the grace of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought forth (to Hell).") (58. "Are we then not to die (any more)"" (59. "Except our first death, and we shall not be punished") (60. Truly, this is the supreme success!) (61. For the like of this let the workers work.)

## **The gathering of the People of Paradise, and the exchange between One of Them and His Counterpart in Hell, and His Gratitude for the Blessings of Allah**

Allah tells us how the people of Paradise will turn to one another, asking one another about their situation, how they were in this world and what they suffered. This is part of their conversation when they get together to converse and drink, sitting on their thrones, servants coming and going, bringing all kinds of good food, drink, clothes and other delights no eye has seen, no ear has heard, never having comprehend the mind of man.

(قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِّنْهُمْ إِنِّي كَانَ لِي قَرِينٌ )

(A speaker of them will say: "Verily, I had a companion...") Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him said, "This refers to an idolator man who had a companion among the believers in this world."

(يَقُولُ أَأَنْتَ لِمِنَ الْمُصَدِّقِينَ )

(Who used to say: "Are you among those who believe...") means, `do you believe in the resurrection after death, and the Reckoning and reward or punishment' He used to say that by way of astonishment, disbelief and stubbornness.

(أَعِدَّا مِثْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا وَعِظْمًا أَعِنَّا لَمَدِينُونَ )

((That) when we die and become dust and bones, shall we indeed be indebted (Madinun).) Mujahid and As-Suddi said, "Brought to account." Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi said, "Rewarded or punished according to our deeds." Both views are correct.

(قَالَ هَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُطَّلِعُونَ )

((The speaker) said: "Will you look down") meaning, look over. The believer will say this to his companions among the people of Paradise.

(فَاطَّلَعَ فَرَءَاهُ فِي سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ )

(So he looked down and saw him in the midst of the Fire.) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Khulayd Al-`Usari, Qatadah, As-Suddi and `Ata' Al-Khurasani said, "This means, in the middle of Hell." Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "In the middle of Hell as if he were a burning star."

(قَالَ تَاللَّهِ إِن كِدْتَ لَتُرْدِينِ )

(He said: "By Allah! You have nearly ruined me.") The believer will say, addressing the disbeliever: `By Allah, you nearly caused me to be doomed, if I had obeyed you.'

(وَلَوْلَا نِعْمَةُ رَبِّي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ )

(Had it not been for the grace of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought forth (to Hell).) means, `Were it not for the favor of my Lord towards me, I would have been like you in the middle of Hell where you are, brought forth with you for punishment. But He bestowed His grace upon me, had mercy upon me and guided me to faith and to belief in Him Alone.'

(وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ)

(and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allah had guided us!) (7:43)

(أَفَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَيِّتِينَ - إِلَّا مَوْتَتَنَا الْأُولَى وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ )

(Are we then not to die (any more) Except our first death, and we shall not be punished) This is what the believers will say when they feel joy at what Allah has given them, and they realize that they are to remain in Paradise forever with no punishment and no death to come. Allah says:

(إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ )

(Truly, this is the supreme success!) Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "They know that death brings an end to every delight, so they will say,

(أَفَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَيِّتِينَ - إِلَّا مَوْتَتَنَا الْأُولَى وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِينَ )

(Are we then not to die Except our first death, and we shall not be punished) It will be said, "No,

(إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ)

(Truly, this is the supreme success!)."

(لِمِثْلِ هَذَا فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ)

(For the like of this let the workers work.) Ibn Jarir said, "These are the Words of Allah, and it means: for the like of this pleasure and this success, let the workers work in this world, so that they may attain it in the Hereafter.

### The Story of Two Israelites

They mentioned the story of two men among the Children of Israel who were partners and who are included in the meaning of this Ayah. Abu Ja`far bin Jarir recorded that Furat bin Tha` labah Al-Bahrani said concerning the Ayah,

(إِنِّي كَان لِي قَرِينٌ)

(Verily, I had a companion) "There were two men who were partners and had collected eight thousand Dinars. One of them had a craft and the other did not. The one who had a craft said to the other, `You do not have a craft, so I think I will divide the money with you and leave you.' So he left him. Then the man bought a house, belonging to a king who had died, for the price of one thousand Dinars. He called his companion and showed him the house, saying, `What do you think of this house I bought it for one thousand Dinars.' He said, `How beautiful it is.' When he went out he said, `O Allah, this companion of mine has bought this house for one thousand Dinars; I ask You for one of the houses of Paradise -- and he gave one thousand Dinars in charity.' Then as much time passed as Allah willed should pass. The first man married a woman with a dowry of one thousand Dinars, and invited his companion and made food for him. When he came, he said, `I have married this woman with a dowry of one thousand Dinars.' He replied; `How beautiful this is.' And when he left, he said, `O Lord, my companion has married a woman with a dowry of one thousand Dinars; I ask you for a wife from among Al-Hur Al-`lyn' -- and he gave one thousand Dinars in charity. Then as much time passed as Allah willed should pass. Then the first man bought two gardens for two thousand Dinars, then he called his companion and showed them to him. He said, `I have bought these two gardens for two thousand Dinars.' He replied, `How beautiful this is.' When he came out, he said, `O Lord, my companion has bought two gardens for two thousand Dinars; I ask you for two gardens in Paradise' -- and he gave two thousand Dinars in charity. Then the angel came to them and took their souls in death. He took the one who had given his money in charity and put him in a house that he liked. There, there was a woman who was so beautiful that the ground shinned under her, then he (the angel) took him to two gardens and gave him other things which are known only to Allah. The man said, `This is like a man who has such and such.' The angel said, `That is exactly what it is; this house, these gardens and this wife are all for you.' The man said, `I had a companion who used to say: Are you among those who believe' It was said to him, `He is in Hell.' He said, `Will you look down' So he looked down and saw him in the midst of Hell. At this, he said:

قَالَ تَاللَّهِ إِنْ كِدْتَ لِتُرْدِينِ - وَلَوْلَا نِعْمَةُ رَبِّي  
لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ )

(By Allah! You have nearly ruined me. Had it not been for the grace of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought forth (to Hell).)"

(أَذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ نُّزُلًا أَمْ شَجَرَةُ الزَّقُّومِ - إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا  
فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ - إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ  
الْجَحِيمِ - طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ - فَإِنَّهُمْ  
لَا كَلُونَ مِنْهَا فَمالئونَ مِنْهَا البُطُونَ - ثُمَّ إِنَّ لَهُمْ  
عَلَيْهَا لَشَوْبًا مِنْ حَمِيمٍ - ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَرْجِعَهُمْ لَإِلَى  
الْجَحِيمِ - إِنَّهُمْ أَلْفَوْا ءَابَاءَهُمْ ضَالِّينَ - فَهُمْ عَلَى  
ءَأْتَارِهِمْ يُهْرَعُونَ )

h(62. Is that (Paradise) better entertainment or the tree of Zaqqum) (63. Truly, We have made it (as) a trial for the wrongdoers.) (64. Verily, it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hell-fire,) (65. The shoots of its fruit stalks are like the heads of Shayatin.) (66. Truly, they will eat thereof and fill their bellies therewith.) (67. Then on the top of that they will be given boiling Hamim.) (68. Then thereafter, verily, their return is to the flaming fire of Hell.) (69. Verily, they found their fathers on the wrong path;) (70. So they (too) hastened in their footsteps!)

### The Tree of Zaqqum and its Companions

Here Allah asks: `Is that which He has mentioned of the delights of Paradise with its food, drink, companions and other joys better entertainment, or

(أَمْ شَجَرَةُ الزَّقُّومِ)

(or the tree of Zaqqum) which is in Hell' The meaning here is a specific kind of tree which is called Zaqqum. This is like the Ayah:

وَشَجَرَةً تَخْرُجُ مِنْ طُورِ سَيْنَاءَ تَنْبُتُ بِالذُّهْنِ  
وَصَبِغٍ لِلْأَكْلِينَ )

(And a tree that springs forth from Mount Snai, that grows (produces) oil, and (it is a) relish for the eaters.) (23:20) -- which is the olive tree. This is supported by the Ayah:

ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ أَيْهَا الضَّالُّونَ الْمُكَذِّبُونَ - لَأَكُونَنَّ مِنْ  
شَجَرٍ مِّنْ زَقُّومٍ )

(Then moreover, verily, -- you the erring-ones, the deniers! You, verily, will eat of the trees of Zaqqum.) (56:51-52).

(إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ )

(Truly, We have made it (as) a trial for the wrongdoers.) Qatadah said, "The tree of Zaqqum is mentioned as a test for those who are misguided. They said, `Your companion tells you that in the Fire there is a tree, but fire consumes trees.' Then Allah revealed the words:

(إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ الْجَحِيمِ )

(Verily, it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hell-fire.) meaning, it is nourished by the fire, for it was created from fire." Mujahid said:

(إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ )

(Truly, We have made it (as) a trial for the wrongdoers.) Abu Jahl, may Allah curse him, said, "Zaqqum means dates and butter which I eat )Atazaqqamuhu(." I say that the meaning of the Ayah is, "We have told you, O Muhammad, of the tree of Zaqqum as a trial with which We test the people to see who will believe and who will disbelieve." This is like the Ayah:

وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الرُّءْيَا الَّتِي أَرَيْنَاكَ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِلنَّاسِ  
وَالشَّجَرَةَ الْمَلْعُونَةَ فِي الْقُرْآنِ وَنُخَوِّفُهُمْ فَمَا  
يَزِيدُهُمْ إِلَّا طُغْيَانًا كَبِيرًا )

(And We made not the vision which we showed you but a trial for mankind, and the accursed tree in the Qur'an. We warn and make them afraid but it only increases them in naught save great disbelief, oppression and disobedience to Allah) (17:60).

(إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ الْجَحِيمِ )

(Verily, it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hell-fire.) means, its roots grow at the bottom of Hell.

(طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهٗ رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ )

(The shoots of its fruit stalks are like the heads of Shayatin. ) this is a description of how ugly and repulsive it is. It is likened to

(رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ)

(the heads of Shayatin ), even though they have never seen them, because it is a well-established idea in people's minds that devils are ugly in appearance.

(فَإِنَّهُمْ لَأَكْلُونَ مِنْهَا فَمَالِئُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ )

(Truly, they will eat thereof and fill their bellies therewith.) Allah mentions that they will eat of this extremely ugly tree even though its fruit tastes and smells so bad; they will be forced to eat from it because they will not find anything else to eat except this tree and similar things, as Allah says:

(لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيعٍ - لَّا يُسْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنْ جُوعٍ )

(No food will there be for them but a poisonous thorny plant, Which will neither nourish nor avail against hunger.) (88:6 -7).

(ثُمَّ إِنَّ لَهُمْ عَلَيْهَا لَشَوْبًا مِنْ حَمِيمٍ )

(Then on the top of that they will be boiling Hamim) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "This means they will be given boiling Hamim to drink after they have eaten from Zaqqum." According to another report, he said that this means a mixture made from boiling water. Someone else said that it means boiling water will be mixed with pus and offensive discharges that leak from their private parts and eyes. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "When the people of Hell get hungry, they will ask for food from the tree of Zaqqum. They will eat from it, then the skin of their faces will fall off, If someone were to pass by, he would recognize them from their faces. Then thirst will be sent upon them, so they will ask to be given something to drink, and they will be given water like boiling oil that has been heated to the ultimate degree. When it is brought near to their mouths, the flesh of their faces from which the skin has fallen off will be baked by its heat, and whatever is in their stomachs will melt. They will walk with their guts falling out and with their skin falling off, then they

will be beaten with hooked rods of iron. Then every part of their bodies will burst into loud lamentations.

(ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَرْجِعَهُمْ لِإِلَى الْجَحِيمِ )

(Then thereafter, verily, their return is to the flaming fire of Hell.) means, after that interval, they will be sent back to the burning fire, searing heat and scorching flames, and they will rotate between the one and the other. This is like the Ayah,

(يَطُوفُونَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ حَمِيمٍ ءَانَ )

(They will go between it (Hell) and the fierce boiling water!) (55:44). Qatadah recited this Ayah when discussing this Ayah. This is a good interpretation. `Abdullah bin Mas'ud recited it differently, with the meaning "Their return in the afternoon." `Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him, used to say: "By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, midday on the Day of Resurrection will not come until the people of Paradise will be in Paradise and the people of Hell will be in Hell." Then he recited:

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا )

(The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose) (25:24). Allah's saying;

(إِنَّهُمْ أَفْوًا ءَابَاءَهُمْ ضَالِّينَ )

(Verily, they found their fathers on the wrong path;) means, `We will punish them for that because they found their fathers following misguidance and they followed them with no evidence or proof.' Allah says:

(فَهُمْ عَلَى ءَأْتَارِهِمْ يُهْرَعُونَ )

(So they (too) hastened in their footsteps!) Mujahid said, "This is like running." Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "They followed ignorance and foolishness."

(وَلَقَدْ ضَلَّ قَبْلَهُمْ أَكْثَرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ - وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا فِيهِمْ مُنذِرِينَ - فَاَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُنذَرِينَ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

(71. And indeed most of the earlier ones went astray before them;) (72. And indeed We sent among them warners;) (73. Then see what was the end of those who were warned.) (74. Except the chosen servants of Allah.) Allah tells us that most of the previous nations went astray, worshipping other gods alongside Allah. He states that He sent among them warners to alert them to the anger, wrath and vengeance of Allah towards those who disbelieve in Him and worship others besides Him. He tells us that they persisted in their opposition to their Messengers and their disbelief in them, so He destroyed those who disbelieved in Him and saved the believers and caused them to prevail. Allah says:

(فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُنذَرِينَ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ  
الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

(Then see what was the end of those who were warned. Except the chosen servants of Allah).

(وَلَقَدْ نَادَانَا نُوحٌ فَلَنِعْمَ الْمُجِيبُونَ - وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ  
وَأَهْلَهُ مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ - وَجَعَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُ هُمُ  
الْبَاقِينَ - وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ - سَلَّمَ عَلَى  
نُوحٍ فِي الْعَلَمِينَ - إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ -  
إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخَرِينَ )

(75. And indeed Nuh invoked Us, and We are the best of those who answer.) (76. And We rescued him and his family from the great distress,) (77. And, his progeny, them We made the survivors.) (78. And left for him (a goodly remembrance) among the later generations) (79. "Salam (peace!) be upon Nuh among the all creatures!") (80. Verily, thus We reward the gooddoers.) (81. Verily, he )Nuh( was one of Our believing servants.) (82. Then We drowned the others.)

## Nuh and His People

When Allah tells us about how most of the early people went astray from the path of salvation, He starts the detailed explanation of that with the story of Nuh and the rejection of his people. Only a few of Nuh's people believed in him, despite the long period of time he spent among them. He stayed among them for one thousand years less fifty, and after he stayed among them for so long and their disbelief became too much for him to bear -- for every time he called them, they turned away from him even more -- he prayed to his Lord saying, "I have been overcome, so help (me)!" So Allah became angry because Nuh was angry with them. He says:

(وَلَقَدْ نَادَانَا نُوحٌ فَلَنِعْمَ الْمُجِيبُونَ )

(And indeed Nuh invoked Us, and We are the best of those who answer.)

(وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ )

(And We rescued him and his family from the great distress.) means, their disbelief and their insults.

(وَجَعَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُ هُمُ الْبَاقِينَ )

(And, his progeny, them We made the survivors.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, "There was no one left apart from the offspring of Nuh, peace be upon him." Sa`id bin Abi `Arubah said, narrating from Qatadah concerning the Ayah,

(وَجَعَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُ هُمُ الْبَاقِينَ )

(And, his progeny, them We made the survivors.) "All people descended from the offspring of Nuh, peace be upon him." At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Jarir and Ibn Abi Hatim narrated from Samurah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet said, concerning the Ayah,

(وَجَعَلْنَا ذُرِّيَّتَهُ هُمُ الْبَاقِينَ )

(And, his progeny, them We made the survivors):

«سَامُ، وَحَامُ، وَيَافِثُ»

(Sam, Ham and Yafith.) Imam Ahmad recorded from Samurah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said:

«سَامُ أَبُو الْعَرَبِ، وَحَامُ أَبُو الْحَبَشِ، وَيَافِثُ أَبُو  
الرُّومِ»

(Sam was the father of the Arabs, Ham was the father of the Ethiopians and Yafith was the father of the Romans.)" This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi. What is meant here by Romans is the original Romans, i.e., the Greeks who claimed descent from Ruma (Roma) the son of Liti, the son of Yunan, the son of Yafith, the son of Nuh, peace be upon him.

(وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ )

(And left for him among the later generations. ) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "He is remembered in a good way." Mujahid said this means "An honorable mention by all the Prophets." Qatadah and As-Suddi said, "Allah caused him to be praised constantly by others." Ad-Dahhak said it means "Salam and praise."

(سَلَّمَ عَلَى نُوحٍ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ )

(Salam (peace!) be upon Nuh among the all creatures!) This explains for us the extent of the honorable mention and praise, for he is greeted with peace by all groups and nations.

(إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ )

(Verily, thus We reward the gooddoers.) means, `This is how We reward those of Our servants who do deeds of obedience to Allah. We gave him an honorable mention so that after he died he is still remembered in a manner that befits his status.' Then Allah says:

(إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ )

(Verily, he )Nuh( was one of Our believing servants.) meaning, one of the sincere believers in the Oneness of Allah, one of those who had certain faith.

(ثُمَّ أَغْرَقْنَا الْآخَرِينَ )

(Then We drowned the others. ) means, `We destroyed them, and there was no trace whatsoever left of them, and they are only known by this unfavorable description.'

(وَإِنَّ مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ - إِذْ جَاءَ رَبَّهُ بِقَلْبٍ  
سَلِيمٍ - إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَاذَا تَعْبُدُونَ - أَءِفْكَأ  
ءَالِهَةً دُونَ اللَّهِ تُرِيدُونَ - فَمَا ظَنُّكُمْ بِرَبِّ  
الْعَالَمِينَ )

(83. And verily, among those who followed his way was Ibrahim.) (84. When he came to his Lord with a Salim heart.) (85. When he said to his father and to his people: "What is it that which you worship") (86. "Is it a falsehood -- gods other than Allah -- that you desire") (87. "Then what think you about the Lord of the all that exists")

## The Story of Ibrahim and His People

Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him:

(وَإِنَّ مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ )

(And verily, among those who followed his ways was Ibrahim.) means, he was one of the followers of his religion. Mujahid said, "He was following his path and his way."

(إِذْ جَاءَ رَبَّهُ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ )

(When he came to his Lord with a Salim heart.) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "This means that he bore witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah." r Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that `Awf said, "I said to Muhammad bin Srin, `What is the Salim heart' He said, `One which knows that Allah is true and that the Hour will undoubtedly come to pass, and that Allah will resurrect those who are in the graves.'" Al-Hasan said, "One that is free from Shirk." `Urwah said, "One that is not cursed."

(إِذْ قَالَ لِأَيِّهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَاذَا تَعْبُدُونَ )

(When he said to his father and to his people: "What is it that which you worship") He denounced his people for their worship of idols and false gods, Allah said:

(أَعْفَاءَ ءَالِهَةٍ دُونَ اللَّهِ تُرِيدُونَ - فَمَا ظَنُّكُمْ بِرَبِّ  
الْعَالَمِينَ )

(Is it a falsehood -- gods other than Allah -- that you desire Then what think you about the Lord of the all that exists) Qatadah said, "This means, `what do you think He will do with you when you meet Him, given that you worshipped others alongside Him"

(فَنظَرَ نَظْرَةً فِي النُّجُومِ - فَقَالَ إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ -  
فَتَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ مُدْبِرِينَ - فَرَاغَ إِلَى ءَالِهَتِهِمْ فَقَالَ أَلَا  
تَأْكُلُونَ - مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنْطِقُونَ - فَرَاغَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضَرْبًا  
بِالْيَمِينِ - فَأَقْبَلُوا إِلَيْهِ يَزْفُونَ - قَالَ أَتَعْبُدُونَ مَا  
تَنْحِتُونَ - وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ وَمَا تَعْمَلُونَ - قَالُوا ابْنُوا  
لَهُ بُيُوتًا فَأَلْفَوْهُ فِي الْجَحِيمِ - فَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا  
فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَسْفَلِينَ )

(88. Then he cast a glance at the stars,) (89. And he said: "Verily, I am sick.") (90. So they turned away from him and departed.) (91. Then he turned to their gods and said: "Will you not eat") (92. "What is the matter with you that you speak not") (93. Then he turned upon them, striking (them) with (his) right hand.) (94. Then they came hastily towards him.) (95. He said: "Worship you that which you (yourselves) carve") (96. "While Allah has created you and what you make!") (97. They said: "Build for him a building and throw him into the blazing fire!") (98. So, they plotted a plot against him, but We made them the lowest.) Ibrahim, peace be upon him, said this to his people so that he could stay behind in the city when they went out for their festival. The time was approaching for them to go out to celebrate a festival of theirs, and he wanted to be alone with their gods so that he could break them, so he told them something that was true, for he was indeed sick of the implications of what they believed in.

(فَتَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ مُدْبِرِينَ )

(So they turned away from him and departed.) Qatadah said, "The Arabs say of one who thinks deeply that he is looking at the stars." What Qatadah meant is that he looked at the heavens thinking of a way to distract his people. So he said,

(إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ)

(Verily, I am sick.) meaning, weak. Ibn Jarir narrated here a Hadith from Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, stating that the Messenger of Allah said:

«لَمْ يَكْذِبْ إِبْرَاهِيمُ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ غَيْرَ ثَلَاثَ كَذَبَاتٍ: ثِنْتَيْنِ فِي ذَاتِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، قَوْلُهُ:

(إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ)

وقوله:

(بَلْ فَعَلَهُ كَبِيرُهُمْ هَذَا)

وقوله في سارة: هي أختي»

(Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him) did not lie except in three cases. Two were for the sake of Allah: (one is) when he said, (Verily, I am sick); and (the second) when he said, (Nay, this one, the biggest (his wife) of them (idols) did it.) and (the third) when he said concerning (his wife) Sarah, "She is my sister.") This Hadith is recorded in the books of the Sahih and Sunan with various chain of narrations. But this is not the kind of real lie for which a person is to be condemned -- Allah forbid! One calls it a lie for lack of a better word, because it is abstruse speech used for a legitimate religious purpose, and it was said that what was meant by the words,

(إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ)

(Verily, I am sick) was, 'I am sick at heart of your worshipping idols instead of Allah.' Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "The people of Ibrahim went out to their festival and they wanted to make him go out too. So he lay down on his back and said,

(إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ)

(Verily, I am sick.) and he started looking at the sky. When they had gone out, he turned to their gods and broke them." This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim. Allah said:

(فَتَوَلَّوْا عَنْهُ مُدْبِرِينَ)

(So they turned away from him and departed.) meaning, he went to them after they had left, quickly and secretly.

(فَقَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ)

(and said: "Will you not eat") They had placed food before them as a sacrifice, so that the food might be blessed. When Ibrahim, peace be upon him, looked at the food that was before them, he said:

(فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ ءَالِهَتِهِمْ فَقَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ - مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَنْطِقُونَ)

(Will you not eat What is the matter with you that you speak not)

(فَرَاغَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضَرْبًا بِالْيَمِينِ)

(Then he turned upon them, striking (them) with (his) right hand.) Al-Farra' said, "This means, he started to hit them with his right hand." Qatadah and Al-Jawhari said, "He turned to them, hitting them with his right hand." He struck them with his right hand because the right hand is stronger and more powerful. Then he left them broken to pieces, (all) except the biggest of them, that they might turn to it, as we have already seen in the Tafsir of Surat Al-Anbiya'.

(فَأَقْبَلُوا إِلَيْهِ يَزْفُونَ)

(Then they came hastily towards him.) Mujahid and others said, "This means, they came rushing. The story is told in brief here; in Surat Al-Anbiya', it is told in more detail. When they returned, they did not know at first who had done this, until they investigated and found out

that Ibrahim, peace be upon him, was the one who had done it. When they came to rebuke him, he started rebuking and criticizing them and said:

(أَتَعْبُدُونَ مَا تَحْتُونَ)

(Worship you that which you carve) meaning, 'do you worship instead of Allah idols which you yourselves carve and fashion with your own hands'

(وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ وَمَا تَعْمَلُونَ )

(While Allah has created you and what you make!) This may mean, 'Allah has created you and what you do;' or it may mean, 'Allah has created you and what you make.' Both views are synonymous. The former is more apparent because of the report recorded by Al-Bukhari in the Book Af' al Al-' lbad from Hudhayfah, attributed to the Prophet :

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يَصْنَعُ كُلَّ صَانِعٍ وَصَنَعَتَهُ»

(Allah has created every doer of deeds and what he does.) Thereupon he recited:

(وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ وَمَا تَعْمَلُونَ )

(While Allah has created you and what you make!) When the proof had been established against them, they resolved to seize him by force and they said:

(ابْنُوا لَهُ بُيُوتًا فَأَلْقُوهُ فِي الْجَحِيمِ)

(Build for him a building (i.e., furnace) and throw him into the blazing fire!) There happened what we have already discussed in our Tafsir of Surat Al-Anbiya', (21:68-70) and Allah saved him from the fire and caused him to prevail over them, making his proof supreme and supporting it. Allah says:

(فَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَسْفَلِينَ )

(So, they plotted a plot against him, but We made them the lowest.)

(وَقَالَ إِنِّي ذَاهِبٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ - رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ - فَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِعُلْمٍ حَلِيمٍ - فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَؤُا إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ

أَنِّي أَدْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَى قَالَ يَا بَتِ افْعَلْ مَا  
 تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ - فَلَمَّا  
 أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَبِينِ - وَنَدَيْنَاهُ أَنْ يَا بَرَهَيْمُ - قَدْ  
 صَدَقْتَ الرَّؤْيَا إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ - إِنَّ  
 هَذَا لَهُوَ الْبَلَاءُ الْمُبِينُ - وَقَدَيْنَاهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ  
 وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ  
 كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
 وَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِإِسْحَاقَ نَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ وَبَرَكَاتًا  
 عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ إِسْحَاقَ وَمِن دُرِّيَّتَهُمَا مُحْسِنٌ وَظَلِمٌ  
 لِّنَفْسِهِ مُبِينٌ (

(99. And he said: "Verily, I am going to my Lord. He will guide me!" (100. "My Lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous.") (101. So, We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing boy.) (102. And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you. So look what you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, if Allah wills, you shall find me of the patient.") (103. Then, when they had both submitted themselves, and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead;) (104. We called out to him: "O Ibrahim!") (105. "You have fulfilled the dream!" Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good.) (106. Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial.) (107. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice;) (108. And We left for him among the later generations.) (109. "Salam (peace!) be upon Ibrahim!") (110. Thus indeed do We reward the doers of good.) (111. Verily, he was one of Our believing servants.) (112. And We gave him the glad tidings of Ishaq -- a Prophet from the righteous.) (113. We blessed him and Ishaq. And of their progeny are (some) that do right, and some that plainly wrong themselves.)

### **Ibrahim's Emigration, the Test of the Sacrifice of Isma`il, and how Allah blessed Him**

Allah tells us that after He helped His close friend Ibrahim, peace be upon him, against his people, and after Ibrahim gave up hoping that they would ever believe despite all the mighty signs that they had witnessed, he emigrated away from them, and said:

وَقَالَ إِنِّي ذَاهِبٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي سَيَهْدِينِ - رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ )

(Verily, I am going to my Lord. He will guide me! My Lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous.) meaning, obedient children, in compensation for his people and relatives whom he had left. Allah said:

(فَبَشِّرْنَاهُ بِعُلْمٍ حَلِيمٍ )

(So We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing boy.) This child was Isma`il, peace be upon him, for he was the first child of whom glad tidings were given to Ibrahim, peace be upon him, and he was older than Ishaq. The Muslims and the People of the Book agree, and indeed it is stated in their Book, that Isma`il, peace be upon him, was born when Ibrahim, peace be upon him, was eighty-six years old, and Ishaq was born when Ibrahim was ninety-nine years old. According to their Book, Allah commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice his only son, and in another text it says his firstborn son. But here they falsely inserted the name of Ishaq. This is not right because it goes against what their own Scripture says. They inserted the name of Ishaq because he is their ancestor, while Isma`il is the ancestor of the Arabs. They were jealous of them, so they added this idea and changed the meaning of the phrase "only son" to mean 'the only son who is with you,' because Isma`il had been taken with his mother to Makkah. But this is a case of falsification and distortion, because the words "only son" cannot be said except in the case of one who has no other son. Furthermore, the firstborn son has a special status that is not shared by subsequent children, so the command to sacrifice him is a more exquisite test.

(فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ )

(And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him,) means, when he grew up and started to go with his father and walk with him, for Ibrahim used to go every so often to check on his son and his mother in the land of Faran (i.e., Makkah), to see how they were doing. It was said that he used to ride on Al-Buraq, traveling there swiftly, and Allah knows best. It was reported from Ibn `Abbas, peace be upon him, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ata' Al-Khurasani, Zayd bin Aslam and others that

(فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ )

(And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him,) means, when he became a young man and was able to work as his father did.

(فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَئُ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ )

(And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you. So look what you think!") `Ubayd bin `Umayr said, "The dreams of the Prophets are revelation," then he recited this Ayah:

قَالَ يَبْنَىٰ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ  
مَاذَا تَرَىٰ

(he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you. So look what you think!"). He told his son that in order to make it easier for him, and also to test his patience and resolve, at a young age, in obeying Allah and obeying his father.

قَالَ يَا بَتِ افْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ

(He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded..." meaning, `obey the command of Allah and sacrifice me.'

سَتَجِدُنِي إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ

(if Allah wills, you shall find me of the patient..) meaning, `I will be patient and will seek the reward for that with Allah.' He, may peace and blessings be upon him, believed in what had been promised. Allah said:

وَأَذْكُرُ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ صَادِقَ  
الْوَعْدِ وَكَانَ رَسُولًا نَّبِيًّا - وَكَانَ يَأْمُرُ أَهْلَهُ  
بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ وَكَانَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ مَرْضِيًّا )

(And mention in the Book Isma`il. Verily, he was true to what he promised, and he was a Messenger, (and) a Prophet. And he used to enjoin on his family the Salah and the Zakah, and his Lord was pleased with him.) (19:54-55).

فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَبِينِ )

(Then, when they had both submitted themselves, and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead;) means, when both of them had pronounced the Shahadah and remembered Allah -- Ibrahim because he was about to offer a sacrifice and Isma`il because he was about to die. Or it was said that "submitted themselves" means that they submitted and followed the command of Allah; Ibrahim obeyed the command of Allah and Isma`il obeyed Allah and his father. This was the view of Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Ishaq, and others. |The meaning of the phrase "and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead" is: he placed him facedown so that he could slaughter him from behind, and not have to see his face at the time of slaughter,

so that it would be easier for him. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Ad-Dahhak and Qatadah said:

(وَتَلَّهُ لِلجَبِينِ)

(and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead;) means, "He turned him upside down on his face." Imam Ahmad recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "When the rituals were enjoined upon Ibrahim, peace be upon him, the Shaytan appeared to him at the Mas`a and raced with him, but Ibrahim got there first. Then Jibril, upon him be peace, took him to Jamrat Al-`Aqabah and the Shaytan appeared to him, so he stoned him with seven pebbles until he disappeared. Then he appeared him at Al-Jamrah Al-Wusta and he stoned him with seven pebbles. Then he laid him prostrate on his face. Isma`il, peace be upon him, was wearing a white shirt, and he said, `O my father, I do not have any garment in which I can be shrouded apart from this; take it off me so that you can shroud me in it.' He started to take it off, then he was called from behind:

(أَنْ يَابِرَ هَيْمَقْدُ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا)

(O Ibrahim! You have fulfilled the dream!) Ibrahim turned, and saw a fine, horned, white ram." Ibn `Abbas said, "We used to look for similar types of rams." Hisham mentioned this Hadith at length in Al-Manasik.

(وَنَدَيْنَهُ أَنْ يَابِرَ هَيْمُ قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا)

(We called out to him: "O Ibrahim! You have fulfilled the dream!") means, `the purpose of your dream has been fulfilled by your laying down your son to sacrifice him.' As-Suddi and others said that he passed the knife over Isma`il's neck, but it did not cut him at all, because a sheet of copper was placed between them. Ibrahim was called at that point, and it was said:

(قَدْ صَدَّقْتَ الرُّؤْيَا)

(You have fulfilled the dream!) Allah says;

(إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ)

(Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good.) means, `this is how We deal with those who obey Us in things that are difficult for them; We make for them a way out.' As Allah says:

(فَإِذَا بَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ  
فَارِقُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ وَأَشْهَدُوا ذَوَى عَدْلٍ مِّنكُمْ  
وَأَقِيمُوا الشَّهَادَةَ لِلَّهِ ذَلِكَ يُوعِظُ بِهِ مَنْ كَانَ

يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ  
مَخْرَجًا - وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَنْ  
يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَلِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ  
جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا )

(And whosoever has Taqwa of Allah, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice him. Verily, Allah will accomplish his purpose. Indeed Allah has set a measure for all things.) (65:2-3). On the basis of this Ayah and this story, some of the scholars of Usul have stated that it is valid for a ruling to be abrogated before anyone is able to act upon it -- unlike some of the Mu`tazilah. The evidence for this is obvious, because Allah commanded Ibrahim, peace be upon him, to sacrifice his son, then He abrogated that and pointed out the ransom. The purpose of His command had been primarily to reward His close Friend for his patience and resolve in sacrificing his son. Allah says:

(إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْبَلَاءُ الْمُبِينُ )

(Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial.) meaning, it was clearly a test when he was commanded to sacrifice his son, so, he hastened to do it, in submission to the command of Allah and in obedience to Him. Allah said:

(وَإِبْرَاهِيمَ الَّذِي وَفَّى )

(And of Ibrahim who fulfilled all that.) (53:37), and

(وَقَدَيْنَاهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ )

(And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice). It was reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "A ram which had grazed in Paradise for forty years." Imam Ahmad recorded that Safiyyah bint Shaybah said, "A woman from Bani Sulaym, who was the midwife of most of the people in our household, told me that the Messenger of Allah sent for `Uthman bin Talhah, may Allah be pleased with him." On one occasion she said, "I asked `Uthman, `Why did the Prophet call you' He said, `The Messenger of Allah said to me,

«إِنِّي كُنْتُ رَأَيْتُ قَرْنِي الْكَبِشِ حِينَ دَخَلْتُ  
الْبَيْتَ فَنَسِيتُ أَنْ أَمْرَكَ أَنْ تُخَمَّرَهُمَا فَخَمَّرَهُمَا،

# فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يَكُونَ فِي الْبَيْتِ شَيْءٌ يَشْغَلُ الْمُصَلِّيَّ»

(I saw the horns of the ram when I entered the House )i.e., the Ka`bah(, and I forgot to tell you to cover them up; cover them up, for there should not be anything in the House which could distract the worshipper.)" Sufyan said, "The horns of the ram remained hanging in the House until it was burned, and they were burned too." This offers independent evidence that the one who was to be sacrificed was Isma`il, peace be upon him. The Quraysh had inherited the horns of the ram that Ibrahim sacrificed, and they had been passed down from generation to generation, until the Messenger of Allah was sent. And Allah knows best.

## Reports which state that the One Who was to be sacrificed was Isma`il, and that this is Correct without a Doubt

Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Amir Ash-Sha`bi, Yusuf bin Mihran, Mujahid, `Ata' and others reported from Ibn `Abbas that it was Isma`il, peace be upon him. Ibn Jarir narrated that Ibn `Abbas said, "The one who was ransomed was Isma`il, peace be upon him. The Jews claimed that it was Ishaq, but the Jews lied." It was reported that Ibn `Umar said, "The sacrifice was Isma`il." Ibn Abi Najih said, narrating from Mujahid, "It was Isma`il, peace be upon him." This was also the view of Yusuf bin Mihran. Ash-Sha`bi said, "It was Isma`il, peace be upon him, and I saw the horns of the ram in the Ka`bah." Muhammad bin Ishaq reported from Al-Hasan bin Dinar and `Amr bin `Ubayd from Al-Hasan Al-Basri that he did not doubt that the one of the two sons Ibrahim was commanded to sacrifice was Isma`il, peace be upon him. Ibn Ishaq said, "I heard Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi say, `The one whom Allah commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice of his two sons was Isma`il.' We find this in the Book of Allah, because when Allah finishes the story of the one of the two sons of Ibrahim who was to be sacrificed, He then says:

(وَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِإِسْحَاقَ نَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ )

(And We gave him the glad tidings of Ishaq -- a Prophet from the righteous), and

(فَبَشَّرْنَاهَا بِإِسْحَاقَ وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ إِسْحَاقَ يَعْقُوبَ)

(So, We gave her glad tidings of Ishaq and after Ishaq, of Ya`qub) (11:71). He mentions the son and the son of the son, but He would not have commanded him to sacrifice Ishaq when He had promised that this son would in turn have a son. The one whom He commanded him to sacrifice can only have been Isma`il." Ibn Ishaq said, "I heard him say that often." Ibn Ishaq reported from Buraydah bin Sufyan bin Farwah Al-Aslami that Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi told them that he mentioned that to `Umar bin `Abd Al-`Aziz, may Allah be pleased with him, when he was Khalifah, while he was with him in Syria. `Umar said to him, "This is something about which I have never given any thought, but I see that it is as you say." Then he sent for a man who was with him in Syria, a Jew who had become a Muslim and was committed to Islam, and he thought that he had been one of their scholars. `Umar bin `Abd Al-`Aziz, may Allah be pleased with him, asked him about that. Muhammad bin Ka`b said, "I was with `Umar bin `Abd Al-`Aziz. `Umar said to him, `Which of the two sons of Ibrahim was he commanded to sacrifice?' He said, `Isma`il. By Allah, O Commander of the faithful, the Jews know this, but they were

jealous of you Arabs because it was your father about whom Allah issued this command and the virtue that Allah mentioned was because of his patience in obeying the command. So they denied that and claimed that it was Ishaq, because he is their father." `Abdullah bin Al-Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "I asked my father about which son was to be sacrificed -- was it Isma`il or Ishaq" He said, "Isma`il." This was mentioned in Kitab Az-Zuhd. Ibn Abi Hatim said, "I heard my father say, `The correct view is that the one who was to be sacrificed was Isma`il, peace be upon him." He said, "And it was narrated that `Ali, Ibn `Umar, Abu Hurayrah, Abu At-Tufayl, Sa`id bin Al-Musayyib, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Al-Hasan, Mujahid, Ash-Sha`bi, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi, Abu Ja`far Muhammad bin `Ali and Abu Salih, may Allah be pleased with them all, said that the one who was to be sacrificed was Isma`il." Al-Baghawi said in his Tafsir, "This was the view of `Abdullah bin `Umar, Sa`id bin Al-Musayyib, As-Suddi, Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Mujahid, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi and Al-Kalbi." This was also reported from Ibn `Abbas and from Abu `Amr bin Al-`Ala'.

(وَبَشَّرْنَاهُ بِإِسْحَاقَ نَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ )

(And We gave him the glad tidings of Ishaq -- a Prophet from the righteous.) having given the glad tidings of the one who was to be sacrificed, who was Isma`il, Allah immediately follows that with mention of the glad tidings of his brother Ishaq. This is also mentioned in Surah Hud (11:71) and in Surat Al-Hijr (15:53-55).

(نَبِيًّا)

(a Prophet) means, from him there will come a righteous Prophet.

(وَبَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَىٰ إِسْحَاقَ وَمِن دُرِّيَّتِهِمَا  
مُحْسِنٌ وَظَلِمٌ لِّنَفْسِهِ مٌبِينٌ )

(We blessed him and Ishaq. And of their progeny are (some) that do right, and some that plainly wrong themselves.) This is like the Ayah:

(قِيلَ يٰ نُوحُ اهْبِطْ بِسَلَامٍ مِّنَّا وَبَرَكَاتٍ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ  
أُمَّمٍ مِّمَّن مَّعَكَ وَأُمَّمٍ سَنُنْعُهُمْ ثُمَّ يَمَسُّهُم مِّنَّا  
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ )

(It was said: "O Nuh! Come down (from the ship) with peace from Us and blessings on you and on the people who are with you, but people to whom We shall grant their pleasures (for a time), but in the end a painful torment will reach them from Us.") (11:48)

(وَلَقَدْ مَنَّا عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ - وَنَجَّيْنَاهُمَا  
 وَقَوْمَهُمَا مِنَ الْكُرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ - وَنَصَرْنَاهُمْ فَكَانُوا  
 هُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ - وَءَاتَيْنَاهُمَا الْكِتَابَ الْمُسْتَبِينَ -  
 وَهَدَيْنَاهُمَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ - وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِمَا  
 فِي الْأَخْرِينَ - سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ إِنَّا  
 كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ إِنَّهُمَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا  
 الْمُؤْمِنِينَ )

(114. And, indeed We gave Our grace to Musa and Harun.) (115. And We saved them and their people from the great distress,) (116. And helped them, so that they became the victors;) (117. And We gave them the clear Scripture;) (118. And guided them to the right path.) (119. And We left for them among the later generations.) (120. "Salam (peace!) be upon Musa and Harun!") (121. Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good.) (122. Verily, they were two of Our believing servants.)

### Musa and Harun

Allah tells us how He blessed Musa and Harun with prophethood and how He saved them, along with those who believed, from the oppression of Fir`awn and his people, who had persecuted them by killing their sons and sparing their women, and by forcing them to do the most menial tasks, then ultimately He caused them to prevail over them and to seize their lands and their wealth and all that they had spent their entire lives amassing. Then Allah revealed to Musa the Clear and Mighty Book, which is the Tawrah, as Allah says:

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَضِيَاءً)

(And indeed We granted to Musa and Harun the criterion (of right and wrong), and a shining light) (21:48). And Allah says here:

(وَءَاتَيْنَاهُمَا الْكِتَابَ الْمُسْتَبِينَ - وَهَدَيْنَاهُمَا  
 الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ )

(And We gave them the clear Scripture; and guided them to the right path.) meaning, with regard to words and deeds.

## (وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِمَا فِي الْأَخْرِينَ )

(And We left for them among the later generations.) means, that after they died they would be mentioned in good terms and spoken of highly. Then Allah explain this further:

(سَلَّمَ عَلَى مُوسَى وَهَارُونَ إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي  
الْمُحْسِنِينَ إِنَّهُمَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ )

(Salam (peace!) be upon Musa and Harun! Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good. Verily, they were two of Our believing servants.)

(وَإِنَّ إِلْيَاسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَلَا  
تَتَّقُونَ - أَتَدْعُونَ بَعْلًا وَتَذَرُونَ أَحْسَنَ الْخَالِقِينَ -  
اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ وَرَبَّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأُولَى - فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَإِنَّهُمْ  
لَمُحْضَرُونَ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْأَخْرِينَ- سَلَّمَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ  
إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ- إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا  
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ-

(123. And verily, Ilyas was one of the Messengers.) (124. When he said to his people: "Will you not have Taqwa") (125. "Will you call upon `Ba`l and forsake the Best of creators,) (126. Allah, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers") (127. But they denied him, so they will certainly be brought forth,) (128. Save the chosen servants of Allah.) (129. And We left for him among the later generations.) (130. "Salam (peace!) be upon Ilyasin!") (131. Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good.) (132. Verily, he was one of Our believing servants.) Ilyas Qatadah and Muhammad bin Ishaq said, "Ilyas is another name for Idris." Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Ilyas is Idris." This was also the view of Ad-Dahhak . Wahb bin Munabbih said, "He is Ilyas bin Yasin bin Finhas bin Al-`Izar bin Harun bin `Imran. Allah sent him to the Children of Israel after Hizqil (Ezekiel), may peace be upon them both. They had started to worship an idol called Ba`l, and he called them to Allah, may He be exalted, and forbade them to worship anyone besides Him. Their king believed in him, then he apostatized, and they persisted in their misguided ways, and not one person among them believed in him. So he prayed to Allah against them, and Allah withheld the rain from them for three years. Then they asked him to relieve them from that, and promised that they would believe in him if rain came to them. So he prayed to Allah for them, and the rains

came, but they persisted in their evil ways of disbelief. So he asked Allah to take him to Him. Al-Yasa` bin Akhtub had grown up under his care, may peace be upon them both. So Ilyas was commanded to go to such and such a place, and whatever mount came to him, he was to ride on it and not to give it away. A horse of fire was brought to him, so he rode it, and Allah clothed him with light and covered him with feathers, and he used to fly with the angels as a human angel, heavenly yet also earthly. This is what was narrated by Wahb bin Munabbih from the People of the Book; Allah knows best how true it is.

(إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ )

(When he said to his people: "Will you not have Taqwa") means, 'do you not fear Allah when you worship others instead of Him'

(أَتَدْعُونَ بَعْلًا وَتَذَرُونَ أَحْسَنَ الْخَالِقِينَ )

(Will you call upon Ba`l and forsake the Best of creators,) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Qatadah and As-Suddi said that the word Ba`l means lord. `Ikrimah and Qatadah said, "This is the language of the people of Yemen." According to another report from Qatadah, it is the language of Azd Shanu'ah. `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam narrated from his father that it is the name of an idol which was worshipped by the people of a city called Ba`labak (Baalbek) which is to the west of Damascus. Ad-Dahhak said, "It is an idol which they used to worship."

(أَتَدْعُونَ بَعْلًا)

(Will you call upon Ba`l) means, 'will you worship an idol,'

(أَتَدْعُونَ بَعْلًا وَتَذَرُونَ أَحْسَنَ الْخَالِقِينَ - اللَّهُ رَبَّكُمْ وَرَبَّ آبَائِكُمُ الْأُولِينَ )

(and forsake the Best of creators, Allah, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers) means, 'He is the One Who is deserving of your worship alone, with no partners or associates.'

(فَكَذَّبُوهُ فَإِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ )

(But they denied him, so they will certainly be brought forth,) means, for the punishment on the Day of Reckoning.

(إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

(Save the chosen servants of Allah.) means, those who believe in Him alone.

(وَتَرَكْنَا عَلَيْهِ فِي الْآخِرِينَ )

(And We left for him among the later generations.) means, he is praised and spoken of highly.

(سَلَّمَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ )

(Salam (peace!) be upon Ilyasin!) Similarly, one might say for Isma'il, Isma'in. This is the language (dialect) of Bani Asad; they say Mikal, Mika'il, and Mika'in. They say Ibrahim and Ibraham; Isra'il, Isra'in; Tur Sna', Tur Snin. All of that is fine.

(إِنَّا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ - إِنَّهُ مِنْ عِبَادِنَا  
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ )

(Verily, thus do We reward the doers of good. Verily, he was one of Our believing servants.) We have already discussed the meaning of this above. And Allah knows best.

(وَإِنَّ لُوطًا لَّمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِذْ نَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ  
أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَّا عَجُوزًا فِي الْغَيْرِينَ ثُمَّ دَمَّرْنَا  
الْآخَرِينَ وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُصْبِحِينَ وَبِالْأَيْلِ  
أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ )

(133. And verily, Lut was one of the Messengers.) (134. When We saved him and his family, all,) (135. Except an old woman (his wife) who was among those who remained behind.) (136. Then We destroyed the rest.) (137. Verily, you pass by them in the morning.) (138. And at night; will you not then reflect)

### The Destruction of the People of Lut (Lot)

Allah tells us that He sent His servant and Messenger Lut, peace be upon him, to his people, and they denied him, so Allah saved him from among them, him and his family with the exception of his wife, who was destroyed along with her people. Allah destroyed them with different kinds of punishments, and made their vicinity a foul, stinking lake which is on a well-travelled route where people pass by night and day (i.e., the Dead Sea, which lays close to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah on the highway between Arabia and Syria). Allah says:

(وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُصْبِحِينَ - وَبِالْأَيْلِ أَفَلَا  
تَعْقِلُونَ )

(Verily, you pass by them in the morning. And at night; will you not then reflect) meaning, 'will you not learn a lesson from them and how Allah destroyed them, and realize that a similar end awaits the disbelievers.'

(وَإِنَّ يُونُسَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِذْ أَبَقَ إِلَى الْفُلِكِ  
الْمَشْحُونِ - فَسَهَمَ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُدْحَضِينَ -  
فَالْتَقَمَهُ الْحُوتُ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ - فَلَوْلَا أَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ  
الْمُسَبِّحِينَ - لَلَبِثَ فِي بَطْنِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ -  
فَنَبَذْنَاهُ بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ سَقِيمٌ - وَأَنْبَتْنَا عَلَيْهِ شَجَرَةً  
مِّنْ يَقْطِينٍ - وَأَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَى مِائَةِ أَلْفٍ أَوْ يَزِيدُونَ  
- فَآمَنُوا فَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَى حِينٍ )

(139. And verily, Yunus was one of the Messengers.) (140. When he ran to the laden ship:) (141. Then he (agreed to) cast lots, and he was among the losers. ) (142. Then a (big) fish swallowed him as he had done an act worthy of blame.) (143. Had he not been of them who glorify Allah,) (144. He would have indeed remained inside its belly (the fish) till the Day of Resurrection.) (145. But We cast him forth on the naked shore while he was sick,) (146. And We caused a plant of gourd to grow over him.) (147. And We sent him to a hundred thousand (people) or even more.) (148. And they believed; so We gave them enjoyment for a while.)

### The Story of Yunus

We have already discussed the story of Yunus, peace be upon him, in Surat Al-Anbiya' (21:87-88). In the Two Sahihs it is reported that the Messenger of Allah said:

«مَا يَنْبَغِي لِعَبْدٍ أَنْ يَقُولَ: أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِنْ يُونُسَ بْنِ  
مَتَّى»

(It is not right for any person to say I am better than Yunus bin Matta.)

(إِذْ أَبَقَ إِلَى الْفُلِكِ الْمَشْحُونِ )

(When he ran to the laden ship.) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "It was filled with cargo.

(فَسَهُمَ)

(Then he (agreed to) cast lots,) means, to draw lots."

(فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُدْحَضِينَ)

(and he was among the losers.) means among those who have been overcome. This was because the ship was being pounded by the waves on all sides, and they were at risk of drowning, so they drew lots, and whoever lost would be thrown overboard so as to lighten the load. The Prophet of Allah Yunus, peace be upon him, lost the draw three times, but they did not want to throw him overboard. He took off his garment so that he could throw himself into the sea, and they tried to stop him. Then Allah commanded a large fish from the Green Sea (i.e., Mediterranean Sea) to cleave the oceans and come and swallow Yunus, peace be upon him, without cutting his flesh or breaking his bones. The fish came and Yunus, peace be upon him, threw himself overboard, and the fish swallowed him and took him away, traveling through all the seas with him. When Yunus had stayed for some time in the fish's belly, he thought that he had died; then he moved his head and legs and arms, and saw that he was alive. He prayed in the belly of the fish, and one of the things he said in his main prayer was: "O Lord, I have taken as a place of worship to You a place which no other person has reached." They differed as to how long he spent in the belly of the fish. Some said three days; this was the view of Qatadah. Some said seven days; this was the view of Ja`far As-Sadiq, may Allah be pleased with him. Some said forty days; this was the view of Abu Malik. Mujahid said, narrating from Ash-Sha`bi, "It swallowed him in the morning and cast him forth in the evening." And Allah knows best how long exactly was. Allah says,

(فَلَوْلَا أَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُسَبِّحِينَ - لَلَبِثَ فِي بَطْنِهِ  
إِلَى يَوْمٍ يُبْعَثُونَ )

(Had he not been of them who glorify Allah, He would have indeed remained inside its belly (the fish) till the Day of Resurrection.) It was said that, if he had not already done righteous deeds during his time of ease. This was the view of Ad-Dahhak bin Qays, Abu Al-`Aliyah, Wahb bin Munabbih, Qatadah and others, and it was the view favored by Ibn Jarir. This is what is indicated in the authentic Hadith which we quote below, if Allah wills. In a Hadith narrated from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, he said:

«تَعَرَّفَ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِي الرَّخَاءِ، يَعْرِفُكَ فِي الشَّدَّةِ»

(Remember Allah during times of ease and He will remember you during times of difficulty.) And it was said that what was meant by the Ayah:

(فَلَوْلَا أَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُسَبِّحِينَ )

(Had he not been of them who glorify Allah,) was the meaning of the following Ayat:

(فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلْمَةِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ  
إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)  
(فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الغَمِّ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنَجِّي  
المُؤْمِنِينَ )

(But he cried through the darkness (saying): "La ilaha illa Anta, You are glorified! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers." So We answered his call, and delivered him from the distress. And thus We do deliver the believers.) (21:87-88). This was the view of Sa`id bin Jubayr and others. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him -- and I do not know of anything narrated from Anas that he did not attribute to the Messenger of Allah :

«إِنَّ يُونُسَ النَّبِيَّ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ حِينَ بَدَأَ  
لَهُ أَنْ يَدْعُوَ بِهَذِهِ الكَلِمَاتِ وَهُوَ فِي بَطْنِ الحُوتِ  
فَقَالَ: اللَّهُمَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ  
الظَّالِمِينَ، فَأَقْبَلَتْ الدَّعْوَةَ تَحْفًا بِالْعَرْشِ، قَالَتِ  
المَلَائِكَةُ: يَا رَبِّ هَذَا صَوْتُ ضَعِيفٍ مَعْرُوفٍ  
مِنْ بِلَادٍ بَعِيدَةٍ غَرِيبَةٍ فَقَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: أَمَا  
تَعْرِفُونَ ذَلِكَ؟ قَالُوا: يَا رَبِّ وَمَنْ هُوَ؟ قَالَ عَزَّ  
وَجَلَّ: عَبْدِي يُونُسُ، قَالُوا: عَبْدُكَ يُونُسُ الَّذِي لَمْ  
يَزَلْ يُرْفَعُ لَهُ عَمَلٌ مُتَقَبَّلٌ وَدَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ؟  
قَالُوا: يَا رَبِّ أَوْلَا تَرْحَمُ مَا كَانَ يَصْنَعُ فِي  
الرِّخَاءِ فَنُنَجِّيهِ فِي البَلَاءِ، قَالَ: بَلَى، فَأَمَرَ  
الحُوتَ فَطَرَحَهُ بِالْعَرَاءِ»

(When it occurred to the Prophet Yunus, upon him be peace, to call upon Allah in these words when he was in the belly of the great fish, he said, "La ilaha illa Anta, Yo are glorified! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers." This call went and hovered around the (mighty) Throne, and the angels said, "O Lord, this is the voice of one who is weak but known, in a faraway strange land. Allah, may He be exalted, said, "How do you know this" They said, "O Lord, who is he" Allah, may He be exalted, said, "My servant Yunus." They said, "Your servant Yunus, from whom there kept coming acceptable deeds and supplications which were answered!" They said, "O Lord, will You not have mercy on him for what he did during his time of ease, and save him from this trial and tribulation" He said, "Of course." So, He commanded the great fish, and it cast him forth on the naked shore.) Allah says:

(فَنَبَذْنَاهُ)

(But We cast him forth) meaning, 'We threw him out,'

(بِالْعُرَاءِ)

(on the naked shore) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and others said that this refers to land in which there is no vegetation and no buildings.

(وَهُوَ سَقِيمٌ)

(while he was sick,) means, when he was weak of body.

(وَأَنْبَتْنَا عَلَيْهِ شَجَرَةً مِّنْ يَقْطِينٍ )

(And We caused a plant of gourd to grow over him.) Ibn Mas`ud and Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with them both, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Wahb bin Munabbih, Hilal bin Yasaf, `Abdullah bin Tawus, As-Suddi, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, `Ata' Al-Khurasani and several others, all said that gourd means squash. Some of them mentioned that the squash has a number of benefits: it grows quickly, its leaves offer shade because of their large size and smooth texture, flies do not come near it, and its fruits provide good nourishment; they may be eaten raw or cooked, and both the pulp and the peel may be eaten. It was reported that the Messenger of Allah used to like squash and would look for it wherever it was on the serving dish.

(وَأَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَى مِائَةِ أَلْفٍ أَوْ يَزِيدُونَ )

(And We sent him to a hundred thousand (people) or even more.) It is as if he was commanded, after he came forth from the fish, to go back to those to whom he had been sent in the first place, and they all believed in him.

(أَوْ يَزِيدُونَ)

(or even more.) Makhul said, "They numbered one hundred and ten thousand. This was reported by Ibn Abi Hatim. Ibn Jarir said, "Some of the scholars of Arabic, the people of Basrah, said that this means up to one hundred thousand or more." Ibn Jarir interpreted this Ayah as he interpreted the Ayat:

(ثُمَّ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُكُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ فَهِيَ كَالْحِجَارَةِ أَوْ أَشَدُّ قَسْوَةً)

(Then, after that, your hearts were hardened and became as stones or even worse in hardness) (2:74).

(إِذَا فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَخْشَوْنَ النَّاسَ كَخَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ أَوْ أَشَدَّ خَشْيَةً)

(Behold! a section of them fear men as they fear Allah or even more) (4:77), and

(فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ )

(And was at a distance of two bows' length or (even) nearer) (53:9). The meaning is, not less than that, but rather more.

(فَآمَنُوا)

(And they believed;) means, these people to whom Yunus, peace be upon him, had been sent all believed.

(فَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ)

(so We gave them enjoyment for a while. ) means, until the time of their appointed end. This is like the Ayah,

(فَلَوْلَا كَانَتْ قَرْيَةٌ ءَامَنَتْ فَنَفَعَهَا إِيمَانُهَا إِلَّا قَوْمَ يُونُسَ لَمَّا ءَامَنُوا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ )

(Was there any town (community) that believed, and its faith (at that moment) saved it -- except the people of Yunus; when they believed, We removed from them the torment of disgrace in the life of the (present) world, and permitted them to enjoy for a while.) (10:98)

فَاسْتَفْتِهِمُ الرَّبِّكَ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَهُمُ الْبَنُونَ - أَمْ خَلَقْنَا  
الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِنثًا وَهُمْ شَاهِدُونَ - أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ مِّنْ إِفْكِهِمْ  
لَيَقُولُونَ - وَادَّ اللَّهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ - أَصْطَفَى  
الْبَنَاتِ عَلَى الْبَنِينَ مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ أَفَلَا  
تَذَكَّرُونَ أَمْ لَكُمْ سُلْطٰنٌ مُّبِينٌ فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابِكُمْ إِن  
كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ وَجَعَلُوا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْجِنَّةِ نَسَبًا وَلَقَدْ  
عَلِمَتِ الْجِنَّةُ إِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ )

(سُبْحٰنَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ  
الْمُخْلِصِينَ )

(149. Now ask them: "Are there (only) daughters for your Lord and sons for them") (150. Or did We create the angels female while they were witnesses) (151. Verily, it is of their falsehood that they say:) (152. "Allah has begotten." And, verily, they are liars!) (153. Has He (then) chosen daughters rather than sons) (154. What is the matter with you How do you decide) (155. Will you not then remember) (156. Or is there for you a plain authority) (157. Then bring your Book if you are truthful!) (158. And they have invented a kinship between Him and the Jinn, but the Jinn know well that they have indeed to appear (before Him).) (159. Glorified be Allah! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him!) (160. Except the servants of Allah, whom He chooses.)

### **Refutation of Those Who attribute Children to Allah and say that the Angels are His Daughters**

Allah denounces those idolators who attribute daughters to Allah -- exalted be He above that -- and attributed to themselves what they desired, i.e., they wanted male offspring to themselves.

وَإِذَا بُشِّرَ أَحَدُهُم بِالْأُنثَىٰ ظَلَّ وَجْهُهُ مُسْوَدًّا  
وَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ )

(And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief!) (16:58), i.e., that upsets him, and he would only choose sons for himself. Allah says: `Then how can they attribute to Allah the share that they would not choose for themselves' Allah says:

(فَاسْتَفْتِهِمْ)

(Now ask them) means, quiz them by way of denunciation,

(الرَّبِّكَ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَهُمُ الْبُيُوتُ)

(Are there (only) daughters for your Lord and sons for them) This is like the Ayah:

(الْكُمُ الذَّكَرُ وَلَهُ الْأُنثَىٰ - تِلْكَ إِذًا قِسْمَةٌ ضِيزَىٰ  
(

(Is it for you the males and for Him the females That indeed is a division most unfair!) (53:21-22).

(أَمْ خَلَقْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِنثًا وَهُمْ شَاهِدُونَ )

(Or did We create the angels female while they were witnesses) means, how did they decide that the angels are female when they did not witness their creation This is like the Ayah:

(وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا  
أَشْهَدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ سَتُكْتَبُ شَهَادَتُهُمْ وَيُسْأَلُونَ )

(And they make the angels females who themselves are servants of the Most Gracious. Did they witness their creation Their testimony will be recorded, and they will be questioned!) (43:19), which means, they will be questioned about that on the Day of Resurrection.

(أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ مِنْ أَفْكَهٍ)

(Verily, it is of their falsehood) means, it is a part of the lies they tell.

(لَيَقُولُونَ وَلَدَ اللَّهِ)

(that they say: "Allah has begotten.") meaning, that offspring have been born to Him.

(وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ)

(And verily, they are liars!) Allah mentions three of the things they said about the angels, which formed the utmost disbelief and falsehood. They said that they were the daughters of Allah and that Allah had offspring -- exalted and sanctified be He above that. Then they made these offspring female, then they worshipped them instead of Allah, exalted and sanctified be He -- any of which on its own would be sufficient to condemn them to spend eternity in Hell. Then Allah says, denouncing them:

(أَصْطَفَى الْبَنَاتِ عَلَى الْبَنِينَ)

(Has He (then) chosen daughters rather than sons) meaning, what would make Him choose daughters rather than sons This is like the Ayah,

(أَفَأَصْفَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ بِالْبَنِينَ وَاتَّخَذَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنَاثًا  
إِنَّكُمْ لَتَقُولُونَ قَوْلًا عَظِيمًا)

(Has then your Lord preferred for you sons, and taken for Himself from among the angels daughters Verily, you indeed utter an awful saying.) (17:40) Allah says:

(مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ)

(What is the matter with you How do you decide) meaning, `what kind of reasoning makes you say that'

(أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ - أَمْ لَكُمْ سُلْطٰنٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(Will you not then remember Or is there for you a plain authority) means, `evidence to prove what you say.'

(فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابِكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(Then bring your Book if you are truthful!) means, `produce evidence for that derived from a Book revealed from heaven by Allah, to prove that He has taken what you say (i.e., offspring). What you say is totally irrational.'

(وَجَعَلُوا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْجِنَّةِ نَسَبًا)

(And they have invented a kinship between Him and the Jinn,) Mujahid said, "The idolators said that the angels were the daughters of Allah. Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, 'Then who are their mothers' They said, 'The daughters of the leaders of the Jinn.'" Qatadah and Ibn Zayd also said this. Allah -- may He be blessed and exalted -- says:

(وَلَقَدْ عَلِمَتِ الْجِنَّةُ)

(but the jinn know) meaning, those to whom this is attributed

(إِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ)

(know well that they have indeed to appear (before Him).) means, that those who say that will be brought forth for punishment on the Day of Reckoning, because of the lies and falsehood that they uttered without knowledge.

(سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ)

(Glorified be Allah! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him!) means, exalted, sanctified and glorified be He far above having any offspring and far above what the wrongdoers and heretics attribute to Him.

(إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ)

(Except the servants of Allah, whom He chooses.) The pronoun in the verb translated as "they attribute" refers to all of mankind, then He excludes those whom He chooses, who are the ones who follow the truth revealed to every Prophet who was sent.

(فَإِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ - مَا أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ بِفَتْنَيْنِ - إِلَّا  
مَنْ هُوَ صَالِ الْجَحِيمِ - وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ  
مَعْلُومٌ - وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الصَّاقِقُونَ - وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ  
الْمُسَبِّحُونَ - وَإِن كَانُوا لَيَقُولُونَ - لَوْ أَنَّ عِنْدَنَا  
ذِكْرًا مِّنَ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

لَكُنَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ - فَكَفَرُوا بِهِ فَسَوْفَ  
يَعْلَمُونَ -)

(161. So, verily you and those whom you worship) (162. Cannot lead astray,) (163. Except those who are predestined to burn in Hell!) (164. And there is not one of us (angels) but has his known place;) (165. And verily, we (angels), we stand in rows;) (166. And verily, we (angels) indeed are those who glorify.) (167. And indeed they used to say:) (168. "If we had a reminder as had the men of old,") (169. "We would have indeed been the chosen servants of Allah!") (170. But (now) they disbelieve therein, so they will come to know!)

**No One believes what the Idolators say except Those Who are even more misguided than They**

Allah says, addressing the idolators:

(فَأَيُّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ - مَا أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ بِفِتْنِينَ - إِلَّا  
مَنْ هُوَ صَالِ الْجَحِيمِ )

(So, verily you and those whom you worship cannot lead astray, except those who are predestined to burn in Hell!) meaning, 'the only ones who will believe what you say and follow your misguided ways of false worship are those who are more misguided than you and are created for Hell.'

(لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا  
يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ آذَانٌ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا أُولَئِكَ  
كَالْأَنْعَمِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْغَافِلُونَ)

(They have hearts wherewith they understand not, and they have eyes wherewith they see not, and they have ears wherewith they hear not (the truth). They are like cattle, nay even more astray; those! They are the heedless ones.) (7:179). This is the parable of the people who follow the belief and ideas of Shirk, disbelief and misguidance, as Allah says:

(إِنَّكُمْ لَفِي قَوْلٍ مُخْتَلِفٍ - يُؤَفِّكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أَفَكَ )

(Certainly, you have different ideas. Turned aside therefrom is he who is turned aside (by the decree of Allah).) (51:8-9) meaning, the one who is misled by it is the one who is turned aside.

**The Place of the Angels and Their Ranks glorify Allah**

Then Allah says, declaring the angels to be above the position attributed to them by those who disbelieved in them and told lies about them -- that they are the daughters of Allah --

(وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ مَّعْلُومٌ )

(And there is not one of us (angels) but has his known place;) meaning, each one has his own place in the heavens and in the places of worship, which he does not overstep. Ad-Dahhak said in his Tafsir:

(وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ مَّعْلُومٌ )

"(And there is not one of us (angels) but has his known place;) Masruq used to narrate that `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said, `The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا مَوْضِعٌ إِلَّا عَلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ  
سَاجِدٌ أَوْ قَائِمٌ»

(There is no place in the lower heaven without an angel standing or prostrating in it.) This is what Allah says:

(وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ مَّعْلُومٌ )

(And there is not one of us (angels) but has his known place (or position))." It was reported that Ibn Mas`ud said, "In the heavens there is one heaven in which there is no space a hand span wide but there is the forehead or the foot of an angel on it. " Then he recited:

(وَمَا مِنَّا إِلَّا لَهُ مَقَامٌ مَّعْلُومٌ )

(And there is not one of us (angels) but has his known place;) Sa`id bin Jubayr similarly said:

(وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الصَّاقُونَ )

(And we (angels), we stand in rows.) means, we stand in rows to worship, as we have already seen in the Ayah

(وَالصَّفَّتِ صَفًّا )

(By those ranged in ranks (or rows)) Abu Nadrah said, "When the Iqamah had been given, `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, would turn to face the people and say: `Make your rows straight, for Allah wants you to follow the ways of the angels.' Then he would say,

(وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الصَّاقُونَ )

(And verily, we stand in rows;) `Move back, O so-and-so, move forward, O so-and-so.' Then he would go forward and say `Allahu Akbar'" This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim and Ibn Jarir. In Sahih Muslim it is narrated that Hudhayfah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said,

«فُضِّلْنَا عَلَى النَّاسِ بِثَلَاثٍ: جُعِلَتْ صُفُوفُنَا  
كَصُفُوفِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، وَجُعِلَتْ لَنَا الْأَرْضُ مَسْجِدًا،  
وَتُرْبَتُهَا طَهُورًا»

(We have been favored above mankind in three things: our rows have been made like the rows of the angels; the whole earth has been made a place of prayer for us; and its soil is a means of purification for us.)"

(وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الْمُسَبِّحُونَ )

(And verily, we indeed are those who glorify.) means, `we stand in rows and glorify the Lord, praising Him, sanctifying Him and declaring Him to be above any faults or shortcomings. We are servants of Him and in need of Him, humbling ourselves before Him.'

**The Quraysh wished that They could have a Reminder as had the Men of old**

(وَإِنْ كَانُوا لَيَقُولُونَ - لَوْ أَنَّ عِنْدَنَا ذِكْرًا مِّنَ  
الْأَوَّلِينَ )

(لَكُنَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ-)

(And indeed they used to say: "If we had a reminder as had the men of old, we would have indeed been the chosen servants of Allah!") means, `they used to wish -- before you, O Muhammad, came to them -- that they would have someone to remind them about Allah and what happened in earlier times, and to bring them the Book of Allah.' This is like the Ayat:

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِن جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ  
لَّيَكُونُنَّ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْ إِحْدَى الْأُمَمِ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ  
مَّا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا نُفُورًا )

(And they swore by Allah their most binding oath that if a warner came to them, they would be more guided than any of the nations (before them); yet when a warner came to them, it increased in them naught but flight (from the truth).) (35:42), and

(أَنْ تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أُنزِلَ الْكِتَابُ عَلَي طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِنْ  
قَبْلِنَا وَإِنْ كُنَّا عَنْ دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَافِلِينَ - أَوْ تَقُولُوا  
لَوْ أَنَّا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْكِتَابُ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمْ فَقَدْ  
جَاءَكُمْ بَيِّنَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَهَدَىٰ وَرَحْمَةً فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ  
مِمَّن كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَصَدَفَ عَنْهَا سَنَجْزِي  
الَّذِينَ يَصْدِفُونَ عَنْ آيَاتِنَا سُوءَ الْعَذَابِ بِمَا كَانُوا  
يَصْدِفُونَ )

(Lest you should say: "The Book was sent down only to two sects before us, and for our part, we were in fact unaware of what they studied." Or lest you should say: "If only the Book had been sent down to us, we would surely have been better guided than they." So now has come unto you a clear proof from your Lord, and a form of guidance and a mercy. Who then does more wrong than one who rejects the Ayat of Allah and turns away therefrom We shall requite those who turn away from Our Ayat with an evil torment, because of their turning away.) (6:156-157)  
Allah says here:

(فَكَفَرُوا بِهِ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ )

(But they disbelieve therein, so they will come to know!) This is a definite and stern threat because of their disbelief in their Lord and their rejection of His Messenger .

(وَلَقَدْ سَبَقَتْ كَلِمَتُنَا لِعِبَادِنَا الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِنَّهُمْ لَهُمُ  
الْمَنْصُورُونَ - وَإِنَّ جُنَدَنَا لَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ - فَتَوَلَّ

عَنَّهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ - وَأَبْصِرْ هُمْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ  
 أَفَبِعَذَابِنَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ فَإِذَا نَزَلَ بِسَاحَتِهِمْ فَسَاءَ  
 صَبَاحُ الْمُنذَرِينَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ )  
 (وَأَبْصِرْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ )

(171. And, verily, Our Word has gone forth of old for Our servants, the Messengers,) (172. That they verily would be made triumphant, ) (173. And that Our hosts! they verily would be the victors.) (174. So, turn away from them for a while,) (175. And watch them and they shall see!) (176. Do they seek to hasten on Our torment) (177. Then, when it descends in their courtyard, evil will be the morning for those who had warned!) (178. So, turn away from them for a while,) (179. And watch and they shall see!)

### The Promise of Victory and the Command to turn away from Idolators

Allah says,

(وَلَقَدْ سَبَقَتْ كَلِمَتُنَا لِعِبَادِنَا الْمُرْسَلِينَ )

(And, verily, Our Word has gone forth of old for Our servants, the Messengers,) meaning, it has already been stated in the first decree that the Messengers and their followers will ultimately prevail in this world and the Hereafter. This is like the Ayah:

(كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَأَغْلِبَنَّ أَنَا وَرُسُلِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ  
 عَزِيزٌ )

(Allah has decreed: "Verily, it is I and My Messengers who shall be the victorious." Verily, Allah is All-Powerful, Almighty.) (58:21), and

(إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ  
 الدُّنْيَا وَيَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْأَشْهُدُ )

(Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth.) (40:51).

وَلَقَدْ سَبَقَتْ كَلِمَتُنَا لِعِبَادِنَا الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِنَّهُمْ لَهُمُ  
الْمَنْصُورُونَ )

(And, verily, Our Word has gone forth of old for Our servants, the Messengers, that they verily would be made triumphant,) meaning, `in this world and in the Hereafter, as We have already stated that they would prevail over their people who disbelieved in them and went against them, and how Allah destroyed the disbelievers and saved His believing servants. '

(وَإِنَّ جُنَدَنَا لَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ )

(And that Our hosts they verily would be the victors.) means, that they would ultimately prevail.

(فَقُولْ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ )

(So turn away from them for a while,) means, `bear their annoyance with patience and wait until an appointed time, when We shall cause you to prevail and will grant you victory.'

(وَأَبْصِرْ لَهُمْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ )

(And watch them and they shall see!) means, `watch them and see what will happen to them by way of punishment for their opposition towards you and their disbelief in you.' Allah said, as a threat and a warning,

(فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ)

(and they shall see!). Then Allah says:

(أَفِعْدَابِنَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ )

(Do they seek to hasten on Our torment) meaning, `they seek to hasten on the punishment because they disbelieve in you, and Allah is angry with them because of that and will make them suffer the consequences, and because of their disbelief and stubbornness, He will hasten on the punishment.'

(فَإِذَا نَزَلَ بِسَاحَتِهِمْ فَسَاءَ صَبَاحُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ )

(Then, when it descends in their courtyard, evil will be the morning for those who had been warned!) means, when the punishment comes down to the place where they are, terrible will be the day of their punishment and destruction. As-Suddi said:

(فَإِذَا نَزَلَ بِسَاحَتِهِمْ)

(Then, when it descends in their courtyard,) means, in their homes;

(فَسَاءَ صَبَاحُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ)

(evil will be the morning for those who had been warned!) means, how terrible that morning will be for them. It was reported in the Two Sahihs that Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "On the morning of Khaybar, when the people came out with their tools (to go about their daily work) and saw the (Muslim) army, they went back and said, 'Muhammad by Allah! Muhammad and the army!' The Prophet said:

«اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، خَرِبَتْ خَيْبَرُ، إِنَّا إِذَا نَزَلْنَا بِسَاحَةِ قَوْمٍ فَسَاءَ صَبَاحُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ»

(Allahu Akbar! Khaybar has been destroyed. Then, when it descends in the courtyard of any people, evil will be the morning for those who had been warned!)"

(وَتَوَلَّ عَنْهُمْ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ وَأَبْصِرْ فَسَوْفَ يُبْصِرُونَ-)

(So turn away from them for a while, and watch and they shall see!) This is a reiteration of the command stated above. And Allah knows best.

(سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ-)

(180. Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of Al-'Izzah! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him!) (181. And Salam (peace!) be on the Messengers!) (182. And all the praises and thanks be to Allah, Lord of all that exists.)

**Allah glorified Himself and states that He is far above what the lying wrongdoers say about Him; glorified and sanctified and exalted be He far above what they say.**

Allah says:

(سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ)

(Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of Al-' Izzah!) meaning, the Owner of might and power Whom none can resist.

(عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ)

((He is free) from what they attribute unto Him!) means, from what these lying fabricators say.

(وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(And Salam be on the Messengers!) means, may the peace of Allah be upon them in this world and in the Hereafter, because what they say about their Lord is sound, correct and true.

(وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(And all the praises and thanks be to Allah, Lord of all that exists.) means, praise be to Him at the beginning and end of all things. Because Tasbih (glorification) implies a declaration of being free from all shortcomings, the two ideas appear together here and in many places in the Qur'an. Allah says:

(سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ- وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ-)

(Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of Al-' Izzah! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him! And Salam (peace!) be on the Messengers! And all the praises and thanks be to Allah, Lord of all that exists.) Sa`id bin Abi `Arubah narrated that Qatadah said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا سَلَّمْتُمْ عَلَيَّ، فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ، فَإِنَّا رَسُولٌ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ»

(When you send Salam on me, send Salam on all the Messengers, for I am one of the Messengers.)" This was recorded by Ibn Jarir and Ibn Abi Hatim. Abu Muhammad Al-Baghawi recorded in his Tafsir that `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "Whoever wants a greater measure of reward on the Day of Resurrection, let him say at the end of any gathering,

(سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ- وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ-)

(Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of honor, glory and power! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him! And Salam (peace!) be on the Messengers! And all the praises and thanks

be to Allah, Lord of all that exists)." Other Hadiths concerning the expiation for any wrongs that may have occurred during a gathering prescribe saying the words: "Glory be to You, O Allah, and praise. There is no God except You; I seek your forgiveness and I repent to you. " I have written a chapter dealing exclusively with this topic. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat As-Saffat. And Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, knows best.

## The Tafsir of Surah Sad

(Chapter - 38)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ )

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

(ص وَالْقُرْءَانَ ذِي الدُّكْرِ - بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي  
عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقٍ - كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ  
فَنَادَوْا وَوَلَّاتٍ حِينٍ مِّنَاصٍ )

(1. Sad. By the Qur'an full of reminding.) (2. Those who disbelieve are in false pride and opposition.) (3. How many a generation have We destroyed before them! And they cried out when there was no longer time for escape.) We have already discussed the separate letters in the the beginning of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Baqarah, and there is no need to repeat it here.

(وَالْقُرْءَانَ ذِي الدُّكْرِ)

(By the Qur'an full of reminding.) means, by the Qur'an which includes all that is in it as a reminder and a benefit to people in this life and the Hereafter. Ad-Dahhak said that the Ayah,

(ذِي الدُّكْرِ)

(full of reminding.) is like the Ayah,

(لَقَدْ أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ كِتَابًا فِيهِ ذِكْرُكُمْ)

(Indeed, We have sent down for you (O mankind) a Book in which there is Dhikrukum) (21:10). i.e., your reminder. This was also the view of Qatadah and of Ibn Jarir. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Isma`il bin Abi Khalid, Ibn `Uyaynah, Abu Husayn, Abu Salih and As-Suddi said:

## (ذِي الذِّكْرِ)

(full of reminding.) "Full of honor," i.e., of high standing. There is no contradiction between the two views, because it is a noble Book which includes reminders and leaves no excuse and brings warnings. The reason for this oath is to be found in the Ayah:

(إِنْ كُلُّ إِلَّا كَذَّبَ الرَّسُلَ فَحَقَّ عِقَابِ )

(Not one of them but denied the Messengers; therefore My torment was justified.) (38:14). Qatadah said, "The reason for it is to be found in the Ayah:

(بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقِ )

(Nay, those who disbelieve are in false pride and opposition)." This was the view favored by Ibn Jarir.

(بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقِ )

(Nay, those who disbelieve are in false pride and opposition.) means, in this Qur'an there is a reminder for those who will be reminded and a lesson for those who will learn a lesson, but the disbelievers will not benefit from it because they

(فِي عِزَّةٍ)

(are in false pride) meaning, arrogance and tribalism,

(وَشِقَاقِ)

(and opposition.) means, they are stubbornly opposed to it and go against it. Then Allah scares them with news of how the nations who came before them were destroyed because of their opposition to the Messengers and their disbelief in the Scriptures that were revealed from heaven. Allah says:

(كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ)

(How many a generation have We destroyed before them!) meaning, disbelieving nations.

(فَنَادَوْا)

(And they cried out) means, when the punishment came to them, they called for help and cried out to Allah, but that did not save them at all. This is like the Ayat:

(فَلَمَّا أَحَسُّوا بَأْسَنَا إِذَا هُمْ مِنْهَا يَرْكُضُونَ - لَا تَرْكُضُوا وَارْجِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَا أَتْرَقْتُمْ فِيهِ وَمَسْكَنِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَسْأَلُونَ )

(Then, when they perceived (saw) Our torment, behold, they (tried to) flee from it. Flee not, but return to that wherein you lived a luxurious life, and to your homes, in order that you may be questioned.) (21:12-13). Abu Dawud At-Tayalisi recorded that At-Tamimi said, "I asked Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, about the Ayah:

(فَنَادَوْا وَوَلَاتَ حِينِ مَنَاصٍ)

(And they cried out when there was no longer time for escape.) He said that it was not the time for them to call or flee or escape. Muhammad bin Ka`b said, concerning the Ayah:

(فَنَادَوْا وَوَلَاتَ حِينِ مَنَاصٍ)

(And they cried out when there was no longer time for escape.) "They called for Tawhid when their lives were over, and they resorted to repentance when their lives were over." Qatadah said, "When they saw the punishment, they wanted to repent when there was no longer time to call out." Mujahid said:

(فَنَادَوْا وَوَلَاتَ حِينِ مَنَاصٍ)

(And they cried out when there was no longer time for escape.) "It was not the time to flee or escape." Allah says:

(وَوَلَاتَ حِينِ مَنَاصٍ)

(when there was no longer time for escape.) meaning, there was no time to escape or run away; and Allah knows best.

(وَعَجِبُوا أَنْ جَاءَهُمْ مُنْذِرٌ مِنْهُمْ وَقَالَ الْكٰفِرُونَ هَذَا سِحْرٌ كَذٰبٌ - أَجَعَلَ الْاٰلِهَةَ اِلٰهًا وَّحِدًا اِنْ هٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجَابٌ - وَاَنْطَلَقَ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ مِنْهُمْ اَنْ اَمْشُوا وَاَصْبِرُوا عَلٰٓى اٰلِهَتِكُمْ اِنْ هٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ

يُرَادُ - مَا سَمِعْنَا بِهِذَا فِي الْمِلَّةِ الْأُخْرَةِ إِنَّ هَذَا  
 إِلَّا اخْتِلَاقٌ - أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ مِنْ بَيْنِنَا بَلْ هُمْ  
 فِي شَكٍّ مِّنْ ذِكْرِي بَلْ لَمَّا يَدُوقُوا عَذَابَ - أَمْ  
 عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّكَ الْعَزِيزِ الْوَهَّابِ - أَمْ  
 لَهُمْ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَلْيَرْتَقُوا  
 فِي الْأَسْبَابِ - جُنْدٌ مَّا هُنَالِكَ مَهْزُومٌ مِّنْ  
 الْأَحْزَابِ )

(4. And they wonder that a warner has come to them from among themselves. And the disbelievers say: "This is a sorcerer, a liar.") (5. "Has he made the gods into One God. Verily, this is a curious thing!") (6. And the leaders among them went about (saying): "Go on, and remain constant to your gods! Verily, this is a thing designed!") (7. "We have not heard (the like) of this in the religion of these later days. This is nothing but an invention!") (8. "Has the Reminder been sent down to him (alone) from among us" Nay, but they are in doubt about My Reminder! Nay, but they have not tasted (My) torment!) (9. Or have they the treasures of the mercy of your Lord, the Almighty, the Real Bestower) (10. Or is it that the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them is theirs If so, let them ascend up with means!) (11. They will be a defeated host like the Confederates of the old times.)

### **The Idolators were amazed at the Message, Tawhid and the Qur'an**

Allah tells us that the idolators wondered at the sending of the Messenger of Allah as a bringer of glad tidings and a warner. This is like the Ayah:

(أَكَانَ لِلنَّاسِ عَجَبًا أَنْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى رَجُلٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَنْ  
 أَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنَّ لَهُمْ قَدَمَ  
 صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ قَالَ الْكٰفِرُونَ إِنَّ هَذَا لَسِحْرٌ  
 مُّبِينٌ )

(Is it a wonder for mankind that We have sent Our revelation to a man from among themselves (saying): "Warn mankind, and give good news to those who believe that they shall have with their Lord the rewards of their good deeds" (But) the disbelievers say: "This is indeed an evident sorcerer!") (10:2). And Allah says here:

(وَعَجِبُوا أَنْ جَاءَهُمْ مُنْذِرٌ مِّنْهُمْ)

(And they wonder that a warner has come to them from among themselves.) meaning, a human being like themselves.

(وَقَالَ الْكٰفِرُونَ هٰذَا سِحْرٌ كَذٰبٌ اٰجَعَلَ الْاٰلِهَةَ  
اِلٰهًا وَّحِدًا)

(And the disbelievers said: "This is a sorcerer, a liar. Has he made the gods into One God") meaning, does he claim that the One Who is to worshipped is One and there is no god besides Him The idolators -- may Allah curse them -- denounced that and were amazed at the idea of giving up Shirk, because they had learned from their forefathers to worship idols and their hearts were filled with love for that. When the Messenger called them to rid their hearts of that and to worship Allah Alone, this was too much for them and they were astounded by it. They said:

(اٰجَعَلَ الْاٰلِهَةَ اِلٰهًا وَّحِدًا اِنَّ هٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجَابٌ  
وَانْطَلَقَ الْمَلَا مِنْهُمْ)

("Has he made the gods into One God Verily, this is a curious thing!" And the leaders among them went about) meaning the chiefs and masters and nobles,

(امشوا)

((saying): "Go on...") meaning, `persist in your religion,'

(وَاَصْبِرُوا عَلٰٓى ءَالِهَتِكُمْ)

(and remain constant to your gods!), meaning, `do not respond to Muhammad's call to Tawhid.'

(اِنَّ هٰذَا لَشَيْءٌ يُرَادُ)

(Verily, this is a thing designed!) Ibn Jarir said, "The Tawhid to which Muhammad is calling you is something by which he wishes to gain power over you, and exalt his own position, so that he will have followers among you, but we will not respond to him."

### The Reason for the Revelation of These Ayat

Abu Ja`far bin Jarir recorded that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "When Abu Talib fell sick, some of the people of the Quraysh, including Abu Jahl, entered upon him and said, `Your brother's son is insulting our gods; he does such and such and says such and such. Why don't you send for him and tell him not to do that' So he sent for the Prophet and he entered the house. There was space enough for one man to sit between them and Abu Talib, and Abu Jahl, may Allah curse him, was afraid that if the Prophet were to sit beside Abu Talib he would be more lenient with him, so he jumped up and sat in that spot, and the Messenger of Allah could find nowhere to sit near his uncle, so he sat by the door. Abu Talib said to him, `O son of my brother, why are your people complaining about you and claiming that you insult their gods and say such and such' They made so many complaints against him. Thereupon, he said,

«يَا عَمَّ إِنِّي أُرِيدُهُمْ عَلَى كَلِمَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ يَقُولُونَهَا  
تَدِينُ لَهُمْ بِهَا الْعَرَبُ، وَتُؤَدِّي إِلَيْهِمْ بِهَا الْعَجَمُ  
الْحِزْيَةُ»

(O uncle, all I want from them is one word which, if they say it, the Arabs will become their followers and the non-Arabs will pay Jizyah to them.) They were worried about what he said, so they said, `One word Yes, by your father, (we will say) ten words! What is it' Abu Talib said, `What word is it, O son of my brother' He said,

«لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ»

(La ilaha illallah.) They stood up in agitation, brushing down their clothes, saying,

(أَجَعَلَ الْأَلِهَةَ إِلَهًا وَحِدًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجَابٌ  
(

(Has he made the gods into One God. Verily, this is a curious thing!) Then this passage was revealed, from this Ayah to the Ayah:

(بَلْ لَمَّا يَدُوقُوا عَذَابِ)

(Nay, but they have not tasted (My) torment!)" This is the wording of Abu Kurayb. Something similar was also recorded by Imam Ahmad and An-Nasa'i, and At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan."

(مَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَذَا فِي الْمِلَّةِ الْأُخْرَةِ)

(We have not heard (the like) of this in the religion of these later days.) means, `we have not heard anything like this Tawhid to which Muhammad calls us in the religion of these later days.' Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "We have not heard

of this from the religion of these later days (meaning Christianity); if this Qur'an were true, the Christians would have told us about it."

(إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا اخْتِلَاقٌ)

(This is nothing but an invention!) Mujahid and Qatadah said, "A lie." Ibn `Abbas said, "A fabrication."

(أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ مِنْ بَيْنِنَا)

(Has the Reminder been sent down to him (alone) from among us) They thought it unlikely that he would be singled out from among them to receive the Qur'an. This is like the Ayat:

(لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنُ عَلَى رَجُلٍ مِّنَ الْقَرْيَتَيْنِ عَظِيمٍ)

(And they say: "Why is not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns") (43:31). Allah said:

(أَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّكَ نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَّعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ)

(Is it they who would portion out the mercy of your Lord It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in this world, and We raised some of them above others in ranks) (43:32). When they said this, it indicated their ignorance and lack of understanding since they thought it was unlikely that the Qur'an would be revealed to the Messenger and not to somebody else.

(بَلْ لَّمَّا يَدُوفُوا عَذَابٍ)

(Nay, but they have not tasted (My) torment!) means, they say this because they have not yet tasted the punishment and vengeance of Allah. But they will come to know the consequences of what they say and what they rejected on the Day when they are herded into the fire of Hell. Then Allah points out that He is the One Who is in control of His Creation and Who does whatever He wills, Who gives whatever He wants to whomever He wants, and honors whomever He wants and humiliates whomever He wants, and guides whomever He wants and misguides whomever He wants, and sends the Ruh (Jibril) by His command upon whomsoever He wants among His servants, and seals the hearts of whomever He wants, so no one can guide him apart from Allah. His servants do not possess any power and have no control over His dominion, not even a speck of dust's weight; they do not possess even a thin membrane over a date stone. Allah says, denouncing them: