

«إِنْ كَانَ فِيهِ مَا تَقُولُ فَقَدْ اغْتَبَتْهُ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ فِيهِ مَا تَقُولُ فَقَدْ بَهَّه»

(If he was as you mentioned, you will have committed backbiting. But if he was not as you say about him, you will have falsely accused him.)" At-Tirmidhi collected this Hadith and said "Hasan Sahih." Backbiting was sternly warned against, and this is why Allah the Exalted and Most Blessed compared it to eating the flesh of a dead human being,

(أُحِبُّ أَحَدَكُمْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرَهُنَّموه)

(Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother You would hate it.) Just as you hate eating the flesh of a dead person, on account of your nature; so hate backbiting, on account of your religion. The latter carries a punishment that is worse than the former. This Ayah seeks to discourage people from backbiting and warns against it. The Prophet used these words to discourage taking back a gift that one gives to someone,

«كَالْكَلْبِ يَقِيءُ ثُمَّ يَرْجِعُ فِي قَيْئِهِ»

(He is just like the dog that eats its vomit.) after saying,

«لَيْسَ لَنَا مَثَلُ السَّوْءِ»

(Ours is not an evil parable.) Using various chains of narration, the Sahihis and Musnads record that the Prophet said during the Farewell Hajj:

«إِنَّ دِمَاءَكُمْ وَأَمْوَالَكُمْ وَأَعْرَاضَكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ حَرَامٌ كَحُرْمَةِ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا، فِي شَهْرِكُمْ هَذَا، فِي بَلَدِكُمْ هَذَا»

(Verily, your blood, wealth and honor are as sacred among you as the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this town of yours.) Abu Dawud recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«كُلُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ حَرَامٌ مَالُهُ وَعِرْضُهُ
وَدَمُهُ، حَسْبُ امْرِئٍ مِنَ الشَّرِّ أَنْ يَحْقِرَ أَخَاهُ
الْمُسْلِمَ»

(All of the Muslim is sacred to the Muslim, his wealth, honor and his blood. It is evil enough for someone to belittle his Muslim brother.) At-Tirmidhi collected this Hadith and said "Hasan Gharib." Al-Hafiz Abu Ya`la recorded that a cousin of Abu Hurayrah said, "Ma`iz came to the Messenger of Allah and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! I have committed adultery,' and the Messenger turned away from him until Ma`iz repeated his statement four times. The fifth time, the Prophet asked him,

«زَنَيْتَ؟»

(Have you committed adultery?) Ma`iz said, Yes. The Prophet asked,

«وَتَدْرِي مَا الزَّانَا؟»

(Do you know what adultery means) Ma`iz said, 'Yes. I have illegally done with her what a husband legally does with his wife.' The Prophet said,

«مَا تُرِيدُ إِلَى هَذَا الْقَوْلِ؟»

(What do you seek to accomplish by this statement) Ma`iz said, 'I intend that you purify me.' The Prophet asked,

«أَدْخَلْتَ ذَلِكَ مِنْكَ فِي ذَلِكَ مِنْهَا كَمَا يَغِيبُ الْمِيلُ
فِي الْمُكْحَلَةِ وَالرَّشَا فِي الْبُرِّ؟»

(Have you gone into her just as the stick goes into the kohl container and the rope goes into the well) Ma`iz said, 'Yes, O Allah's Messenger!' The Prophet commanded that Ma`iz be stoned to death and his order was carried out. The Prophet heard two men saying to one another, 'Have you not seen the man who had Allah cover his secret, but his heart could not let him rest until he was stoned to death, just as the dog is stoned' The Prophet continued on and when he passed by the corpse of a donkey, he asked,

«أَيْنَ فُلَانٌ وَفُلَانٌ؟ انْزِلَا فِكُلَا مِنْ حَيْفَةِ هَذَا
الْحِمَارِ»

(Where are so-and-so Dismount and eat from this donkey.) They said, `May Allah forgive you, O Allah's Messenger! Would anyone eat this meat' The Prophet said;

«فَمَا نَلْتُمَا مِنْ أَخِيكُمَا أَنْفًا أَشَدُّ أَكْلًا مِنْهُ، وَالَّذِي
نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ إِنَّهُ الْآنَ لَفِي أَنْهَارِ الْجَنَّةِ يَنْغَمِسُ
فِيهَا»

(The backbiting you committed against your brother is worse as a meal than this meal. By He in Whose Hand is my soul! He is now swimming in the rivers of Paradise.)" This Hadith has an authentic chain of narration. Imam Ahmad recorded that Jabir bin `Abdullah said, "We were with the Messenger of Allah when a rotten odor was carried by the wind. The Messenger of Allah said,

«أَتَدْرُونَ مَا هَذِهِ الرِّيحُ؟ هَذِهِ رِيحُ الَّذِينَ يَعْتَابُونَ
النَّاسَ»

(Do you know what this odor is It is the odor of those who backbite people.)"

Accepted Repentance from Backbiting and Slander

Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ)

(And have Taqwa of Allah), that is, regarding what He has commanded you and forbidden for you. Fear Him and beware of Him,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَحِيمٌ)

(Verily, Allah is the One Who forgives and accepts repentance, Most Merciful.) He forgives those who repent to Him, is merciful with those who go back to Him and trust in Him. The majority of scholars have stated that repentance for committing the sin of backbiting is that one refrains from backbiting intending not to repeat it again. There is a difference of opinion if whether feeling remorse is required in this case, and also if one should apologize to those who he has backbitten. Some scholars stated that it is not necessary for one to ask those whom he has backbitten to forgive him, because if they knew what was said about them, they could be hurt more than if they were not told about it. It is better, they said, that one should praise those whom he has backbitten in audiences in which he has committed the act. It is also better if one defends the injured party against any further backbiting, as much as one can, as recompense for his earlier backbiting.

(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعْرِفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ)

(13. O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqua. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.)

All of Mankind are the Children of `Adam and Hawwa'

Allah the Exalted declares to mankind that He has created them all from a single person, `Adam, and from that person He created his mate, Hawwa'. From their offspring He made nations, comprised of tribe, which include subtribes of all sizes. It was also said that `nations refers to non-Arabs, while `tribes refers to Arabs. Various statements about this were collected in an individual introduction from the book, Al-Inbah, by Abu `Amr Ibn `Abdul-Barr, and from the book, Al-Qasad wal-Amam fi Ma`rifah Ansab Al-Arab wal-`Ajam. Therefore, all people are the descendants of `Adam and Hawwa' and share this honor equally. The only difference between them is in the religion that revolves around their obedience to Allah the Exalted and their following of His Messenger . After He forbade backbiting and belittling other people, alerting mankind that they are all equal in their humanity. Allah said,

(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعْرِفُوا)

(O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another.) so that they get to know each other by their nation or tribe. Mujahid said that Allah's statement,

(لِتَعْرِفُوا)

(that you may know one another.) refers to one's saying, "So-and-so the son of so-and-so, from the tribe of so-and-so." Sufyan Ath-Thawri said, "The Himyar (who resided in Yemen) dealt with each other according to their provinces, while the Arabs in the Hijaz (Western Arabia) dealt with each other according to their tribes."

Honor is earned through Taqwa of Allah

Allah the Exalted said,

(إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاهُمْ)

(Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqlwa.) meaning, 'you earn honor with Allah the Exalted on account of Taqlwa, not family lineage.' There are many Hadiths from the Prophet that support this meaning. Al-Bukhari narrated that Abu Hurayrah said, "Some people asked the Prophet, 'Who is the most honorable among people?' He replied,

«أَكْرَمُهُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاهُمْ»

(The most honorable among them with Allah is the one who has the most Taqlwa.) They said, 'We did not ask you about this.' He said,

«فَأَكْرَمُ النَّاسِ يُوسُفُ نَبِيُّ اللَّهِ، ابْنُ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ، ابْنُ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ خَلِيلِ اللَّهِ»

(Then the most honorable person is Yusuf, Allah's Prophet, the son of Allah's Prophet, the son of Allah's Prophet, the son of Allah's Khalil.) They said, 'We did not ask you about this.' He said,

«فَعَنْ مَعَادِنِ الْعَرَبِ تَسْأَلُونِي»

؟ (Then you want to ask me about the Arab lineage) They said, 'Yes.' He said,

«فَخِيَارُكُمْ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ خِيَارُكُمْ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ إِذَا فَقَّهُوا»

(Those among you who were best in Jahiliyyah, are the best among you in Islam, if they attain religious understanding.)" Al-Bukhari collected this Hadith in several places of his Sahih, An-Nasa'i did as well in the Tafsir section of his Sunan. Muslim recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صُورِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَأَعْمَالِكُمْ»

(Verily, Allah does not look at your shapes or wealth, but he looks at your hearts and actions.) Ibn Majah also collected this Hadith. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that 'Abdullah bin 'Umar said, "On the day Makkah was conquered, the Messenger of Allah performed Tawaf around the Ka'bah while riding his camel, Al-Qaswa', and was touching the corners with a stick he had in his hand. He did not find a place in the Masjid where his camel could sit and had to dismount

on men's hands. He led his camel to the bottom of the valley, where he had her sit down. The Messenger of Allah later gave a speech while riding Al-Qaswa' and said, after thanking Allah the Exalted and praising Him as He should be praised,

«يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى قَدْ أَذْهَبَ عَنْكُمْ عُبْيَةَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ وَتَعَظَّمَهَا بِآبَائِهَا، قَالَ النَّاسُ رَجُلَانِ: رَجُلٌ بَرٌّ تَقِيٌّ كَرِيمٌ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، وَرَجُلٌ فَاجِرٌ شَقِيٌّ هَيْنٌ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَقُولُ:

(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعْرِفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ)»

(O people! Allah the Exalted has removed from you the slogans of Jahiliyyah and its tradition of honoring forefathers. Men are of two types, a man who is righteous, fearful of Allah and honorable to Allah, or a man who is vicious, miserable and little to Allah the Exalted. Verily, Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said, (O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.)) The Prophet said,

«أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ»

(I say this and invoke Allah for forgiveness for me and for you.)" This was recorded by `Abd bin Humayd. Allah the Exalted said,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ)

(Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.) means, `He is All-Knowing of you and All-Aware of all of your affairs.' Allah guides whom He wills, misguides whom He wills, grants mercy to whom He wills, torments whom He wills, elevates whom He wills above whom He wills. He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, the All-Aware in all this. Several scholars relied on this honorable Ayah and the honorable Hadiths we mentioned as evidence that compatibility in marriage is not a condition of marriage contracts. They said that the only condition required in this regard is the adherence to the religion, as in the statement of Allah, the Exalted,

(إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ)

(Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is the one with the most Taqwa.)

(قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ ءَامَنَّا قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا
أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَإِنْ
تُطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَا يَلِتْكُمْ مِّنْ أَعْمَالِكُمْ شَيْئًا
إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ - إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَاهَدُوا
بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ
الصَّادِقُونَ - قُلْ أُنْعَمُوهَا عَلَى اللَّهِ بِدِينِكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ
مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ
شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ - يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا
عَلَىٰ إِسْلَامِكُمْ بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ هَدَاكُمْ
لِلْإِيمَانِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ - إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ)

(14. The bedouins say: "We believe." Say: "You do not believe. But say, `We have submitted,' for Faith has not yet entered your hearts. But if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not decrease anything in reward for your deeds. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Most Merciful.") (15. Only those are the believers who have believed in Allah and His Messenger, and afterward doubt not but strive with their wealth and their lives for the cause of Allah. Those! They are the truthful.) (16. Say: "Will you inform Allah of your religion while Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth, and Allah is All-Aware of everything.") (17. They regard as a favor to you that they have embraced Islam. Say: "Do not count your Islam as a favor to me. Nay, but Allah has conferred a favor upon you that He has guided you to the Faith if you indeed are true. ") (18. "Verily, Allah knows the Unseen of the heavens and the earth. And Allah is the All-Seer of what you do.")

There is a Difference between a Believer and a Muslim

Allah chastises the bedouins who, when they embraced Islam, claimed for themselves the grade of faithful believers. However, Faith had not yet firmly entered their hearts,

(قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ ءَامَنَّا قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ)

(The bedouins say: "We believe." Say: "You do not believe, but say, 'We have submitted,' for Faith has not yet entered your hearts...") This honorable Ayah provides proof that Faith is a higher grade than Islam, according to the scholars of the Ahl us-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah. This is also demonstrated in the Hadith of Jibril, peace be upon him, when he questioned the Prophet about Islam, then Iman then Ihsan. Thus moving the general matter to one more specific, then even more specific. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Amir bin Sa`d bin Abi Waqqas said, "The Messenger of Allah gave (something to) some men and did not give one of them. Sa`d said, 'O Allah's Messenger, you gave to so-and-so and so-and-so. However, you gave nothing to so-and-so, even though he is a believer.' The Prophet said,

«أَوْ مُسْلِمٌ؟»

(Or say, a Muslim.) Sa`d repeated his statement thrice each time the Prophet answered,

«أَوْ مُسْلِمٌ؟»

(Or say, a Muslim.) The Prophet then said,

«إِنِّي لَأَعْطِي رَجُلًا وَأَدَعُ مَنْ هُوَ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْهُمْ، فَلَمْ أُعْطِهِ شَيْئًا مَخَافَةَ أَنْ يُكَبَّرُوا فِي النَّارِ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ»

(I might give some men and give nothing to others, even though the latter are dearer to me than the former. I do not give them things for fear that they might be thrown on their faces in the Fire.)" This Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs. Therefore, the Prophet made a distinction between the grade of believer and the grade of Muslim, indicating that Iman is a more exclusive grade than Islam. I mentioned this subject in detail supported by evidence, in the beginning of the explanation of the chapter on Iman in Sahih Al-Bukhari, all praise is due to Allah and all the favors are from Him. So this proves that the bedouins whom the Ayah mentioned were not hypocrites, rather they were Muslims in whose hearts Faith was not yet firmly established. They claimed a higher grade for themselves than the grade that they earned, and they were taught a lesson as a consequence. This meaning agrees with the meaning given by Ibn `Abbas, Ibrahim An-Nakha`i, Qatadah and that preferred by Ibn Jarir. These bedouins were taught a lesson,

(قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ
الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ)

(Say: "You do not believe, but say `We are Muslims,' for Faith has not yet entered your hearts...") meaning, `you have not yet achieved the reality of Faith.' Allah the Exalted said,

(وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَا يَلِفَكُمْ مِّنْ أَعْمَالِكُمْ
شَيْئًا)

(But if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not decrease anything in reward for your deeds...) `He will not decrease any of your rewards,' as Allah said;

(وَمَا أَلْتَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ أَعْمَالِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ)

(We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything.) (52:21) Allah said:

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) for those who repent and return to Him. Allah's statement,

(إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ)

(Only those are the believers), who have perfect Faith,

(الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا)

(who have believed in Allah and His Messenger, and afterward doubt not) They do not have doubts and their Faith was not shaken. Rather, their Faith remained on conviction,

(وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ)

(but strive for the cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives) meaning, they gladly gave away their life and the most precious of their wealth in obedience to Allah as a means of seeking His pleasure,

(أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ)

(Those! They are the truthful.) `in their statement if they say that they are believers, unlike some bedouins who are faithful only by words outwardly!' Allah said,

(قُلْ أَتَعْلَمُونَ اللَّهَ بِدِينِكُمْ)

(Say: "Will you inform Allah of your religion...") `will you inform Allah of what is in your hearts,'

(وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(while Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth,) Nothing in the heavens and earth, even the weight of a speck of dust, all that is bigger or smaller, ever escapes His observation,

(وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(and Allah is All-Aware of everything.) Allah said,

(يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ
إِسْلَامَكُمْ)

(They regard as a favor to you that they have embraced Islam. Say: "Do not count your Islam as a favor to me...") meaning the bedouins who considered embracing Islam, following and supporting the Messenger as a favor to him. Allah the Exalted refuted their false statement,

(قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ إِسْلَامَكُمْ)

(Say: "Do not count your Islam as a favor to me...") `for the benefit of your Islam will only be yours, and this is a favor from Allah to you,'

(بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ هَدَاكُمْ لِلَايْمَنِ إِن كُنْتُمْ
صَادِقِينَ)

(Nay, but Allah has conferred a favor upon you that He has guided you to the Faith if you indeed are true.) `in your claim that you are believers.' The Prophet said to the Ansar on the day of the battle of Hunayn,

«يَا مَعْشَرَ الْأَنْصَارِ أَلَمْ أَجِدْكُمْ ضَلَالًا فَهَدَاكُمْ اللَّهُ
بِي؟ وَكُنْتُمْ مُتَفَرِّقِينَ فَأَلَّفَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِي؟ وَكُنْتُمْ عَالَةً
فَأَغْنَاكُمْ اللَّهُ بِي؟»

(O Ansar! Have I not found you astray and Allah guided you through me Were you not divided and Allah united you around me Were you not poor and Allah gave you riches through me) Whenever the Prophet asked them any of these questions, they would reply, "Allah and His Messenger have most favored us." Al-Hafiz Abu Bakr Al-Bazzar recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "Banu Asad came to the Messenger of Allah and said, `O Allah's Messenger! We embraced Islam, and before that, the Arabs fought against you, yet we did not fight against you.' The Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ فَهْمَهُمْ قَلِيلٌ وَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنْطِقُ عَلَى
السِّنَتِهِمْ»

(Verily, they understand but little and the Shaytan speaks through their words.) This Ayah was later revealed,

(يَمُنُّونَ عَلَيْكَ أَنْ أَسْلَمُوا قُلْ لَا تَمُنُّوا عَلَيَّ
إِسْلَامَكُمْ بَلِ اللَّهُ يَمُنُّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ هَدَاكُمْ لِلَايْمَنِ إِنَّ
كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(They regard as a favor to you that they have embraced Islam. Say: "Do not count your Islam as a favor to me." Nay, but Allah has conferred a favor upon you that He has guided you to the Faith if you indeed are true.") Then Allah reminds that He has complete knowledge of all creations and that He sees them all;

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ
بَصِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ)

(Verily, Allah knows the Unseen of the heavens and the earth. And Allah is the All-Seer of what you do.) This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Hujurat. Verily, all praise is due to Allah, all the favors are from Him, and from Him comes the success and protection from error.

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Beginning of the Mufasssal Section of the Qur'an

This Surah is the first Surah in the Mufasssal section of the Qur'an, according to the correct view. It is said that the Mufasssal starts with Surat Al-Hujurat. Some common people say that the Mufasssal starts with Surah `Amma An-Naba, (chapter 78), however, this is not true because none of the respected scholars ever supported this opinion. Aws (bin Hudhayfah) said; "I asked the Companions of Allah's Messenger () how they divided the Qur'an. They said; 'Three, five, seven, nine, eleven, thirteen, and the Mufasssal section as one.' " This was recorded by Ibn Majah and Imam Ahmad. If one counts forty-eight Surahs, the next Surah will be Surah Qaf. The details are as follows: The first three Surahs are Al-Baqarah (chapter 2), Al `Imran (3), then An-Nisa' (4). The five are Al-Ma'idah (5), Al-An`am (6), Al-A`raf (7), Al-Anfal (8) and Bara'ah (or At-Tawbah) (9). The seven next Surahs are Surah Yunus (10), Hud (11), Yusuf (12), Ar-Ra`d (13), Ibrahim (14), Al-Hijr (15) and An-Nahl (16). The nine next Surahs are, Subhan (or Al-Isra') (17), Al-Kahf (18), Maryam (19), Ta Ha (20), Al-Anbiya' (21), Al-Hajj (22), Al-Mu`minun (23), An-Nur (24) and Al-Furqan (25). The next eleven Surahs are Surat Ash-Shu`ara (26), An-Naml (27), Al-Qasas (28), Al-`Ankabut (29), Ar-Rum (30), Luqman (31), Alif Lam Mim As-Sajdah (32), Al-Ahzab (33), Saba' (34), Fatir (35) and Ya Sin (36). The next thirteen are Surat As-Saffat (37), Sad (38), Az-Zumar (39), Ghafir (40), Ha Mim As-Sajdah (or Fussilat) (41), Ash-Shura (42), Az-Zukhruf (43), Ad-Dukhan (44), Al-Jathiyah (45), Al-Ahqaf (46), Al-Qital (or Muhammad) (47), Al-Fath (48) and Al-Hujurat (49). After that comes the Mufasssal section, according to the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all. Therefore, Surah Qaf (chapter 50) is the first of the Mufasssal, just as we stated, and all praise is due to Allah and all favors are from Him.

The Virtues of Surah Qaf

Imam Ahmad recorded that `Umar bin Al-Khattab asked Abu Waqid Al-Laythi, "What did the Prophet recite during the `Id Prayer" Abu Waqid said, "Surah Qaf and Surat Iqtarabat (i.e. Surat Al-Qamar (54))." Muslim and the Four Collectors of the Sunan collected this Hadith. Imam Ahmad recorded that Umm Hisham bint Harithah said, "For around two years, or a year and a part of another year, our oven and the oven of the Prophet was one and the same. I memorized Surah,

(ق وَالْقُرْءَانِ الْمَجِيدِ)

(Qaf. By the Glorious Qur'an.) from the tongue of the Messenger of Allah who used to recite it every Friday while standing on the Minbar delivering the Friday sermon to the people." Muslim collected this Hadith. Abu Dawud also recorded that the daughter of Al-Harith bin An-Nu`man said, "I only memorized Surah Qaf from the mouth of the Messenger of Allah who used to recite it in every Friday Khutbah. Our oven and the oven of the Messenger was one and the same." Muslim and An-Nasa'i collected this Hadith. Therefore, the Messenger of Allah used to recite this Surah during large gatherings such as the `Ids and during Friday sermons. He did so because this Surah contains news of the beginning of creation, Resurrection, the Return, Standing (before Allah), the Reckoning, Paradise, the Fire, Allah's reward and punishment, lessons of encouragement, and lessons of discouragement. Allah knows best.

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(ق وَالْقُرْءَانِ الْمَجِيدِ- بَلْ عَجِبُوا أَنْ جَاءَهُمْ
مُنْذِرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَقَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ هَذَا شَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ-
أَءِذَا مِتْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا ذَلِكَ رَجْعٌ بَعِيدٌ- قَدْ عَلِمْنَا مَا
تَنْقَصُ الْأَرْضُ مِنْهُمْ وَعِنْدَنَا كِتَابٌ حَفِيزٌ- بَلْ
كَذَّبُوا بِالْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ فَهُمْ فِي أَمْرٍ مَّرِيجٍ-)

(1. Qaf. By the Glorious Qur'an.) (2. Nay, they wonder that there has come to them a warner from among themselves. So the disbelievers say: "This is a strange thing!") (3. "When we are dead and have become dust. (Shall we be resurrected) That is a far return.") (4. We know that which the earth takes of them, and with Us is a Book preserved.) (5. Nay, but they have denied the truth when it has come to them, so they are in a Marij state.)

(ق)

(Qaf.) which is one of the letters of the alphabet that are mentioned in the beginning of some Surahs, such as,

(ص)

(Sad.) (38:1)

(ن)

(Nun.) (68:1)

(الم)

(Alif Lam Mm.) (2:1),

(حم)

(طس)

(Ta Sn) (28:1) and etc., Mujahid and several others said this. We also discussed this in the beginning of the explanation of Surat Al-Baqarah, and therefore, it is not necessary to repeat it here.

The Disbelievers wonder at the Message and Resurrection Allah said,

(وَالْقُرْءَانَ الْمَجِيدِ)

(By the Glorious Qur'an.) means by the Honorable and Great 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: (it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.)(41:42) The subject of the oath contained in this Ayah is specified afterwards, even though it does not appear by word, emphasizing prophethood, resurrection and affirming that they are true. There are similar kinds of oaths in the Qur'an, whose subject is included in the meaning but not by word, such as,

(ص وَالْقُرْءَانَ ذِي الذِّكْرِ - بَلِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي
عِزَّةٍ وَشِقَاقٍ)

(Sad. By the Qur'an full of reminding. Nay, those who disbelieve are in false pride and opposition.)(38:1-2) Allah said here,

(ق وَالْقُرْءَانَ الْمَجِيدِ - بَلْ عَجِبُوا أَنْ جَاءَهُمْ
مُنْذِرٌ مِّنْهُمْ فَقَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ هَذَا شَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ)

(Qaf. By the Glorious Qur'an. Nay, they wonder that there has come to them a warner from among themselves. So the disbelievers say: "This is a strange thing!") They wondered at the wisdom behind sending a Messenger who is a human being. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said in another Ayah

(أَكَاَنَ لِلنَّاسِ عَجَبًا أَن أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى رَجُلٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَن
أَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ)

(Is it a wonder for mankind that We have sent Our revelation to a man from among themselves (saying): "Warn mankind.") (10:2), meaning, this is not strange, for Allah chooses Messengers from angels and humans. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored mentioned that the disbelievers also wondered about the Resurrection and discounted its coming,

(أَعْدَا مِثْنَا وَكُنَّا تُرَابًا ذَلِكَ رَجْعٌ بَعِيدٌ)

(When we are dead and have become dust. That is a far return.) They said, `after we die, disintegrate, with our organs torn apart and we become dust, how can we be brought back to our original shape and bodies,'

(ذَلِكَ رَجْعٌ بَعِيدٌ)

(That is a far return.) `it is not likely that it will ever occur.' They thought that Resurrection was far from happening and will never occur. Allah the Exalted responded to their statement by saying,

(قَدْ عَلِمْنَا مَا تَنْقُصُ الْأَرْضَ مِنْهُمْ)

(We know that which the earth takes of them.) meaning, `We know what the earth consumes of their dead bodies.' Where and how the bodies disintegrated, what they turned into and how they have become, all of this is never absent from Allah's knowledge.

(وَعِنْدَنَا كِتَابٌ حَفِيظٌ)

(and with Us is a Book preserved,) `that keeps all records. Therefore, Our knowledge is encompassing and the Book of decrees has everything precisely recorded in it. Al-`Awfi narrated that `Abdullah bin `Abbas commented on the statement of Allah the Exalted,

(قَدْ عَلِمْنَا مَا تَنْقُصُ الْأَرْضَ مِنْهُمْ)

(We know that which the earth takes of them,) "It refers to what the earth consumes of their flesh, skin, bones and hair." A similar view was recorded from Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak and several others. Allah, the Exalted and Most Honored, explained the reason behind their disbelief, rebellion and discounting the possibility of what is truly possible,

(بَلْ كَذَّبُوا بِالْحَقِّ لَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ فَهُمْ فِي أَمْرٍ مَّرِيجٍ)
(

(Nay, but they have denied the truth when it has come to them, so they are in a Marij state.) This is the state of all those who defy the Truth: whatever they say and utter after denying the Truth, is utterly false. Marij means, in disarray, in a confused state and defying the characteristics of the Truth. Allah the Exalted said in another Ayah,

(إِنَّكُمْ لَفِي قَوْلٍ مُخْتَلِفٍ - يُؤَفَّكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أَفَكَ)

(Certainly, you have different ideas. Turned aside therefrom is he who is turned aside.)(51:8-9)

(أَفَلَمْ يَنْظُرُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَوْقَهُمْ كَيْفَ بَنَيْنَاهَا
وَزَيَّيْنَاهَا وَمَا لَهَا مِنْ فُرُوجٍ - وَالْأَرْضِ مَدَدْنَاهَا
وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوْسِيَ وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ
بَهْجٍ - تَبَصَّرَةٌ وَذِكْرَى لِكُلِّ عَبْدٍ مُنِيبٍ - وَنَزَّلْنَا
مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً مُبْرَكًا فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ جَبَّتٍ وَحَبَّ
الْحَصِيدِ بَسِيقَاتٍ لَهَا طَلْعٌ نَضِيدٌ رِزْقًا لِلْعِبَادِ
وَأَحْيَيْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَيِّتًا كَذَلِكَ الْخُرُوجُ)

(6. Have they not looked at the heaven above them, how We have made it and adorned it, and there are no Furuj in it) (7. And the earth! We have spread it out, and set thereon Pawasi standing firm, and We planted in it every lovely (Bahij) pair.) (8. An insight and a Reminder for every servant who turns to Allah in repentance.) (9. And We send down blessed water (rain) from the sky, then We produce therewith Jannat and grain that are reaped.) (10. And date palms Basiqat, with arranged clusters.) (11. A provision for the servants. And We give life therewith to a dead land. Thus will be the Resurrection.)

Allah's Power and Ability over what is Greater than Resurrection

Allah the Exalted notifies the servants of His infinite power, which He demonstrated by creating what is bigger than that which they wondered about and whose possibility they discount,

(أَفَلَمْ يَنْظُرُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَوْقَهُمْ كَيْفَ بَنَيْنَاهَا
وَزَيَّنَّاهَا)

(Have they not looked at the heaven above them, how We have made it and adorned it,) with lamps;

(وَمَا لَهَا مِنْ فُرُوجٍ)

(and there are no Furuj in it) i.e., clefts, according to Mujahid. Others said that Furuj means, rifts, or cracks. All these meanings are close to one another. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا مَّا تَرَى فِي خَلْقِ
الرَّحْمَنِ مِنْ تَفَوُّتٍ فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ تَرَى مِنْ
فُطُورٍ - ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنْقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ
الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ)

(Who has created the seven heavens one above another; you can see no fault in the creation of the Most Gracious. Then look again: "Can you see any rifts" Then look again and yet again, your sight will return to you in a state of humiliation and worn out.) (67:2-4) fatigued, unable to discover any imperfection or shortcomings. The statement of Allah the Exalted, the Blessed,

(وَالْأَرْضَ مَدَدْنَاهَا)

(And the earth! We have spread it out,) means, `We made it spacious and spread it out,`

(وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوَاسِيَ)

(and set thereon Rawasi standing firm.) which are the mountains to save the earth from shaking along with its inhabitants,

(وَأَنْبَتْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ بَهِيجٍ)

(and We planted in it every lovely (Bahij) pair.) every kind and species of plant, fruit and vegetation,

(وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(And of everything We have created pairs that you may reflect.)(51:49) Allah's saying `Bahij', meaning a beautiful scene,

(تَبْصِرَةً وَذِكْرَى لِكُلِّ عَبْدٍ مُنِيبٍ)

(An insight and a Reminder for every servant who turns to Allah in repentance.) Allah says that observing the creation of the heavens and earth and all the great things that He has placed in them provides insight, proof and a lesson for every penitent servant who submits in humbleness and repentance to Allah feeling fear, in awe of Him. Allah the Exalted said,

(وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً مُبْرَكًا)

(And We send down blessed water from the sky,) meaning beneficial,

(فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ جَنَّاتٍ)

(then We produce therewith Jannat), means special and public parks, gardens, etc.

(وَحَبَّ الْحَصِيدِ)

(and grain that are reaped) grains that are harvested for food and for storage for later use,

(بَسِيقَتٍ)

(And date palms Basiqat,) meaning, tall and high, according to the explanation reported from Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Al-Hasan, Qatadah and As-Suddi. Allah said,

(لَهَا طَلْعٌ نَّضِيدٌ)

(with arranged clusters.) producing fruits arranged in clusters,

(رِزْقًا لِلْعِبَادِ)

(A provision for (Allah's) servants.) for (Allah's) creation,

(وَأَحْيَيْنَا بِهِ بَلَدَةً مَّيْتًا)

(And We give life therewith to a dead land.) this is the land that was barren. However, when rain falls upon it, it is stirred to life; it swells and produces all of the lovely pairs such as flowers and the like -- amazing on account of their beauty. All of this comes into existence after the land was without greenery, yet it was stirred back to life and became green. Indeed, this should provide proof of Resurrection after death and disintegration; thus Allah resurrects the dead. This sign of Allah's ability that is seen and witnessed is greater than the denial of those who discount the possibility of Resurrection. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said in other Ayat,

(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),

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَمْ يَعْْيَ بِخَلْقِهِنَّ بِقَادِرٍ 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,

(وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنَّكَ تَرَى الْأَرْضَ خَاشِعَةً فَإِذَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ إِنَّ الَّذِي أَحْيَاهَا لَمُحْيِ الْمَوْتَى إِنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ)

(And among His signs (is this), that you see the earth barren; but when We send down water to it, it is stirred to life and growth. Verily, He Who gives it life, surely is able to give life to the dead. Indeed He is Able to do all things.)(41:39)

(كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَأَصْحَابُ الرَّسِّ وَثَمُودُ - وَعَادٌ وَفِرْعَوْنُ وَإِخْوَانُ لُوطٍ - وَأَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ

وَقَوْمٌ تَبِعَ كُلُّ كَذَّبَ الرُّسُلَ فَحَقَّ وَعِيدِ - أَفَعَيْنَا
بِالْخَلْقِ الْأَوَّلِ بَلْ هُمْ فِي لَبْسٍ مِّنْ خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ)

(12. Denied before them the people of Nuh, and the Dwellers of Rass, and Thamud,) (13. And `Ad, and Fir`awn, and the brethren of Lut,) (14. And the Dwellers of Al-Aykah, and the people of Tubba`. Everyone of them denied (their) Messengers, so My threat took effect.) (15. Were We then tired with the first creation Nay, they are in confused doubt about a new creation.)

Reminding the Quraysh of the Destruction of earlier Disbelieving Nations

Allah the Exalted warns the disbelievers of Quraysh and reminds them of the punishment and painful torment that He sent in this life on their likes, who disbelieved before them. For instance, Allah the Exalted punished the people of Nuh by drowning them in the encompassing flood that touched all the people of earth. There is also the end that struck the people of Ar-Rass, and we mentioned their story before in Surat Al-Furqan,

(وَتَمُودُوعَادٌ وَفِرْعَوْنُ وَإِخْوَانُ لُوطٍ)

(...and Thamud, and `Ad, and Fir`awn, and the brethren of Lut,) the people of Sadum (Sodom) and the surrounding areas, to whom Lut was sent. Allah the Exalted shook the earth beneath them and turned their area into a reeking lake, as stinking as the disbelief, tyranny and defiance of the Truth that they had,

(وَأَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ)

(And the Dwellers of Al-Aykah), they are the nation of Shu`ayb, peace be upon him,

(وَقَوْمٌ تَبِعَ)

(and the people of Tubba`), King of Yemen; we explained his story in the Tafsir of Surat Ad-Dukhan, and therefore, we do not need to repeat it here. All praise is due to Allah.

(كُلُّ كَذَّبَ الرُّسُلَ)

(Everyone of them denied (their) Messengers,) means, all of these nations and their generations belied their respective Messenger, and whoever denies even one Messenger, is as if he has denied all Messengers. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(The people of Nuh denied the Messengers.)(26:105) even though only one Messenger was sent to them, and indeed, if all the Messengers were sent to them, they would have disbelieved in them as well. Allah said,

(فَحَقَّ وَعِيدِ)

(so My threat took effect.) meaning, the promise of torment and punishment that Allah delivered to them on account of their denial took effect. Therefore, all those who fear suffering the same end should be warned, especially since the latter have denied their Messenger, just as the former denied their Messenger.

Repeating the Creation is Easier than originating It

Allah the Exalted said,

(أَفَعَيْنَا بِالْخَلْقِ الْأَوَّلِ)

(Were We then tired with the first creation) meaning, 'did starting the creation bring fatigue to Us, so as to cause doubt in them that repeating the creation was not possible'

(بَلْ هُمْ فِي لَبْسٍ مِّنْ خَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ)

(Nay, they are in confused doubt about a new creation.) meaning, 'starting the creation did not tire Us, and repeating it is even easier.' Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ عَلَيْهِ)

(And He it is Who originates the creation, then He will repeat it; and this is easier for Him.)(30:27), and,

(وَضَرَبَ لَنَا مَثَلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ قَالَ مَنْ يُحْيِ الْعِظَمَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ)

(قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنْشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ-)

(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" Say: "He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!") (36:78-79) aWe mentioned earlier a Hadith collected in the Sahih,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى يُؤْذِينِي ابْنُ آدَمَ يَقُولُ: لَنْ يُعِيدَنِي كَمَا بَدَأَنِي. وَلَيْسَ أَوَّلُ الْخَلْقِ بِأَهْوَنَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ إِعَادَتِهِ»

(Allah the Exalted said, "Son of `Adam insults Me when he says, `He will not resurrect me as He created me before!' But surely, originating creation is not easier for Me than reproducing it again.")

(وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوَسْوِسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ - إِذْ يَتَلَقَّى الْمُتَلَقِّيَانِ عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشَّمَالِ قَعِيدٌ - مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ - وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ - وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ ذَلِكَ يَوْمَ الْوَعِيدِ - وَجَاءَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَعَهَا سَائِقٌ وَشَهِيدٌ - لَقَدْ كُنْتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا فَكَشَفْنَا عَنْكَ غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ)

(16. And indeed We have created man, and We know what his self whispers to him. And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein.) (17. (Remember) that the two receivers (recording angels) receive (each human being), one sitting on the right and one on the left.) (18. Not a word does he (or she) utter but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it).) (19. And the stupor of death will come in truth: "This is what you have been avoiding!") (20. And the Trumpet will be blown -- that will be the Day of the threat.) (21. And every person will come forth along with a Sa'iq and a Shahid.) (22. (It will be said to the sinners): "Indeed you were heedless of this. Now We have removed from you, your covering, and sharp is your sight this Day!")

Allah encompasses and watches all of Man's Activity

Allah the Exalted affirms His absolute dominance over mankind, being their Creator and the Knower of everything about them. Allah the Exalted has complete knowledge of all thoughts that cross the mind of man, be they good or evil. In the Sahih, the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى تَجَاوَزَ لِأُمَّتِي مَا حَدَّثَتْ بِهِ أَنْفُسَهَا
مَا لَمْ تَقُلْ أَوْ تَعْمَلْ»

(Verily, Allah the Exalted has forgiven my Ummah (Muslims) for what they talk (think) to themselves about, as long as they do not utter or implement it.) The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ)

(And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein.) means, His angels are nearer to man than his jugular vein. Those who explained `We' in the Ayah to mean `Our knowledge,' have done so to avoid falling into the idea of incarnation or indwelling; but these two creeds are false according to the consensus of Muslims. Allah is praised and glorified, He is far hallowed beyond what they ascribe to Him. The words of this Ayah do not need this explanation (that `We' refers to `Allah's knowledge'), for Allah did not say, `and I am closer to him than his jugular vein.' Rather, He said,

(وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ)

(And We are nearer to him than his jugular vein.) just as He said in the case of dying persons,

(وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْكُمْ وَلَكِنْ لَا تُبْصِرُونَ)

(But We are nearer to him than you, but you see not.) (56:85), in reference to His angels (who take the souls). Allah the Exalted the Blessed said,

(إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ)

(Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr and surely, We will guard it.) (15:9) Therefore, the angels brought down the revelation, the Qur'an, by the leave of Allah, the Exalted, the Most Honored. Thus, the angels are closer to man than his own jugular vein, by the power and leave of Allah. Consequently, the angel touches mankind, just as the devil touches them, for the devil is as close to them as the blood that runs in their veins; just as Allah's Prophet , who is truthful and was told the truth, told us. Allah's statement here,

(إِذْ يَتَلَقَّى الْمُتَلَقِّيَانِ)

((Remember) that the two receivers receive,) in reference to the two angels who receive and record the deeds of mankind.

(عَنْ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنْ الشَّمَالِ قَعِيدٌ)

(one sitting on the right and one on the left.) means ready to note,

(مَا يَلْفِظُ)

(whatever he utters), in reference to the human,

(مِنْ قَوْلٍ)

(of a word), means any word that he or she speaks,

(إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ)

(but there is a watcher by him ready.) means, but there is a scribe whose job is to record it, leaving no word or movement unrecorded. Allah the Exalted said,

(وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ - كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ - يَعْلَمُونَ
مَا تَفْعَلُونَ)

(But verily, over you (are appointed angels) to watch you, Kiraman (honorable) Katibin writing down (your deeds), they know all that you do.) (82:10-12) Therefore, the scribe records every word that is spoken, according to the explanation of Al-Hasan and Qatadah. This is also the apparent meaning of this Ayah. Imam Ahmad recorded that Bilal bin Al-Harith Al-Muzani said, "The Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَتَكَلَّمُ بِالْكَلِمَةِ مِنْ رِضْوَانِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى مَا يَظُنُّ أَنْ تَبْلُغَ مَا بَلَغَتْ يَكْتُبُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لَهُ بِهَا رِضْوَانَهُ إِلَى يَوْمٍ يَلْقَاهُ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَتَكَلَّمُ بِالْكَلِمَةِ مِنْ سَخَطِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى مَا يَظُنُّ أَنْ تَبْلُغَ مَا بَلَغَتْ، يَكْتُبُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ بِهَا سَخَطَهُ إِلَى يَوْمٍ يَلْقَاهُ»

(Verily, a man might utter a word that pleases Allah the Exalted, unaware of how highly it will be regarded, and on its account Allah the Exalted and Most Honored decrees His pleasure of him until the Day he meets Him. A man might indeed utter a word that angers Allah the Exalted, unaware of how dreadful it will be and on its account Allah the Exalted decrees for him His anger until the Day he meets Him.)" `Alqamah used to say, "How many words did I not utter because of the Hadith that Bilal bin Al-Harith narrated." At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah collected this Hadith. At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih." There is a Hadith similar to this in the Sahih.

Reminding Mankind of the Stupor of Death, the Blast of the Trumpet and the Day of Gathering

Allah the Exalted and Most High said,

(وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ)

(And the stupor of death will come in truth: "This is what you have been avoiding!") Allah the Exalted and Most Honored says, `O mankind! This is the stupor of death that has come in truth; now, I have brought forth to you the certainty that you were disputing.'

(ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ)

(This is what you have been avoiding!), means, `this is the end that you were trying to escape; it has come to you! Therefore, you will have neither a shelter nor a refuge nor a sanctuary nor an asylum from it.' In the Sahih, the Prophet said, while wiping sweat from his face when the stupor of death overcame him,

«سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ لِلْمَوْتِ لَسَكْرَاتٍ»

(Glory be to Allah! Verily, death has its stupor.) The Ayah,

(ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ)

(This is what you have been avoiding!) has two possible meanings. One of them is this: `what you have been trying to avert, escape and flee from has come to you and resided in your home!' The second meaning is, `you had no way of escaping or averting this end.' At-Tabarani collected a Hadith in Al-Mu`jam Al-Kabir from Samurah who said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَثَلُ الَّذِي يَفِرُّ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ مَثَلُ الثَّعْلَبِ تَطْلُبُهُ
 الْأَرْضُ بِدَيْنٍ، فَجَاءَ يَسْعَى حَتَّى إِذَا أُعْيِيَ
 وَأَسْهَرَ دَخَلَ جُحْرَهُ وَقَالَتْ لَهُ الْأَرْضُ: يَا ثَعْلَبُ،
 دَيْنِي. فَخَرَجَ وَلَهُ حُصَاصٌ، فَلَمْ يَزَلْ كَذَلِكَ حَتَّى
 تَقَطَّعَتْ عُنُقُهُ وَمَاتَ»

(The parable of whoever tries to avoid death is that of a fox that had a debt to pay to the earth. The fox went away and when he became tired and the time to sleep overtook him, he entered his den. The earth said to him, 'O fox! Pay my debt!' The fox went out howling and continued until his neck was cutoff, (i.e.,) he died.) This parable indicates that just as the fox had no way of escaping or avoiding the earth, likewise, man has no way of avoiding death. Allah the Exalted the Blessed said,

(وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ ذَلِكَ يَوْمَ الْوَعِيدِ)

(And the Trumpet will be blown -- that will be the Day of the threat.) Earlier we discussed the information about the blowing of the Trumpet, the fear that follows it, the death of everything and then resurrection, all this will occur on the Day of Resurrection. We also mentioned that the Messenger of Allah said in a Hadith,

«كَيْفَ أَنْعَمُ وَصَاحِبُ الْقَرْنِ قَدْ التَّقَمَ الْقَرْنَ،
 وَحَتَّى جَبَّهَتُهُ، وَانْتَظَرَ أَنْ يُؤَدَّنَ لَهُ»

(How can I feel comfort while the angel responsible for the Trumpet has placed the Trumpet to his mouth and lowered his forehead awaiting when he will be commanded (by Allah to blow in it)) They said, "O Allah's Messenger, what should we say" He said,

«قُولُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ»

(Say, "Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best disposer of affairs.") The Companions repeated this invocation, saying, "Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best disposer of affairs (for us)." Allah said,

(وَجَاءَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَعَهَا سَائِقٌ وَشَهِيدٌ)

(And every person will come forth along with a Sa'iq and a Shahid.) meaning, an angel to drive him to the gathering place and an angel to bear witness against him with regards to his deeds.

This is the apparent meaning of this honorable Ayah and it is the meaning that Ibn Jarir preferred. It was narrated from Yahya bin Rafi`, the freed servant of Thaqif, that he heard `Uthman bin `Affan, may Allah be pleased with him, giving a speech in which he recited this Ayah,

(وَجَاءَتْ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّعَهَا سَائِقٌ وَشَهِيدٌ)

(And every person will come forth along with a Sa'iqa and a Shahid.) and then said, "A Sa'iqa to drive every person to Allah the Exalted, and a Shahid to witness against him what he has done." The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(لَقَدْ كُنْتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا فَكَشَفْنَا عَنْكَ غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ)

(Indeed you were heedless of this. Now We have removed from you, your covering, and sharp is your sight this Day!) is directed at humanity. Allah said,

(لَقَدْ كُنْتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا)

(Indeed you were heedless of this.), of this Day,

(فَكَشَفْنَا عَنْكَ غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ)

(Now We have removed from you, your covering, and sharp is your sight this Day!) `your sight is now clear and strong.' Everyone, including the disbelievers, will have clear sight on the Day of Resurrection. However, having sight will not be helpful to the disbelievers on that Day, for Allah the Exalted said,

(أَسْمِعْ بِهِمْ وَأَبْصِرْ يَوْمَ يَأْتُونَنَا)

(How clearly will they (disbelievers) see and hear, the Day when they will appear before Us!) (19:38), and,

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الْمُجْرِمُونَ نَاكِسُوا رُءُوسِهِمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ رَبَّنَا أَبْصَرْنَا وَسَمِعْنَا فَارْجِعْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا إِنَّا مُوقِنُونَ)

(And if you only could see when the criminals hang their heads before their Lord (saying): "Our Lord! We have now seen and heard, so send us back (to the world), that we will do righteous good deeds. Verily, we now believe with certainty.")(32:12)

(وَقَالَ قَرِينُهُ هَذَا مَا لَدَىٰ عَتِيدٍ - أَلْقِيَا فِي جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ - مَّعَ الْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ مُّرِيبٍ - الَّذِي جَعَلَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَأَلْقِيَهُ فِي الْعَذَابِ الشَّدِيدِ - قَالَ قَرِينُهُ رَبَّنَا مَا أَطْغَيْتُهُ وَلَكِنْ كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ - قَالَ لَا تَخْتَصِمُوا لَدَىٰ وَقَدْ قَدَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِالْوَعِيدِ)

(مَا يُبَدِّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَىٰ وَمَا أَنَا بِظَلَمٍ لِلْعَبِيدِ)

(23. And his companion (angel) will say: "Here is (his record) ready with me!") (24. (Allah will say to the angels:) "Both of you throw into Hell every stubborn disbeliever") (25. "Hinderer of good, transgressor, doubter,") (26. "Who set up another god with Allah. Then both of you cast him in the severe torment.") (27. His companion (devil) will say: "Our Lord! I did not push him to transgression, but he was himself in error far astray.") (28. (Allah) will say: "Dispute not in front of Me, I had already in advance sent you the threat.") (29. "The sentence that comes from Me cannot be changed, and I am not unjust to the servants.")

The Angel will bear Witness; Allah commands that the Disbeliever be thrown into the Fire

Allah the Exalted states that the scribe angel, who is entrusted with recording the deeds of mankind, will testify against him or her about the deeds he or she did on the Day of Resurrection. He will say,

(هَذَا مَا لَدَىٰ عَتِيدٍ)

("Here is (his record) ready with me!"), here it is prepared and completed without addition or deletion. This is when Allah the Exalted will judge the creation with fairness, saying,

(أَلْقِيَا فِي جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ)

(Both of you throw into Hell every stubborn disbeliever.) It appears that Allah will say these words to the Sa'iqa and Shahid angels; the Sa'iqa drove him to the grounds where Reckoning is held and the Shahid testified. Allah the Exalted will order them to throw him in the fire of Jahannam, and worse it is as a destination,

(الْقِيَا فِي جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ)

(Both of you throw into Hell every stubborn disbeliever.) meaning, whose disbelief and denial of truth was horrendous, who used to stubbornly reject the truth, knowingly contradicting it with falsehood,

(مَنْعٌ لِلْخَيْرِ)

(Hinderer of good,) meaning for he did not fulfill the duties he was ordered, nor was he dutiful, keeping ties to kith and kin nor giving charity,

(مُعْتَدٍ)

(transgressor,) meaning, he transgresses the limits in spending. Qatadah commented, "He is a transgressor in his speech, behavior and affairs." Allah said,

(مُرِيبٍ)

(doubter,) meaning, he doubts and raises doubts in those who scrutinize his behavior,

(الَّذِي جَعَلَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ)

(who set up another god with Allah.) meaning, he associated others with Allah and worshipped others besides Him,

(فَأُلْقِيَ فِي الْعَذَابِ الشَّدِيدِ)

(Then both of you cast him in the severe torment.) Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri said that the Prophet said,

«يَخْرُجُ عَنْقُ مِنَ النَّارِ يَتَكَلَّمُ يَقُولُ: وَكَلْتُ الْيَوْمَ بِثَلَاثَةِ: بِكُلِّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ، وَمَنْ جَعَلَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا

آخِرَ، وَمَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ، فَتَنُطَوِي عَلَيْهِمْ
فَتَقْذِفُهُمْ فِي غَمَرَاتِ جَهَنَّمَ»

(A neck from the Fire will appear and will speak saying, "Today, I have been entrusted with three: Every obstinate tyrant, everyone who ascribed another god with Allah, and he who took a life without right." The neck will then close in on them and throw them in the midst of Jahannam.)"

Man and Devil dispute before Allah

Allah's saying;

(قَالَ قَرِينُهُ)

(His companion will say), refers to the devil who is entrusted to every man, according to `Abdullah bin `Abbas, Mujahid, Qatadah and several othes. He will say,

(رَبَّنَا مَا أَطْغَيْتُهُ)

(Our Lord! I did not push him to transgression,) meaning, the devil will say this about the human who came on the Day of Resurrection as a disbeliever. The devil will disown him, saying,

(رَبَّنَا مَا أَطْغَيْتُهُ)

(Our Lord! I did not push him to transgression) meaning, "I did not lead him astray,"

(وَلَكِنْ كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(but he was himself in error far astray.) meaning, he himself was misguided, accepting falsehood and stubborn to the truth. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said in another Ayah,

(وَقَالَ الشَّيْطَانُ لَمَّا قُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَعَدَكُمْ
وَعْدَ الْحَقِّ وَوَعَدْتُكُمْ فَأَخْلَفْتُكُمْ وَمَا كَانَ لِي
عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا أَن دَعَوْتُكُمْ فَاسْتَجَبْتُمْ لِي

فَلَا تَلُومُونِي وَلُومُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ مَا أَنَا بِمُصْرِخِكُمْ
وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُصْرِخِيَّ إِنِّي كَفَرْتُ بِمَا أَشْرَكْتُمُونِ
مِنْ قَبْلُ إِنَّ الظَّالِمِينَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(And Shaytan will say when the matter has been decided: "Verily, Allah promised you a promise of truth. And I too promised you, but I betrayed you. I had no authority over you except that I called you, and you responded to me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your former act in associating me as a partner with Allah. Verily, there is a painful torment for the wrongdoers.") (14:22) Allah the Exalted said,

(قَالَ لَا تَخْتَصِمُوا لَدَيَّ)

((Allah) will say: "Dispute not in front of Me.") The Lord, the Exalted and Most Honored will say this to the man and his devil companion, who will be disputing before Him. The man will say, "O, Lord! This devil has misguided me away from the Remembrance after it came to me," while the devil will declare,

(رَبَّنَا مَا أَطْغَيْتُهُ وَلَكِنْ كَانَ فِي ضَلَالٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(Our Lord! I did not push him to transgression, but he was himself in error far astray.) from the path of truth. The Lord, the Exalted and Most Honored will say to them,

(لَا تَخْتَصِمُوا لَدَيَّ)

(Dispute not in front of Me,) or `before Me,'

(وَقَدْ قَدَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِالْوَعِيدِ)

(I had already in advance sent you the threat.) `I have given you sufficient proof by the words of the Messengers, and I have sent down the Divine Books; the evidences, signs and proofs have thus been established against you,'

(مَا يُبَدَّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ)

(The Sentence that comes from Me cannot be changed,) "I have made My decision," according to the explanation of Mujahid,

(وَمَا أَنَا بِظَالِمٍ لِلْعَبِيدِ)

(And I am not unjust to the servants.) `I will not punish anyone, except on account of their sins after the proof has been established against them.'

(يَوْمَ نَقُولُ لِجَهَنَّمَ هَلِ امْتَلَأَتْ وَتَقُولُ هَلْ مِنْ مَّزِيدٍ - وَأُزْلِفَتْ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ - هَذَا مَا تُوعَدُونَ لِكُلِّ أَوَّابٍ حَفِيزٍ - مَنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُنِيبٍ - ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُلُودِ - لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ)

(30. On the Day when We will say to Hell: "Are you filled" It will say: "Are there any more") (31. And Paradise will be Uzlifat to those who had Taqwa, not far off.) (32. (It will be said): "This is what you were promised -- (it is) for those returning in sincere repentance, and Hafiz.") (33. "Who feared Ar-Rahman unseen and brought a heart turned in repentance.") (34. "Enter you therein in peace and security -- this is a Day of eternal life!") (35. There they will have all that they desire -- and We have more.)

Jahannam and Paradise and their Dwellers

Allah states that He will say to Jahannam on the Day of Resurrection, "Have you had your fill" Allah the Most Honored has promised Hell that it will have its fill from the Jinns and mankind. He, the Exalted and Most Honored, will decide who will be thrown into the Fire and she will keep saying, "Are there any more," or, `Are there any more whom You will provide me with' This is the apparent meaning of this Ayah which is supported by several Hadiths. Imam Ahmad recorded that Anas said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَا تَزَالُ جَهَنَّمُ يُلْقَى فِيهَا وَتَقُولُ: هَلْ مِنْ مَّزِيدٍ؟ حَتَّى يَضَعَ رَبُّ الْعِزَّةِ قَدَمَهُ فِيهَا، فَيَنْزَوِي بَعْضُهَا إِلَى بَعْضٍ وَتَقُولُ: قَطُّ قَطُّ وَعِزَّتِكَ وَكَرَمِكَ. وَلَا يَزَالُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ فَضْلٌ حَتَّى يُنْشِئَ

اللَّهُ لَهَا خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَيُسْكِنُهُمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى فِي فُضُولِ
الْجَنَّةِ»

(The people will be thrown into Jahannam and it will say, 'Are there any more' Until the Mighty Lord puts His Foot over it and its corners will be collected together and it will say, "Enough, enough by Your grace and compassion!" There will be sufficient empty space in Paradise until Allah creates another creation and He, the Exalted, makes them dwell in the empty parts of Paradise.)" Muslim also collected this Hadith. Al-Bukhari recorded that Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet said,

«يُقَالُ لِحَبْشَمَ هَلْ امْتَلَأْتَ؟ وَتَقُولُ: هَلْ مِنْ مَزِيدٍ؟
فَيَضَعُ الرَّبُّ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى قَدَمَهُ عَلَيْهَا فَتَقُولُ:
قَطُّ قَطُّ»

(Jahannam will be asked, "Are you full" and it will say, "Are there any more" Until the Lord, the Blessed and Most Honored, puts His Foot over it and it will say: "Enough! Enough!") Al-Bukhari recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«تَحَاجَّتِ الْجَنَّةُ وَالنَّارُ فَقَالَتِ النَّارُ: أُوثِرْتُ
بِالْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ وَالْمُتَجَبِّرِينَ. وَقَالَتِ الْجَنَّةُ: مَالِي لَا
يَدْخُلْنِي إِلَّا ضُعَفَاءُ النَّاسِ وَسَقَطُهُمْ. قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ
وَجَلَّ لِلْجَنَّةِ: أَنْتِ رَحِمَتِي أَرْحَمُ بِكِ مِنْ أَشَاءِ مِنْ
عِبَادِي . وَقَالَ لِلنَّارِ: إِنَّمَا أَنْتِ عَذَابِي أَعَدُّ بِكِ
مِنْ أَشَاءِ مِنْ عِبَادِي وَلِكُلِّ وَاحِدَةٍ مِنْكُمَا مِلْؤُهَا،
فَأَمَّا النَّارُ فَلَا تَمْتَلِئُ حَتَّى يَضَعَ رَجُلُهُ فِيهَا
فَتَقُولُ: قَطُّ قَطُّ، فَهَذَاكَ تَمْتَلِئُ وَيَنْزَوِي بَعْضُهَا
إِلَى بَعْضٍ وَلَا يَظْلِمُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ

أَحَدًا، وَأَمَّا الْجَنَّةُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يُنْشِئُ لَهَا خَلْقًا آخَرَ»

(Paradise and the Fire quarreled. The Fire said, "I have been favored with the arrogant people and tyrants." Paradise said, "What is wrong with me that only the poor and humble people enter me" Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said to Paradise, "You are My mercy, with which I grant mercy to those whom I will among My servants." He said to Hell, "You are My punishment which I inflict upon whom I wish from My servants, and I shall fill both of you." As for Hellfire, it will not have its fill until Allah puts His Foot over it and she will say, "Enough! Enough!" She will become full and its sides will come close to each other. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored shall not be unjust to any one of His creatures. As for Paradise, Allah the Exalted and Most Honored will create another creation to fill it.) Allah the Exalted said,

(وَأَزْلِفَتْ الْجَنَّةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ)

(And Paradise will be Uzlifat to those who had Taqwa, not far off.) meaning, Paradise will be brought close and near to the pious, according to Qatadah, Abu Malik and As-Suddi,

(غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ)

(not far off), and this will occur on the Day of Resurrection, which is not far off. Surely that Day will come to pass and all that is bound to come, is near,

(هَذَا مَا تُوْعَدُونَ لِكُلِّ أَوَّابٍ)

(This is what you were promised -- (it is) for those returning) who go back to Allah in sincere repentance intending not to repeat sin,

(حَفِیْظٌ)

(Hafiz), who preserve their covenant with Allah and do not break or betray it,

(مَنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ الْغَيْبَ)

(Who feared Ar-Rahman unseen) who feared Allah in secret when only Allah the Exalted and Most Honored could see him. The Prophet said,

«وَرَجُلٌ ذَكَرَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى خَالِيًا، فَفَاضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ»

(And a man who remembered Allah the Exalted while alone, and his eyes became tearful.) Allah said,

(وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُنِيبٍ)

(and brought a heart turned in repentance.) meaning, he will meet Allah, the Exalted and Most Honored, on the Day of Resurrection with a heart turned in repentance to Him and absolutely free (of Shirk) and humbled to Him,

(ادْخُلُوهَا)

(Enter you therein), meaning Paradise,

(بِسَلَامٍ)

(in peace and security), they will earn security from the torment of Allah, the Exalted and Most Honored, and the angels of Allah will greet them with the Salam, according to the explanation of Qatadah. The statement of Allah the Exalted and Most Honored:

(ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُلُودِ)

(-- this is a Day of eternal life!), meaning, they will reside in Paradise forever and will never die, neither be transferred from it nor wish to be transferred from it. The statement of Allah the All-Mighty,

(لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ فِيهَا)

(There they will have all that they desire), means, whatever delights they wish and desire, they will find it brought before them. Allah's statement,

(وَلَدَيْنَا مَزِيدٌ)

(and We have more.) is similar to His other statement,

(لِّلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْحُسْنَىٰ وَزِيَادَةٌ)

(For those who have done good is the best and even more.)(10:26) In the Sahih, Muslim recorded that Suhayb bin Sna'an Ar-Rumi said that 'more' refers to looking at the Most Honorable Face of Allah.

(وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِّنْ قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا فَنَقَّبُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ هَلْ مِن مَّحِيصٍ - إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ

لَذِكْرَى لِمَنْ كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ وَهُوَ
 شَهِيدٌ - وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا
 بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِنْ لُغُوبٍ -
 فَاصْبِرْ عَلَى مَا يَقُولُونَ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ
 طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ الْغُرُوبِ - وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ
 وَأَدْبَرَ السُّجُودِ)

(36. And how many a generation We have destroyed before them who were stronger in power than they. And they went about the land! Could they find any place of refuge) (37. Verily, therein is indeed a reminder for him who has a heart or gives ear while he is heedful.) (38. And indeed We created the heavens and the earth and all between them in six Days and nothing of fatigue touched Us.) (39. So bear with patience all that they say, and glorify the praises of your Lord, before the rising of the sun and before (its) setting.) (40. And during a part of the night (also) glorify His praises and (so likewise) after the prostrations.)

Warning the Disbelievers of the imminent Torment; commanding the Prophet to pray and have Patience

Allah the Exalted asks, ` how many We have destroyed before these denying disbelievers'

(مِّنْ قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا)

(a generation who were stronger in power than they.) they were more numerous, mightier than they and who constructed on the earth and built on it more than they. The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(فَنَقَّبُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ هَلْ مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ)

(And they went about the land! Could they find any place of refuge) Ibn ` Abbas commented, "They left the traces throughout the land," Qatadah said, "They traveled throughout the land seeking provisions through trade and business, more than you have." Allah's statement,

(هَلْ مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ)

(Could they find any place of refuge) means, ` could they find a shelter from Allah's decision and appointed destiny Have what they collected benefited them or averted Allah's torment

when it came to them on account of their denial of the Messengers Likewise, you will never be able to avert, avoid, or find refuge or shelter (from His torment).' Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَذِكْرَى)

(Verily, therein is indeed a reminder) and a lesson,

(لِمَن كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ)

(for him who has a heart) meaning, a sound understanding with which he comprehends, or, a good mind, according to Mujahid,

(أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ وَهُوَ شَهِيدٌ)

(or gives ear while he is heedful.) meaning, he hears the speech, comprehends and understands it in his mind and grasps its indications with his intellect. Mujahid said that,

(أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ)

(or gives ear), means, he does not talk to himself but listens with an attentive heart. Ad-Dahhak commented, "The Arabs would say that someone has given ear when he hears with his ears, while his heart is present and not absent." Ath-Thawri and several others said similarly. The statement of Allah the Exalted and Most Honored;

(وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِنْ لُغُوبٍ)

(And indeed We created the heavens and the earth and all that between them in six Days and nothing of fatigue touched Us.) is emphasis on the Resurrection because He Who is able to create the heavens and earth without fatigue, then surely He is able to resurrect the dead. Qatadah said, "The Jews, may Allah's curses descend on them, said that Allah created the heavens and earth in six days and then rested on the seventh day, which was the Sabbath. This is why they call it a holiday. Allah the Exalted then sent down denial of their statement and false opinion." Allah said, m

(وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِنْ لُغُوبٍ)

(and nothing of fatigue touched Us.) indicating that no sleep, exhaustion or weariness affects Him. Allah the Exalted the Blessed said in other Ayat,

(أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَمْ يَغْيَ بِخَلْقِهِنَّ بِقَادِرٍ 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),

(لَخَلْقُ 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,

(أَعَنْتُمْ أَشَدُّ خَلْقًا أَمْ السَّمَاءُ بَنَاهَا)

(Are you more difficult to create or is the heaven that He constructed)(79:27) Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(فَاصْبِرْ عَلَى مَا يَقُولُونَ)

(So bear with patience all that they say,) in reference to those who deny the Prophet , ordering him to be patient with them and turn away from them in a good way,

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ
الْغُرُوبِ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord, before the rising of the sun and before (its) setting.) There were two ordained prayers prior to the Isra' journey. One before the rising of the sun at dawn and the other before sunset in the evening. Qiyam Al-Layl, prayer at night, was a command for the Prophet and his followers for sometime but it was later abrogated for the Ummah. Later, during the Isra' journey, Allah abrogated all of the previous orders for prayer by ordaining five daily prayers, including the prayers of Fajr before sunrise, and `Asr in the late afternoon. Imam Ahmad recorded that Jarir bin `Abdullah said, "When we were sitting with the Prophet , he looked at the full moon and said,

«أَمَّا إِنَّكُمْ سَتُعْرَضُونَ عَلَى رَبِّكُمْ فَتَرَوْنَهُ كَمَا تَرَوْنَ هَذَا الْقَمَرَ لَا تُضَامُونَ فِيهِ، فَإِنْ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ أَنْ لَا تُغْلَبُوا عَلَى صَلَاةٍ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ غُرُوبِهَا فَافْعَلُوا»

(Certainly you will be brought before your Lord and will see Him as you see this moon, and you will have no trouble in seeing Him. So, if you can avoid missing the prayer before the sunrise and the prayer before sunset, you must do so.) He then recited Allah's statement,

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ وَقَبْلَ الْغُرُوبِ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord, before the rising of the sun and before (its) setting.)" The Two Sahihs and the rest of the Group collected this Hadith through the chain of Isma'il. Allah the Exalted said,

(وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ)

(And during a part of the night glorify His praises), meaning pray to Him. Allah said Ayah,

(وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَى أَنْ يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا)

(And in some parts of the night offer the Salah with it, as an additional prayer for you. It may be that your Lord will raise you to Maqam Mahmud.) (17:79) Ibn Abi Najih reported that Mujahid said that Ibn `Abbas said that,

(وَأَذْبَرَ السُّجُودِ)

(and after the prostrations.) refers to Tasbih, i.e. glorifying Allah's praises, after the prayers. There is a Hadith collected in the Two Sahihs that supports this meaning. Abu Hurayrah said, "Some poor migrants came and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! The wealthy people will get higher grades and will have permanent enjoyment. ' The Prophet said,

«وَمَا ذَاكَ؟»

(Why is that) They said, 'They pray as we do, fast as we do, yet they give charity, but we can not. They free slaves, but we can not.' The Prophet said,

«أَفَلَا أَعْلَمُكُمْ شَيْئًا إِذَا فَعَلْتُمُوهُ سَبَقْتُمْ مَنْ بَعْدَكُمْ
وَلَا يَكُونُ أَحَدٌ أَفْضَلَ مِنْكُمْ إِلَّا مَنْ فَعَلَ مِثْلَ مَا
فَعَلْتُمْ؟ تُسَبِّحُونَ وَتَحْمَدُونَ وَتُكَبِّرُونَ ذُبْرَ كُلِّ
صَلَاةٍ ثَلَاثًا وَثَلَاثِينَ»

(Shall I tell you about something that, if you did it, you would catch up with those who have surpassed you and nobody would be better than you except those who would do the same Say, 'Subhan Allah, Alhamdulillah and Allahu Akbar,' thirty-three times each after every prayer.) Later, they came back and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Our brethren, the wealthy Muslims, heard of what we did and they also did the same.' The Prophet said,

«ذَلِكَ فَضْلُ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ»

(This is a favor and grace of Allah, and He grants it to whom He wills.)" There is another way of explaining the Ayah. It is that Allah's statement,

(وَأَذْبَرَ السُّجُودِ)

(and after the prostrations.) refers to the two Rak'ahs after the Maghrib prayer. This was reported from `Umar bin Al-Khattab, `Ali bin Abi Talib and his son Al-Hasan, `Abdullah bin `Abbas, Abu Hurayrah and Abu Umamah, may Allah be pleased with them. This is also the saying of Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Ash-Sha`bi, An-Nakha'i, Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Qatadah, and others.

(وَأَسْتَمِعْ يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ - يَوْمَ
يَسْمَعُونَ الصَّيْحَةَ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُرُوجِ - إِنَّا
نَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ وَإِلَيْنَا الْمَصِيرُ - يَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ
الْأَرْضُ عَنْهُمْ سِرَاعًا ذَلِكَ حَشْرٌ عَلَيْنَا يَسِيرٌ -
نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِجَبَّارٍ
فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْءَانِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ)

(41. And listen on the Day when the caller will call from a near place.) (42. The Day when they will hear As-Sayhah in truth, that will be the Day of coming out.) (43. Verily, it is We Who give life and cause death; and to Us is the final return.) (44. On the Day when the earth shall be cleft, from off them (they will come out) hastening forth. That will be a gathering, quite easy for Us.) (45. We know best what they say. And you are not the one to force them. But warn by the Qur'an; him who fears My threat.)

Admonition from Some Scenes of the Day of Resurrection

Allah the Exalted said,

(وَاسْتَمِعْ)

(And listen) `O Muhammad,'

(يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ)

(on the Day when the caller will call from a near place.) to the gathering for the Day of Judgement,

(يَوْمَ يَسْمَعُونَ الصَّيْحَةَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(The Day when they will hear As-Sayhah in truth,) in reference to the blowing in the Trumpet which will bring forth the truth that most of them discounted and denied,

(ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُرُوجِ)

(that will be the Day of coming out.) from the graves,

(إِنَّا نَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ وَإِلَيْنَا الْمَصِيرُ)

(Verily, it is We Who give life and cause death; and to Us is the final return.) Allah is He Who starts creation and then brings it back to life, and the latter is easier for Him; to Him is the final return of all creations. At this time, He will recompense each according to his or her deeds, good for good and evil for evil. Allah the Exalted said,

(يَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ الْأَرْضُ عَنْهُمْ سِرَاعًا)

(On the Day when the earth shall be cleft, from off them (they will come out) hastening forth.) Allah the Exalted and Most Honored will send down rain from the sky. From that rain the bodies of the creations will grow while they are in their graves, just as the seed grows in soil in the aftermath of rain. When the bodies grow to their full strength, Allah the Exalted will command angel Israfil and he will blow in the Trumpet (for a second time). The souls will be enclosed in

a hole in the Trumpet. When Israfil blows in the Trumpet, the souls will depart from it and will fly between the heavens and earth. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored, will declare, "By My grace and power, each soul shall return to the body that it used to inhabit," and indeed, every soul will return to its body. The soul will enter its body just as poison enters the body, then the earth will be uncovered from above them, and they will all stand and head towards the Reckoning place hastening to obey the command of Allah the Exalted and Most Honored,

(مُهْطِعِينَ إِلَى الدَّاعِ يَقُولُ الْكَافِرُونَ هَذَا يَوْمٌ عَسِيرٌ)

(Hastening towards the caller. The disbelievers will say: "This is a hard Day.") (54:8), 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) In the Sahih, it is recorded that Anas said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَنَا أَوَّلُ مَنْ تَنْشَقُّ عَنْهُ الْأَرْضُ»

(The earth will open up first around me.) Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(ذَلِكَ حَشْرٌ عَلَيْنَا يَسِيرٌ)

(That will be a gathering, quite easy for Us.) 'bringing them back to life is easy for Us and effortless.' Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَمَا أَمْرُنَا إِلَّا وَحْدَةً كَلَمْحٍ بِالْبَصَرِ)

(And Our commandment is but one as the twinkling of an eye.) (54:50), and,

(مَا خَلَقَكُمْ وَلَا بَعَثَكُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَحِدَةٍ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ بَصِيرٌ)

(The creation of you all and the resurrection of you all are only as of a single person. Verily, Allah is All-Hearer, All-Seer.) (31:28)

Comforting the Prophet

The statement of Allah the Exalted and Most High,

(نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ)

(We know best what they say.) means, 'Our knowledge is all encompassing of the denial that the idolators are confronting you with, so do not be concerned.' In similar Ayat, Allah said,

(وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ -
فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ)
(وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ)

(Indeed, We know that your breast is straitened at what they say. So glorify the praises of your Lord and be of those who prostrate themselves (to Him). And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e., death).) (15:97) Allah's statement,

(وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِجَبَّارٍ)

(And you are not the one to force them.) says, 'it is not you who forces them to accept the guidance; this is not a part of your mission.' Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ)

(But warn by the Qur'an; him who fears My threat.) meaning, 'convey the Message of your Lord, for only those who fear Allah and dread His torment, and hope in His promise will remember and heed,'

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلْغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ)

(Your duty is only to convey (the Message) and on Us is the reckoning.)(13:40),

(فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ - لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ)

(So remind them -- you are only one who reminds. You are not a dictator over them.)(88:21-22)

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ هُدَاهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

(Not upon you is their guidance, but Allah guides whom He wills.)(2:272) and,

(إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

(Verily, you guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills.) (28:56) Allah's statement here,

(وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِجَبَّارٍ فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ)

(And you are not the one to force them. But warn by the Qur'an; him who fears My threat.) Qatadah used to invoke Allah by saying, "O Allah! Make us among those who fear Your threat and hope for Your promise, O Barr (Subtle, Kind, Courteous, and Generous), O Rahim (the Most Merciful)." This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah Qaf. All praise is due to Allah, He is for us, the most excellent Trustee.

The Tafsir of Surat Adh-Dhariyat

(Chapter - 51)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالذَّرِيَّتِ ذُرُوءًا - فَالْحَمَلِيتِ وَقْرًا - فَالْجَرِيَّتِ
يُسْرًا - فَالْمُقَسَّمَتِ أَمْرًا - إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَصَدِيقٍ
- وَإِنَّ الدِّينَ لَوَاقِعٌ - وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْحُبُكِ - إِنَّكُمْ
لَفِي قَوْلٍ مُخْتَلِفٍ - يُؤَفَّكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أَفَكَ - قَتَلَ
الْخَرَصُونَ - الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي غَمْرَةٍ سَهُونَ -
يَسْأَلُونَ أَيَّانَ يَوْمُ الدِّينِ - يَوْمَ هُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ

يُقَتَّلُونَ - دُوفُوا فَيَنْتَكُم هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ
تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ)

(1. By the scattering Dhariyat;) (2. And the laden Hamilat;) (3. And the steady Jariyat;) (4. And the distributors of command,) (5. Verily, that which you are promised is surely true.) (6. And verily, Ad-Din is sure to occur.) (7. By the heaven full of Hubuk,) (8. Certainly, you have different ideas.) (9. Turned aside therefrom is he who is turned aside.) (10. Cursed be Al-Kharrasun) (11. Who are under a cover of Sahun,) (12. They ask: "When will be the Day of Ad-Din") (13. (It will be) a Day when they will be Yuftanun in the Fire!) (14. "Taste you your trial! This is what you used to ask to be hastened!")

Affirming the News of the Resurrection The Commander of the faithful,

Ali bin Abi Talib may Allah be pleased with him, ascended the Minbar in Kufah and declared, "Any Ayah in the Book of Allah the Exalted and any Sunnah from Allah's Messenger you ask me about today, I will explain them." Ibn Al-Kawwa stood up and said, "O Leader of the faithful! What is the meaning of Allah's statement,

(وَالذَّرِيَّتِ ذُرُوءاً)

(By the scattering Dhariyat)," and `Ali said, "The wind." The man asked,

(فَالْحَمِلَتِ وَقَرَأَ)

"(And the laden Hamilat)" `Ali said, "The clouds." The man again asked,

(فَالْجَارِيَّتِ يُسْرَأَ)

"(And the steady Jariyat)" `Ali said, "The ships." The man asked,

(فَالْمُقَسَّمَتِ أُمْرَأَ)

"(And the distributors of command)" `Ali said, it refers to "The angels." Some scholars said that Al-Jariyat Yusra refers to the stars that float in their orbits with ease. This would mean that the things mentioned were ascendant in their order, beginning with the lower, then mentioning the higher one after that, etc. The winds bring the clouds, the stars are above them and the angels who distribute by Allah's order are above that, and they descend with Allah's legislative orders and the decrees He determines. These Ayat contain a vow from Allah that Resurrection shall come to pass. Allah's statement,

(إِنَّمَا تُوعَدُونَ لَصَدِيقٌ)

(Verily, that which you are promised is surely true.), it is a truthful promise,

(وَإِنَّ الدِّينَ)

(And verily, Ad-Din) the Recompense,

(لَوَاقِعُ)

(will occur), it will surely come to pass. Then Allah the Exalted said,

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الْحُبُكِ)

(By the heaven full of Hubuk,) Ibn `Abbas said; "Full of beauty, grace, magnificence and perfection." Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Abu Malik, Abu Salih, As-Suddi, Qatadah, `Atiyah Al-`Awfi, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas and others said similarly. Ad-Dahhak, Al-Minhal bin `Amr and others said, "The meandering of the water, sand and plants when the wind passes over them; carving paths out of them, that is the Hubuk." All of these sayings return to the same meaning, that of beauty and complexity. The sky is high above us, clear yet thick, firmly structured, spacious and graceful, beautified with stars such as the sun and orbiting planets such as the moon and the planets of the solar system.

The Differing Claims of the Idolators

Allah the Exalted said,

(إِنَّكُمْ لَفِي قَوْلٍ مُّخْتَلِفٍ)

(Certainly, you have different ideas.) Allah says, `you disbelievers who deny the Messengers have different and confused opinions that do not connect or conform to each other.' Qatadah commented on the Ayah, "You have different ideas about the Qur'an. Some of you agree that it is true while some others deny this fact." Allah said,

(يُؤْفِكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أَفَكَ)

(Turned aside therefrom is he who is turned aside.) Allah says, these confused and different opinions only fool those who are inwardly misguided. Surely, such falsehood is accepted, embraced and it becomes the source of confusion only for those who are misguided and originally liars, the fools who have no sound comprehension, as Allah said,

(فَإِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ - مَا أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ بِفَتِنِينَ - إِلَّا
مَنْ هُوَ صَالٍ الْجَحِيمِ)

(So, verily you and those whom you worship cannot lead astray, except those who are predetermined to burn in Hell!)(37:161-163) Ibn ` Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and As-Suddi said:

(يُؤْفَكُ عَنْهُ مَنْ أُفِكَ)

(Turned aside therefrom is he who is turned aside.) "He who is misguided is led astray from it." Allah said;

(قُتِلَ الْخَرَّصُونَ)

(Cursed be Al-Kharrasun), Mujahid said; "The liars. This is similar to what is mentioned in (Surah) ` Abasa:

(قُتِلَ الْإِنْسَنُ مَا أَكْفَرَهُ)

(Be cursed man! How ungrateful he is!)(80:17) Al-Kharrasun are those who claim that they will never be brought back to life, doubting the coming of Resurrection." `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn ` Abbas;

(قُتِلَ الْخَرَّصُونَ)

(Cursed be Al-Kharrasun), "Cursed be the doubters." Mu`adh said similarly, may Allah be pleased with him. During one of his speeches he said, "Destroyed be the doubters." Qatadah said, "Al-Kharrasun are the people of doubt and suspicion." Allah said;

(الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي غَمْرَةٍ سَهُونَ)

(Who are under a cover of Sahun,) Ibn ` Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and others said; "In disbelief and doubt, they are heedless and playful." Allah said,

(يَسْأَلُونَ أَيَّانَ يَوْمُ الدِّينِ)

(They ask: "When will be the Day of Ad-Din") They utter this statement in denial, stubbornness, doubt and suspicion. Allah the Exalted replied,

(يَوْمَ هُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ يُقْتَتُونَ)

((It will be) a Day when they will be Yuftanun in the Fire!) Ibn ` Abbas, Mujahid, Al-Hasan and several others said that Yuftanun means punished. Mujahid said: "Just as gold is forged in the fire." A group of others also including Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Ibrahim An-Nakha`i, Zayd bin Aslam, and Sufyan Ath-Thawri said, "They will be burnt."

(ذُوقُوا فِتْنَتَكُمْ)

(Taste you your trial!), Mujahid said, "Your burning" while others said, "Your punishment."

(هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ)

(This is what you used to ask to be hastened!) This will be said admonishing, chastising, humiliating and belittling them. Allah knows best.

(إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ءَاخِذِينَ مَا ءَاتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ مُحْسِنِينَ كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ وَيَالِ الْأُسْحَرِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ)

(وَفِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ - وَفِي الْأَرْضِ ءَايَاتٌ لِّلْمُوقِنِينَ - وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ - وَفِي السَّمَاءِ رِزْقُكُمْ وَمَا تُوعَدُونَ - فَوَرَبَّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِّثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ تَنْطِقُونَ)

(15. Verily, those who have Taqwa will be in the midst of Gardens and Springs.) (16. Taking joy in the things which their Lord has given them. Verily, they were before this doers of good.) (17. They used to sleep but little by night.) (18. And in the hours before dawn, they were asking for forgiveness.) (19. And in their wealth there was the right of the Sa'il and the Mahrum.) (20. And on the earth are signs for those who have faith with certainty.) (21. And also in yourselves. Will you not then see (22. And in the heaven is your provision, and that which you are promised.) (23. Then by the Lord of the heaven and the earth, it is the truth, just as you can speak.)

Qualities of Those Who have Taqwa and Their Reward

Allah the Exalted informs about those who have Taqwa, that on the Day of their Return they will be amidst gardens and springs. To the contrary the miserable ones will be amidst torment, punishment, fire and chains. Allah said,

ءَاخِذِينَ مَا ءَاتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ

(Taking joy in the things which their Lord has given them.) His statement;

ءَاخِذِينَ

(Taking) describes the state of the people of Taqwa in the midst of gardens and springs. They will receive what their Lord gives them, meaning, delight, happiness and favors. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ

(Verily, they were before that), in the life of the world,

مُحْسِنِينَ

(gooddoers) As He said:

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الْخَالِيَةِ

(Eat and drink at ease for that which you have sent on before you in days past!)(69:24) Allah the Exalted described the good acts that they performed,

كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ

(They used to sleep but little at night.) The scholars of Tafsir have two opinions about this:

The First Opinion

The first is that, they used to spend a little part of every night awake. Ibn `Abbas said, "Every night, they would worship Allah, even during a little part of the night." Qatadah narrated that Mutarrif bin `Abdullah said, "Hardly a night would pass by them that they did not pray to Allah the Exalted and Most Honored, either in the beginning, or the middle of it." Mujahid said, "Only a few nights, if any, would they sleep through the night until the morning without praying Tahajjud." Qatadah said similarly. Anas bin Malik and Abu Al-`Aliyah said, "They used to pray between Al-Maghrib and Al-`Isha'." The Second Opinion They used to spend a little part of the night in sleep. This was preferred by Ibn Jarir. Al-Hasan Al-Basri said:

(كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ)

(They used to sleep but little by night), "They performed voluntary night prayer and would not sleep during the night except a little. They were active and would continue until they were seeking forgiveness right before dawn." `Abdullah bin Salam said, "When the Messenger of Allah arrived at Al-Madinah, people quickly gathered around him and I was among them. When I saw his face, I knew that it was not the face of a liar. The first statement I heard from him was,

«يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَامَ، وَصَلُّوا
الرَّحَامَ، وَأَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ، وَصَلُّوا بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّاسُ
نِيَامٌ، تَدْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِسَلَامٍ»

(O people! Feed with food, keep relations to kith and kin, spread the Salam, pray at night while people are asleep, and you will enter Paradise in peace.)" Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin `Umar said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ غُرَفًا يُرَى ظَاهِرُهَا مِنْ بَاطِنِهَا
وَبَاطِنُهَا مِنْ ظَاهِرِهَا»

(Verily, there are lofty rooms in Paradise in which their outside can be seen from inside and their inside from the outside.) Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari said, "Who are they for, O Allah's Messenger" He said,

«لِمَنْ أَلَانَ الْكَلَامَ، وَأَطْعَمَ الطَّعَامَ، وَبَاتَ لِلَّهِ قَائِمًا
وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامٌ»

(For those who use soft speech, feed food and spend the night in voluntary prayer while people are asleep.) Allah said:

(وَيَالِاسْحَرِ هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ)

(And in the hours before dawn, they were asking for forgiveness.) Mujahid and several others said: "They were performing Salah." Others said that they would stand in prayer during the night and delayed asking Allah for forgiveness until the latter hours before dawn. As Allah, the Exalted the Blessed, said;

(وَالْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ بِالْأَسْحَارِ)

(And those who seek forgiveness during the last hours of the night.) (3:17); This is because it is better if asking for forgiveness is done while praying. It is confirmed in the Sahih collections as well as others, from several Companions, that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يَنْزِلُ كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ إِلَى سَمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا حِينَ يَبْقَى ثُلُثُ اللَّيْلِ الْآخِرِ، فَيَقُولُ: هَلْ مِنْ تَائِبٍ فَأَتُوبَ عَلَيْهِ. هَلْ مِنْ مُسْتَغْفِرٍ فَأَغْفِرَ لَهُ. هَلْ مِنْ سَائِلٍ فَيُعْطَى سَوْءُهُ؟ حَتَّى يَطْلُعَ الْفَجْرُ»

(Allah, the Most High, descends each night to the lowest heaven when the last third of the night remains. He says, "Is there anyone who is repenting so that I may accept his repentance Is there anyone seeking forgiveness, so that I may forgive him Is there anyone asking of Me, so that I may grant him his request" until Fajr begins.) Many of the scholars of Tafsir said that when the Prophet Ya`qub said to his sons:

(سَوْفَ أَسْتَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ رَبِّي)

(I will ask my Lord for forgiveness for you) (12:98), he delayed doing so until the hours before dawn. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَفِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ لِّلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ)

(And in their wealth there was the right of the Sa'il and the Mahrum.) After Allah mentioned their quality of performing prayer, He then mentioned their quality of spending in charity and acts of compassion and kindness,

(وَفِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ)

(And in their wealth there was the right), a designated part which they dedicated to the Sa'il and Mahrum. The Sa'il is the poor who begs others, and he has a due right. As for the Mahrum, Ibn `Abbas and Mujahid said, "He is the poor person who does not receive a stipend." Meaning he does not receive a stipend from the Muslim treasury, nor does he have a means of income, nor a profession. The Mother of the faithful, `A'ishah may Allah be pleased with her, said about the Mahrum, "He is the displaced, the one who does not have a profession to easily earn an income from." Qatadah and Az-Zuhri: "The Mahrum is the one who does not ask the people for anything." Az-Zuhri added that the Messenger of Allah said,

«لَيْسَ الْمِسْكِينُ بِالطَّوَّافِ الَّذِي تَرُدُّهُ الْقُمَةُ وَاللُّقْمَتَانِ وَالتَّمْرَةُ وَالتَّمْرَتَانِ، وَلَكِنَّ الْمِسْكِينَ

الَّذِي لَا يَجِدُ غَنًى يُغْنِيهِ وَلَا يُقِطُنْ لَهُ فَيُتَصَدَّقَ عَلَيْهِ»

(The poor (Mskin) is not the one who goes round to the people and asks them for a mouthful or two or a date or two. But the poor is the one who does not have enough to satisfy his needs and whose condition is not known to others, so that others may give him something in charity.) This Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs using another chain of narration.

Allah's Signs on the Earth and in Mankind

Allah the Exalted and the Blessed said next,

(وَفِي الْأَرْضِ آيَاتٌ لِلْمُوقِنِينَ)

(And on the earth are signs for those who have faith with certainty.) Allah says that there are signs on earth that testify to the might of the Creator and His boundless ability. These signs include what Allah placed on the earth, the various plants, animals, valleys, mountains, deserts, rivers and oceans. He also created mankind with different languages, colors, intentions and abilities, and a variety among them, differences in the power of understanding and comprehension, their deeds, and ultimately earning happiness or misery. Allah put every organ in their bodies in its rightful place where they most need it to be. So He said:

(وَفِي أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ)

(And also in yourselves. Will you not then see) Qatadah commented, "He who thinks about his own creation will realize that he was created with flexible joints so that it is easy for him to perform acts of worship." Allah the Exalted said next,

(وَفِي السَّمَاءِ رِزْقُكُمْ)

(And in the heaven is your provision,) meaning, rain,

(وَمَا تُوْعَدُونَ)

(and that which you are promised.) meaning Paradise. This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and several others. Allah said:

(فَوَرَبُّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِّثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ تَنْطِقُونَ)

(Then by the Lord of the heaven and the earth, it is the truth, just as you do speak.) Allah is swearing by His honorable Self, all of the matters of the Judgement, Resurrection, and Recompense that they have been promised shall certainly occur. Therefore, it is the truth, there being no doubt about it, so do not doubt its coming, just as you do not doubt that you can speak When he would talk to one of his friends, Mu`adh used to say: "What I am saying is as true as your being here."

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ - إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ سَلَّمَ قَوْمٌ مِّنْكَرُونَ - فَرَاغَ إِلَى أَهْلِهِ فَجَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ سَمِينٍ - فَقَرَّبَهُ إِلَيْهِمْ قَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ - فَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ وَبَشِّرُوهُ بَعْلَمٍ عَلِيمٍ - فَأَقْبَلَتْ امْرَأَتُهُ فِي صَرَّةٍ فَصَكَّتْ وَجْهَهَا وَقَالَتْ عَجُوزٌ عَقِيمٌ - قَالُوا كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(24. Has the story reached you, of the honored guests of Ibrahim) (25. When they came in to him and said: "Salamun!" He answered: "Salamun" and said: "You are a people unknown to me.") (26. Then he turned to his household, and brought out a roasted calf.) (27. And placed it before them (saying): "Will you not eat") (28. Then he conceived fear of them (when they ate not). They said: "Fear not." And they gave him glad tidings of a son having knowledge.) (29. Then his wife came forward with a loud voice; she smote her face, and said: "A barren old woman!") (30. They said: "Even so says your Lord. Verily, He is the All-Wise, the All-Knower.")

The Guests of the Prophet Ibrahim

We mentioned this story before in Surah Hud and Al-Hijr. Allah said,

(هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْمُكْرَمِينَ)

(Has the story reached you, of the honored guests of Ibrahim), whom Ibrahim honored and who,

(قَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ سَلَّمَ)

(they said: "Salamun!" He answered: "Salamun.")

(وَإِذَا حُيِّئْتُمْ بِهِ بِحَسَنَةٍ فَكُونُوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا)

(When you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with what is better than it, or return it equally.) (4:86) So the Friend of Allah chose a better reply in return for their greeting, implementing Allah's command: Reciprocating the greeting with the term Salamun is stronger than the greeting using the term Salaman. The three angels; Jibril, Mika'il and Israfil came to Ibrahim in the image of handsome young wonderfully graceful men. This is why Ibrahim said,

(قَوْمٌ مِّنْكُمْ مَّنْكَرُونَ)

(You are a people unknown to me.) Allah the Exalted said,

(فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ)

(Then he turned to his household,) Ibrahim discretely went inside in haste,

(فَجَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ سَمِينٍ)

(and brought out a roasted calf.) from the best of his menu, And in another Ayah

(فَمَا لَبِثَ أَن جَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ حَنِيذٍ)

(And he hastened to entertain them with a roasted calf.) (11:69) means roasted on hot coals

(فَقَرَّبَهُ إِلَيْهِمْ)

(And placed it before them), brought it close to them,

(قَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ)

(Saying, "Will you not eat") Ibrahim said this polite and kind statement to his guests, and surely, this Ayah indicates proper manners for honoring guests. For he brought the food to his guests quickly, while they were unaware that it was being prepared for them. He did not first mention this favor to them by saying, "We will make food for you." Rather, he discretely had it prepared and placed before them. He prepared the best kind of food he had, a young, fat roasted calf. He did not place the food far from them and invite them to come close to it to eat. Rather, he placed it close to them and refrained from ordering them to eat. Instead he invited them using a kind and subtle invitation,

(أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ)

(Will you not eat) This statement is similar to us saying to a guest, "Would you be kind and generous to do such and such" Allah the Exalted said,

(فَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً)

(Then he conceived fear of them.) this Ayah is explained by Allah's statement,

(فَلَمَّا رَأَىٰ أَيْدِيَهُمْ لَا تَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ نَكِرَهُمْ وَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ لُّوطٍ وَامْرَأَتُهُ قَائِمَةٌ فَضَحِكَتْ)

(But when he saw their hands went not towards it, he mistrusted them, and felt a sense of fear of them. They said: "Fear not, we have been sent against the people of Lut." And his wife was standing (there), and she laughed.)(11:70-71), meaning, she was glad that the people of Lut would be destroyed on account of their rebellion and transgression against Allah, the Exalted. This is when the angels delivered the good news to her of a son, Ishaq, and Ya`qub after Ishaq,

(قَالَتْ يَوَيْلَتَا ءَأَلِدُ وَأَنَا عَجُوزٌ وَهَذَا بَعْلِي شَيْخًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ - قَالُوا أَتَعْجَبِينَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ رَحِمَتُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ إِنَّهُ حَمِيدٌ مَّجِيدٌ)

(She said: "Woe unto me! Shall I bear a child while I am an old woman, and here is my husband an old man Verily, this is a strange thing!" They said, "Do you wonder at the decree of Allah The mercy of Allah and His blessings be on you, O family of the house. Surely, He (Allah) is All-Praiseworthy, All-Glorious.")(11:72-73) Allah said here;

(وَبَشِّرُوهُ يَغُلَمٍ عَلِيمٍ)

(And they gave him glad tidings of a son having knowledge.) This news was as good to Ibrahim as it was to his wife, for this son would be theirs, and therefore, they both were getting some good news. Allah the Exalted said,

(فَأَقْبَلَتِ امْرَأَتُهُ فِي صَرَّةٍ)

(Then his wife came forward with a loud voice), She screamed loudly, according to Ibn ` Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Abu Salih, Ad-Dahhak, Zayd bin Aslam, Ath-Thawri and As-Suddi. She said when she shouted,

(يَوَيْلَتَا)

(Ah! Woe to me!)(25:28), then,

(فَصَكَّتْ وَجْهَهَا)

(she smote her face,) meaning, she struck herself upon her forehead, according to Mujahid and Ibn Sabit. Ibn ` Abbas said that she smacked her face just as women do when confronted with an amazing thing,

(وَقَالَتْ عَجُوزٌ عَقِيمٌ)

(and said: "A barren old woman!") meaning, "How can I give birth while I am an old woman And even when I was young I was barren and could not have children,"

(قَالُوا كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(They said: "Even so says your Lord. Verily, He is the All-Wise, the All-Knower"), `He is the All-Knower of the honor that you are worthy of and He is the most Wise in His statements and decisions.'

(قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ - قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ لِنُرْسِلَ عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن طِينٍ مُّسَوَّمَةً عِندَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ فَأَخْرَجْنَا مَن كَانَ فِيهَا مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فَمَا وَجَدْنَا فِيهَا غَيْرَ بَيْتٍ مِّنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَتَرَكْنَا فِيهَا آيَةً لِلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ)

(31. (Ibrahim) said: "Then for what purpose you have come, O messengers") (32. They said: "We have been sent to a people who are criminals.") (33. "To send down upon them stones of clay.") (34. "Marked by your Lord for transgressors.") (35. So We brought out from therein the believers.) (36. But We found not there any household of the Muslims except one.) (37. And We have left there a sign for those who fear the painful torment.)

The Angels were sent to destroy the People of the Prophet Lut

Allah the Exalted said about Ibrahim, peace be upon him,

(قَلَمَّا ذَهَبَ عَنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الرَّوْعُ وَجَاءَتْهُ الْبُشْرَى
يُجَادِلُنَا فِي قَوْمِ لُوطٍ - إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لَحَلِيمٌ أَوَّاهٌ
مُنِيبٌ - يَابْرَاهِيمُ أُعْرِضْ عَنْ هَذَا إِنَّهُ قَدْ جَاءَ
أَمْرُ رَبِّكَ وَإِنَّهُمْ آتِيهِمْ عَذَابٌ غَيْرُ مَرْدُودٍ)

(Then when the fear had gone away from (Ibrahim), and the glad tidings had reached him, he began to plead with Us for the people of Lut. Verily, Ibrahim was, without doubt forbearing, used to invoke Allah with humility, and was repentant. "O Ibrahim! Forsake this. Indeed, the commandment of your Lord has gone forth. Verily, there will come a torment for them which cannot be turned back.") (11:74-76) Allah said here,

(قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ)

((Ibrahim) said: "Then for what purpose you have come, O messengers") meaning, `what is the mission that you were sent with,'

(قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ)

(They said: "We have been sent to a people who are criminals.") in reference to the people of Lut,

(الْأُرْسِلَ عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةٌ مِّنْ طِينٍ مَّسْومَةٌ)

(To send down upon them stones of baked clay, marked), or written,

(عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ)

(by your Lord for transgressors.) recorded with Allah to their names; each stone has the name of its companion. Allah said in Surat Al-`Ankabut,

(قَالَ إِنَّ فِيهَا لُوطًا قَالُوا نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ فِيهَا
لَنُنَجِّيَهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ كَانَتْ مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ)

((Ibrahim) said: "But there is Lut in it." They said: "We know better who is there. We will verily save him and his family except his wife: she will be of those who remain behind.")(29:32), and said here,

(فَأَخْرَجْنَا مَنْ كَانَ فِيهَا مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(So We brought out from therein the believers.) they are: Lut and his family, except his wife,

(فَمَا وَجَدْنَا فِيهَا غَيْرَ بَيْتٍ مِّنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(But We found not there any household of the Muslims except one.) Allah the Exalted said,

(وَتَرَكْنَا فِيهَا آيَةً لِلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ)

(And We have left there a sign for those who fear the painful torment.) meaning, `We left a proof of the punishment, torment and stones made of Sijil (baked clay) that We sent on them; We made their dwelling place a putrid, evil, dead sea. This should provide a lesson for the believers,'

(لِلَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَ الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ)

(for those who fear the painful torment.)

(وَفِي مُوسَى إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ بِسُلْطَنٍ
مُّبِينٍ - فَتَوَلَّىٰ بِرُكْنِهِ وَقَالَ سَحَرٌ أُوِّ مَجْنُونٌ -
فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ -
وَفِي عَادٍ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ - مَا تَدْرُ
مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ كَالرَّمِيمِ - وَفِي
ثَمُودَ إِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَمَتَّعُوا حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ - فَعْتَوْا عَنْ

أَمْرَ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذْتَهُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ وَهُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ - فَمَا
اسْتَطَعُوا مِنْ قِيَامٍ وَمَا كَانُوا مُنْتَصِرِينَ - وَقَوْمَ
نُوحٍ مِّن قَبْلُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَسِيقِينَ)

(38. And in Musa, when We sent him to Fir`awn with a manifest authority.) (39. But (he) turned away along with his hosts, and said: "A sorcerer or a madman.") (40. So We took him and his armies, and dumped them into the sea (Yamm), for he was blameworthy.) (41. And in `Ad when We sent against them the barren wind;) (42. It spared nothing that it reached, but blew it into broken spreads of rotten ruins.) (43. And in Thamud, when they were told: "Enjoy yourselves for a while!") (44. But they insolently defied the command of their Lord, so the Sa`iqah overtook them while they were looking.) (45. Then they were unable to rise up, nor could they help themselves.) (46. (So were) the people of Nuh before them. Verily, they were a people who were rebellious.)

Lessons from the Destruction of Fir`awn, `Ad, Thamud, and the People of Nuh

Allah the Exalted said,

(وَفِي مُوسَىٰ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ بِسُلْطَنٍ
مُّبِينٍ)

(And in Musa, when We sent him to Fir`awn with a manifest authority.) meaning, with clear proof and plain evidence,

(فَتَوَلَّىٰ بِرُكْنِهِ)

(But he turned away along with his hosts,) meaning, in rebellion and arrogance, Fir`awn turned away from the plain truth that Musa was sent with,

(ثَانِيَ عِطْفِهِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ)

(Bending his neck in pride, and leading (others) too (far) astray from the path of Allah.)(22:9), meaning turning away from truth in arrogance,

(وَقَالَ سَحَرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ)

(and said: "A sorcerer, or a madman.") meaning Fir`awn said to Musa, "With regards to the message that you brought me, you are either a magician or a madman." Allah the Exalted replied,

(فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ)

(So We took him and his armies, and dumped them), meaning `We threw them,'

(فِي الْيَمِّ)

(into the Yamm), into the sea,

(وَهُوَ مُلِيمٌ)

(for he was blameworthy.) meaning, Fir`awn was a denying sinner and a stubborn disbeliever worthy of blame. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَفِي عَادٍ إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ)

(And in `Ad when We sent against them the barren wind) that destroys everything and produces nothing. This was said by Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah and others. Allah's statement,

(مَا تَذَرُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ)

(It spared nothing that it reached,) meaning, everything that the wind could destroy,

(إِلَّا جَعَلَتْهُ كَالرَّمِيمِ)

(but blew it into broken spreads of rotten ruins.) meaning, made it just like a rotten and destroyed. Sa`id bin Al-Musayyib and others commented on:

(إِذْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمُ الرِّيحَ الْعَقِيمَ)

(when We sent against them the barren wind),"Southerly winds." However, there is a Hadith in the Sahih from Shu`bah bin Al-Hakam, from Mujahid, from Ibn `Abbas, who said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«نُصِرْتُ بِالصَّبَا وَأُهْلِكْتُ بِالدَّبُورِ»

(I have been made victorious with the Saba (easterly wind), and the people of `Ad were destroyed with the Dabur (westerly wind).) Allah saying,

(وَفِي ثَمُودَ إِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَمَتَّعُوا حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ)

(And in Thamud, when they were told: "Enjoy yourselves for a while!") is just as He said in another Ayah,

(وَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ فَاسْتَحَبُّوا الْعَمَىٰ عَلَى الْهُدَىٰ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ صَاعِقَةُ الْعَذَابِ الْهُونِ)

(And as for Thamud, We guided them to the path of truth, but they preferred blindness to guidance; so the Sa`iqah of disgracing torment seized them.) (41:17) Allah said here,

(وَفِي ثَمُودَ إِذْ قِيلَ لَهُمْ تَمَتَّعُوا حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ - فَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّاعِقَةُ وَهُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ)

(And in Thamud, when they were told: "Enjoy yourselves for a while!" But they insolently defied the command of their Lord, so the Sa`iqah overtook them while they were looking.) Thamud were given a respite for three days, during which they await the torment. In the early morning of the fourth day, the torment overtook them,

(فَمَا اسْتَطَعُوا مِنْ قِيَامٍ)

(Then they were unable to rise up,) they were unable to escape and run away from it,

(وَمَا كَانُوا مُنْتَصِرِينَ)

(nor could they help themselves.) nor could they save themselves from the torment that befell them. Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ مِّنْ قَبْلُ)

((So were) the people of Nuh before them.) meaning, 'We destroyed the people of Nuh before these people (Fir`awn, `Ad and Thamud).'

(إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَسِيقِينَ)

(Verily, they were a people who were revellious.) We mentioned these stories in details before in the Tafsir of several other Surahs.

(وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا بِأَيْدٍ وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ - وَالْأَرْضَ
فَرَشْنَاهَا فَنِعْمَ الْمَاهِدُونَ - وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا
زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ - فَفِرُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ
مِّنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا ءَاخَرَ لَّكُمْ
مِّنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(47. With Hands We constructed the heaven. Verily, We are able to expand the vastness of space thereof.) (48. And We have made the earth a Firash; how excellent spreader (thereof) are We!) (49. And of everything We have created pairs, that you may remember.) (50. So, flee to Allah. Verily, I am a plain warner to you from Him.) (51. And set not up any other god along with Allah. Verily, I am a plain warner to you from Him.)

Proofs of Allah's Oneness abound in the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth

Allah reminds us of the creating of the higher and lower worlds,

(وَالسَّمَاءَ بَنَيْنَاهَا)

(We constructed the heaven.) meaning, `We made it as a high roof, protected from falling.'

(بِأَيْدٍ)

(with Hands), meaning, with strength, according to `Abdullah bin `Abbas, Mujahid, Qatadah, Ath-Thawri and several others,

(وَإِنَّا لَمُوسِعُونَ)

(Verily, We are able to extend the vastness of space thereof.) means, `We made it vast and We brought its roof higher without pillars to support it, and thus it is hanging independently.'

(وَالْأَرْضَ فَرَشْنَاهَا)

(And We have made the earth a Firash), meaning, 'We have made it a resting place for the created,'

(فَنِعْمَ الْمَاهِدُونَ)

(how excellent a spreader (thereof) are We!), meaning, 'We spread it for its inhabitants,'

(وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ)

(And of everything We have created pairs,) meaning, all the created are in pairs, the heaven and earth, night and day, sun and moon, land and sea, light and darkness, faith and disbelief, death and life, misery and happiness, Paradise and Fire, in addition to the animals and plants. The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(that you may remember.) and know that the Creator, Allah, is One without partners,

(فَفِرُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ)

(So, flee to Allah.) meaning, seek shelter with Him and trust in Him in all of your affairs,

(إِنِّي لَكُمْ مِنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُبِينٌ لَا تَجْعَلُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا
ءَاخَرَ)

(Verily, I am a plain warner to you from Him. And set not up any other god along with Allah.) do not associate any partners with Him,

(إِنِّي لَكُمْ مِنْهُ نَذِيرٌ مُبِينٌ)

(Verily, I am a plain warner to you from Him.)

(كَذَلِكَ مَا أَتَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا
قَالُوا سَحَرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ - اتَّوَصَوْا بِهِ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ
طَاغُونَ - فَنُفِثَ عَنْهُمْ فَهُمْ قَمَآ أَنْتَ بِمَلُومٍ - وَذَكَرَ فَإِنَّ

الدَّكْرَى تَنْفَعُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ - وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ
وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُون - مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ
وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ يُطْعَمُوا - إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو
الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ - فَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا ذُنُوبًا مِثْلَ ذُنُوبِ
أَصْحَابِهِمْ فَلَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ - قَوْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
مِنْ يَوْمِهِمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ)

(52. Likewise, no Messenger came to those before them but they said: "A sorcerer or a madman!") (53. Have they transmitted this saying to these Nay, they are themselves a people transgressing beyond bounds!) (54. So turn away from them, you are not blameworthy.) (55. And remind, for verily, the reminding profits the believers.) (56. And I created not the Jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me.) (57. I seek not any provision from them nor do I ask that they should feed Me.) (58. Verily, Allah is the All-Provider, Owner of power, the Most Strong.) (59. And verily, for those who do wrong, there is a portion of torment like to the evil portion of torment (which came for) their likes (of old); so let them not ask Me to hasten on!) (60. Then woe to those who disbelieve from their Day which they have been promised.)

All Messengers met the Same Type of Denial from Their Nations

Allah comforts His Prophet by saying to Him, 'just as these idolators denied you, the disbelievers of old used the same words with their Messengers,'

(كَذَلِكَ مَا أَتَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا
قَالُوا سَحَرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ)

(Likewise, no Messenger came to those before them but they said: "A sorcerer or a madman!")
Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(أَتَوَاصَوْا بِهِ)

(Have they transmitted this saying to these), meaning, have those of the past taught these words to the people of the present

(بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طُغُونُ)

(Nay, they are themselves a people transgressing beyond bounds!) They are tyrannical people whose hearts are the same. Therefore, the latter said the same as those before them have said. Allah the Exalted said,

(فَقُولْ عَنْهُمْ)

(So turn away from them,) meaning, `O Muhammad, turn away from the Quraysh idolators,'

(فَمَا أَنْتَ بِمَلُومٍ)

(you are not blameworthy.) meaning, `We blame you not if you turn away from them,'

(وَذَكِّرْ فَإِنَّ الذِّكْرَ تَنْفَعُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And remind, for verily, the reminding profits the believers.) meaning, for only the believing hearts benefit from being reminded.

Allah Only created Mankind and Jinns to worship Him Alone

Allah the Exalted and Most Honored said,

(وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ)

(And I created not the Jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me.) meaning, `I, Allah, only created them so that I order them to worship Me, not that I need them.' `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas commented on the Ayah,

(إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ)

(...except that they should worship Me.) meaning, "So that they worship Me, willingly or unwillingly." Allah the Exalted said,

(مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ يُطْعَمُوا -
إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ)

(I seek not any provision from them nor do I ask that they should feed Me. Verily, Allah is the All-Provider, Owner of power, the Most Strong.) Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said, "The Messenger of Allah taught the following: (الْمَتِينِ الْقُوَّةُ ذُو الرِّزْقِ أَنَا أَنِّي) `Verily, I am the Provider, Owner of power, the Most Strong.' Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i also collected this Hadith. At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih. " The meaning of this Ayah (51:56) is that, Allah the Exalted, the Blessed created the creatures so that they worship Him Alone

without partners. Those who obey Him will be rewarded with the best rewards, while those who disobey Him will receive the worst punishment from Him. Allah stated that He does not need creatures, but rather, they are in need of Him in all conditions. He is alone their Creator and Provider. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ تَفَرَّغْ لِعِبَادَتِي أَمْلَأُ صَدْرَكَ غِنًى وَأَسُدَّ فَقْرَكَ، وَإِلَّا تَفْعَلْ، مَلَأْتُ صَدْرَكَ شُغْلًا وَلَمْ أُسُدَّ فَقْرَكَ»

(Allah the Exalted said, "O Son of Adam! Busy yourself in worshipping Me, and I will fill your chest with riches and dissipate your meekness. Otherwise, I will fill your chest with distracting affairs and will not do away with your meekness.") At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah collected this Hadith and At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Gharib." The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(فَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا ذُنُوبًا)

(And verily, for those who do wrong, there is a portion), indicates that they will receive their due share of the torment,

(مِثْلَ ذُنُوبِ أَصْحَابِهِمْ فَلَا يَسْتَعْجِلُونَ)

(like the evil portion (which came for) their likes (of old); so let them not ask Me to hasten on!) let them not ask that the punishment is rushed to them, for it will surely come,

(قَوْلٍ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ يَوْمِهِمُ الَّذِي يُوعَدُونَ)

(Then woe to those who disbelieve from their Day which they have been promised.) meaning, the Day of Resurrection. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Adh-Dhariyat; all praise is due to Allah and all the favors come from Him Alone.

The Tafsir of Surat At-Tur

(Chapter - 52)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Malik narrated that Jubayr bin Mut'im said, "I heard the Prophet reciting Surat At-Tur while praying Maghrib. Surely, I have never heard a more beautiful voice or recitation than his recitation." This Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs using a chain of narration that includes Malik. Al-Bukhari recorded that Umm Salamah said, "I complained of being ill to the Messenger of Allah , and he said,

«طُوفِي مِنْ وَرَاءِ النَّاسِ وَأَنْتِ رَاكِبَةٌ»

(Perform Tawaf (of the Ka`bah) behind the crowd, while you are riding.) So, I performed Tawaf while the Messenger of Allah was praying beside the House, reciting At-Tur."

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالطُّورِ - وَكِتَبٍ مُسْطُورٍ - فِي رَقٍّ مَّنْشُورٍ -
وَالْبَيْتِ الْمَعْمُورِ - وَالسَّفِّ الْمَرْفُوعِ - وَالْبَحْرِ
الْمَسْجُورِ - إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ لَوَاقِعٌ - مَا لَهُ مِنْ
دَافِعٍ - يَوْمَ تَمُورُ السَّمَاءُ مَوْرًا - وَتَسِيرُ الْجِبَالُ
سِيرًا - فَوَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُكَذِّبِينَ - الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي
خَوْضٍ يَلْعَبُونَ - يَوْمَ يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى نَارٍ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً -
هَذِهِ النَّارُ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ - أَفَسِحْرٌ هَذَا أَمْ
أَنْتُمْ لَا تُبْصِرُونَ - اصْلَوْهَا فَاصْبِرُوا أَوْ لَا
تَصْبِرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنَّمَا تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ
تَعْمَلُونَ -)

(1. By the Tur) (2. And the Book inscribed) (3. In parchment unrolled.) (4. And by Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur.) (5. And the roof raised high.) (6. And by the sea that is Masjur.) (7. Verily, the torment of your Lord will surely come to pass.) (8. There is none that can avert it.) (9. On the Day when Tamur the heaven Mawr,) (10. And Tasir the mountains Sayr.) (11. Then woe that Day to those who denied.) (12. Those who were, in their falsehood, playing.) (13. The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing.) (14. This is the Fire which you used to deny.) (15. Is this magic or do you not see) (16. Enter therein and whether you are patient of it or impatient of it, it is all the same. You are only being requited for what you used to do.)

Allah swears that the Coming of Torment is Near

Allah swears by His creation, a testimony to His great ability, that His torment will surely befall His enemies; they will have no way of escaping it. At-Tur is the mount that has trees, similar to the mount where Allah spoke to Musa, while Musa was on it, and the mount on which Allah started the prophethood of `Isa. A mount that does not have trees is called Jabal, not Tur. Allah said,

(وَكِتَابٍ مُّسْطُورٍ)

(And by the Book inscribed), it is said that it means Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz, (the Preserved Table). It is also said that it refers to the divinely revealed inscribed Books that people recite, and this is why Allah said,

(فِي رَقٍّ مَّنْشُورٍ - وَالْبَيْتِ الْمَعْمُورِ)

(In parchment unrolled. And by Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur.) In the Two Sahihs it is confirmed that the Messenger of Allah said in the Hadith about Al-Isra', after ascending to the seventh heaven:

«ثُمَّ رُفِعَ بِي إِلَى الْبَيْتِ الْمَعْمُورِ، وَإِذَا هُوَ يَدْخُلُهُ كُلُّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفًا، لَا يَعُودُونَ إِلَيْهِ آخِرَ مَا عَلَيْهِمْ»

(Then, I was taken to Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur. It is visited every day by seventy thousand angels who will not come back to visit it again.) The angels worship Allah in Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur and perform Tawaf around it just as the people of the earth perform Tawaf around the Ka`bah. Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur is the Ka`bah of those who reside in the seventh heaven. During the Isra' journey, the Prophet saw Ibrahim Al-Khalil, who was reclining with his back on Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur. It was Ibrahim who built the Ka`bah on earth, and surely, the reward is compatible with the action. Al-Bayt Al-Ma`mur is parallel to the Ka`bah; every heaven has its own house of worship, which is also the direction of prayer for its residents. The house that is located in the lower heaven, is called Bayt Al-`Izzah. And Allah knows best. The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(وَالسَّقْفِ الْمَرْفُوعِ)

(And by the roof raised high.) Sufyan Ath-Thawri, Shu`bah, and Abu Al-Ahwas, all narrated from Smak, from Khalid bin `Ar`arah, from `Ali bin Abi Talib:

(وَالسَّقْفِ الْمَرْفُوعِ)

(And by the roof raised high) "Meaning the heaven." Sufyan added, "Then `Ali recited,

(وَجَعَلْنَا السَّمَاءَ سَقْفًا مَّحْفُوظًا وَهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهَا مُعْرِضُونَ)

(And We have made the heaven a roof, safe and well-guarded. Yet they turn away from its signs.)(21:32)" Similar was said by Mujahid, Qatadah, As-Suddi, Ibn Jurayj, Ibn Zayd and preferred by Ibn Jarir. The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(وَالْبَحْرُ الْمَسْجُورُ)

(And by the sea that is Masjur.) The majority say it refers to the oceans of the earth. Masjur, means, the sea will be kindled with fire on the Day of Resurrection just as Allah said in another Ayah,

(وَإِذَا الْبِحَارُ سُجِّرَتْ)

(And when the seas become as blazing fire.)(81:6) i.e., it will be kindled with fire and become a raging fire that surrounds the people in the gathering area, this was reported by Sa'id bin Al-Musayyib from `Ali bin Abi Talib. It was also reported from Ibn `Abbas, and it is the view of Sa'id bin Jubayr, Mujahid, `Abdullah bin `Ubayd bin `Umayr and others. Qatadah said, "Masjur is the `filled sea.'" Ibn Jarir preferred this explanation saying, "The sea is not lit with fire now, so it is filled." Allah's statement;

(إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ لَوَاقِعٌ)

(Verily, the torment of your Lord will surely come to pass.) contains the subject of the vow, indicating that His torment will surely strike the disbelievers, as Allah stated in another Ayah;

(مَّا لَهُ مِنْ دَافِعٍ)

(There is none that can avert it.) indicating that when Allah decides to send the torment upon them, none can prevent it or stop it from striking them. Al-Hafiz Abu Bakr Ibn Abi Ad-Dunya recorded that Ja'far bin Zayd Al-`Abdi said, "One night, in Al-Madinah, `Umar went out investigating the welfare of Muslims and passed by the house of a man who was standing in voluntary prayer. `Umar stood quietly, listening to his recitation; the man was reciting,

(وَالطُّورُ)

(By At-Tur), until he reached the Ayah,

(إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّكَ لَوَاقِعٌ - مَّا لَهُ مِنْ دَافِعٍ)

(Verily, the torment of your Lord surely will come to pass. There is none that can avert it.)
`Umar said, "By the Lord of the Ka`bah, this is a true vow." `Umar dismounted his donkey and sat next to a wall for a while. He then went back to his house and fell ill for a month. During his illness, the people would visit him, not knowing what caused his illness." May Allah be pleased with `Umar.

Describing the Day of Torment, the Day of Resurrection

Allah said;

(يَوْمَ تَمُورُ السَّمَاءُ مَوْرًا)

(On the Day when Tamur the heaven Mawr) Ibn `Abbas and Qatadah said: "Shaking violently." Also from Ibn `Abbas, "Split." Mujahid said: "Spin violently." Ad-Dahhak commented on the Ayah, saying, "The earth will violently spin and move by the command of Allah, and its areas will violently move towards each other." This was preferred by Ibn Jarir, because of the meaning of the word, Mawra, which denotes meanings of spinning and shaking. Allah said,

(وَتَسِيرُ الْجِبَالُ سَيْرًا)

(And Tasir the mountains will Sayr.) will fade away and become scattered particles of dust blown away by the wind,

(قَوْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُكَذِّبِينَ)

(Then woe that Day to those who denied), woe to them that Day as a result of Allah's torment, punishment and affliction that He will direct at them,

(الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي خَوْضٍ يَلْعَبُونَ)

(Those who were in their falsehood, playing.) meaning, they live in this life in falsehood and make the religion the subject of their mockery and jest,

(يَوْمَ يُدْعَوْنَ)

(The Day when they will be pushed down by force) meaning, they will be violently driven and shoved,

(إِلَى نَارٍ جَهَنَّمَ دَعًّا)

(to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing.) Mujahid, Ash-Sha`bi, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi and Ath-Thawri said that this Ayah means, "They will be violently shoved into the Fire." Allah said,

(هَذِهِ النَّارُ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ بِهَا تُكَذِّبُونَ)

(This is the Fire, which you used to deny.) meaning, the angels of punishment will say these words to them, while admonishing and chastising them,

(أَفْسِحْ هَذَا أَمْ أَنْتُمْ لَا تُبْصِرُونَ أَصْلَوْهَا)

(Is this magic or do you not see Enter therein) meaning, enter the Fire, ` which will encircle you from every direction,'

(فَاصْبِرُوا أَوْ لَا تَصْبِرُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(and whether you are patient of it or impatient of it, it is all the same.) `whether you endure its torment and afflictions or not, you will never avert it or be saved from it,'

(إِنَّمَا تُجْزَوْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(You are only being requited for what you used to do.) and surely, Allah is never unjust with anyone. Most certainly, Allah recompenses each according to their deeds.

(إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَعِيمٍ - فَاكِهِينَ بِمَا آتَاهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ وَوَقَهُمُ رَبُّهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ)

(كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ - مُتَكِنِينَ عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَّصْفُوفَةٍ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينِ)

(17. Verily, those who have Taqwa will be in Gardens and Delight.) (18. Enjoying in that which their Lord has bestowed on them, and (the fact that) their Lord saved them from the torment of the blazing Fire.) (19. "Eat and drink with happiness because of what you used to do.") (20. They will recline on thrones Masfufah. And We shall marry them to Hur (fair females) with wide lovely eyes.)

Description of the Destination of the Happy

Allah the Exalted described the destination of the happy ones,

(إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَنَعِيمٍ)

(Verily, those who have Taqwa will be in Gardens and Delight.) in contrast to the torment and punishment of the miserable;

(فَكِهِينَ يَمَآءَاتَهُم رَّبُّهُم)

(Enjoying in that which their Lord has bestowed on them,) meaning, enjoying the various types of delight that Allah has granted them therein, such as various types of foods, drinks, clothes, dwelling places, mounts, and so forth,

(وَوَقَّهْم رَّبُّهُم عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ)

(and (the fact that) their Lord saved them from the torment of the blazing Fire.) He saved them from the torment of the Fire, which is a bounty itself. Added to this blessing is the fact that they were entered into Paradise, which has delights that no eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard, nor has a heart ever imagined. The statement of Allah the Exalted,

(كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

("Eat and drink with happiness because of what you used to do") is similar to another of His statements,

(كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا أَسْلَفْتُمْ فِي الْأَيَّامِ الْخَالِيَةِ)

(Eat and drink at ease for that which you have sent on before you in days past!)(69:24) meaning this is the just reward for your deeds; surely, all this is a favor from Allah and a reward from Him. Allah the Exalted said,

(مُتَّكِنِينَ عَلَى سُرُرٍ مَّصْفُوفَةٍ)

(They will recline (with ease) on thrones Masfufah.) Ath-Thawri reported from Husayn, from Mujahid, from Ibn ` Abbas: "Thrones in howdahs." And the meaning of, (Masfufah) is they will be facing each other,

(عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ)

(Facing one another on thrones.)(37:44) Allah said next,

(وَزَوَّجْنَهُم بِحُورٍ عِينِ)

(And We shall marry them to Hur (fair females) with wide lovely eyes.) We made them righteous spouses, beautiful wives from Al-Hur Al-'Ayn. We mentioned the description of Al-Hur Al-'Ayn in several other places in this Tafsir, and therefore, it is not necessary to repeat their description here.

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلَتْنَاهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِيْنٌ - وَأَمْدَدْنَاهُمْ بِفِكَهَةٍ وَلَحْمٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ - يَتَنَزَّعُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا لَا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأْتِيهِمْ - وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ غِلْمَانٌ لَهُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لُؤْلُؤٌ مَّكْنُونٌ وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلُ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَّنَا عَذَابَ السَّمُومِ إِنَّا كُنَّا مِنْ قَبْلُ نَدْعُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ)

(21. And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, -- to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything. Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned.) (22. And We shall provide them with fruit and meat such as they desire.) (23. There they shall pass from hand to hand a cup, free from any idle talk, and free from sin.) (24. And there will go round boy-servants of theirs, to serve them as if they were preserved pearls.) (25. And some of them draw near to others, questioning.) (26. Saying: "Aforetime, we were afraid in the midst of our families.") (27. "So Allah has been gracious to us, and has saved us from the torment of the Fire.") (28. "Verily, We used to invoke Him before. Verily, He is the Most Subtle, the Most Merciful.")

The Offspring of Righteous Believers will be elevated to Their Grades in Paradise

In this Ayah, Allah the Exalted affirms His favor, generosity, graciousness, compassion and beneficence towards His creation. When the offspring of the righteous believers imitate their parents regarding faith, Allah will elevate the latter to the ranks of the former, even though the latter did not perform deeds as goodly as their parents. Allah will comfort the eyes of the parents by seeing their offspring elevated to their grades. Surely, Allah will gather them together in the best manner, and He will not decrease the reward or the grades of those higher in rank for joining them together, hence His statement,

(أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ)

(to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything.) Ath-Thawri reported that Ibn `Abbas said, "Verily, Allah elevates the ranks of the believers' offspring to rank of their parents, even though the latter have not performed as well as the former, so that the eyes of the parents are comforted." Ibn `Abbas then recited this Ayah,

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ)

(And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, -- to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything.) Ibn Jarir and Ibn Abi Hatim recorded this statement from Sufyan Ath-Thawri from Ibn `Abbas. Ibn Abi Hatim also recorded that Ibn `Abbas commented on Allah's statement,

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ)

(And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, -- to them shall We join their offspring.) saying, "They are the offspring of the believers who died on the faith. If the ranks of their parents are higher than their ranks, they will be joined with their parents. No part of the reward their parents received for their good deeds will be reduced for them." `Abdullah, son of Imam Ahmad, recorded that `Ali said, "Khadijah asked the Prophet about two of her children who died during the time of Jahiliyyah, and the Messenger of Allah said;

«هُمَا فِي النَّارِ»

(They are both in the Fire.) When he saw sadness on her face, he said,

«لَوْ رَأَيْتِ مَكَانَهُمَا لَأَبْغَضْتَهُمَا»

(If you saw their dwelling place, you would hate them.) She said, `O Allah's Messenger! What about my children with you.' He said,

«فِي الْجَنَّةِ»

(They are in Paradise.) The Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَوْلَادَهُمْ فِي الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ
الْمُشْرِكِينَ وَأَوْلَادَهُمْ فِي النَّارِ»

(Verily, the believers and their offspring will dwell in Paradise, while the idolators and their offspring will dwell in the Hellfire.) The Prophet then recited the Ayah,

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ)

(And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith...) "Certainly, it is Allah's grace and favor that He grants the children this blessing because of the good deeds of their parents. He also grants His favor to parents on account of their offspring invoking Allah for them. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَيَرْفَعُ الدَّرَجَةَ لِلْعَبْدِ الصَّالِحِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ
فَيَقُولُ: يَا رَبِّ أُنَى لِي هَذِهِ؟ فَيَقُولُ: بِاسْتِعْفَارٍ
وَلَدِكَ لَكَ»

(Verily, Allah shall elevate the grade of a righteous servant in Paradise, who will ask, "O Lord! How did I earn this" Allah will reply, "Through your son's invoking Me to forgive you.") This Hadith has an authentic chain of narration, but it was not recorded in the Sahih this way. However, there is a witnessing narration for it in Sahih Muslim, from the Hadith of Abu Hurayrah, who said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«إِذَا مَاتَ ابْنُ آدَمَ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ:
صَدَقَةٌ جَارِيَةٍ، أَوْ عِلْمٌ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ، أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ
يَدْعُو لَهُ»

(When the Son of Adam dies, his record of deeds will cease except in three cases: an ongoing charity, knowledge that people are benefiting from and a righteous son who invokes Allah for him.)

Allah is Just with the Sinners

Allah the Exalted said,

(كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ)

(Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned.) After Allah mentioned His favor of elevating the offspring to the ranks of their parents, even though the deeds of the former did not qualify them, He affirmed His fairness in that, He does not punish anyone for the mistakes of others,

(كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ)

(Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned.) Therefore, every person will be responsible for his actions. No sin committed by others shall ever be added to one's load, even if committed by his or her parents or offspring. Allah the Exalted said,

(كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِينَةٌ - إِلَّا أَصْحَابَ
الْيَمِينِ - فِي جَنَّتٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ - عَنِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Every person is a pledge for what he has earned, except those on the Right. In Gardens, they will ask one another about the criminals.)(74:38-41)

Description of the Khamr of Paradise and the Delight of its Dwellers

Allah said,

(وَأَمْدَدْنَاهُمْ بِفِكَهَةٍ وَلَحْمٍ مِّمَّا يَشْتَهُونَ)

(And We shall provide them with fruit and meat such as they desire.) meaning, 'We shall provide them with various types and kinds of fruits and meat, whatever they wish for and desire,'

(يَتَنَزَّعُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا)

(There they shall pass from hand to hand a cup,) meaning, of wine, according to Ad-Dahhak,

(لَا لَعْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأْتِيمٌ)

(free from any Laghw, and free from Ta'thim) meaning, when they drink, they do not say any idle, vain words or utter dirty, sinful speech like the drunken people in this life do. Ibn `Abbas said that Laghw means 'falsehood' while Ta'thim means 'lying'. Mujahid said, "They do not curse each other nor sin." Qatadah said, "These were the consequences of drinking in this life, and Shaytan helped in this regard. Allah purified the wine of the Hereafter from the ills and harm caused by the wine of this life." Therefore, Allah has purified the wine of the Hereafter

from causing headaches, stomachaches and intoxication like the wine of this life. Allah stated that wine of the Hereafter shall not cause those who drink it to utter false, vain words that carry no benefit, full of foolishness and evil. Allah also described the wine of the Hereafter as beautiful in appearance, tasty and fruitful,

(بَيضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ - لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُنْزَفُونَ)

(White, delicious to the drinkers. Neither will they have Ghawl from that nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom.)(37:46-47) and,

(لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا وَلَا يُنْزَفُونَ)

(Wherefrom they will get neither nay aching of the head nor any intoxication.)(56:19) Allah the Exalted said here,

(يَتَنَزَّعُونَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا لَا لَغْوٌ فِيهَا وَلَا تَأْتِيمٌ)

(There they shall pass from hand to hand a (wine) cup, free from any Laghw, and free from sin.) Allah said,

(وَيَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ غِلْمَانٌ لَهُمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لُؤْلُؤٌ مَكْنُونٌ)

(And there will go round boy-servants of theirs to serve them as if they were preserved pearls.) This is a description of the servants and aids, the believers will have in Paradise. Their servants will be beautiful, graceful in appearance, clean and neat as well-preserved pearls,

(يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وِلْدَنٌ مُّخَلَّدُونَ - بِأَكْوَابٍ وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَأْسٍ مِّن مَّعِينٍ)

(Immortal boys will go around them with cups, and jugs, and a glass of flowing wine.)(56:17-18) Allah the Exalted said,

(وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ)

(And some of them draw near to others, questioning.) meaning, the believers will draw near to each other talking and remembering their actions and conditions in this life, just as people in this life talk while drinking, especially when they become intoxicated,

(قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلُ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ)

(Saying: "Aforetime, we were afraid in the midst of our families.") meaning, `in the life of world and in the midst of our families, we were afraid of our Lord and fearful of His torment and punishment,'

(فَمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَّنَا عَذَابَ السَّمُومِ)

(So Allah has been gracious to us, and has saved us from the torment of the Fire.) meaning, `He has granted us a favor and saved us from what we feared,'

(إِنَّا كُنَّا مِنْ قَبْلُ نَدْعُوهُ)

(Verily, We used to invoke Him before.) meaning, `we used to invoke Him with submission and humility, and He accepted our invocation and gave us what we wished,'

(إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ)

(Verily, He is the Most Subtle, the Most Merciful.)

(فَذَكَرْ فَمَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِكَهْنٍ وَلَا مَجْنُونٍ -
أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ تَتْرَبِّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمُنُونِ - قُلْ
تَتْرَبِّصُوا فَإِنِّي مَعَكُمْ مِّنَ الْمُتَرَبِّصِينَ - أَمْ
تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَحْلَمُهُمْ بِهَذَا أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاعُونَ - أَمْ
يَقُولُونَ تَقَوَّلَهُ بَلْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ - فَلْيَأْنُوا بِحَدِيثِ
مِثْلِهِ إِن كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ)

(29. Therefore, remind. By the grace of Allah, you are neither a Kahin nor a madman.) (30. Or do they say: "A poet! We await for him some calamity by time!") (31. Say: "Wait! I am with you among those who wait!") (32. Or do their minds command them this or are they people transgressing all bounds) (33. Or do they say: "He has forged it" Nay! They believe not!) (34. Let them then produce a recitation like unto it if they are truthful.)

Absolving the Prophet of the False Accusations made against Him

Allah the Exalted commands His Messenger to convey His Message to His servants and remind them of His revelation that has been sent down to him. Next, Allah refutes the false accusations that the liars and sinners accused the Prophet of,

(فَذَكِّرْ فَمَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِكَاهِنٍ وَلَا مَجْنُونٍ)

(Therefore, remind. By the grace of Allah, you are neither a Kahin nor a madman.) Allah says, 'by the grace of Allah, you, O Muhammad, are not a Kahin, as the ignorant Quraysh idolators claim.' A Kahin is the soothsayer who receives information from the Jinns that the Jinns are able to eavesdrop on news from heaven,

(وَلَا مَجْنُونٍ)

(nor a madman) whom Shaytan has possessed with insanity. Allah the Exalted said, while chastising the pagans for uttering false statements about the Prophet ,

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ نَّتَرَبَّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمُنُونِ)

(Or do they say: "A poet! We await for him some calamity by time!") They said, 'We await a disaster to strike him, for example, death. We will be patient with him until death comes to him and we, thus, get rid of his bother and from his Message.' Allah the Exalted said,

(قُلْ تَرَبَّصُوا فَإِنِّي مَعَكُمْ مِّنَ الْمُتَرَبِّصِينَ)

(Say: "Wait! I am with you among those who wait!") 'wait and I too will wait with you, and you will come to know to whom the good end and triumph shall be granted in this life and the Hereafter.' Muhammad bin Ishaq reported that 'Abdullah bin Abi Najih said that Mujahid said that Ibn 'Abbas said, "When the Quraysh gathered in the Dar An-Nadwah (their meeting place) to discuss the matter of the Prophet, one of them said, 'Jail him in chains. Then we will wait and in time, a calamity will strike him; he will die just as the poets before him died, such as Zuhayr and An-Nabighah, for he is a poet just like them.' Allah the Exalted said in response to their statement,

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ نَّتَرَبَّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمُنُونِ)

(Or do they say: "A poet! We await for him some calamity by time!")" Allah the Exalted said,

(أَمْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَحْلَمُهُمْ بِهَذَا)

(Or do their minds command them this), 'do their minds command them to tell these lies against you (O Muhammad), even though they know in their hearts that they are untrue and false,'

(أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاغُونَ)

(or are they people transgressing all bounds) `surely, they are misguided, stubborn and unjust people, and this is why they say what they say about you (O Muhammad). ' Allah the Exalted said,

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ تَقَوَّلَهُ)

(Or do they say: "He has forged it") They said, `he has forged this Qur'an and brought it from his own.' Allah the Exalted responded to them,

(بَلْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(Nay! They believe not!), meaning, their disbelief drives them to utter these statements,

(فَلْيَأْتُوا بِحَدِيثٍ مِّثْلِهِ إِنْ كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ)

(Let them then produce a recitation like unto it if they are truthful.) meaning, if they are truthful in their statement that Muhammad has forged this Qur'an and brought it of his own, then let them produce something similar to what he has brought forth, as in this Qur'an! And even if they combine their strength to that of the people of the earth, Jinns and mankind alike, they will never produce something like the Qur'an, or ten Surahs like it, or even one Surah!

(أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ - أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ - أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُسَيْطِرُونَ - أَمْ لَهُمْ سُلَّمٌ يَسْتَمِعُونَ فِيهِ فَلْيَأْتِ مُسْتَمِعُهُمْ بِسُلْطَنٍ مُبِينٍ - أَمْ لَهُ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَكُمُ الْبَنُونَ - أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُمْ مِّنْ مَّعْرَمٍ مُّتَقَلِّوْنَ - أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ - أَمْ يُرِيدُونَ كَيْدًا فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هُمُ الْمَكِيدُونَ - أَمْ لَهُمْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ)

(35. Or were they created by nothing Or were they themselves the creators) (36. Or did they create the heavens and the earth Nay, but they have no firm belief.) (37. Or are with them the treasures of your Lord Or are they the tyrants with the authority to do as they like) (38. Or have they a stairway (to heaven), by means of which they listen Then let their listener produce some manifest proof.) (39. Or has He only daughters and you have sons) (40. Or is it that you ask a wage from them so that they are burdened with a load of debt) (41. Or that the Unseen is with them, and they write it down) (42. Or do they intend a plot But those who disbelieve are themselves plotted against!) (43. Or have they a god other than Allah Glorified be Allah from all that they ascribe as partners.)

Affirming Tawhid and annulling the Plots of the Idolators This is the position where Tawhid of Allah's Lordship and Divinity are affirmed.

Allah the Exalted said,

(أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ)

(Or were they created by nothing Or were they themselves the creators) Allah asks them, were they created without a maker or did they create themselves Neither is true. Allah is the One Who created them and brought them into existence after they were nothing. Al-Bukhari recorded that Jubayr bin Mut`im said, "I heard the Prophet recite Surat At-Tur in Al-Maghrib prayer and when he reached this Ayah,

(أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ - أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ - أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُسَيْطِرُونَ)

(Or were they created by nothing Or were they themselves the creators Or did they create the heavens and the earth Nay, but they have no firm belief. Or are with them the treasures of your Lord Or are they the tyrants with the authority to do as they like), I felt my heart would fly away." This Hadith is collected in the Two Sahihs using various chains of narration. Jubayr bin Mut`im went to the Messenger of Allah after the battle of Badr to ransom the captured idolators. At that time, he was still an idolator. Hearing the Prophet recite this Ayah was one of the reasons that he later embraced Islam. Allah the Exalted said, o

(أَمْ خُلِقُوا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ)

(Or did they create the heavens and the earth Nay, but they have no firm belief.) meaning, Allah is censuring the idolators for their idolatry, while asking them if they created the heavens and earth. They knew that Allah Alone is the Creator without partners with Him. However, they fell into idolatry because they had no firm belief,

(أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمُ الْمُسَيْطِرُونَ)

(Or are with them the treasures of your Lord Or are they the tyrants with the authority to do as they like) meanings, do they have the authority to do whatever they will in His kingdom Do they hold the keys to His treasures in their hands

(أَمْ هُمُ الْمُسَيْطِرُونَ)

(or are they the tyrants with the authority to do as they like) meanings, are they the tyrants who would hold the creation to account Never, Allah the Exalted and Most Honored is the Only King and Owner of the existence and He does what He wills. Allah the Exalted said,

(أَمْ لَهُمْ سُلَّمٌ يَسْتَمِعُونَ فِيهِ)

(Or have they a stairway, by means of which they listen.) meaning, do they have a stairway to heaven (to the place where the angels are),

(فَلْيَأْتِ مُسْتَمِعُهُمْ بِسُلْطَنٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(Then let their listener produce some manifest proof.) meaning, let their listener produce evidence to the truth of their actions and statements. They will never be able to do so and therefore, they have nothing and have no evidence for their stance. Allah admonishes them regarding their claim that He has daughters and that the angels are females! The pagans chose for themselves male offspring and preferred them instead of females, and when one of them would be brought the good news of a daughter being born, his face would turn dark on account of his suppressed anger! Yet, they made the angels Allah's daughters and worshipped them besides Allah,

(أَمْ لَهُ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَكُمْ الْبَنُونَ)

(Or has He only daughters and you have sons) Allah sends a strong warning and stern admonition to them in this Ayah and a sure promise. Allah said,

(أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا)

(Or is it that you ask a wage from them) meaning, 'as a remuneration for your preaching Allah's Message to them Nay, you, do not ask them for a wage,'

(فَهُمْ مِّنْ مَّعْرَمٍ مُّثْقَلُونَ)

(so that they are burdened with a load of debt), meaning, for in this situation, one will complain of the least bothersome thing and feel it difficult and burdensome for him,

(أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ)

(Or that the Unseen is with them, and they write it down) means, they do not have knowledge of the Unseen, for none in the heavens or earth knows the Unseen except Allah,

(أَمْ يُرِيدُونَ كَيْدًا فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هُمُ الْمَكِيدُونَ)

(Or do they intend a plot But those who disbelieve are themselves plotted against!) Allah the Exalted is asking, `Do these people who utter such statements about the Messenger and his religion seek to deceive the people and plot against the Messenger and his Companions If they do, then let them know that their plots will only harm them. Therefore, they are being plotted against rather than being the plotters!'

(أَمْ لَهُمْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ)

(Or have they a god other than Allah Glorified be Allah from all that they ascribe as partners (to Him).) This Ayah contains harsh refutation directed at the idolators for worshipping the idols and calling upon rivals along with Allah. Allah next glorifies His Most Honorable Self from what they ascribe to Him, their lies and idolatry,

(سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ)

(Glorified be Allah from all that they ascribe as partners (to Him).)

(وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كِسْفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ سَاقِطًا يَقُولُوا سَحَابٌ مَّرْكُومٌ - فَذَرَهُمْ حَتَّىٰ يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي فِيهِ يُصْعَقُونَ - يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ - وَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا عَذَابًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ - وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ - وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ وَإِدْبَرَ النُّجُومِ)

(44. And if they were to see a piece of the heaven falling down, they would say: "Clouds gathered in heaps!") (45. So leave them alone till they meet their Day, in which they will sink into a fainting (with horror).) (46. The Day when their plotting shall not avail them at all, nor will they be helped.) (47. And verily, for those who do wrong, there is another punishment before this; but most of them know not.) (48. So wait patiently for the decision of your Lord, for verily, you are under Our Eyes; and glorify the praises of your Lord when you get up.) (49. And in the nighttime also glorify His praises and at the setting of the stars.)

The Stubbornness of the Idolators; Their Punishment

Allah the Exalted reaffirms the stubbornness of the idolators and their ignorance of what goes around them,

(وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كِسْفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ سَاقِطًا)

(And if they were to see a piece of the heaven falling down,) meaning, on them as punishment, they would not believe it is coming their way, saying that, these are layers of clouds on top of each other. Allah the Exalted said in other Ayat,

(وَلَوْ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَظَلُّوا فِيهِ يَعْرُجُونَ - لَقَالُوا إِنَّمَا سُكَّرَتْ أَبْصَارُنَا بَلْ نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ مَّسْحُورُونَ)

(And even if We opened to them a gate from the heaven and they were to keep on ascending thereto (all day long), they would surely say (in the evening): "Our eyes have been dazzled. Nay, we are a people bewitched.") (15:14-15) Allah the Exalted said,

(فَذَرَهُمْ)

(So leave them alone), `O Muhammad,'

(حَتَّى يُلَاقُوا يَوْمَهُمُ الَّذِي فِيهِ يُصْعَقُونَ)

(till they meet their Day, in which they will sink into a fainting.) on the Day of Resurrection,

(يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُمْ كَيْدُهُمْ شَيْئًا)

(The Day when their plotting shall not avail them at all,) meaning, on the Day of Resurrection, their deceit and plots they planned in this life shall not help them in the least,

(وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ)

(nor will they be helped.) Allah the Exalted said,

(وَإِنَّ لِلَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا عَذَابًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ)

(And verily, for those who do wrong, there is another punishment before this;) meaning, that of being the torment in this world. Allah the Exalted said in another Ayah,

(وَلَنُذِيقَنَّهُمْ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَدْنَى دُونَ الْعَذَابِ الْأَكْبَرِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ)

(And verily, We will make them taste of the near torment prior to the supreme torment (in the Hereafter), in order that they may return.)(32:21) Allah said;

(وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(but most of them know not.) meaning, 'We will torment them in the life of the world and test them with various hardships, so that they might go back and repent. However, they do not understand what is happening to them or why, because when the torment is removed, they revert to committing the worst of what they used to do before.' A Hadith states that,

Ordering the Prophet to have Patience and to glorify Allah

Allah the Exalted said,

(وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ فَإِنَّكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا)

(So wait patiently for the decision of your Lord, for verily, you are under Our Eyes;) meaning, 'be patient in the face of their annoyance and do not be concerned about it, for you are under Our Eyes and Protection, and We will surely protect you from the people,'

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord when you get up.) Ad-Dahhak said, "Meaning to stand for the Salah (and say): "Glorious are You and with Your praise, Hallowed be Your Name, Exalted be Your majesty, and there is no God (worthy of worship) except You." In his Sahih, Muslim recorded that `Umar used to recite this supplication when he began Salah. Ahmad and the Sunan compilers recorded this Hadith from Abu Sa`id and other Companions, who stated that the Prophet used to say that. Abu Al-Jawza' commented on the Ayah;

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord when you get up.) "From your sleep, from your bed." And this is the view chosen by Ibn Jarir. Supporting this view is the Hadith that Imam Ahmad recorded that `Ubadah bin As-Samit said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«مَنْ تَعَارَّ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَقَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ. ثُمَّ قَالَ: رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي أَوْ قَالَ: ثُمَّ دَعَا اسْتَجِيبَ لَهُ، فَإِنْ عَزَمَ فِتْوَضاً ثُمَّ صَلَّى، قُبِلَتْ صَلَاتُهُ»

(Whoever gets up at night and says: `La ilaha illallah, He is One without partners. For Him is the kingdom and all praise is due to Him. He has power over all things. Glory be to Allah, and all praise is due to Allah, and La illaha illallah and Allah is Greater. There is neither might nor power except Allah.' And then says, `O Lord! Forgive me.' Or invokes (Allah), he will be responded to it, and if he intends and performs ablution and prays, his prayer will be accepted.) Al-Bukhari and the Sunan compilers also recorded this Hadith. Ibn Abi Najih reported that Mujahid commented on the Ayah,

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord when you get up.) saying, "From every gathering you sit in." Ath-Thawri said that Abu Ishaq narrated that Abu Al-Ahwas said that,

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ)

(and glorify the praises of your Lord when you get up.) "When a person wants to stand from a gathering, he says: `Glory be to You, O Allah, and with Your praise.'" Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Prophet said,

«مَنْ جَلَسَ فِي مَجْلِسٍ فَكَثُرَ فِيهِ لَغَطُهُ، فَقَالَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَقُومَ مِنْ مَجْلِسِهِ: سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ،

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأُثْبِتُ إِلَيْكَ،
إِلَّا غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مَا كَانَ فِي مَجْلِسِهِ ذَلِكَ»

(Whoever sits in a gathering in which he speaks idle excessively, but says before he stands up to depart that gathering, `Glory be to You O Allah , and with Your praise, I testify that there is no God (worthy of worship) except You, I seek Your forgiveness, and I repent to You.' Then Allah will forgive him what he has said in that gathering.) This was recorded by At-Tirmidhi, and this is his wording, and it was also recorded by An-Nasa'i in)` Amal(Al-Yawm wal-Laylah. At-Tirmidhi said, "Hasan Sahih." It was also recorded by Al-Hakim in his Mustadrak, and he said, "Its chain meets the criteria of Muslim." Allah the Exalted said;

(وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَسَبِّحْهُ)

(And in the nighttime also glorify His praises), meaning remember and worship Allah by reciting the Qur'an and praying at night. Allah the Exalted said in another Ayah,

(وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَى أَنْ يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا)

(And in some of the night, offer Tahajjud in it as an additional (prayer) for you. It may be that your Lord will raise you to Maqam Mahmud.)(17:79) Allah said;

(وَإِذْبَرِ النُّجُومَ)

(and at the setting of the stars.) is in reference to the two voluntary Rak`ahs before the Dawn prayer, according to a Hadith from Ibn `Abbas. These two Rak`ahs are an established Sunnah performed before the stars are about to set. It is confirmed in the Two Sahihis from `A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, who said, "The Prophet was never more regular and particular in offering any voluntary prayer than the two (Sunnah) Rak`ahs of the Fajr prayer." In another narration collected by Muslim,)the Prophet said,(

«رَكْعَتَا الْفَجْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا»

(Two (Sunnah) Rak`ahs before Fajr are better than this life and all that in it.)This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat At-Tur, all praise and gratitude is due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat An-Najm

(Chapter - 53)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Al-Bukhari recorded that `Abdullah )bin Mas`ud(said, "Surat An-Najm was the first Surah in which a prostration was revealed. The Prophet (recited it in Makkah) and prostrated. Those who were with him did the same, except an old man who took a handful of soil and prostrated on it. Later on, I saw him killed as a disbeliever; he was Umayyah bin Khalaf." Al-Bukhari recorded this Hadith in several places of his Sahih, as did Muslim, Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i, using various chains of narration through Abu Ishaq from `Abdullah.

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(وَالنَّجْمُ إِذَا هَوَىٰ - مَا ضَلَّ صَاحِبُكُمْ وَمَا غَوَىٰ
- وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ - إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ
يُوحَىٰ)

(1. By the star when it goes down.) (2. Your companion has neither gone astray nor has he erred.) (3. Nor does he speak of desire.) (4. It is only a revelation revealed.)

Allah swears the Messenger is True and His Words are a Revelation from Him

Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Ash-Sha`bi and others stated that the Creator swears by whatever He wills among His creation, but the created only vow by the Creator. Allah said,

(وَالنَّجْمُ إِذَا هَوَىٰ)

(By the star when it goes down.) Ibn Abi Najih reported that Mujahid said, "The star refers to Pleiades when it sets at Fajr." Ad-Dahhak said "When the Shayatin are shot with it." And this Ayah is like Allah's saying;

(فَلَا أَقْسِمُ بِمَوْقِعِ النُّجُومِ - وَإِنَّهُ لَقَسَمٌ لِّوُتَّعْلَمُونَ
عَظِيمٌ - إِنَّهُ لَقُرْءَانٌ كَرِيمٌ - فِي كِتَابٍ مَّكْنُونٍ -
لَّا يَمَسُّهُ إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ - تَنْزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ)

(So, I swear by the setting of the stars. And verily, that is indeed a great oath, if you but know. That is indeed an honorable recitation. In a Book well-guarded. Which none can touch but the pure. A revelation from the Lord of all that exists.)(56:75-80) Allah said;

(مَا ضَلَّ صَاحِبُكُمْ وَمَا غَوَىٰ)

(Your companion has neither gone astray nor has erred.) This contains the subject of the oath. This part of the Ayah is the witness that the Messenger of Allah is sane and a follower of Truth. He is neither led astray, such as in the case of the ignorant who does not proceed on any path with knowledge, nor is he one who erred, such as in the case of the knowledgeable, who knows the Truth, yet deviates from it intentionally to something else. Therefore, Allah exonerated His Messenger and his Message from being similar to the misguided ways of the Christians and the erroneous paths of the Jews, such as knowing the Truth and hiding it, while abiding by falsehood. Rather, he, may Allah's peace and blessings be on him, and his glorious Message that Allah has sent him with, are on the perfect straight path, following guidance and what is correct.

Muhammad was sent as a Mercy for all that exists; He does not speak of His Desire

Allah said,

(وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ)

(Nor does he speak of desire), asserting that nothing the Prophet utters is of his own desire or wish,

(إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ)

(It is only a revelation revealed.), means, he only conveys to the people what he was commanded to convey, in its entirety without additions or deletions. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Umamah said that he heard the Messenger of Allah say,

«لِيَدْخُلَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ بِشِقَاعَةِ رَجُلٍ لَيْسَ بِنَبِيٍّ مِثْلُ الْحَيَّيْنِ أَوْ مِثْلُ أَحَدِ الْحَيَّيْنِ رَبِيعَةَ وَمُضَرَ»

(Verily, numbers similar to the two tribes, or one of them, Rabi`ah and Mudar, will enter Paradise on account of the intercession of one man, who is not a Prophet.) A man asked, "O Allah's Messenger! Is not Rabi`ah a subtribe of Mudar." The Prophet said,

«إِنَّمَا أَقُولُ مَا أَقُولُ»

(I said what I said.) Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr said, "I used to record everything I heard from the Messenger of Allah so it would be preserved. The Quraysh discouraged me from this, saying, `You record everything you hear from the Messenger of Allah , even though he is human and sometimes speaks when he is angry' I stopped recording the Hadiths for a while, but later mentioned what they said to the Messenger of Allah , who said,

«اَكْتُبْ، فَوَ الَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ مَا خَرَجَ مِنِّي إِلَّا
الْحَقَّ»

(Write! By He in Whose Hand is my soul, every word that comes out of me is the Truth.)" Abu Dawud also collected this Hadith.

(عَلَّمَهُ شَدِيدُ الْقُوَى - دُو مِرَّةٍ فَاسْتَوَى - وَهُوَ
بِالْأَفْقِ الْأَعْلَى - ثُمَّ دَنَا فَتَدَلَّى - فَكَانَ قَابَ
قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَى - فَأَوْحَى إِلَى عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَى -
مَا كَذَبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَى - أَفَتُمَرُونَهُ عَلَى مَا
يُرَى - وَلَقَدْ رَءَاهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَى - عِنْدَ سِدْرَةِ
الْمُنْتَهَى - عِنْدَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَى - إِذْ يَغْشَى السِّدْرَةَ
مَا يَغْشَى - مَا زَاغَ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَغَى - لَقَدْ رَأَى
مِنْ ءَايَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى)

(5. He has been taught by one mighty in power.) (6. Dhu Mirrah then he Istawa.) (7. While he was in the highest part of the horizon,) (8. Then he approached and came closer,) (9. And was at a distance of two bows' length or less.) (10. So (Allah) revealed to His servant whatever He revealed.) (11. The heart lied not in what he saw.) (12. Will you then dispute with him about what he saw) (13. And indeed he saw him at a second descent.) (14. Near Sdrat Al-Muntaha.) (15. Near it is the Paradise of Abode.) (16. When that covered the lote tree which did cover it!) (17. The sight turned not aside, nor it transgressed beyond the limit.) (18. Indeed he saw of the greatest Signs of his Lord.)

The Trustworthy Angel brought Allah's Revelation to the Trustworthy Messenger

Allah the Exalted states that the Message His servant and Messenger Muhammad brought to people was taught to him by,

(شَدِيدُ الْقُوَى)

(mighty in power), he is Jibril, peace be upon him,

(إِنَّهُ لَقَوْلُ رَسُولٍ كَرِيمٍ ذِي قُوَّةٍ عِنْدَ ذِي الْعَرْشِ
مَكِينٍ مُطْعٍ تَمَّ أَمِينٍ)

(Verily, this is the Word a most honorable messenger, owner of power, with (Allah) the Lord of the Throne, obeyed (by the angels) and trustworthy.)(81:19-21) Allah said here,

(ذُو مِرَّةٍ)

(Dhu Mirrah), meaning, he is mighty in power, according to Mujahid, Al-Hasan and Ibn Zayd. In an authentic Hadith from `Abdullah bin `Umar and Abu Hurayrah, the Prophet said,

«لَا تَحِلُّ الصَّدَقَةُ لِغَنِيٍّ وَلَا لِذِي مِرَّةٍ سَوِيٍّ»

(Charity is not allowed for a rich person nor Dhu Mirrah (a strong person) of sound mind and body.) Allah said;

(فَاسْتَوَى)

(then he Istawa (rose).) this refers to the angel Jibril, according to Al-Hasan, Mujahid, Qatadah and Ar-Rabi` bin Anas,

(وَهُوَ بِالْأَفْقِ الْأَعْلَى)

(While he was in the highest part of the horizon.) meaning, Jibril rose to the highest part of the horizon, according to `Ikrimah and several others; `Ikrimah said, "The highest horizon where the morning comes from." Mujahid said, "It is (the place of) sunrise." Qatadah said, "That from which the day comes." Ibn Zayd and several others said similarly. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abdullah bin Mas`ud said, "The Messenger of Allah saw Jibril in his original shape having six hundred wings, each wing filling the side of the horizon, with a colorful array, and pearls and rubies falling from each wing as much as only Allah knows." Only Imam Ahmad collected this Hadith. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin `Abbas said, "The Prophet asked Jibril to appear himself to him in his original shape and Jibril said to him, 'Invoke your Lord.' The Prophet invoked his Lord the Exalted and Most Honored, and a great huge figure appeared to him from the east and kept rising and spreading. When the Prophet saw Jibril in his original shape, he was knocked unconscious. Jibril came down and revived the Prophet and wiped the saliva off of his cheeks." Only Ahmad collected this Hadith.

Meaning of "at a distance of two bows' length or less

Allah's statement,

(فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ)

(And was at a distance of two bows' length or less.) means, Jibril came closer to Muhammad when Jibril was descending to him on earth. At that time, the distance between them became only two bow lengths, when the bows are extended to full length, according to Mujahid and Qatadah. It was said that the meaning here is the distance between the bow's string and its wood center. Allah's statement,

(أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ)

(or less) indicates that the distance was as only as far described, not more. This type of usage is found in several instances in the Qur'an, such as,

(ثُمَّ قَسَتْ قُلُوبُكُم مِّن 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) The Ayah says that their hearts became not softer than rocks, but as hard and difficult as rocks, and more. There is a similar Ayah,

(يَخْشَوْنَ النَّاسَ كَخَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ أَوْ أَشَدَّ خَشْيَةً)

(fear men as they fear Allah or even more.)(4:77), and Allah's statement,

(وَأَرْسَلْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ مِائَةِ أَلْفٍ أَوْ يَزِيدُونَ)

(And We sent him to hundred thousand (people) or even more.)(37:147), indicating that they were not less than a hundred thousand, but that amount or more. Therefore, this verifies the facts mentioned, leaving no doubt or means of refute. Similarly, Allah said,

(فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَىٰ)

(And was at a distance of two bow lengths or less.) We stated before that it was Jibril who came down near the Prophet, according to `A'ishah, the Mother of the faithful, `Abdullah bin Mas`ud, Abu Dharr and Abu Hurayrah. We will mention their statements about this soon afterwards, Allah willing. Ibn Jarir recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said about this Ayah,

(فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَى)

(And was at a distance of two bow lengths or less.) "Allah's Messenger said,

«رَأَيْتُ جِبْرِيلَ لَهُ سِتْمِائَةُ جَنَاحِ»

(I saw Jibril; he had six hundred wings.)" Al-Bukhari recorded that Talq bin Ghannam said that Za'idah said that Ash-Shaybani said, "I asked Zirr about the Ayah,

(فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَى - فَأَوْحَى إِلَى عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَى)

(And was at a distance of two bow lengths or less. So (Allah) revealed to His servant whatever He revealed.) Zirr said, "Abdullah narrated to us that Muhammad saw Jibril having six hundred wings." Allah's statement,

(فَأَوْحَى إِلَى عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَى)

(So he revealed to His servant whatever He revealed.) means, Jibril conveyed to Allah's servant Muhammad whatever he conveyed. Or, the meaning here could be: Allah revealed to His servant Muhammad whatever He revealed through Jibril. Both meanings are correct. Sa'id bin Jubayr said about Allah's statement,

(فَأَوْحَى إِلَى عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَى)

(So He revealed to His servant whatever He revealed.) "Allah revealed to him,

(أَلَمْ يَجِدْكَ يَتِيمًا)

(Did He not find you an orphan.)(93:6), and,

(وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ)

(And have We not raised high your fame)(94:4)" Someone else said, "Allah revealed to the Prophet that the Prophets will not enter Paradise until he enters it first, and the nations will not enter it until his Ummah enters it first."

Did the Prophet see His Lord during the Night of Isra

Allah said next,

(مَا كَذَبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَى - أَقْتَمَرُونَهُ عَلَى مَا يَرَى)

(The heart lied not in what he saw. Will you then dispute with him about what he saw) Muslim recorded from Ibn ` Abbas about:

(مَا كَذَبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَى)

(The heart lied not in what he saw), and,

(وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَى)

(And indeed he saw him at a second descent.) "He saw Allah twice in his heart." Smak reported a similar from `Ikrimah from Ibn ` Abbas. Abu Salih, As-Suddi and several others said similarly that the Prophet saw Allah twice in his heart. Masruq said, "I went to `A'ishah and asked her, 'Did Muhammad see his Lord' She said, 'You said something that caused my hair to rise!' I said, 'Behold!' and recited this Ayah,

(لَقَدْ رَأَى مِنْ ءَايَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى)

(Indeed he saw of the greatest signs of his Lord.) She said, 'Where did your mind wander It was Jibril. Whoever says to you that Muhammad saw his Lord, or hid any part of what he was commanded (i.e., Allah's Message), or knew any of the five things which only Allah knows,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ)

(Verily, Allah, with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain...)(31:34), Then he invents a great lie against Allah! The Prophet only saw Jibril twice, in his original shape, once near Sdrat Al-Muntaha and another time in Ajyad (in Makkah) while Jibril had six hundred wings that covered the horizon." Muslim recorded that Abu Dharr said, "I asked the Messenger of Allah, 'Have you seen your Lord' He said,

«نُورٌ أَنَّى أَرَاهُ»

(How can I see Him since there was a light)" In another narration, the Prophet said,

«رَأَيْتُ نُورًا»

(I only saw a light.) Allah's statement,

(وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَى - عِنْدَ سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَى -
عِنْدَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَى)

(And indeed he saw him at a second descent. Near Sidrat Al-Muntaha.) "The Messenger of Allah said,

«رَأَيْتُ جِبْرِيلَ وَلَهُ سِتْمِائَةٌ جَنَاحٍ يَنْتَثِرُ مِنْ
رِيشِهِ التَّهَاقِيلُ مِنَ الدُّرِّ وَالْيَاقُوتِ»

(I saw Jibril while he had six hundred wings and a colorful array of pearls and rubies falling from the feathers of his wings.)" This Hadith has a good, strong chain of narration. Ahmad also recorded that `Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud(said, "The Messenger of Allah saw Jibril in his original shape while Jibril had six hundred wings, each wing covering the side of the horizon. From his wings, precious stones were dropping of which only Allah has knowledge." This Hadith has a good chain of narration. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said, "The Messenger of Allah said,

«رَأَيْتُ جِبْرِيلَ عَلَى سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْتَهَى وَلَهُ سِتْمِائَةٌ
جَنَاحِ»

(I saw Jibril over Sidrat Al-Muntaha while he had six hundred wings.)" One of the subnarrators of the Hadith asked `Asim about Jibril's wings and `Asim refused to elaborate. So some of his companions were asked and one of them said, "Each wing was covering what is between the east and the west." This Hadith has a good chain of narration. Imam Ahmad recorded that Ibn Mas`ud said that Allah's Messenger said:

«أَتَانِي جِبْرِيلُ فِي خُضْرٍ مُعَلَّقٍ بِهِ الدُّرُّ»

(Jibril came to me wearing green with pearls hanging down.) This Hadith has a good chain of narration. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Amir said that Masruq asked `A'ishah, "O Mother of the faithful, has Muhammad seen his Lord, the Exalted and Most Honored" She said, "Glorious is Allah! My hair is standing on end because of what you said. Three matters, if one tells you about any of them, will have lied. Whoever tells you that Muhammad has seen his Lord, will have lied." She then recited these two Ayat,

(لَا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ)

(No vision can grasp Him, but He grasps all vision.)(6:103), and,

(وَمَا كَانَ لِبَشَرٍ أَنْ يُكَلِّمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِنْ
وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ)

(It is not given to any human being that Allah should speak to him unless (it be) by revelation, or from behind a veil.)(42:51) She went one, "And whoever tells you that Muhammad knew what the morrow will bring, will have uttered a lie." She then recited,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ
مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ)

(Verily, Allah, with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain, and knows that which is in the wombs.)(31:34) `A'ishah said, "And whoever tells you that Muhammad has hidden any part of the Message will have lied," and she then recited this Ayah,

(يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ)

(O Messenger proclaim which has been sent down to you from your Lord.)(5:67).She went one, "However, he saw Jibril twice in his original shape." Imam Ahmad also recorded that Masruq said, "I asked `A'ishah, `Did not Allah say,

(وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ بِالْأَفْقِ الْمُبِينِ)

(And indeed he saw him in the clear horizon.)(81:23), and,

(وَلَقَدْ رَآهُ نَزْلَةً أُخْرَى)

(And indeed he saw him at a second descent)' She said, `I was the first among this Ummah to ask Allah's Messenger about it. He said,

«إِنَّمَا ذَاكَ جِبْرِيلُ»

(That was Jibril.) He only saw him twice in his actual and real figure. He saw Jibril descend from heaven to earth and was so huge that he covered the whole horizon between the sky and earth.)" This Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs via Ash-Sha` bi.

Angels, Light and colors covered Sidrat Al-Muntaha

Allah said,

(إِذْ يَغْشَى السَّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَى)

(When that covered the lote tree which did cover it!) We mentioned before, in the Hadiths about Al-Isra' that the angels, Allah's Light, and spectacular colors covered the Sdrah. Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas'ud said, "When the Messenger of Allah was taken on the Isra' journey, he ascended to Sdrah Al-Muntaha, which is in the seventh heaven. There everything terminates that ascends from the earth and is held there, and terminates everything that descends from above it is held there,

(إِذْ يَغْشَى السَّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَى)

(When that covered the lote tree which did cover it!) He said, "Golden butterflies. The Messenger of Allah was given three things: He was given the five prayers, he was given the concluding verses of Surat Al-Baqarah (2:284-286), and remission of serious sins for those among his Ummah who do not associate anything with Allah." Muslim collected this Hadith. Allah's statement,

(مَا زَاغَ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَغَى)

(The sight turned not aside, nor it transgressed beyond the limit.) indicates that the Prophet's sight did not turn right or left, according to `Ibn `Abbas,

(وَمَا طَغَى)

(nor it transgressed beyond the limit.) not exceeding what has been ordained for it. This is a tremendous quality that demonstrates the Prophet's firm obedience to Allah, because he only did what was commanded and did not ask beyond what he was given. Allah's statement,

(لَقَدْ رَأَى مِنْ ءَايَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى)

(Indeed he saw of the greatest signs of his Lord.) is similar to another Ayah,

(لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ ءَايَاتِنَا)

(In order that We might show him of Our Ayat.)(17:1), meaning, signs that testify to Allah's might and greatness. Relying on these two Ayat, some scholars of Ahl us-Sunnah said that the Prophet did not see Allah during the Isra' journey, because Allah said,

(لَقَدْ رَأَى مِنْ ءَايَاتِ رَبِّهِ الْكُبْرَى)

(Indeed he saw of the greatest signs of his Lord.) They said that, had the Prophet seen his Lord, Allah would have conveyed this news and the Prophet would have narrated it to the people.

(أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ وَالْعُزَّىٰ - وَمَنَاةَ الثَّالِثَةَ الْأُخْرَىٰ -
 أَلَكُمُ الذَّكَرُ وَلَهُ الْأُنثَىٰ - تِلْكَ إِذًا قِسْمَةٌ ضِيزَىٰ
 - إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَءَابَاؤُكُمْ مَّا
 أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ
 وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأُنفُسُ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ الْهُدَىٰ
 - أَمْ لِلإِنسَانِ مَا تَمَنَّى - فَلِلَّهِ الْآخِرَةُ وَالْأُولَىٰ -
 وَكَمْ مِّن مَّلَكٍ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ لَا تُغْنِي شَفَعَتُهُمْ
 شَيْئًا إِلَّا مِّن بَعْدِ أَنْ يَأْذِنَ اللَّهُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَرْضَىٰ
)

(19. Have you then considered Al-Lat, and Al-`Uzza.) (20. And Manat, the other third) (21. Is it for you the males and for Him the females) (22. That indeed is a division most unfair!) (23. They are but names which you have named - you and your fathers - for which Allah has sent down no authority. They follow but a guess and that which they themselves desire, whereas there has surely come to them the guidance from their Lord!) (24. Or shall man have what he wishes) (25. But to Allah belongs the last (Hereafter) and the first (the world).) (26. And there are many angels in the heavens, whose intercession will avail nothing, except after Allah has given leave for whom He wills and is pleased with.)

Refuting Idolatry, Al-Lat and Al-`Uzza

Allah the Exalted rebukes the idolators for worshipping idols and taking rivals to Him. They built houses for their idols to resemble the Ka`bah built by Prophet Ibrahim, Allah's Khalil.

(أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ)

(Have you then considered Al-Lat,) Al-Lat was a white stone with inscriptions on. There was a house built around Al-Lat in At-Ta'if with curtains, servants and a sacred courtyard around it. The people of At-Ta'if, the tribe of Thaqif and their allies, worshipped Al-Lat. They would boast to Arabs, except the Quraysh, that they had Al-Lat. Ibn Jarir said, "They derived Al-Lat's name from Allah's Name, and made it feminine. Allah is far removed from what they ascribe to Him. It was reported that Al-Lat is pronounced Al-Lat because, according to `Abdullah bin `Abbas, Mujahid, and Ar-Rabi` bin Anas, Al-Lat was a man who used to mix Sawiq (a kind of barley mash) with water for the pilgrims during the time of Jahiliyyah. When he died, they remained

next to his grave and worshipped him." Al-Bukhari recorded that Ibn `Abbas said about Allah's statement,

(الَّتِ وَالْعُزَّى)

(Al-Lat, and Al-`Uzza.) "Al-Lat was a man who used to mix Sawiq for the pilgrims." Ibn Jarir said, "They also derived the name for their idol Al-`Uzza from Allah's Name Al-`Aziz. Al-`Uzza was a tree on which the idolators placed a monument and curtains, in the area of Nakhlah, between Makkah and At-Ta'if. The Quraysh revered Al-`Uzza." During the battle of Uhud, Abu Sufyan said, "We have Al-`Uzza, but you do not have Al-`Uzza." Allah's Messenger replied,

«قُولُوا: اللَّهُ مَوْلَانَا وَلَا مَوْلَى لَكُمْ»

(Say, "Allah is Our Supporter, but you have no support.") Manat was another idol in the area of Mushallal near Qudayd, between Makkah and Al-Madinah. The tribes of Khuza'ah, Aws and Khazraj used to revere Manat during the time of Jahiliyyah. They used to announce Hajj to the Ka`bah from next to Manat. Al-Bukhari collected a statement from `Aishah with this meaning. There were other idols in the Arabian Peninsula that the Arabs revered just as they revered the Ka`bah, besides the three idols that Allah mentioned in His Glorious Book. Allah mentioned these three here because they were more famous than the others. An-Nasa'i recorded that Abu At-Tufayl said, "When the Messenger of Allah conquered Makkah, he sent Khalid bin Al-Walid to the area of Nakhlah where the idol of Al-`Uzza was erected on three trees of a forest. Khalid cut the three trees and approached the house built around it and destroyed it. When he went back to the Prophet and informed him of the story, the Prophet said to him,

«ارْجِعْ فَإِنَّكَ لَمْ تَصْنَعْ شَيْئًا»

(Go back and finish your mission, for you have not finished it.) Khalid went back and when the custodians who were also its servants of Al-`Uzza saw him, they started invoking by calling Al-`Uzza! When Khalid approached it, he found a naked woman whose hair was untidy and who was throwing sand on her head. Khalid killed her with the sword and went back to the Messenger of Allah, who said to him,

«تِلْكَ الْعُزَّى»

(That was Al-`Uzza!)" Muhammad bin Ishaq narrated, "Al-Lat belonged to the tribe of Tha'qif in the area of At-Ta'if. Banu Mu`attib were the custodians of Al-Lat and its servants." I say that the Prophet sent Al-Mughirah bin Shu'bah and Abu Sufyan Sakhr bin Harb to destroy Al-Lat. They carried out the Prophet's command and built a Masjid in its place in the city of At-Ta'if. Muhammad bin Ishaq said that Manat used to be the idol of the Aws and Khazraj tribes and those who followed their religion in Yathrib (Al-Madinah). Manat was near the coast, close to the area of Mushallal in Qudayd. The Prophet sent Abu Sufyan Sakhr bin Harb or `Ali bin Abi Talib to demolish it. Ibn Ishaq said that Dhul-Khalasah was the idol of the tribes of Daws, Khath'am and Bajilah, and the Arabs who resided in the area of Tabalah. I say that Dhul-Khalasah was called the Southern Ka`bah, and the Ka`bah in Makkah was called the Northern Ka`bah. The Messenger of Allah sent Jarir bin `Abdullah Al-Bajali to Dhul-Khalasah and he destroyed it. Ibn Ishaq said that Fals was the idol of Tay' and the neighboring tribes in the Mount of Tay', such as Salma and Ajja. Ibn Hisham said that some scholars of knowledge told him that the Messenger of Allah sent `Ali bin Abi Talib to Fals and he destroyed it and found

two swords in its treasure, which the Prophet then gave to `Ali as war spoils. Muhammad bin Ishaq also said that the tribes of Himyar, and Yemen in general, had a house of worship in San`a' called Riyam. He mentioned that there was a black dog in it and that the religious men who went with Tubba` removed it, killed it and demolished the building. Ibn Ishaq said that Ruda' was a structure of Bani Rabi`ah bin Ka`b bin Sa`d bin Zayd Manat bin Tamim, which Al-Mustawghir bin Rabi`ah bin Ka`b bin Sa`d demolished after Islam. In Sindad there was Dhul-Ka`bat, the idol of the tribes of Bakr and Taghlib, the sons of the Wa'il, and also the Iyad tribes.

Refuting the Idolators Who appoint Rivals to Allah and claim that the Angels were Females

Allah the Exalted said,

(أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ وَالْعُزَّىٰ - وَمَنَاةَ الثَّالِثَةَ الْأُخْرَىٰ)
(

(Have you then considered Al-Lat, and Al-`Uzza. And Manat, the other third), then Allah said,

(أَلَكُمُ الذَّكَرُ وَلَهُ الْأُنثَىٰ)

(Is it for you the males and for Him the females) Allah asked the idolators, `do you choose female offspring for Allah and give preference to yourselves with the males If you made this division between yourselves and the created, it would be,

(قِسْمَةٌ ضِيزَىٰ)

(a division most unfair!)' meaning, it would be an unfair and unjust division. `How is it then that you make this division between you and Allah, even though this would be foolish and unjust, if you made it between yourselves and others' Allah the Exalted refutes such innovated lies, falsehood and atheism they invented through worshipping the idols and calling them gods,

(إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَءَابَاؤُكُمْ)

(They are but names which you have named -- you and your fathers) of your own desire,

(مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ)

(for which Allah has sent down no authority.) meaning, proof,

(إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَمَا تَهْوَى الْأَنْفُسُ)