

19. MARY (*MARYAM*)

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

¹ *Kaf Ha Ya 'Ayn Sad*

² This is an account of your Lord's mercy bestowed upon His servant Zachariah, ³ when he called upon his Lord in low tones, saying, ⁴ 'Lord, my bones have weakened and my head has turned hoary with age, but never, Lord, have I been disappointed in my prayer to you: ⁵ now I fear my kinsmen when I am gone. [I have no hope of their continuing my mission] for my wife is barren, so grant me a successor from Yourself, ⁶ to be my heir and to be the heir [of the blessings] of the House of Jacob; and make him, O my Lord, acceptable to you.'

⁷ 'Zachariah, We bring you good news of a son whose name shall be John. We have not given such a name to anyone before.'⁸ 'My Lord!' [said Zachariah], 'How shall I have a son when my wife is barren and I have reached such extreme old age?'

⁹ He said, 'It will be so! Your Lord says, "It is easy for Me for I created you when you were nothing before."' ¹⁰ He said, 'My Lord, grant me a sign!' He said, 'Your sign will be that you will not speak to anyone for three successive days and nights, although

sound in body.’¹¹ Then Zachariah came forth from the shrine to his people and told them by signs to glorify the Lord morning and evening.

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

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

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

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

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

²⁹ She pointed to the child. They said, ‘How shall we talk to someone who is a child in the cradle?’ ³⁰ [But] he said, ‘I am God’s servant. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet; ³¹ He has made me blessed wherever I may be, and has enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving throughout my life. ³² He has made me dutiful toward my mother, and He has not made me arrogant or wicked. ³³ Blessed was I on the day I was born, and blessed I shall be on the day I die and on the day I am raised to life again.’

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

³⁶ God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him alone. That is the right path. ³⁷ Yet different groups

differed among themselves. How awful it will be for those who have rejected the truth when a dreadful Day arrives! ³⁸ How sharp of hearing, how sharp of sight they will be when they come to Us. But today, these evil-doers are obviously lost in error.

³⁹ Warn them of [the coming of] the Day of Remorse, when everything will have been decided, while they are heedless and do not believe. ⁴⁰ It is We who will inherit the earth and all who dwell upon it: they shall all return to Us.

⁴¹ Also recount the story of Abraham in the Book. He was a man of truth, and a prophet. ⁴² He said to his father, ‘Why do you worship something that can neither hear nor see nor benefit you in any way?’ ⁴³ Father, I have been given some knowledge which has not come to you, so follow me: I shall guide you along a straight path. ⁴⁴ Father! Do not worship Satan—for, truly, Satan is a rebel against the Most Gracious One! ⁴⁵ Father, indeed I fear lest a punishment from the Gracious One afflict you, and you become a friend of Satan.’

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

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

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

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

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

⁵⁸ These are the ones whom God has favoured: the prophets from among the descendants of Adam and of those whom We carried in the Ark with Noah; the descendants of Abraham, of Israel, and of those whom We have guided and chosen. For when the revelations of the Merciful were recited to them, they fell down, prostrating themselves and weeping.

⁵⁹ But then they were succeeded by generations who neglected their prayers and were driven by their own

desires. They will assuredly meet with destruction,⁶⁰ except for those who repent and believe and do good deeds. These will enter Heaven, and they will not be wronged in the least.

⁶¹ Theirs shall be the Gardens of Eden, which the All Merciful has promised to His servants without their having seen them, and most surely His promise shall be fulfilled.⁶² They will not hear therein anything vain, only greetings of peace. They will receive their provision there morning and evening.⁶³ That is the Garden which We will grant to those of Our servants who have been God-fearing.

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

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

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

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

⁷³ When Our clear revelations are recited to them, those who deny the truth say to the faithful, ‘Which of the two sides is better in respect of position and makes a more impressive assembly?’ ⁷⁴ We have destroyed so many generations before them, who surpassed them in material power and splendour.

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

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

⁷⁷ Have you seen him who denies the truth in Our revelations and says, ‘I shall certainly be given wealth and children.’ ⁷⁸ Has he looked to the unseen, or has he made a pledge to the Merciful One? ⁷⁹ Indeed not. We shall record what he says and shall prolong the punishment for him. ⁸⁰ We shall inherit all that he boasts of, and he will come to Us all alone. ⁸¹ They have taken other deities besides God, so that they may be a source of strength for them. ⁸² But they shall reject their worship and turn against them.

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

⁸⁸ They say, ‘The Gracious One has begotten a son.’ ⁸⁹ Assuredly, you have uttered a monstrous falsehood: ⁹⁰ the heavens might well-nigh burst thereat, and the earth break asunder, and the mountains fall down in pieces, ⁹¹ because they ascribe a son to the Gracious One. ⁹² It does not become the majesty of the Compassionate God to take to Himself a son: ⁹³ there is none in the heavens or on the earth but shall return to the Merciful in utter submission—⁹⁴ He has counted them and numbered them precisely—⁹⁵ each one of them shall come to Him one by one on the Day of Judgement. ⁹⁶ The Lord of Mercy will bestow affection upon those who believe and perform righteous deeds.

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

20. *TA HA*

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

¹ *Ta Ha*

² We have not sent the Quran down to you to distress you, ³ but only as an exhortation for him who fears God; ⁴ it is a revelation from Him who has created the earth and the high heavens, ⁵ the All Merciful settled on the throne. ⁶ To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth, and whatever lies in between them, and all that lies under the ground.

⁷ Whether you speak aloud [or in a low voice], He hears all, for He knows your secrets and what is even more hidden. ⁸ God, there is no deity but Him. His are the most excellent names.

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

¹¹ When he came close to it, a voice called out, ‘Moses, ¹² I am your Lord! Take off your sandals, for you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa. ¹³ I have chosen you. So listen to what is being revealed. ¹⁴ I am God. There is no deity save Me; so worship Me alone, and

say your prayers in My remembrance. ¹⁵ The Hour is coming. But I choose to keep it hidden, so that every human being may be recompensed in accordance with his labours. ¹⁶ Do not let anyone who does not believe in it and follows his own desires turn you away from it and so bring you to ruin.’

¹⁷ ‘What do you have in your right hand, Moses?’ ¹⁸ He replied, ‘It is my staff. I lean on it, and with it, I beat down the leaves for my flock; I also have other uses for it.’ ¹⁹ God said, ‘Moses, cast it down.’ ²⁰ So he threw it down, and all of a sudden, it turned into a fast-moving serpent. ²¹ God said, ‘Take hold of it, and have no fear: We shall return it to its former state. ²² Put your hand under your armpit: it will come out [shining] white, without any blemish. This shall be another sign.’ ²³ We shall show you some of Our greatest signs. ²⁴ Go to Pharaoh; he has transgressed all bounds.’

²⁵ Moses said, ‘My Lord! open up my heart, ²⁶ and make my task easy for me. ²⁷ Loosen the knot in my tongue, ²⁸ so that they may understand my speech,

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

²⁹ and appoint for me a helper from among my family,
³⁰ Aaron, my brother. ³¹ Strengthen me through him,
³² and let him share my task, ³³ so that we may glorify
You much ³⁴ and remember You much: ³⁵ You are
surely watching over us.’ ³⁶ God said, ‘You have been
granted your request, Moses.

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

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

⁴⁵ They both said, ‘Our Lord, We fear that he may
commit some excess against us, or exceed all bounds
in transgression.’ ⁴⁶ God said, ‘Do not fear; I am with

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

⁴⁹ Pharaoh said, ‘Who then is the Lord of you both, Moses?’ ⁵⁰ Moses replied, ‘Our Lord is He who has given everything its form, then guided it.’ ⁵¹ Pharaoh asked, ‘What about the previous generations?’ ⁵² Moses said, ‘My Lord alone has knowledge of that, recorded in a Book. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.’

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

⁵⁶ We showed Pharaoh all Our signs but he rejected them and refused to believe in them. ⁵⁷ He said, ‘Have

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

you come to us to turn us out of our land by means of your magic, Moses? ⁵⁸ We will certainly bring you magic to match it. So appoint a time between us and you, in an open space, which neither we nor you will fail to keep.’

⁵⁹ Moses said, ‘The day of the encounter will be the day of the festival, and let the people assemble when the sun has risen high.’ ⁶⁰ So Pharaoh withdrew, devised his stratagem and returned. ⁶¹ Moses said to them, ‘Woe to you! Do not invent lies against God, lest He destroy you by some calamity: whoever invents lies is bound to fail.’

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

⁶⁵ They said, ‘Moses, will you throw down first, or shall we be the first to throw down?’ ⁶⁶ Moses said, ‘You throw down first.’ Suddenly their ropes and staffs appeared to him, by their magic, to be moving about rapidly, ⁶⁷ and in his heart Moses became apprehensive, ⁶⁸ but We said, ‘Do not be afraid. It is you who shall prevail.’ ⁶⁹ Throw down that [staff] which is in your right hand—it shall swallow up what they have wrought, for what they have wrought is only

a magician's trick. A magician shall never thrive, come whence he may.⁷⁰ The magicians then prostrated themselves. They said, 'We believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses.'

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

⁷² They said, 'Never shall we prefer you to all the evidence of the truth that has come to us. Nor to Him who has brought us into being. So decide whatever you will. Your jurisdiction only covers the life of this world—⁷³ we have believed in our Lord so that He may forgive us our sins and forgive us the sorcery that you have forced us to practice. God is the best and the most abiding.'

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

⁷⁷ We sent a revelation to Moses saying, 'Take away My servants by night and strike for them a dry path through the sea. Have no fear of being overtaken and

do not be afraid.’ ⁷⁸ Pharaoh pursued them with his hosts, but they were submerged by the sea, which was destined to overwhelm them. ⁷⁹ For Pharaoh had led his people astray and did not guide them.

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

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

⁸⁶ Moses returned to his people in anger and great sorrow. He said, ‘My people, did your Lord not make you a handsome promise? Was my absence too long for you? Did you desire that your Lord’s wrath should descend upon you, when you broke your promise to me?’

⁸⁷ They answered, ‘We did not break our promise to you of our own accord, but we had to carry loads of

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

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

⁹² Moses said to Aaron, 'What prevented you, when you saw that they had gone astray,⁹³ from following me? Why did you disobey my command?'⁹⁴ Aaron said, 'Son of my mother! Do not seize me by my beard nor by my head. I was afraid that you would say, "You have caused dissension among the Children of Israel and did not pay heed to my words."'

⁹⁵ Moses said, 'What was the matter with you, Samiri?'⁹⁶ He said, 'I perceived what they did not see. So I took a handful [of dust] from the footprint of the Messenger and threw it in [the calf]. That is what my inner self prompted me to do.'⁹⁷ Moses said, 'Begone! It shall be your lot to say throughout your life, "Do not touch me," and you will be faced with a fate from which there will be no escape. Now look at your deity to which you have become so devoted: we shall burn

it up, and then scatter it into the sea. ⁹⁸ Your only deity is God, there is no deity but Him. His knowledge encompasses all things.’

⁹⁹ Thus We relate to you the history of past events, and We have given you a reminder [the Quran] from Us. ¹⁰⁰ Whoever turns away from it will bear a heavy burden on the Day of Judgement, ¹⁰¹ which they shall bear forever. It will be a grievous burden for them on the Day of Judgement, ¹⁰² the Day when the trumpet shall be blown: We shall gather all the sinners on that Day. Their eyes will turn blue with terror ¹⁰³ and they shall murmur to one another, ‘You stayed only ten days on the earth’—¹⁰⁴ We know best what they will say. The most perceptive of them will say, ‘You stayed only one day.’

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

¹⁰⁹ On that Day no intercession will avail, except from one who has received the sanction of the Merciful and of whose words He approves—¹¹⁰ He knows what is before them and what is behind them, but they cannot encompass Him with their knowledge—¹¹¹ on that Day all faces shall be humbled

before the Living, Self-Subsisting One. Those burdened with evil deeds will come to grief,¹¹² but he who does good works, being a believer, shall fear no harm nor any injustice.’

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

¹¹⁵ We made a covenant with Adam before you, but he forgot, and We found him lacking in constancy.

¹¹⁶ When We said to the angels, ‘Prostrate yourselves before Adam,’ they all prostrated themselves, except for Satan, who refused,¹¹⁷ We said, ‘Adam, [Satan] is an enemy to you and to your wife. Let him not turn you both out of Paradise and thus make you come to grief.

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

¹²³ God said, ‘Go down, both of you, from here, as

enemies to one another.’ If there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My guidance will not lose his way, nor will he come to grief,¹²⁴ but whoever turns away from My reminder, will lead a straitened existence and on the Day of Judgement We shall raise him up blind¹²⁵ and he will ask, ‘Lord, why have You raised me up blind, while I possessed sight before?’¹²⁶ God will say, ‘Just as Our signs came to you and you ignored them, so will you on this Day be ignored.’¹²⁷ Thus We shall reward the transgressor who denies the signs of his Lord. But the suffering of the life to come is more terrible and more lasting.

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

¹³¹ Do not regard with envy the worldly benefits We have given some of them, for with these We seek only to test them. The provision of your Lord is better and more lasting.¹³² Bid your people say their prayers, and be constant in their observance. We demand

nothing from you. It is We who provide for you, and the best end is that of righteousness.

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

21. THE PROPHETS (*AL-ANBIYA*)

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

¹ The time of reckoning has drawn near for mankind, yet they are heedless and turn away. ² Whenever any fresh admonition comes to them from their Lord, they listen to it, but do not take it seriously; ³ their hearts are distracted and forgetful. The wrongdoers confer together secretly, saying, ‘Is not this man a mortal like you? Will you succumb to magic with your eyes open?’ ⁴ Say, ‘My Lord knows every word spoken in the heavens and on the earth. He is All Hearing, All Knowing.’

⁵ Some say, 'These are his confused dreams.' Others say, 'He has invented it himself,' and yet others say, 'He is a poet. Let him bring us a sign as previous messengers did.' ⁶ Before them, not one of the communities which We destroyed believed either. Will these believe?

⁷ The messengers We sent before you were but men whom We had sent revelations. Ask the People of the Book if you do not know this—⁸ We did not give them bodies that needed no food, nor were they to live forever. ⁹ Then We fulfilled Our promise to them and We saved them and those with them whom We pleased, and We destroyed those who exceeded all bounds.

¹⁰ We have revealed a Book to you which is admonition for you. Will you not then understand? ¹¹ How many communities of evil-doers We have destroyed, raising up other people after them. ¹² When they felt Our punishment coming upon them, they began to flee from it. ¹³ They were told, 'Do not try to flee, but return to the comfort and luxuries in which you exulted and to the places where you lived, so that you may be questioned.' ¹⁴ They said, 'Woe to us! We were indeed wrongdoers,' ¹⁵ and this they kept repeating until We caused them to become like a field mowed down, and reduced to ashes.

¹⁶ It was not in play that We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. ¹⁷ Had We

wished to find a pastime, We would surely have found it in that which is with Us, if such had been Our will. ¹⁸ We will hurl the truth at falsehood, the falsehood shall be crushed and will disappear. Woe to you for what you utter.

¹⁹ To Him belongs whosoever is in the heavens and on the earth and those that are with Him are never too proud to worship Him, nor do they grow weary; ²⁰ they glorify Him night and day without tiring.

²¹ Have they taken deities from the earth who can bring the dead to life? ²² If there had been in the heavens and on the earth, other deities besides God, both the heavens and earth would be ruined. God, Lord of the throne, is far above that which they ascribe to Him. ²³ None shall question Him about His works, but they shall be questioned.

²⁴ Have they taken other deities besides Him? Say to them, ‘Bring your proofs. This is the reminder of those who are with me and the reminder of those who were before me.’ But most of them do not know the truth, and so they turn away from it. ²⁵ We sent all messengers before you with this revelation: ‘There is no deity save Me, so worship Me alone.’

²⁶ They say, ‘The All Merciful has taken a son!’ Glory be to Him! They are only His honoured servants: ²⁷ they do not try to speak ahead of Him, and they act at His command. ²⁸ He knows what is before them and what is behind them, and they cannot

intercede without His permission. Indeed they themselves stand in awe of Him. ²⁹ Whoever of them should say, 'I am a deity besides Him,' shall be requited with Hell. Thus do We reward the wrongdoers.

³⁰ Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder? And that We have made every living thing out of water? Will they still not believe?

³¹ We set firm mountains upon the earth lest it should sway under them, and We placed therein passages for paths so that they might find their way.

³² We have made the heaven a well-secured canopy; yet still they turn away from Our signs. ³³ It is He who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon, each gliding in its orbit.

³⁴ We have not granted everlasting life to any human being before you; then if you [Muhammad] should die, will they live forever? ³⁵ Every soul shall taste death; We test you with both good and evil [circumstances] as a trial. To Us you shall return.

³⁶ When those who deny the truth see you, they laugh at you, saying, 'Is this the one who talks of your deities?' Yet it is they who deny all mention of the Gracious One.

³⁷ Man is a creature of haste. Soon I will show you My signs, but do not ask Me to hasten them. ³⁸ They ask, 'When will this promise be fulfilled, if what you say be true?' ³⁹ If only those who deny the truth knew

the time when they would not be able to ward off the fire neither from their faces nor from their backs. They will not be helped! ⁴⁰ Indeed, it will come upon them suddenly and confound them; and they will not be able to ward it off, nor shall they be reprieved. ⁴¹ Other messengers have been mocked before you, but those who scoffed were overwhelmed by the very thing they had mocked.

⁴² Say, ‘Who will save you from the wrath of the Most Gracious, by night and by day?’ Yet they turn away from the remembrance of their Lord. ⁴³ Do they have other deities who can defend them against Us? They cannot even help themselves, neither can they be aided against Us.

⁴⁴ Yet We bestowed the good things [of life] upon their fathers for a great length of time. But do they not see how We are shrinking their borders? Is it they who will prevail?

⁴⁵ Say, ‘I warn you only through the Revelation.’ But the deaf can hear nothing when they are warned, ⁴⁶ yet if even a breath of your Lord’s punishment touched them, they would say, ‘Woe to us! We were indeed wrongdoers.’

⁴⁷ We shall set up scales of justice on the Day of Resurrection, so that no soul can be in the least wronged. Actions as small as a grain of mustard seed shall be weighed. We are sufficient as a reckoner.

⁴⁸ We gave Moses and Aaron the criterion of right

and wrong and a light and reminder for the righteous,⁴⁹ those who fear their Lord in the unseen, also dread the Hour of Judgement.⁵⁰ This is a blessed reminder that We have revealed to you. Will you then reject it?

⁵¹ Before this We gave Abraham his guidance. We knew him well.⁵² When he asked his father and his people, 'What are these images to which you are so devoted?'⁵³ They replied, 'We found our fathers worshipping them.'⁵⁴ Abraham said, 'Indeed, you and your fathers have been clearly misguided.'

⁵⁵ They said, 'Have you brought us the truth or are you jesting?'⁵⁶ Abraham replied, 'Your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, who created them, and I bear witness to that.'⁵⁷ By the Lord, I will devise a plan against your deities after you have gone away and turned your backs!' ⁵⁸ He broke them all into pieces, except for the biggest one of them, so that they might return to it [for enquiry].

⁵⁹ 'Who has done this to our deities? He must be a wrongdoer.'⁶⁰ Some said, 'We heard a young man, called Abraham, talking about them.'⁶¹ They said, 'Then bring him here in the sight of all the people, so that they may act as witnesses.'⁶² They said, 'Abraham, was it you who did this to our deities?'⁶³ He answered, 'Rather this biggest one of them did it. Ask them, if they can speak.'

⁶⁴ Then they turned to one another and said, 'It is you yourselves who are in the wrong,'⁶⁵ then they

hung their heads, and said, ‘O Abraham! You know they cannot speak.’ ⁶⁶ Abraham said, ‘So, do you worship something instead of God that can neither benefit you nor harm you? ⁶⁷Shame on you and on whatever you worship instead of God. Can you not understand?’

⁶⁸ They said, ‘Burn him and help your deities, if you are resolved to do something.’ ⁶⁹ But We said, ‘Fire! Be cool and a means of safety for Abraham.’ ⁷⁰ They had sought to do him harm, but We frustrated them.

⁷¹ And We saved him and Lot [and brought them] to a land which We had blessed for all people, ⁷² We bestowed Isaac and then Jacob on him as an additional boon and We made all of them righteous. ⁷³ We made them leaders who guided people by Our command. We revealed to them the doing of good, observance of prayer and the giving of alms and Us alone did they worship.

⁷⁴ To Lot We gave wisdom and knowledge and delivered him from the city which practiced abomination. They were indeed a wicked people. ⁷⁵ We admitted him to Our mercy; he was a righteous man.

⁷⁶ Before him Noah cried out to Us, and We heard his prayer. We saved him and all his household from a great distress. ⁷⁷ We helped him against his people who rejected Our revelations. They were surely a wicked people, so We drowned them all.

⁷⁸ Tell of David and Solomon who both passed judgement on the field into which some people's sheep had strayed [and grazed] at night. We bore witness to their judgement. ⁷⁹ We gave Solomon the right understanding of the matter, and We bestowed wisdom and knowledge on both of them. We caused the mountains and the birds to celebrate Our praises along with David. We had the power to do this— ⁸⁰ We taught him the art of making coats of mail for you, to protect you in battle. Will you then give thanks?

⁸¹ We subjected to Solomon the stormy wind, which blew at his behest towards the land which We had blessed. For it is We who have knowledge of all things—⁸² We also subjected to him some of the jinn who dived for him in the sea and performed other tasks; We kept a watch over them.

⁸³ Remember Job when he called on his Lord saying, 'I have been afflicted with great distress: but You are the most merciful of the merciful.' ⁸⁴ We heard his prayer and relieved his suffering, We restored to him his family, doubling their number as an act of Our grace, and as a reminder for the worshippers.

⁸⁵ Remember Ishmael and Idris and Dhul Kifl: they were all patient and steadfast. ⁸⁶ We admitted them to Our mercy. They were all righteous men.

⁸⁷ Remember the man in the whale [Jonah] when he went away in anger, thinking We had no power over him. But he cried out in the darkness, 'There is no

deity but You. Glory be to You! I was indeed wrong.’
⁸⁸ So We heard his prayer and delivered him from sorrow. Thus shall We deliver the true believers.

⁸⁹ Remember Zachariah, when he called out to his Lord, ‘Do not leave me heirless Lord, You are the best of heirs.’⁹⁰ So We heard his prayer and bestowed John upon him and made his wife fit to bear him a child. They used to hasten to do good and they called on Us in hope and fear, and they were always humble towards Us.

⁹¹ Remember the one who guarded her chastity; so We breathed Our Spirit into her, and made her and her son a sign for all people.

⁹² This community of yours is one community and I am your Lord, so worship Me. ⁹³ But they divided themselves into factions, but to Us they shall all return. ⁹⁴ He who does good works while he is a believer, shall not see his efforts disregarded: We record them all.

⁹⁵ It is ordained that no nation We have destroyed shall ever rise again,⁹⁶ but when Gog and Magog are let loose and swarm down from every hillside and they spread out, [leaping across every barrier of land and sea], ⁹⁷ when the true promise of God draws near, those who denied the truth will stare in amazement, crying, ‘Woe to us! We have been so heedless of this. Indeed, we were wrongdoers.’

⁹⁸ You and what you worship instead of God will be fuel for hell: to it you shall all come—⁹⁹ if those had

really been deities, they would not have been led there; but there they will remain forever. ¹⁰⁰ They shall groan. They will not hear therein anything else. ¹⁰¹ But those who have been promised a good reward by Us will be kept far away from Hell—¹⁰² they will not hear the slightest sound of it, and they shall forever abide in a state of bliss, among everything their souls longed for. ¹⁰³ The great Horror [of the Day of Judgement] shall not grieve them, and the angels will welcome them, saying, ‘This is your Day which you have been promised.’

¹⁰⁴ On that Day We shall roll up the heavens like a scroll of parchment. As We originated the first creation, so shall We repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us. Truly, We shall fulfill it. ¹⁰⁵ We have already written in the Psalms following the Reminder, ‘My righteous servants shall inherit the earth.’ ¹⁰⁶ Herein, surely is a message for true worshippers.

¹⁰⁷ We have sent you forth as a mercy to all mankind. ¹⁰⁸ Say, ‘It has been revealed to me that your God is but One God. Will you then submit to Him?’ ¹⁰⁹ If they turn away, say, ‘I have warned you all alike, though I do not know whether [the scourge] which you are promised is near at hand or far off. ¹¹⁰ God surely knows what you say openly and also knows what you conceal. ¹¹¹ Nor do I know whether it may mean a trial for you and a short reprieve.’ ¹¹² Say, ‘My Lord, judge with truth. Our Lord is the Gracious One whose help we seek against what you utter.’

22. THE PILGRIMAGE (*AL-HAJJ*)

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

¹ O People! Fear your Lord. The catastrophe of the Last Hour shall be terrible indeed: ² when that Day comes, every suckling mother shall forsake her infant and every pregnant woman shall cast her burden and everyone will appear intoxicated, although they are not: the punishment of God will be severe indeed. ³ Yet there are some who dispute about God without having any knowledge and they follow every rebellious devil, ⁴ it has been decreed concerning anyone whom he befriends, that he shall mislead him and guide him to the punishment of the Fire.

⁵ O people! If you are in doubt about the Resurrection, remember that We first created you from dust, then from a sperm drop, then from clotted blood, then a lump of flesh, both shaped and unshaped, so that We might manifest to you [Our power]. We cause what We will to stay in the womb for an appointed time, then We bring you forth as infants and then We cause you to grow and reach full growth. Then, some of you will pass away early in life, while some of you will reach extreme old age in which they will know nothing of what they once knew. You see the earth, dead and barren, but no sooner do We send down

rain upon it than it begins to stir and swell, and produce every kind of luxuriant vegetation: ⁶ that is because God is the truth. It is He who gives life to the dead and He has the power to will anything. ⁷ The Last Hour is bound to come. There is no doubt about it. God will raise up those who are in their graves.

⁸ There are some who dispute about God without having any knowledge or guidance, or any enlightening Book. ⁹ They turn away arrogantly, leading people astray from God's path. Such men shall incur disgrace in this life and taste the punishment of the Fire on the Day of Judgement. ¹⁰ [God will say], 'This is the reward of your misdeeds. God is not unjust to His servants.'

¹¹ There are some who worship God half-heartedly, then, if some good befalls them, they are content with it, but if an ordeal befalls them, they revert to their former ways. They lose in this world as well in the Hereafter. That is a clear loss.

¹² He calls on, instead of God, something that can neither harm him, nor benefit him. That is indeed straying far away—¹³ he calls on that which would sooner harm than help. Such a patron is indeed evil and such a companion is indeed evil. ¹⁴ God will admit those who believe and act righteously into Gardens watered by flowing rivers. God does whatever He wills.

¹⁵ Anyone who thinks that God will not help him

[His messenger] in this world and the Hereafter, let him stretch a rope up to the sky; then let him cut it off and see if his plan can help to remove the cause of his anger. ¹⁶ We have sent down the Quran as clear evidence, and surely God guides whom He will.

¹⁷ God will judge between the believers, the Jews, the Sabaeans, the Christians, the Magians and the polytheists on the Day of Judgement. Surely God is witness to everything.

¹⁸ Do you not see that whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth, as well as the sun and the moon, and the stars and the mountains, and the trees and the beasts and many human beings—all submit to God? But there are many who have become deserving of punishment. Whoever God disgraces, will have no one to honour him. Surely, God does what He wills.

¹⁹ These two groups, [the believers and those who deny the truth], dispute concerning their Lord. Those who deny the truth will have garments of fire cut out for them; and boiling water will be poured down over their heads, ²⁰ anything in their stomachs as well as their skins will be melted by it. ²¹ There will be maces of iron for them; ²² whenever, in their anguish they seek to escape from Hell, they will be driven back into it, and they will be told, ‘Taste the punishment of Hell.’

²³ God will admit those who believe and do good

deeds to Gardens watered by flowing rivers; there they will be given bracelets of gold and pearls to wear and their clothing will be of silk. ²⁴ For they were guided to purity of speech. And they were guided to the path of the Glorious Lord.

²⁵ As for those who deny the truth and debar others from God's path and from the Sacred Mosque which We set up for all people, natives and strangers alike, and all who seek to profane it by evil-doing—We shall make them taste a painful punishment.

²⁶ We assigned to Abraham the site of the House, saying, 'Do not associate with Me anything and purify My House for those who circumambulate [the Kabah] and those who stand upright, and those who bow and prostrate themselves.'

²⁷ Call mankind to the Pilgrimage. They will come to you, on foot, and on every kind of lean camel, by every distant track ²⁸ so that they may witness its benefit for them and, on the appointed days may utter the name of God over the cattle He has provided for them. Then eat their flesh, and feed the distressed and the needy—²⁹ then let the pilgrims purify themselves and fulfil their vows and perform the circumambulation of the Ancient House.

³⁰ Such is God's commandment. Whoever honours that which is declared sacred by God may be sure that it counts for good in the sight of his Lord. Livestock is lawful for you, except that which has already been

explicitly forbidden. Then shun the abomination of the deities and shun all falsehood.

³¹ Devote yourselves to God, not associating any partners with Him. Whoever associates anything with God is like one who falls from heaven and is snatched by the birds or carried away by the wind to a distant place.

³² Thus it is. He who honours the symbols set up by God shows the piety of his heart. ³³ You may benefit from the animals for an appointed time. Then they must be sacrificed at the Ancient House.

³⁴ For every people We have appointed rites of sacrifice, so that they may pronounce the name of God over the cattle which He has provided for them. Your God is One God; surrender yourselves to Him; and give good news to the humble ³⁵ whose hearts are filled with awe at the mention of God; who endure adversity with fortitude, say their prayers regularly and spend out of what We have given them.

³⁶ We have appointed for you the sacrificial camels as one of the symbols set up by God, in which there is much good for you. So invoke God's name over them as you line them up for slaughter, and when they have fallen down dead, feed yourselves and feed the needy—those who do not ask as well as those who do. We have thus subjected them to you so that you may be grateful. ³⁷ Their flesh and blood do not reach God: it is your piety that reaches Him. Thus God has

subjected them to you, so that you may glorify Him for the guidance He has given you. Give glad tidings to those who do good.

³⁸ God will surely defend the believers. God does not love the perfidious and the ungrateful. ³⁹ Permission to fight is granted to those who are attacked, because they have been wronged—God indeed has the power to help them—⁴⁰ they are those who have been driven out of their homes unjustly, only because they said, ‘Our Lord is God.’ If God did not repel the aggression of some people by means of others, cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques, wherein the name of God is much invoked, would surely be destroyed. God will surely help him who helps His cause—God is indeed powerful and mighty.

⁴¹ [They are] those who, if We established them in the land, would say their prayers regularly and pay the *zakat* and enjoin good and forbid evil. The final outcome of all affairs rests with God.

⁴² If your opponents deny you, remember that, before them, the people of Noah and the tribes of ‘Ad and Thamud denied their messengers likewise. ⁴³ So did the people of Abraham and the people of Lot, ⁴⁴ and the inhabitants of Midian also charged their prophets with falsehood. Moses was also rejected. I gave respite to those who denied the truth, but then I seized them. Consider then, how terrible My repudiation of them was.

⁴⁵ How many a town We destroyed which was given to wrongdoing, so that its roofs fell down, and how many a well is deserted and how many a lofty castle is in ruins. ⁴⁶ Have these people not travelled through the land to make their hearts understand and let their ears hear; the truth is that it is not the eyes that are blind but the hearts that are in the bosoms that are blinded.

⁴⁷ They ask you to hasten the punishment; God will never go back on His promise. A Day with your Lord is like a thousand years in your reckoning. ⁴⁸ To how many a town We gave respite while it was given to wrongdoing. Then I seized it. To Me all things shall return.

⁴⁹ Say, ‘O people, I am sent only to give you clear warning.’ ⁵⁰ Those who believe and do good deeds shall be forgiven and shall receive an honourable provision. ⁵¹ Whereas those who strive against Our signs, seeking to defeat their purpose, shall be the inmates of the Fire.

⁵² Whenever We sent any messenger or prophet before you, and he recited anything [of Our revelation], Satan tampered with it. But God abrogates Satan’s interjections and then He firmly reaffirms His revelations. God is all knowing and all wise. ⁵³ He makes Satan’s suggestions a trial for those whose hearts are diseased or hardened—and, surely, the wrongdoers are far gone in error—⁵⁴ so that those who

are given knowledge may realize that this is the truth from your Lord and thus believe in it, and so that in their hearts they may humbly submit to Him. God will surely guide the faithful to a straight path.

⁵⁵ Those who deny the truth will continue in doubt until the [Last] Hour suddenly comes upon them or the scourge of the woeful Day descends upon them. ⁵⁶ On that Day all control will belong to God. He will judge between them. Those who believe and do good deeds shall enter the Gardens of Bliss, ⁵⁷ but those who deny the truth and deny Our signs will receive a humiliating punishment.

⁵⁸ As for those who left their homes for the cause of God and then were slain or died, God will give them a generous provision. Surely God is the Best of Providers. ⁵⁹ He will admit them to a place with which they shall be well-pleased. For God is all knowing and most forbearing.

⁶⁰ Thus it shall be. As for one who retaliates to the same extent as he has suffered and then is again wronged, God will surely come to his aid. God is merciful and forgiving.

⁶¹ That is because God makes the night pass into the day and makes the day pass into the night. God is all hearing and all seeing. ⁶² That is because God is the Truth while anything they invoke besides God is sheer falsehood. God is the Sublime, the Great One.

⁶³ Have you not seen how God sends down water

from sky, whereupon the earth becomes green? God is unfathomable, and all aware; ⁶⁴ all that is in the heavens and on the earth belongs to Him. Surely, God is self-sufficient and praiseworthy.

⁶⁵ Do you not see, how God has subjected everything on the earth to you, and the ships that sail on the sea by His command. He holds back the sky from falling down on the earth, except with His permission. God is most compassionate and most merciful to mankind—⁶⁶ it is He who gave you life. Then He will cause you to die. Then He will give you life again. Surely, man is most ungrateful.

⁶⁷ We have appointed for every community ways of worship to observe. Let them not dispute with you on this matter. Call them to the path of your Lord—for surely, you are rightly guided—⁶⁸ if they should dispute with you, then say, ‘God is well aware of what you do.’ ⁶⁹ On the Day of Resurrection, God will judge between you regarding your differences. ⁷⁰ Do you not know that God has knowledge of what the heavens and the earth contain? All is recorded in a Book; all this is easy for God.

⁷¹ Yet instead of God, they worship something for which God has sent no authority and about which they have no knowledge. The wrongdoers will have no helper. ⁷² Whenever Our clear revelations are recited to them, you will recognize the disgust on the faces of those who deny the truth. It is almost as if they are

going to attack those who recite Our message to them. Say, ‘Shall I tell you of something worse than this? It is the Fire that God has promised to those who are bent on denying the truth. What an evil destination!’

⁷³ People, here is an illustration. So listen carefully. Surely, those whom you invoke other than God cannot create even a fly, even if they were all to combine together to do it, and if a fly should snatch anything away from them, they cannot recover it from it. Both are indeed weak, the seeker and the sought. ⁷⁴ No just estimate have they made of God. Surely God is powerful and mighty.

⁷⁵ God selects messengers from both angels and from mankind; God is all hearing and all seeing: ⁷⁶ He knows what lies ahead of them and what is behind them. All things shall return to God.

⁷⁷ You who are true believers, kneel and prostrate yourselves, worship your Lord and do good works, so that you may succeed. ⁷⁸ Strive for the cause of God as it behoves you to strive for it. He has chosen you and laid on you no burden in the matter of your religion, the faith of Abraham your forefather. In this, as in former scriptures He has given you the name of Muslims, so that the Messenger may be a witness over you, and so that you may be witnesses over mankind. Therefore, say your prayers regularly and pay the *zakat* and hold fast to God. He is your master. An excellent master and an excellent helper!