

4. WOMEN (*AL-NISA'*)

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

¹ O mankind! Fear your Lord, who created you from a single soul. He created its mate from it and from the two of them spread countless men and women [throughout the earth]. Fear God, in whose name you appeal to one another, and be mindful of your obligations in respect of ties of kinship. God is always watching over you.^{a2} Give the orphans the possessions that belong to them, do not exchange good things with

^a All human beings are one and the same by birth. Ultimately, everyone can trace his origin to the same man and woman as father and mother. It is, therefore, necessary that all human beings should have a feeling of affinity with each other and live with fairness and goodwill like the members of one extended family.

Good behaviour between fellow human beings is important, not merely from the moral point of view, but rather as a matter of personal concern to man himself. This is so, because everyone is governed by the Great, Almighty God, who as the Reckoner for one and all, will decide the eternal future of all human beings in the Hereafter, requiting them according to their actions in this world. Man should, therefore, not consider his dealings with others as a matter between man and man, but as a matter between man and God.

bad and do not consume their property, adding it to your own. Surely, this is a great crime.³ If you fear that you cannot deal fairly with orphan girls, you may marry women of your choice, two or three or four; but if you fear that you might not be able to treat them with equal fairness, then only one—or [from among] those whom you rightfully possess. That is more likely to keep you from committing an injustice.⁴ And give the women their dowers willingly, but if they, of their own accord, remit any part of it to you, you may make use of it with pleasure and goodwill.

⁵ Do not give those who are of immature mind your property which God has granted you as a means of support: make provision for them out of it, and clothe them, and give them good advice.⁶ Keep a close check on orphans till they attain the age of marriage; then, if you find them to be mature of mind, hand over their property to them. Do not consume it by wasteful spending, before they come of age. If the guardian is affluent, let him abstain altogether, and if he is poor, let him have for himself what is just and reasonable. When you hand over their property to them, call witnesses in their presence; God is sufficient as a Reckoner.⁷ Men shall have a share in what parents and relatives leave behind, and women shall have a share in what parents and relatives leave behind, whether it be little or much. This is ordained [by God].⁸ If other relatives, orphans or needy people are

present at the time of the division, then provide for them out of it, and speak kindly to them. ⁹ Those who are concerned about the fate of their own helpless children if they should die and leave them behind should show the same concern for orphans. Let them fear God and uphold justice. ¹⁰ Those who consume the property of orphans unjustly are actually swallowing fire into their own bellies; soon they will burn in the blazing Flame.

¹¹ Concerning your children, God enjoins you that a male shall receive a share equivalent to that of two females. But if there are more than two females, then their share is two thirds of the inheritance. If there is only one, she will receive the half. Each of your parents receives a sixth of what you leave if you have children. If you are childless and your heirs are your parents, your mother receives a third. If you have brothers [or sisters] your mother receives a sixth, after [the deduction of] any bequest you make or the repayment of any debts with regard to your father and your sons. You do not know which of them is going to benefit you more: but this fixing of portions is by God and He is all knowing and all wise. ¹² You will inherit half of what your wives leave, provided they have left no children. But if they leave children then you inherit a quarter of what they leave, after payment of any bequests they may have made or any debts they may have incurred. Your wives shall inherit one quarter of

what you leave if you are childless. But if you leave children, your wives shall inherit one eighth, after payment of any bequest or debts. If a man or woman has no direct heirs [neither children or parents] but has left a brother or a sister, they shall each inherit one sixth, but if they are more than two, they share one third between them, after payment of any bequests or debts, so that no harm is done to anyone. That is a commandment from God: God is all knowing and forbearing. ¹³ These are the limits set by God. Anyone who obeys God and His Messenger will be admitted to Gardens through which rivers flow, to live there forever. That will be the supreme achievement. ¹⁴ But anyone who disobeys God and His Messenger and transgresses His limits shall be cast into a Fire, wherein he will abide forever. And he shall have a humiliating punishment.

¹⁵ If any of your women commit fornication, call in four male witnesses from among yourselves against them; if they testify to their guilt, confine them to the house until death releases them or until God gives them another way out. ¹⁶ If two men commit a like abomination, punish them both. If they repent and mend their ways, leave them alone. God is forgiving and merciful. ¹⁷ But God undertakes to accept repentance only from those who do evil out of ignorance and those who repent soon after. God turns towards such people with mercy; He is all knowing

and all wise. ¹⁸ Forgiveness is not for those who continue to do evil deeds until, when death comes upon one of them, he says: 'Now I repent!' nor from those who die as deniers of the truth. We have prepared a painful punishment for them.

¹⁹ Believers, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will, nor should you detain them wrongfully, so that you may take away a part of what you have given them, unless they are guilty of something clearly outrageous. Live with them in accordance with what is fair and kind; if you dislike them, it may be that you dislike something which God might make a source of abundant good. ²⁰ If you desire to replace one wife with another, do not take any part of her dower back: even if you have given her a treasure. Would you take it by slandering her and with manifest sinfulness? ²¹ How can you take it when you have been intimate with one another, and she has taken a solemn pledge from you? ²² Do not marry women whom your fathers married, except for what has already taken place in the past. This is indeed a shameful deed, a loathsome thing and an evil practice.

²³ You are forbidden to take as wives your mothers, daughters, sisters, paternal and maternal aunts, your brothers' daughters and your sisters' daughters, your foster mothers and foster sisters, your wives' mothers and stepdaughters in your protection and the daughters of your wives with whom you have consummated your

marriage; but if you have not consummated your marriage then you will not be blamed [if you marry their daughters.] You are also forbidden to marry the spouses of your sons or two sisters together, except what has already passed. Surely, God is ever-forgiving and merciful. ²⁴ Also forbidden are married women, except those who have passed into your hands as prisoners of war. This is a commandment of God to you. All women other than these are lawful to you, provided you seek them with your wealth in honest wedlock, not in fornication. When you consummate your marriage with them, give the dowers due to them. And there is no sin for you in what you do by mutual agreement after the fixing of the dower. God is all knowing and wise. ²⁵ If any of you cannot afford to marry a free believing woman let him marry one of his believing maids whom he possesses. God best knows your faith. You are one of another. So marry them with their owner's permission, and give them their dower according to what is fair, neither committing fornication nor taking secret paramours. And if, after they are married, they commit adultery they shall have half the punishment prescribed for a free woman. This is for those of you who fear lest he should fall into sin. But that it is better for you to practise self restraint. God is most forgiving and merciful.

²⁶ God wishes to explain things to you and guide you to the ways of those who have gone before you and

to turn to you in mercy. God is all knowing and all wise. ²⁷ He wishes to turn towards you in mercy, but those who follow their own passions want you to drift far away from the right path. ²⁸ God wishes to lighten your burdens, for, man has been created weak.

²⁹ Believers, do not wrongfully consume each other's wealth, but trade with it by mutual consent. Do not kill one another, for God is most merciful to you. ³⁰ If anyone does these things through transgression and injustice, We shall cast him into the Fire; and that is easy for God. ³¹ If you shun the great sins you have been forbidden, We shall cancel out your minor misdeeds and admit you to a place of honour. ³² Do not covet the bounties which God has bestowed more abundantly on some of you than on others. Men shall be rewarded according to their deeds, and women shall be rewarded according to their deeds. You should rather ask God for His bounty. God has knowledge of all things. ³³ We have appointed heirs for everything that parents and close relatives leave behind. As for those with whom you have entered into agreements, let them, too, have their due. God is witness to all things.

³⁴ Men are protectors of women, because God has made some of them excel others and because they spend their wealth on them. So virtuous women are obedient and guard in the husband's absence what God would have them guard. As for those from whom you apprehend infidelity, admonish them, then refuse

to share their beds, and finally hit them [lightly].^a Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. For God is High, Great.³⁵ If you fear any breach between a man and his wife, appoint one arbiter from his family and one arbiter from her family. If they both want to set things right, God will bring about a reconciliation between them: He is all knowing and all aware.

³⁶ Worship God: and do not associate partners with Him. Be good to your parents, to relatives, to orphans, to the needy, and the neighbour who is a kinsman, and the neighbour who is not related to you and your companions and the wayfarers and those whom you rightfully possess. God does not like arrogant, boastful people,³⁷ who are miserly and enjoin others to be the same and conceal the riches which God has given them of His bounty. We have prepared a humiliating punishment for those who deny the truth.³⁸ And [God does not like] those who spend their wealth for the sake of ostentation, who do not believe in God or the Last Day. Whoever has Satan as his companion has an evil companion.³⁹ What harm could befall them if they believed in God and the Last Day, and spent out of what God bestowed on them? God knows them well.⁴⁰ God does not wrong anyone by as much as a

^a This signifies a symbolic act, as the Prophet forbade the beating of woman saying, 'Never beat God's creation'.

grain's weight. If there be a good deed, He will repay twofold, and will bestow out of His own bounty an immense reward.

⁴¹ What will they do when We bring a witness from each community and bring you as a witness against these people? ⁴² On that Day, those who were bent on denying the truth and disobeyed the Messenger will wish that the earth were made level above them. They will not be able to hide anything from God. ⁴³ Believers, do not approach your prayers when you are drunk, until you understand what you say, nor when you are in a state of impurity, —except when you are on a journey—till you have bathed. And if you are ill, or on a journey or have relieved yourselves or when you have consorted with women and you cannot find any water, then find some clean sand and wipe your face and your hands with it. God is gracious and forgiving.

⁴⁴ Do you not know of those who were in possession of a portion of the Book? They buy up error and want you to lose your way. ⁴⁵ God is quite aware as to who your enemies are; God suffices as a patron, and God suffices as a supporter. ⁴⁶ Some Jews take words out of their context and say, 'We have heard, but we disobey,' or 'Hear without listening.' And they say 'Look at us,' twisting the phrase with their tongues so as to disparage religion. But if they had said, 'We hear and we obey,' and 'Listen to us and look at us with favour,' that would have been better and more proper

for them. God has rejected them for their defiance so that they shall not believe, except a few of them.

⁴⁷ O People of the Book, believe in what We have sent down, fulfilling [the predictions] that is with you, before We destroy [your sense of] direction, so as to confound or reject you, as We rejected those who broke the Sabbath: God's command is always carried out. ⁴⁸ God will not forgive anyone for associating something with Him, while He will forgive whoever He wishes for anything besides that. Whoever ascribes partners to God is guilty of a monstrous sin. ⁴⁹ Have you not seen those who consider themselves pure? It is indeed God who purifies whoever He pleases and none shall be wronged by as much as a hair's breadth. ⁵⁰ See how they attribute their own lying inventions to God. This is in itself a flagrant sin!

⁵¹ Have you not seen those who were in possession of a portion of the Book? They believe in idols and devils. They say of those who deny the truth, 'They are more rightly guided than the believers.' ⁵² Those are the ones God has rejected: you will not find anyone to help those God has rejected. ⁵³ Have they a share in God's kingdom? If they did, they would not give others so much as the groove of a date stone. ⁵⁴ Do they envy others because of what God has given them out of His bounty? We granted the House of Abraham the Book and wisdom and We granted them a great kingdom. ⁵⁵ Some of them believed in it and some held

back from it. Hell will suffice as a blazing Fire. ⁵⁶ We shall send those who reject Our revelations to the Fire. When their skins are burnt up, We shall replace them with new ones so that they may continue to taste the punishment. God is mighty and wise. ⁵⁷ As for those who believe and do good works, We shall make them enter Gardens through which rivers flow, to dwell therein forever; therein they shall have pure spouses, and We shall admit them into a dense shade.

⁵⁸ God commands you to hand back your trusts to their rightful owners, and when you judge between people, to judge with fairness. God's instructions to you are excellent. God hears and sees all things. ⁵⁹ Believers, obey God and obey the Messenger and those who have been entrusted with authority among you. If you are in dispute over any matter, refer it to God and the Messenger, if you truly believe in God and the Last Day: this is best, and best in the end. ⁶⁰ Have you not seen those who profess to believe in what has been revealed to you and [to other prophets] before you? They seek the judgement of evil people, although they were commanded not to obey them. And Satan wants to lead them far astray. ⁶¹ When they are told, 'Come to what God has sent down and to the Messenger,' you see the hypocrites turn away from you. ⁶² How will it be when an affliction befalls them because of what they themselves have done? They will come to you, swearing by God, saying that they were

seeking nothing but goodwill and conciliation. ⁶³ But God knows all that is in their hearts; so ignore what they say, admonish them and speak to them in such terms as will address their minds.

⁶⁴ All the messengers We sent were meant to be obeyed by God's leave. If they had come to you and sought forgiveness from God whenever they wronged themselves, and the Messenger had prayed for forgiveness for them, they would have found that God is ever-forgiving and merciful. ⁶⁵ By your Lord, they will not be true believers until they seek your arbitration in their disputes and find within themselves no doubt about what you decide and accept it wholeheartedly. ⁶⁶ If We had commanded them, 'Lay down your lives or leave your dwellings,' they would have not done it, save a few of them. If they had done what they were instructed to do, it would have been better for them, as well as more strengthening [for their faith], ⁶⁷ and We would have given them a great reward of Our own, ⁶⁸ and guided them to a straight path. ⁶⁹ Whoever obeys God and the Messenger will be among those He has blessed: the messengers, the truthful, the witnesses, and the righteous. What excellent companions these are! ⁷⁰ That is God's favour. Sufficient is God's infinite knowledge.

⁷¹ You who believe, take your precautions and then go forth in small groups or go forth all together.

⁷² Among you are some who lag behind and if you encounter a setback, they say, 'God has been gracious

to me; I was not present with them.’⁷³ But if, by God’s grace, good fortune should be your lot, they will say, ‘If only I had been with them I should have achieved a great success,’ as if no affection had existed between you and them.⁷⁴ Let those who would exchange the life of this world for the Hereafter, fight for the cause of God;^a whoever fights for the cause of God, whether he is slain or is victorious, to him We shall give a great reward.⁷⁵ And how should you not fight for the cause of God, and for the helpless old men, women, and children who say, ‘Deliver us, Lord, from this city of wrongdoers, grant us a protector out of Your grace and grant us a supporter out of Your grace?’⁷⁶ The believers fight for the cause of God, while those who reject faith fight for Satan. Then fight the allies of Satan: Satan’s scheming is truly weak.

⁷⁷ Have you not seen those to whom it was said, ‘Restrain your hands, say your prayers and pay the prescribed alms?’ And when they have been ordered to fight, some of them have felt afraid of human beings just as they should be afraid of God, or they are even more afraid. They say, ‘Our Lord, why have You ordered us to fight? If You would only postpone it for a little while longer!’ Say, ‘The benefits of this world are negligible and the Hereafter will be better for one who fears God; and you shall not be wronged in the

^a See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

slightest. ⁷⁸ Wherever you may be, death will overtake you, even if you be in strongly built towers.' If some good befalls them, they say, 'This is from God,' and if ill befalls them, they say, 'This is from you.' Tell them, 'All is from God.' But what is wrong with these people that they fail to understand anything? ⁷⁹ Whatever good befalls you, it is from God: and whatever ill befalls you is from yourself. We have sent you forth as a messenger to mankind; and God suffices as a witness.

⁸⁰ He who obeys the Messenger obeys God. As for those who turn away, know that We have not sent you to be their keeper. ⁸¹ They say: 'We obey you,' but as soon as they leave you, a group of them plan together by night against what you say. God records whatever they scheme. So ignore them, and put your trust in God. God is sufficient as a trustee. ⁸² Do they not ponder on the Quran? If it had been from anyone other than God, they would have found much inconsistency in it. ⁸³ When they hear any news, whether of peace or of something fearful, they spread it about; whereas if they referred it to the Messenger and to the men in charge, those of them who would have investigated it and could have arrived at the truth of the matter. But for God's grace and mercy, all but a few of you would have followed Satan.

⁸⁴ So fight for the cause of God. You are responsible only for yourself. Urge on the believers. God may fend off the power [violence] of those who deny the truth,

for He is stronger in might and stronger in inflicting punishment. ⁸⁵ Whoever rallies to a good cause shall have a share in its blessing; and whoever rallies to an evil cause shall be answerable for his part in it: for, indeed, God watches over everything. ⁸⁶ When you are greeted by anyone, respond with a better greeting or at least return it; God takes account of all things. ⁸⁷ He is God: there is no deity other than Him. He will gather you all together on the Day of Resurrection, there is no doubt about it. Whose word can be truer than God's?

⁸⁸ How is it that you are divided into two groups regarding the hypocrites, when God Himself cast them back [to disbelief] because of their misdeeds? Do you seek to guide those whom God allows to go astray? You cannot guide those whom God allows to go astray. ⁸⁹ They want you to deny the Truth, so that you may become all alike. Do not take them as your allies until they emigrate in the way of God. If they turn back (to enmity), seize them and kill them^a wherever you may find them; and take no friend or helper from among them. ⁹⁰ But make an exception of those who seek refuge with people with whom you have a treaty, or who come over to you because their hearts forbid them to fight against you or against their own people. Had God pleased, He would have given them power over

^a See pages xvii to xxi of the Introduction.

you, so that they would have taken up arms against you. Therefore, if they keep away from you and cease their hostility and propose peace to you, God does not allow you to harm them.⁹¹ You will find others who wish to be safe from you, and from their own people, yet whenever they find an opportunity of inflicting harm, they plunge into it. So if they neither withdraw, nor offer you peace, nor restrain themselves from fighting you, seize and kill them wherever you encounter them. Over such people We have given you clear authority.

⁹² No believer should kill another believer, unless it be by mistake. Anyone who kills a believer by mistake should free a believing slave and pay blood money to the victim's relatives unless they forego it as an act of charity. If the victim belongs to a people at war with you, but is a believer, then the compensation is to free a believing slave. If he belongs to a people with whom you have a treaty, then blood-money should be handed over to his relatives and a believing slave set free. Anyone who lacks the means must fast for two consecutive months. Such is the penance imposed by God. God is all knowing and wise.⁹³ If anyone kills a believer deliberately, his reward shall be eternal Hell. God will condemn him and reject him, and prepare for him a terrible punishment.

⁹⁴ Believers, when you go forth in the cause of God,

make due investigation and do not say to those who offer you the greeting of peace, 'You are no believer!' because you seek the good things of this life. With God there are good things in plenty. You yourself were in the same position before, but God conferred His special favour on you. Therefore, take care to investigate. Surely God is well-aware of what you do.⁹⁵ Those believers who stay behind—apart from those forced by necessity—are not equal to those who strive hard in God's cause with their possessions and their persons. God has given those who strive with their goods and their persons a higher rank than those who stayed behind. God has promised all a good reward; but far greater is the recompense of those who strive for Him—⁹⁶ high ranks conferred by Him as well as forgiveness and mercy. God is forgiving and merciful.

⁹⁷ When the angels take the souls of those who have wronged themselves, they will ask, 'What was wrong with you?' They will answer, 'We were too weak on earth.' The angels will say, 'Was God's earth not spacious enough for you to have migrated to some other place?' These are the ones whose abode shall be Hell, an evil destination—⁹⁸ except such weak ones among men, women and children, as are incapable of adopting any plan or of finding any way out. ⁹⁹ God may well pardon them. God is ever-pardoning and ever forgiving. ¹⁰⁰ Whoever emigrates for the cause of God will find many places of refuge in the land and

plentiful provision. Those who leave home for the cause of God and His Messenger; but is then overtaken by death, shall be recompensed by God. God is most forgiving and ever-merciful.

¹⁰¹ When you [believers] are travelling in the land, you will not be blamed for shortening your prayers, if you fear the disbelievers may harm you. They are your avowed enemies. ¹⁰² When you are among the believers and lead them in prayer, let only part of them stand up along with you, armed with their weapons. After they have prostrated themselves, let them withdraw to the rear to stand guard and then let another party, who have not yet prayed, come forward and pray with you. And let them also be on their guard, armed with their weapons. Those who deny the truth want you to be negligent of your arms and your baggage, so that they may fall upon you suddenly. It is no offence for you to lay aside your arms when overtaken by heavy rain or illness, and always take every precaution for defence. God has prepared a humiliating punishment for those who deny the truth. ¹⁰³ When you have finished the prayer, remember God while standing, and sitting, and lying on your sides. When you feel secure, say your prayers in the prescribed form. Believers are under the obligation to say their prayers at the appointed hours. ¹⁰⁴ Do not relent in the pursuit of the enemy. If you are suffering hardships, they too are suffering similar hardships, but what you can hope for from God, they cannot. God is all knowing and wise.

¹⁰⁵ We have sent the Book down to you with the truth so that you may judge among mankind by means of what God has shown you. And do not be an advocate for the treacherous. ¹⁰⁶ Ask God for forgiveness: He is most forgiving and merciful. ¹⁰⁷ And do not plead on behalf of those who are dishonest to themselves. Surely God does not love one who is treacherous and sinful. ¹⁰⁸ They feel ashamed before men but do not feel ashamed before God, despite His being present with them when they plot at night, uttering things of which He does not approve; and indeed God is fully aware of what they do.

¹⁰⁹ You might argue on their behalf in the life of this world: but who will argue on their behalf with God on the Day of Resurrection and who will be their defender? ¹¹⁰ Yet anyone who does evil or wrongs his own soul and then asks God for forgiveness will find God forgiving and merciful. ¹¹¹ He who commits sin does so against his own soul. God is all knowing and wise. ¹¹² And anyone who commits an offence or a sin, then charges an innocent person with it, shall certainly bear the guilt of a calumny and a manifest sin. ¹¹³ If it were not for the grace of God and His mercy to you, some of them had resolved to lead you astray but they lead astray no one but themselves. Nor can they do you any harm. God has sent down to you the Book and Wisdom and has taught you what you did not know. God's favour to you has been great indeed.

¹¹⁴ There is no good in most of their secret talk, except in the case of those who enjoin charity and kindness, or reconciliation between people. If anyone does that, seeking the pleasure of God, We will give him an immense reward. ¹¹⁵ But if anyone opposes the Messenger after his guidance has become clear to him, and follows a path other than that of the faithful, We shall let him pursue his chosen path and shall cast him into Hell: an evil destination.

¹¹⁶ Surely, God will not forgive the ascribing of partners to Him. He forgives whoever He will for anything other than that. Whoever ascribes partners to God has strayed far indeed. ¹¹⁷ They [the polytheists] call upon female deities, and they invoke none but Satan, the rebellious one, ¹¹⁸ whom God has rejected. He said [to God], ‘I will assuredly take a number of Your servants, ¹¹⁹ and shall lead them astray, and fill them with vain desires and order them to slit the ears of cattle. I shall order them to tamper with God’s creation. Whoever chooses Satan as a patron instead of God is utterly ruined: ¹²⁰ he holds out promises to them, and fills them with vain desires: but Satan’s promises are nothing but delusion. ¹²¹ Hell shall be their home: they shall find no refuge from it. ¹²² As for those who believe and do good works. We shall admit them to Gardens through which rivers flow; wherein they will abide forever. This is a promise from God; and whose word could be truer than God’s?

¹²³ It is not your desires, nor the desires of the People of the Book, that shall prevail. Anyone who commits evil will be rewarded accordingly. He will not find any protector or patron for himself besides God. ¹²⁴ Anyone who performs good deeds, whether it be a man or woman, provided that he is a believer, shall enter Paradise. No one shall suffer the least injustice. ¹²⁵ Who is better in faith than one who submits himself wholly to God, acts righteously, and follows the religion of Abraham, the upright in faith, whom God chose for a friend? ¹²⁶ To God belongs all that the heavens and earth contain. God has knowledge of all things.

¹²⁷ They consult you concerning women. Say, 'God has given you directions concerning them. The commandment given to you in the Book concerns the orphan girls to whom you do not give what is prescribed for them, and whom you nevertheless desire to marry, and about helpless children. He has instructed you to deal justly with orphans. God has knowledge of all the good you do. ¹²⁸ If a woman fears ill-treatment or indifference on the part of her husband, it shall be no offence for her to seek a reconciliation, for reconciliation is best. But people are prone to selfish greed. If you do good and fear Him, surely God is aware of what you do. ¹²⁹ You will never be able to treat your wives with equal fairness, however much you may desire to do so, but do not ignore one wife

altogether, leaving her suspended [between marriage and divorce]. And if you make amends and act righteously, surely God is most forgiving and merciful.

¹³⁰ If they decide to separate, God will compensate both out of His own abundance: God is bountiful and wise.

¹³¹ All that the heavens and the earth contain belongs to God. We have commanded those who were given the Scripture before you, and We command you to fear God. If you deny Him, know that all that the heavens and the earth contain belongs to God. God is self-sufficient and praiseworthy. ¹³² All that the heavens and the earth contain belongs to God; and none is as worthy of trust as God. ¹³³ If He wanted, He could remove you altogether and replace you with other people: He has the full power to do so. ¹³⁴ If one desires the rewards of this world [let him remember that] with God are the rewards of [both] this world and the life to come: and God is indeed all hearing, all seeing.

¹³⁵ Believers, be strict in upholding justice and bear witness for the sake of God, even though it be against yourselves, your parents, or your kindred. Be they rich or poor, God knows better about them both. Do not, then, follow your own desires, lest you swerve from justice. If you conceal the truth or evade it, then remember that God is well aware of all that you do.

¹³⁶ Believers, believe in God and His Messenger

and in the Scripture He sent down to His Messenger, as well as what He sent down before. He who denies God, His angels, His Scriptures, His messengers and the Last Day has surely gone far astray.¹³⁷ As for those who come to believe, and then deny the truth, and again come to believe, and again deny the truth, and thereafter grow stubborn in their denial of the truth—God will never forgive them, nor will He guide them.¹³⁸ Warn the hypocrites that for them there is a painful punishment.¹³⁹ As for those who take the deniers of the truth for their allies rather than the believers—do they seek honour in their company? Surely all honour belongs to God.

¹⁴⁰ He has instructed you in the Book that, when you hear people deny or ridicule God's revelations, you must not sit with them unless they engage in other talk, or else you yourselves shall become like them. God will gather all the hypocrites and those who deny the truth together in Hell.¹⁴¹ The hypocrites wait to see what happens to you and, if God grants you a victory, they say, 'Were we not on your side?' And if those who deny the truth have a share of it [victory] they say to them, 'Did we not help you win, and protect you from the believers?' God will judge between you [all] on Resurrection Day. And never will God allow those who deny the truth to harm the believers.

¹⁴² The hypocrites seek to outwit God—but it is He who outwits them. And when they stand up for prayer,

they do so reluctantly and to be seen by others, and they hardly remember God at all. ¹⁴³ They vacillate between the two, belonging neither to one side nor the other. But for him whom God allows to go astray you can never find the way for him. ¹⁴⁴ Do not take deniers of the truth [who are at war with you] for your allies in preference to believers. Would you give God a clear proof against yourselves? ¹⁴⁵ The hypocrites shall surely be in the lowest depth of the Fire; and you will find no helper for them. ¹⁴⁶ But those who repent and mend their ways, who hold fast to God and are sincere in their worship of God will be joined with the believers; and God will bestow a great reward upon the believers. ¹⁴⁷ Why should God punish you, if you render thanks to Him and believe in Him? God is appreciative and aware.

¹⁴⁸ God does not love the utterance of evil words except in the case of someone who has been wronged. God hears all and knows all. ¹⁴⁹ Whether you reveal any good or hide it, or pardon any evil, God is forgiving and all powerful. ¹⁵⁰ Those who deny God and His messengers and seek to make a distinction between God and His messengers and say, ‘We believe in some messengers and disbelieve in others’, and desire to adopt a position in between. ¹⁵¹ Those indeed are they who are denying the truth beyond doubt, and We have prepared a humiliating punishment for the deniers. ¹⁵² To those who believe in God and His

messengers, and make no distinction between any of them, to those—We shall surely give them their rewards. God is most forgiving and merciful.

¹⁵³ The People of the Book ask you to bring down for them a book from heaven. Of Moses they demanded a greater thing than that. They said to him: ‘Show us God face to face.’ A thunderbolt struck them for their wickedness. After that, they took to worshipping the [golden] calf, after all evidence of the truth had come to them! Yet We pardoned even that and bestowed on Moses clear authority. ¹⁵⁴ And We raised above them the Mount, while making a covenant with them, and We said to them. ‘Enter the gate humbly,’ and We also commanded them, ‘Transgress not in the matter of the Sabbath.’ We took from them a firm covenant.

¹⁵⁵ But they broke their covenant; and they rejected the signs of God; and put the prophets to death without justification, and said, ‘Our hearts are sealed.’ It is God who has sealed their hearts, on account of their denial of the truth. Except for a few of them, they have no faith. ¹⁵⁶ They denied the truth and uttered a monstrous slander against Mary. ¹⁵⁷ They declared, ‘We have put to death the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of God.’ They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it only seemed to them [as if it had been so]. And those who differ in this matter are in doubt concerning it. They have no definite knowledge about it, but only follow mere conjecture. But they

certainly did not kill him. ¹⁵⁸ God raised him towards Himself. God is almighty and wise.

¹⁵⁹ There is none among the People of the Book but will believe in it before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection he shall be a witness against them.

¹⁶⁰ Because of the wrongdoings of the Jews, We forbade them certain good things that had been allowed to them before; for having frequently debarred others from God's path; ¹⁶¹ for taking usury, when they had been forbidden to do so. And because of their devouring people's wealth wrongfully. We have prepared a painful punishment for those of them who [continue to] deny the truth. ¹⁶² But to those of them, who are firmly grounded in knowledge, and the believers, who truly believe in what is revealed to you, and what was revealed before you. To those who pray regularly and pay the *zakat* [prescribed alms] and believe in God and the Last Day, We will surely give a great reward.

¹⁶³ We have sent revelation to you [Prophet] as We did to Noah and the prophets who came after him, to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon and David, to whom We gave the Psalms. ¹⁶⁴ We have told you about some messengers sent previously, while We have not yet told you about others. God spoke to Moses directly. ¹⁶⁵ They were messengers, bearing good news and giving warning, so that mankind would have

no excuse before God, after the coming of the messengers. God is mighty, wise.^a

¹⁶⁶ But God bears witness to what He has sent down to you. He has sent it down with His knowledge. The angels too bear witness. And God suffices as a witness. ¹⁶⁷ Those who are bent on denying the truth and on turning others away from the path of God have strayed far from the right path. ¹⁶⁸ God will not forgive those who deny the truth and act wrongfully, nor will He guide them, ¹⁶⁹ to any path other than the path of Hell, wherein they shall abide forever. That is easy enough for God. ¹⁷⁰ Mankind! The Messenger has brought you the truth from your Lord, so believe for your own good. And if you deny the truth, know that to God belongs all that the heavens and the earth contain. God is all knowing and wise.

¹⁷¹ People of the Book! Do not go to extremes in your religion. Say nothing but the truth about God. The Christ Jesus, son of Mary, was only a messenger of God and His word, conveyed to Mary, a spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messengers and do not say:

^a God created man, and then He created Paradise and Hell. Man was later settled on the earth. Here man has freedom to do as he wishes. But this freedom is not forever. It is temporary and meant for his trial. It is so that good and bad may be distinguished from one another. God is watching those who, despite being granted freedom, can adopt realistic attitudes, and surrender themselves to the will of God.

‘There are three [gods].’ Desist, it will be better for you. Indeed, God is the one and only God. His Holiness is far above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And God is sufficient as a guardian. ¹⁷² Surely, the Messiah would never disdain to be accounted a servant of God. Nor would the angels who are nearest to Him. If any do disdain to worship Him, and grow arrogant, He will in any case gather them all before Him. ¹⁷³ Those who believe and do good works will be fully recompensed by Him. And He will give them yet more out of His bounty; and as for those who were disdainful and proud, He will punish them with a painful punishment. And they will not find anyone to help or protect them against God. ¹⁷⁴ Men, you have received clear evidence from your Lord. We have sent down a clear light to you.

¹⁷⁵ As for those who believe in God and hold fast to Him, He will admit them to His mercy and His grace; He will guide them towards Him on a straight path. ¹⁷⁶ They ask you for instruction. Say, ‘God instructs you concerning the indirect heirs. If a person dies childless but has a sister, she receives half of what he leaves, and he is her heir if she dies childless. If there are two sisters, they receive two-thirds of what he leaves. If there are brothers and sisters, the share of each male shall be that of two females. God makes things clear to you, so that you will not go astray. God has knowledge of all things.’

5. THE TABLE (*AL-MA'IDAH*)

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

¹ Believers, fulfill your obligations. All livestock is lawful for you, other than that which is hereby announced to you. You are forbidden to kill game while you are on a pilgrimage—God commands what He will. ² Believers, violate neither the sanctity of God's signs, the Sacred Month, the sacrificial animals, the animals wearing garlands [indicating they are to be sacrificed] nor those on their way to the Sacred House seeking the bounty and pleasure of their Lord. When, on completion of your pilgrimage, you take off the garb of the pilgrim, you may hunt. Do not let the enmity of those who barred you from the Sacred Mosque lead you into sin. Help one another in goodness and in piety. Do not help one another in sin and transgression. Fear God! God is severe in punishment.

³ You are forbidden carrion, blood and pork; and any flesh over which the name of any other than God is invoked; and any creature which has been strangled, or killed by a blow or in a fall, or has been gored to death or half-eaten by a wild animal, saving that which you make lawful [by slaughtering properly while it was still alive] and what has been slaughtered at an

altar. You are forbidden to make the division of [meat] by means of divining arrows: that is sinful conduct. Those who deny the truth have this day despaired of ever harming your religion. So do not fear them. Fear Me. Today I have completed your religion for you and completed My blessing upon you. I have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But if anyone is forced by hunger to eat something which is forbidden, not intending to commit a sin, he will find God forgiving and merciful.

⁴If they ask you what has been made lawful for them, say, ‘All good things have been made lawful for you;’ and what you have taught your birds and beasts of prey to catch, training them as God has taught you. So eat what they catch for you, but first pronounce God’s name over it. Fear God, for God is swift in taking account. ⁵Today, all good things have been made lawful to you. The food of the People of the Book is lawful to you, and your food is lawful to them. The chaste believing women and the chaste women of the people who were given the Book before you, are lawful to you, provided that you give them their dowers, and marry them, neither committing fornication nor taking them as mistresses. The deeds of anyone who rejects the faith will come to nothing, and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.

⁶Believers, when you rise to pray, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows and wipe your heads

and [wash] your feet up to the ankles. If you are in a state of impurity, take a full bath. But if you are sick or on a journey or when you have just relieved yourselves, or you have consorted with your spouses, you can find no water, take some clean sand and rub your faces and hands with it. God does not wish to place any burden on you; He only wishes to purify you and perfect His favour to you, in order that you may be grateful.

⁷ Remember God's favour to you, and the covenant, which He made with you when you said, 'We hear and we obey.' Fear God. God has full knowledge of the innermost thoughts of men. ⁸ Believers, be steadfast in the cause of God and bear witness with justice. Do not let your enmity for others turn you away from justice. Deal justly; that is nearer to being God-fearing. Fear God. God is aware of all that you do. ⁹ God has promised those who believe and do good deeds forgiveness and a great reward; ¹⁰ but those who deny the truth and deny Our signs are destined for Hell. ¹¹ Believers, remember the blessings which God bestowed upon you when a certain people were about to lay hands on you and He held back their hands from you. Have fear of God and in God let the believers place their trust.

¹² God made a covenant with the Children of Israel; and raised among them twelve leaders. God said, 'Surely, I am with you. If you attend to your prayers

and pay the alms and believe in My messengers and support them, and give a generous loan to God, I will certainly forgive you your sins and admit you into Gardens through which rivers flow. Whoever among you denies the truth after this shall go astray from the straight path.’¹³ Since they broke their solemn pledge, We laid on them Our curse and hardened their hearts. They distorted the meaning of the revealed words, taking them out of their context, and forgot much of what they were enjoined. You will constantly discover treachery on their part, except for a few of them. But pardon them, and bear with them; truly, God loves the doers of good.

¹⁴ We also made a covenant with those who say, ‘We are Christians.’ But they too have forgotten much of what they were enjoined. So, We have put enmity and hatred between them till the Day of Judgement; and soon God will declare to them what they have been doing.

¹⁵ People of the Book! Our Messenger has come to make clear to you much of what you have hidden of the Scriptures and to forgive you much. A light has now come to you from God and a clear Book,¹⁶ whereby God guides to the ways of peace all who seek His good pleasure, bringing them from darkness to the light, by His will, and guiding them to a straight path.¹⁷ In blasphemy indeed are those who say, ‘God is Christ, the son of Mary.’ Say, ‘Who then could

prevent God if He so willed from destroying Christ, son of Mary, and his mother and everyone on earth? The kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything between them belong to God. He creates what He will and God has power over all things.'

¹⁸ The Jews and the Christians say, 'We are the children of God and His beloved ones.' Say, 'Then why does He punish you for your sins? Indeed, you are but human beings among those He has created. He forgives whom He pleases and punishes whom He pleases. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, belong to God and all shall return to Him.'¹⁹ People of the Book, Our Messenger has come to you to make things clear to you after an interval between the messengers, lest you say, 'No bearer of glad tidings and no warner has come to us.' So a bearer of glad tidings and a warner has indeed come to you. God has the power to do all things.

²⁰ Remember when Moses said to his people, 'O my people! Remember God's favour to you, He has raised up prophets among you, made you kings, and granted you [favours] such as He has not granted to anyone else in the world.'²¹ O my people! Enter the holy land which God has assigned for you. Do not turn back, or you will be the losers.'²² They said, 'Moses, in that land there is a powerful people. Never shall we enter it until they leave it: if they leave, then we shall

certainly enter it.’²³ Thereupon two God-fearing men whom God had blessed said, ‘Go into them through the gate—for as soon as you enter, you shall surely be victorious! Put your trust in God if you are true believers.’²⁴ They said, ‘We will never enter it, Moses, as long as they are there. Go, you and your Lord, and fight, and we will stay here.’

²⁵ Moses supplicated, ‘Lord, I have power over none but myself and my brother; so separate us from the disobedient people.’²⁶ God said, ‘The land is forbidden to them for forty years, while they wander around the earth, bewildered; do not grieve over these wicked people.’

²⁷ Relate to them, the true story of the two sons of Adam. When they both presented an offering, it was accepted from one of them and not from the other. The latter said, ‘I shall kill you!’ The former said, ‘God accepts [things] only from the righteous.’²⁸ If you raise your hand to kill me, I will not raise mine to kill you. I fear God, the Lord of the Universe,²⁹ and I want you to bear your sins against me as well as your own sins and become an inhabitant of the Fire. Such is the reward of the wrongdoers.’

³⁰ His lower self persuaded him to kill his brother, and he killed him and he became one of the lost.
³¹ Then God sent a raven, which scratched the earth, so that He might show him how to hide the corpse of his brother. ‘Alas!’ he cried, ‘Am I not able even to be

like this raven, so that I may hide the corpse of my brother?’ And he repented.

³² That was why We laid it down for the Children of Israel that whoever killed a human being—except as a punishment for murder or for spreading corruption in the land— shall be regarded as having killed all mankind, and that whoever saved a human life shall be regarded as having saved all mankind. Our messengers came to them with clear signs, but many of them continued to commit excesses in the land.

³³ Those that make war against God and His Messenger and spread disorder in the land shall be put to death or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on alternate sides, or be banished from the country. They shall be disgraced in this world, and then severely punished in the Hereafter, ³⁴ except for those who repent before you gain power over them: for you must know that God is forgiving and merciful.

³⁵ Believers, fear God and seek ways to come closer to Him and strive for His cause, so that you may prosper. ³⁶ As for those who reject Faith, if they had everything on earth, and twice as much again and offered it to ransom themselves from the torment of the Day of Resurrection, it shall not be accepted from them—they will have a painful punishment. ³⁷ They will want to get out of the Fire but they will be unable to do so: theirs shall be a lasting punishment. ³⁸ Cut off the hands of thieves, whether they are male or

female, as a [deterrent] punishment from God for what they have done. God is almighty and wise. ³⁹ But God will surely turn in mercy to him who repents after his transgression and reforms. Surely, God is most forgiving and ever merciful. ⁴⁰ Do you not know that the kingdom of the heavens and earth belongs to God? He punishes whom He will and forgives whom He pleases. God has power over all things.

⁴¹ Messenger, do not be grieved by those who vie with one another in denying the truth; those who say with their tongues, 'We believe,' but have no faith in their hearts; from among the Jews also, there are those who listen eagerly to any lies. They listen to you to convey to others [religious leaders] who do not come to you [out of pride and conceit]. They [these leaders] take words out of their context and say, 'If this be given to you, receive it, but if not, then beware!' If anyone's trial is intended by God, you cannot in the least prevail against God on his behalf. Those whose hearts God does not intend to purify shall be subjected to disgrace in this world and a severe punishment in the Hereafter.

⁴² They listen eagerly to falsehood, and devour forbidden things voraciously. If they come to you, then judge between them or avoid them. If you avoid them, they can in no way harm you, but if you do judge, judge them with fairness: God loves those that deal justly. ⁴³ But why do they come to you for judgement

when they have the Torah, which enshrines God's own judgement? Yet, in spite of that, they turn their backs; and certainly they will not believe.

⁴⁴ We have revealed the Torah, in which there is guidance and light. By it the prophets who were obedient to Us judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the priests, according to God's Book which had been entrusted to their care; and to which they were witnesses. Have no fear of man; fear Me, and do not sell My revelations for a paltry sum. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are deniers of truth.

⁴⁵ We prescribed for them in [the Torah]: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, and a wound for a wound. But, if anyone forgoes it, this shall be for him an expiation. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are wrongdoers! ⁴⁶ We caused Jesus, son of Mary to follow in their footsteps, fulfilling what had been revealed before him in the Torah. We gave him the Gospel, which contained guidance and light, fulfilling what was revealed before it in the Torah: a guide and an admonition to the God-fearing. ⁴⁷ Therefore, let those who follow the Gospel judge according to what God has revealed in it. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are rebellious.

⁴⁸ We have sent down the Book to you with the truth, fulfilling [the predictions] revealed in the previous scriptures and determining what is true therein, and as a guardian

over it. Judge, therefore, between them by what God has revealed, and do not follow their vain desires turning away from the truth that has come to you. To every one of you We have ordained a law and a way, and had God so willed, He would have made you all a single community, but He did not so will, in order that He might try you by what He has given you. Vie, then, with one another in doing good works; to God you shall all return; then He will make clear to you about what you have been disputing.

⁴⁹ Judge between them by what God has sent down and do not be led by their desires. Beware of them lest they turn you away from a part of that what God has revealed to you. If they reject your judgement, know that God intends to punish them for the sins they have committed. Indeed a large number of the people are disobedient. ⁵⁰ Is it pagan laws that they wish to be judged by? Who is a better judge than God for men whose faith is firm?

⁵¹ Believers, do not take the Jews and Christians as allies. They are allies with one another. Whoever of you takes them as an ally shall become one of them. God does not guide the wrongdoers. ⁵² You will see those whose minds are diseased hastening towards them, saying, 'We fear lest a misfortune befall us.' But God may well bring about victory or make a decision which is favourable to you. Then they will repent of the thoughts, which they secretly harboured in their hearts. ⁵³ Then the believers will say, 'Are these the

men who swore their strongest oaths by God, that they were with you?' Their works will come to nothing and they will lose all.

⁵⁴ Believers, if any among you renounce the faith, God will replace them by others who love Him and are loved by Him, who will be kind and considerate towards believers and firm and unyielding towards those who deny the truth. They will strive hard for the cause of God and will in no way take to heart the reproaches of the fault finder. Such is God's bounty, which He gives to anyone He wishes. God is bountiful and all-knowing. ⁵⁵ Your helpers are only God and His Messenger and the believers who say their prayers and pay the alms and bow down in worship. ⁵⁶ Those who ally themselves with God, His Messenger, and the believers must know that God's party is sure to triumph.

⁵⁷ Believers! Do not seek the friendship of those who were given the Book before you or the disbelievers who ridicule your religion and make a jest of it.^a Have fear of God, if you are true believers. ⁵⁸ When you call them to prayer, they treat it as a jest and a diversion. This is because they are devoid of understanding. ⁵⁹ Say, 'People of the Book! Do you resent us only because we believe in God and in what has been revealed to us and to others before, and because most

^a See note to 3:28.

of you are disobedient?’⁶⁰ Say, ‘Shall I tell you who will receive a worse reward from God? Those whom God has rejected and with whom He has been angry. They were condemned as apes and swine and those who worship the evil.^a These are in the worst plight and farthest astray from the right path.’

⁶¹ When they come to you they say, ‘We believe,’ but they come [with the resolve] to deny the truth and leave in the same state. God knows best what they are concealing.⁶² You see many among them vie with one another in sin and transgression and practice what is unlawful. It is vile indeed what they have been doing!⁶³ Why do their rabbis and scholars not forbid them to utter sinful words or to consume what is unlawful? Their actions are indeed vile.

⁶⁴ The Jews say, ‘The hand of God is tied up.’ May their own hands be tied up and may they be cursed for what they say. No indeed! His hands are both outstretched: He bestows as He will. What is revealed to you from your Lord will surely increase in most of them their obstinate rebellion and denial of truth; and We have sown among them enmity and hatred till the Day of Resurrection. Whenever they kindle the fire of

^a It is not in a literal sense but has a symbolic connotation, describing their moral degradation. They were not converted to such animals in physical sense, but their character and behaviour became like apes and swine.

war, God puts it out. They spread evil in the land, but God does not love the evil-doers.

⁶⁵ If only the People of the Book would believe and be mindful of God, We would surely pardon their sins and We would surely admit them into the Gardens of Bliss. ⁶⁶ If they had observed the Torah and the Gospel and what was revealed to them from their Lord, they would surely have been nourished from above and from below. There are some among them who are on the right course; but there are many among them who do nothing but evil.

⁶⁷ O Messenger, deliver whatever has been sent down to you by your Lord. If you do not do so, you will not have conveyed His message. God will defend you from mankind. For God does not guide those who deny the truth.

⁶⁸ Say, 'People of the Book, you have no ground to stand on until you observe the Torah and the Gospel and what is revealed to you from your Lord.' What is revealed to you from your Lord will surely increase many of them in rebellion and in their denial of the truth. But do not grieve for those who deny the truth.

⁶⁹ Believers, Jews, Sabaeans and Christians—whoever believes in God and the Last Day and does what is right—shall have nothing to fear nor shall they grieve.

⁷⁰ We made a covenant with the Children of Israel and sent forth messengers among them. But whenever a messenger came to them with a message that was not

to their liking, some they accused of lying, while others they put to death,⁷¹ and they imagined that no harm would come to them; and so they became blind and deaf [of heart]. God turned to them in mercy; yet again many of them became blind and deaf. God is fully aware of their actions.

⁷² Indeed, they are deniers of the truth who say, ‘God is the Christ, the son of Mary.’ For the Christ himself said, ‘Children of Israel, serve God, my Lord and your Lord.’ If anyone associates anything with God, God will forbid him the Garden and the Fire will be his home. The wrongdoers shall have no helpers.

⁷³ They are deniers of the truth who say, ‘God is one of three.’ There is only One God. If they do not desist from so saying, a painful punishment is bound to befall such of them as are bent on denying the truth.

⁷⁴ Why do they not turn to God and ask for His forgiveness? God is forgiving and merciful. ⁷⁵ Christ, son of Mary, was no more than a messenger. Many messengers passed away before him. His mother was a virtuous woman; and they both ate food [like other mortals]. See how We make the signs clear to them! See how they turn away! ⁷⁶ Say, ‘Do you worship something other than God, that has no power to do you harm or good? God alone is the All Hearing and All Knowing.’

⁷⁷ Say, ‘People of the Book! Do not go to extremes in your religion and do not follow the whims of those

who went astray before you—they caused many to go astray and themselves strayed away from the right path.’

⁷⁸ Those of the Children of Israel who were bent on denying the truth were cursed by David and Jesus, the son of Mary. That was because they disobeyed and were given to transgression; ⁷⁹ they would not prevent one another from doing the wrong things they did. Evil indeed were their deeds. ⁸⁰ You see many among them allying themselves with those who deny the truth. Evil is that which their souls have sent on ahead for them. They have incurred the wrath of God and shall suffer eternal punishment. ⁸¹ Had they believed in God and the Prophet and what was revealed to him, they would not have taken those who deny the truth as their allies, but many of them are disobedient.

⁸² You will find that the bitterest in their enmity to the faithful are the Jews and the polytheists; the nearest in affection to them are those who say, ‘We are Christians.’ That is because there are priests and monks among them; and because they are free from pride. ⁸³ When they listen to what has been sent down to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears, because of the Truth they recognize. They say, ‘Our Lord, we believe, so count us among those who bear witness. ⁸⁴ Why should we not believe in God and in the truth that has come down to us? We yearn for our Lord to admit us among the righteous.’ ⁸⁵ And for

their words God will reward them with Gardens through which rivers flow, wherein they shall abide forever. That is the reward of those who do good. ⁸⁶ But those who deny the truth and deny Our signs will become the inmates of Hell.

⁸⁷ Believers, do not forbid the wholesome good things, which God made lawful to you. Do not transgress; God does not love the transgressors. ⁸⁸ Eat the lawful and wholesome things, which God has given you. Fear God, in whom you believe. ⁸⁹ God will not call you to account for your meaningless oaths, but He will call you to account for the oaths, which you swear in earnest. The expiation for a broken oath is the feeding of ten needy men with such food as you normally offer to your own people; or the clothing of ten needy men; or the freeing of one slave. Anyone who lacks the means shall fast for three days. That is the expiation of your breaking the oaths that you have sworn. Do keep your oaths. Thus God explains to you His commandments, so that you may be grateful.

⁹⁰ Believers, intoxicants and gambling and [occult dedication of] stones and divining arrows are abominations devised by Satan. Avoid them, so that you may prosper. ⁹¹ Satan seeks to sow enmity and hatred among you by means of wine and gambling, and to keep you from the remembrance of God and from your prayers. Will you not then abstain? ⁹² Obey God and obey the Messenger, and be ever on your

guard [against evil]. But if you turn away, then know that Our Messenger's duty is only to deliver the message clearly. ⁹³ Those who believe and do good deeds will not be blamed for what they may have consumed [in the past], so long as they fear God and believe in Him and do good works; so long as they fear God and believe in Him, so long as they fear God and do good deeds. For God loves those who do good.

⁹⁴ Believers, God will test you with game which come within the reach of your hands and spears, so that He may know those who fear Him, even if they cannot see Him. Anyone who oversteps the limits after this will have a painful punishment. ⁹⁵ Believers, do not kill any game while you are on a pilgrimage. Anyone of you who kills game deliberately shall make compensation with an animal which is the equivalent of what he has killed, to be determined by two just men from among you, as an offering brought to the Ka'bah; or he shall, in expiation, either feed the poor or do the equivalent of that in fasting, so that he may taste the consequence of his deeds. God forgives what is past, but if anyone relapses into wrongdoing, God will exact His retribution. God is mighty, the Lord of retribution.

⁹⁶ To hunt and to eat the fish of the sea is made lawful for you, a provision made for you and for seafarers. But you are forbidden the game of the land while you are on a pilgrimage. Have fear of God,

before whom you shall all be gathered. ⁹⁷ God has made the Ka‘bah, the Sacred House, a means of support as well as the sacred month and the sacrificial animals with their garlands. That is so that you may know that God has knowledge of whatever is in the heavens and on the earth and that He is fully aware of all things. ⁹⁸ Know that God is severe in punishment, yet most forgiving and merciful. ⁹⁹ The Messenger’s sole duty is to convey the message. God knows what you reveal and what you hide. ¹⁰⁰ Say, ‘The bad and the good are not alike, even though the abundance of the bad may appear pleasing to you. So fear God, O men of understanding, so that you may prosper.’

¹⁰¹ Believers, do not ask questions about things which, if they were made known to you, would only become burdensome for you; but if you ask them when the Quran is being revealed, they shall be made plain to you—God has kept silent about them: God is most forgiving and forbearing. ¹⁰² Other people before you enquired about such things, but when they were disclosed to them, they refused to carry them out. ¹⁰³ God has ordained no sanctity about animals described as *bahirah*, or *sa’ibah*, or *wasilah* or *ham*.^a Those who deny the truth invent falsehoods about God. Most of them do not use their reason: ¹⁰⁴ when

^a These are different categories of domestic animals which the pre-Islamic Arabs used to dedicate to their deities.

it is said to them, 'Come to what God has sent down and to the Messenger.' They reply, 'The faith we have inherited from our fathers is sufficient for us.' Even though their forefathers knew nothing and were not guided! ¹⁰⁵ Believers, take care of your own souls. The misguided cannot harm you as long as you are guided. All of you will return to God. Then He will make you realize that which you used to do.

¹⁰⁶ Believers, when death approaches you, let two just men from among you act as witnesses when you make your testaments; or two men from another tribe, if the calamity of death overtakes you while you are travelling in the land. Detain them after prayers, and if you doubt their honesty, let them swear by God, 'We will not sell our testimony for any price, even to a kinsman. And we will not conceal the testimony of God. If we did, we would indeed be guilty of sin.' ¹⁰⁷ If it turns out that both prove dishonest, two others should take their place from amongst those whose rights have been usurped and let them swear by God, saying, 'Our testimony is indeed truer than the testimony of these two. And we have not been guilty of any misstatement for then indeed we would be transgressors.' ¹⁰⁸ That makes it more likely that people will bear true witness, or else they will fear that their oaths will be contradicted by the oaths of others. Heed God and listen; God does not guide a rebellious, disobedient people.

¹⁰⁹ The Day when God assembles the messengers

and asks them, ‘What was the response you received [from the people]?’ they will reply, ‘We have no knowledge of it. You alone know what is hidden.’

¹¹⁰ Then God will say, ‘Jesus, son of Mary, remember My favour to you and to your mother: how I strengthened you with the holy spirit, so that you could speak to people in childhood and in maturity; and how I taught you the Book, and wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel; how by My leave you fashioned from clay the shape of a bird and blew upon it, so that, by My leave, it became a bird, and healed the blind and the leper by My permission, and when you brought forth the dead by My permission; and how I prevented the Children of Israel from harming you when you came to them with clear signs, when those of them who denied the truth said, “This is sheer magic.”

¹¹¹ [Remember the time], when I inspired the disciples to believe in Me and in My messenger, they replied, “We believe, bear witness that we have submitted.”¹¹² When the disciples said, ‘O Jesus, son of Mary! Can your Lord send down to us from heaven a table spread with food?’ He replied, ‘Have fear of God, if you are true believers.’¹¹³ They said, ‘We want to eat from it, so that we may satisfy our hearts and know that you have told us the truth, and that we should be witnesses of it.’¹¹⁴ Jesus, son of Mary, said, ‘O God, our Lord! Send down for us a table spread with food from heaven, so that it may be a feast for

us, for the first of us and for the last of us: a sign from You. Give us our sustenance, for You are the best of sustainers.’¹¹⁵ God replied, ‘I will certainly send it down to you, but whosoever of you deny the truth thereafter will be punished with a punishment such as I have never meted out to anyone else in the world.’

¹¹⁶ When God says, ‘Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to people, “Take me and my mother as two deities besides God”?’ He will answer, ‘Glory be to You! How could I ever say that to which I have no right? If I had ever said so, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my mind, while I do not know anything that is within Yours. You alone are the knower of unseen things—¹¹⁷ I told them only what You commanded me to, “Worship God, my Lord and your Lord.” I was a witness to what they did as long as I remained among them, and when You took my soul, You were the watcher over them. You are the witness of all things,¹¹⁸ and if You punish them, they are surely Your servants; and if You forgive them, You are surely the Mighty and Wise.’

¹¹⁹ God will say, ‘This is the Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. They shall forever dwell in Gardens through which rivers flow. God is pleased with them and they with Him: that is the supreme triumph.’¹²⁰ The kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything in them belongs to God: He has power over all things.

6. THE CATTLE (*AL-AN‘AM*)

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

¹ Praise be to God, who has created the heavens and the earth and brought into being darkness and light. Yet those who deny the truth set up equals to their Lord! ² It is He who has created you out of clay, and then has decreed a term [for you]—a term known [only] to Him. Yet you are still in doubt— ³ He is God both in the heavens and on earth. He has knowledge of all that you hide and all that you reveal. He knows what you do; ⁴ yet every time a sign comes to them from their Lord, they turn away from it. ⁵ They have rejected truth whenever it came to them, yet [more] news will reach them concerning what they have been making a mockery of. ⁶ Have they not seen how many generations We destroyed before them? We established them on the earth more firmly than you, and We sent the clouds over them, pouring down abundant rain; and made the rivers flow at their feet. Yet We destroyed them for their sins, and raised up other generations after them.

⁷ But even if We had sent down to you a Book written on parchment, and they had touched it with their own hands—those who deny the truth would still have said, ‘This is mere magic.’ ⁸ They ask, ‘Why has

an angel not been sent down to him?' If We did send down an angel, the matter would be settled and they would not have been granted any respite. ⁹ Indeed, if We had sent an angel as messenger, We would have made him in the form of a man as well, and would have thus added to their confusion. ¹⁰ Messengers have been mocked before you, but those who scoffed were overtaken by the very thing they scoffed at. ¹¹ Say, 'Travel about the land and see what was the end of the deniers.'

¹² Say, 'To whom belongs all that is in the heavens and earth?' Say, 'To God. He has taken it upon Himself to be merciful. That He will gather you on the Day of Resurrection is beyond all doubt. Those who have forfeited their souls will never have faith.' ¹³ To Him belongs all that dwells in the night and the day. He is the All Hearing and the All Knowing. ¹⁴ Say, 'Shall I take as my protector someone other than God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, who feeds all and is fed by none?' Say, 'I have been commanded to be the first of those who submit. Do not be one of the polytheists.' ¹⁵ Say, 'I will never disobey my Lord, for I fear the punishment of a dreadful Day.' ¹⁶ Anyone from whom punishment is averted on that Day has been shown great mercy by God. That is a supreme achievement.

¹⁷ If God should let any harm touch you, no one could remove it except He; while if He should let some

good touch you, know that He has the power to do all that He wills. ¹⁸ He reigns Supreme over His servants; and He is the All Wise, the All Aware. ¹⁹ Ask them, ‘What carries the most weight as a witness?’ Tell them it is God. He is a witness between you and me. Say, ‘This Quran has been revealed to me so that through it I may warn you and whoever it reaches. Do you really bear witness that there are other deities beside God?’ Say, ‘I do not bear witness to this.’ Say, ‘He is only one God, and I disown whatever you associate with Him.’

²⁰ Those to whom We have given the Scriptures know this as they know their own sons. But those who have ruined their souls will not believe. ²¹ Who does greater wrong than he who invents a lie against God and denies His signs? Assuredly, the wrongdoers will not succeed. ²² On the Day when We gather them all together, We will say to those who associated [others with Us], ‘Where are those partners that you claimed?’ ²³ Then they will have no excuse but to say, ‘By God our Lord, we have never been polytheists.’ ²⁴ See how they lie to themselves, and how those [the deities] they invented have deserted them.

²⁵ Among them are some who listen to you, but We have placed veils over their hearts and deafness in their ears which prevent them from understanding what you say. Even if they saw all the signs, they would still not believe in them. When those who deny

the truth come to dispute with you, they will say, 'This is nothing but ancient fables,'²⁶ and they bar others from believing and themselves keep away. But they ruin no one but themselves, though they fail to realize this.²⁷ If you could only see when they are set before the Fire. They will say, 'If only we could be sent back. Then we would not deny the signs of our Lord and we would be of the believers.'²⁸ The truth they used to hide will become all too clear to them. But if they were sent back, they would return to what they had been forbidden. For they are indeed liars.

²⁹ They say, 'There is nothing beyond our life in this world: we shall not be raised up again from the dead.'³⁰ If you could only see when they are made to stand before their Lord! He will ask them, 'Is this [second life] not the truth?' They will say, 'Yes, by our Lord!' He will say, 'Then, taste the punishment that comes from your having refused to acknowledge the truth!'

³¹ Those indeed are the losers who deny the meeting with God. When the Hour comes on them suddenly, they cry, 'Alas for us, that we neglected it!' They shall bear their burdens on their backs. Evil are the burdens they shall bear.³² The life of this world is but a sport and a pastime. Surely the Home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear God. Will you not understand?

³³ We know that what they say grieves you. It is not you that the wrongdoers are rejecting, rather it is the signs of God that they reject.³⁴ Other messengers have been

denied before you, and they bore their rejection and persecution steadfastly, until Our help came to them. There is no one who can change the words of God. You have already received some account of those messengers. ³⁵ If you find their rejection hard to bear, then seek a tunnel into the ground or a ladder into the sky, if you can, and bring them a sign. Had God so willed, He would indeed have given them all [His] guidance. So do not be among the ignorant. ³⁶ Only they who listen can respond to a call; and as for the dead, God will raise them up, and then they will all return to Him.

³⁷ They ask, ‘Why has no sign been sent down to him from his Lord?’ Say, ‘God alone has the power to send down a sign.’ But most of them do not understand: ³⁸ there is not an animal that moves about on the earth, nor a bird that flies on its two wings, but are creatures like you. We have left out nothing in the Book—they shall all be gathered before their Lord. ³⁹ Those who reject Our signs are deaf and dumb, [groping along] in darkness. God lets anyone He wishes go astray and sets whoever He will on a straight path.

⁴⁰ Say, ‘Tell me if the punishment of God came upon you or the Hour overtook you, would you call upon any other than God, if you are truthful?’ ⁴¹ Indeed, it is on Him that you would call, and He could remove that [affliction] which made you call on Him, if He will, and then you would forget [the false deities] which you associate with Him!’

⁴² We sent messengers before you [Prophet] to many communities and afflicted their people with suffering and hardship, so that they might humble themselves. ⁴³ When the affliction decreed by Us befell them, they did not humble themselves, but rather their hearts hardened, for Satan had made all their doings seem fair to them. ⁴⁴ When they had forgotten Our admonition, We granted them all that they desired; but just as they were rejoicing in what they were given, We seized them suddenly and they were plunged into despair. ⁴⁵ The wrongdoers were thus annihilated. All praise be to God, the Lord of the Worlds.

⁴⁶ Say, 'If God should take away your hearing and your sight and seal your hearts, who is the deity who could restore it to you save God?' See how We explain the signs to them in diverse ways, yet they turn away. ⁴⁷ Ask them, 'Tell me, if the punishment of God came upon you suddenly or predictably, would any but the wrongdoers be destroyed?' ⁴⁸ We send the messengers only to give good news and to warn, so those who believe and reform themselves need have no fear, nor will they grieve. ⁴⁹ Chastisement will befall those who reject Our signs because of their disobedience. ⁵⁰ Say, 'I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of God, nor do I know the unseen, nor do I say to you that I am an angel. I follow only that which is revealed to me.' Say, 'Are the blind and the seeing alike? Can you not then think?'

⁵¹ Warn by it those who fear to be gathered before their Lord, when they have no guardian or intercessor besides God, so that they may become God-fearing.

⁵² Do not send away those who call upon their Lord in the morning and in the evening, seeking only His grace. You are not by any means accountable for them, nor are they accountable for you. If you turn them away, you yourself will become one of the unjust. ⁵³ In this way We try some of them by means of others, so that they may ask, ‘Are these [lowly ones] whom God has singled out for His favours from among us? Does God not know best who are the grateful ones?’

⁵⁴ When those who believe in Our revelations come to you, say, ‘Peace be upon you. Your Lord has taken it upon Himself to be merciful. So that if any one among you does evil in ignorance and repents thereafter and makes amends, then He is most forgiving and ever merciful.’ ⁵⁵ Thus We make plain Our signs, so that the path of the evil-doers might be laid bare.

⁵⁶ Say, ‘I am forbidden to worship those you call upon besides God.’ Say, ‘I do not follow your whims and desires. If I did, I would go astray and cease to be rightly guided.’ ⁵⁷ Say, ‘I stand by the clear evidence from my Lord, yet you deny it. What you seek to hasten is not within my power. Judgement is for God alone. He declares the truth. He is the best of judges.’

⁵⁸ Say, ‘If what you seek to hasten were within my power, the matter would be settled between you and

me. God best knows the evil-doers.’⁵⁹ He holds the keys to the unseen; none knows them but He. He has knowledge of all that land and sea contain. No leaf falls without His knowledge, nor is there a single grain in the darkness of the earth, or anything, wet or dry, but is recorded in a clear Record.

⁶⁰ It is He who gathers you in at night and knows all that you do by day; then He raises you up during the day so that an appointed term may be completed. Then to Him you shall return and He will declare to you all that you used to do.⁶¹ He is the Absolute Master over His servants. He sends forth guardians [angels] who watch over you until, when death approaches one of you, Our angels take his soul, and they never fail in their duty.⁶² Then they will all be returned to God, their true Lord. The Judgement is His alone. He is the swiftest reckoner.

⁶³ Say, ‘Who is it who delivers you from the dark depths of land and sea when you call out to Him humbly and in secret, saying, “If He rescues us from this, we shall most certainly be among the grateful.”?’

⁶⁴ Say, ‘It is God who delivers you from it and from every other distress, yet you associate partners with Him.’⁶⁵ Say, ‘He has the power to send punishment on you from above your heads or from beneath your feet, or to divide you in sects and make you taste one another’s violence.’ See how We explain Our revelations in various ways, so that they may

understand. ⁶⁶ Your people have rejected the message We have sent through you, though it is the truth. Say ‘I am not your keeper. ⁶⁷ Every prophecy has its fixed time to be fulfilled: and soon you will come to know.’

⁶⁸ When you see people engaged in finding fault with Our revelations, withdraw from them until they turn to some other topic. Should Satan cause you to forget this, take leave of the wrongdoers as soon as you remember. ⁶⁹ The God-fearing are not in any way held accountable for the wrongdoers; their only duty is to remind them, so that they may fear God. ⁷⁰ Leave alone those for whom religion is only a sport and pastime and are deceived by the life of this world, but continue to remind them with the Quran, lest a soul be held in pledge because of what it has wrought, having no helper or intercessor besides God. Whatever ransom they may offer, it will not be accepted. Such are those that are damned by their own actions: they will have boiling water to drink and a painful punishment for their denial of truth.

⁷¹ Say, ‘Instead of God, shall we call upon that which can neither benefit us nor harm us? Are we to turn upon our heels after God has guided us, like one who, beguiled by devils in the land, wanders bewildered, his companions calling him to the right path, saying, “Come to us”?’ Say, ‘God’s guidance is the only guidance. We are commanded to surrender ourselves to the Lord of the Universe, ⁷² say our

prayers regularly and to fear God.’ He it is to whom you will be gathered.’ ⁷³ It was He who created the heavens and the earth for a true purpose. On the Day when He says, ‘Be,’ it shall be: His word is the truth. All sovereignty shall be His on the Day when the trumpet is sounded. The Knower of the unseen and the visible, He is the Wise, the Aware One. ⁷⁴ Remember when Abraham said to his father, Azar, ‘Do you take idols as your gods? I see that you and your people have clearly gone astray.’

⁷⁵ In this way We showed Abraham Our kingdom of the heavens and the earth, so that he might have certainty of faith. ⁷⁶ When night descended on him, he saw a star. He said, ‘This is my Lord!’ Then when it set he said, ‘I do not love things that set.’ ⁷⁷ When he saw the moon rise and spread its light, he said, ‘This is my Lord.’ But when it set, he said, ‘If my Lord does not guide me, I will be one of the misguided people.’ ⁷⁸ Then, when he saw the sun shining, he said, ‘This is my Lord! This is the greatest of all!’ Then when it set, he said, ‘My people, I disown all that you worship besides God. ⁷⁹ I have set my face with single-minded devotion, towards Him who has created the heavens and the earth, and I am not one of the polytheists.’ ⁸⁰ His people argued with him. He said, ‘Are you arguing with me about God, while He has guided me? I have no fear of any partner you ascribe to Him, unless my Lord should wish otherwise. My Lord encompasses all things in His knowledge, so will you

not pay heed? ⁸¹ Why should I fear what you associate with Him, while you do not fear to associate with God that for which He has sent down to you no authority? Tell me, if you know the truth, which side has more right to feel secure. ⁸² It is those who have faith, and do not mix their faith with wrongdoing, who will be secure, and it is they who are rightly guided.’ ⁸³ This is the reasoning We gave to Abraham against his people—We raise in rank anyone We please—your Lord is wise and aware. ⁸⁴ We gave him Isaac and Jacob, each of whom We guided as We had guided Noah before. Among his descendants were David and Solomon, and Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron. Thus do We reward the righteous.

⁸⁵ Zachariah, John, Jesus, and Elijah—every one of them was righteous—⁸⁶ Ishmael, Elisha, Jonah, and Lot—We favoured each one of them above other people, ⁸⁷ and also some of their forefathers, their offspring, and their brothers: We chose them and guided them to a straight path. ⁸⁸ This is the guidance of God: He gives that guidance to whichever of His servants He pleases. If they had associated other deities with Him, surely all they did would have been of no avail. ⁸⁹ Those are the ones to whom We gave the Scripture, wisdom, and prophethood. If these people [the Makkans] reject it, We shall entrust it to a people who will never refuse to acknowledge it. ⁹⁰ Those [the previous prophets] were the people whom God guided.

Follow their guidance then and say, 'I ask no reward for this from you: it is only a reminder for all mankind.'⁹¹ They do not make a just estimate of God, when they say, 'God has not revealed anything to any human being.' Say, 'Who revealed the Book which Moses brought, a light and guidance for the people, which you made into separate sheets, showing some but hiding many? You have been taught things that neither you nor your forefathers had known before.' Say, 'God has sent it;' then leave them toying away with their speculation.

⁹² This is a blessed Book which We have revealed, confirming what came before it, so that you may warn the Mother of Cities [Makkah] and the people around it. Those who believe in the Hereafter do believe in it, and they are ever-mindful of their prayers. ⁹³ Who could do greater wrong than someone who invents a lie against God or who says, 'It has been revealed to me,' while nothing has been revealed to him, or someone who says, 'I will send down the like of what God has sent down'? If you could only see the wrongdoers in the throes of death when the angels are stretching out their hands, saying, 'Give up your souls. Today you will be repaid with a humiliating punishment for saying false things about God and being arrogant about His signs.'

⁹⁴ And now you have returned to Us, alone as We created you at first, leaving behind all that We gave

you. Nor do We see with you your intercessors, those you claimed were your partners with God. The link between you is cut and that which you presumed has failed you. ⁹⁵ It is God who splits the seed and the fruit-stone. He brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living. That is God. How then can you, deluded, turn away from the truth?

⁹⁶ He causes the break of day, and has made the night for rest and He made the sun and the moon to a precise measure. That is the measure determined by the Almighty and the All Knowing. ⁹⁷ It is He who has set up for you the stars so that you might be guided by them in the midst of the darkness of land and sea. We have made the signs clear for people who want to understand.^a ⁹⁸ It is He who first produced you from a single soul, then gave you a place to stay [in life] and a resting place [after death]. We have made Our revelations clear to those who are men of understanding.

⁹⁹ It is He who sends down water from the sky. With it We produce vegetation of all kinds; out of green foliage, We produce clustered grain; and from the date-palm, out of its sheath, We produce bunches of dates hanging low. We produce vineyards and olive

^a The gigantic system of the universe runs with such exactitude that no discrepancy has crept into it even after millions of years. This proves the immanence of a Being whose powers are of unlimited greatness.

groves and pomegranates, alike yet different. Look at their fruit as He causes it to grow and ripen. In this are signs for people who believe. ¹⁰⁰ They have set up jinns as associates with God, even though He created them! They have even dared, in their ignorance, to attribute sons and daughters to Him. Hallowed be He and exalted far above what they ascribe to Him, ¹⁰¹ the Originator of the heavens and the earth. How could He have a son when He has no consort? He created everything and is aware of everything! ¹⁰² This is God, your Lord, there is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him; He is the guardian of all things. ¹⁰³ No vision can grasp Him, but He takes in over all vision; He is the Subtle and Aware One. ¹⁰⁴ Clear insights have come to you from your Lord. Whoever, therefore, chooses to see, does so for his own good; and whoever chooses to remain blind, does so to his own loss. Say, ‘I am not here as your keeper.’ ¹⁰⁵ This is how We explain Our revelations in various ways—so that they might come to the point of saying, ‘You have read this out to us,’ and that We might make it clear [that this is the truth] to those who are eager to know.

¹⁰⁶ Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord: there is no deity but Him; and ignore the polytheists. ¹⁰⁷ If God had willed, they would not have associated anything with Him. We did not appoint you over them as their keeper, nor are you their guardian.

¹⁰⁸ Do not revile those [beings] whom they invoke instead of God, lest they, in their hostility, revile God and out of ignorance. Thus to every people We have caused their actions to seem fair. To their Lord they shall all return, and He will declare to them all that they have done. ¹⁰⁹ They swear a solemn oath by God that if there should come to them a sign, they will believe in it. Say, ‘Signs are granted only by God.’ How can you tell that if a sign be given to them, they will indeed believe in it?

¹¹⁰ We will turn away their hearts and eyes from the Truth, since they refused to believe in it in the first instance. We will let them wander blindly in their insolence. ¹¹¹ Even if We sent down angels to them, and caused the dead to speak to them, and We gathered together everything in front of them, they would still not believe, unless God had so willed. But most of them behave ignorantly. ¹¹² In like manner We have assigned for every prophet an opponent, Satans from among men and jinn, who make evil suggestions to each other by means of specious words in order to deceive—had it been your Lord’s will, they would not have done so; so leave them alone to their fabrication, ¹¹³ in order that the hearts of those who do not believe in the life to come might incline towards those suggestions and, being pleased, persist in their sinful ways. ¹¹⁴ Should I seek a judge other than God, when it is He who has revealed the Book, clearly explained. Those to whom We gave the Book earlier know that

it is the truth revealed by your Lord. Therefore, have no doubts.

¹¹⁵ The Word of your Lord is perfected in truth and justice. None can change His words. He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing. ¹¹⁶ If you obey the majority of those on earth, they will lead you astray from God's way. They follow nothing but conjecture. They are only guessing. ¹¹⁷ Your Lord knows best who has strayed from His Way and He knows best those who are guided. ¹¹⁸ Eat then, only that over which God's name has been pronounced, if you truly believe in His revelations.

¹¹⁹ Why should you not eat what has been consecrated in God's name, when He has already explained to you what He has forbidden you, unless you are compelled by necessity? Surely, many mislead others by their desires through lack of knowledge. But your Lord best knows the transgressors. ¹²⁰ Eschew all sin, open or secret: Those who commit sin will receive due punishment for their sins, ¹²¹ and do not eat anything over which God's name has not been pronounced, for that surely is disobedience. The devils inspire their followers to argue with you. If you obey them, you will become of those who associate partners with God. ¹²² Can he who was dead, to whom We gave life, and a light whereby he could walk among people be like him who is in utter darkness from which he can never emerge? Thus the deeds of those who deny the truth have been made fair-seeming to them.

¹²³ Thus We have placed leaders of the wicked in every town to plot therein. Yet it is only against themselves that they scheme, though they may not perceive it. ¹²⁴ When a sign comes to them, they say, ‘We will not believe in it until we are given what God’s messengers have been given. But God knows best whom to appoint as His Messenger. Humiliation before God and severe torment will befall the evil-doers for their scheming. ¹²⁵ When God desires to guide someone, He opens his breast to Islam; and whoever He wills to let go astray, He causes his breast to be constricted as if he had to climb up to the skies. That is how God heaps ignominy upon those who refuse to believe.

¹²⁶ This is the straight path leading to your Lord. We have made the signs clear for thinking men. ¹²⁷ They shall dwell in the Home of Peace with their Lord; He will be their Protector as a recompense for what they have been doing. ¹²⁸ On the day when He gathers them all together, He will say, ‘Company of jinn, you took away many followers among mankind.’ And their adherents among mankind will say, ‘Our Lord, we benefited from one another, but now we have reached the end of the term which You determined for us.’ He will say, ‘The Fire shall be your home, and there you shall remain forever, except as God wills. Surely your Lord is wise and all knowing.

¹²⁹ And in like manner We shall keep the wrongdoers

close to others as a punishment for their misdeeds. ¹³⁰ Company of jinn and mankind! Did messengers not come from among you to recite My revelations to you, and warn you of the meeting of this Day?’ They will say, ‘We bear witness against ourselves.’ It was the life of this world that deceived them and so they will bear witness against themselves, that they rejected the truth. ¹³¹ Your Lord would not destroy a community for its wrongdoing, so long as its people were still unaware. ¹³² For all are degrees of rank according to their deeds; your Lord is not unaware of anything they do.

¹³³ Your Lord is the self-sufficient One, the merciful. If He wills, He can take you away and replace you by anyone He pleases, just as He raised you from the offspring of other people. ¹³⁴ That which you are promised shall surely come to pass and you cannot prevent it. ¹³⁵ Say, ‘O my people! Go on acting in your way; indeed I am going to act in my way; soon you will know whose end will be best in the Hereafter.’ Surely, the wrongdoers shall not prosper. ¹³⁶ They set aside for God a share in what He has produced, such as crops and livestock, and they say, ‘This is for God’—so they claim!—and ‘this is for our associate-gods? Their associate-gods’ share does not reach God, whereas God’s share reaches their associate-gods. How ill they judge!

¹³⁷ And in like manner, their associate gods have

made killing their children seem fair to many pagans, so that they may ruin them and cause confusion in their religion. Had God pleased, they would not have done so; so leave them to their false inventions.¹³⁸ They also say, ‘These animals and these crops are forbidden. None may eat them except those we permit.’ So they claim! There are some animals they exempt from labour and some over which they do not pronounce God’s name, thus committing a sin against Him. He will requite them for the falsehoods they invent.

¹³⁹ They say, ‘What is in the wombs of such and such cattle is exclusively for our males and is forbidden to our females. But if it is stillborn, they may have a share of it.’ God will soon punish them for their [false] attribution. He is wise, and all-knowing.¹⁴⁰ Losers indeed are they who kill their children foolishly and without knowledge and declare as forbidden what God has provided for them as sustenance—a fabrication against God: they have gone astray and have not chosen to be rightly guided.¹⁴¹ It is He who has produced gardens, both trellised and untrellised, and date palms and field crops, all varying in taste, and the olive and the pomegranate, both similar and dissimilar. Eat their fruits when they bear fruit and give away what is due of them on the day of their harvest. Do not waste anything. He does not love the wasteful!

¹⁴² Of the cattle there are some for carrying burdens

and some for food. Eat what God has provided for you and do not follow in Satan's footsteps, for he is a declared enemy of yours. ¹⁴³ God has created four kinds of livestock of either sex: two of sheep and two of goats. Ask them, 'Is it the two males He has forbidden or the two females or what the wombs of the two females contain? Tell me on the basis of knowledge, if you are truthful.'

¹⁴⁴ Again, of the camels there are two, and of the oxen two. Ask them, 'Is it the two males He has forbidden, or the two females or what the wombs of the two females contain? Were you present when God enjoined this on you?' Who is more unjust than one who, without knowledge, fabricates a lie against God, so that he may lead people astray without knowledge? Surely, God does not guide the wrongdoers. ¹⁴⁵ Say [O Prophet], 'In all that has been revealed to me, I do not find a ban on anything to eat, except for carrion, flowing blood and pork, all these being unclean or profane, on which the name of someone other than God has been invoked.' But if anyone is forced by necessity, being neither disobedient nor exceeding the limit, then surely your Lord is most forgiving and merciful. ¹⁴⁶ We forbade the Jews all animals with claws and the fat of sheep [and goats] and oxen, except what is on their backs and in their intestines and what adheres to their bones. That is the penalty We imposed on them for their disobedience. And We assuredly are true to Our word.

¹⁴⁷ So, if they accuse you of lying, say, ‘The mercy of your Lord is all-encompassing. His punishment cannot be averted from sinful men.’ ¹⁴⁸ Those who associate partners with God will surely say, ‘Had God pleased, neither we nor our fathers would have served other gods besides Him; nor would we have made anything unlawful.’ Likewise those who lived before them argued falsely until they came to taste Our punishment! Say, ‘Have you any knowledge? If so, produce it before us. You follow nothing but conjecture. You are merely guessing.’

¹⁴⁹ Say, ‘God alone has the conclusive proof. If He had willed, He could have guided every one of you.’ ¹⁵⁰ Say, ‘Come, bring your witnesses, who can testify that God forbade [all] this.’ If they bear witness [falsely], do not bear witness with them; nor yield to the wishes of those who deny Our signs, nor of those who do not believe in the life to come and set up others as equals with their Lord. ¹⁵¹ Say, ‘Come! I will tell you what your Lord has really forbidden you! Do not associate anything with Him; be good to your parents; and do not kill your children for fear of poverty—We shall provide sustenance for you as well as for them—refrain from committing indecent deeds, whether openly or in secret; and do not kill the life which God has made sacred, save by right. That is what He has enjoined upon you, so that you may understand.

¹⁵² Stay well away from an orphan’s property,

except with the best intentions, before he comes of age. Give full measure and weight, according to justice—We never charge a soul with more than it can bear—when you speak, observe justice, even though it concerns a close relative; and fulfil the covenants of God. That is what He has enjoined upon you so that you may take heed.

¹⁵³ [He has enjoined], ‘This is My straight path; so follow it, and do not follow other ways: that will lead you away from His path.’ That is what He enjoins upon you, so that you may guard yourselves. ¹⁵⁴ Then We gave Moses the Book, completing [Our favour] to the righteous, explaining everything clearly, as guidance and mercy, so that they might believe in meeting their Lord.

¹⁵⁵ This is a Book which We have revealed as a blessing—follow it and fear your Lord, so that you may receive mercy—¹⁵⁶ and not say, ‘The Book was only sent down to the two groups before us and we were indeed unaware of their teachings,’ ¹⁵⁷ or you may say, ‘If the Book had been sent down to us, we would surely have followed its guidance better than they did.’ There has now come to you clear evidence from your Lord, and guidance and mercy. Who, then, is more unjust than one who rejects the signs of God and turns away from them? We shall requite those who turn away from Our signs with a painful punishment, for their turning away. ¹⁵⁸ Are they waiting for the angels or your Lord to come

down to them, or for some of your Lord's signs to come? The day when some of the signs of your Lord shall come, it shall not profit any human being who did not believe before, or who did not do any good by his faith. Say to them, 'Wait then, we too are waiting.'¹⁵⁹ Have nothing to do with those who have split up their religion into sects. Their case rests with God; He will tell them about what they used to do.

¹⁶⁰ Whoever does a good deed will be repaid tenfold, but those who do a bad deed will only be repaid with its equivalent and they shall not be wronged. ¹⁶¹ Say, 'My Lord has guided me to a straight path, and to an upright religion, the religion of Abraham the upright, who was not of those who associate partners with God.'

¹⁶² Say, 'My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for God, the Lord of the worlds; ¹⁶³ He has no partner. So am I commanded, and I am the first of those who submit.'¹⁶⁴ Say, 'Shall I seek a lord other than God, while He is the Lord of all things?' Everyone must bear the consequence of what he does, and no bearer of a burden can bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord you will return, and He will inform you of what you used to dispute about. ¹⁶⁵ It is He who has made you successors [of others] on the earth and has exalted some of you over the others in degrees of rank, so that He may test you by that which He has given you. Your Lord is swift in punishment; yet surely He is forgiving, and merciful.