

The Quran

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The Meaning of the Qur'an, by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall

The Quran - electronic edition - english translation

1. AL-FATIHAH: THE OPENING

- 1 In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
- 2 Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds,
- 3 The Beneficent, the Merciful.
- 4 Master of the Day of Judgment,
- 5 Thee (alone) we worship; Thee (alone) we ask for help.
- 6 Show us the straight path,
- 7 The path of those whom Thou hast favoured; Not the (path) of those who earn Thine anger nor of those who go astray.

12. YUSUF: JOSEPH

1 Alif. Lam. Ra. These are verse of the Scripture that maketh plain.

2 Lo! We have revealed it, a Lecture in Arabic, that ye may understand.

3 We narrate unto thee (Muhammad) the best of narratives in that We have inspired in thee this Qur'an, though aforetime thou wast of the heedless.

4 When Joseph said unto his father: O my father! Lo! I saw in a dream eleven planets and the sun and the moon, I saw them prostrating themselves unto me.

5 He said: O my dear son! Tell not thy brethren of thy vision, lest they plot a plot against thee. Lo! Satan is for man an open foe.

6 Thus thy Lord will prefer thee and will teach thee the interpretation of events, and will perfect His grace upon thee and upon the family of Jacob as He perfected it upon thy forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Lo! thy Lord is Knower, Wise.

7 Verily in Joseph and his brethren are signs (of Allah's Sovereignty) for the inquiring.

8 When they said: Verily Joseph and his brother are dearer to our father than we are, many though we be. Lo! our father is in plain aberration.

9 (One said): Kill Joseph or cast him to some (other) land, so that your father's favour may be all for you, and (that) ye may afterward be righteous folk.

10 One among them said: Kill not Joseph but, if ye must be doing, fling him into the depth of the pit; some caravan will find him.

11 They said: O our father! Why wilt thou not trust us with Joseph, when lo! we are good friends to him?

12 Send him with us to-morrow that he may enjoy himself and play. And lo! we shall take good care of him.

13 He said: Lo! in truth it saddens me that ye should take him with you, and I fear less the wolf devour him while ye are heedless of him.

14 They said: If the wolf should devour him when we are (so strong) a band, then surely we should have already perished.

15 Then, when they led him off, and were of one mind that they should place him in the depth of the pit, We inspired in him: Thou wilt tell them of this deed of theirs when they know (thee) not.

16 And they came weeping to their father in the evening.

17 Saying: O our father! We went racing one with another, and left Joseph by our things, and the wolf devoured him, and thou believest not our saying even when we speak the truth.

18 And they came with false blood on his shirt. He said: Nay, but your minds have beguiled you into something. (My course is) comely patience. And Allah it is Whose help is to be sought in that (predicament) which ye describe.

19 And there came a caravan, and they sent their waterdrawer. He let down his pail (into the pit). He said: Good luck! Here is a youth. And they hid him as a treasure, and Allah was Aware of what they did.

20 And they sold him for a low price, a number of silver coins; and they attached no value to him.

21 And he of Egypt who purchased him said unto his wife: Receive him honourably. Perchance he may prove useful to us or we may adopt him as a son. Thus we established Joseph in the land that We might teach him the interpretation of events. And Allah was predominant in His career, but most of mankind know not.

22 And when he reached his prime We gave him wisdom and knowledge. Thus We reward the good.

23 And she, in whose house he was, asked of him an evil act. She bolted the doors and said: Come! He said: I seek refuge in Allah! Lo! he is my lord, who hath treated me honourably. Lo! wrongdoers never prosper.

24 She verily desired him, and he would have desired her if it had not been that he saw the argument of his Lord. Thus it was, that We might ward off from him evil and lewdness. Lo! he was of Our chosen slaves.

25 And they raced with one another to the door, and she tore his shirt from behind, and they met her lord and master at the door. She said: What shall be his reward, who wisheth evil to thy folk, save prison or a painful doom?

26 (Joseph) said: She it was who asked of me an evil act. And a witness of her own folk testified: If his shirt is torn from before, then she speaketh truth and he is of the liars.

27 And if his shirt is torn from behind, then she hath lied and he is of the truthful.

28 So when he saw his shirt torn from behind, he said: Lo! this is of the guile of you women. Lo! the guile of you is very great.

29 O Joseph! Turn away from this, and thou, (O woman), ask forgiveness for thy sin. Lo! thou art of the faulty.

30 And women in the city said: The ruler's wife is asking of her slave-boy an ill- deed. Indeed he has smitten her to the heart with love. We behold her in plain aberration.

31 And when she heard of their sly talk, she sent to them and prepared for them a cushioned couch (to lie on at the feast) and gave to every one of them a knife and said (to Joseph): Come out unto them! And when they saw him they exalted him and cut their hands, exclaiming: Allah Blameless! This is no a human being. This is not other than some gracious angel.

32 She said: This is he on whose account ye blamed me. I asked of him an evil act, but he proved continent, but if he do not my behest he verily shall be imprisoned, and verily shall be of those brought low.

33 He said: O my Lord! Prison is more dear than that unto which they urge me, and if Thou fend not off their wiles from me I shall incline unto them and become of the foolish.

34 So his Lord heard his prayer and fended off their wiles from him. Lo! He is Hearer, Knower.

35 And it seemed good to them (the men-folk) after they had seen the signs (of his innocence) to imprison him for a time.

36 And two young men went to prison with him. One of them said: I dreamed that I was pressing wine. The other said: I dreamed that I was carrying upon my head bread whereof the birds were eating. Announce unto us the interpretation, for we see thee of those good (at interpretation).

37 He said: The food which ye are given (daily) shall not come unto you but I shall tell you the interpretation ere it cometh unto you. This is of that which my Lord hath taught me. Lo! I have forsaken the religion of folk who believe not in Allah and are disbelievers in the Hereafter.

38 And I have followed the religion of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. It never was for us to attribute aught as partner to Allah. This is of the bounty of Allah unto us (the seed of Abraham) and unto mankind; but most men give not thanks.

39 O my fellow-prisoners! Are divers lords better, or Allah the One, Almighty?

40 Those whom ye worship beside Him are but names which ye have named, ye and your fathers. Allah hath revealed no sanction for them. The decision rests with Allah only, Who hath commanded you that ye worship none save Him. This is the right religion, but most men know not.

41 O my two fellow-prisoners! As for one of you, he will pour out wine for his lord to drink; and as for the other, he will be crucified so that the birds will eat from his head. Thus is the case judged concerning which ye did inquire.

42 And he said unto him of the twain who he knew would be released: Mention me in the presence of thy lord. But Satan caused him to forget to mention it to his lord, so he (Joseph) stayed in prison for some years.

43 And the king said: Lo! I saw in a dream seven fat kine which seven lean were eating, and seven green ears of corn and other (seven) dry. O notables! Expound for me my vision, if ye can interpret dreams.

44 They answered: Jumbled dreams! And we are not knowing in the interpretation of dreams.

45 And he of the two who was released, and (now) at length remembered, said: I am going to announce unto you the interpretation, therefore send me forth.

46 (And when he came to Joseph in the prison, he exclaimed): Joseph! O thou truthful one! Expound for us the seven fat kine which seven lean were eating and the seven green ears of corn and other (seven) dry, that I may return unto the people, so that they may know.

47 He said: Ye shall sow seven years as usual, but that which ye reap, leave it in the ear, all save a little which ye eat.

48 Then after that will come seven hard years which will devour all that ye have prepared for them, save a little of that which ye have stored.

49 Then, after that, will come a year when the people will have plenteous crops and when they will press (wine and oil).

50 And the king said: Bring him unto me. And when the messenger came unto him, he (Joseph) said: Return unto thy lord and ask him what was the case of the women who cut their hands. Lo! my Lord knoweth their guile.

51 He (the king) (then sent for those women and) said: What happened when ye asked an evil act of Joseph? They answered: Allah Blameless! We know no evil of him. Said the wife of the ruler: Now the truth is out. I asked of him an evil act, and he is surely of the truthful.

52 (Then Joseph said: I asked for) this, that he (my lord) may know that I betrayed him not in secret, and that surely Allah guideth not the snare of the betrayers.

53 I do not exculpate myself. Lo! the (human) soul enjoineth unto evil, save that whereon my Lord hath mercy. Lo! my Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

54 And the king said: Bring him unto me that I may attach him to my person. And when he had talked with him he said: Lo! thou art to-day in our presence established and trusted.

55 He said: Set me over the storehouses of the land. Lo! I am a skilled custodian.

56 Thus gave We power to Joseph in the land. He was the owner of it where he pleased. We reach with Our mercy whom We will. We lose not the reward of the good.

57 And the reward of the Hereafter is better, for those who believe and ward off (evil).

58 And Joseph's brethren came and presented themselves before him, and he knew them but they knew him not.

59 And when he provided them with their provision he said: Bring unto me a brother of yours from your father. See ye not that I fill up the measure and I am the best of hosts?

60 And if ye bring him not unto me, then there shall be no measure for you with me, nor shall ye draw near.

61 They said: We will try to win him from his father: that we will surely do.

62 He said unto his young men: Place their merchandise in their saddlebags, so that they may know it when they go back to their folk, and so will come again.

63 So when they went back to their father they said: O our father! The measure is denied us, so send with us our brother that we may obtain the measure, surely we will guard him well.

64 He said: Can I entrust him to you save as I entrusted his brother to you aforetime? Allah is better at guarding, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.

65 And when they opened their belongings they discovered that their merchandise had been returned to them. They said: O our father! What (more) can we ask? Here is our merchandise returned to us. We shall get provision for our folk and guard our brother, and we shall have the extra measure of a camel (load). This (that we bring now) is a light measure.

66 He said: I will not send him with you till ye give me an undertaking in the name of Allah that ye will bring him back to me, unless ye are surrounded. And when they gave him their undertaking he said: Allah is the Warden over what we say.

67 And he said: O my sons! Go not in by one gate; go in by different gates. I can naught avail you as against Allah. Lo! the decision rests with Allah only. In Him do I put my trust, and in Him let all the trusting put their trust.

68 And when they entered in the manner which their father had enjoined, it would have naught availed them as against Allah; it was but a need of Jacob's soul which he thus satisfied; and lo! he was a lord of knowledge because We had taught him; but most of mankind know not.

69 And when they went in before Joseph, he took his brother unto him, saying: Lo! I, even I, am thy brother, therefore sorrow not for what they did.

70 And when he provided them with their provision, he put the drinking-cup in his brother's saddlebag, and then a crier cried: O camel-riders! Lo! ye are surely thieves!

71 They cried, coming toward them: What is it ye have lost?

72 They said: We have lost the king's cup, and he who bringeth it shall have a camel-load, and I (said Joseph) am answerable for it.

73 They said: By Allah, well ye know we came not to do evil in the land, and are no thieves.

74 They said: And what shall be the penalty for it, if ye prove liars?

75 They said: The penalty for it! He in whose bag (the cup) is found, he is the penalty for it. Thus we requite wrong-doers.

76 Then he (Joseph) began the search with their bags before his brother's bag, then he produced it from his brother's bag. Thus did We contrive for Joseph. He could not have taken his brother according to the king's law unless Allah willed. We raise by grades (of mercy) whom We will, and over every lord of knowledge there is one more knowing.

77 They said: If he stealeth, a brother of his stole before. But Joseph kept it secret in his soul and revealed it not unto them. He said (within himself): Ye are in worse case, and Allah knoweth best (the truth of) that which ye allege.

78 They said: O ruler of the land! Lo! he hath a very aged father, so take one of us instead of him. Lo! we behold thee of those who do kindness.

79 He said: Allah forbid that we should seize save him with whom we found our property; then truly we should be wrong-doers.

80 So, When they despaired of (moving) him, they conferred together apart. The eldest of them said: Know ye not how your father took an undertaking from you in Allah's name and how ye failed in the case of Joseph aforetime? Therefore I shall not go forth from the land until my father giveth leave or Allah judgeth for me. He is the Best of Judges.

81 Return unto your father and say: O our father! Lo! thy son hath stolen. We testify only to that which we know; we are not guardians of the Unseen.

82 Ask the township where we were, and the caravan with which we travelled hither. Lo! we speak the truth.

83 (And when they came unto their father and had spoken thus to him) he said: Nay, but your minds have beguiled you into something. (My course is) comely patience! It may be that Allah will bring them all unto me. Lo! He, only He, is the Knower, the Wise.

84 And he turned away from them and said: Alas, my grief for Joseph! And his eyes were whitened with the sorrow that he was suppressing.

85 They said: By Allah, thou wilt never cease remembering Joseph till thy health is ruined or thou art of those who perish!

86 He said: I expose my distress and anguish only unto Allah, and I know from Allah that which ye know not.

87 Go, O my sons, and ascertain concerning Joseph and his brother, and despair not of the Spirit of Allah. Lo! none despaireth of the Spirit of Allah save disbelieving folk.

88 And when they came (again) before him (Joseph) they said: O ruler! Misfortune hath touched us and our folk, and we bring but poor merchandise, so fill for us the measure and be charitable unto us. Lo! Allah will requite the charitable,

89 He said: Know ye what ye did unto Joseph and his brother in your ignorance?

90 They said: Is it indeed thou who art Joseph? He said: I am Joseph and this is my brother. Allah hath shown us favour. Lo! he who wardeth off (evil) and endureth (findeth favour); for lo! Allah loseth not the wages of the kindly.

91 They said: By Allah, verily Allah hath preferred thee above us, and we were indeed sinful.

92 He said: Have no fear this day! May Allah forgive you, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.

93 Go with this shirt of mine and lay it on my father's face, he will become (again) a seer; and come to me with all your folk.

94 When the caravan departed their father had said: Truly I am conscious of the breath of Joseph, though ye call me dotard.

95 (Those around him) said: By Allah, lo! thou art in thine old aberration.

96 Then, when the bearer of glad tidings came, he laid it on his face and he became a seer once more. He said: Said I not unto you that I know from Allah that which ye know not?

97 They said: O our father! Ask forgiveness of our sins for us, for lo! we were sinful.

98 He said: I shall ask forgiveness for you of my Lord. Lo! He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

99 And when they came in before Joseph, he took his parents unto him, and said: Come into Egypt safe, if Allah will!

100 And he placed his parents on the dais and they fell down before him prostrate, and he said: O my father! This is the interpretation of my dream of old. My Lord hath made it true, and He hath shown me kindness, since He took me out of the prison and hath brought you from the desert after Satan had made strife between me and my brethren. Lo! my Lord is tender unto whom He will. He is the Knower, the Wise.

101 O my Lord! Thou hast given me (something) of sovereignty and hast taught me (something) of the interpretation of events - Creator of the heavens and the earth! Thou art my Protecting Guardian in the world and the Hereafter. Make me to die muslim (unto Thee), and join me to the righteous.

102 This is of the tidings of the Unseen which We inspire in thee (Muhammad). Thou wast not present with them when they fixed their plan and they were scheming.

- 103** And though thou try much, most men will not believe.
- 104** Thou askest them no fee for it. It is naught else than a reminder unto the peoples.
- 105** How many a portent is there in the heavens and the earth which they pass by with face averted!
- 106** And most of them believe not in Allah except that they attribute partners (unto Him).
- 107** Deem they themselves secure from the coming on them of a pall of Allah's punishment, or the coming of the Hour suddenly while they are unaware?
- 108** Say: This is my Way: I call on Allah with sure knowledge. I and whosoever followeth me - Glory be to Allah! - and I am not of the idolaters.
- 109** We sent not before thee (any messengers) save men whom We inspired from among the folk of the townships - Have they not travelled in the land and seen the nature of the consequence for those who were before them? And verily the abode of the Hereafter, for those who ward off (evil), is best. Have ye then no sense? -
- 110** Till, when the messengers despaired and thought that they were denied, then came unto them Our help, and whom We would was saved. And Our wrath cannot be warded from the guilty.
- 111** In their history verily there is a lesson for men of understanding. It is no invented story but a confirmation of the existing (Scripture) and a detailed explanation of everything, and a guidance and a mercy for folk who believe.

16. AN-NAHL: THE BEE

1 The commandment of Allah will come to pass, so seek not ye to hasten it. Glorified and Exalted be He above all that they associate (with Him).

2 He sendeth down the angels with the Spirit of His command unto whom He will of His bondmen, (saying): Warn mankind that there is no God save Me, so keep your duty unto Me.

3 He hath created the heavens and the earth with truth. High be He Exalted above all that they associate (with Him).

4 He hath created man from a drop of fluid, yet behold! he is an open opponent.

5 And the cattle hath He created, whence ye have warm clothing and uses, and whereof ye eat;

6 And wherein is beauty for you, when ye bring them home, and when ye take them out to pasture.

7 And they bear your loads for you unto a land ye could not reach save with great trouble to yourselves. Lo! your Lord is Full of Pity, Merciful.

8 And horses and mules and asses (hath He created) that ye may ride them, and for ornament. And He createth that which ye know not.

9 And Allah's is the direction of the way, and some (roads) go not straight. And had He willed He would have led you all aright.

10 He it is Who sendeth down water from the sky, whence ye have drink, and whence are trees on which ye send your beasts to pasture.

11 Therewith He causeth crops to grow for you, and the olive and the date-palm and grapes and all kinds of fruit. Lo! herein is indeed a portent for people who reflect.

12 And He hath constrained the night and the day and the sun and the moon to be of service unto you, and the stars are made subservient by His command. Lo! herein indeed are portents for people who have sense.

13 And whatsoever He hath created for you in the earth of divers hues, lo! therein is indeed a portent for people who take heed.

14 And He it is Who hath constrained the sea to be of service that ye eat fresh meat from thence, and bring forth from thence ornaments which ye wear. And thou seest the ships ploughing it that ye (mankind) may seek of His bounty and that haply ye may give thanks.

15 And He hath cast into the earth firm hills that it quake not with you, and streams and roads that ye may find a way.

16 And landmarks (too), and by the star they find a way.

17 Is He then Who createth as him who createth not? Will ye not then remember?

18 And if ye would count the favour of Allah ye cannot reckon it. Lo! Allah is indeed Forgiving, Merciful.

19 And Allah knoweth that which ye keep hidden and that which ye proclaim.

20 Those unto whom they cry beside Allah created naught, but are themselves created.

21 (They are) dead, not living. And they know not when they will be raised.

22 Your God is One God. But as for those who believe not in the Hereafter their hearts refuse to know, for they are proud.

23 Assuredly Allah knoweth that which they keep hidden and that which they proclaim. Lo! He loveth not the proud.

24 And when it is said unto them: What hath your Lord revealed? they say: (Mere) fables of the men of old,

25 That they may bear their burdens undiminished on the Day of Resurrection, with somewhat of the burdens of those whom they mislead without knowledge. Ah! evil is that which they bear!

26 Those before them plotted, so Allah struck at the foundations of their building, and then the roof fell down upon them from above them, and the doom came on them whence they knew not;

27 Then on the Day of Resurrection He will disgrace them and will say: Where are My partners, for whose sake ye opposed (My guidance)? Those who have been given knowledge will say: Disgrace this day and evil are upon the disbelievers,

28 Whom the angels cause to die while they are wronging themselves. Then will they make full submission (saying): We used not to do any wrong. Nay! Surely Allah is Knower of what ye used to do.

29 So enter the gates of hell, to dwell therein for ever. Woeful indeed will be the lodging of the arrogant.

30 And it is said unto those who ward off (evil): What hath your Lord revealed? They say: Good. For those who do good in this world there is a good (reward) and the home of the Hereafter will be better. Pleasant indeed will be the home of those who ward off (evil) -

31 Gardens of Eden which they enter, underneath which rivers flow, wherein they have what they will. Thus Allah repayeth those who ward off (evil),

32 Those whom the angels cause to die (when they are) good. They say: Peace be unto you! Enter the Garden because of what ye used to do.

33 Await they aught say that the angels should come unto them or thy Lord's command should come to pass? Even so did those before them. Allah wronged them not, but they did wrong themselves,

34 So that the evils of what they did smote them, and that which they used to mock surrounded them.

35 And the idolaters say: Had Allah willed, we had not worshipped aught beside Him, we and our fathers, nor had we forbidden aught without (command from) Him. Even so did those before them. Are the messengers charged with aught save plain conveyance (of the message)?

36 And verily We have raised in every nation a messenger, (proclaiming): Serve Allah and shun false gods. Then some of them (there were) whom Allah guided, and some of them (there were) upon whom error had just hold. Do but travel in the land and see the nature of the consequence for the deniers!

37 Even if thou (O Muhammad) desirest their right guidance, still Allah assuredly will not guide him who misleadeth. Such have no helpers.

38 And they swear by Allah their most binding oaths (that) Allah will not raise up him who dieth. Nay, but it is a promise (binding) upon Him in truth, but most of mankind know not,

39 That He may explain unto them that wherein they differ, and that those who disbelieved may know that they were liars.

40 And Our word unto a thing, when We intend it, is only that We say unto it: Be! and it is.

41 And those who became fugitives for the cause of Allah after they had been oppressed, We verily shall give them goodly

lodging in the world, and surely the reward of the Hereafter is greater, if they but knew;

42 Such as are steadfast and put their trust in Allah.

43 And We sent not (as Our messengers) before thee other than men whom We inspired - Ask the followers of the Remembrance if ye know not! -

44 With clear proofs and writings; and We have revealed unto thee the Remembrance that thou mayst explain to mankind that which hath been revealed for them, and that haply they may reflect.

45 Are they who plan ill-deeds then secure that Allah will not cause the earth to swallow them, or that the doom will not come on them whence they know not?

46 Or that He will not seize them in their going to and fro so that there be no escape for them?

47 Or that He will not seize them with a gradual wasting? Lo! thy Lord is indeed Full of Pity, Merciful.

48 Have they not observed all things that Allah hath created, how their shadows incline to the right and to the left, making prostration unto Allah, and they are lowly?

49 And unto Allah maketh prostration whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth of living creatures, and the angels (also) and they are not proud.

50 They fear their Lord above them, and do what they are bidden.

51 Allah hath said: Choose not two gods. There is only One God. So of Me, Me only, be in awe.

52 Unto Him belongeth whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth, and religion is His for ever. Will ye then fear any other than Allah?

53 And whatever of comfort ye enjoy, it is from Allah. Then, when misfortune reacheth you, unto Him ye cry for help.

54 And afterward, when He hath rid you of the misfortune, behold! a set of you attribute partners to their Lord,

55 So as to deny that which We have given them. Then enjoy life (while ye may), for ye will come to know.

56 And they assign a portion of that which We have given them unto what they know not. By Allah! but ye will indeed be asked concerning (all) that ye used to invent.

57 And they assign unto Allah daughters - Be He Glorified! - and unto themselves what they desire;

58 When if one of them receiveth tidings of the birth of a female, his face remaineth darkened, and he is wroth inwardly.

59 He hideth himself from the folk because of the evil of that whereof he hath had tidings, (asking himself): Shall he keep it in contempt, or bury it beneath the dust. Verily evil is their judgment.

60 For those who believe not in the Hereafter is an evil similitude, and Allah's is the Sublime Similitude. He is the Mighty, the Wise.

61 If Allah were to take mankind to task for their wrong-doing, he would not leave hereon a living creature, but He reprieveth them to an appointed term, and when their term cometh they cannot put (it) off an hour nor (yet) advance (it).

62 And they assign unto Allah that which they (themselves) dislike, and their tongues expound the lie that the better portion will be theirs. Assuredly theirs will be the Fire, and they will be abandoned.

63 By Allah, We verily sent messengers unto the nations before thee, but the devil made their deeds fairseeming unto them. So he is their patron this day, and theirs will be a painful doom.

64 And We have revealed the Scripture unto thee only that thou mayst explain unto them that wherein they differ, and (as) a guidance and a mercy for a people who believe.

65 Allah sendeth down water from the sky and therewith reviveth the earth after her death. Lo! herein is indeed a portent for a folk who hear.

66 And lo! in the cattle there is a lesson for you. We give you to drink of that which is in their bellies, from betwixt the refuse and the blood, pure milk palatable to the drinkers.

67 And of the fruits of the date-palm, and grapes, whence ye derive strong drink and (also) good nourishment. Lo! therein is indeed a portent for people who have sense.

68 And thy Lord inspired the bee, saying: Choose thou habitations in the hills and in the trees and in that which they thatch;

69 Then eat of all fruits, and follow the ways of thy Lord, made smooth (for thee). There cometh forth from their bellies a drink divers of hues, wherein is healing for mankind. Lo! herein is indeed a portent for people who reflect.

70 And Allah createth you, then causeth you to die, and among you is he who is brought back to the most abject stage of life, so that he knoweth nothing after (having had) knowledge. Lo! Allah is Knower, Powerful.

71 And Allah hath favoured some of you above others in provision. Now those who are more favoured will by no means hand over

their provision to those (slaves) whom their right hands possess, so that they may be equal with them in respect thereof. Is it then the grace of Allah that they deny?

72 And Allah hath given you wives of your own kind, and hath given you, from your wives, sons and grandsons, and hath made provision of good things for you. Is it then in vanity that they believe and in the grace of Allah that they disbelieve?

73 And they worship beside Allah that which owneth no provision whatsoever for them from the heavens or the earth, nor have they (whom they worship) any power.

74 So coin not similitudes for Allah. Lo! Allah knoweth; ye know not.

75 Allah coineth a similitude: (on the one hand) a (mere) chattel slave, who hath control of nothing, and (on the other hand) one on whom we have bestowed a fair provision from Us, and he spendeth thereof secretly and openly. Are they equal? Praise be to Allah! But most of them know not.

76 And Allah coineth a similitude: Two men, one of them dumb, having control of nothing, and he is a burden on his owner; whithersoever he directeth him to go, he bringeth no good. Is he equal with one who enjoineeth justice and followeth a straight path (of conduct)?

77 And unto Allah belongeth the Unseen of the heavens and the earth, and the matter of the Hour (of Doom) is but as a twinkling of the eye, or it is nearer still. Lo! Allah is Able to do all things.

78 And Allah brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers knowing nothing, and gave you hearing and sight and hearts that haply ye might give thanks.

79 Have they not seen the birds obedient in mid-air? None holdeth them save Allah. Lo! herein, verily, are portents for a people who believe.

80 And Allah hath given you in your houses an abode, and hath given you (also), of the hides of cattle, houses which ye find light (to carry) on the day of migration and on the day of pitching camp; and of their wool and their fur and their hair, caparison and comfort for a while.

81 And Allah hath given you, of that which He hath created, shelter from the sun; and hath given you places of refuge in the mountains, and hath given you coats to ward off the heat from you, and coats (of armour) to save you from your own foolhardiness.

Thus doth He perfect His favour unto you, in order that ye may surrender (unto Him).

82 Then, if they turn away, thy duty (O Muhammad) is but plain conveyance (of the message).

83 They know the favour of Allah and then deny it. Most of them are ingrates.

84 And (bethink you of) the day when we raise up of every nation a witness, then there is no leave for disbelievers, nor are they allowed to make amends.

85 And when those who did wrong behold the doom, it will not be made light for them, nor will they be reprieved.

86 And when those who ascribed partners to Allah behold those partners of theirs, they will say: Our Lord! these are our partners unto whom we used to cry instead of Thee. But they will fling to them the saying: Lo! ye verily are liars!

87 And they proffer unto Allah submission on that day, and all that they used to invent hath failed them.

88 For those who disbelieve and debar (men) from the way of Allah, We add doom to doom because they wrought corruption,

89 And (bethink you of) the day when We raise in every nation a witness against them of their own folk, and We bring thee (Muhammad) as a witness against these. And We reveal the Scripture unto thee as an exposition of all things, and a guidance and a mercy and good tidings for those who have surrendered (to Allah).

90 Lo! Allah enjoineth justice and kindness, and giving to kinsfolk, and forbiddeth lewdness and abomination and wickedness. He exhorteth you in order that ye may take heed.

91 Fulfil the covenant of Allah when ye have covenanted, and break not your oaths after the asseveration of them, and after ye have made Allah surety over you. Lo! Allah knoweth what ye do.

92 And be not like unto her who unravelleth the thread, after she hath made it strong, to thin filaments, making your oaths a deceit between you because of a nation being more numerous than (another) nation. Allah only trieth you thereby, and He verily will explain to you on the Day of Resurrection that wherein ye differed.

93 Had Allah willed He could have made you (all) one nation, but He sendeth whom He will astray and guideth whom He will, and ye will indeed be asked of what ye used to do.

94 Make not your oaths a deceit between you, lest a foot should slip after being firmly planted and ye should taste evil forasmuch as ye debarred (men) from the way of Allah, and yours should be an awful doom.

95 And purchase not a small gain at the price of Allah's covenant. Lo! that which Allah hath is better for you, if ye did but know.

96 That which ye have wasteth away, and that which Allah hath remaineth. And verily We shall pay those who are steadfast a recompense in proportion to the best of what they used to do.

97 Whosoever doeth right, whether male or female, and is a believer, him verily we shall quicken with good life, and We shall pay them a recompense in proportion to the best of what they used to do.

98 And when thou recitest the Qur'an, seek refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.

99 Lo! he hath no power over those who believe and put trust in their Lord.

100 His power is only over those who make a friend of him, and those who ascribe partners unto Him (Allah).

101 And when We put a revelation in place of (another) revelation, - and Allah knoweth best what He revealeth - they say: Lo! thou art but inventing. Most of them know not.

102 Say: The holy Spirit hath delivered it from thy Lord with truth, that it may confirm (the faith of) those who believe, and as guidance and good tidings for those who have surrendered (to Allah).

103 And We know well that they say: Only a man teacheth him. The speech of him at whom they falsely hint is outlandish, and this is clear Arabic speech.

104 Lo! those who disbelieve the revelations of Allah, Allah guideth them not and theirs will be a painful doom.

105 Only they invent falsehood who believe not Allah's revelations, and (only) they are the liars.

106 Whoso disbelieveth in Allah after his belief - save him who is forced thereto and whose heart is still content with the Faith - but whoso findeth ease in disbelief: On them is wrath from Allah. Theirs will be an awful doom.

107 That is because they have chosen the life of the world rather than the Hereafter, and because Allah guideth not the disbelieving folk.

108 Such are they whose hearts and ears and eyes Allah hath sealed. And such are the heedless.

109 Assuredly in the Hereafter they are the losers.

110 Then lo! thy Lord - for those who became fugitives after they had been persecuted, and then fought and were steadfast - lo! thy Lord afterward is (for them) indeed Forgiving, Merciful.

111 On the Day when every soul will come pleading for itself, and every soul will be repaid what it did, and they will not be wronged.

112 Allah coineth a similitude: a township that dwelt secure and well content, its provision coming to it in abundance from every side, but it disbelieved in Allah's favours, so Allah made it experience the garb of dearth and fear because of what they used to do.

113 And verily there had come unto them a messenger from among them, but they had denied him, and so the torment seized them while they were wrong-doers.

114 So eat of the lawful and good food which Allah hath provided for you, and thank the bounty of your Lord if it is Him ye serve.

115 He hath forbidden for you only carrion and blood and swineflesh and that which hath been immolated in the name of any other than Allah; but he who is driven thereto, neither craving nor transgressing, lo! then Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

116 And speak not, concerning that which your own tongues qualify (as clean or unclean), the falsehood: "This is lawful, and this is forbidden," so that ye invent a lie against Allah. Lo! those who invent a lie against Allah will not succeed.

117 A brief enjoyment (will be theirs); and theirs a painful doom.

118 And unto those who are Jews We have forbidden that which We have already related unto thee. And We wronged them not, but they were wont to wrong themselves.

119 Then lo! thy Lord - for those who do evil in ignorance and afterward repent and amend - lo! (for them) thy Lord is afterward indeed Forgiving, Merciful.

120 Lo! Abraham was a nation obedient to Allah, by nature upright, and he was not of the idolaters;

121 Thankful for His bounties; He chose him and He guided him unto a straight path.

122 And We gave him good in the world, and in the Hereafter he is among the righteous.

123 And afterward We inspired thee (Muhammad, saying): Follow the religion of Abraham, as one by nature upright. He was not of the idolaters.

124 The Sabbath was appointed only for those who differed concerning it, and lo! thy Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that wherein they used to differ.

125 Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation, and reason with them in the better way. Lo! thy Lord is Best Aware of him who strayeth from His way, and He is Best Aware of those who go aright.

126 If ye punish, then punish with the like of that wherewith ye were afflicted. But if ye endure patiently, verily it is better for the patient.

127 Endure thou patiently (O Muhammad). Thine endurance is only by (the help of) Allah. Grieve not for them, and be not in distress because of that which they devise.

128 Lo! Allah is with those who keep their duty unto Him and those who are doers of good.

26. ASH-SHU`ARA': THE POETS

1 Ta. Sin. Mim.

2 These are revelations of the Scripture that maketh plain.

3 It may be that thou tormentest thyself (O Muhammad) because they believe not.

4 If We will, We can send down on them from the sky a portent so that their necks would remain bowed before it.

5 Never cometh there unto them a fresh reminder from the Beneficent One, but they turn away from it.

6 Now they have denied (the Truth); but there will come unto them tidings of that whereat they used to scoff.

7 Have they not seen the earth, how much of every fruitful kind We make to grow therein?

8 Lo! herein is indeed a portent; yet most of them are not believers.

9 And lo! thy Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.

10 And when thy Lord called Moses, saying: Go unto the wrongdoing folk,

11 The folk of Pharaoh. Will they not ward off (evil)?

12 He said: My Lord! Lo! I fear that they will deny me,

13 And I shall be embarrassed, and my tongue will not speak plainly, therefor send for Aaron (to help me).

14 And they have a crime against me, so I fear that they will kill me.

15 He said: Nay, verily. So go ye twain with Our tokens. Lo! We shall be with you, Hearing.

16 And come together unto Pharaoh and say: Lo! we bear a message of the Lord of the Worlds,

17 (Saying): Let the Children of Israel go with us.

18 (Pharaoh) said (unto Moses): Did we not rear thee among us as a child? And thou didst dwell many years of thy life among us,

19 And thou didst that thy deed which thou didst, and thou wast one of the ingrates.

20 He said: I did it then, when I was of those who are astray.

21 Then I fled from you when I feared you, and my Lord vouchsafed me a command and appointed me (of the number) of those sent (by Him).

22 And this is the past favour wherewith thou reproachest me: that thou hast enslaved the Children of Israel.

23 Pharaoh said: And what is the Lord of the Worlds?

24 (Moses) said: Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, if ye had but sure belief.

25 (Pharaoh) said unto those around him: Hear ye not?

26 He said: Your Lord and the Lord of your fathers.

27 (Pharaoh) said: Lo! your messenger who hath been sent unto you is indeed a madman!

28 He said: Lord of the East and the West and all that is between them, if ye did but understand.

29 (Pharaoh) said: If thou choosest a god other than me, I assuredly shall place thee among the prisoners.

30 He said: Even though I show thee something plain?

31 (Pharaoh) said: Produce it then, if thou art of the truthful!

32 Then he flung down his staff and it became a serpent manifest,

33 And he drew forth his hand and lo! it was white to the beholders.

34 (Pharaoh) said unto the chiefs about him: Lo! this is verily a knowing wizard,

35 Who would drive you out of your land by his magic. Now what counsel ye?

36 They said: Put him off, (him) and his brother, and send into the cities summoners

37 Who shall bring unto thee every knowing wizard.

38 So the wizards were gathered together at a set time on a day appointed.

39 And it was said unto the people: Are ye (also) gathering?

40 (They said): Aye, so that we may follow the wizards if they are the winners.

41 And when the wizards came they said unto Pharaoh: Will there surely be a reward for us if we are the winners?

42 He said: Aye, and ye will then surely be of those brought near (to me).

43 Moses said unto them: Throw what ye are going to throw!

44 Then they threw down their cords and their staves and said: By Pharaoh's might, lo! we verily are the winners.

45 Then Moses threw his staff and lo! it swallowed that which they did falsely show.

46 And the wizards were flung prostrate,

47 Crying: We believe in the Lord of the Worlds,
48 The Lord of Moses and Aaron.
49 (Pharaoh) said: Ye put your faith in him before I give you leave.
Lo! he doubtless is your chief who taught you magic! But verily ye
shall come to know. Verily I will cut off your hands and your feet
alternately, and verily I will crucify you every one.
50 They said: It is no hurt, for lo! unto our Lord we shall return.
51 Lo! we ardently hope that our Lord will forgive us our sins
because we are the first of the believers.
52 And We inspired Moses, saying: Take away My slaves by night,
for ye will be pursued.
53 Then Pharaoh sent into the cities summoners,
54 (Who said): Lo! these indeed are but a little troop,
55 And lo! they are offenders against us.
56 And lo! we are a ready host.
57 Thus did We take them away from gardens and watersprings,
58 And treasures and a fair estate.
59 Thus (were those things taken from them) and We caused the
Children of Israel to inherit them.
60 And they overtook them at sunrise.
61 And when the two hosts saw each other, those with Moses said:
Lo! we are indeed caught.
62 He said: Nay, verily! for lo! my Lord is with me. He will guide
me.
63 Then We inspired Moses, saying: Smite the sea with thy staff.
And it parted, and each part was as a mountain vast.
64 Then brought We near the others to that place.
65 And We saved Moses and those with him, every one;
66 And We drowned the others.
67 Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not
believers.
68 And lo, thy Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
69 Recite unto them the story of Abraham:
70 When he said unto his father and his folk: What worship ye?
71 They said: We worship idols, and are ever devoted unto them.
72 He said: Do they hear you when ye cry?
73 Or do they benefit or harm you?
74 They said: Nay, but we found our fathers acting on this wise.
75 He said: See now that which ye worship,
76 Ye and your forefathers!

77 Lo! they are (all) an enemy unto me, save the Lord of the
Worlds,
78 Who created me, and He doth guide me,
79 And Who feedeth me and watereth me.
80 And when I sicken, then He healeth me,
81 And Who causeth me to die, then giveth me life (again),
82 And Who, I ardently hope, will forgive me my sin on the Day of
Judgment.
83 My Lord! Vouchsafe me wisdom and unite me to the righteous.
84 And give unto me a good report in later generations.
85 And place me among the inheritors of the Garden of Delight,
86 And forgive my father. Lo! he is of those who err.
87 And abase me not on the day when they are raised,
88 The day when wealth and sons avail not (any man)
89 Save him who bringeth unto Allah a whole heart.
90 And the Garden will be brought nigh for those who ward off
(evil).
91 And hell will appear plainly to the erring.
92 And it will be said unto them: Where is (all) that ye used to
worship
93 Instead of Allah? Can they help you or help themselves?
94 Then will they be hurled therein, they and the seducers
95 And the hosts of Iblis, together.
96 And they will say, when they are quarrelling therein:
97 By Allah, of a truth we were in error manifest
98 When we made you equal with the Lord of the Worlds.
99 It was but the guilty who misled us.
100 Now we have no intercessors
101 Nor any loving friend.
102 Oh, that we had another turn (on earth), that we might be of the
believers!
103 Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not
believers!
104 And lo, thy Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
105 Noah's folk denied the messengers (of Allah),
106 When their brother Noah said unto them: Will ye not ward off
(evil)?
107 Lo! I am a faithful messenger unto you,
108 So keep your duty to Allah, and obey me.

109 And I ask of you no wage therefor; my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the Worlds.
110 So keep your duty to Allah, and obey me.
111 They said: Shall we put faith in thee, when the lowest (of the people) follow thee?
112 He said: And what knowledge have I of what they may have been doing (in the past)?
113 Lo! their reckoning is my Lord's concern, if ye but knew;
114 And I am not (here) to repulse believers.
115 I am only a plain warner.
116 They said: If thou cease not, O Noah, thou wilt surely be among those stoned (to death).
117 He said: My Lord! Lo! my own folk deny me.
118 Therefor judge Thou between us, a (conclusive) judgment, and save me and those believers who are with me.
119 And We saved him and those with him in the laden ship.
120 Then afterward We drowned the others.
121 Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not believers.
122 And lo, thy Lord, He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
123 (The tribe of) A'ad denied the messengers (of Allah).
124 When their brother Hud said unto them: Will ye not ward off (evil)?
125 Lo! I am a faithful messenger unto you,
126 So keep your duty to Allah and obey me.
127 And I ask of you no wage therefor; my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the Worlds.
128 Build ye on every high place a monument for vain delight?
129 And seek ye out strongholds, that haply ye may last for ever?
130 And if ye seize by force, seize ye as tyrants?
131 Rather keep your duty to Allah, and obey me.
132 Keep your duty toward Him Who hath aided you with (the good things) that ye know,
133 Hath aided you with cattle and sons.
134 And gardens and watersprings.
135 Lo! I fear for you the retribution of an awful day.
136 They said: It is all one to us whether thou preachest or art not of those who preach;
137 This is but a fable of the men of old,
138 And we shall not be doomed.

139 And they denied him; therefor We destroyed them. Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not believers.
140 And lo! thy Lord, He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
141 (The tribe of) Thamud denied the messengers (of Allah)
142 When their brother Salih said unto them: Will ye not ward off (evil)?
143 Lo! I am a faithful messenger unto you,
144 So keep your duty to Allah and obey me.
145 And I ask of you no wage therefor; my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the Worlds.
146 Will ye be left secure in that which is here before us,
147 In gardens and watersprings.
148 And tilled fields and heavy-sheathed palm-trees,
149 Though ye hew out dwellings in the mountain, being skilful?
150 Therefor keep your duty to Allah and obey me,
151 And obey not the command of the prodigal,
152 Who spread corruption in the earth, and reform not.
153 They said: Thou art but one of the bewitched;
154 Thou art but a mortal like us. So bring some token if thou art of the truthful.
155 He said: (Behold) this she-camel. She hath the right to drink (at the well), and ye have the right to drink, (each) on an appointed day.
156 And touch her not with ill lest there come on you the retribution of an awful day.
157 But they hamstrung her, and then were penitent.
158 So the retribution came on them. Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not believers.
159 And lo! thy Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
160 The folk of Lot denied the messengers (of Allah),
161 When their brother Lot said unto them: Will ye not ward off (evil)?
162 Lo! I am a faithful messenger unto you,
163 So keep your duty to Allah and obey me.
164 And I ask of you no wage therefor; my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the Worlds.
165 What! Of all creatures do ye come unto the males,
166 And leave the wives your Lord created for you? Nay, but ye are froward folk.

167 They said: If thou cease not, O Lot, thou wilt soon be of the outcast.
168 He said: I am in truth of those who hate your conduct.
169 My Lord! Save me and my household from what they do.
170 So We saved him and his household, every one,
171 Save an old woman among those who stayed behind.
172 Then afterward We destroyed the others.
173 And We rained on them a rain. And dreadful is the rain of those who have been warned.
174 Lo! herein is indeed a portent, yet most of them are not believers.
175 And lo! thy Lord, He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
176 The dwellers in the wood (of Midian) denied the messengers (of Allah),
177 When Shu'eyb said unto them: Will ye not ward off (evil)?
178 Lo! I am a faithful messenger unto you,
179 So keep your duty to Allah and obey me.
180 And I ask of you no wage for it; my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the Worlds.
181 Give full measure, and be not of those who give less (than the due).
182 And weigh with the true balance.
183 Wrong not mankind in their goods, and do not evil, making mischief, in the earth.
184 And keep your duty unto Him Who created you and the generations of the men of old.
185 They said: Thou art but one of the bewitched;
186 Thou art but a mortal like us, and lo! we deem thee of the liars.
187 Then make fragments of the heaven fall upon us, if thou art of the truthful.
188 He said: My Lord is Best Aware of what ye do.
189 But they denied him, so there came on them the retribution of the day of gloom. Lo! it was the retribution of an awful day.
190 Lo! herein is indeed a portent; yet most of them are not believers.
191 And lo! thy Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful.
192 And lo! it is a revelation of the Lord of the Worlds,
193 Which the True Spirit hath brought down
194 Upon thy heart, that thou mayst be (one) of the warners,
195 In plain Arabic speech.

196 And lo! it is in the Scriptures of the men of old.
197 Is it not a token for them that the doctors of the Children of Israel know it?
198 And if We had revealed it unto one of any other nation than the Arabs,
199 And he had read it unto them, they would not have believed in it.
200 Thus do We make it traverse the hearts of the guilty.
201 They will not believe in it till they behold the painful doom,
202 So that it will come upon them suddenly, when they perceive not.
203 Then they will say: Are we to be reprieved?
204 Would they (now) hasten on Our doom?
205 Hast thou then seen, if We content them for (long) years,
206 And then cometh that which they were promised,
207 (How) that wherewith they were contented naught availeth them?
208 And We destroyed no township but it had its warners
209 For reminder, for We never were oppressors.
210 The devils did not bring it down.
211 It is not meet for them, nor is it in their power,
212 Lo! verily they are banished from the hearing.
213 Therefor invoke not with Allah another god, lest thou be one of the doomed.
214 And warn thy tribe of near kindred,
215 And lower thy wing (in kindness) unto those believers who follow thee.
216 And if they (thy kinsfolk) disobey thee, say: Lo! I am innocent of what they do.
217 And put thy trust in the Mighty, the Merciful.
218 Who seeth thee when thou standest up (to pray)
219 And (seeth) thine abasement among those who fall prostrate (in worship).
220 Lo! He, only He, is the Hearer, the Knower.
221 Shall I inform you upon whom the devils descend?
222 They descend on every sinful, false one.
223 They listen eagerly, but most of them are liars.
224 As for poets, the erring follow them.
225 Hast thou not seen how they stray in every valley,
226 And how they say that which they do not?

227 Save those who believe and do good works, and remember Allah much, and vindicate themselves after they have been wronged. Those who do wrong will come to know by what a (great) reverse they will be overturned!

109. AL-KAFIRUN: THE UNBELIEVERS

- 1 Say: O disbelievers!
- 2 I worship not that which ye worship;
- 3 Nor worship ye that which I worship.
- 4 And I shall not worship that which ye worship.
- 5 Nor will ye worship that which I worship.
- 6 Unto you your religion, and unto me my religion.

110. AN-NASR: THE HELP

1 When Allah's succour and the triumph cometh
2 And thou seest mankind entering the religion of Allah in troops,
3 Then hymn the praises of thy Lord, and seek forgiveness of Him.
Lo! He is ever ready to show mercy.

111. AL-LAHAB: THE FLAME

- 1 The power of Abu Lahab will perish, and he will perish.
- 2 His wealth and gains will not exempt him.
- 3 He will be plunged in flaming Fire,
- 4 And his wife, the wood-carrier,
- 5 Will have upon her neck a halter of palm-fibre.

112. AL-IKHLAS: THE UNITY

- 1 Say: He is Allah, the One!
- 2 Allah, the eternally Besought of all!
- 3 He begetteth not nor was begotten.
- 4 And there is none comparable unto Him.

113. AL-FALAQ: THE DAYBREAK

- 1 Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of the Daybreak
- 2 From the evil of that which He created;
- 3 From the evil of the darkness when it is intense,
- 4 And from the evil of malignant witchcraft,
- 5 And from the evil of the envier when he envieth.

114. AN-NAS: THE MEN

1 Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind,
2 The King of mankind,
3 The God of mankind,
4 From the evil of the sneaking whisperer,
5 Who whispereth in the hearts of mankind,
6 Of the jinn and of mankind.

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