

سُورَةُ الْفَاتِرِ

Surah Fāṭir

(THE CREATOR)

This is a Makkan Sūrah, with forty five Āyāt and five Sections.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. All praise to Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the appointer of the angels as His Messengers with wings of twos and threes and fours. He adds in creation what He will. Verily Allah is Potent over everything.
2. Whatsoever of Mercy Allah may grant to mankind, none there is to withhold it, and whatsoever He may withhold, none there is to release it thereafter. And he is the Mighty, the Wise.
3. O mankind! Remember the favour of Allah towards you. Is there any Creator other than Allah who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? There is no God but He. Whither then are you deviating?
4. And if they belie you, then Messengers have been belied before you. And to Allah shall be brought back all affairs.
5. O mankind! Verily the promise of Allah is true. So let not the life of this world beguile you,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فَاطِرِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَاعِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ
رُسُلًا أُولِي أجنِحَةٍ مثنَى وَثَلَاثَ وَرُبْعَ يَزِيدُ فِي الْخَلْقِ
مَا يَشَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١﴾

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا
وَمَا يُمْسِكْ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢﴾

يَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ هَلْ مِنْ خَلْقٍ
غَيْرِ اللَّهِ يُرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا إِلَهَ
إِلَّا هُوَ فَأَنْتُمْ تُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٣﴾

وَإِنْ يَكْذِبُواكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ
وَالِلَّهِ اللَّهُ تَرْجِعُ الْأُمُورَ ﴿٤﴾

يَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّكُمْ الْحَيَاةُ

and with respect to Allah let not the great beguiler beguile you.

6. Verily Satan is an enemy to you; so take him for an enemy, he only tempts his confederates that they become the inmates of the Blaze.

7. Those who disbelieve theirs shall be a severe torment. And those who believe and work righteous deeds, theirs shall be forgiveness and a great wage.

الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّتْكُمْ بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ ﴿٥﴾

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُوا حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ ﴿٦﴾

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ ﴿٧﴾

Secrets of Revelation

This Sūrah also reiterates that all excellence is only attributable to One and Only Allah, Who Alone is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and everything that exists within, as well as their qualities. The angels are also His creation who in His obedience, serve as a link between Him and the creation, such as taking His Revelations to the Prophets, the most distinguished souls amongst the creation. The angels also convey provisions, retribution, reward, health and sickness to His creation. In other words, they are ever ready to execute Allah's Commands most diligently, let alone that they be taken as deities. Their strength and power is by Allah's Will. For instance, He has made some with two wings while others with four. It is entirely His Prerogative to endow whatever He wants, to whomever He Pleases. He may choose to give beauty, nobility, sagacity, health, power, authority, knowledge or superiority to people by His Choice. All qualities are His grants and none amongst the creation is worthy of being worshipped for any distinction it may have, as everything is a gift from Allah, Who is Potent over everything.

If He decides to open the portals of His Mercy upon any of His servants, and bless him with His hidden and manifest rewards, there is none who can stop Him from doing so. And if He decides to deprive someone of His bounties there is no one who can intervene in His decision. He holds absolute sway over everyone and is the Wisest to know whom He may endow and whom He may deprive.

O' People! Remember the favours of Allah, Who has created you as well as the means for your sustenance. To provide for your physical needs, He created

within the heavens and the earth such a complex and vast system that controls the sun, the moon, the clouds, the rainfall, the seasons and the winds. And to cater for your inward enlightenment, He raised His Prophets^{AS} from amongst you. It is worth pondering whether any one else could do all this? Certainly not! Then how can anyone else save Him be worthy of worship? Why do you still wander in ignorance?

O My Beloved Prophet^{SAW}! If the ignorant deny your veracity and refuse to accept your words, do not feel disheartened, as this is not the first time that such treatment is being extended to a Prophet^{AS}. Rather the message of all the preceding Prophets^{AS} and Messengers^{AS} was refuted. But did the antagonists manage to survive? Never! This is because eventually all matters revert to Allah.

O People! Listen carefully! It is an established fact and a Divine Promise that the Day of Reckoning will come and requital will take place. This indeed is the truth. So beware and let not the bounties of this temporal world, capriciousness or greed beguile you. Do not let the deceiving Satan cheat you! Remember that he is your enemy, so think of him like that. Do not, on the contrary, begin to obey him as a servant, as he and his entire legions, whether the Jinn or mankind, try their level best to drive you away from Allah's Mercy. They are bent upon making you fuel for Hell. Whosoever accepts the word of these Satanic legions and opts for the path of infidelity will be dealt with severely. However, anyone who maintains animosity against them, adheres firmly to Islam and continues to strive in piety, will be forgiven by Allah even if he commits a mistake and will be immensely rewarded.

Section 2

8. Can he whose evil work has been made fair-seeming to him, so that he considers it good, be as he who rightly perceives the truth? Verily Allah sends astray whom He will and guides whom He will, so let not your soul expire after them in sighings. Verily Allah is the Knower of what they perform.

أَفَمَنْ زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ فَرَآهُ حَسَنًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ
مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ فَلَا تَذْهَبُ نَفْسُكَ
عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَتٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٨﴾

9. And it is Allah Who sends the winds, and they raise a cloud,

وَاللَّهُ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيحَ فَتُيَرُّ مَحَابِبًا فَسُقْنَهَا إِلَى الْبَلَدِ

and then We drive it into a dead land and We raise thereby the earth after its death. Even so shall be the Resurrection.

10. Whosoever desires glory, then all glory is Allah's; to Him mount up goodly words, and the righteous work exalt them. And those who plot evils, theirs shall be a severe torment, and the plotting of those! It shall perish.

11. And Allah created you of dust, then of seed; then He made you pairs. No female bears or brings forth but with His Knowledge. And no aged man grows old, nor is anything diminished of his life, but it is in a Book. Verily for Allah that is easy.

12. And the two seas are not alike: This, sweet, thirst-quenching and pleasant to drink, and that, saltish and bitter. And yet from each you eat fresh flesh and bring forth the ornaments that you wear. And you see therein the ships cleaving water, that you may seek of His Grace, and that perhaps you may give thanks.

13. He plunges the night into the day and plunges the day into the night; and He has subjected the sun and the moon, each running till an appointed term. Such is Allah, your Rabb; His is the dominion: And those whom you call upon beside Him do not own even the husk of a date-stone.

مَنْتِ فَأَحْيَيْنَاهُ الْآرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا كَذَلِكَ

مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعِزَّةَ فَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ جَمِيعًا إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ
الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ وَالَّذِينَ
يَمْكُرُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيدٌ
رَمَكُمُ أُولَئِكَ هُوَ يُورِثُ ﴿١٠﴾

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَكُمْ
أَزْوَاجًا وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أَنْثَى وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ
وَمَا يُعْمَرُ مِنْ مُعَمَّرٍ وَلَا يُنْقَصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ
إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْبَحْرَانِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ سَائِغٌ
شْرَابُهُ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ وَمِنْ كُلِّ تَاكُلُونَ لَحْمًا
طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُونَ حَبْلَةً تَلْبَسُونَهَا وَتَرَى
الْفُلْكَ فِيهِ مَوَازِيرَ لِتُنْقَرُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ
وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٢﴾

يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ
وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي
لِأَجَلٍ مُسَمًّى ذَلِكَ كُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ
وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ
مِنْ قَضَائِهِ ﴿١٣﴾

14. If you call unto them, they hear not your calling, and even if they heard they could not answer you. On the Day of Judgment they will deny your associating. And none can declare to you the truth like **Him Who is Aware**.

إِنْ تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دَعَاءَكُمْ وَلَوْ سَمِعُوا
مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُونَ
بِشْرِكِكُمْ وَلَا يُنَبِّئُكَ مِثْلُ خَيْرٍ ﴿١١﴾

Secrets of Revelation

When some people turn away from Allah and His annoyance they earn perverts their thoughts. They thereafter begin to appreciate evil deeds as virtues, and continue to indulge in sin. And to those whom Allah wants, that is, those who have an urge in their hearts to seek guidance are duly blessed.

Waywardness of Mankind Aggrieves the Holy Prophet^{SAW}

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} need not be so intensely aggrieved over the misguidance of the erring lot, as it is a path of their own choosing. Allah is well Aware of their conduct and their intentions. Praise be to Him! The Holy Prophet^{SAW} is mercy personified. If he becomes so aggrieved at the non-believers' waywardness, how saddened he must be at the believers' mimicry of the infidels? May Allah protect us!

Had it not been for the perversion of their minds, they would have never denied the Day of Reckoning. They witness every day how the soil becomes arid and lifeless. And then the Omnipotent sends the winds carrying the clouds. The rain pours down from them and satiates the arid soil. Life is restored as a result and every particle is rejuvenated. Every straw, flower and foliage testifies that it is He Who shall quicken everyone for the Day of Reckoning. People tend to seek honour in mundane affluence, in power and in authority. They are obviously mistaken as the honour, in its entirety, belongs to Allah. Neglecting Him, nobody can become honourable. It is through a complete devotion to His Will and Purpose that one can become honourable. And it is towards Him that every word of piety ascends. In other words, evil can never be acceptable in His Court.

Noble and Pious Actions

In fact, it is the noble deeds that carry the noble words to His Court. And what after all is the noble deed that brings about His Approval? The Commentators agree that every action in conformity with Shari'ah is an act of piety, though its

approval is subject to sincerity of heart, which is attained by continuous Zikr-e-Qalbi.

All those who consider themselves to be very clever and outwardly display piety while covertly practicing evil will be severely punished. Their deception will be unveiled and their slyness humbled. What cleverness can mankind possibly play with **Allah**, Who created them from dust? **He** gathered particles from all around into a drop of fluid, and created human beings both males and females from it. Every stage of human existence, be it in the loins of the father or the womb of mother is in **His** Knowledge. No one gets a long life because of his cleverness or a short one by coincidence. Rather **Allah's** Knowledge is infinitely vast and fathomless while these are petty matters in comparison and have even been inscribed on the Guarded Tablet. So who can possibly deceive **Him**?

Just take a look at the two varieties of water in the earth or within its atmosphere. How Omnipotent **He** is, that **He** made one type of water sweet that quenches the thirst and is refreshing, while the other is brackish. Again, it is by **His** Powers that whereas rivers of sweet water have been infested with meat in the form of fish, the brackish waters of the oceans are also abounding with this provision. **He** enriched both sources with precious pearls, gems and metals to ensure supply of meat as well as ornaments of beauty to mankind. And **He** has given man intelligence and strength to build ships that sail cleaving the high seas and serve as the means of earning livelihood. All the aforementioned **Divine** favours demand a constant display of gratitude on the part of mankind.

Now take a look at the system of life which is dependant on the cycles of days and nights, on seasons and rainfall. Then reflect as to **Who** runs this complex system? It is only **Allah**, **Who** changes the days into nights and vice versa. **He** has assigned tasks to the entire solar system whereby each planet is busy performing its duty. This system will continue running until a time preordained by the Sustainer of the universe. It is **His** Sovereignty that prevails all over and it is **His** laws that are followed. Those who have been taken as deities by the infidels besides **Him** do not own even a petty thing in this system, such as the lining on the date-stone, to exercise their own will. Nor can they listen to anyone save by **Allah's** Command and even if **He** lets them hear, they cannot do anything being totally helpless. Idols or Aulia', whoever they might have chosen as deities will vehemently deny their devotions on the Day of Judgment. No one shall accept responsibility for their polytheism. These are the realities revealed by the All Knowing **Rabb**, and no one can give any information remotely comparable to **His** revelations.

Section 3

15. O mankind! You are the ones that stand in need of Allah, and Allah! He is the Self-sufficient, the Praiseworthy.
16. If He will, He can take you away, and bring about a new creation.
17. And with Allah that shall not be hard.
18. And no bearer of a burden shall bear another's burden, and if one heavy-laden calls for his load none of it shall be borne, although he be of kin. You can warn only those who fear their Rabb, unseen, and establish Ṣalāt. And whosoever becomes clean, becomes clean only for himself, and to Allah is the return.
19. Not alike are the blind and the seeing.
20. Neither darkness and light.
21. Nor the shade and the sun's heat.
22. Nor alike are the living and the dead. Verily Allah makes whosoever He will to hear, and you cannot make them hear who are in the graves.
23. You are but a warner.
24. Verily We! We have sent you with the truth, as a bearer of glad tidings and as a warner, and there is not a community but

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ أَسْفَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ
وَاللَّهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ ﴿١٥﴾

إِنْ يَشَاءُ يُخَذِّبْكُمْ وَيَأْتِ بِخَلْقٍ جَدِيدٍ ﴿١٦﴾

وَمَا ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ بِعَزِيزٍ ﴿١٧﴾

وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَإِنْ تَدْعُ مُثْقَلَةٌ
إِلَىٰ حِمْلِهَا لَا يَحْمِلُ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ وَلَوْ كَانَ ذَا قُرْبَىٰ
إِنَّمَا نُنذِرُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ
وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَمَنْ تَزَكَّىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَتَزَكَّىٰ
لِنَفْسِهِ ۗ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿١٨﴾

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ ﴿١٩﴾

وَلَا الظُّلُمَاتُ وَلَا النُّورُ ﴿٢٠﴾

وَلَا الظِّلُّ وَلَا الْحَرُورُ ﴿٢١﴾

وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَحْيَاءُ وَلَا الْأَمْوَاتُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسْمِعُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ
وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَّن فِي الْقُبُورِ ﴿٢٢﴾

إِنَّ أَنْتَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ ﴿٢٣﴾

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِن مِّنْ أُمَّةٍ
إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ ﴿٢٤﴾

there has passed away among them of a warner.

25. And if they belie you, then surely those before them have also belied. Their Messengers came to them with evidences and Scriptures and a luminous Book.

وَإِنْ يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ
جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالزُّبُرِ وَالْكِتَابِ
الْمُنِيرِ ﴿١٨﴾

26. Then I took hold of those who disbelieved. So how terrible was My disapproval!

ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ ﴿١٩﴾

Secrets of Revelation

O' People! There is nothing within your power. All you have is dependency, be it in your existence, or in your qualities - in every aspect you are dependant. Only Allah is Independent. He neither needs you, nor anyone else. Rather it is He Who is so Absolute that all Praise befits only Him. Then how come you opt for the path of ingratitude and denial of such a Magnificent Rabb, Independent and Potent, Who can destroy you in a split second and can raise a new creation instead? This indeed is not difficult for Him! It is only by His Grace that respite is given to you despite your disobedience, which does not mean that you be spared accountability in the Ākhirah. Rather that moment will be so austere and the accountability so meticulous that everyone will be engrossed in his own troubles, totally oblivious of the other. No disobedient shall share the burden of another even if closely related. If a father calls out his son to share his burden, the latter will flatly refuse to do so. It is then that they will become aware of the sequel of disobedience.

So O' Prophet^{SAW}! Do not be dismayed at their defiance as your words and warnings about the perils in the Ākhirah benefit only those who believe in Allah unseen, seek His Pleasure and worship Him. This, however, is no favour to you, for whoever practises virtue and exerts on the right path shall himself avail the reward. The ensuing purification of soul shall ensure his own success in the Exalted Court of Allah, where eventually everyone has to return. A believer is a person who can behold because of his faith, while infidelity is pure blindness. So there is no similarity between the two when it comes to beholding the splendour and grace of the Holy Prophet^{SAW}. An infidel is completely surrounded by the darkness of disbelief whereas a believer, enlightened by the light of faith, becomes an embodiment of light. A believer is a cool shade

whereas an infidel is like the scorching heat of the sun. The former is alive, his Qalb is alive, while the latter despite being physically alive, is in fact a living corpse, as his Qalb is void of Divine Lights. However, if Allah wishes He may give life to a dead Qalb, this being very much within His Powers. But He has decreed to quicken the hearts of only those who desire it. How can the message of the Holy Prophet^{SAW} be audible to these dead Qulūb in the first place? An Arab poet aptly comments that the physical bodies of the non-believers are indeed graves before they are actually entombed, as they bear lifeless Qulūb.

These Āyāt put forward the similitude of believers and the non-believers as the living and the dead respectively. The matter of hearing by the dead is not under discussion here, but that hearing which is also beneficial to the listener is being referred. The question whether the dead can hear or not is a separate issue. It is the exalted mission of the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to forewarn mankind of the dire consequences and effects of disobedience to follow in the Ākhirah. This indeed is a great Divine favour.

O' Prophet^{SAW}! Undoubtedly, We have raised you with the Truth, conferring upon you this magnificent office, so that you may convey the good news of rewards on faith and piety, and warn of the punishment on evil and infidelity. Allah, out of his Munificence, has been raising Prophets^{AS} amongst every nation through time. So if today someone denies you, just as there is nothing new about your raising, so is it with their denial. In fact the preceding Prophets^{AS} also faced similar circumstances though they were raised with clear signs, miracles and Scriptures. But this denial did not, by any means, cause any harm to them. On the contrary, the deniers were seized by Allah's Wrath as an admonition for the rest of mankind with reference to the severity of His punishment.

Section 4

27. Do you not see that Allah sends down water from the sky, and then We thereby bring fruit of diverse hues? And in the mountains are streaks white and red, of diverse hues, and also intensely black.

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجْنَا بِهِ
شَرَاتٍ مُخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهَا وَمِنَ الْجِبَالِ جُدَدٌ بَيْضٌ
وَحُمْرٌ مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهَا وَغَرَابِيبُ سُودٌ ﴿٧﴾

28. And of men and beasts and cattle, likewise of diverse

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ وَالْذَوَابِّ وَالْأَنْعَامِ

colours. Those of His bondmen fear Allah who have knowledge. Verily Allah is the Mighty, the Forgiving.

29. Verily those who read the Book of Allah and establish Ṣalāt and expend of that with which We have provided them, secretly and in open, look for a commerce that will not perish.

30. That He may pay them their wages in full and increase to them of His Grace; surely He is Forgiving, Appreciative.

31. And what We have revealed to you of the Book – it is the very truth confirming what has been before it. Verily Allah is unto His bondmen Aware, Beholder.

32. Afterwards We made those We chose of Our bondmen the inheritors of the Book. Then of them are some who wrong themselves, and of them are some who keep the middle way, and of them are some who go ahead, by Allah's leave, in virtues. That! That is indeed a great grace.

33. Gardens Everlasting! These they shall enter wearing therein bracelets of gold and pearls, and their apparel therein shall be of silk.

34. And they will say: All praise to Allah Who has taken away grief from us, verily our Rabb is Forgiving, Appreciative.

مُخْتَلِفٌ أَلْوَانُهُ، كَذَلِكَ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ
مِن عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ غَفُورٌ ﴿٢٩﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ
وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً
يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ ﴿٣٠﴾

لِيُوفِيَهُمْ أَجُورَهُمْ وَيَزِيدَهُم مِّن فَضْلِهِ
إِنَّهُ عَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٣١﴾

وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ هُوَ الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا
لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِعِبَادِهِ لَخَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

ثُمَّ أَوْرَثْنَا الْكِتَابَ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَيْنَا مِنْ عِبَادِنَا
فَمِنْهُمْ ظَالِمٌ لِّنَفْسِهِ، وَمِنْهُمْ مُّقْتَصِدٌ وَمِنْهُمْ
سَابِقٌ بِالْخَيْرَاتِ يُؤْتِنِ اللَّهُ ذَلِكَ
هُوَ الْفَضْلُ الْكَبِيرُ ﴿٣٣﴾

جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٌ يَدْخُلُونَهَا يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ
مِن ذَهَبٍ وَلُؤْلُؤًا وَلِبَاسُهُمْ فِيهَا حَرِيرٌ ﴿٣٤﴾

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ
إِنَّ رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٣٥﴾

35. Who has through His Grace, lodged us in the everlasting abode, wherein there will not touch us toil and wherein there will not touch us weariness.

الَّذِي أَحَلَّنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نُصَبٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا لُغُوبٌ ﴿٣٥﴾

36. And those who disbelieve, for them shall be Hell Fire. It shall not be decreed to them that they should die, nor shall its torment be lightened for them. Thus do We requite every ingrate.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَهُمْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ لَا يُقْضَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ فَيَمُوتُوا وَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمْ مِنْ عَذَابِهَا كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي كُلَّ كَافِرٍ ﴿٣٦﴾

37. And they shall be shouting therein: Our Rabb! Take us out; we will work righteously, not what we have been working. Did We not give you lives long enough so that whosoever would receive admonition could receive it therein? And there came to you a warner; taste, therefore. And for the ungodly there will be no helper.

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِخُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَن تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن نَّصِيرٍ ﴿٣٧﴾

Secrets of Revelation

How illustrious indeed is each and every facet of Allah's Omnipotence! Just ponder over the phenomenon how He lifts the water to heights and pours it down to both high as well as low lying lands. Amazingly, the water is colourless and tasteless but the fruits grown vary in colour and taste. Take a look at the mountains; they stand gracefully on the land with a combination of different hues of soil, interspersed white red and real black cliffs. The same diversity is reflected in human beings, animals and insects. Some are fair, others dark in complexion, all having different facial features. Some are tall while others are short, and each is blessed with a different level of understanding and wisdom. He has gifted everyone with unique faculties and features, a marvel of His Creativity. All these testify to His Glorious Magnificence, but only if one can perceive. It is only appreciated and held in awe by the erudites.

Who is an Erudite?

According to Qurān nobody can be termed as a scholar on the basis of being literate or well read. The essence of knowledge is the realisation of one's own worth vis-à-vis the appreciation of Allah's Magnificence. The level of this appreciation will determine the level of Allah's awe one is blessed with. And the level of awe in a person will, in turn, determine the level of his knowledge. This awe is an act of the Qalb, and is validated by one's conduct. The Commentators have discussed this point at length with the same outcome as mentioned above. Allah Prevails over everyone and if He chooses He may not allow any one the respite even to breathe. But He is Forgiving and it is by His Clemency that He overlooks. And how is the Divine awe displayed? It is through their recitation of the Qurān.

The Recitation of Qurān - A Great Act of Piety

Qurān is a complete Code of Life. While it is important to understand it, practising it is the very aim of life. However, even if one does not know the meanings, the recitation itself is an act of great merit. It generates awe of Allah in the heart which once developed facilitates (1) acquisition of knowledge outside the pale of books, (2) diligence towards worships and (3) spending in His Cause from the bounties given by Him, both overtly and covertly.

Overt and Covert Noble Acts

According to the scholars it is preferable to perform Obligatory, Essential (Wājib) and Sunnah Ṣalāt publicly, and the Superogatory (Nafl) Ṣalāt covertly. Similarly the obligatory charity, like Zakāt should be paid publicly while the voluntary charity is best paid covertly. Such are the people hopeful of His Munificence, as their acts of piety are like a trade with no possibility of a loss.

Noble Acts do not Guarantee Salvation, without His Mercy

It is best not to feel proud of one's noble acts, as mere piety is not sufficient for salvation. It is so because the capacity to act piously is also bestowed by Him. However, it is His Mercy that leads to it, which is strongly hoped for, because He is so Gracious that He will multiply the rewards manifold. While Forgiveness is His Attribute, He is also extremely Appreciating. A person can only act according to his worth, yet Allah endows commensurate to His Grace.

Endorsement of the Facts Revealed in the Preceding Books

Is it not a great Divine favour that the Holy Prophet^{SAW} has been blessed with a glorious Book which is beyond the slightest of doubt and is the whole Truth. It endorses the facts revealed in the preceding Books. Indeed it is an extraordinary testimony to the credibility of the preceding Divine Scriptures

and His Prophets^{AS} that a Book revealed thousands of years later corroborates the same facts. The teachings of the Prophets^{AS} had long been erased from the people memories. When the Holy Prophet^{SAW} was raised, he expounded the same precepts about Allah, the angels, the Ākhirah etc. as had been preached by the earlier Prophets^{AS}, without making the slightest error or dispute. Allah being Omnipotent, is certainly well Aware of the state of His servants and their needs.

Allah's Chosen and Preferred Persons

And then through you O' Prophet^{SAW}! We made our chosen and preferred persons heirs to this Book. In other words, only those selected by Him for this task can believe in this Book while as a creation and then as human beings His favours were already innumerable, His granting the capacity to believe exceeded all limits of generosity. According to the Commentators a Muslim, no matter how great a sinner, will certainly achieve salvation if he does not divest himself of faith and die as an apostate. No matter how much turmoil he undergoes in the process of purification, he will be saved eventually being Allah's preferred person.

Despite so many favours, there are many amongst the Muslims who wrong themselves by disobeying Allah. While there are some who adopt the middle course, err - and - apologise, they do make mistakes as well as act piously. At the same time there are some who excel in piety in demonstration of His Mercy. The acts of piety are outwardly toilsome, yet by virtue of outcome are a testimony to His Pleasure. These indeed are the believers who shall abide in Jannah where they will wear armlets of gold and jewels, and will be clad in robes of silk woven in Jannah. In short, they will live a luxurious life forever, free of all worries. They will neither experience weariness nor sickness, nor any form of anxiety. They will express their gratitude to Allah and acknowledge His immense generosity.

It is typical of human nature to get weary of same food, clothing and even the climate. But the pleasures of Jannah will be constantly on the increase, divorcing the possibility of any form of weariness. According to the Commentators the sinners amongst Muslims will be blessed with salvation after being put through a cleansing process of varying hardships, whereas those on the middle course will be spared after simple questioning. The near ones will be teemed with rewards. All of them shall express their gratitude in the same words and reach Jannah, inshaAllah.

All those who opt for infidelity will undoubtedly end up in Hell, but shall never experience death again. There will be no reduction in the intensity of

punishment to which they will be forever subjected. They will plead and beg, scream and yell to be spared the agony and given another chance to return to the world in order to rightfully obey Him, but their request will be unheeded being too late.

Age a Prerequisite for being Sentient

Coming of age is a pre-requisite to become obliged to practise Shari'ah. This Āyah refers to the time beyond maturity, when wisdom and intellect are fully developed and one is able to discern what is good and what is not. So Allah declares that besides giving mankind time, maturity and understanding He had also sent His Messengers^{AS} who forewarned them against this horrifying sequel to denial. Those who listened and reformed themselves did the right thing and those who denied must bear the consequences. This is how Allah requites the transgressors and no one can help them in anyway.

Section 5

38. Verily Allah is the Knower of the unseen of the heavens and the earth. Verily He is the Knower of what is in the breasts.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ غَيْبِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ ﴿٣٨﴾

39. He it is Who has made you successors in the earth. So whosoever disbelieves, on him will befall his infidelity. And for the infidels their infidelity increases nothing with their Rabb save abhorrence. And for the infidels their infidelity increases naught save loss.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ خَلْفًا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ كَفَرَ فَعَلَيْهِ
كُفْرُهُ، وَلَا يَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرَهُمْ إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ
وَجْهِ رَبِّهِمْ أَكْثَرًا ﴿٣٩﴾

40. Say you: What do you consider of your associate gods upon which you call besides Allah? Show me whatsoever they have created of the earth. Or, have they any partnership in the heavens? Or, have We vouchsafed to them a Book so that they stand upon an evidence from it? Nay! The ungodly

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ شُرَكَاءَ كُمُ الَّذِينَ نَادَعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ
أَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
أَمْ آتَيْنَاهُمُ كِتَابًا فَهُمْ عَلَى بَيِّنَةٍ مِنْهُ
بَلْ إِنْ يَعِدُ الظَّالِمُونَ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا
إِلَّا غُرُورًا ﴿٤٠﴾

promise to each other only delusions.

41. Verily **Allah** withholds the heavens and the earth lest they cease; and should they cease, not any one could withhold them after **Him**. Verily **He** is ever Forbearing, Forgiving.

42. And they swore by **Allah** with a most solemn oath, that if there came a warner unto them, they would surely be better guided than any of the other communities. Then when there did come to them a warner, it increased in them nothing save aversion.

43. Through their stiff neckedness in the land and their plotting of evil, And the plotting of evil only enfolds its author. Do they then wait only the dispensation of the ancients? And you will not find in the dispensation of **Allah** a change, nor will you find in the dispensation of **Allah** a turning off.

44. Have they not journeyed on the earth, so that they might see how has been the end of those before them, although they were stronger in power than these? **Allah** is not such that anything in the heavens and the earth can frustrate **Him**. Verily, **He** is ever Knowing, Potent.

45. Were **Allah** to take mankind to task for what they earn, **He** would not leave a moving

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُمِيطُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ أَنْ تَزُولَا
وَلَئِنْ زَالَتَا إِنْ أَمْسَكَهُمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ
إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا ﴿١١﴾

وَأَفْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِنْ جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ
لَيَكُونُنَّ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْ إِحْدَى الْأُمَمِ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ نَذِيرٌ
مَّا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا نُفُورًا ﴿١٢﴾

أَمْ تَكْبَارُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَكْرَ السَّيِّئِ وَلَا يَحِيقُ
الْمَكْرَ السَّيِّئِ إِلَّا بِأَهْلِهِ فَهَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا سُنَّتَ
الْأَوَّلِينَ فَلَنْ نَجْدِلُكَ اللَّهُ تَبْدِيلًا وَلَنْ نَجْدِلُكَ
اللَّهُ تَحْوِيلًا ﴿١٣﴾

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ
الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَكَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَمَا كَانَ
اللَّهُ لِيُعْجِزَهُمْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيمًا قَدِيرًا ﴿١٤﴾

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا
مَا تَرَكَ عَلَىٰ ظُهُرِهِمْ دَابَّكُمْ وَلَكِنْ

creature on its back; but He puts them off till a term assigned, then when that term arrives – then, verily, Allah is ever a Beholder of His bondmen.

تُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُهُمْ
فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا ﴿١٥﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Of course, Allah is Aware of all the secrets of the earth and the heavens, and also knows the state of the hearts, your inner motives and how you had disobeyed Him. It was indeed a great favour that He settled you on land and made you successors to the preceding generations. You should have learnt a lesson from their fate rather than becoming a symbol of admonition yourselves. And you should have obeyed Allah but you opted to deny, which harmed no one. Rather it became a curse for your very own selves. Remember that denial and disobedience invite His Wrath, which increases with the progress in denial. This constant increase is the greatest loss for the non-believers.

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} must ask them to show any contribution made by their so-called deities in creation or towards life on earth. Or do they enjoy any partnership with Him in the celestial world? When this is not the case, then did We give the infidels a Scripture to establish their polytheistic precepts. Can they bring forth any such evidence? Certainly not. They do not have any logical or recorded evidence to support their infidelity. Rather they lie to one another and offer mutual assurances based on deceit. Only Allah can hold the earth and the heavens in a manner that they remain firm and function according to a pre-ordained programme in each one of their movements so that the creation may thrive. If they want to deviate from the predetermined orbits or movements no one save Allah can deter them. It is indeed His Mercy that despite denial and polytheism by mankind, He has kept this universe intact. His clemency continuously overlooks their errors and forgives them.

These deniers are the same lot who used to say before the raising of the Holy Prophet^{SAW} that the Prophetic teachings had become extinct. They would swear that if a Prophet^{AS} was raised amongst them, they would obey him more than any nation had ever done before and would prove to be the most guided nation. But when the Holy Prophet^{SAW} was raised it was these very people who could not even tolerate this great blessing, let alone obeying him. Incited by their intense hatred, arrogance and vanity, they worked evil conspiracies against him,

which shall boom-rang on them, as the brunt of evil has to be borne by the evil doer.

Have they not learnt a lesson from the fate of their predecessors, who had plotted against their Prophets^{AS}, but were destroyed themselves instead? The Divine Laws and His preordained programmes always prevail and cannot be averted by anyone's planning. This fact is evident from the accounts of the preceding nations. So the deniers, while travelling on earth, must observe the sequel met by the arrogant who had opted for it. These wrecked nations excelled them in power, might, affluence and resources. But no celestial or terrestrial being possesses the power to avert Allah's Hold. He Alone has the Knowledge of everything, being Aware of every state of each individual. He is Omnipotent and can do whatever pleases Him. It is only by His Clemency that He everlooks people's mistakes and keeps on giving them respite.

Human Conduct Affects the Entire Creation

On the contrary, if He was to seize people on the basis of their conduct, no living being would have survived on the face of this earth. In the process of destruction of human settlements, other living beings created for the sole purpose of serving mankind would also have perished. However, this respite cannot go on forever. The moment for bidding farewell to this world will come and everyone will have to leave. Does that mean that the righteous and the evildoer are similar to each other? Certainly not! Allah is well Aware of the state everyone is in, and knows as to what should be his ultimate fate!