

سُورَةُ الدُّخَانِ

Sūrah ad Dukhān

(THE SMOKE)

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. Hā. Mīm
2. By the luminous Book.
3. We have sent it down on a blessed night; verily We were to become warners.
4. Therein is decreed every affair of wisdom.
5. As a Command from before Us. Verily We were to become Senders.
6. A Mercy from the Rabb. Verily He! He is the Hearer, the Knower.
7. Rabb of the heavens and the earth and whatsoever is in-between, if only you would be convinced.
8. There is no god but He. He quickens and causes to die: your Rabb and Rabb of your forefathers.
9. Aye! They are in doubt sporting.
10. So wait you for a day when the sky will bring forth a manifest smoke.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

حَمِّ ①

وَالكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ ②

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ③

فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ ④

أَمْرًا مِنْ عِنْدِنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ ⑤

رَحْمَةً مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ⑥

رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا
إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُوقِنِينَ ⑦

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ رَبُّكُمْ
وَرَبُّ آبَائِكُمْ الْأُولِينَ ⑧

بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ يَلْعَبُونَ ⑨

فَارْتَقِبْ يَوْمَ تَأْتِي السَّمَاءُ بِدُخَانٍ مُبِينٍ ⑩

11. Covering the people, this shall be a dreadful scourge.

يَغْشَى النَّاسَ هَذَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿١١﴾

12. Our Rabb! Lift up from us this scourge; verily we shall become believers.

رَبَّنَا اكْشِفْ عَنَّا الْعَذَابَ إِنَّا مُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٢﴾

13. How can there be an admonition unto them, when there came to them a clear Messenger.

أَنَّى لَهُمُ الذِّكْرَى وَقَدْ جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٣﴾

14. Yet they turned away from him and said: One tutored, one distracted!

ثُمَّ نَوَّوْا عَنهُ وَقَالُوا مَعَلَمٌ يَتَّبِعُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

15. Verily We shall remove the chastisement for a while; but verily you shall revert.

إِنَّا كَاشِفُو الْعَذَابِ قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ عَائِدُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

16. On the Day when We assault them with the greatest assault, verily We shall take vengeance.

يَوْمَ نَبْطِشُ الْبَطْشَةَ الْكُبْرَى إِنَّا مُنْقِمُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

17. And assuredly before them We tried the Pharaoh's people, and there came to them an honoured Messenger, saying.

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَجَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿١٧﴾

18. Restore to me the bondmen of Allah, I am unto you a trusted Messenger.

أَنْ أَدُؤْا إِلَيَّ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ ﴿١٨﴾

19. And saying: Exalt not yourselves against Allah, verily I have come to you with a manifest authority.

وَأَنْ لَا تَعْلُوا عَلَيَّ اللَّهُ أَنِّي بِمَا نَكُرُ بِسُلْطَنٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴿١٩﴾

20. And verily I have sought refuge in my Rabb and your Rabb lest you stone me.

وَإِنِّي عُدْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ أَنْ تَرْجُمُونِ ﴿٢٠﴾

21. And if you will not believe in me, then let me alone.

وَإِنْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا إِلَيَّ فَأَعْرِضُونِي ﴿٢١﴾

22. Then he called upon his Rabb: These are a guilty people.

فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنْ هَبْ لِي قَوْمًا مُّجْرِمُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

23. Allah said: So depart you with My bondmen by night; surely you will be pursued.

فَأَسْرِعْ بَادِيَ لَيْلِيَ إِنَّكُمْ مُّتَّبَعُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

24. And leave you the sea parted; verily they are a host to be drowned.
25. They left – how many – of gardens and springs.
26. And cornfields and goodly positions.
27. And the delights, which they had been enjoying!
28. Even so. And We caused another people to inherit them.
29. And the heaven and the earth did not shed tears for them, nor were they reprieved.

وَأَتْرَكُوا الْبَحْرَ رَهْوًا إِنَّهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّغْرَقُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾

كَمْ تَرَكُوا مِنْ جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ ﴿٢٥﴾

وَزُرُوعٍ وَمَقَامٍ كَرِيمٍ ﴿٢٦﴾

وَنَعْمَ كَانُوا فِيهَا فَكِيهِينَ ﴿٢٧﴾

كَذَلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا قَوْمًا آخَرِينَ ﴿٢٨﴾

فَمَا بَكَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ

وَمَا كَانُوا مُنظَرِينَ ﴿٢٩﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Hā Mīm. By this luminous Book, which endorses the realities with ample evidences. It descended in an extremely auspicious night from the Guarded Tablet to the nether heaven. It indicates the correct course of action to mankind and forewarns of the formidable results of evil deeds.

Auspicious Night

According to the Commentators it is the *Laila tul Qadr*, as determined by other verses. The Qurān was revealed in the month of Ramadhan. The report about its being the 15th night of Sha‘ban is weak and as such not entertained by most of the scholars. Those who support this version assert that even the weak reports of Ḥadīth are meritorious in matters of practice. However, the revelation of Quran in *Laila tul Qadr* and in the month of Ramadhan has been highlighted by the Quran itself.

In this very Night all affairs and decisions for the coming year, already in Allah’s Knowledge since eternity, are entrusted to the relevant angels for execution. Similarly, it was Allah’s decision to raise the Holy Prophet ^{SAW} as His Messenger, indeed a great mercy for mankind. It is He Who listens to the cries for help and knows everything about His creation. In other words, Allah has answered every possible human pleading pertaining both to this world as well as the Ākhirah by raising the Holy Prophet ^{SAW}. Devotion and

conformity to his teachings alleviates every suffering and solves all problems. So O' people! If you believe in His Providence that it is He Who is fulfilling all needs of whoever is in the heavens and the earth, you will realise that the creation did need a Prophet^{AS} to connect them with their Rabb. Allah satiated this vital need by raising the Holy Prophet^{SAW}. It is an evidence of His Magnificence that He blessed mankind with such a supreme favour. There is no one worthy of worship save Him for it is He Who gives life and enforces death. He is your Rabb as well as of those who lived before. In other words, just as He gives physical life, He has also blessed you with spiritual life by raising His Prophet^{SAW} amongst you. Estrangement from him amounts to spiritual death. Yet these people harbour doubts and are engrossed in futile sport.

Smoke from the Sky

The Holy Prophet^{SAW} may wait until the sky is all smoke, engulfing people in a tormenting doom. The Commentators offer two explanations. Firstly, the obduracy of the Makkans, which led the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to invoke a famine on them like the one the Egyptians experienced during the era of Prophet Yusuf^{AS}. And it struck compelling them to eat bones and carrion under a sky clouded with smoke. They approached the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to have it alleviated in order that they become believers. Allah knew it to be a ruse, as they had already denied a magnificent Prophet^{SAW} raised amongst them whose noble personality was itself a great miracle. Still He averted the chastisement and obliged them with a downpour as a result of the Holy Prophet's^{SAW} prayer, yet they breached their promise and labelled him insane.

The second explanation is that on the Day of Reckoning, a haze like smoke will descend from the sky. According to Hadith, it will cause a mild cold to the believers, but will enter a non-believer's body to exude from every cell. The latter will then pray to Allah that if spared the misery, they would become believers. But it will be too late, for they had already rejected the invitation of the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to true faith and made fun of him by labelling him insane. And even if it was done and they are returned to the world they would once again resort to infidelity, already deeply embedded in their souls. The grip of Qayamah will indeed be very harsh and no excuses will be entertained on behalf of the wrong doers and a fair requital shall settle all scores.

Earlier, the Pharaoh's folk were tried through a distinguished Prophet who asked them to let the long oppressed Banī Isrāīl go along with him. He also informed them that he was Allah's Messenger calling them to believe in His

Magnificence and Divinity and not to contest Allah by indulging in pointless arguments with him, despite the evidences and manifest miracles brought by him. Yet they did not listen to Prophet Mūsa^{AS} and refused to believe, rather threatened to stone him to death.

He sought Allah's Protection and prayed for his deliverance from the wicked people ready even to stone him to death. Allah directed him to escort the Banī Isrāīl by night out of the tyrants' land. And that they will be pursued by the Pharaoh and his forces whence Allah shall make pathways in the sea for them to cross over. However, he should not wish the water to resume its flow immediately so that the Pharaoh is attracted into it and be destroyed by drowning, leaving behind the gardens the springs, the vast fields and the lofty mansions where they had lived lavishly. Allah transferred these bounties to the Banī Isrāīl heretofore treated worse than the animals. The sky never cried over this tragic decimation of the Pharaohs nor was the earth moved in the least.

The Crying of Heaven and Earth

According to some scholars it is a metaphoric expression, merely depicting that such a great havoc had no effect whatever on the functioning of the Universal System. However, many Commentators believe that this Āyah testifies a saying of the Holy Prophet^{SAW}, that the portion of earth where a virtuous person practises piety cries upon his death, as well as the heaven, through which his noble deeds used to ascend. Every creation enjoys a certain level of understanding and expresses itself in a peculiar way. Thus the crying of heaven and the earth will be in their own style.

Section 2

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| 30. | Assuredly We saved the Children of Israil from a degrading scourge. | وَلَقَدْ نَجَّيْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ ﴿٣٠﴾ |
| 31. | From the Pharaoh, verily he was haughty and of the extravagant. | مِنْ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَلِيًّا مِنَ الْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴿٣١﴾ |
| 32. | And assuredly We chose them with knowledge purposely above the worlds. | وَلَقَدْ آخَذْنَا لَهُمْ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ عَلَىٰ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٣٢﴾ |

33. And We vouchsafed to them Signs in which was a manifest favour from Us.
34. Verily these! They say.
35. Nothing is there but our first death, and we shall not be raised again.
36. Bring back then our fathers, if you speak the truth.
37. Are these better or the People of Tubb'a and those before them? We destroyed them, they were culprits.
38. And We did not create the heavens and the earth and what is in-between in sport.
39. We did not create them save with a purpose, yet most of them know not.
40. Verily the Day of Decision is the term appointed for all of them.
41. A Day whereon a friend shall not avail a friend at all, nor shall they be succoured.
42. Save those on whom Allah will have Mercy. Verily He! He is the Mighty, the Merciful.

وَأَيِّنَّا لَهُمْ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ مَا فِيهِ بَلَتُوا مُبِينٌ ﴿٣٣﴾

إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ لَيَقُولُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّا مَوْتُنَا الْأُولَىٰ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُنشَرِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

فَأْتُوا بِآبَائِنَا إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٣٦﴾

أَهْمٌ خَيْرٌ أَمْ قَوْمٌ تُبِعَ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾

وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ

وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا لَعِبِينَ ﴿٣٨﴾

مَا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَكِنْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾

إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ مِيقَاتُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾

يَوْمَ لَا يُغْنِي مَوْلَىٰ عَنْ مَوْلَىٰ شَيْئًا وَلَا هُمْ

يُنصَرُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

إِلَّا مَنْ رَزِمَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿٤٢﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Allah delivered the Banī Isrāīl from the humiliating oppression by the Pharaoh, who was extremely rebellious and had crossed all limits. He also blessed them with superiority over their contemporaries in terms of knowledge and with Signs of His Magnificence, both physical as well as

spiritual. The deliverance from the Pharaoh was a physical symbol while the Prophetic knowledge and the miracles were spiritual in the form of a reward and a trial from Allah.

These infidels do not draw any lessons from the events of earlier nations. They say that this worldly life is only once and when they die there will be no resurrection. Their logic is that if there were life beyond life, why does the Holy Prophet ^{SAW} not bring back their forefathers while the quickening they are being warned about is the reckoning for requital on the Day of Judgment and not for a come back to this world. And the assumption that being a mighty nation no harm shall come to them is false, as those far more powerful like the nation of Tubb'a, have been destroyed in the past. They too had opted for the path of sin.

The Nation of Tubb'a

Tubb'a was the title of the emperors who ruled Yemen for a long time. With Western Yemen as the capital, they expanded the boundaries of their kingdom to the African States, 'Arabia, Syria and 'Iraq. The King Tubb'a referred here was the bravest and ruled the longest. His conquests reached as far as Samarqand. He embraced faith in Prophet Musa ^{AS} guided by the Jewish scholars and his nation subsequently converted to Islam. But they again reverted to evil ways and idolatry, and were destroyed, despite the fact that they were one of the most powerful nations of their time, leaving only their tales amongst the Arabs. Moreover, the heavens, the earth, rather the entire universe have not been created in sport, whereby there will be no requital for virtue and vice in the *Ākhirah*. This creation is based on Truth, which demands that every type of character must meet its own end. However, most people neither understand nor possess the requisite knowledge.

For sure, the Day of Gathering is for accountability. It is a Day when no friendship will avail anyone save by Allah's Mercy. And the infidels will be completely deprived of it. Friendships cultivated for His sake, or only those relationships that invoke His Mercy will be worthwhile. Allah is Supreme, only His decisions will be enforced, and He indeed is the Most Merciful.

Section 3

43. Verily the tree of Zaqqum.

44. Food of the sinners.

إِنَّ شَجَرَةَ الزَّقُّومِ ﴿١٣﴾

طَعَامُ الْأَثِيمِ ﴿١٤﴾

45. Like the dregs of oil; it shall seethe in the bellies.
46. As the seething of boiling water.
47. Seize him and drag him to the midst of the Flaming Fire.
48. Then pour upon his head the torment of boiling water.
49. Taste you! You are indeed mighty, honoured!
50. Verily this is what you were used to doubt.
51. Verily those who kept their duty to Allah will be in a station secure.
52. Amidst gardens and springs.
53. Attired in fine silk and brocade, facing each other.
54. Even so. And We shall mate them with damsels large-eyed.
55. They will call therein for every manner of fruit in security.
56. They will not taste death therein, except the first death, and He will guard them against the chastisement of Flaming Fire.
57. A bounty from your Rabb! That! That is the supreme achievement.
58. And We have made it easy in your language, perhaps they might be admonished.
59. Wait you then, they are also waiting.

كَالْمُهْلِ يَغْلِي فِي الْبُطُونِ ﴿١٥﴾

كَغَلِي الْحَمِيمِ ﴿١٦﴾

خُذُوهُ فَاعْتِلُوهُ إِلَى سَوَاءِ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿١٧﴾

ثُمَّ صُبُّوا فَوْقَ رَأْسِهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْحَمِيمِ ﴿١٨﴾

ذُوقْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْكَرِيمُ ﴿١٩﴾

إِنَّ هَذَا مَا كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَمْتَرُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي مَقَامٍ أَمِينٍ ﴿٢١﴾

فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُوتٍ ﴿٢٢﴾

يَلْبَسُونَ مِنْ سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ

مُنْقَلِبِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾

كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِحُورٍ عِينٍ ﴿٢٤﴾

يَدْعُونَ فِيهَا بِكُلِّ فَاكِهَةٍ آمِنِينَ ﴿٢٥﴾

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا الْمَوْتَ إِلَّا الْمَوْتَةَ

الْأُولَىٰ وَوَقَّعْنَاهُمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٢٦﴾

فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّكَ ذَٰلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٧﴾

فَأَنصَبْنَاهُ لِسَانِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾

فَأَنْتَقِبَ إِنَّهُمْ مُّرْتَقِبُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾

Secrets of Revelation

The infidels will be offered cactus as food on that Day, the food most suitable for the malefactors. This cactus grows in Hell, whereas the cactus we know about here is also extremely bitter, full of ugly thorns. Once ingested it shall seethe in their bellies like the melting of copper or like the boiling water. They will then be dragged into the centre of Hell and showered with boiling water in punishment to taste the outcome of their misdeeds. They used to consider themselves very superior and had felt lowly in obeying Allah and His Prophet^{-SAW}. This indeed was the Hell they never believe in, and the promised doom they had long forgotten about.

In contrast, those who had opted for Taqwa and His obedience will be living in abodes of peace, seated majestically amidst gardens and springs, clad in fine silk robes, facing one another. Allah shall wed them with Hūr. There will be no death save the one which ushered them into the Hereafter, and spared them the horrors of Hell.

Hūr

The beautiful females created in Jannah are a manifestation of Allah's Grace in their beauty and excellence. They will be gifted to the dwellers of Jannah. However, it must be remembered that the women who belong to mankind, obeyed Allah and the Holy Prophet^{-SAW} in this temporal life and qualified for Jannah, will be far exalted than the Hūr in status, just as a lady of the house is to her maid, and will certainly excel them in beauty. This indeed is a great Mercy and a grand triumph, to which the Quran leads and which has been made easy in the language of the Holy Prophet^{-SAW}. It admonishes people to abstain from the path to Hell. Nevertheless, if the non believers do not accept, it is upto them. The Holy Prophet's^{-SAW} duty is only to convey the Message and might as well wait as they too are waiting. The outcome of every action will soon manifest itself.