

سُورَةُ الْمَعَارِجِ

Sūrah al-M'ārij

(THE ASCENDING STEPS)

Revealed in Makkah, it has two Sections and forty four Āyāt.

Section 1

In the Name of Allah

The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

1. A questioner has questioned about chastisement about to befall.
2. Upon the infidels which is not to be averted.
3. From Allah, Owner of the ascending steps.
4. Thereby the angels ascend to Him and also the Spirit; on a Day whose space is fifty thousand years.
5. Be you patient with a becoming patience.
6. Verily they see it afar off.
7. And We see it near.
8. It shall befall on a Day whereon the sky will become like dregs of oil.
9. And the mountains will become like dyed wool.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سَأَلَ سَائِلٌ بِعَذَابٍ وَاقِعٍ ﴿١﴾

لِلْكَافِرِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَافِعٌ ﴿٢﴾

مِنَ اللَّهِ ذِي الْمَعَارِجِ ﴿٣﴾

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ
بِقَدَارِهِ أَرْبَعِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ ﴿٤﴾

فَاصْبِرْ صَبْرًا جَبِيلًا ﴿٥﴾

إِنَّهُمْ يَرَوْنَهُ بَعِيدًا ﴿٦﴾

وَنَرَنَاهُ قَرِيبًا ﴿٧﴾

يَوْمَ تَكُونُ السَّمَاءُ كَالرَّهْلِ ﴿٨﴾

وَتَكُونُ الْجِبَالُ كَالْعِهْنِ ﴿٩﴾

10. And not a friend shall ask a friend.
11. Though they shall be made to see one another. The guilty would like to ransom himself from the torment of that Day by his children.
12. And his wife and his brother.
13. And his kin that sheltered him.
14. And all those on the earth; so that this might deliver him.
15. By no means! It is a Flame.
16. Flying off the scalp-skin.
17. It shall call him who turns away and backslides.
18. And amasses and hoards.
19. Verily man is formed impatient.
20. Bewailing when evil touches him.
21. And begrudging, when good visits him.
22. Not so are the prayerful.
23. Who are constant at their Ṣalāt.
24. And in whose riches is a recognised right.
25. For the beggar and the destitute.
26. And who testify to the Day of Requital.
27. And who are fearful of their Rabb's torment.
28. Verily from the torment of their Rabb none can feel secure.

وَلَا يَسْتَلْ حَمِيْدٌ حَمِيْمًا ﴿١٠﴾

يَبْصُرُوهُمْ يُودُّ الْمَجْرِمُ لَوْ يَفْتَدِي مِنْ عَذَابِ
يَوْمِئِذٍ بَنِيهِ ﴿١١﴾

وَصَنْجَبَتِهِ وَأَخِيهِ ﴿١٢﴾

وَقَصِيْلَتِهِ الَّتِي تُتَوَكَّلُ عَلَيْهَا ﴿١٣﴾

وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيْعًا ثُمَّ يُنْجِيهِ ﴿١٤﴾

كَلَّا إِنَّهَا لَأَنْفٌ
لَّاطِنَةٌ ﴿١٥﴾

نَرَاعَةٌ لِلشَّوْىِ ﴿١٦﴾

تَدْعُوا مَنْ أَدْبَرَ وَتَوَلَّى ﴿١٧﴾

وَجَمَعَ فَأَوْعَى ﴿١٨﴾

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَ
فَاسِقٌ ﴿١٩﴾

إِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا ﴿٢٠﴾

وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا ﴿٢١﴾

إِلَّا الْمُصَلِّينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ
دَائِمُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

وَالَّذِينَ فِي أَمْوَالِهِمْ حَقٌّ مَّعْلُومٌ ﴿٢٤﴾

لِلسَّائِلِ وَالْمَحْرُومِ ﴿٢٥﴾

وَالَّذِينَ يُصَدِّقُونَ بِيَوْمِ
الَّذِينَ ﴿٢٦﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مِنْ عَذَابِ رَبِّهِمْ
مُتَشَفِّعُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

إِنَّ عَذَابَ رَبِّهِمْ غَيْرُ مَا
يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٢٨﴾

29. As also those who guard their private parts.
30. Save in regard to their women and those whom their right hands own. So they are not reproachable.
31. And whoever seeks beyond that, then it is those who are the trespassers.
32. As also those who keep their trusts and their covenant.
33. And who stand firm in their testimonies.
34. And who are observant of their Ṣalāt.
35. Honoured, they shall dwell in Gardens.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَعْيُنِهِمْ يَحْفَظُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾

إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

فَمَنْ ابْتَغَىٰ وَرَاءَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْعَادُونَ ﴿٣١﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمْتِنَتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِشَهَادَتِهِمْ قَائِمُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

أُولَٰئِكَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ مُّكْرَمُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

Secrets of Revelation

Someone asked for a doom. The infidels had challenged the Holy Prophet^{-SAW} that if Qurān was the Divine Truth then let a doom befall them. As generally evident from the conduct of the infidels, and also those mentioned above, they are sure that nothing of the sort will ever happen and they can run the world as they choose. But the fact is that retribution will surely befall them, and no one will be able to avert it. This doom will be from Allah, the Elevated, the Glorious.

Believers' Rūḥ is Familiar with Elevations

The heights already known to the angels will also be ascended by them on the Day that shall endure for fifty thousand years. According to Rūḥ-al-M'ani there are step by step grades of elevation for the believers Ārwāḥ, an evidence to Allah's Greatness, which they scale gradually while progressing through the stations of Sulūk. On the Day of Judgment, they will also get to those lofty stations.

The Duration of the Day of Judgment

The Day of Judgment will equal fifty thousand years in duration. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} is reported to have said that for believers, it will appear as short as the time taken in offering an obligatory Ṣalāt. It means that for each person, the length of the Day will be felt according to his conduct. Allah wishes the Holy Prophet^{SAW} to persevere on his mission and be patient. It alludes that a believer should not be perturbed by the slurs and opposition of the non believers, and should stand fast on truth and keep working to enforce Islam. To the infidels the Day of Judgment or any retribution appear remote and impossible, but Allah knows it to be inevitable.

The Fall of Infidelity and its System

These Āyāt also hold the promise that whenever efforts are sincerely made to implement Dīn, infidelity and the ungodly systems will crumble. The Qayamah will be so ravaging that even the heavens will melt away like molten copper. The mountains will fly about like carded flakes of wool. No friendship shall avail the infidels that Day, and no one will care for another. Everyone will be gripped by a paralyzing personal worry. The culprits shall be poised to give away their sons or wives or brothers or the entire family to escape the Fire.

They will be all too willing to let burn in Hell all those relations for whom they had rebelled against Allah and His System. Not only them, but if they had all the bounties of the world, they will be ready to relinquish them to save their necks. But that would be impossible. The Fire of Hell is such that it shall suck in the disobedient as if clutching their livers and dragging them in. Its heat will instantly skin the disobedient, forcing them all together.

Inherent Characteristics

By virtue of creation, human being has inherent weaknesses. The remedy is a link with Allah. Deprived of it, he gives in to his weaknesses. Then if trouble befalls him, he wails and cries; and if comforted, he renounces Allah's favours. Exceptions to this are Allah's bondmen who connect themselves with Him through worships and are always conscious of this relationship. In their practical lives, they are never browbeaten by wealth and riches.

Economy's Central Position

Rather, they adopt the economic system approved by Allah. Economy has the central role in the rise or fall of a society. Therefore, the economic aspect has been

stressed here by emphasizing that the righteous are those who set aside the share of the poor and the destitute as enjoined by **Him**.

Zakāt is Fixed and cannot be Altered

It means that the amount and process of Zakāt is fixed by **Allah**, wherein no alteration is permitted. And the righteous are those who believe in the Ākhirah and the Day of Judgment and this belief is evident in their conduct. And they fear **His** Annoyance, which indeed is worth fearing.

All Forms of Sexual Outlets are Forbidden except Wife

They guard their private parts and confine themselves to their wives or legitimate bondwomen. Anyone indulging in any other form of sexuality shall be transgressing the limits imposed by Shari'ah and is, therefore, forbidden. It include those forms of Nikah disallowed by Shari'ah, such as wedding women forbidden in marriage, or Mut'ah, or Halalah for a night or so. Masturbation is also forbidden. The Holy Prophet^{SAW} has accursed the one who performs it. This topic often comes under discussion in today's ungodly society. The perverts, finding no permissible alternative, think that this is the only source of pleasure and it is their right. Whereas the Qurān tells in the very beginning of this Sūrah that the actual pleasure is in **Allah's** Cognition which contains such ruptures as cannot be found in any other pursuit of life. If one is blessed with it, sexual gratification through illegitimate means would cause anguish rather than the pleasure. **Allah** has allowed sex only to maintain human race. It is also allowed with a legitimate bondwoman, as she too can bear offspring who are owned by the master as his children. For details relevant books may be consulted.

The Islamic System

The prime objective should be the system of life, enjoined by **Allah**. The followers of this system safeguard what is trusted to them and live by their word. It alludes to the rights and duties, for the rights of one another are a mutual trust. When a person fulfils his promise by discharging his duty the trust is vindicated. Secondly they stick to their testimonies, the biggest being the faith in **Allah** and **His** Prophet^{SAW}. Thirdly, they guard their worships with utmost devotion and remember that any action in **Allah's** obedience is indeed an act of worship. They will be honoured by admission into Jannah.

Section 2

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| 36. What ails those who disbelieve, hastening towards you? | قَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَفَلَا تَهْتَبِينَ ﴿٣٦﴾ |
| 37. On the right and on the left, in companies? | عَنِ الْيَمِينِ وَعَنِ الشِّمَالِ عِزِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾ |
| 38. Does every one of them covet that he shall enter the Garden of Delight? | أَتَطْمَعُ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ مِنْهُمْ أَنْ يُدْخَلَ جَنَّةَ نَعِيمٍ ﴿٣٨﴾ |
| 39. By no means! We have created them from what they know. | كَلَّا إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِمَّا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾ |
| 40. I swear by the Rabb of the East and West that We are Able. | فَلَا أَقِيمُ رَبِّيَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ إِنَّا لَقَادِرُونَ ﴿٤٠﴾ |
| 41. To replace them by others better than they and We are not to be frustrated. | عَلَىٰ أَنْ نُبَدِّلَ خَيْرًا مِنْهُمْ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَسْبُوقِينَ ﴿٤١﴾ |
| 42. So you let them alone plunging in vanity and sporting, until they meet their Day which they are promised. | فَذَرُهُمْ يُخَافُونَ وَأَلْعَابُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾ |
| 43. The Day whereon they will come forth from the graves hurrying as if they were hastening to an altar | يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَّاحًا كَانْتَهُم إِلَىٰ نُصَبٍ يُوَفُّونَ ﴿٤٣﴾ |
| 44. Downcast shall be their looks, abjectness shall overwhelm them. Such is the Day they were promised. | خَشِيعَةً أَبْصَرُهُمْ فَتَرْهَفُهُمْ ذَلَّةٌ ذَلِكِ الْيَوْمِ الَّذِي كَانُوا يُوعَدُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾ |

Secrets of Revelation

What is the matter with the infidels, that instead of support they charge at the Holy Prophet ^{SAW} from all directions, repudiate his teachings, raise objections and mock at him? Yet every nation hopes for salvation in the Ākhirah. From East to West, all

Jews and Hindus or Christians etc. claim Paradise for themselves though they are dead wrong. There is no way to salvation but through Prophet Muhammad's ^{SAW} obedience. The atheists who do not believe in any religion must ponder how Allah has fashioned them into gifted human beings, with elegant bodies, from a mere drop of semen. The exquisite system of the East and the West, whereby countless creations evolve each second, is an evidence to the fact that Allah is fully capable of creating people superior and more gifted than those living today.

Qurānic Prophecy

This Āyah prophesies that the succeeding generations will be blessed with greater capabilities in terms of intellect and knowledge, being epitomized today. Nothing is beyond Allah's Control and the infidels should not step out of His obedience. Yet they are not restrained. So let them engage in their fruitless pursuits, and face the Day of Judgment in the same condition, the Day when mankind will rise from their graves and run frantic to gather in the Field of Reckoning, when the eyes of the non believers will be cast down and ignominy stamped on their faces. Only then will they know the Day and the Being that they had been warned about.