

Dr. Kaasem Khaleel

# Proven Divine Revelation



The Qur'an in Modern English

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# Dedication

For those who seek the ultimate truth

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## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the souls of all previous Qur'anic translators, since all their efforts were essential in the making of this edition. In particular, Muhammad Asad deserves special mention, as does S. Hussein Pasha, Ph.D., for originating this idea. It was the latter who suggested that there should be produced a Qur'an which is much easier to read than the orthodox edition and is free of archaic language. I would also like to thank Judy Kay Gray, M.S., for her many insights and her English expertise as well as J. Daggett Gleason for her attention to detail in correcting the manuscript. A special thanks to my designer Bob Masheris for his design of this text. Another special thanks to Nader Abdul-Hadi for his insight and Arabic expertise.

The massive negative press against Islaam was a motivation for this work. Maliciously and wrongly blamed for terrorist acts it had nothing do with, also, certain individuals were wrongly blamed, including Usama bin Laden and other Muslims. For instance, bin Laden, among others, was blamed for the destruction of the World Trade Center, which is false. He is wrongly accused, so the real criminals responsible for the death and devastation can escape and also to perpetrate an agenda for perpetual Middle Eastern wars. Thus, truly, there is a malicious agenda to falsely associate Islaam, as well as the essence of this book, with terror. Above all, I thank God, because He is the true source of all inspiration.

K.K.

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# CONTENTS

	<b>Foreward</b>	12
	<b>Introduction</b>	17
Section 1	<b>God's Nature</b>	31
Section 2	<b>The Cow</b>	32
Section 3	<b>The Family of Jesus</b>	83
Section 4	<b>Women's Rights</b>	114
Section 5	<b>Heavenly Feast</b>	146
Section 6	<b>Superstitions</b>	172
Section 7	<b>Truth Versus Falsehood</b>	199
Section 8	<b>Captured Treasures</b>	228
Section 9	<b>Repentance</b>	240
Section 10	<b>Jonah and the Earlier Prophets</b>	262
Section 11	<b>Hood and Other Early Prophets</b>	278
Section 12	<b>The Parable of Joseph</b>	295
Section 13	<b>Thunder and Other Universal Powers</b>	307
Section 14	<b>Gratitude</b>	315
Section 15	<b>The Active Creator</b>	323
Section 16	<b>The Bees: Servants of God</b>	330
Section 17	<b>The Prophet's Night Journey</b>	348
Section 18	<b>The Parable of the Cave</b>	361
Section 19	<b>Mary's Family</b>	373
Section 20	<b>Ingratitude</b>	383
Section 21	<b>The Messengers</b>	399
Section 22	<b>The Sacrifice</b>	410

---

Section 23	<b>The True Believers</b>	421
Section 24	<b>The Divine Light</b>	430
Section 25	<b>The Obvious Truth</b>	443
Section 26	<b>Clear Signs</b>	452
Section 27	<b>The (Valley of) Ants</b>	461
Section 28	<b>The Parable of Qaaroon</b>	472
Section 29	<b>Vain Beliefs</b>	484
Section 30	<b>Spectacular Wonders</b>	495
Section 31	<b>The African Wise Man</b>	504
Section 32	<b>The Love of God</b>	510
Section 33	<b>Pagan Traditions</b>	514
Section 34	<b>The True Gardens</b>	525
Section 35	<b>The Originator</b>	534
Section 36	<b>Human Destiny</b>	541
Section 37	<b>The Divine Forces</b>	549
Section 38	<b>False Pride</b>	557
Section 39	<b>Oneness of God</b>	564
Section 40	<b>The Forgiving</b>	574
Section 41	<b>Distinc Signs</b>	584
Section 42	<b>Deliberation</b>	592
Section 43	<b>For the Sake of Show</b>	601
Section 44	<b>The Enveloping Smoke</b>	608
Section 45	<b>Final Evidence</b>	612
Section 46	<b>The Real Parent</b>	616
Section 47	<b>The Divine Messenger</b>	621
Section 48	<b>The Ultimate Victory</b>	626
Section 49	<b>Privacy and Consideration</b>	631

---

Section 50	<b>The Two Selves</b>	634
Section 51	<b>The Propelling Winds</b>	639
Section 52	<b>Mount Sinai</b>	643
Section 53	<b>Heavenly Source</b>	647
Section 54	<b>The Splitting of the Moon</b>	651
Section 55	<b>The All-Merciful Lord</b>	656
Section 56	<b>Inevitable Result</b>	661
Section 57	<b>Absolute Authority</b>	666
Section 58	<b>Pagan Ignorance</b>	672
Section 59	<b>Emigration</b>	677
Section 60	<b>Divine Justice</b>	682
Section 61	<b>Battle Array</b>	687
Section 62	<b>The Joining Together</b>	691
Section 63	<b>False Believers</b>	692
Section 64	<b>Winners and Losers</b>	695
Section 65	<b>Desolation</b>	698
Section 66	<b>Prohibition</b>	702
Section 67	<b>The Great Commander</b>	704
Section 68	<b>The Writing Tool</b>	708
Section 69	<b>The Ultimate Event</b>	712
Section 70	<b>Many Paths</b>	716
Section 71	<b>The Parable of Noah</b>	719
Section 72	<b>Invisible Beings</b>	722
Section 73	<b>Preoccupied</b>	725
Section 74	<b>Zone of Comfort</b>	727
Section 75	<b>Regeneration</b>	731
Section 76	<b>The Invention of Humans</b>	734

---

Section 77	<b>The Surging Forward</b>	738
Section 78	<b>The Distinction</b>	741
Section 79	<b>The Shocking Truth</b>	744
Section 80	<b>He Frowned</b>	747
Section 81	<b>The Obstructed Sun</b>	749
Section 82	<b>Humans at Loss</b>	751
Section 83	<b>The Cheaters</b>	753
Section 84	<b>Splitting Apart</b>	756
Section 85	<b>The Great Constellations</b>	758
Section 86	<b>The Penetrating Element</b>	760
Section 87	<b>The Highest One</b>	762
Section 88	<b>The Overwhelming Event</b>	764
Section 89	<b>The Awakening</b>	766
Section 90	<b>The Wide Land</b>	768
Section 91	<b>The Luminous Sphere</b>	769
Section 92	<b>The Calm of Night</b>	770
Section 93	<b>Morning Brightness</b>	772
Section 94	<b>The Heart Expanded</b>	773
Section 95	<b>The Fig and Olive</b>	774
Section 96	<b>Germination</b>	775
Section 97	<b>The Night of Power</b>	777
Section 98	<b>Moral Law</b>	779
Section 99	<b>The Convulsion</b>	781
Section 100	<b>Truly Confused</b>	783
Section 101	<b>The Pounding</b>	785
Section 102	<b>The Lust for Wealth</b>	787
Section 103	<b>Loss and Gain</b>	788

---

Section 104	<b>The Slanderers</b>	789
Section 105 & 106	<b>The Elephant and the Quraysh</b>	790
Section 107	<b>Selfishness</b>	792
Section 108	<b>The Ultimate Success</b>	793
Section 109	<b>Those Who Reject</b>	794
Section 110	<b>Divine Assistance</b>	795
Section 111	<b>Recognition</b>	796
Section 112	<b>The Eternal One</b>	797
Section 113	<b>Rising Inspiration</b>	798
Section 114	<b>Protection</b>	799
	<b>Bibliography</b>	801

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## Foreward

This truly is a divine revelation which can be proven. The word Qur'an explains it all. It means recitation. This book was recited from the high heavens to a single unassuming man, the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him. It is obviously an inspired book. It is also obviously divine inspiration from the almighty creator of the vast universe. This is because it reveals secrets about human nature that only such a high and all-knowing One could know.

Originally, it was pagans who were its recipients. Mired in ignorance and hedonistic behavior these pagans had no future potential. Then, after believing in this message these individuals became the leaders of civilization. The people inspired by this book became creators of virtually all modern inspiration. They even inspired the Renaissance and, ultimately, the modern sciences.

People speak ignorantly about this writing. They do so without the slightest understanding of its meaning or content. Like the previous scripture, throughout the Qur'an there is only one purpose. This is the guidance of humankind. It is as if the great, almighty God is pursuing human beings to assist them, to prevent them from causing self-harm. This prevention of harm is the entire basis of this grand document.

No human could create such a way, this pursuing humanity with guidance. The grandness of the Qur'an is precisely this fact: that God is a most generous Being, who seeks the best for His creation. The fact is He seeks perfection—peace on earth and good will for His creation. This is the main theme throughout this book. He does all in His power to save humans from their own weaknesses, largely by warning them of the consequences of their acts. Yet, as the Qur'an demonstrates, He expects much from His humans. He expects them to worship Him and to obey His mandates, but, of course, He makes it clear that this is strictly for their own benefit.

Regardless, it is strictly a benefit to have this warning, because as this high Being makes clear He is in no need of support from anyone to operate, for instance, the grand functions of the universe, the least of which would be humans. In fact, humans, this book makes clear, are God's dependents. So, they have no basis to forcefully separate themselves from Him by consciously rejecting Him. Regardless, human beings are merely one of countless species of creation in His infinite realm, although, one of His more sophisticated ones *but not the most sophisticated*.

The Qur'an emphasizes another fact: that this life is with a purpose. It is not a game. The purpose is the dedicated service of God. By serving God a person secures his future. Such a one becomes a success in this life and the next. This book leaves no doubt about the existence of another realm. The material life is merely a test. Transitory, it is the staging ground for people to prove themselves. The real existence occurs with death. This is why God sends prophets to awaken people to the realization of another realm and to cause them to release their excessive bonds to this temporary, insignificant material life.

Often, the Qur'an is thought of as an Islaamic book. Yet, in contrast, it gives plenty of evidence of being a universal guide... Christians and Jews are mentioned perhaps more often than Muslims. By name, Jesus is mentioned more frequently than Muhammad, as are Abraham and Moses. This is a book for all people. God sent prophets to remind people of His existence—all people, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Everyone knows the prophets existed. Their permanence in human history is proof of His presence and message. The Islaamic one was merely the final of this chain of Abrahamic prophets. It was this unlettered man who miraculously bore the Qur'an, a book of massive proportions that no single man or even teams of them at the time could have produced.

People get attached to this life as if it is the only realm. They may even categorically reject the possibility of the next life. The Qur'an argues this point. This life, it notes, is fleeting. The final one is eternal. By submitting before God the person earns peace in the eternal existence, and also in the current one. In contrast, by rejecting Him eternal torment is the result. Symbolically, the greatest torment, says the Qur'an, is the loss of God's love, while the greatest reward—the greatest paradise—is the earning of this love. Gratitude for His blessings is a

protection, a source of infinite rewards, while ingratitude leads to permanent agony.

It is true that the Qur'an is aimed at the people of Islaam. It gives them an entire code of living. It tells them that their religion or, rather, way of life is absolute submission to Him. Simultaneously, it encourages the people of Christianity and Judaism to also follow this way, since it is only this way that is absolutely true. Yet, it does not force them to do so. If they refuse, says the Qur'an, at least they should abide vigorously by the true principles of their faiths.

Jealousy, the Qur'an notes, abounds among people of scripture. The true believers, it commands, are to have nothing to do with it and are instead to remain patient and allow all events to unfold. All people are to be treated equally and spoken to in peace. They are not to compete with others for superiority or material gain. Similarly, no one is to be unjustly harmed or coerced. The Qur'an is the only holy book which expressly bans coercion in matters of faith, that is "*There will be no coercion in religion, no force.*"

No one group has the right to the divine kingdom. Only God's truly righteous ones have access, and only they gain such access because of any good deeds and, in fact, because of His infinite mercy. People of all backgrounds who do good are rewarded. No one group has a special relationship with God. The only special ones are those who devoutly worship Him, submitting before Him in true awe and love. For humans to love and serve Him is the greatest of all achievements, representing the most extreme degree of gratitude possible. Too, the Qur'an contains only one major commandment. This is that humans are to love their fellow humans, in other words, the Golden Rule. This is the only requirement of the Qur'an. The rest is merely preventive advice. Could there be a more magnificent message than this?

Traditionally, in the Qur'an there are numbers. Yet, the original manuscripts, those from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, had no such numbers. For the English reader these are distracting. The purpose here is to create the most easy-to-read manuscript possible. This is so the meaning of this book can be the focus, so it can be both understood and thoroughly mastered. It is only through such a method that its true impact can be achieved, which is to change hearts and lives and, ultimately, the nature of this human race.

## **Other methodologies in this version**

Regarding the numbers which represent the phrases and sentences, these are included at the top of the page in yellow ochre type. This will allow the student of the Qur'an to identify the place in comparison to both other English translations and also the Arabic.

The items in parentheses are useful, as they facilitate the flow of the Qur'anic wisdom. These do contain some of the actual translated portions plus additional words and phrases that aid in elaborating the meaning. Take advantage of all these facilitations in order to achieve the maximum level of understanding possible. Moreover, remember, always, the Qur'anic dictum of not acting upon any of its precepts or principles until it is fully understood. Likewise, understanding is the basis of the Qur'an, giving it the greatest impact, never mere ritual and procedure.



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## Introduction

The Qur'an is divine guidance. This is indisputable. A person might refuse to believe in it. However, such a person is unable to dispute the fact that it is extraterrestrial and, therefore inspired by almighty God. The word itself means *reading* or *recitation*, being derived from the Arabic word *qara'a*, which means "to read."

Originally revealed in Arabic this is a clear, succinct language. This makes it perfect for divine revelation. Its recipient was the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him. Originally, he was a shepherd. Then, he became a merchant. At age forty he received the revelation.

The Qur'an was revealed to him systematically. This was through the medium of the angel Gabriel.

For those who might be skeptical this man had no desire to be a prophet or messenger. Initially, he was frightened at the idea. He even attempted to hide and run away. Regardless, there is no reason to argue about its status. Any careful reading will determine that it is not man-made. Even so, he could not have produced it, because he was unschooled, that is he was illiterate.

The Qur'an was revealed gradually, largely to suit the needs of its original recipients, the followers of the Prophet. It was never sent down as a complete book.

Its recipient is mentioned in the Bible as the one who will come after Jesus. In Aramaic he was described as Ahmed, from which Muhammad is derived. Like Jesus, Moses, David, and Solomon, he was directly related to the Prophet Abraham.

Prior to revelation this man had no interest in public service. Nor had he ever preached a message. Nor had he sought riches or fame. Rather, he was exceedingly private, actually, shy. He received the

Qur'an only after many years of meditation and contemplation. This was regarding the dire state of affairs of his people. The latter were pagans who revelled in the extremes of hedonistic behavior and corruption.

The Qur'an, pronounced Qur-awn, the latter syllable being similar to the prefix in awning, is for the benefit of humankind. Strictly for guidance it reaches directly into human hearts. It also offers sound advice for future benefit.

Its purpose is to cause people to think. This is to give serious consideration to a human's real role on this earth. Thus, its only value, its only real power, is through it. In contrast, mere ritual—superficial practices—is never its goal. Rather, its objective is humankind and its purpose is to guide the human soul.

In the past this revelation has been translated literally. Plus, the translations are produced in forms with archaic English, which makes for difficult reading, which was never the intention of this book. As a result, most English-speaking people are only able to understand the Qur'an if it is explained to them. Thus, such literal translations are rarely read. Common books are easier to read than these.

People have limited attention spans. For many individuals the slightest strain is a hindrance. Here, they tend to gravitate from anything that is difficult. The Qur'an was meant to be easy to understand. It says so throughout its text. This is the objective of this version.

There are a plethora of literal Qur'anic translations. This translation is easier to read than the literal types. Extensions of the meanings are found in parentheses. Thus, every attempt has been made to delve into a more precise and deeper meaning to facilitate this understanding.

Literal does not necessarily mean accurate. For instance, in Section 37 of the Qur'an there is a word describing the beautiful beings of paradise. Literally, this word means *egg*. In other words, it describes a perfectly shaped white object. A deeper meaning is a beautiful and perfect object, which radiates light. It may also mean an object, like an egg, which is fresh and new. One translator describes these beings as so beautiful—so free of faults as if “hidden ostrich eggs.” Yet, a more vivid description is so magnificent in appearance as if a “perfect, gleaming pearl.” This latter description captures more accurately the true meaning, since the real message is that these beings are perfection in

creation and actually glow in their beauty, like a hidden, glistening pearl, when it is first discovered. It seems ever-so-slight, yet it does make a difference.

While the objective of such translations is to create “orthodox” editions, the Qur’an was never meant to be orthodox. Nor is it rigid, that is to be interpreted in a single way. In fact, compared to other divine books or religious texts it is unorthodox. In other words, it is highly liberal. It gives no strict rules, which are cumbersome or difficult to follow. What’s more, nothing in it violates common sense. Rather, it is based upon common sense. In numerous places it describes itself as being revealed in “clear” language which is “easy to understand.” Thus, how could a translation of this book be cumbersome and confusing, particularly considering that its purpose is for anyone, even the simplest, uneducated person, to be able to comprehend the depth of its message?

This is proven through proclamations such as, “This is the book of God—there is no doubt about it” (verbal communication, S. H. Pasha), or, “This is the book of God, which clearly demonstrates the truth.” Or, “These are the signs—obvious messages—from a book which is clearly (divine).” No other writing makes such bold claims. Even so, no one can scientifically dispute its divine origin, despite numerous grandiose attempts to do so.

The Qur’an says that it is a clear, understandable document. In Arabic it is strikingly clear. Yet, incredibly, this would never be realized by reading the standard translations. In this version the meaning becomes obvious. This suits its purpose. Now, a person can understand it for what it is: pure, uncompromised, and categorically true divine revelation.

The aim of the Qur’an is human beings. It speaks to them directly. There is no need for an intermediary. It raises souls to the highest state possible. It establishes justice among them. This is by commanding them to follow the ways of God. These ways are demonstrated by His select messengers. Its goal is to cause human beings to serve each other *in love*. This is the ultimate purpose of this book.

So, the Qur’an is about life on this planet. It is regarding how to live in the finest, most sophisticated way possible. This is to prepare for the next life by following God’s way. Thus, rather than a religious book to be merely studied the purpose is to adhere to it. In other words, its commands must be vigorously practiced, in fact, put into action immediately. That is the only way a person can become a true believer.

The guidance is for yet another purpose only: so people will gain the greatest success possible, here and in the next life. In this regard the Qur'an protects individuals from their own self-destructive tendencies.

Consisting of sentence- or phrase-like segments in Arabic each of these is known as an *aya*, which means sign or message. These messages are powerful. The fact is they reach directly into human hearts. They are also powerful, because they tell humans how best to behave, so they shall live in decency and justice. Every rule in this book is based upon justice.

An ancient language Arabic is elegant, even sophisticated. It is also exceptionally succinct. The brevity of the Arabic words has in the past created challenges in translations. However, with careful analysis these Arabic words and phrases can be translated into English relatively accurately. Thus, a meaning similar to the Arabic can be achieved.

There are also explanatory notes. Found in smaller brown type they aid in the understanding. The purpose is to help all people to comprehend its message without relying upon anyone else. Unless it is understood the Qur'an serves no purpose.

Originally revealed in the seventh century A.D, the Qur'an is an exceedingly sophisticated, powerful revelation. Its recipient, the prophet Muhammad, felt enormous pressure whenever he received it. Typically, he would break out in a cold sweat just as it was being delivered. For twenty-three years until his death the revelation proceeded, bit by bit, fitting the fledgling community of Islaam's needs. Almighty God had taken over his mind in order to deliver His system.

Consider the original Qur'anic writings. These were written on whatever material the primitive Arabs could find: mere bones, animal skins, and the like. Incredibly, animal bones and hides were the original Qur'anic documents. This is an excellent lesson for those who hold religious experience excessively strictly or who tend towards excessive righteousness.

As well, it should be kept in mind that the primitive Arabs had no books. These writings and etchings were collected and held by Hafsa, one of the Prophet's wives. Only later, about 30 years after the Prophet's demise, was it converted into a book. The main way it was preserved was through memorization: by thousands of adherents. The combination of memorization plus the writing down of every sentence

Jacob, and Jesus. Then, he remained steadfast in this preaching until his death, never wavering. As a result, he changed the entire course of history, because he finished the mission for which he was called and did so without fanfare or accolades. His mission, *for which he was selected*, was the service of God. Yet, once again, he gave his life to it, *without pursuing personal gain*. This makes him unique in all history. Yet, this is precisely why he altered the course of history. It is also why top authorities, such as Hart, Bernard Shaw, Count Bolainvilliers, Draper, Lamartine, and Carlyle, selected him as the most influential man in history. It was this man who was the recipient of this book, this obvious and meaningful guidance from almighty God. For the Islamic prophet it was all done without personal gain. He died a pauper, giving all in his possession to help others

## Section 1

**God's Nature**

In the name of the most merciful  
and compassionate God

All praise is due to God alone, Lord of the vast and infinite worlds—the giver of mercy and gracious love (in a way that is beyond comprehension). Absolute Master of the time of judgement, You alone do we worship, and You—only You—do we seek for help. Guide us (directly) to the correct way, the way of those You have favored, not the way of those whom You have condemned nor those who are lost in error.

Section 2  
**The Cow**

In the name of the most merciful  
 and compassionate God

**A-L-M**

This is the book of God—There is no doubt about it.\* (It is) a guidance for those who are in awe—who are fully conscious—of God, who believe in Him, even though He is invisible and mysterious, who worship Him continuously, and who spend their assets generously, who (also) believe in your message (O Prophet Muhammad), as well as the earlier messages (sent by God). These are the ones who are certain in their hearts about the next life. They (alone) truly follow guidance from their Lord and, therefore, will achieve (the ultimate) happiness.

Yet, regarding those who (deliberately) reject (Our messages) whether or not you warn them is of no consequence. They will never believe. In fact, because they have obstinately refused to believe in Him, as well as in the next life, God has prevented them from comprehending the truth. Surely, their compensation will be (nothing other than) dire punishment.

Certain people say, “We believe in God and also the resurrection.” Yet, it isn’t true. Through this they attempt to deceive God as well as (the) true believers. However (instead), they only deceive themselves, though they are unaware of it. Their hearts are tainted with a disease, and so (since they are unwilling to believe) God allows it to worsen. Furthermore (as a result of their corrupt behavior and lies) they will be severely punished. Yet, for instance, when they are warned, “Do not spread corruption on the earth,” they respond, “(We would never do that, rather), we are only improving things.” However, without doubt, they are the ones who spread corruption, although they are unaware of it. Even so, when they are told, “Believe like the rest (of those who devoutly believe),” they respond, “Should we believe like the fools?” Rather, in truth they are the ones who are the real fools, although (again), they fail to realize it.

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\*I have taken this translation from the scholarly S.H. Pasha, personal communication, 1976 in Arabic, *Thalikal kitabu laa ghayb*.

Similarly, when they encounter the true believers, they say, “We believe like you do.” However, when they are in private with their (rebellious) cohorts, they say, “We are really only loyal to you. We were just ridiculing them.” God will punish them for their belittlement and will cause them to continue to falter—because instead of guidance they have chosen falsehood. Moreover, they will gain no benefits (from their actions). Nor will they find guidance from any other source.

Symbolically, they can be compared to people who ignite a fire. However, as soon as it provides light God extinguishes it, leaving them in the dark. Thus, they are oblivious—and they will never be able to correct themselves. Or (their condition is) like a violent storm with frightening darkness, thunder, and lightning. They cover their ears to muffle the sound, fearing its power. However, God’s power overwhelms all who reject the truth. They are nearly blinded by the bolts of lightning. Whenever it flashes it provides light (and, thus) they are able to move. Yet, as soon as it becomes dark they must stop. ♦ If God had wanted, He could have

♦That is, metaphorically, only God’s inspirations, delivered from the high heavens, are guidance. Without them, the human being is lost. Parabolically, lightning symbolizes the sudden flashes of inspiration in human minds, which are ultimately from Him. So, any inspiration that is of benefit for humans is from Him. Furthermore, if God doesn’t inspire a person with His heavenly inspiration, no one can guide him. This parable, therefore, compares being lost in spiritual darkness to the sense of loss a person feels when overcome by physical darkness. People are frightened from the darkness of a storm. Yet, do they ever feel fright at being bereft of any guidance from God by purposely rejecting Him?

removed their ability to comprehend (the truth), because, surely, God can do whatever He wills.

You humankind, worship your almighty Lord, the Lord who has created you as well as all previous humans. Worship Him, so you can remain conscious of Him (and, thus, protect yourselves from succumbing to the vileness of endless despair).

(After all), He has made the earth a pleasant place (for your benefit). He has also made the sky a protective canopy ♦ and then delivers rain

♦ That is versus other heavenly bodies in the solar system, which lack a protective atmosphere. Thus, compared to the vast number of uninhabitable spheres, which pepper the nearby cosmos, this earth is a rare gift. The earth’s atmosphere protects against the fatal effects of space matter, such as meteors, asteroids, and comets, as well as excess solar radiation. Plus, it holds gases, notably oxygen, as well as wind currents for the production of clouds and rain.

and through it ultimately provides for you nourishing fruit. So, never hold others as God's equals, when it is obvious to you that He—and He alone—has the power to create.

Even so, if you doubt (the truth of this) revelation, then, produce a chapter of similar substance. To do so gather all other forces besides God that is if there is any basis for your dispute. Yet, if you fail to do so—and you most certainly will—beware of the fire, whose fuel is humans and stones (a fire), which is the consequence for those who reject the truth.

Tell the believers that great prospects await them (that is) those who do good deeds. They will have earned wondrous gardens. When they are offered its fruits, they will say, “This is familiar. These are similar to what we were given previously”—because, actually, they will be given facsimiles. They will also be provided with spouses (of the purest character). Furthermore, they will live in peace: forever.

God is certainly not embarrassed to mention the parable of a gnat or something even less significant. ♦ Those who have true faith will realize

♦In God's view the gnat is not necessarily insignificant, as a complex created being, though to humans it is a mere irritant. Yet, there are hundreds of other interpretations of this statement. The gnat or, perhaps, microbe is tiny and vulnerable in human eyes and seemingly insignificant. Yet, almighty God mentions it. So, can humans truly feel comfortable, arrogantly acting as independent or all-powerful?

The gnat, a creation of God, is an achievement greater than any human could achieve, rather, the entire human race. It is as if to say, “You human race, which denies Me, you can't even create the likes of a gnat. You can't even create a mere microbe. So, don't act arrogantly.” There is yet another meaning. To God the human is truly a mere speck in the universe. Like a human swats a gnat, God could do so in one swift strike to the entire human race. Obviously, in God's realm the human is an insignificant being, a mere tiny particle in His unfathomable, vast realm.

(this) represents one of God's messages. In contrast, those who reject the truth will say, “What does God mean by this?” This is how He causes many people to falter, ♦ just as He enlightens numerous others.

♦That is those who reject Him unexpectedly recognize Him by their very statement: “What does God mean?” Thus, they unwittingly admit to His existence through their questioning. Yet, they make a contest out of God's words instead of recognizing His unfathomable powers, merely for the sake of argument, while refusing to admit He is true.

Yet (ultimately), He only causes the iniquitous to falter, those who (purposely) sever their ties with Him (despite it being an instinctive element), who destroy what God has ordered to be joined (that is their natural bond to Him through angelic guidance), and who incite corruption. These are the real losers, completely deviating from the right way.

How can you refuse to recognize God, since (for instance), you were (once) *nonexistent*, ♦ and, then, He gave you life? How can you do this,

♦Can anything be more profound than this? There was a time when the human being, says the Qur'an, was never even an idea. Thus, this book asks, essentially, "How can anyone feel arrogant and so self-sufficient to even reject belief in the creator, while arising from such a weak, feeble basis? The human is an insignificant being in this infinite universe, for instance, when viewed from the atmosphere above: far smaller than a gnat, in reference to the previous parable. Only a real creator could issue such a sophisticated analysis.

because of the fact that He will cause you to die and, ultimately, resurrect you, when He will bring you before Him? After all, He created the earth and all that it contains for your benefit and has long before designed the distant heavens, giving them numerous strata. ♦ Moreover, He alone has full knowledge of all issues.

♦This is the first of many astronomical references in the Qur'an. Notice, too, throughout its text numerous scientific references to weather phenomena. Yet, this arises from a man who lived his entire life in the Arabian desert? This is proof of the divine nature of this book. As well, it should be recalled that this is a seventh century document. No one at that time knew anything about an endless universe with layer upon layer of planetary systems, stellar systems, galaxies, and more. The use of the word "distant" to describe matter light years away is additional compelling proof of its extraterrestrial nature.

Thus, the distant universe was set in place, as well as the local one, the solar system. All operated in perfection, a blessing created far in advance for human benefit. The earth underwent its evolution, reaching a point where a new being could flourish. Now, comes the creation of the human being, which began as a mere idea:

## The creation of humankind

Regarding the earth when your Lord told the angels, "The fact is I am going to establish upon it a special agent (a representative to act on My behalf), who will inherit it (all its glorious structure and grand design)."

They replied, “Will you appoint such a (horrible) creature that will defile the earth, fomenting corruption and murder, ♦ while we angels

♦That is as if they had deliberate foreknowledge of a previous creation that committed such acts of tyranny and meanness and, thus, that such a creation proved disastrous. This clearly implies that God made previously a human-like creation on a different planet. It also implies that these creatures spread only corruption and harm, which ultimately led to their self-destruction. Thus, the angels questioned God’s reasoning for repeating the entire process. However, God overruled them, because He held a deep purpose for this act. This purpose was to test His new creation to see which of them could truly realize His existence. It was also to determine which of His creatures proved truly grateful for the countless acts of mercy that arise from Him.

continually praise and adore You?” God responded “What I know is incomprehensible to you.” Thus, He instilled Adam ♦ with the ability to

♦That is the original human being. Adam also means, parabolically, the “human race.”

think—the high wisdom—and then brought it all (this new thinking being, with the ability to reason independently) to the angels, saying, “Now, you (angels), if what you say is correct, show Me that you have the same faculties.”

The angels, totally humbled, replied, “You are infinitely great, God. We can only comprehend what You allow us (to understand). You (alone) are aware of all that is and are truly wise.” God then said to Adam, “Demonstrate all that you know,” and as soon as Adam did so, God said, “Did I not tell you that I knew the hidden realities and that I know both what you openly admit and what you disguise?” Then, when We commanded the angels to “Recognize Adam as your superior.” They all did so, except one derelict (that is) Iblees. He was too proud and so as a result, became a rejecter of My way. ♦

♦That is in order to remain in innocent love in the presence of almighty God. He tested them to see if they would keep Him in mind at all times or would, instead, fall prey to the insinuations of Satan. However, it is unknown if this event precisely occurred or if this is merely a parable, a means for God to deliver His message.

Now (eventually), Adam was told, “Live in this garden, together with your wife, and eat whatever you desire. However, leave alone this certain tree ♦ (due to the concern) that you corrupt yourselves.”

✦And, therefore, a warning to all human beings never to let their own personal pride interfere with the worship of God. In fact, it is arrogance which causes humans to abandon their real role, which is to be humble servants of God. Here, in His realm there is no room for any kind of arrogance. So, then, by this parable the human is given fair warning: it is that humans are obligated to submit to this Being.

Yet, Satan caused them to err (in this regard), and, thus, they lost their opportunity. As a result, We said, “Get out of here. Eventually, you (O human race), will hate each other. Moreover, the earth will be your home and source of provisions: for now.”

Consequently, Adam was guided (by God’s inspiration) and, therefore, begged for forgiveness—and God accepted it. Surely, God is the only One truly capable of purifying the soul and delivering true mercy. Thus (for all you humans) even though We said good riddance, despite this blunder I will still send merciful guidance. Those who follow it will have no need for fear or remorse. In contrast, those who reject it and, particularly, those who (purposely) fight it are destined to suffer vile torment—forever.

### **Lessons regarding the people of Judaism—an example for all humans**

You descendants of Israel, remember the vast blessings you received. Thus, fulfill your obligation to Me. As a result, I will fulfill My promise to you. Likewise, hold Me exclusively in awe. Also, believe in this more modern revelation from Me (that is this Qur’an), which confirms your existing (revelation). Furthermore, never be the main people who reject it. Additionally, never hold in contempt (for mere material gain) these newer revelations and regard Me exclusively in awe.

Also, never confuse the correct way with lies. Furthermore, never intentionally suppress (or conceal) the truth. In addition, establish (within your lives) worship, be charitable, and submit yourselves in prayer like all others who (devoutly) do so. Do you demand others to be pious, while regarding yourselves above the Law? Use your common sense.

(You true believers) seek God's support through patience and worshipping (Him). This is difficult, except for those who are truly humble, who are certain they will meet God, certain they will (ultimately) return to Him.

You descendants of Israel, remember the immense favors which I (graciously) gave you and how I favored you above all people. Thus, dread the time when no one will be able to help or intercede for anyone else. Nor will ransom be accepted. None will be helped.

### **Gratitude: basis of true faith**

Recall, too, We saved you from Pharaoh, who direly oppressed you, slaughtering your sons while sparing only your women, a monumental trial from your Lord. Recall also that We split the sea for you (so you could escape) and then through Our power drowned Pharaoh and his army *in your presence*. What's more, for forty nights We appointed Moses to procure the guidance for you. Yet, while he was engaged you created (a false God), an idol in the form of a calf, which you, in fact, worshiped and as a result became corrupt. Despite this, We forgave you on the basis that you would become grateful (because if you were truly grateful you would) remember that We gave Moses the Law, a means to discern the true from the false (all) in order to guide you.

When Moses said to his people, "By worshipping an idolatrous calf you have sinned and, therefore, ruined your own selves. (Thus), repent for your crime, so that you may purify yourselves. This is best for you in your Maker's view." Here, again, He accepted your repentance, because He is easily reconciled, totally merciful.

Remember, too, when you said, "Moses, we see no reason to believe in this (thoughtful repentance): unless we see God in person, when at precisely that moment, right before your eyes, you were struck by a sudden, shocking punishment." ♦ Despite this (arrogant refusal to believe)

♦That is this degree of arrogance and ingratitude warranted a most extreme degree of sudden punishment and warning, direct intervention. This was to clearly demonstrate the degree of their error, all in hope that they would return to Him in thoughtful repentance. After saving the Israelites from the terror of Pharaoh, this was how they showed their gratitude? Almighty God challenged them to a test where they had no sensible option but to halt their aggression and submit before Him immediately.