



# AN-NAHL

(Revealed before Hijrah)

1. In the name of Allāh, the Gracious, the Merciful.
2. The decree of Allāh is coming, so seek ye not to hasten it. Holy is He, and exalted above all that which they associate *with Him*.
- \*3. He sends down the angels with revelation by His command on whomsoever of His servants He pleases *saying*, ‘Warn *people* that there is no God but I, so take Me *alone* for your Protector.’
4. He has created the heavens and the earth in accordance with the requirements of wisdom. Exalted is He above all that they associate *with Him*.
5. He has created man from a drop of fluid, but lo! he is an open disputer.
- \*6. And the cattle too He has created; you find in them warmth and *other* uses; and some of them you eat.
7. And in them there is beauty for you when you bring *them* home in the evening, and when you drive *them* forth to pasture in the morning.
8. And they carry your loads to a land which you could not reach except with great hardship to

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①  
 أَتَى أَمْرُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُوهُ  
 سُبْحَنَهُ وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ②  
 يُنْزِلُ الْمَلَكَاتِ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِ عَلَى  
 مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادَةٍ أَنْ أَنْذِرُوا أَنَّهُ  
 لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ ③  
 خَلَقَ السَّمُوتِ وَالْأَرْضِ بِالْحَقِّ تَعَالَى  
 عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ④  
 خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ فَإِذَا هُوَ  
 خَصِيمٌ مُبِينٌ ⑤  
 وَالْأَنْعَامَ خَلَقَهَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا دِفْءٌ  
 وَمَنْفَعٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ ⑥  
 وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا جَمَالٌ حِينَ تُرْيَحُونَ  
 وَحِينَ تَسْرَحُونَ ⑦  
 وَتَحْمِلُ أَثْقَالَكُمْ إِلَى بَلَدٍ لَمْ تَكُونُوا  
 بِلَيْغِهِ إِلَّا بِشِقِّ الْأَنْفُسِ إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ

- \*3. He sends down the angels with revelation by His command on whomsoever of His servants He pleases *saying*, ‘Warn *people* that there is no God but I, **so fear Me alone**.’
- \*6. And the cattle too He has created; you find in them warmth **and many other** benefits; and some of them you eat.

yourselves. Surely, your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

9. And *He has created* horses and mules and asses that you may ride them, and as *a source of* beauty. And He will create what you do not yet know.

10. And upon Allāh rests the *showing of the* right way, and there are ways which deviate *from the right course*. And if He had *enforced* His will, He would have guided you all.

#### R. 2.

11. He it is Who sends down water for you from the clouds; out of it you have your drink, and there grow from it trees on which you pasture *your cattle*.

\*12. Therewith He grows corn for you, and the olive and the date-palm, and the grapes, and all kinds of fruits. Surely, in that is a Sign for a people who reflect.

13. And He has pressed into service for you the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; and the stars *too* have been pressed into service by His command. Surely, in that are Signs for a people who make use of their reason.

14. And *He has pressed into service* the things He has created for you in

لَكُمْ وَفِ رَحِيمٍ ۝٩

وَالْخَيْلَ وَالْبِغَالَ وَالْحَمِيرَ  
لِتَرْكَبُوهَا وَزِينَةً ۖ وَيَخْلُقُ مَا لَا  
تَعْلَمُونَ ۝٩

وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَصْدُ السَّبِيلِ وَ مِنْهَا  
جَائِرٌ ۖ وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَهَدَاكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ۝١٠

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً  
لَكُمْ مِنْهُ شَرَابٌ ۖ وَمِنْهُ شَجَرٌ فِيهِ  
تَسِيُمُونَ ۝١١

يُنْبِتُ لَكُمْ بِهِ الزَّرْعَ وَالزَّيْتُونَ  
وَالتَّخَيْلَ وَالْأَعْنَابَ وَمِنْ كُلِّ  
التَّمَرَاتِ ۖ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ  
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ۝١٢

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ ۖ وَالشَّمْسَ  
وَالْقَمَرَ ۖ وَالتَّجُومَ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ بِأَمْرِهِ ۖ  
إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْقِلُونَ ۝١٣

وَمَا ذَرَأَا لَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُخْتَلِفًا

\*12. Therewith He grows **crops of all kinds** for you, and the olive and the date-palm, and the grapes, and all **sorts** of fruits. Surely, in that is a Sign for a people who reflect.

the earth, varying in colours. Surely, in that is a Sign for a people who take heed.

أَلْوَانُهُ ۚ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ  
يَذْكُرُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

15. And He it is Who has subjected to you the sea that you may eat therefrom fresh flesh, and may take forth therefrom ornaments which you wear. And thou seest the ships ploughing through it, *that you may thereby journey* and that you may seek of His bounty and that you may be grateful.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ الْبَحْرَ لِيَتَأْكَلُوا مِنْهُ  
لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا وَتَسْتَخْرِجُوا مِنْهُ حِلْيَةً  
تَلْبَسُونَهَا ۚ وَتَرَى الْفُلَکَ مَوَازِرَ  
فِيهِ وَ يَتَّبِعُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۚ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ  
تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٥﴾

\*16. And He has placed in the earth firm mountains lest it quake with you, and rivers and routes that you may take the right way.

وَالْقَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ رَوَاسِيَ أَن تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ  
وَأَنْهَارًا وَ سُبُلًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

17. And, *other marks too; by them* and by the stars they follow the right direction.

وَعَلَّمَتْهُمُ الْوُجُوهَ لِيَهْتَدُوا ﴿١٧﴾

18. Is He, then, Who creates like one who creates not? Will you not then take heed?

أَفَمَن يَخْلُقُ كَمَن لَّا يَخْلُقُ ۚ أَفَلَا  
تَذْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

\*16. And He has placed in the earth firm mountains **to sustain you**, and rivers and **paths so that you keep to the right path**.

**Note:** Many scholars have translated the phrase *an tamida hikum* (أَنْ تَمِيدَ بِكُمْ) as 'quake' which if accepted would mean that God is counting His bounties upon mankind by reminding them that He has created mountains to cause great earthquakes spelling destructions far and wide. Unfortunately, it has been ignored that the word *tamida* (تَمِيدَ) is derived from *māda* (مَادَة) which means to provide food. The word *mā'idah* (مَائِدَة) used in the Holy Qur'an is from the same infinitive. With this meaning in view the entire understanding of this verse will be transformed. It will remind mankind that God has created mountains which are essential for providing food to all living beings. The water is constantly lifted from lakes, seas and oceans by evaporation carried by higher altitude to get condensed into thicker particles. The existence of mountains is essential for turning the vapour into water again, thus producing wide-spread rains which are channelled back to earth to create immense food chains. This translation is the only one which fits into the context and is in perfect agreement with the remaining part of the verse. The correct meaning, therefore, would be: **'He has entrenched mountains over the earth so that they may provide you with food, and rivers and tracks so that you may be guided.'**

The relation of water and food is obvious. In the history of civilisation it was rivers which played the most important role in making the mountainous terrains possible and paths were carved along the courses of rivers.