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23. Some say, 'They were three, the fourth was their dog,' and others say, 'They were five, the sixth was their dog,' guessing at random. And yet others say, 'They were seven, *the eighth was their dog.' Say, 'My Lord knows best their number. None knows them except a few.' So argue not concerning them except with arguing that is overpowering, nor seek information about them from any one of them.

R. 4.

- 24. And say not of anything, 'I am going to do it tomorrow,'
- 25. Unless Allāh should will. And remember thy Lord when thou forgettest, and say, 'I hope my Lord will guide me to what is even nearer than this to the right path.'
- 26. And they stayed in their Cave three hundred years, and added nine more.
- *27. Say, 'Allāh knows best how long they tarried.' To Him belong the secrets of the heavens and the earth. How Seeing is He! and how Hearing! They have no helper beside Him, and He does not let anyone share in His government.

سَيَقُولُونَ ثَلْثَةً رَّابِعُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ، وَيَقُولُونَ خَمْسَةً سَادِسُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ رَجْمًا بِالْغَيْبِ، وَيَقُولُونَ سَبْعَةً وَ ثَامِنُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ الْكَوْلُونَ سَبْعَةً وَ ثَامِنُهُمْ كَلْبُهُمْ الْكَوْلُونَ سَبْعَةً وَ ثَامِنُهُمْ مَّلَا مِرْآءً ظَاهِرًا وَ لَا تَبْعَلُهُمْ اللَّا قَلِيلًا لَهُ فَلَا تُمَارِ فِيْهِمْ لِلَّا مِرْآءً ظَاهِرًا وَ لَا تَسْتَفْتِ فِيْهِمْ لِلَّا مِرْآءً ظَاهِرًا وَ لَا تَسْتَفْتِ فِيْهِمْ مِنْهُمْ آحَدًا اللهِ اللهُ اللهُ

وَ لَا تَقُولَتَّ لِشَايْءٍ اِنِّيْ فَاعِلُ ذٰلِكَ غَدًاشُ

اِلَّا اَثْ يَّشَآء اللهُ وَ اذْكُرْ رَّبُكَ إِذَا نَسِيْتَ وَ قُلْ عَسَى اَنْ يَهْدِينِ رَبِّيْ كِلَقْرَبَ مِنْ هٰذَا رَشَدًا ۞

وَكَبِثُوا فِيْ كَهْفِهِمْ ثَلْثُ مِائَةٍ سِنِيْنَ وَ ازْدَادُوْا تَشْعًا ﴿

قُلِ اللهُ اَعْلَمُ بِمَالَبِثُوْا عَلَهُ غَيْبُ السَّطُوْتِ وَالْآرْضِ الْبَصُوبِهِ وَاَسْمِعْ لَا السَّطُوتِ وَالْآرْضِ الْبَصْرَبِهِ وَاَسْمِعْ لَا السَّطُوتُ مَا لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُوْنِهِ مِنْ وَّلِيِّ وَ لَا يُشْرِكُ فِي حُكْمِةَ اَحَدًا ۞

^{*23.} Say, 'My Lord knows best what their real number was. Very few are those who know regarding them. So do not argue concerning them except for a casual discussion, nor seek information about them from any one of them.'

^{*27.} Say, 'Allāh knows best how long they tarried *therein*.' To Him belongs the unseen of the heavens and the earth. What a sight He has and what a hearing! There is no friend for them other than He and He does not permit anyone to have a share in His authority.

28. And recite what has been revealed to thee of the Book of thy Lord. There is none who can change His words, and thou wilt find no refuge beside Him.

29. And keep thyself attached to those who call on their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His pleasure; and let not thy eyes pass beyond them, seeking the adornment of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his evil inclinations, and his case exceeds all bounds.

30. And say, 'It is the truth from your Lord; wherefore let him who will, believe, and let him who will, disbelieve.' Verily, We have prepared for the wrongdoers a fire whose flaming canopy shall enclose them. And if they cry for help, they will be helped with water like molten lead which will burn the faces. How dreadful the drink, and how evil is the Fire as a resting place!

31. Verily, those who believe and do good works—surely, We suffer not the reward of those who do good works to be lost.

32. It is these who will have Gardens of Eternity beneath which streams shall flow. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and will wear green garments of fine silk and heavy brocade, reclining therein upon raised

وَ اثْلُ مَا اُوْجِيَ اِلَيْكَ مِنْ كِتَابِ رَبِّكَ الْامُبَرِّلَ لِكَلِمْتِهِ وَكَنْ تَجِدَ مِنْ دُوْنِهِ مُلْتَحَدًا ﴿

وَ اصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِيْنَ يَدْعُوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَاوِةِ وَ الْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُوْنَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ عَيْنَكَ عَنْهُمْ، تُرِيدُ زِيْنَةَ الْحَلُوةِ الدُّنْيَا، وَلَا تُطِعْمَنَ اَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهْ عَنْ ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ هَوْلهُ وَكَانَ آمُرُهُ فُرُطًا

اِتَّ الَّذِيْنَ اَمَنُوْا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّلِحْتِ
اِتَّالا نُضِيْحُ اَجْرَ مَنْ اَحْسَنَ عَمَلاً ﴿
اَتَّالا نُضِيْحُ اَجْرَ مَنْ اَحْسَنَ عَمَلاً ﴿
اُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنِّتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِيْ مِنْ
تَحْتِهِمُ الْكَانْهُرُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيْهَا مِنْ اَسَاوِرَ
مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَّ يَلْبَسُونَ فِيْهَا مِنْ اَسَاوِرَ
مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَّ يَلْبَسُونَ فِيْهَا مِنْ اَسَاوِرَ
مِنْ شَنْدُسٍ وَ اِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَّحِئِيْنَ

couches. How good the reward and how excellent the place of rest!

R. 5.

- 33. And set forth to them the parable of two men: one of them We provided with two gardens of grapes, and surrounded them with date-palms, and between the two We placed corn-fields.
- 34. Each of the gardens yielded its fruit *in abundance*, and failed not the least therein. And in between the two We caused a stream to flow.
- 35. And he had fruit *in abundance*. And he said to his companion, arguing *boastfully* with him, 'I am richer than thou in wealth and stronger in respect of men.'
- 36. And he entered his garden while he was wronging his soul. He said, 'I do not think this will ever perish;
- 37. 'And I do not think the Hour will *ever* come. And even if I am ever brought back to my Lord, I shall, surely, find a better resort than this.'
- *38. His companion said to him, while he was arguing with him, "Dost thou disbelieve in Him Who created thee from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then fashioned thee into a *perfect* man?

فِيْهَاعَلَى الْأَرْآئِكِ انِعْمَ الثَّوَابُ وَكَسُنَتُ مُرْتَفَقًا هُ وَحَسُنَتُ مُرْتَفَقًا هُ وَ اضْرِبْ لَهُمْ مَّثَلًا دَّجُلَيْنِ جَعَلْنَا لِأَحَدِهِمَا جَنَّتَيْنِ مِنْ اَعْنَابٍ وَّحَفَفَنْهُمَا بِنَخْلٍ وَّ جَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَّحَفَفْنْهُمَا بِنَخْلٍ وَ جَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمَا ذَرْعًا شُ

كِلْتَا الْجَنَّتَيْنِ اتَثْ أُكُلَهَا وَكَمْ تَظْلِمْ مِّنْهُ شَيْئًا ۚ وَ فَجَّرْنَا خِلْلَهُمَا نَهَرًا ﴿

وَّ كَانَ لَهُ ثَمَرُه فَقَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ وَ هُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ آنَاآكَثُرُ مِنْكَ مَالًا وَّ آعَزُّ نَفَرًا۞

وَ دَخَلَ جَنَّتَهُ وَ هُوَ ظَالِمٌ لِنَفْسِهِ، قَالَ مَا اَظُنُّ اَنْ تَبِيْدَ هٰذِهٖ اَبَدًا ﴿ وَمَا اَظُنُّ السَّاعَةُ قَائِمَةً الوَّلَئِنْ رُّدِدْتُ إِلَى رَبِّيْ كَاجِدَتَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهَا مُنْقَلَبًا ﴿

قَالَ لَهُ صَاحِبُهُ وَهُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ آكَفَرْتَ بِالَّذِيْ خَلَقَكَ مِثْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ تُطْفَةٍ تُمَّ سَوْلِكَ رَجُلًا۞

^{*38.} His companion said to him, while he was **conversing** with him, 'Do you disbelieve in Him Who created you from dust,