

might turn away from him evil and indecency. Surely, he was *one* of Our chosen servants.

26. And they both raced to the door, and she tore his shirt from behind, and they found her lord at the door. She said, 'What shall be the punishment of one who intended evil to thy wife, save imprisonment or a grievous chastisement?'

27. He said, 'She it was who sought to seduce me against my will.' And a witness of her household bore witness *saying*, 'If his shirt is torn from the front, then she has spoken the truth and he is of the liars.

28. 'But if his shirt is torn from behind, then she has lied and he is of the truthful.'

29. So when he saw his shirt torn from behind, he said, 'Surely, this is a device of you women. Your device is indeed mighty.

30. 'O Joseph, turn away from this and thou, *O woman*, ask forgiveness for thy sin. Certainly, thou art of the guilty.'

R. 4.

31. And women in the city said, 'The wife of the 'Azīz seeks to seduce her slave-boy against his will. He has infatuated her with love. Indeed, we see her in manifest error.'

32. And when she heard of their crafty design, she sent for them and prepared for them a repast, and

عِبَادَنَا الْمُخْلَصِينَ ﴿٢٥﴾

وَاسْتَبَقَا الْبَابَ وَقَدَّتْ قَمِيصَهُ
مِنْ دُبُرٍ ۖ وَالْغَيَا سَدَّهَا كَذَا الْبَابِ ط
قَالَتْ مَا جَزَاءُ مَنْ أَرَادَ بِأَهْلِكَ سُوءًا
إِلَّا أَنْ يُسْجَنَ أَوْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٦﴾

قَالَ هِيَ رَأَوْنِي عَنْ نَفْسِي وَشَهِدَ
شَاهِدٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا ؕ إِن كَانَتْ قَمِيصَهُ قَدْ مِّنْ
قُبُلٍ فَصَدَقَتْ وَهُوَ مِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿٢٧﴾

وَإِنْ كَانَ قَمِيصُهُ قَدْ مِّنْ دُبُرٍ فَكَذَّابَةٌ
وَهُوَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿٢٨﴾

فَلَمَّا رَأَى قَمِيصَهُ قَدْ مِّنْ دُبُرٍ قَالَ إِنَّهُ
مِنْ كَيِّدِكُنَّ ؕ إِن كَيْدُكُمْ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٢٩﴾

يُوسُفُ أَعْرِضْ عَنْ هَذَا ۖ
وَاسْتَغْفِرِي لِذَنْبِكِ ۖ إِنَّكِ كُنْتِ
مِنَ الْخَاطِئِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

وَقَالَ نِسْوَةٌ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ امْرَأَتُ الْعَزِيزِ
تُرَادُ فَتْنَهَا عَنْ نَفْسِهِ ؕ قَدْ شَغَفَهَا
حُبًّا ؕ إِنَّا لَنَرَاهَا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴿٣١﴾

فَلَمَّا سَمِعَتْ بِمَكْرِهِنَّ أَرْسَلَتْ
إِلَيْهِنَّ وَأَعْتَدَتْ لَهُنَّ مُتَكًا ۖ وَآتَتْ كُلَّ

gave every one of them a knife and then said to Joseph, 'Come forth to them.' And when they saw him they *thought much of him and cut their hands, and said, 'Allāh be glorified! This is not a human being; this is but a noble angel.'

33. She said, 'And this is he about whom you blamed me. I did seek to seduce him against his will, but he preserved himself from sin. And now if he do not what I bid him, he shall certainly be imprisoned and become one of the humbled.'

34. He said, 'O my Lord, I would prefer prison to that to which they invite me; and unless Thou turn away their guile from me I shall incline towards them and be of the ignorant.'

35. So his Lord heard his prayer, and turned away their guile from him. Verily, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

36. Then it occurred to them (the men) after they had seen the signs of his innocence that, to preserve their good name, they should imprison him for a time.

وَاحِدَةً مِنْهُمْ سَكَيْنَا وَقَالَتْ اخْرُجْ
عَلَيْهِمْ ۚ فَلَمَّا رَأَيْنَهُ أَكْبَرْنَهُ
وَقَطَّعْنَ أَيْدِيَهُنَّ وَقُلْنَ حَاشَ لِلَّهِ مَا
هَذَا بَشَرًا إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا مَلَكٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

قَالَتْ فَذَلِكُنَّ الَّذِي لُمْتُنَّنِي فِيهِ
وَلَقَدْ رَاوَدْتُهُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ فَاسْتَعْصَمَ
وَلَكِنْ لَّمْ يَفْعَلْ مَا أَمَرَهُ لِكَيْسَجُنَّكَ
وَلِكَيْكُونَا مِنَ الصَّغِيرِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾

قَالَ رَبِّ السِّجْنُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا
يَدْعُونَنِي إِلَيْهِ ۚ وَإِلَّا تَصْرِفْ عَنِّي
كَيْدَهُمْ أَصْبِرُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَ أَكُن مِّنَ
الْجَاهِلِينَ ﴿٣٤﴾

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ فَصَرَفَ عَنْهُ
كَيْدَهُمْ ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٥﴾
ثُمَّ بَدَأَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ مَا رَأَوُا الْآيَاتِ
لِكَيْسَجُنَّهُ حَتَّىٰ حِينٍ ﴿٣٦﴾

*32. **Note:** The words *qatta'na aidiyahuma* (قَطَّعْنَ أَيْدِيَهُمَا) 'cut their hands' can be understood to apply literally or metaphorically as Haqrat Imām Rāghib has mentioned both usages with reference to the use of this word in the Holy Qur'an.

Here the literal meaning of (قَطَّعْنَ أَيْدِيَهُمَا) would be to sever one's hand with some sharp instrument. This obviously is not meant by the Holy Qur'an and is inconceivable in this context. As an alternative, some scholars have attempted to attribute a minimised action of cutting, indicating just a few minor cuts, but the Arabic usage does not approve of it because the force and the intensity of the root meaning in the measure of (قَطَّعَ) does not permit this mild connotation. The only choice therefore is between the literal and metaphorical meaning and we believe that this expression in the given context can only be rightly understood metaphorically, meaning that they accepted defeat by considering him inaccessible and beyond the reach of their hands.

R. 5

37. And with him there entered the prison two young men. One of them said, 'I saw myself *in a dream* pressing wine.' And the other said, 'I saw myself *in a dream* carrying upon my head bread of which the birds are eating. Inform us of the interpretation thereof; for we see thee to be of the righteous.'

38. He replied, 'The food which you are given shall not come to you but I shall inform you of the interpretation thereof before it comes to you. This is on account of what my Lord has taught me. I have renounced the religion of the people who do not believe in Allāh and who are disbelievers in the Hereafter.

39. 'And I have followed the religion of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. We cannot indeed associate anything as partner with Allāh. This is of Allāh's grace upon us and upon mankind, but most men are ungrateful.

40. 'O my two companions of the prison, are diverse lords better or Allāh, the One, the Most Supreme?

41. 'You worship nothing beside Allāh, but *mere* names that you have named, you and your fathers; Allāh has sent down no authority for that. The decision rests with Allāh alone. He has commanded

وَدَخَلَ مَعَهُ السَّجْنَ فَتَيْنِ ۖ قَالَ
أَحَدُهُمَا إِنِّي أَرَبِيَّ اعْصِرْ خَمْرًا
وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ إِنِّي أَرَبِيَّ أَحْمِلْ فَوْقَ
رَأْسِي خُبْرًا تَأْكُلُ الطَّيْرُ مِنْهُ ۖ نَبِّئْنَا
بِتَأْوِيلِهِ ۚ إِنَّا نَرَاكَ مِنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾
قَالَ لَا يَأْتِيكُمَا طَعَامٌ تُرْزَقُنِي إِلَّا
نَبَأًا تَكُمَا بِتَأْوِيلِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمَا
ذَلِكُمَا مِمَّا عَلَّمَنِي رَبِّي ۖ إِنِّي تَرَكْتُ
مِلَّةَ قَوْمٍ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَهُمْ
بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

وَاتَّبَعْتُ مِلَّةَ آبَائِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ
وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ ۖ مَا كَانَ لَنَا أَنْ
نُشْرِكَ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ ۚ ذَلِكُمْ مِنْ
فَضْلِ اللَّهِ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى النَّاسِ
وَلَكِنْ أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾
يَصَاحِبِي السَّجْنِ ۚ أَأَرَبَابٌ مُتَفَرِّقُونَ
خَيْرٌ أَمِ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ ﴿٤٠﴾
مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءَ
سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ مِمَّا أَنْزَلَ
اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ ۚ رَبِّ الْحُكْمِ
إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ۖ أَمَرَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ ۚ