

8. Verily, We have made all that is on the earth as an ornament for it, that We may try them as to which of them is best in conduct.

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا مَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ زِينَةً لَّهَا لِنَبْلُوهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ①

9. And We shall make all that is thereon a barren soil.

وَإِنَّا لَجَاعِلُونَ مَا عَلَيْهَا صَعِيدًا جُرُزًا ②

10. Dost thou think that the People of the Cave and the Inscription were a wonder among Our Signs?

أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا ③

11. When the young men betook themselves for refuge to the Cave and said, 'Our Lord, bestow on us mercy from Thyself, and provide for us right guidance in our affair.'

إِذْ أَوَى الْفِتْيَةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا ④

\*12. So We sealed up their ears in the Cave for a number of years.

فَصَرَّفْنَا عَلَى أَذَانِهِمْ فِي الْكَهْفِ سِنِينَ عَدَدًا ⑤

13. Then We raised them up that We might know which of the two parties would better reckon the time that they had tarried.

ثُمَّ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِنَعْلَمَ أَيُّ الْحِزْبَيْنِ أَحْصَى لِمَا لَبِثُوا أَمَدًا ⑥

R. 2.

14. We will relate to thee their story with truth: They were young men who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى ⑦

15. And We strengthened their hearts, when they stood up and said, 'Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Never shall we call upon any god beside Him; if we did, we should indeed have uttered an enormity.

وَرَبُّنَا عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ إِذْ قَامُوا فَقَالُوا رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَنُدَّعُوهُ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَهًا لَقَدْ قُلْنَا إِذًا شَطَطًا ⑧

\*12. So We prevented them from hearing in the Cave the news of the outside world for a few years.

ء ا i u | th | h ٢ | kh ٣ | dh ذ | s ٤ 414 د ض | ط | ز | ظ | ع | gh غ | q | ق | ع

(See details of transliteration on page 'p').

16. 'These, our people, have taken *for worship other* gods beside Him. Wherefore do they not bring a clear authority for them? And who is more unjust than he who invents a lie concerning Allāh?

17. 'And *now* when you have withdrawn from them and from that which they worship beside Allāh, then seek refuge in the Cave; your Lord will unfold for you His mercy and will provide for you comfort in *this* affair of yours.'

\* 18. And thou couldst see the sun, as it rose, move away from their Cave on the right, and when it set, turn away from them on the left; and they were in the spacious hollow thereof. This is among the Signs of Allāh. He whom Allāh guides is rightly guided; but he whom He adjudges astray, for him thou wilt find no helper *or* guide.

R. 3.

19. Thou mightest deem them awake, whilst they are asleep; and We shall cause them to turn over to the right and to the left, their dog stretching out his forelegs on the threshold. If thou hadst had a look at them, thou wouldst surely have turned away from them in fright, and wouldst surely have been filled with awe of them.

\* 18. And **you could** see the sun, as it rose, move away from their Cave on the right, and when it set, **move across them to the left**, and they were in the spacious hollow thereof. This is among the Signs of Allāh. He whom Allāh guides is rightly guided; but he whom He adjudges astray, for him **you will** find no helper *or* guide.

هَؤُلَاءِ قَوْمُنَا اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ آلِهَةً  
لَوْ لَا يَأْتُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ بَيِّنٍ  
فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا ۝

وَإِذْ اعْتَزَلْتُمُوهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا  
اللَّهَ فَأَوَّا إِلَى الْكَهْفِ يَنْشُرْ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ  
مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَيَهَيِّئْ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَمْرِكُمْ  
مِزْفَقًا ۝

وَتَرَى الشَّمْسَ إِذَا طَلَعَتْ تَزُورُ عَنْ  
كَهْفِهِمْ ذَاتَ الْيَمِينِ وَإِذَا غَرَبَتْ  
تَقْرِضُهُمْ ذَاتَ الشِّمَالِ وَهُمْ فِي فَجْوَةٍ  
مِنْهُ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّ  
اللَّهُ فَهَوَ الْمُهِتَدِ ۚ وَمَنْ يُضِلْ فَلَنْ  
تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا ۝

ع  
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وَتَحْسَبُهُمْ أَيْقَاظًا وَهُمْ رُقُودٌ ۚ وَ  
نُقَلِّبُهُمْ ذَاتَ الْيَمِينِ وَذَاتَ الشِّمَالِ ۚ  
وَكَلْبُهُمْ بَاسِطٌ ذِرَاعَيْهِ بِالْوَصِيدِ  
لَوِ اطَّلَعْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ لَوَلَّيْتَ مِنْهُمْ  
فِرَارًا وَلَمُلِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ رُعبًا ۝

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20. And so We raised them up that they might question one another. One of them said, 'How long have you tarried?' They said, 'We have tarried a day or part of a day.' *Others* said, 'Your Lord knows best *the time* you have tarried. Now send one of you with these silver coins of yours to the city; and let him see which of its *inhabitants* has the purest food, and let him bring you provisions thereof. And let him be courteous and let him not inform anyone about you.'

✱21. ‘For, if they should come to know of you, they would stone you or make you return to their religion and then will you never prosper.’

22. And thus did We disclose them *to the people* that they might know that the promise of Allāh was true, and that, as to the Hour, there was no doubt about it. *And remember the time* when people disputed among themselves concerning them, and said, ‘Build over them a building.’ Their Lord knew them best. Those who won their point said, ‘We will, surely, build a place of worship over them.’

\*21. 'For, if they **overcome you**, they would stone you or make you return to their religion and then will you never prosper.'

\*22. *And remember the time when people disputed among themselves concerning them, and some said, ‘Erect a building over them.’*

**Note:** ‘Erect a building over them’ means to build a memorial at the site of their caves.

وَكَذَلِكَ بَعَثْنَاهُمْ لِيَتَسَاءَلُوا بَيْنَهُمْ ۖ  
 قَالَ قَائِلٌ مِنْهُمْ كَمْ لَبِثْتُمْ ؕ قَالُوا  
 لَبِثْنَا يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ ؕ قَالُوا رَبُّكُمْ  
 أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَبِثْتُمْ ؕ فَابْعَثُوا أَحَدَكُمْ  
 بِوَرِقِكُمْ هَذِهِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ  
 أَيُّهَا أَزْكَى طَعَامًا فَلْيَأْتِكُمْ بِرِزْقٍ مِنْهُ  
 وَلْيَتَلَطَّفْ وَلَا يُشْعِرَنَّ بِكُمْ أَحَدًا ۝١٠

لَهُمْ أَنْ يَنْظَرُوا عَلَيْكُمْ يَرْجُمُوكُمْ  
أَوْ يْعِيدُوكُمْ فِي مِلَّتِهِمْ وَلَنْ تُفْلِحُوا  
إِذَا كُذِّبْتُمْ ﴿٣١﴾

وَكَذَلِكَ أَغْتَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَعْلَمُوا أَن  
وَعَدَ اللَّهُ حَقًّا وَأَنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَا رَيْبَ  
فِيهَا ۖ إِذْ يَتَنَادَوْنَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَمْرُهُمْ  
فَقَالُوا ابْنُوا عَلَيْهِم بُيُوتًا ۚ رَبُّهُمْ  
أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ ۚ قَالَ الَّذِينَ غَلَبُوا عَلَى  
أَمْرِهِمْ لَنَتَّخِذَنَّ عَلَيْهِم مَّسْجِدًا ۖ ﴿٢٢﴾