

Sura 56 - The Inevitable

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SURA LVI (56) - The Inevitable (Mecca - 96 verses) (XLV - 65)

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

When the day that must come shall have come suddenly,

None shall treat that sudden coming as a lie:

Day that shall abase! Day that shall exalt!

When the earth shall be shaken with a shock,

And the mountains shall be crumbled with a crumbling,

And shall become scattered dust,

And into three bands shall ye be divided:

Then the people of the right hand - Oh! how happy shall be the people of the right hand!

And the people of the left hand - Oh! how wretched shall be the people of the left hand!

56:10 And they who were foremost on earth - the foremost still.

These are they who shall be brought nigh to God,

In gardens of delight;

A crown of the former

And few of the latter generations;

On inwrought couches

Reclining on them face to face:

Aye-blooming youths go round about to them

With goblets and ewers and a cup of flowing wine;

Their brows ache not from it, nor fails the sense:

56:20 And with such fruits as shall please them best,

And with flesh of such birds, as they shall long for:

And theirs shall be the Houris, with large dark eyes, like pearls hidden in their shells,

In recompense of their labours past.

No vain discourse shall they hear therein, nor charge of sin,

But only the cry, "Peace! Peace!"

And the people of the right hand - oh! how happy shall be the people of the right hand!

Amid thornless sidrahs

And tall trees clad with fruit,

And in extended shade,

56:30 And by flowing waters,

And with abundant fruits,

Unfailing, unforbidden,

And on lofty couches.

Of a rare creation have we created the Houris,

And we have made them ever virgins,

Dear to their spouses, of equal age with them,

For the people of the right hand,

A crowd of the former,

And a crowd of the latter generations.

56:40 But the people of the left hand - oh! how wretched shall be the people of the left hand!

Amid pestilential winds and in scalding water,

And in the shadow of a black smoke,

Not cool, and horrid to behold.

For they truly, ere this, were blessed with worldly goods,

But persisted in heinous sin,

And were wont to say,

"What! after we have died, and become dust and bones, shall we be raised?

And our fathers, the men of yore?"

Say: Aye, the former and the latter:

56:50 Gathered shall they all be for the time of a known day.

Then ye, O ye the erring, the gainsaying,

Shall surely eat of the tree Ez-zakkoum,

And fill your bellies with it,

And thereupon shall ye drink boiling water,

And ye shall drink as the thirst camel drinketh.

This shall be their repast in the day of reckoning!

We created you, will ye not credit us?

What think ye? The germs of life -

Is it ye who create them? or are we their creator?

56:60 It is we who have decreed that death should be among you;

Yet are we not thereby hindered from replacing you with others, your likes, or from producing you again in a form which ye know not!

Ye have known the first creation: will ye not then reflect?

What think ye? That which ye sow -

Is it ye who cause its upgrowth, or do we cause it to spring forth?

If we pleased we could so make your harvest dry and brittle that ye would ever marvel and say,

"Truly we have been at cost, ye are we forbidden harvest."

What think ye of the water ye drink?

Is it ye who send it down from the clouds, or send we it down?

Brackish could we make it, if we pleased: will ye not then be thankful?

56:70 What think ye? The fire which ye obtain by friction -

Is it ye who rear its tree, or do we rear it?

It is we who have made it for a memorial and a benefit to the wayfarers of the desert,

Praise therefore the name of thy Lord, the Great.

It needs not that I swear by the setting of the stars,

And it is a great oath, if ye knew it,

That this is the honourable Koran,

Written in the preserved Book:

Let none touch it but the purified,

It is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds.

56:80 Such tidings as these will ye disdain?

Will ye make it your daily bread to gainsay them?

Why, at the moment when the soul of a dying man shall come up into his throat,

And when ye are gazing at him,

Though we are nearer to him than ye, although ye see us not: -

Why do ye not, if ye are to escape the judgment,

Cause that soul to return? Tell me, if ye speak the truth.

But as to him who shall enjoy near access to God,

His shall be repose, and pleasure, and a garden of delights.

Yea, for him who shall be of the people of the right hand,

56:90 Shall be the greeting from the people of the right hand - "Peace be to thee."

But for him who shall be of those who treat the prophets as deceivers,

And of the erring,

His entertainment shall be of scalding water,

And the broiling of hell-fire.

Verily this is a certain truth:

Praise therefore the name of thy Lord, the Great.