

SURATULBALAD (90)

The *Suratulbalad* carries on the theme of warning the Makkan polytheists of punishment on the Judgement Day. The Surah, firstly, contradicts their view that there will be no accountability after death. The Surah opens with two oaths __ Allah swears by the holy city, Makka and father and what he begets. The second verse between the two oaths is parenthetical to console the Messenger who resides in it, fulfilling what Abraham had prayed for. Why Allah swears by Makka and father is that both of them testify to the fact, as the thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth, and thirty-seventh verses of the Surah *Ibraaheem* make clear, that it was Abraham who, firstly, came to Bakka (ninety-sixth verse of the Surah *Aal-i- Imraan*) and raised up the structure of the Ka'ba. It was he who settled his wife, Hagar and his eldest son, Ishmael, close by it. Hence, Abraham was the Patriarch of the *Quraysh* who had deviated from his way of life. Father, though general, may be interpreted to mean Abraham in this context and the *Quraysh*, also, prided on being his descendants, and that is why they were the keepers of the Holy Ka'ba. Both the oaths affirm that Allah has created man in affliction __ persistent pain and distress. Throughout his life he strives, exerts himself and endeavours to achieve his goals in life. In this regard, the fortieth verse of the *Suratunnajm* rules that "And that his striving shall, soon, be seen" (judged in the afterworld). Hence, there shall come the Day of Judgement when reward and punishment shall be awarded. The Surah, then, proceeds, from the fifth verse to the sixteenth verse, to ask them a few questions pertaining to His providence for man and then, expose and warn the arrogant, exploitative, and opulent leadership of the Makkan polytheists and call on them to come back to Abraham's way, being shown to them by the Last Messenger. The seventeenth verse guides them the only option left for them. If they refuse to follow this path, damnation awaits them inescapably. It is for them, or for the matter, any human being, to choose or reject it.

SURATULBALAD

In the name of ALLAH, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

1. No, (what you think is wrong). I swear by this (holy) city (Makka)___
2. And you (the Messenger) are a resident in this city ___
3. By father and what he begets.
4. In fact, We create man in affliction (trouble and suffering).
5. Does he think that none has power over him?
6. He says, "I have squandered wealth abundantly."
7. Does he think that none observes him?
8. Have We not given him two eyes
9. And a tongue and two lips
10. And guided him to both the paths (of good and evil)?
11. But he dares not go up the ascending slope (to rise above the greed of wealth).
12. And what do you know what the ascending slope is?
13. (It is) freeing a neck (a slave from slavery),
14. Or feeding, during a day, when hunger is widespread,

سُورَةُ الْبَلَدِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَا أَقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ①

وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ②

وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ ③

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ ④

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ ⑤

يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَا لَا بَدَأَ ⑥

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ ⑦

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ عَيْنَيْنِ ⑧

وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ ⑨

وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ ⑩

فَلَا اقْنَحْهُ الْعُقَبَةُ ⑪

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعُقَبَةُ ⑫

فَكُرْبَىٰ ⑬

أَوْ لَطَعَنَهُ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ ⑭

15. An orphan, closely related,
16. Or a poor person, clinging to the earth (reduced to poverty).
17. And then, he must belong to those who believe (in Allah) and enjoin patience to one another and enjoin (treating human beings with) mercy.
18. Such (people) are the people blessed.
19. And those people who reject (disbelieve in) Our verses/signs are the people unfortunate.
20. Upon them, fire will be closed in, from all the sides.

يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ ﴿١٥﴾

أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتَرَبَةٍ ﴿١٦﴾

ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَتَوَصَّوْا

بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ ﴿١٧﴾

أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمُنَنَى ﴿١٨﴾

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنَّ يَلْنٰهُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ ﴿١٩﴾

عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُّؤَصَّدَةٌ ﴿٢٠﴾