

Sūrah al-Qalam¹⁷²⁴**Bismillāhīr-Raḥmānīr-Raḥeem****سُورَةُ الْقَلَمِ**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Nūn.¹⁷²⁵ By the pen and what they inscribe, رَبِّ الْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ ﴿١﴾
2. You are not, [O Muḥammad], by the favor of your Lord, a madman. مَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ بِمَجْنُونٍ ﴿٢﴾
3. And indeed, for you is a reward uninterrupted. وَإِنَّ لَكَ لَأَجْرًا غَيْرَ مَمْنُونٍ ﴿٣﴾
4. And indeed, you are of a great moral character. وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾
5. So you will see and they will see فَسَتُبْصِرُ وَيُبْصِرُونَ ﴿٥﴾
6. Which of you is the afflicted [by a devil]. بِأَيِّكُمْ الْمَقْتُولُونَ ﴿٦﴾
7. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has gone astray from His way, and He is most knowing of the [rightly] guided. إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿٧﴾
8. Then do not obey the deniers. فَلَا تُطِعِ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ ﴿٨﴾
9. They wish that you would soften [in your position], so they would soften [toward you]. وَدُّوا لَوْ تُدْهِنُ فَيُدْهِنُونَ ﴿٩﴾
10. And do not obey every worthless habitual swearer وَلَا تُطِعِ كُلَّ حَلَّافٍ مَهِينٍ ﴿١٠﴾
11. [And] scorner, going about with malicious gossip – هَمَّازٍ مَشَّاءٍ بِنَمِيمٍ ﴿١١﴾
12. A preventer of good, transgressing and sinful, مَنَاعٍ لِلْخَيْرِ مُعْتَدٍ أَثِيمٍ ﴿١٢﴾
13. Cruel, moreover, and an عُتْلٌ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ زَنِيمٍ ﴿١٣﴾

¹⁷²⁴Al-Qalam: The Pen.¹⁷²⁵See footnote to 2:1.

- illegitimate pretender.¹⁷²⁶ عُنْتَلٌ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ زَنِيمٌ ﴿٦٨﴾
14. Because he is a possessor of wealth and children, أُنْكَانَ ذَا مَالٍ وَوَبْنٍ ﴿٦٩﴾
15. When Our verses are recited to him, he says, "Legends of the former peoples." إِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا قَالِ اسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ﴿٧٠﴾
16. We will brand him upon the snout.¹⁷²⁷ سَنَسِمُهُ عَلَى الْخُرْطُومِ ﴿٧١﴾
17. Indeed, We have tried them as We tried the companions of the garden, when they swore to cut its fruit in the [early] morning إِنْآ بَلَوْنَهُمْ كَمَا بَلَوْنَا أَصْحَابَ الْجَنَّةِ إِذْ أَقْسَمُوا لَيَصْرِمُنَّهَا مُصْبِحِينَ ﴿٧٢﴾
18. Without making exception.¹⁷²⁸ وَلَا يَسْتَنْثُونَ ﴿٧٣﴾
19. So there came upon it [i.e., the garden] an affliction from your Lord while they were asleep. فَطَافَ عَلَيْهَا طَآئِفٌ مِّن رَّبِّكَ وَهُمْ نَآبِهُونَ ﴿٧٤﴾
20. And it became as though reaped. فَأَصْبَحَتْ كَالصَّرِيمِ ﴿٧٥﴾
21. And they called one another at morning, فَتَنَادَوْا مُصْبِحِينَ ﴿٧٦﴾
22. [Saying], "Go early to your crop if you would cut the fruit." أَنْ أَعْدُوا عَلَى حَرْثِكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَٰرِمِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾
23. So they set out, while lowering their voices, فَانطَلَقُوا وَهُمْ يَتَخَفَتُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾
24. [Saying], "There will surely not enter it today upon you [any] poor person." أُنْ لَا يَدْخُلُهَا آيَوْمَ عَلَيْكُمْ مَسْكِينٌ ﴿٧٩﴾
25. And they went early in determination, [assuming themselves] وَعَدُوا عَلَى حَرْدٍ قَدَرِينَ ﴿٨٠﴾

¹⁷²⁶i.e., claiming a particular lineage falsely. The description given in these verses is of al-Waleed bin al-Mugheerah (see also 74:11-25) or possibly, as asserted by Ibn Katheer, al-Akhnas bin Shurayq.

¹⁷²⁷Literally, "trunk," meaning the nose of an elephant or pig.

¹⁷²⁸i.e., without conceding that nothing can be accomplished unless Allāh wills, saying, "...if Allāh wills" ("*in-shā'-Allāh*"). See 18:23-24.

able.¹⁷²⁹

26. But when they saw it, they said, "Indeed, we are lost; فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهَا قَالُوا إِنَّا لَضَالُونَ ﴿٦٨﴾
27. Rather, we have been deprived." بَلْ لَحْنٌ مَّحْرُومُونَ ﴿٦٩﴾
28. The most moderate of them said, "Did I not say to you, 'Why do you not exalt [Allāh]?'"¹⁷³⁰ قَالَ أَوْسَطُهُمْ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ لَوْلَا تُسَبِّحُونَ ﴿٧٠﴾
29. They said, "Exalted is our Lord! Indeed, we were wrongdoers." قَالُوا سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ ﴿٧١﴾
30. Then they approached one another, blaming each other. فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَلَمَّظُونَ ﴿٧٢﴾
31. They said, "O woe to us; indeed we were transgressors." قَالُوا يَوَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾
32. Perhaps our Lord will substitute for us [one] better than it. Indeed, we are toward our Lord desirous."¹⁷³¹ عَسَىٰ رَبُّنَا أَن يُبَدِّلَنَا خَيْرًا مِّنْهَا إِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا رَاغِبُونَ ﴿٧٤﴾
33. Such is the punishment [of this world]. And the punishment of the Hereafter is greater, if they only knew. كَذَٰلِكَ الْعَذَابُ ۗ وَلَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ ۗ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٧٥﴾
34. Indeed, for the righteous with their Lord are the Gardens of Pleasure. إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٍ النَّعِيمِ ﴿٧٦﴾
35. Then will We treat the Muslims like the criminals? أَفَنَجْعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾
36. What is [the matter] with you? How do you judge? مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾
37. Or do you have a scripture in which you learn أَمْ لَكُمْ كِتَابٌ فِيهِ تَدْرُسُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾

¹⁷²⁹To carry out their plan, confident of their ability.

¹⁷³⁰i.e., remember or mention Him by saying, "...if Allāh wills." An additional meaning is "praise" or "thank" Him for His bounty.

¹⁷³¹Of His mercy, forgiveness and bounty.

38. That indeed for you is whatever you choose? إِنَّ لَكُمْ فِيهِ مَا تُخْتَرُونَ ﴿٦٨﴾
39. Or do you have oaths [binding] upon Us, extending until the Day of Resurrection, that indeed for you is whatever you judge? أَمْ لَكُمْ أَيْمَانٌ عَلَيْنَا بَلِغَةٌ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّ لَكُمْ لِمَا تَحْكُمُونَ ﴿٦٩﴾
40. Ask them which of them, for that [claim], is responsible. سَأَلَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ بِذَلِكَ زَعِيمٌ ﴿٧٠﴾
41. Or do they have partners?¹⁷³² Then let them bring their partners, if they should be truthful. أَمْ هُمْ شُرَكَاءُ فَلْيَأْتُوا بِشُرَكَائِهِمْ إِنْ كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ ﴿٧١﴾
42. The Day the shin will be uncovered¹⁷³³ and they are invited to prostration but they [i.e., the disbelievers] will not be able, يَوْمَ يُكْشَفُ عَن سَاقٍ وَيُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ﴿٧٢﴾
43. Their eyes humbled, humiliation will cover them. And they used to be invited to prostration while they were sound.¹⁷³⁴ حَشِيصَةً أَتَصَرَّهُمْ تَرَهَّقُهُمْ ذِلَّةٌ وَقَدْ كَانُوا يُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى السُّجُودِ وَهُمْ سَلِيمُونَ ﴿٧٣﴾
44. So leave Me, [O Muḥammad], with [the matter of] whoever denies this statement [i.e., the Qur'ān]. We will progressively lead them [to punishment] from where they do not know.¹⁷³⁵ فَدَرْنِي وَمَنْ يُكَذِّبْ بِذَا الْآخِذِ سَنَسْتَدْرِجُهُمْ مِّنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٧٤﴾
45. And I will give them time. Indeed, My plan is firm. وَأُمْلِي لَهُمْ إِنَّ كَيْدِي مَتِينٌ ﴿٧٥﴾
46. Or do you ask of them a payment, so they are by debt burdened down? أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُمْ مِن مَّغْرَمٍ مُّتَقَلُونَ ﴿٧٦﴾

¹⁷³²i.e., those to whom they attribute divinity other than Allāh or partners from among themselves.

¹⁷³³i.e., when everyone will find before him great difficulty. In accordance with authentic *ḥadīths*, "the shin" might also refer to that of Allāh (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*), before which every believer will prostrate on the Day of Judgement. See footnote to 2:19.

¹⁷³⁴During worldly life.

¹⁷³⁵Allāh will increase His favors to them in this world by way of trial, whereby they will sink deeper into sin and thus into destruction.

47. Or have they [knowledge of] the unseen, so they write [it] down?
 أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ يَكْتُبُونَ ﴿١٧﴾
48. Then be patient for the decision of your Lord, [O Muḥammad], and be not like the companion of the fish [i.e., Jonah] when he called out while he was distressed.
 فَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِ رَبِّكَ وَلَا تَكُنْ كَصَاحِبِ
 الْحُوتِ إِذْ نَادَىٰ وَهُوَ مَكْظُومٌ ﴿١٨﴾
49. If not that favor [i.e., mercy] from his Lord overtook him, he would have been thrown onto the naked shore while he was censured.¹⁷³⁶
 لَوْلَا أَن تَدَارَكُهُ نِعْمَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ لَنُبِذَ
 بِالْعَرَاءِ وَهُوَ مَذْمُومٌ ﴿١٩﴾
50. And his Lord chose him and made him of the righteous.
 فَاجْتَبَاهُ رَبُّهُ فَجَعَلَهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾
51. And indeed, those who disbelieve would almost make you slip with their eyes [i.e., looks] when they hear the message, and they say, "Indeed, he is mad."
 وَإِن يَكَادُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَيُزْلِقُونَكَ
 بِأَبْصَرِهِمْ لَمَّا سَمِعُوا الذِّكْرَ وَيَقُولُونَ إِنَّهُ
 لَمَجْنُونٌ ﴿٢١﴾
52. But it is not except a reminder to the worlds.
 وَمَا هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

¹⁷³⁶But instead, Allāh accepted his repentance and provided means for his recovery. See 37:139-148.