

- Him. And there is not a thing except that it exalts [Allāh] by His praise, but you do not understand their [way of] exalting. Indeed, He is ever Forbearing and Forgiving.
45. And when you recite the Qur'ān, We put between you and those who do not believe in the Hereafter a concealed partition.<sup>692</sup>
46. And We have placed over their hearts coverings, lest they understand it, and in their ears deafness. And when you mention your Lord alone in the Qur'ān, they turn back in aversion.
47. We are most knowing of how they listen to it when they listen to you and [of] when they are in private conversation, when the wrongdoers say, "You follow not but a man affected by magic."
48. Look how they strike for you comparisons;<sup>693</sup> but they have strayed, so they cannot [find] a way.
49. And they say, "When we are bones and crumbled particles, will we [truly] be resurrected as a new creation?"
50. Say, "Be you stones or iron"<sup>694</sup>
51. Or [any] creation of that which is great<sup>695</sup> within your breasts." And they will say, "Who will restore us?" Say, "He who brought you forth the first time." Then they will nod their heads toward you<sup>696</sup> and say, "When is that?" Say, "Perhaps it will be soon –
52. On the Day He will call you and you will respond with praise of Him and think that you had not remained [in the world] except for a little."
53. And tell My servants to say that which is best. Indeed, Satan induces [dissension] among them. Indeed Satan is ever, to mankind, a clear enemy.

<sup>692</sup>Preventing guidance from reaching them.

<sup>693</sup>Describing the Prophet (ﷺ) as a poet, a madman or one under the influence of sorcery.

<sup>694</sup>i.e., even if you should be stones or iron.

<sup>695</sup>Such as the heavens and earth.

<sup>696</sup>In disbelief and ridicule.

54. Your Lord is most knowing of you. If He wills, He will have mercy upon you; or if He wills, He will punish you. And We have not sent you, [O Muḥammad], over them as a manager.
55. And your Lord is most knowing of whoever is in the heavens and the earth. And We have made some of the prophets exceed others [in various ways], and to David We gave the book [of Psalms].
56. Say, "Invoke those you have claimed [as gods] besides Him, for they do not possess the [ability for] removal of adversity from you or [for its] transfer [to someone else]."
57. Those whom they invoke<sup>697</sup> seek means of access to their Lord, [striving as to] which of them would be nearest, and they hope for His mercy and fear His punishment. Indeed, the punishment of your Lord is ever feared.
58. And there is no city but that We will destroy it<sup>698</sup> before the Day of Resurrection or punish it with a severe punishment. That has ever been in the Register<sup>699</sup> inscribed.
59. And nothing has prevented Us from sending signs [i.e., miracles] except that the former peoples denied them. And We gave Thamūd the she-camel as a visible sign, but they wronged her. And We send not the signs except as a warning.
60. And [remember, O Muḥammad], when We told you, "Indeed, your Lord has encompassed the people."<sup>700</sup> And We did not make the sight which We showed you<sup>701</sup> except as a trial for the people, as was the accursed tree [mentioned] in the Qur'ān. And We threaten [i.e., warn] them, but it increases them not except in great transgression.

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<sup>697</sup> Among the righteous of Allāh's creation, such as angels, prophets, deceased scholars, etc.

<sup>698</sup> Because of the sins of its inhabitants.

<sup>699</sup> The Preserved Slate (*al-Lawḥ al-Mahfūth*), which is with Allāh.

<sup>700</sup> In His knowledge and power, meaning that Allāh would protect him (ﷺ) from their harm.

<sup>701</sup> During the *mi'rāj* (ascension) into the heavens.