

## *Sūrah Maryam*<sup>747</sup>

### *Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem*

1. Kāf, Hā, Yā, 'Ayn, Šād.<sup>748</sup>
2. [This is] a mention of the mercy of your Lord to His servant Zechariah
3. When he called to his Lord a private call [i.e., supplication].
4. He said, "My Lord, indeed my bones have weakened, and my head has filled<sup>749</sup> with white, and never have I been in my supplication to You, my Lord, unhappy [i.e., disappointed].
5. And indeed, I fear the successors<sup>750</sup> after me, and my wife has been barren, so give me from Yourself an heir
6. Who will inherit me<sup>751</sup> and inherit from the family of Jacob. And make him, my Lord, pleasing [to You]."
7. [He was told],<sup>752</sup> "O Zechariah, indeed We give you good tidings of a boy whose name will be John. We have not assigned to any before [this] name."
8. He said, "My Lord, how will I have a boy when my wife has been barren and I have reached extreme old age?"
9. [An angel] said, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, for I created you before, while you were nothing.'"
10. [Zechariah] said, "My Lord, make for me a sign." He said, "Your sign is that you will not speak to the people for three nights, [being] sound."<sup>753</sup>

<sup>747</sup>*Maryam*: Mary (the mother of Prophet Jesus).

<sup>748</sup>See footnote to 2:1.

<sup>749</sup>Literally, "ignited." The spread of white hair throughout the head is likened to that of fire in the bush.

<sup>750</sup>Those relatives from the father's side who would inherit religious authority.

<sup>751</sup>Inherit from me religious knowledge and prophethood.

<sup>752</sup>By Allāh (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*) through the angels.

<sup>753</sup>i.e., without illness or defect.

11. So he came out to his people from the prayer chamber and signaled to them to exalt [Allāh] in the morning and afternoon.
12. [Allāh said], "O John, take the Scripture [i.e., adhere to it] with determination." And We gave him judgement [while yet] a boy
13. And affection from Us and purity, and he was fearing of Allāh
14. And dutiful to his parents, and he was not a disobedient tyrant.
15. And peace be upon him the day he was born and the day he dies and the day he is raised alive.
16. And mention, [O Muḥammad], in the Book [the story of] Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east.
17. And she took, in seclusion from them, a screen. Then We sent to her Our Angel [i.e., Gabriel], and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man.
18. She said, "Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, [so leave me], if you should be fearing of Allāh."
19. He said, "I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy [i.e., son]."
20. She said, "How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?"
21. He said, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.'"
22. So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place.
23. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said, "Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten."
24. But he<sup>754</sup> called her from below her, "Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream.

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<sup>754</sup>There is a difference of opinion among scholars as to whether "he" refers to the baby or to the angel.