

67. And [recall] when Moses said to his people, "Indeed, Allāh commands you to slaughter a cow." They said, "Do you take us in ridicule?" He said, "I seek refuge in Allāh from being among the ignorant."
68. They said, "Call upon your Lord to make clear to us what it is." [Moses] said, "[Allāh] says, 'It is a cow which is neither old nor virgin, but median between that,' so do what you are commanded."
69. They said, "Call upon your Lord to show us what is her color." He said, "He says, 'It is a yellow cow, bright in color – pleasing to the observers.'"
70. They said, "Call upon your Lord to make clear to us what it is. Indeed, [all] cows look alike to us. And indeed we, if Allāh wills, will be guided."
71. He said, "He says, 'It is a cow neither trained to plow the earth nor to irrigate the field, one free from fault with no spot upon her.'" They said, "Now you have come with the truth." So they slaughtered her, but they could hardly do it.
72. And [recall] when you slew a man and disputed<sup>26</sup> over it, but Allāh was to bring out that which you were concealing.
73. So We said, "Strike him [i.e., the slain man] with part of it."<sup>27</sup> Thus does Allāh bring the dead to life, and He shows you His signs that you might reason.
74. Then your hearts became hardened after that, being like stones or even harder. For indeed, there are stones from which rivers burst forth, and there are some of them that split open and water comes out, and there are some of them that fall down for fear of Allāh. And Allāh is not unaware of what you do.
75. Do you covet [the hope, O believers], that they would believe for you while a party of them used to hear the words of Allāh

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<sup>26</sup>i.e., exchanged accusations and denials.

<sup>27</sup>i.e., the cow. Thereupon, Allāh restored life to the man, who informed them of his murderer.

and then distort it [i.e., the Torah] after they had understood it while they were knowing?

76. And when they meet those who believe, they say, "We have believed"; but when they are alone with one another, they say, "Do you talk to them about what Allāh has revealed to you so they can argue with you about it before your Lord?" Then will you not reason?
77. But do they not know that Allāh knows what they conceal and what they declare?
78. And among them are unlettered ones who do not know the Scripture except [indulgement in] wishful thinking, but they are only assuming.
79. So woe<sup>28</sup> to those who write the "scripture" with their own hands, then say, "This is from Allāh," in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.
80. And they say, "Never will the Fire touch us, except for [a few] numbered days." Say, "Have you taken a covenant with Allāh? For Allāh will never break His covenant. Or do you say about Allāh that which you do not know?"
81. Yes, [on the contrary], whoever earns evil and his sin has encompassed him – those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally.
82. But they who believe and do righteous deeds – those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.
83. And [recall] when We took the covenant from the Children of Israel, [enjoining upon them], "Do not worship except Allāh; and to parents do good and to relatives, orphans, and the needy. And speak to people good [words] and establish prayer and give zakāh." Then you turned away, except a few of you, and you were refusing.

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<sup>28</sup>i.e., death and destruction.