

whom We gave [knowledge of] Our signs, but he detached himself from them; so Satan pursued him, and he became of the deviators.<sup>382</sup>

176. And if We had willed, We could have elevated him thereby,<sup>383</sup> but he adhered [instead] to the earth<sup>384</sup> and followed his own desire. So his example is like that of the dog: if you chase him, he pants, or if you leave him, he [still] pants. That is the example of the people who denied Our signs.<sup>385</sup> So relate the stories that perhaps they will give thought.
177. How evil an example [is that of] the people who denied Our signs and used to wrong themselves.
178. Whoever Allāh guides – he is the [rightly] guided; and whoever He sends astray<sup>386</sup> – it is those who are the losers.
179. And We have certainly created for Hell many of the jinn and mankind. They have hearts with which they do not understand, they have eyes with which they do not see, and they have ears with which they do not hear. Those are like livestock; rather, they are more astray.<sup>387</sup> It is they who are the heedless.
180. And to Allāh belong the best names, so invoke Him by them. And leave [the company of] those who practice deviation concerning His names.<sup>388</sup> They will be recompensed for what they have been doing.
181. And among those We created is a community<sup>389</sup> which guides by truth and thereby establishes justice.

<sup>382</sup>Those who deliberately persist in error to the point of destruction.

<sup>383</sup>i.e., through the revelations, signs or evidences of which he had been given knowledge.

<sup>384</sup>i.e., its worldly pleasures.

<sup>385</sup>Whether or not they have been exposed to Allāh's signs or warnings, it is all the same: they will not believe.

<sup>386</sup>As a result of persistence in evil and rejection of truth.

<sup>387</sup>The reference is to their inability (i.e., refusal) to think and reason, while blindly following (as they are accustomed).

<sup>388</sup>i.e., use them improperly or deny them.

<sup>389</sup>The followers of Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ).

182. But those who deny Our signs – We will progressively lead them [to destruction]<sup>390</sup> from where they do not know.
183. And I will give them time. Indeed, My plan is firm.
184. Then do they not give thought? There is in their companion [i.e., Muḥammad (ﷺ)] no madness. He is not but a clear warner.
185. Do they not look into the realm of the heavens and the earth and everything that Allāh has created and [think] that perhaps their appointed time has come near? So in what statement [i.e., message] hereafter will they believe?
186. Whoever Allāh sends astray – there is no guide for him. And He leaves them in their transgression, wandering blindly.
187. They ask you, [O Muḥammad], about the Hour: when is its arrival?<sup>391</sup> Say, "Its knowledge is only with my Lord. None will reveal its time except Him. It lays heavily<sup>392</sup> upon the heavens and the earth. It will not come upon you except unexpectedly." They ask you as if you are familiar with it. Say, "Its knowledge is only with Allāh, but most of the people do not know."
188. Say, "I hold not for myself [the power of] benefit or harm, except what Allāh has willed. And if I knew the unseen, I could have acquired much wealth, and no harm would have touched me. I am not except a warner and a bringer of good tidings to a people who believe."
189. It is He who created you from one soul and created from it its mate that he<sup>393</sup> might dwell in security with her. And when he [i.e., man] covers her,<sup>394</sup> she carries a light burden [i.e., a pregnancy] and continues therein. And when it becomes heavy,

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<sup>390</sup> Allāh will test them with one favor after another in spite of their disobedience, which only increases them in arrogance and sin.

<sup>391</sup> Literally, "resting" or "establishment."

<sup>392</sup> i.e., it is a source of concern, worry or fear.

<sup>393</sup> i.e., man or every descendent of Adam.

<sup>394</sup> An allusion to sexual intercourse.