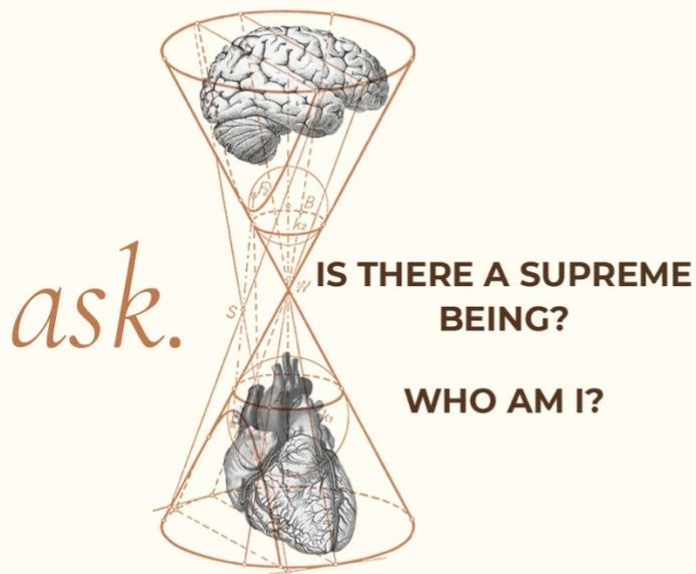


The Great Questions Community Seminar Fall 2023



Fall 2023:

*The Hebrew Bible and The Quran
The Rig Veda and The Popol Vuh*

SEPTEMBER 14
7:30-9:30 PM

OCTOBER 25
7:30-9:30 PM

Join us in asking the **Great Questions** of humankind through discussions of transformative texts.



Texts on Creation Part One

Thursday, September 14: The Hebrew Bible (Genesis 1-4) and The Quran (selected Surahs)

Over half of the world's population regards either The Hebrew Bible or Quran as the revealed word of God. For millennia, these texts provided and continue to provide guidance to billions of human beings who wonder at the mystery of our existence and hope to discover something about its meaning and purpose. This evening, we will join them in asking what these texts may have to instruct us about these things. While we will read and discuss the texts with respect, our goal this evening is not to demonstrate the authority of any one of them, but to listen intently and openly to what each of them have to say to us about their visions of the origins of the universe, our place in it and the nature of its Creator. Please consider the following questions as you read; they are designed to get you thinking about the similarities and differences between these texts.

The Hebrew Bible (Genesis 1-4)

1. These first four books of the Hebrew Bible give an account of the creation of the universe, the Earth, and all living things. It seems that there are multiple accounts here. Are these accounts contradictory or complementary? Are there also multiple accounts in the Quran?
2. After Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, “the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.” How did you react when you lost innocence or ignorance about something important? Would you do it differently if you could do it again?
3. Why does God not respect the offerings of Cain and what might be the significance of that? When have your efforts not brought about their desired end, how did you deal with that and how could you have done so better?

The Quran (selected Surahs)

1. What is significant about the ways in which the accounts of creation in the Bible and Quran parallel and depart? Consider especially the condition of being before creation, the activity/mechanism and duration of creation and the definition of a “day.”
2. The Hebrew Bible and Quran both present human beings as special parts of God/Allah’s creation, though there are some notable differences. What and how significant are they? How would you understand yourself differently if you believed human beings were created according to the text of the Bible or the Quran?
3. These sections of the Quran include accounts of Adam and Eve (though she is not mentioned by name in the Quran) and Cain and Abel (also both unnamed in the Quran Surah 5, 27-34). How do these accounts parallel and depart from those of the Hebrew Bible and what is the significance of these differences?

The First Book of Moses, called Genesis

{1:1} In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. {1:2} And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

{1:3} And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. {1:4} And God saw the light, that [it was] good: and God divided the light from the darkness. {1:5} And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

{1:6} And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. {1:7} And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so. {1:8} And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

{1:9} And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so. {1:10} And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good. {1:11} And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. {1:12} And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. {1:13} And the evening and the morning were the third day.

{1:14} And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: {1:15} And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. {1:16} And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also. {1:17} And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, {1:18} And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good. {1:19} And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. {1:20} And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl [that] may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. {1:21} And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. {1:22} And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. {1:23} And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

{1:24} And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. {1:25} And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.

{1:26} And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle,

and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. {1:27} So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. {1:28} And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

{1:29} And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. {1:30} And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so. {1:31} And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. {2:2} And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. {2:3} And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

{2:4} These [are] the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, {2:5} And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and [there was] not a man to till the ground. {2:6} But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. {2:7} And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

{2:8} And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. {2:9} And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. {2:10} And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. {2:11} The name of the first [is] Pison: that [is] it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where [there is] gold; {2:12} And the gold of that land [is] good: there [is] bdellium and the onyx stone. {2:13} And the name of the second river [is] Gihon: the same [is] it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. {2:14} And the name of the third river [is] Hiddekel: that [is] it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river [is] Euphrates. {2:15} And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. {2:16} And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: {2:17} But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

{2:18} And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. {2:19} And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought [them] unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that [was]

the name thereof. {2:20} And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. {2:21} And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; {2:22} And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. {2:23} And Adam said, This [is] now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. {2:24} Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. {2:25} And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

{3:1} Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

{3:2} And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: {3:3} But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. {3:4} And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: {3:5} For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. {3:6} And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. {3:7} And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they [were] naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. {3:8} And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. {3:9} And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where [art] thou? {3:10} And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I [was] naked; and I hid myself. {3:11} And he said, Who told thee that thou [wast] naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? {3:12} And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest [to be] with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. {3:13} And the LORD God said unto the woman, What [is] this [that] thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. {3:14} And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: {3:15} And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. {3:16} Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire [shall be] to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. {3:17} And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed [is] the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat [of] it all the days of thy life; {3:18} Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; {3:19} In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art,] and unto dust shalt thou return. {3:20} And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. {3:21} Unto Adam

also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. {3:22} And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: {3:23} Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. {3:24} So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

{4:1} And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. {4:2} And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. {4:3} And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. {4:4} And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: {4:5} But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. {4:6} And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? {4:7} If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee [shall be] his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. {4:8} And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

{4:9} And the LORD said unto Cain, Where [is] Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: [Am] I my brother's keeper? {4:10} And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. {4:11} And now [art] thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; {4:12} When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. {4:13} And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment [is] greater than I can bear. {4:14} Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, [that] every one that findeth me shall slay me. {4:15} And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

{4:16} And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. {4:17} And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. {4:18} And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

{4:19} And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one [was] Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. {4:20} And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and [of such as have] cattle. {4:21} And his brother's name [was] Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. {4:22} And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain [was] Naamah. {4:23} And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. {4:24} If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly

Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

{4:25} And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, [said she,] hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. {4:26} And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

{5:1} This [is] the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; {5:2} Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

{5:3} And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat [a son] in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: {5:4} And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: {5:5} And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died. {5:6} And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos: {5:7} And Seth lived after he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:8} And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died.

{5:9} And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan: {5:10} And Enos lived after he begat Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:11} And all the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: and he died.

{5:12} And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel: {5:13} And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:14} And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.

{5:15} And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared: {5:16} And Mahalaleel lived after he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:17} And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.

{5:18} And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch: {5:19} And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:20} And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.

{5:21} And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: {5:22} And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:23} And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: {5:24} And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him. {5:25} And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech: {5:26} And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:27} And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

{5:28} And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: {5:29} And he called his name Noah, saying, This [same] shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed. {5:30} And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters: {5:31} And all the days of Lamech were seven

hundred seventy and seven years: and he died. {5:32} And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Selections from The Holy Qur'an
On Creation
Translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali

Surah 39

اللَّهُ خَلِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ ﴿٦٢﴾

- 62 Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Guardian and Disposer of all affairs.

Surah 2

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ
بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ
الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

- 255 Allah! There is no god but He - the Living, the Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to His creatures as) Before or After or Behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His Throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth, and He feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. For He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory).

Surah 59

- 24 He is Allah, the Creator, the Evolver, the Bestower of Forms (or Colours). To Him belong the Most Beautiful Names: whatever is in the heavens and on earth, doth declare His Praises and Glory: and He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

Surah 16

- 40 For to anything which We have willed, We but say the Word, "Be", and it is.

Surah 2

117 To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth: when He decreeth a matter, He saith to it: "Be," and it is.

Surah 41

9 Say: Is it that ye deny Him Who created the earth in two Days? And do ye join equals with Him? He is the Lord of (all) the Worlds

10 He set on the (earth) mountains standing firm, high above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, in four Days, in accordance with (the needs of) those who seek (Sustenance)

11 Moreover He comprehended in His design the sky, and it had been (as) smoke: He said to it and to the earth: "Come ye together, willingly or unwillingly." They said: "We do come (together), in willing obedience."

12 So He Completed them as seven firmaments in two Days, and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command. And We Adorned the lower heaven with lights, and (provided it) with Guard. Such is the Decree of (Him) the Exalted in Might, Full Of Knowledge.

Surah 51

47 With power and skill did We construct the Firmament: for it is We Who create the vastness of Space.

48 And We have spread out the (spacious) earth: how excellently We do spread out!

49 And of every thing We have created pairs: that ye may receive instruction.

Surah 21

30 Do not the Unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of Creation), before We clove them asunder? We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe?

31 And We have set on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with them, and We have made therein broad highways (between mountains) for them to pass through: that

- they may receive guidance.
- 32 And We have made the heavens as a canopy well guarded: yet do they turn away from the Signs which these things (point to)!
- 33 It is He Who created the Night and the Day, and the sun and the moon: all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course.
- 34 We granted not to any man before thee permanent life (here): if then thou shouldst die, would they live permanently?
- 35 Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial. To Us must ye return.

Surah 57

- 1 Whatever is in the heavens and on earth - let it declare the Praises and Glory of Allah: for He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.
- 2 To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: it is He Who gives life and Death; and He has Power over all things.
- 3 He is the First and the Last, the Evident and the Hidden: and He has full knowledge of all things.
- 4 He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in Six Days, and is moreover firmly established on the Throne (of authority). He knows what enters within the earth and what comes forth out of it, what comes down from heaven and what mounts up to it. And He is with you wheresoever ye may be. And Allah sees well all that ye do.
- 5 To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: and all affairs are referred back to Allah.
- 6 He merges Night into Day, and He merges Day into Night; and He has full knowledge of the secrets of (all) hearts.

Surah 7

- 54 Your Guardian-Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six Days, and is firmly established on the Throne (of authority): He draweth the night as a veil o'er the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession: He created the sun, the moon, and the Stars, (all) governed by laws under His Command. Is it not His to create and to govern? Blessed be Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds!

Surah 32

- 5 He rules (all) affairs from the heavens to the earth: in the end will (all affairs) go up to Him, on a Day, the space whereof will be (as) a thousand years of your reckoning.

Surah 70

- 4 The angels and the Spirit ascend unto Him in a Day the measure whereof is (as) fifty thousand years:

Surah 13

- 2 Allah is He Who raised the heavens without any pillars that ye can see; He is firmly established on the Throne (of Authority); He has subjected the sun and the moon (to His Law)! Each one runs (its course) for a term appointed. He doth regulate all affairs, explaining the Signs in detail, that ye may believe with certainty in the meeting with your Lord.
- 3 And it is He Who spread out the earth, and set thereon mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers: and fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two: He draweth the Night as a veil o'er the Day. Behold, verily in these things there are Signs for those who consider!
- 4 And in the earth are tracts (diverse though) neighbouring, and gardens of vines and fields sown with corn, and palm trees – growing out of single roots or otherwise: watered with the same water, yet some of them We make more excellent than others to eat. Behold, verily in these things there are Signs for those who understand!

Surah 39

- 4 Had Allah wished to take to Himself a son, He could have chosen whom He pleased out of those whom He doth create: but Glory be to Him! (He is above such things.) He is Allah, the One, the Irresistible.
- 5 He created the heavens and the earth in true (proportions): He makes the Night overlap the Day, and the Day overlap the Night: He has subjected the sun and the moon (to His law): each one follows a course for a time appointed. Is not He the Exalted in Power - He Who forgives again and again?
- 6 He created you (all) from a single Person: then created, of like nature, his mate; and He sent down for you eight head of cattle in pairs: He makes you, in the wombs of your mothers, in stages, one after another, in three veils of darkness. Such is Allah, your Lord and Cherisher: to Him belongs (all) dominion. There is no god but He: then how are ye turned away (from your true Centre)?

Surah 36

- 33 A Sign for them is the earth that is dead: We do give it life, and produce grain therefrom, of which ye do eat.
- 34 And We produce therein orchards with date-palms and vines, and We cause springs to gush forth therein:
- 35 That they may enjoy the fruits of this (artistry): it was not their hands that made this: will they not then give thanks?
- 36 Glory to Allah, Who created in pairs all things that the earth produces, as well as their own (human) kind and (other) things of which they have no knowledge.
- 37 And a Sign for them is the Night: We withdraw therefrom the Day, and behold, they are plunged in darkness;
- 38 And the sun runs his course for a period determined for him: that is the decree of (Him), the Exalted in Might, the All-Knowing.
- 39 And the Moon - We have measured for it mansions (to traverse) till she returns like the old (and withered) lower part of a date-stalk.
- 40 It is not permitted to the Sun to catch up the Moon, nor can the Night outstrip the Day: each (just) swims along in (its own) orbit (according to Law).

Surah 79

- 27 What! Are ye the more difficult to create or the heaven (above)? (Allah) hath constructed it:
- 28 On high hath He raised its canopy, and He hath given it order and perfection.
- 29 Its night doth He endow with darkness, and its splendour doth He bring out (with light).
- 30 And the earth, moreover, hath He extended (to a wide expanse);
- 31 He draweth out therefrom its moisture and its pasture;
- 32 And the mountains hath He firmly fixed;
- 33 For use and convenience to you and your cattle.

Surah 14

- 32 It is Allah Who hath created the heavens and the earth and sendeth down rain from the skies, and with it bringeth out fruits wherewith to feed you; it is He who hath made the ships subject to you, that they may sail across the sea by His Command; and the rivers (also) hath He made subject to you.
- 33 And he hath made subject to you the sun and the moon, both

diligently pursuing their courses; and the Night and the Day
Hath he (also) made subject to you.

- 34 And He giveth to you all that ye ask for. But if ye count the favours of Allah, never will ye be able to number them. Verily, man is given up to injustice and ingratitude.

Surah 10

- 4 To Him will be your return - of all of you. The promise of Allah is true and sure. It is He who beginneth the process of Creation, and repeateth it, that He may reward with justice those who believe and work righteousness; but those who reject Him will have draughts of boiling fluids, and a Penalty grievous, because they did reject Him.
- 5 It is He who made the sun to be a shining glory and the moon to be a light (of beauty), and measured out stages for her, that ye might know the number of years and the count (of time).
Nowise did Allah create this but in truth and righteousness.
(Thus) doth He explain His Signs in detail, for those who understand.
- 6 Verily, in the alternation of the Night and the Day, and in all that Allah hath created, in the heavens and the earth, are Signs for those who fear him.

Surah 41

- 37 Among His Signs are the Night and the Day, and the Sun and The Moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah, Who created them, if it is Him ye wish to serve.

Surah 2

- 30 Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth.' They said: 'Wilt Thou place therein one who will make mischief therein and shed blood? – whilst we do celebrate Thy praises and glorify Thy holy (name)?' He said: 'I know what ye know not.'
- 31 And He taught Adam the nature of all things; then He placed them before the angels, and said: 'Tell Me the nature of these if ye are right.'
- 32 They said: 'Glory to Thee, of knowledge we have none, save what Thou hast taught us: in truth it is Thou who art perfect in knowledge and wisdom.'
- 33 He said: 'O Adam! Tell them their natures.' When he had told them, Allah said: 'Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of

heaven and earth, and I know what ye reveal and what ye conceal?’

- 34 And behold, We said to the angels: ‘Bow down to Adam,’ and they bowed down: not so Iblis: he refused and was haughty: he was of those who reject Faith.
- 35 We said: ‘O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things therein as (where and when) ye will; but approach not this tree, or ye run into harm and transgression.’
- 36 Then did Satan make them slip from the (Garden), and get them out of the state (of felicity) in which they had been. We said: ‘Get ye down, all (ye people), with enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood - for a time.’
- 37 Then learnt Adam from his Lord words of inspiration, and his Lord turned towards him; for He is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.
- 38 We said: ‘Get ye down all from here; and if, as is sure, there comes to you guidance from Me, whosoever follows My guidance, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.
- 39 ‘But those who reject Faith and belie Our Signs, they shall be Companions of fire; they shall abide therein.’

Surah 38

- 71 Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: ‘I am about to create from clay:
- 72 ‘When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of My spirit, fall ye down in obeisance unto him’
- 73 So the angels prostrated themselves, all of them together:
- 74 Not so Iblis: he was haughty, and became one of those who reject Faith.
- 75 (Allah) said: ‘O Iblis! What prevents thee from prostrating thyself to one whom I have created with My hands? Art thou haughty? Or art thou one of the high (and mighty) ones?’
- 76 (Iblis) said: ‘I am better than he: Thou createdst me from fire, and him thou createdst from clay.’
- 77 (Allah) said: ‘Then get thee out from here: for thou art rejected, accursed.
- 78 ‘And my curse shall be on thee till the Day of Judgement.’
- 79 (Iblis) said: ‘O my Lord! Give me then respite till the Day the (dead) are raised!’
- 80 (Allah) said: ‘Respite then is granted thee-
- 81 ‘Till the Day of the Time Appointed.’
- 82 (Iblis) said: ‘Then by thy power, I will put them all in the

Wrong-
83 'Except Thy Servants amongst them, sincere and purified (by
They Grace).'

84 (Allah) said: 'Then it is just and fitting – and I say what is just
and fitting-

85 'That I will certainly fill Hell with thee and those that follow
thee – every one.'

86 Say: 'No reward do I ask of you for this (Qur'an), nor am I a
pretender.

87 'This is no less than a Message to (all) the Worlds.

88 'And ye shall certainly know the truth of it (all) after a while.'

Surah 15

26 We created man from sounding clay, from mud moulded into
shape;

27 And the Jinn race, We had created before, from the fire of a
scorching wind.

28 Behold! Thy Lord said to the angels: 'I am about to create man,
from sounding clay, from mud moulded into shape;

29 'When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed
into him of My spirit, fall ye down in obeisance unto him.'

30 So the angels prostrated themselves, all of them together:

31 Not so Iblis: he refused to be among those who prostrated themselves.

32 (Allah) said: 'O Iblis! What is your reason for not being among
those who prostrated themselves?

33 (Iblis) said: 'I am not one to prostrate myself to man, whom
Thou didst create from sounding clay, from mud moulded into shape.'

34 (Allah) said: 'Then get thee out from here; for thou art
rejected, accursed.

35 'And the Curse shall be on thee till the Day. of Judgment.'

36 (Iblis) said: 'O my Lord! Give me then respite till the Day the (dead) are raised.'

37 (Allah) said: 'Respite is granted thee –

38 'Till the Day of the Time Appointed.'

39 (Iblis) said: 'O my Lord! Because Thou hast put me in the
wrong, I will make (wrong) fair-seeming to them on the earth,
and I will put them all in the wrong –

40 'Except Thy servants among them, sincere and purified (by Thy grace).'

41 (Allah) said: 'This (way of My sincere servants) is indeed a Way that leads straight to Me.

42 'For over My servants no authority shalt thou have, except
such as put themselves in the wrong and follow thee.

43 And verily, Hell is the promised abode for them all!

44 To it are seven Gates: for each of those Gates is a (special) class

(of sinners) assigned.

Surah 51

- 56 I have only created jinns and men, that they may serve Me.
57 No Sustenance do I require of them, nor do I require that they should feed Me.
58 For Allah is He Who gives (all) Sustenance - Lord of Power – Steadfast (for ever).
59 For the wrongdoers, their portion is like unto the portion of their fellows (of earlier generations): then let them not ask Me to hasten (that portion)!
60 Woe, then, to the Unbelievers, on account of that Day of theirs which they have been promised!

Surah 72

- 1 Say: It has been revealed to me that a company of Jinns listened (to the Qur'an). They said, "We have really heard a wonderful Recital!
2 "It gives guidance to the Right, and we have believed therein: we shall not join (in worship) any (gods) with our Lord."

Surah 7

- 11 It is We Who created you and gave you shape; then We bade the angels bow down to Adam, and they bowed down; not so Iblis; he refused to be of those who bowed down.
12 (Allah) said: 'What prevented thee from bowing down when I commanded thee?' He said: 'I am better than he: Thou didst create me from fire, and him from clay.'
13 (Allah) said: 'Get thee down from this: it is not for thee to be arrogant here: get out, for thou art the meanest (of creatures).'
- 14 He said: 'Give me respite till the day they are raised up.'
15 (Allah) said: 'Be thou among those who have respite.'
16 He said: 'Because Thou hast thrown me out of the Way, lo, I will lie in wait for them on Thy Straight Way:
17 'Then will I assault them from before them and behind them, from their right and their left: nor wilt Thou find, in most of them, gratitude (for Thy mercies).'
18 (Allah) said: 'Get out from this, disgraced and expelled. If any of them follow thee - Hell will I fill with you all.
19 'O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden, and enjoy (its good things) as ye wish: but approach not this tree, or ye

- run into harm and transgression.'
- 20 Then began Satan to whisper suggestions to them, bringing openly before their minds all their shame that was hidden from them (before): he said: 'Your Lord only forbade you this tree, lest ye should become angels or such beings as live for ever.'
- 21 And he swore to them both, that he was their sincere advisor
- 22 So by deceit he brought about their fall: when they tasted of the tree, their shame became manifest to them, and they began to sew together the leaves of the Garden over their bodies. And their Lord called unto them: 'Did I not forbid you that tree, and tell you that Satan was an avowed enemy unto you?'
- 23 They said: 'Our Lord! We have wronged our own souls: if Thou forgive us not and bestow not upon us Thy Mercy, we shall certainly be lost.'
- 24 (Allah) said: 'Get ye down, with enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood - for a time.'
- 25 He said: 'Therein shall ye live, and therein shall ye die; but from it shall ye be taken out (at last).'

Surah 4

- 1 O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, Who created you from a single Person, created, of like nature, his mate, and from the two of them scattered (like seeds) countless men and women; reverence Allah, through Whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (that bore you): for Allah ever watches over you.

Surah 20

- 120 But Satan whispered evil to him: he said, 'O Adam! Shall I lead thee to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that never decays?'
- 121 In the result, they both ate of the tree, and so their nakedness, appeared to them: they began to sew. together, for their covering, leaves from the Garden: thus did Adam disobey his Lord, and allow himself to be seduced.
- 122 But his Lord chose him (for His Grace): He turned to him and gave him Guidance.
- 123 He said: 'Get ye down, both of you - all together, from the Garden, with enmity one to another: but if, as is sure, there comes to you guidance from Me, whosoever follows My Guidance, will not lose his way, nor fall into misery.'

- 124 'But whosoever turns away from My Message, verily for him is a life narrowed down, and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Judgment.'
- 125 He will say: 'O my Lord! Why hast Thou raised me up blind while I had sight (before)?'
- 126 (Allah) will say: 'Thus didst Thou, when Our Signs came unto thee, disregard them: so wilt thou, this day, be disregarded.'
- 127 And thus do We recompense him who transgresses beyond bounds and believes not in the Signs of his Lord: and the Penalty of the Hereafter is far more grievous and more enduring.
- 128 Is it not a warning to such men (to call to mind) how many generations before them We destroyed, in whose haunts they (now) move? Verily, in this are Signs for men endued with understanding.

Surah 5

- 27 Recite to them the truth of the story of the two sons of Adam. Behold, they each presented a sacrifice (to Allah): it was accepted from one, but not from the other. Said the latter: 'Be sure I will slay thee.' 'Surely,' said the former, 'Allah doth accept of the sacrifice of those who are righteous.'
- 28 'If thou dost stretch thy hand against me, to slay me, it is not for me to stretch my hand against thee to slay thee: for I do fear Allah, the Cherisher of the worlds.'
- 29 'For me, I intend to let thee draw on thyself my sin as well as thine, for thou wilt be among the Companions of the Fire and that is the reward of those who do wrong.'
- 30 The (selfish) soul of the other led him to the murder of his brother: he murdered him, and became (himself) one of the lost ones.
- 31 Then Allah sent a raven, who scratched the ground, to show him how to hide the shame of his brother. 'Woe is me!' said he; 'Was I not even able to be as this raven, and to hide the shame of my brother?' Then he became full of regrets –
- 32 On that account: We ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people. Then although there came to them Our Messengers with Clear Signs, yet, even after that, many of them continued to commit excesses in the land.
- 33 The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief,

through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter;

34 Except for those who repent before they fall into your power: in that case, know that Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

35 Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good in way of trial. To Us must ye return.

Surah 3

81 Behold, Allah took the Covenant of the Prophets, saying: 'I give you a Book and Wisdom; then comes to you a Messenger, confirming what is with you; you must believe in him and render him help.' Allah said: 'Do ye agree, and take this my Covenant as binding on you?' They said: 'We agree.' He said: 'Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.'

82 If any turn back after this, they are perverted transgressors.

83 Do they seek for other than Religion of Allah? – while all creatures in the heavens and on earth have, willing or unwilling, bowed to His Will (accepted Islam), and to Him shall they all be brought back.

84 Say: 'We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord: we make no distinction between one and another among them, and to Allah do we bow our will (in Islam).'

85 If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (all spiritual good).

86 How shall Allah guide those who reject faith after they accepted it and bore witness that the Messenger was true and that Clear Signs had come unto them? And Allah guides not a people unjust.

87 Of such the reward is that on them (rests) the curse of Allah, of His angels, and of all mankind.