

70
Al-Ma'ârij
The Steps
The Ascending Stairways, Staircases
Upward, Skeptic

 **Link (POD)** (Read the *Prophet of Doom* review of this Surah)

AA - Ahmed Ali **NQ** - The Noble Qur'an
PK - Pickthal **SH** - Shakir **YU** - Yusuf Ali

1.

- AA** In the name of Allah, most benevolent, ever-merciful. AN INQUIRER ASKED for the affliction that is to come
- NQ** A questioner asked concerning a torment about to befall
- PK** A questioner questioned concerning the doom about to fall
- SH** One demanding, demanded the chastisement which must befall
- YU** A questioner asked about a Penalty to befall-

2.

- AA** Upon the infidels -- which none would be able to repel --
- NQ** Upon the disbelievers, which none can avert,
- PK** Upon the disbelievers, which none can repel,
- SH** The unbelievers-- there is none to avert it--
- YU** The Unbelievers, the which there is none to ward off,-

3.

- AA** From God, the Lord of the steps (of progression),
- NQ** From Allâh, the Lord of the ways of ascent.
- PK** From Allah, Lord of the Ascending Stairways
- SH** From Allah, the Lord of the ways of Ascent.
- YU** (A Penalty) from Allah, Lord of the Ways of Ascent.

4.

- AA** To whom the angels and the soul take a day to ascend, whose length is fifty thousand years.
- NQ** The angels and the Rûh [Jibrael (Gabriel)] ascend to Him in a Day the measure whereof is fifty thousand years,
- PK** (Whereby) the angels and the Spirit ascend unto Him in a Day whereof the span is fifty thousand years.
- SH** To Him ascend the angels and the Spirit in a day the measure of which is fifty thousand years.
- YU** The angels and the spirit ascend unto him in a Day the measure whereof is (as) fifty thousand years:

5.

So persevere with becoming patience.

AA

NQ So be patient (O Muhammad SAW), with a good patience.

PK But be patient (O Muhammad) with a patience fair to see.

SH Therefore endure with a goodly patience.

YU Therefore do thou hold Patience,- a Patience of beautiful (contentment).

6.

AA They surely take it to be far away,

NQ Verily! They see it (the torment) afar off,

PK Lo! they behold it afar off

SH Surely they think it to be far off,

YU They see the (Day) indeed as a far-off (event):

7.

AA But We see it very near.

NQ But We see it (quite) near.

PK While we behold it nigh:

SH And We see it nigh.

YU But We see it (quite) near.

8.

AA The day the sky becomes like molten brass,

NQ The Day that the sky will be like the boiling filth of oil, (or molten copper or silver or lead, etc.).

PK The day when the sky will become as molten copper,

SH On the day when the heaven shall be as molten copper

YU The Day that the sky will be like molten brass,

9.

AA The mountains like the tufts of (carded) wool,

NQ And the mountains will be like flakes of wool,

PK And the hills become as flakes of wool,

SH And the mountains shall be as tufts of wool

YU And the mountains will be like wool,

10.

AA And no friend inquires after friend

NQ And no friend will ask of a friend,

PK And no familiar friend will ask a question of his friend

SH And friend shall not ask of friend

YU And no friend will ask after a friend,

11.

AA Though within sight of one another. The sinner would like to ransom himself from the torment of that Day by offering his sons,

NQ Though they shall be made to see one another [(i.e. on the Day of Resurrection), there will be none but see his father, children and relatives, but he will neither speak to them nor will ask them for any help)], - the Mujrim, (criminal, sinner, disbeliever, etc.) would desire to ransom himself from the punishment of that Day by his children.

- PK Though they will be given sight of them. The guilty man will long to be able to ransom himself from the punishment of that day at the price of his children
- SH (Though) they shall be made to see each other. The guilty one would fain redeem himself from the chastisement of that day by (sacrificing) his children,
- YU Though they will be put in sight of each other,- the sinner's desire will be: Would that he could redeem himself from the Penalty of that Day by (sacrificing) his children,

12.

- AA His wife and his brother,
- NQ And his wife and his brother,
- PK And his spouse and his brother
- SH And his wife and his brother
- YU His wife and his brother,

13.

- AA And his family who had stood by him,
- NQ And his kindred who sheltered him,
- PK And his kin that harboured him
- SH And the nearest of his kinsfolk who gave him shelter,
- YU His kindred who sheltered him,

14.

- AA And all those who are on the earth, to save himself.
- NQ And all that are in the earth, so that it might save him[] .
- PK And all that are in the earth, if then it might deliver him.
- SH And all those that are in the earth, (wishing) then (that) this might deliver him.
- YU And all, all that is on earth,- so it could deliver him:

15.

- AA But never. It is pure white flame
- NQ By no means! Verily, it will be the Fire of Hell!
- PK But nay! for lo! it is the fire of hell
- SH By no means! Surely it is a flaming fire
- YU By no means! for it would be the Fire of Hell!-

16.

- AA That would skin the scalp.
- NQ Taking away (burning completely) the head skin!
- PK Eager to roast;
- SH Dragging by the head,
- YU Plucking out (his being) right to the skull!-

17.

- AA It will summon whoever turns his back and flees,
- NQ Calling: "[O Kafir (O disbeliever in Allâh, His angels, His Book, His Messengers, Day of Resurrection and in Al-Qadar (Divine Preordainments), O Mushrik (O polytheist, disbeliever in the Oneness of Allâh)] (all) such as turn their backs and turn away their faces (from Faith) [picking and swallowing them up from that great gathering of mankind (on the Day of Resurrection) just as a bird

picks up a food-grain from the earth with its beak and swallows it up] [Tafsir Al-Qurtubî, Vol. 18, Page 289]

- PK It calleth him who turned and fled (from truth),
 SH It shall claim him who turned and fled (from truth),
 YU Inviting (all) such as turn their backs and turn away their faces (from the Right).

18.

- AA Who amasses and then hoards.
 NQ And collect (wealth) and hide it (from spending it in the Cause of Allâh).
 PK And hoarded (wealth) and withheld it.
 SH And amasses (wealth) then shuts it up.
 YU And collect (wealth) and hide it (from use)!

19.

- AA Surely man is greedy by nature.
 NQ Verily, man (disbeliever) was created very impatient;
 PK Lo! man was created anxious,
 SH Surely man is created of a hasty temperament
 YU Truly man was created very impatient; -

20.

- AA If evil befalls him he is perturbed;
 NQ Irritable (discontented) when evil touches him;
 PK Fretful when evil befalleth him
 SH Being greatly grieved when evil afflicts him
 YU Fretful when evil touches him;

21.

- AA If good comes to him he holds back his hand,
 NQ And niggardly when good touches him; -
 PK And, when good befalleth him, grudging;
 SH And niggardly when good befalls him
 YU And niggardly when good reaches him; -

22.

- AA Except those who closely follow (the Book of God),
 NQ Except those devoted to Salât (prayers)[]
 PK Save worshippers.
 SH Except those who pray,
 YU Not so those devoted to Prayer; -

23.

- AA Who persevere in devotion,
 NQ Those who remain constant in their Salât (prayers);
 PK Who are constant at their worship
 SH Those who are constant at their prayer
 YU Those who remain steadfast to their prayer;

24.

- AA In whose wealth a due share is included
- NQ And those in whose wealth there is a known right,
- PK And in whose wealth there is a right acknowledged
- SH And those in whose wealth there is a fixed portion.
- YU And those in whose wealth is a recognised right.

25.

- AA For the needy and those dispossessed,
- NQ For the beggar who asks, and for the unlucky who has lost his property and wealth, (and his means of living has been straitened);
- PK For the beggar and the destitute;
- SH For him who begs and for him who is denied (good)
- YU For the (needy) who asks and him who is prevented (for some reason from asking);

26.

- AA And those who believe in the Day of Judgement,
- NQ And those who believe in the Day of Recompense,
- PK And those who believe in the Day of Judgment,
- SH And those who accept the truth of the judgment day
- YU And those who hold to the truth of the Day of Judgment;

27.

- AA And those who fear the punishment of their Lord, --
- NQ And those who fear the torment of their Lord,
- PK And those who are fearful of their Lord's doom -
- SH And those who are fearful of the chastisement of their Lord--
- YU And those who fear the displeasure of their Lord,-

28.

- AA Surely no one can be secure from the punishment of his Lord, --
- NQ Verily! The torment of their Lord is that before which none can feel secure,
- PK Lo! the doom of their Lord is that before which none can feel secure -
- SH Surely the chastisement of their Lord is (a thing) not to be felt secure of--
- YU For their Lord's displeasure is the opposite of Peace and Tranquillity; -

29.

- AA And those who guard their sex except from their wives and women slaves of old
- NQ And those who guard their chastity (i.e. private parts from illegal sexual acts) [] .
- PK And those who preserve their chastity
- SH And those who guard their private parts,
- YU And those who guard their chastity,

30.

- AA Are free of blame,
- NQ Except with their wives and the (women slaves and captives) whom their right hands possess, for (then) they are not to be blamed,

- PK Save with their wives and those whom their right hands possess, for thus they are not blameworthy;
- SH Except in the case of their wives or those whom their right hands possess-- for these surely are not to be blamed,
- YU Except with their wives and the (captives) whom their right hands possess,- for (then) they are not to be blamed,

31.

- AA But those who seek more than this will be transgressors;
- NQ But whosoever seeks beyond that, then it is those who are trespassers.[]
- PK But whoso seeketh more than that, those are they who are transgressors;
- SH But he who seeks to go beyond this, these it is that go beyond the limits--
- YU But those who trespass beyond this are transgressors; -

32.

- AA And those who fulfil their trusts and covenants,
- NQ And those who keep their trusts and covenants;
- PK And those who keep their pledges and their covenant,
- SH And those who are faithful to their trusts and their covenant
- YU And those who respect their trusts and covenants;

33.

- AA Who uphold their testimonies,
- NQ And those who stand firm in their testimonies;
- PK And those who stand by their testimony
- SH And those who are upright in their testimonies,
- YU And those who stand firm in their testimonies;

34.

- AA And those who are mindful of their moral obligations.
- NQ And those who guard their Salât (prayers) well[] ,
- PK And those who are attentive at their worship.
- SH And those who keep a guard on their prayer,
- YU And those who guard (the sacredness) of their worship; -

35.

- AA They will live in gardens with honour.
- NQ Such shall dwell in the Gardens (i.e. Paradise) honoured.
- PK These will dwell in Gardens, honoured.
- SH Those shall be in gardens, honored.
- YU Such will be the honoured ones in the Gardens (of Bliss).

36.

- AA What is the matter with unbelievers that they stare at you with fixed gazes and hasten towards you
- NQ So what is the matter with those who disbelieve that they hasten to listen from you (O Muhammad SAW), in order to belie you and to mock at you, and at Allâh's Book (this Qur'ân).
- PK What aileth those who disbelieve, that they keep staring toward thee (O Muhammad), open-eyed,

SH But what is the matter with those who disbelieve that they hasten on around you,
 YU Now what is the matter with the Unbelievers that they rush madly before thee-

37.

AA In crowds, right and left?
 NQ (Sitting) in groups on the right and on the left (of you, O Muhammad SAW)?
 PK On the right and on the left, in groups?
 SH On the right hand and on the left, in sundry parties?
 YU From the right and from the left, in crowds?

38.

AA Does every one of them wish to enter the garden of tranquility?
 NQ Does every man of them hope to enter the Paradise of delight?
 PK Doth every man among them hope to enter the Garden of Delight?
 SH Does every man of them desire that he should be made to enter the garden of bliss?
 YU Does every man of them long to enter the Garden of Bliss?

39.

AA Never so. We have created them from what they know.
 NQ No, that is not like that! Verily, We have created them out of that which they know!
 PK Nay, verily. Lo! We created them from what they know.
 SH By no means! Surely We have created them of what they know.
 YU By no means! For We have created them out of the (base matter) they know!

40.

AA So I swear by the Lord of the Easts and the Wests that We are certainly able
 NQ So I swear by the Lord of all [the three hundred and sixty (360)] points of sunrise and sunset in the east and the west that surely We are Able
 PK But nay! I swear by the Lord of the rising-places and the setting-places of the planets that We verily are Able
 SH But nay! I swear by the Lord of the Easts and the Wests that We are certainly able
 YU Now I do call to witness the Lord of all points in the East and the West that We can certainly-

41.

AA To bring better people than they in their place; and they will not be able to thwart Us.
 NQ To replace them by (others) better than them; and We are not to be outrun.
 PK To replace them by (others) better than them. And we are not to be outrun.
 SH To bring instead (others) better than them, and We shall not be overcome.
 YU Substitute for them better (men) than they; And We are not to be defeated (in Our Plan).

42.

AA So leave them to their vain disputes and amusement till they meet their day (of reckoning) promised them,
 NQ So leave them to plunge in vain talk[] and play about, until they meet their

Day which they are promised.

- PK So let them chat and play until they meet their Day which they are promised,
- SH Therefore leave them alone to go on with the false discourses and to sport until they come face to face with that day of theirs with which they are threatened;
- YU So leave them to plunge in vain talk and play about, until they encounter that Day of theirs which they have been promised!-

43.

- AA The day when they will come out of their graves in all haste as though rushing to their altars,
- NQ The Day when they will come out of the graves quickly as racing to a goal,
- PK The day when they come forth from the graves in haste, as racing to a goal,
- SH The day on which they shall come forth from their graves in haste, as if they were hastening on to a goal,
- YU The Day whereon they will issue from their sepulchres in sudden haste as if they were rushing to a goal-post (fixed for them),-

44.

- AA Eyes lowered, shame attending. That is the day they have been promised!
- NQ With their eyes lowered in fear and humility, ignominy covering them (all over)! That is the Day which they were promised!
- PK With eyes aghast, abasement stupefying them: Such is the Day which they are promised.
- SH Their eyes cast down; disgrace shall overtake them; that is the day which they were threatened with.
- YU Their eyes lowered in dejection,- ignominy covering them (all over)! such is the Day the which they are promised!