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Al-Balad
The Earth
The City, This Countryside

 **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. I CALL THIS earth to witness --
NQ I swear by this city (Makkah);
PK Nay, I swear by this city -
SH Nay! I swear by this city.
YU I do call to witness this City; -

2.

- AA** And you are free to live upon it, --
NQ And you are free (from sin, to punish the enemies of Islâm on the Day of the conquest) in this city (Makkah)[] ,
PK And thou art an indweller of this city -
SH And you shall be made free from obligation in this city--
YU And thou art a freeman of this City; -

3.

- AA** And the parent and the offspring,
NQ And by the begetter (i.e. Adam >>) and that which he begot (i.e. his progeny);
PK And the begetter and that which he begat,
SH And the begetter and whom he begot.
YU And (the mystic ties of) parent and child; -

4.

- AA** That We created man in toil and trouble.
NQ Verily, We have created man in toil.
PK We verily have created man in an atmosphere:
SH Certainly We have created man to be in distress.
YU Verily We have created man into toil and struggle.

5.

- AA** Does he think that no one has power over him?
NQ Thinks he that none can overcome him?
PK Thinketh he that none hath power over him?
SH Does he think that no one has power over him?

YU Thinketh he, that none hath power over him?

6.

AA He says: "I have wasted a great deal of wealth."

NQ He says (boastfully): "I have wasted wealth in abundance!"

PK And he saith: I have destroyed vast wealth:

SH He shall say: I have wasted much wealth.

YU He may say (boastfully); Wealth have I squandered in abundance!

7.

AA Does he think that no one sees him?

NQ Thinks he that none sees him?

PK Thinketh he that none beholdeth him?

SH Does he think that no one sees him?

YU Thinketh he that none beholdeth him?

8.

AA Did We not give him two eyes,

NQ Have We not made for him a pair of eyes?

PK Did We not assign unto him two eyes

SH Have We not given him two eyes,

YU Have We not made for him a pair of eyes?-

9.

AA One tongue, and two lips,

NQ And a tongue and a pair of lips?

PK And a tongue and two lips,

SH And a tongue and two lips,

YU And a tongue, and a pair of lips?-

10.

AA And showed him two highways (of good and evil)?

NQ And shown him the two ways (good and evil)?

PK And guide him to the parting of the mountain ways?

SH And pointed out to him the two conspicuous ways?

YU And shown him the two highways?

11.

AA But he could not scale the steep ascent.

NQ But he has made no effort to pass on the path that is steep.

PK But he hath not attempted the Ascent -

SH But he would not attempt the uphill road,

YU But he hath made no haste on the path that is steep.

12.

AA How will you comprehend what the Steep ascent is? --

NQ And what will make you know the path that is steep?

PK Ah, what will convey unto thee what the Ascent is! -

SH And what will make you comprehend what the uphill road is?

YU And what will explain to thee the path that is steep?-

13.

AA To free a neck (from the burden of debt or slavery),

NQ (It is) Freeing a neck (slave, etc.)[]

PK (It is) to free a slave,

SH (It is) the setting free of a slave,

YU (It is:) freeing the bondman;

14.

AA Or to feed in times of famine

NQ Or giving food in a day of hunger (famine),

PK And to feed in the day of hunger.

SH Or the giving of food in a day of hunger

YU Or the giving of food in a day of privation

15.

AA The orphan near in relationship,

NQ To an orphan near of kin.

PK An orphan near of kin,

SH To an orphan, having relationship,

YU To the orphan with claims of relationship,

16.

AA Or the poor in distress;

NQ Or to a Miskin (poor) afflicted with misery.

PK Or some poor wretch in misery,

SH Or to the poor man lying in the dust.

YU Or to the indigent (down) in the dust.

17.

AA And to be of those who believe, and urge upon one another to persevere, and urge upon each other to be kind.

NQ Then he became one of those who believed, and recommended one another to perseverance and patience, and (also) recommended one another to pity and compassion.

PK And to be of those who believe and exhort one another to perseverance and exhort one another to pity.

SH Then he is of those who believe and charge one another to show patience, and charge one another to show compassion.

YU Then will he be of those who believe, and enjoin patience, (constancy, and self-restraint), and enjoin deeds of kindness and compassion.

18.

AA They are the people of the right hand (and will succeed).

NQ They are those on the Right Hand (the dwellers of Paradise),

PK Their place will be on the right hand.

SH These are the people of the right hand.

YU Such are the Companions of the Right Hand.

19.

- AA But those who deny Our revelations are the people of the left hand:
- NO But those who disbelieved in Our Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), they are those on the Left Hand (the dwellers of Hell).
- PK But those who disbelieve Our revelations, their place will be on the left hand.
- SH And (as for) those who disbelieve in our communications, they are the people of the left hand.
- YU But those who reject Our Signs, they are the (unhappy) Companions of the Left Hand.

20.

- AA The Fire will vault them over.
- NO The Fire will be shut over them (i.e. they will be enveloped by the Fire without any opening or window or outlet.[])
- PK Fire will be an awning over them.
- SH On them is fire closed over.
- YU On them will be Fire vaulted over (all round).