

Sura 35: Fatir (Orignator)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 3:

1. *Praise be to God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who made the angels messengers having wings two, three and four. He increases in the creation what He wills. God is All-Powerful over everything.*
2. *Whatever God grants to people of mercy none can withhold it; and that which He withholds none can release thereafter. He is the Eminent, the Wise.*
3. *People, remember God's Blessing upon you. Is there any creator other than God who provides for you from the sky and the earth? There is no deity except Him. How can you be deluded? (35: 1 – 3)*

This Sura was revealed in Mecca, its style is very much similar to the style of Surat Al-Ra'd (Chapter 13). Its words have harmonious sounds which send tremors in the heart to awaken it from its heedlessness. It induces the heart to reflect on the enormity of the creation and the signs of God in the universe.

The main theme of the Sura revolves around alerting the heart to the favors of God, so it starts appropriately with the praise of God, "*Praise be to God*. The statement of God's creative power follows, "*the Creator of the heavens and the earth*." It is He who is the sole Creator of the heavens and the earth. All of the planets that we observe in the sky and which we know very little about have been created by God.

The Sura discusses God's revelation and His messengers; the angels are among the messengers of God. The angels serve as communicators between the heaven and the earth, "*Who made the angels messengers having wings two, three and four*." This is the first statement in the Quran which describes the form of the angels. This description does not allow us to speculate about how the angels look like. This is part of the unseen. This is also emphasized in this verse by stating that God's creation is beyond our human imagination, "*He increases in the creation what He wills. God is All-Powerful over everything*."

Another form of God's unlimited power is explained in the following verse, "*Whatever God grants to people of mercy none can withhold it; and that which He withholds none can release thereafter. He is the Eminent, the Wise*." When people grasp the full meaning of this verse, they understand that there is only one power in this universe: the power of God. There is only one source for true mercy in this universe: God. God's mercy is limitless and is present in so many forms. People can see God's mercy in their own selves as well as in things that surround them. The mercy of God is reflected on the things that He allowed us to do as well as in the things that He prevented us from doing. One of the aspects of the mercy of God is its availability for God's servants. The hope, the expectation, and the realization of the mercy fill the heart with security and contentment. No one controls God's mercy except Him. This verse, if fully understood, changes the life of the human being and establishes new set of standards and values. The servant

of God should not expect hope from any other than God and should not fear anyone else except Him.

The lessons learnt from the previous two verses are reiterated, “*People, remember God's Blessing upon you.*” It reminds people of the Oneness of the Creator and the Oneness of the Provider. A rhetorical question is posed to express the astonishment at those who do not understand these facts, “*Is there any creator other than God who provides for you from the sky and the earth? There is no deity except Him. How can you be deluded?*” The blessings of God are all around us. How can we forget?

Verses 4 to 8:

4. *And if they deny you, messengers before you were also denied. All matters are returned to God.*
5. *People, certainly the promise of God is true. Do not let this present life deceive you, nor let the deceiver deceive you about God.*
6. *Verily Satan is an enemy to you; so treat him as an enemy. He only invites his followers so that they may become companions of the blazing Fire.*
7. *Those who disbelieve, theirs will be an awful torment; and those who believe and do good deeds, theirs will be forgiveness and a great reward.*
8. *Is he, the evil of whose deeds is made attractive to him so that he deems it good (like a believer)? God verily sends whom He wills astray, and guides whom He wills; so let not your soul expire in sorrow over them. God knows what they do. (35: 4 – 8)*

“*And if they deny you, messengers before you were also denied. All matters are returned to God.*” In this verse, God comforts His Messenger (PBUH) by stating several facts. People rejection of God’s messengers is not a new phenomenon; previous messengers were rejected as well. All matters and affairs will return back to God. Only He will decide the consequences. Then a warning is addressed to all people, “*People, certainly the promise of God is true. Do not let this present life deceive you, nor let the deceiver deceive you about God.*” God’s promise is the truth. God never breaks His promise. So, let not the temptations of life deceive you. Satan is your enemy; he will always try to tempt you, “*Verily Satan is an enemy to you; so treat him as an enemy. He only invites his followers so that they may become companions of the blazing Fire.*” Make him your enemy. Those who follow Satan will end up in the blazing Fire. Can a sane person accept an invitation to Hell Fire? Consider the consequences of belonging to one of the two groups, “*Those who disbelieve, theirs will be an awful torment; and those who believe and do good deeds, theirs will be forgiveness and a great reward.*”

“*Is he, the evil of whose deeds is made attractive to him so that he deems it good (like a believer)? God verily sends whom He wills astray, and guides whom He wills; so let not your soul expire in sorrow over them. God knows what they do.*” The door to sin is opened by Satan who makes it seem right. People who think that they are always right and they never doubt the goodness of their decisions are an easy prey for Satan. Satan leads them to sin easily because they never stop to think about their actions and they do not accept any criticism. Those who

follow Satan are bound to go astray and those who resist the temptation of Satan are bound to be guided. So, you (Muhammad) do not feel sorry for those who are not guided. It is not your task to make people guided. This is a matter that only God controls.

Verses 9 to 14:

9. *It is God who sends forth the winds, so that they stir the clouds, and We drive them to a dead land, and revive the earth therewith after its death. Such is the resurrection.*
10. *Whoso desires eminence, all eminence belongs to God. To Him good words ascend, and the good deed lifts them up, and (as for) those who plan evil deeds, they shall have a severe torment; and their plan shall perish.*
11. *And God created you from dust; then from a sperm-drop; then He made you in pairs. And no female conceives or delivers except with His knowledge. And no aged person is granted (additional) years, nor is his life span shortened but it is in a record. Indeed, this is easy for God.*
12. *And the two seas are not alike – one is fresh, sweet, and good to drink from; and the other is bitter and salty. And from them both you eat fresh meat and extract ornaments that you wear. And you see the ship plowing through them that you may seek of His grace, and that haply you may give thanks.*
13. *He merges the night into the day, and he merges the day into the night. And he subjected the sun and the moon: each one runs its course for an appointed term. This is God your Lord; to Him belong all the Sovereignty; and those whom you invoke instead of Him do not own so much as the white spot on a date-stone.*
14. *If you invoke them, they will not hear to your call, and if they were to hear, they cannot answer your (prayer). On the Day of Resurrection, they will reject your "partnership". And none can tell you (the truth) like the One who is Totally-Aware. (35: 9 -14)*

“It is God who sends forth the winds, so that they stir the clouds, and We drive them to a dead land, and revive the earth therewith after its death. Such is the resurrection.” The scene of the clouds being formed by the action of the wind is one of the cosmic signs of God. God moves the clouds wherever He wills and causes the rain to come down to revive a barren land. This is an example of the resurrection that happens in front of our eyes on earth. It is a concrete example for people who reject the concept of resurrection to observe.

The narrative then moves to explain the meaning of dignity and eminence and relates it to the doing of good deeds, *“Whoso desires eminence, all eminence belongs to God. To Him good words ascend, and the good deed lifts them up, and (as for) those who plan evil deeds, they shall have a severe torment; and their plan shall perish.”* It may be that good life is the common factor in the two separate issues of land revival and good words and deeds. Land revival is necessary for people to have a good life and similarly good words and deeds are necessary for people to lead a good life. This has been alluded to before in Surat Abraham (Chapter 14, verses

24-26), where the analogy between a good word and a good tree was given. Both a good word and a good tree embody the meaning of the growth of good life.

The idolaters of Mecca fought to preserve their polytheistic tradition because they wanted to maintain their status among the Arabs. The verse tells them that they should seek dignity and eminence with God. It is only God that can grant dignity and eminence. Those whom God will dignify will never bow their heads to any of His creatures. This is true dignity. The way to dignity is through good words and good deeds. True dignity is an inner feeling that rests deeply in the hearts of the people. It raises people above their whims and desires. Following one's whims and desires usually opens the chances for being humiliated. Observing God and remaining conscious of Him helps people control their whims and desires. This is how good words and deeds are linked to eminence and dignity. Those who plot evil plots thinking that they can achieve eminence through their plots are doomed. Not only they will have a severe punishment but their plans will never succeed.

“And God created you from dust; then from a sperm-drop; then He made you in pairs.” The verse first mentions the first creation of humankind from dust then it refers to the first stage of pregnancy. Dust is a lifeless matter while the sperm-drop is full of life. The creation of humankind is a miracle and its secrets are not known yet. The development of a human being from a sperm-drop is also a mystery whose secrets are still hidden. From a sperm-drop cells grow and come together to form the different parts of the human body. Each body is unique in its characteristics. Two human beings then come together to repeat the whole process again. The miraculous creation of the human being is mentioned repeatedly in the Quran so that people may reflect on it. The verse then refers to the absolute and comprehensive knowledge of God. God knows His creation, *“And no female conceives or delivers except with His knowledge.”* This statement indicates that the word, “female,” means all types of females: human, animals, birds, and all other creatures of God. God's knowledge encompasses each and every living being as they are being created. Similarly, God knows how each one of His creatures will live, *“And no aged person is granted (additional) years, nor is his life span shortened but it is in a record. Indeed, this is easy for God.”* This tremendous amount of knowledge is in a record, a record that is easy for God to maintain.

The verses continue to describe another of the cosmic signs of God, *“And the two seas are not alike – one is fresh, sweet, and good to drink from; and the other is bitter and salty. And from them both you eat fresh meat and extract ornaments that you wear. And you see the ship plowing through them that you may seek of His grace, and that haply you may give thanks.”* The divine will has created different types of water, some sweet and some salty. Both are of benefit and essential for the continuation of life on earth; from each we eat fish and we obtain stones that can be used in making jewelry. The ships go through them both carrying people and commodities. People should appreciate the blessings of God.

The perpetuity of the succession of night and day and the motion of the sun and moon is another of the cosmic signs of God, *“He merges the night into the day, and he merges the day into the night. And he subjected the sun and the moon: each one runs its course for an appointed term.”*

“This is God your Lord; to Him belong all the Sovereignty; and those whom you invoke instead of Him do not own so much as the white spot on a date-stone. If you invoke them, they will not hear to your call, and if they were to hear, they cannot answer your (prayer). On the Day of Resurrection, they will reject your "partnership". And none can tell you (the truth) like the One who is Totally-Aware.” It is God who sends the winds, created the clouds, brings the barren land to life, created you from dust, and created you into pairs. It is He who knows what each female carries and what she delivers. He knows how long each one will live. He created the two types of seas. He merges the day and the night, and He subjected the sun and the moon to run around, until a prescribed term has been reached. He is the Sovereign. Those whom you invoke beside Him do not know anything. They will not hear you when you call upon them; and if they hear you they will not respond to your call. On the Day of the Resurrection they will disown you. This is the truth because only He who is Totally-Aware of everything can tell you the truth.

Verses 15 to 26:

- 15. People, it is you that are in need of God. And God is the Self-Sufficient, the Praised.*
- 16. If He wills; He can get rid of you and bring (instead of you) a new creation.*
- 17. And that is not difficult for God.*
- 18. And no burdened soul can bear the burden of another, and if one heavily laden soul should cry for help, none of its load will be carried, even by a close relative. You warn only those who fear their Lord without seeing Him, and have established prayers. He who purifies his soul purifies his soul for his own benefit. To God is the final destination.*
- 19. The blind and the seeing are not alike;*
- 20. Nor are the darkness and the light;*
- 21. Nor are the shade and the heat;*
- 22. Nor are the living and the dead. God makes whom He wills to hear. You cannot make those who are in the graves to hear.*
- 23. You are only a warner.*
- 24. Verily We have sent you with the truth, as a bearer of glad tidings, and as a warner. And there was never a people to whom We did not send a warner.*
- 25. And if they deny you, so did their predecessors, to whom came their messengers with clear signs, Scriptures, and the book of enlightenment.*
- 26. Then I seized those who disbelieved, and how intense was My punishment. (35: 15 -26)*

“People, it is you that are in need of God. And God is the Self-Sufficient, the Praised.” People always need to be reminded of this fact. They need to be reminded that God does not need their devotion. They are the ones who need God. If God wills, He could replace them easily by a new creation, *“If He wills, He can get rid of you and bring (instead of you) a new creation. And that is not difficult for God.”* God has bestowed His favors on this minute creature, the human being. God created humankind, fashioned him, gave him the skills, prepared him, and made him a vicegerent on earth. God subjected the universe for the service of this minute creature. God sent His messengers to guide people to the straight path. All these favors should have been

appreciated and gratitude should have been expressed.

The following verse states a fundamental principle: the personal responsibility of each individual, *“And no burdened soul can bear the burden of another, and if one heavily laden soul should cry for help, none of its load will be carried, even by a close relative.”* Each individual is responsible for his/her own deeds and actions. Each one will be held accountable for him/herself. No one will assume the responsibility of someone else. The fact that each individual is responsible for his/her actions enhances the feeling of self-accountability. Then the verse addresses the Prophet (PBUH), *“You warn only those who fear their Lord without seeing Him, and have established prayers. He who purifies his soul purifies his soul for his own benefit. To God is the final destination.”* Only those who are conscious of God will heed the warning. Those who chose to purify themselves will benefit from their actions.

In the sight of God, belief and disbelief are not equal; nor are truth and falsehood; nor goodness and evil are equal, *“The blind and the seeing are not alike; nor are the darkness and the light; nor are the shade and the heat; nor are the living and the dead.”* The analogy between disbelief, blindness, darkness, and heat is implied. Similarly, the analogy between belief, the ability to see, light, and shade is implied. Belief is a light that fills the heart, the body, and the senses. It is a light that illuminates the way and uncovers the truth. Belief gives the believer the ability to see the truth. A believer can see where he/she is heading. Belief is a shade under which the soul can find comfort from the heat. Belief gives the soul its life.

Disbelief on the other hand is blindness, darkness, heat, and death. It blinds the heart and the soul from seeing the truth. It is darkness because it extinguishes the light of belief. It fills the heart with the fire of doubt and leaves the soul in the misery of this fire. It is death because it severs the ties between the individual and the rest of humanity.

The Quran then comforted the Prophet (PBUH), *“God makes whom He wills to hear. You cannot make those who are in the graves to hear. You are only a warner.”* The Prophet (PBUH) was only a warner. He was a human being. He could not have made those who were dead, physically or spiritually, hear his warning. Only God can make whomsoever He wills hear.

“Verily We have sent you with the truth, as a bearer of glad tidings, and as a warner.” God sent Muhammad (PBUH) with the truth as all the other messengers who were sent before him. God did not neglect any one, each nation received their guidance, *“And there was never a people to whom We did not send a warner.”* But many messengers were rejected, *“And if they deny you, so did their predecessors, to whom came their messengers with clear signs, Scriptures, and the book of enlightenment.”* Messengers were sent with clear proofs; either books, miracles, or other signs but people did not heed the warning. God punished those who rejected the messengers before, *“Then I seized those who disbelieved, and how intense was My punishment.”*

Verses 27 to 38:

27. *Have you not seen that God sends down rain from the sky? With it, We then bring out fruits of various colors. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and extremely black.*
28. *Likewise, people, moving creatures, and cattle, are of various colors. Indeed, those who have knowledge among His servants, fear God the most. God is Eminent, All-Forgiving.*
29. *Those who recite the Book of God, establish regular prayer, and spend (in Charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a trade that will never fail.*
30. *He will pay them their dues in full, and will give them (even) more out of His grace. He is All-Forgiving, Grateful.*
31. *Indeed, what We have revealed to you of the Book is the Truth, confirming what was (revealed) before it. God is assuredly Totally-Aware and All-Seeing of His servants.*
32. *Then We bequeathed the Book on Our servants whom We have chosen; but some of them wronged themselves; some followed the middle course; and some are foremost, by God's leave, in good deeds. That is the great grace.*
33. *Gardens of Eden will they enter. Therein will they be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls; and their garments therein will be of silk.*
34. *And they will say, "Praise be to God, who has removed from us (all) sorrow. Our Lord is indeed All-Forgiving, Grateful.*
35. *Who has, out of His grace, settled us in a home that will last; toil shall not touch us, nor shall fatigue afflict us therein.*
36. *But those who disbelieve, for them will be the fire of Hell, wherein they will never be finished off and die, nor will its torment be lightened for them. Thus, do We recompense the ungrateful.*
37. *Therein will they scream, "Our Lord, let us out; we shall do good deeds, not like the (deeds) we used to do." Did We not give you a life long enough for whoever would be mindful to become mindful? And the warner came to you. So taste the torment. There is no helper for the wrongdoers.*
38. *Verily, God knows (all) the hidden things of the heavens and the earth. Verily, He has full knowledge of all that is in the hearts. (35: 27 – 38)*

"Have you not seen that God sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out fruits of various colors. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and extremely black." The verse takes us on a tour of the whole earth. It starts with rain coming down from the sky which produces plants and fruits with different colors. Each fruit is unique. Similarly, the mountains exhibit different colors. Then the different colors of people are mentioned, *"Likewise, people."* Not only people have different colors but also other creatures, *"moving creatures and cattle are of various colors."* The verse stresses the uniqueness of each creature, a fact that can be only appreciated by those who study such a phenomenon, *"Indeed, those who have knowledge among His servants fear God the most. God is Eminent, All-Forgiving."* The different colors mentioned in the verse are a sign of the miracle of the creation. They show the unlimited ability of God in creating unique creatures even among the same

species. On the other hand, the verse is a testament of the deliberate beauty of the creation of God. It teaches us to look for and appreciate beauty in the creation.

“Those who recite the Book of God, establish regular prayer, and spend (in Charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a trade that will never fail. He will pay them their dues in full, and will give them (even) more out of His grace. He is All-Forgiving, Grateful.” Reciting the Book means reading and reflecting on the text. This should then be followed by acting according to the text. This meaning is confirmed by citing establishing prayers and spending in the way of God. Those who fulfill these steps have entered into a very profitable deal. They know that what God has is more than they will ever be spending. God will not only repay them their dues but will also multiply their reward many times because, He is *All-Forgiving, Grateful*. He will forgive their shortcomings and He will reward them as a sign of His gratitude. If God is showing His gratitude for the good performance of His servants, should we not show Him our gratitude for all the bounties that He bestowed on us?

“Indeed what We have revealed to you of the Book is the Truth, confirming what was (revealed) before it. God is assuredly Totally-Aware and All-Seeing of His servants.” The evidence of the truth in this Book is abundantly displayed by its verses. This Book presents the true nature of the universe in a written form. It confirms the previous revelations from God because they all embody the same single truth. This Book has been revealed by the Creator who knows what is good for His creatures.

“Then We bequeathed the Book on Our servants whom We have chosen; but some of them wronged themselves; some followed the middle course; and some are foremost, by God's leave, in good deeds. That is the great grace.” The Book was given as a legacy to this nation. This is a great honor that God bestowed on this nation; and it is a great responsibility that they should undertake. The nation is divided into three categories.

Those who wronged themselves, they were mentioned first. It may be because they constitute the majority of people. The sins of the people in this group outweigh their good deeds. The second group is the middle group. The sins and good deeds of the people in this group balance each other. The third group consists of those people whose good deeds outweigh their sins. God will bestow His favor on the members of the three groups. They will all end up in paradise, even though in different categories, *“Gardens of Eden will they enter. Therein will they be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls; and their garments therein will be of silk. And they will say, ‘Praise be to God, who has removed from us (all) sorrow. Our Lord is indeed All-Forgiving, Grateful. Who has, out of His grace, settled us in a home that will last; toil shall not touch us, nor shall fatigue afflict us therein.’”* These are the material and spiritual pleasures that God will bestow on the members of the three groups. It involves physical comfort as well as security and contentment. No more sadness or worry will they suffer. These blessings are all out of the God's bounty.

But those who disbelieved will have a different ending, *“But those who disbelieve, for them will be the fire of Hell, wherein they will never be finished off and die, nor will its torment be*

lightened for them. Thus, do We recompense the ungrateful.” Their suffering will continue neither death nor mercy will save them from the torment. They will cry for help, “Therein will they scream, ‘Our Lord, let us out; we shall do good deeds, not like the (deeds) we used to do.’” Having realized their guilt, they will express their sorrow and they will ask for a second chance. But it will be too late, “Did We not give you a life long enough for whoever would be mindful to become mindful? And the warner came to you. So taste the torment. There is no helper for the wrongdoers.”

This paragraph ends with a clear statement of God’s absolute knowledge, “*Verily, God knows (all) the hidden things of the heavens and the earth. Verily, He has full knowledge of all that is in the hearts.*”

Verses 39 to 45:

39. *It is He who made you successors in the earth. Whoever disbelieves in God, his disbelief will be to his detriment. Their disbelief will only make them more detestable in the sight of their Lord, and will only add to their loss.*
40. *Say, “Have you seen those partners of yours whom you invoke besides God? Show Me what it is they have created in the earth. Or have they a share in the heavens? Or have We given them a scripture from which they can derive clear evidence?” Indeed, the wrongdoers promise each other nothing but delusions.*
41. *It is God who upholds the heavens and the earth, lest they fall apart; and if they should fall apart, there is none to hold them together except He. Verily He is the Forbearing, the All-Forgiving.*
42. *They swore their most binding oath by God that if a warner came to them, they would follow his guidance better than any other people. Yet when a warner came to them, it has only increased their aversion.*
43. *Behaving arrogantly in the land and plotting of evil, but the plotting of evil will harm only the authors thereof. Now, they should expect nothing but the way the former people were dealt with. You will find no change in God's way (of dealing); and you will not find a turning off in God's way (of dealing).*
44. *Did they not travel through the land, and see what the end of those before them was, although they were superior to them in strength? Nothing, in the heavens or on earth, frustrates God. He is the Omniscient, the All-Powerful.*
45. *If God were to punish people according to what they deserve, He would not leave on the back of the (earth) a single living creature. He gives them respite for a stated term whenever their term expires verily God is All-Seeing of His servants. (35: 39 – 45)*

“It is He who made you successors in the earth. Whoever disbelieves in God, his disbelief will be to his detriment. Their disbelief will only make them more detestable in the sight of their Lord, and will only add to their loss.” We should learn a lesson from the succession of generations one after the other and the rise and fall of civilizations and states. Nothing will last forever. One day

we will go and other people will succeed us. They will remember us as we remember those who have gone before us. We are going through life as if we are travelling on a trip except that at the end of this trip one has to stand to account for what he/she had done during the trip. We need to pay heed to the concept of accountability. The verse also highlights another important principle, the principle of the individual responsibility. No one will carry the burden of sin of another.

The narrative then moves to explore the concept of associating partners with God, “*Say, ‘Have you seen those partners of yours whom you invoke besides God? Show Me what it is they have created in the earth. Or have they a share in the heavens? Or have We given them a scripture from which they can derive clear evidence?’ Indeed, the wrongdoers promise each other nothing but delusions.*” The question is posed to those who associate partners with God: do you have a proof to support your claim? Can anyone claim that anyone other than God created a part of the earth? Or can anyone claim that he/she was created by anyone other than God? Can these partners claim that they own a part of heaven or earth? Can anyone claim that he received a book from God that supports their claims? They are only deluded.

“*It is God who upholds the heavens and the earth, lest they fall apart; and if they should fall apart, there is none to hold them together except He. Verily He is the Forbearing, the All-Forgiving.*” It is God who maintains the equilibrium of all these stars, comets, and galaxies that constitute the universe. They rotate in their orbits according to a precise plan. If this balance is disrupted, who else other than God can hold the components of the universe together?

God is Forbearing; He gave people respite to a pre-determined term. He is also All-Forgiving; He will forgive many of the sins people committed.

People pledge to obey God then they break their pledge, “*They swore their most binding oath by God that if a warner came to them, they would follow his guidance better than any other people. Yet when a warner came to them, it has only increased their aversion.*”

They behaved arrogantly in the land and plotted evil schemes. But evil schemes come around and afflict those who planned them in the first place, “*Behaving arrogantly in the land and plotting of evil, but the plotting of evil will hem in only the authors thereof. Now they should expect nothing but the way the former people were dealt with? You will find no change in God's way (of dealing); and you will not find a turning off in God's way (of dealing).*”

“*Did they not travel through the land, and see what the end of those before them was, although they were superior to them in strength? Nothing, in the heavens or on earth, frustrates God. He is the Omniscient, the All-Powerful.*” One should learn lessons from the history of previous civilizations. History shows that life follows a set of laws that do not change. These laws were created by God, the Omniscient, the All-Powerful.

God gives people respite; however, this delay in punishment will not change the fact that everyone will be held accountable, *“If God were to punish people according to what they deserve, He would not leave on the back of the (earth) a single living creature. He gives them respite for a stated term whenever their term expires verily God is All-Seeing of His servants.”* When the time comes people will be held accountable and they will be either rewarded or punished.