

The Islamic Hereafter

Second Edition

**Life in
the
Grave**

**Judgement
Day**

Hell

Paradise

Bernard Payeur

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Second Edition

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REVELATIONS AND GENERALIZATIONS

THE PEOPLE

114 An-Nâs

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

114:1 Say: "I seek refuge with the Lord of the People,

114:2 "The King of the people,

114:3 "The God of the people,

114:5 "From the evil of the slinking whisperer [Satan],

114:6 "Who whispers in the breasts of people,

114:7 "Both jinn and men."

Both jinn and men. That is it, the last verse of the Koran. What a read! What a revelation! What is a jinn? It is a spirit that inhabits another dimension. There are good and evil jinns. The caricature of the genie is probably based on this creature of the Koran.

When I decided to read and study the Koran with the intention of writing about it, I was determined to get a Muslim's interpretation, one that could only be viewed as favourable to Islam. I also wanted a translation that was easy to read and understand. The edition that seemed to satisfy these requirements was a translation by Majid Fakhry, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the American University of Beirut. In the translator's own words, "We have tried to express ourselves in a simple, readable English idiom." *Publishers Weekly* wrote of Fakhry's notable accomplishment that it "succeeds in expressing the meanings of the original Arabic in simple readable English."

My goals in reading the Koran were diverse. At the top of my list was gaining an understanding of what makes this book so special; to understand what makes the religion based on its content so attractive to so many; and yes, to satisfy my curiosity about what God sounds like, or more accurately, reads like. I also read the Koran in the hope of dispelling prejudices and apprehensions I had developed after reading about Islam from authors – devoted Muslims, most of them – who had nothing but praise for Allah and His "perfect religion."

In my books on the Koran, I prefer letting Allah and His Messenger, the Prophet Muhammad, speak for themselves, offering only an informed layman's opinion or expert's explanation where I feel it is warranted. When Fakhry's crisp translation is not sufficient, it is Moududi I most often turn to. Abul A'la Moududi's (also spelt Maududi) [1903-1979] credentials as a pre-eminent Islamic scholar are impeccable: journalist, theologian, Muslim revivalist, Islamist philosopher, and first recipient of the *King Faisal International Award* for his services to Islam and Islamic studies. Of the more than 120 books he wrote, he is most famous for his magnum opus, *The Meaning of the Qur'an*.

The Koran is the book upon which the Taliban, the Islamist fundamentalist movement that ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, based their concept of God's government on Earth. The Taliban, like all believers, are required to at least attempt to commit to memory the entire Koran. Believers are also expected to accept Allah's Revelations in their totality without question. This has not been my approach in presenting my impressions, as a former Catholic, now an agnostic, upon first reading the Koran and then reading it again, and again.

As an unbeliever, I hope I can safely express my opinions about the Koran and the Prophet Muhammad, although nothing is certain. It is an unfortunate fact of life that authors who choose to write about Islam, the Koran or the life of the Prophet must tread carefully lest believers perceive their writings as an insult to Islam. I hope that I have achieved that fine balance of respect and critique, if such an equilibrium is even possible where Islam is the topic.

Translations of the Koran are usually called interpretations because believers claim that only the Arabic version can convey the true meaning of God's words. If you can't read the Koran in the original, they say, you are bound to misinterpret Allah's words. Do they have a point or is this just a pre-emptive rationalisation, a ready excuse for some of the frightening revelations contained within the Muslim Holy Book, revelations that may leave unbelievers wondering if these are the words of God or those of His nemesis? The Koran is written in verses or ayats, therefore it is true that you cannot appreciate the rhythm and rhyme that only the original can convey; however, any good translation will be able to communicate the original meaning of the poet's words, and the meaning of these words is what should concern us.

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An English translation of the Koran adds up to about 77,700 words, the approximate size of a standard 300-page book. This is a book, Allah reveals, in which you can study “whatever you choose.”

68:35 Shall We consider those who submit like those who are criminals?

68:36 What is the matter with you; how do you judge?

68:37 Or do you have a Book in which you study?

68:38 Wherein there is whatever you choose.

This is a bold statement for a relatively short book where boundless repetitions occupy space that could, perhaps, be put to better use. The Koran is made up of 114 chapters; when referring to these, I use the Arabic transliteration (conversion from one alphabet to another) of chapter, which is surah. Each surah is further divided into verses, a term I have chosen to retain over the Arabic transliteration of ayat.

There are 6,346 verses in the Koran if you include the 112 unnumbered Basmalahs, the formulaic invocation “in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful,” which appears at the beginning of every surah except the first and the ninth.

I refer to passages by the surah and verse numbers—for example, 2:282 is Chapter 2, Verse 282—or by the surah’s name and verse number: *The Cow, Verse 282*. A verse can be just a few words or more than 200 words long, such as the aforementioned; the longest verse in the Koran addresses the virtue of good bookkeeping practices and why, when it comes to transactions involving money or chattel, women cannot be trusted.

Just a few editorial notes before we get down to business and let God speak for Himself. All quotes from the Koran are from Majid Fakhry’s interpretation unless otherwise indicated. Text added by Fakhry within a quoted verse to improve understanding is enclosed within square “[]” parentheses or brackets. Other clarifications by Fakhry, including footnotes, are enclosed in round “()” brackets.

On rare occasions, you will find italicised bracketed comments within a verse: these are the author’s, usually included to identify someone whom Allah does not explicitly name and, when it is not evident to the casual reader, whom He is informing when having Muhammad respond to questions and observations. Any underlining for emphasis is also my doing, not Fakhry’s. I hope Majid will forgive my use of the more familiar Koran instead of his preferred spelling, Qur’an.

Where warranted, verses are accompanied by the Prophet's recorded sayings or descriptions of actions, called hadiths. (Ahadith, often used to indicate the plural form of hadith, is not used herein.) Hadiths, of which there are more than ten thousand, are hearsay evidence collected approximately 200 years after the Prophet's passing that describe Muhammad's words and deeds, including the silent approval of actions performed in his presence. An authentic (sahih) or good (hasan) hadith, i.e., one that can be traced to a legitimate witness, passed down via of chain of reliable transmitters, is usually considered a legal precedent so long as it does not contradict the Koran.¹

When you encounter 'say' followed by a colon in a revelation (with no other qualifier, e.g., "they say" or, on rare occasions, "you said"), assume this is Allah directing His Messenger.

All quoted verses have been carefully reviewed to ensure that Fakhry's interpretation has been faithfully rendered. Many verses, such as 44:43-44, must be read together to form a complete sentence or thought; therefore, do not assume a typographical (typo) or grammatical error if a verse does not end with the expected punctuation.

44:43 The Tree of Zaqqum (the Tree of Bitterness) will certainly be

44:44 The food of the sinner.

Some of the quoted verses from Fakhry's interpretation of the Koran have no end quotations due to lesser-known rule of English grammar. If a quote is more than one paragraph long, i.e., verses, opening quotation marks (") appear at the beginning of each verse but closing quotation marks (") are only required at the end of the complete quotation. Finally, all translations consulted are from recognized Islamic scholars of the Koran.

¹ Sunni Islam gives credence to the hadiths collected by six men (al-Bukhari, Imam Muslim, At-Tirmidi, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawood and An-Nisa'i), with the largest, the al-Bukhari collection, considered the most authoritative of the "six canonical collections." Imam Bukhari (d. 870) is said to have gathered over 600,000 hadiths, of which 7,275 are considered authentic. The Koran and these "hadith collections" inform every facet of a believer's existence.

LIFE IN THE GRAVE

22:7 And that the hour is coming, no doubt about it; and that Allah raises up those who are in their graves.

The Koran has little to say about what happens when a person dies except that Allah will decide when his or her time has come.

6.2 It is He Who created you from clay, then decreed a term [for you] and another set term with Him,² but still you doubt.

For most of what Islam has to say about what happens when a human being passes away, we must look to the sayings (*Traditions*) of the Prophet Muhammad. If you thought the Compassionate's description of what He intends to do when he gets His hands on unbelievers and sinners was about as bad as it could get, you haven't read His spokesman's account of what will happen when they die. Don't try to make sense of what you are about to read, and don't let it give you nightmares.

According to the *Traditions*, the whole death thing starts innocently enough. Forty days before a person dies, a leaf inscribed with the soon-to-be-deceased's name falls from a tree in Paradise just beneath Allah's throne. 'Izra'il, the Angel of Death, picks it up and schedules a pick-up forty days hence. Even believers, Muhammad said, will be taken aback when 'Izra'il comes knocking. When he shows up on their doorstep, even after they have been warned of his coming by the Messenger of God, they will still ask him: "Who are you?"

Be that as it may, the last person the soon-to-be-departed will see is not the Angel of Death but two angels who have been patiently and anonymously recording their bad and good deeds. These two angels, in the blink of an eye, will present the soon-to-be deceased with their lifetime of good and bad deeds. With *this was your life* formalities out of the way, the person's living, thinking, seeing, able to feel pain soul will sink into the ground where they die, but not before 'Izra'il has finished extracting it from the still-warm body, drawing it out like rough cotton through an eye socket. Because the soul desperately tries to get out via

² According to Fakhry, Allah is referring to Judgement Day, not eternity.

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a natural opening, the mouth, Izra'il extraction method seems unnecessary cruel.

56:83 Would that, when the soul leaps to the throat,

56:84 And you are, then, waiting;

56:85 While We are closer to him (the dead man) than you,
but you do not see.

56:86 And would that, not being subject to judgement,

56:87 You are able to bring them (the souls) back, if you are
truthful!

56:88 However, if he (the dead man), is one of those who are
favoured;

56:89 The ease and delight and Gardens of Bliss are his.

Like birth, in Islamic traditions, death—except for martyrs³—is meant to be a painful transition. Satan will offer believers in Allah's good books some relief from the pain caused by 'Izra'il appalling soul-extraction method. If the poor tormented soul can't stand the pain and accepts Satan's offer to reduce its suffering, it's a U-turn from the threshold of Paradise to Hell come Judgement Day. Many will be sorry for not standing the pain just a while longer.

If the extracted soul is meant to go to Hell, it will be given a glimpse of life in the grave and its final destination on Judgement Day. The horror-struck soul will then briefly escape 'Izra'il's grip and fly to heaven to try all seven doors to the seven levels of Paradise, only to be turned back by the angels guarding its entrances. It will be forced to return to 'Izra'il, who will then stuff it back into its corpse where the reconstituted soul-body combo will begin its new life in the grave.

The believers who die in God's good books will be provided with a spacious grave complete with curtains and a bed. An unbeliever, or a believer who dies while in Allah's bad books, will be confined to a cramped space with walls constantly closing in on them, making every breath a laboured one. After the living dead have settled into their zombie-like existence, two black-skinned, blue-eyed angels by the name of Munkar and Nakir will burst into their graves and start questioning the decaying remains as to their religious beliefs for forty

³ Martyrs in Allah's Cause are admitted directly into Paradise.

3:169 And do not think those who have been killed in the Way of Allah as dead; they are rather living with their Lord, well provided for.

days non-stop; to what end I do not know, since the Koran states that a believer enters Paradise based on their records of good and bad deeds or at God's discretion. One question asked by the angels will lead the corpse to incriminate itself, "bear witness against themselves" (Revelation 7:37).

7:35 "O Children of Adam, when Messengers from you own people come to you reciting to you My Verses - then those who fear God and mend their ways have nothing to fear, and they will not grieve."

7:36 But those who deny Our Revelations and reject them arrogantly - those are the people of the Fire; therein they shall abide forever.

7:37 For who is more unjust than he who fabricates lies about Allah or denies His Revelations? Those will get their share of the punishment ordained for them. When Our Messenger (the angel messengers of deaths) come to take their souls they will say: "Where are those upon whom you called besides Allah?" They will say: "They have left us" and they will bear witness against themselves that they were unbelievers⁴.

The corpse will not only be asked about Allah's Revelations but also whether it ever spoke ill of Muhammad. If only praise and prayer were expressed during its living, breathing life above ground, God's spokesman declared that all will be forgiven; Paradise it is!

Narrated Anas:

Prophet Muhammad said, "When a human being is laid in his grave and his companions return and he even hears their

⁴ For a believer, self-incrimination is not necessarily a bad thing.

4:135 O believers, be upholders of justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves, your parents or kinsmen. Whether rich or poor, Allah takes better care or both. Do not follow your desire to refrain from justice. If you twist [your testimony] or turn away, Allah is Fully Aware of what you do.

5:8 O believers, be dutiful to Allah and bearers of witness with justice; and do not let the hatred of a certain group drive you to be unequitable (sic). Be equitable; that is nearer to piety, and fear Allah. Allah is indeed Fully Aware of what you do!

5:9 Allah has promised those who believe and do the good deeds they shall have forgiveness and a great reward.

5:10 But those who disbelieve and deny our Revelations those are the people of Hell

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footsteps, two angels come to him and make him sit and ask him: 'What did you used to say about this man, Muhammad?'

He will say: 'I testify that he is Allah's slave and His Apostle.' Then it will be said to him, 'Look at your place in the Hell-Fire. Allah has given you a place in Paradise instead of it.'"

Prophet Muhammad added, "The dead person will see both his places. But a non-believer or a hypocrite will say to the angels, 'I do not know, but I used to say what the people used to say!'

It will be said to him, 'Neither did you know nor did you take the guidance (by reciting the Quran).' Then he will be hit with an iron hammer between his two ears, and he will cry and that cry will be heard by whatever approaches him except human beings and jinns."

Bukhari 23.422

The interrogation over, the grave's occupant will continue to receive a twice-daily visit from another angel until Judgement Day. He has not come to chat, but rather to open those curtains with either a pleasing or horrifying view.

Narrated Abdullah bin Umar:

Allah's Apostle said, "When anyone of you dies, he is shown his place both in the morning and in the evening. If he is one of the people of Paradise; he is shown his place in it, and if he is from the people of the Hell-Fire; he is shown his place there-in. Then it is said to him, 'This is your place till Allah resurrect you on the Day of Resurrection.'"

Bukhari 23.461

Life in the grave—for unbelievers and other sinners—will be uncomfortable to the extreme, especially for convincing liars.

Narrated Samura bin Jundub:

The Prophet said, "I saw (in a dream), two men came to me."

Then the Prophet narrated the story (saying), "They said, 'The person, the one whose cheek you saw being torn away (from the mouth to the ear) was a liar and used to tell lies and the people would report those lies on his authority till they

spread all over the world. So he will be punished like that till the Day of Resurrection."

Bukhari 73.118

Yahiya Emerick, convert and author of the bestseller *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Islam*, writes: "God's Messenger said that if we could hear the screams of those being tortured in the grave we would faint in terror." If this claustrophobic, agonizing existence that combines both physical and psychological terrors to achieve an unprecedented level of horror and pain were not god-inspired, Muhammad would probably be remembered today as one of the most sadistic minds the world has ever known. For some Islamic scholars, life in the grave as described by God's spokesman was too much, even by Allah's standards, and they looked to the Koran for any reason to modify Muhammad's horrific descriptions.

23:99 Yet, when death visits one of them, he says: "Lord bring me back (to the world);

23:100 "That perchance I might act rightly with respect to what I have omitted." No, it is just a word he is uttering; and behind them is a barrier till the day they are raised from the dead.

These scholars interpreted "barrier" as referring to a state of unconsciousness. They maintain that the interrogation by Munkar and Nakir will last no more than forty days, at which time the object of their suspicions will sink into blissful unconsciousness until awakened on Judgement Day.

All of Allah's messengers and believers will enjoy a restful and relaxing life in the grave. In addition, God's greatest and ultimate spokesman will be visited every day by angels bringing him the blessings of believers still walking the earth. Muhammad will be allowed to intercede on behalf of a finite number of believers whom Allah has condemned to the torments of Hell. These lucky believers destined to be saved are those who have said the most "*the peace and blessings of God be upon him*" whenever his name is mentioned.

The following revelations appear to contain contradictions of Muhammad's disclosures regarding death, unless they are referring to Judgement Day.

6:61 He is the Supreme Ruler over His servants, and He sends guardians (angels) to watch over you, so that when death

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overtakes any one of you, Our Messengers (the angels) carry him off; and they do not fail [to perform their duty].

6:62 Then they are brought back to Allah, their true Master. Truly the judgement is His and He is the Fastest Reckoner.

32:10 They say: "What, if we stray aimlessly in the land, shall we be created anew?" Indeed, they disbelieve in the Encounter of their Lord.

32:11 Say: "The angel of death, who was charged with you, will carry you off; then you will be returned to your Lord."

You will not have to wait until death overtakes you to begin experiencing Allah's terrorizing, merciless Wrath if you have imputed falsehoods to Him or scorned His Revelations. "In the throes of death" angels, striking a somewhat horrifying stance under the circumstances, will inform the wrongdoers of the agony that awaits them.

6:93 And who is more unjust than he who imputes falsehoods to Allah, or says: "It has been revealed to me", while nothing was revealed to him; or who says: "I will reveal the like of what Allah has revealed?" If you could see the wrongdoers in the throes of death, and the angels, with arms outstretched, saying: "Give us your souls. This day you receive the punishment of humiliation for what you used to say untruly about Allah, while scorning His Revelations."

Those waiting in the grave are not truly dead, but they will be at the beginning of Judgement Day when the first of two trumpet blasts by the angel Israfil will cause real death, and its follow-up blast will bring them back to life. (More about the blowing of the trumpet in the next chapter.) Allah will say to these poor resurrected souls who associated other gods with His Eminence.

6:94 You (after being resurrected) have come to Us one by one, just as We created you initially, and you have left behind what We granted you. We do not see with you your intercessors whom you claimed were [Allah's] partners. Certainly what held you together is now cut off, and that which you claimed has failed you.

Having brought “the dead from the living” and confined them to hollows in the ground, Allah will begin Judgement Day by bringing out “the living from the dead,” and away we go.

JUDGEMENT DAY

6:95 Allah is truly the Cleaver of the grain and the date-stone; He brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living. That is Allah; how then were you perverted?

Revelations about Judgement Day (and, to a slightly lesser extent, Paradise and Hell), for the uninitiated, more than live up to British historian Thomas Carlyle's characterisation of the Koran as "a confused, jumble, crude, incondite, endless iteration." Don't worry, though; by the end of this chapter you should have a sort of gestalt understanding of it all. We start off with a rambling, disconnected sample of verses about the Day.

2:208 O believers, enter into complete peace (submission) and do not follow in the footsteps of Satan; for he is truly your manifest enemy.

2:209 If however you slip after the clear proofs have come to you, know that Allah is Mighty, Wise.

2:210 Do they wait until Allah comes to them in canopies of clouds with the angels, and thus the matter is settled? Unto Allah all matters shall be referred.

2:254 O believers, spend of what We have provided for you before a Day comes (Judgement day) in which there is neither trading, nor friendship, nor intercession. The unbelievers are the wrongdoers.

3:185 Every soul shall taste death; and you shall receive your rewards in full on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever is removed from Hell and is admitted into Paradise wins. Life in this world is nothing but an illusory pleasure.

4:87 Allah, there is no God but He. He will gather you all on the Day of Resurrection; there is no doubt about it. And who is more truthful than Allah?

24:64 Surely, to Allah belongs what is in the heavens and on earth. He knows what you are about and the day they will be returned to Him. Then He will tell them about what they did. Allah knows everything.

25:25 The Day heaven shall be parted by clouds and the angels are sent down in throngs.

25:26 The true Dominion on that Day shall be the Compassionate's and it shall be a strenuous day for the unbelievers.

25:27 The Day the wrongdoer shall bite his hands and say: "Would I had taken with the Messenger (the Prophet Muhammad) a common path.

25:28 "Woe betide me, would that I had not taken so-and-so as a friend.

25:29 "He led me away from the Reminder (the Qur'an) after it had reached me. Satan has always been a betrayer of man."

66:7 O believers, do not give excuses today; for you are only rewarded for what you used to do.

66:8 O believers, turn to Allah in sincere repentance, that your Lord might perchance acquit you of your evil deeds and admit you into Gardens, beneath which rivers flow, on a Day when Allah will not disgrace the Prophet and those who have believed with him. Their light flickering before them and in their right hands, they will say: "Our Lord, perfect for us our light and forgive us; You have indeed power over everything."

75:12 Unto your Lord is the ultimate resort.

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75:13 Man shall be informed on that Day about what he has advanced or deferred.

75:14 Rather, man against himself shall be a witness;

75:15 Even if he makes excuses.

78:17 The Day of Decision is a term appointed.

78:18 The Day the Trumpet is sounded and you will come in throngs.

78:19 And the heavens are opened up and turned into wide portals.

78:20 And the mountains are set in motion and turn into a mirage.

80:33 Then, when the Deafening Blast shall sound;

80:34 On the Day when man shall run away from his brother,

80:35 His mother and his father,

80:36 His consort and his sons.

80:37 To every one of them on that Day is a business sufficing him.

80:38 Some faces on that Day, will be bright,

80:39 Laughing and joyful;

80:40 And other faces, on that Day, will be covered with dust,

80:41 Enveloped in smoke.

80:42 Those are the unbelievers, the profligate.

The Great Blasphemy

37:15 And they say: "This is only manifest sorcery.

37:16 "What! Once we are dead and turned into dust and bones, shall we be raised from the dead?

37:17 "Or our forefathers?"

37:18 Say: "Yes, and you will be totally subdued."

56:45 They lived before that in luxury;

56:46 And they used to insist upon the Great Blasphemy.

56:47 They used to say: "What? When we are dead and turned into dust and bones, shall we be raised from the dead?"

56:48 "And our forefathers, too?"

56:49 Say [O Muhammad]: "The first and the last,

56:50 "Shall be gathered upon an appointed, pre-assigned Day."

The *Great Blasphemy* is not believing that Allah can raise the dead as He will do on Judgement Day, a day mostly about vengeance. This sadistic and pitiless vengeance begins with that ghastly, nightmarish life in the grave and is followed by more appalling revelations about the terrors that await on Judgement Day. Who or what could possibly give rise to such a pathological loathing for unbelievers that to see them terrified and in abject discomfort, waiting to be sentenced to being roasted alive for an eternity, is a sight to be savoured? No human, understandably, ever physically harmed the most powerful god ever to lay claim to the title. Not so for God's favourite and ultimate spokesperson.

During the first few years of his Call, Muhammad was mocked and derided. There was even an attempt to suffocate him using the stomach of a dead camel. His Call would have ended then and there if his daughter Rukaya had not freed him from the animal's stomach, which was sealed with its intestines.⁵ After such treatment, you might forgive Muhammad for developing the visceral hatred for unbelievers that animates Allah in the Koran. In the Gospels, one man's agonizing death on humanity's behalf saves countless generations from an eternity in pain in Hell; in the Koran—which is, in so many ways, the antithesis of the Gospels—one man's passing discomfoting near-death experience may bring about the exact opposite.

⁵ I side with the author of the definitive non-Arab biography of Muhammad, *La Vie de Mahomet* by Virgil Gheorghiu, who writes that it was the unheralded fourteen-year-old Rukaya, not her six-year-old sister Fatima, who saved her father's life.

The Punishment Is Coming, the Punishment Is Coming!⁶

22:55 The unbelievers will continue to be in doubt concerning it, until the Hour comes upon them suddenly, or the punishment of a disastrous day seizes them.

22:56 Dominion on that Day shall be Allah's and He will judge between them. Then, those who believe and do the righteous deeds shall be in the Gardens of Bliss.

22:57 But those who disbelieve and deny Our Revelations, to those a demeaning punishment is in store.

52:1 By the Mount,⁷

52:2 And a Book inscribed,

52:3 In a rolled-out parchment.

52:4 And by the inhabited House.⁸

52:5 And the upraised roof,⁹

52:6 And the roaring sea,

52:7 The punishment of your Lord is surely coming.

52:8 No one will be able to avert it.

52:9 On the Day when heaven shall turn around and around;¹⁰

52:10 And the mountains shall be set in motion.

52:11 Woe, on that Day, unto those who denounce;

⁶ Remembering the 1966 comedy, *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming*.

⁷ "Tur, the mountain on which Allah blessed the Prophet Moses with the Prophethood." *Moududi*

⁸ "The Ka'ba, which is never without its visitors and pilgrims at any time of the day and night." *Moududi*

⁹ The earth's canopy, the lowest of the seven levels of Paradise.

¹⁰ "The system of the heavens on that Day will be wholly upset, and when an observer will look up to the sky, he will feel that the constant pattern and order that it always used to present, has been broken and there is disorder, confusion and chaos on every side." *Moududi*

52:12 Those who are stumbling about in confusion.

Answering Your Questions about the Day

THE OVERWHELMING DAY

88 Al-Ghāshiyah

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

88:1 Have you heard the story of the Overwhelming Day?

88:2 Faces on that Day shall be downcast,

88:3 Labouring and toiling.

88:4 Roasting in a scorching fire;

88:5 Given to drink from a boiling spring.

88:6 They will have no nourishment except from poisonous cactus,

88:7 Which neither fattens nor appeases hunger.

88:8 Faces on that Day shall be blissful,

88:9 Well-pleased with their endeavour;

88:10 In a lofty Garden;

88:11 Wherein no idle talk is heard;

88:12 Wherein is a flowing spring;

88:13 Wherein are upraised couches;

88:14 And cups ranged around,

88:15 And cushion in rows;

88:16 And carpets spread out.

The Koran reveals details about Hell, Paradise and Judgement Day across various surahs, which makes writing about the Day a less than straightforward exercise. In *The Overwhelming Day*, for example, the first revelations should be a dead give-away, but they are not. By the 10th revelation, the reader is “[i]n a lofty garden,” i.e., Paradise, as if Judgement Day had come and gone. No matter!

Judgement Day, for those who are still not comfortable with the language and violent imagery of the Koran, will appear like a descent

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into madness. The only way I felt I could portray this insanity and the organizational nightmare that will be Judgement Day is via the following question-and-answer format where I try to anticipate questions a layperson might have about this most ominous of days, letting God answer, where possible, through His Revelations. The writing style is not meant to be flippant or make light of a profoundly serious matter. Quite the opposite! It is intended to show Allah's attention to detail, which the believers claim is proof of His existence as well as the existence of Heaven, Hell, and the coming of Judgement Day.

What is Judgement Day?

Judgement Day is the day when the living, the undead and everyone in heaven will be killed outright by the blast of a trumpet, then brought back to life to be judged and admitted into Paradise or cast into Hell.

39:68 And the Trumpet shall be blown, so that whoever is in the heavens and on earth shall be made to expire, save him whom Allah wishes. Then it shall be blown another time, and behold, they shall arise, looking out.

39:69 And the earth shall shine with the light of its Lord and the Book shall be laid down. Then the Prophets and the witnesses shall be brought forward and judgement shall be passed justly between them, and they shall not be wronged.

39:70 Every soul shall be paid in full for what it has done, and He knows best what they do.

That has to be an impossible number of people and whatnot?

If you believe that Adam and Eve were the first humans, there will be an estimated 106 billion people to be judged. If you believe the human race began with the first modern homo sapiens about 200 thousand years ago, add another 80 billion or so.

Why a Judgement Day?

Judgement Day is strictly for show.

What do you mean, Judgement Day is only for show?

Judgement Day is the second judgement, the first being the one discussed in *Life in the Grave* where the quality of lodgings is dependent on whether the final destination is Heaven or Hell.

I get the picture. So if Judgement Day is only for show, who is the show for?

Judgement Day will provide Allah with one last opportunity to humiliate the unbelievers: to gloat and sneer at them for not believing; to publicly enjoy their terror when they realise the situation is hopeless and they will be spending an eternity in agony. Judgement Day also gives the believers their own opportunity to laugh at the unbelievers, to mock them as the Compassionate's angels drag them kicking and screaming into His Fire.

Doesn't Allah claim to be a compassionate God?

For Allah, compassion means allowing you to believe in Him, to worship Him and only Him. If you do not do that in the here-and-now, you will have no redeeming value in His eyes and He will exact a terrible vengeance as only the "the All-Forgiving... Doer of what He wills" can deliver.

85:10 Surely, those who have tempted the believers, men and women, then did not repent, will suffer the punishment of Hell; and theirs is the punishment of burning.

85:11 Surely, those who have believed and done the righteous deeds shall have Gardens beneath which rivers flow. That is the great triumph.

85:12 The vengeance of your Lord is surely terrible.

85:13 It is He Who originates and brings back;

85:14 And He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Friendly;

85:15 Lord of the glorious Throne;

85:16 Doer of what He wills.

When will it start?

No one knows. Allah did not even confide the date to His most trusted and greatest spokesperson, of which Muhammad reminds his audience on numerous occasions.

7:187 They ask you about the Hour, when it will strike. Say: "The knowledge thereof is with my Lord; none but He will disclose it at the right time. It will be fateful in the heavens and on earth, and will not come upon you except suddenly."

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They ask you, as though you know about it.¹¹ Say: "The knowledge thereof is with Allah, but most people do not know."

33:63 People will ask you about the Hour. Say: "The knowledge thereof is with Allah." And what do you know? The hour may be close at hand.

47:18 Do they, then, only expect that the Hour should come upon them suddenly? In fact, its signs have already come. How then, when it comes, will they regain their recollection?

47:19 So, know that there is no god but Allah, and ask forgiveness for your sins and for the believers, men and women. Allah knows your goings and comings, and your settling down.

79:42 They ask you about the Hour: "When shall it come?"

79:43 How far are you from remembering it?

79:44 Unto your Lord it will come to rest.

79:45 You are only a warner unto him who fears it.

79:46 They are, on the Day that they will see it, as though they only tarried an evening or a forenoon.

It all has to do with Allah keeping the unseen to Himself.

16:77 To Allah belongs the Unseen of the heavens and the earth. The coming of the Hour is only like the twinkling of an eye, or even nearer, Surely, Allah has power over everything.

¹¹ Muhammad expected Judgement Day to occur during his lifetime or shortly after his death.

Narrated Sahl bin Sad As-Sa'idi (a companion of Allah's Apostle):

Allah's Apostle, holding out his middle and index fingers, said, "My advent and the Hour are like this (or like these)," namely, the period between his era and the Hour is like the distance between those two fingers, i.e. very short.

Bukhari 63.221.

72:25 Say: "I do not know whether what you are promised is near, or whether my Lord shall extend it for a period.

72:26 "Knower of the Unseen, He does not disclose His Unseen to anyone."

So, there will be no warning before the Day?

Not necessarily. Muhammad said that when women outnumber men, the end will be near.

Narrated Abu Musa:

The Prophet (p.b.u.h) said, "A time will come upon the people when a person will wander about with gold as Zakat and will not find anybody to accept it, and one man will be seen followed by forty women¹² to be their guardian because of scarcity of men and great number of women."

Bukhari 24.495

Women will be responsible for bringing on the end of the world?

Women figure prominently as a doomsday omen¹³, and to a lesser extent, young people in general.

¹² In another hadith, the ominous ratio will be fifty women for every man.

Narrated Anas:

I will narrate to you a Hadith and none other than I will tell you about after it. I heard Allah's Apostle saying: From among the portents of the Hour are (the following):

1. Religious knowledge will decrease (by the death of religious learned men).
2. Religious ignorance will prevail.
3. There will be prevalence of open illegal sexual intercourse.
4. Women will increase in number and men will decrease in number so much so that fifty women will be looked after by one man.

Bukhari 3.81

¹³ The most bizarre spectacle involving women that will signal the Hour is imminent is the jiggling of some women's buttocks.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The Hour will not be established till the buttocks of the women of the tribe of Daus move while going round Dhi-al-Khalasa." Dhi-al-Khalasa was the idol of the Daus tribe which they used to worship in the pre Islamic Period of Ignorance.

Bukhari 88.232

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Narrated Ali:

I heard the Prophet saying, "In the last days (of the world) there will appear young people with foolish thoughts and ideas. They will give good talks, but they will go out of Islam as an arrow goes out of its game, their faith will not exceed their throats. So, wherever you find them, kill them, for there will be a reward for their killers on the Day of Resurrection."

Bukhari 61.577

Is the Koran more specific about the end of the world?

If you look up and the sky looks like Hell, with mountains bounding around like tumbleweeds in the wind—if they have not been transformed into heaps of sand—then chances are, big horrible things are about to happen.

70:8 On the Day when heaven will be like molten brass;

70:9 And the mountains like tufted wool.

73:14 On the Day when the earth and the mountains shall tremble, and the mountains shall turn into heaps of sand.

Is that it?

There's more, lots more. In response to a question about the Day of Resurrection, here is what Allah had to say:

75:6 He asks: "When is the Day of Resurrection coming?"

75:7 Then, when the sight is dazzled;

75:8 And the moon is eclipsed;

75:9 And the sun and the moon are joined together;

75:10 Man will say on that Day; "Where is the escape?"

75:11 No, there shall be no escape.

The moon is around 92 million miles from the sun. In any event, wouldn't the moon be burnt to a cinder before any merging could take place?

The leader of a well-known terrorist group *Boko Haram*, which literally means "non-Islamic education is a sin," would argue that you have been brainwashed. In an interview on the BBC, he actually said that the Earth is flat because the Koran says so. In the Koran, the moon and the

sun are about the same size and occupy the same orbit, and their race across the sky is what causes night and day. On Judgement Day, one will catch up with the other and merge, causing the grey gloominess of the Day – neither night nor day.

Okay, but why did you answer yes and no regarding the Koran being more specific about the signs that will indicate Judgement Day is imminent?

Because the scenario is not always the same across verses. For example, in the following revelations, the sun does not merge with the moon but is 'coiled up'.

81:1 When the sun shall be coiled up;

81:2 And when the stars shall be scattered about (fall);

81:3 And when the mountains shall be set in motion;

81:4 And when the pregnant camels shall be discarded;

81:5 And when the beasts shall be corralled;

81:6 And when the seas shall rise mightily;

81:7 And when souls shall be paired off;

81:8 And when the buried infant shall be asked:

81:9 "For what sins was she killed?"

81:10 And when the scrolls shall be unrolled;

81:11 And when heaven shall be scraped off;

81:12 And when Hell shall be stoked;

81:13 And when Paradise shall be brought near;

81:14 Then each soul shall know what it had brought forth.

You're making that up.

Would God lie to you?

81:15 No I swear by the alternating stars;

81:16 Which circle then hide;

81:17 And the night when it recedes;

81:18 And the morning when it breaks,

81:19 It is truly the discourse of a noble Messenger (the Angel Gabriel who brought Allah's revelations to the Prophet);

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81:20 Who has power, with the Lord of the Throne, and is highly placed;

81:21 Obeyed, then trustworthy.

You have to be mad!

It's the truth, and if you can't trust the angel Gabriel, the one who told Muhammad what Allah had passed along, then who can you trust?

81:22 Your Companion (the Prophet Muhammad) is not mad;

81:23 He saw him (Gabriel) upon the luminous horizon.

I think I need a drink.

You won't need a drink to get drunk on Judgement Day.

22:1 O people, fear your Lord. Surely the clamour of the Hour is a terrible thing.

22:2 The Day you will witness it, every suckling mother will be distracted from the child she is suckling, and every pregnant woman will deliver her burden, and you will see people drunk, whereas they are not drunk; but the punishment of Allah is terrible.

A lot of full-term and premature babies will be born on that day. What will happen to them?

They will be taken care of, of that I am sure; nothing is impossible for Allah.

What do you mean?

All babies may be born full-grown when Allah relieves camels and pregnant human females of their burdens.

THAT IS EVEN WORSE! How big do men think the birth canal can stretch?

Sorry, they will appear full-grown after birth. In two sayings of the Prophet, recorded by a scholar by the name of Tirmidhi, Muhammad said: "When a believer hopes for a child in Paradise, his gestation and his birth and his growth will be in one hour as he will wish" and that "in Paradise everyone will be 30 or 33 years old."¹⁴ I am sure that for

¹⁴ It was narrated from Mu'aadh ibn Jabal that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The people of Paradise will enter Paradise hairless, beardless with their eyes anointed with kohl, aged thirty or thirty-three years."

every believing mother whom Allah causes to abort, the father will wish—if the fetus is viable—that it become fully grown immediately, and Allah will be more than happy to oblige.

What will happen to the fetuses of unbelieving mothers when Allah causes them to lose their 'burden'?

There is no mention of children burning in Hell, therefore I think it is safe to assume that the Great Miscarriage Inducer will allow the viable fetuses of unbelievers to become full-grown adults so that they may join their mothers in Hell.

How nice. How will the judging start?

It may begin with a beast coming out of the ground. This beast may or may not be God in disguise. On the cusp of Judgement Day, knowing full well the answer, the beast will ask a “throng” from each nation why they denied its Signs.

27:82 And when the Word (the Devine Decree) is fulfilled against them, We shall bring out of the earth for them a beast which shall address them thus: “Mankind has not believed with certainty in Our Signs.”

27:83 On the Day when we shall muster from each nation a throng of those who denied Our Signs; then they will be held in check.

27:84 Until they come forward and He says: “Have you denied My Signs, and did not comprehend them? Otherwise, what were you doing?”

How will they answer?

Knowing the answer, there was no point in giving “the throngs” the opportunity to respond.

27:85 And the Word shall come down upon them for their wrongdoing and so they will not speak.

The “beast” will then remind “the throngs” why He created the night and the day, when it will no longer be possible to distinguish the two.

27:86 Do they not see that We made the night, so that they might rest in it, and the day so that they might see? Surely in that are signs for a believing people.

Will the beast have a number like in The Book of Revelation?

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Probably not. I don't think it's that type of beast.

What happens next?

A trumpet is blown. It must be noted that scholars disagree on the sequence that follows, as to whether *the beast* comes before or after the first blast of the trumpet.

Fair enough! Who will be in charge of blowing what has to be one humongous trumpet if everyone on Earth is expected to hear?

The angel *Israfil*, who has been waiting all his life for this one big occasion, will have the honours of blowing his massive horn not once, but twice. The first blow will kill the undead and anyone still walking on Earth and in heaven. After everyone becomes a corpse in the real sense of the word, *Israfil* will blow his horn a second time. This second blast will raise the dead undead who will begin marching out of their graves like zombies (or maybe locusts), accompanied by the recently [forcibly] departed and quickly resurrected, in the direction of the angel blowing the trumpet.

So where on Earth will this reveille trumpeting angel be?

Dabiq. Islamic tradition maintains that the gathering place on Judgement Day is in present-day Syria near a town called Dabiq.

36:51 And the Trumpet is blown, then behold how from their graves, unto their Lord, they slink away.

36:52 They will say: "Woe betide us; whoever has roused us from our sleep? This is what the All-Compassionate has promised, and the Messengers have spoken the truth."

36:53 It was only a single cry, and behold they were all brought before Us.

36:54 So, today no soul shall be wronged a whit, and you will only be rewarded for what you used to do.

54:6 Turn away from them. On the Day the caller shall call out an abominable thing;

54:7 They will come out of their graves, with their eyes downcast, as if they were swarming locusts,

54:8 Scrambling towards the caller. The unbelievers will say: "This is a very hard day."

That will be quite the scramble.

Not likely, like His Messenger,¹⁵ God will expect an orderly procession and assembly.

18:47 And on the Day We shall cause the mountains to move and you see the earth uncovered, and We gather them all, having left no one behind.

18:48 And they will be brought before your Lord in rows: "Now you come to Us as We created you for the first time. Nay, you claimed that We would not fix for you an appointed time."

Will it be a long walk?

Not for the God-fearing.

50:31 Paradise will be brought closer to the God-fearing, not a far distance.

50:32 "This is what you were promised; to every penitent keeper (of Allah's ordinances),

50:33 "He who fears the Compassionate in the Unseen and comes forward with a penitent heart.

50:34 "Enter it in peace; that is the Day of Immortality."

50:35 They will have whatever they desire therein, and We have yet much more.

For some, in a variation of *The Rapture*, this will be a short flight directly to Paradise.

16:30 And, it is said to those who fear God: "What has your Lord revealed?" They say: "Something good." To those who do good in this world is the good reward; and the Hereafter is surely much better. Blessed indeed is the abode of the God-fearing!

¹⁵ Muhammad was a perfectionist keen on micromanaging every detail of existence, and prayer was no exception. Allah obviously approved of His spokesperson's obsession.

Narrated An-Nu'man bin 'Bashir:

The Prophet said, "Straighten your rows or Allah will alter your faces."

Bukhari 11.685

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16:31 Gardens of Eden they shall enter, beneath which rivers flow. They will have therein whatever they desire. Thus Allah rewards the God-fearing.

16:32 Those whom the angels will carry off while in a state-of-grace, saying: "Peace upon you; enter Paradise for what you did."

16:33 Do they only expect that the angels should come to them, or that your Lord's Command should come? This is what those who came before them did. Allah did not wrong them, but they wronged themselves.

16:34 They were afflicted by the evil consequences of their actions, and were overtaken by what they mocked (*the punishment*).

What about those upon whom Allah will inflict evil for their supposed sins?

An interesting concept, doing evil to those who have done evil—but that was not your question. Some sinners will be carried off by angels, definitely those with legs intertwined, though the flight will not be pleasant and the destination leaves a lot to be desired.

47:27 How, then, will it be when the angels shall carry them off, beating their faces and their buttocks?

47:28 That is because they have followed what has angered Allah and were averse to His good pleasure. So He has foiled their works.

Why would peoples' legs be intertwined?

This may be specific to people like Abu Jahl—a prominent figure in Mecca with soldiers at his disposal, which will be of no avail against "the guards of Hell"—who denied Allah's Revelations, for which God will drag him by the forelock on Judgement Day.

96:9 Have you considered him (Abu Jahl) who forbids,

96:10 A servant when he prays?

96:11 Have you considered whether he was well-guided?

96:12 Or commanded piety?

96:13 Have you considered whether he was lying and backtracking?

96:14 Does he not know that Allah perceives?

96:15 No; if he will not desist, We shall take him by the forelock,

96:16 A lying, erring forelock.

96:17 Let him then call his company.

96:18 We shall call the guards of Hell.

96:19 No; do not obey him. Prostrate yourself and come closer.

75:28 And he (Abu Jahl) thinks that was the parting;

75:29 And leg is intertwined with leg;

75:30 Unto your Lord shall be the resort.

75:31 For he (Abu Jahl) did not believe nor pray;

75:32 But rather denied and turned away.

75:33 Then, he went to his own folk in a swagger.

75:34 Woe be to you and woe;

75:35 Then, woe be to you and woe!

Did Allah actually double "woe" – or was it quadruple "woe" – this Jahl fellow?

Yes, God is one to repeat himself. Get used to it!

How will the angels be able to beat Abu Jahl's buttocks while carrying him to wherever? Do angels have claws for feet like hawks?

I doubt it. Maybe one angel will do the lifting and another, the beating. After all, there will be two of them, each considering who will take on the role of the charmer.

Who will be the what?!

75:20 No, indeed, you loved the present life;

75:21 And forsake the Hereafter.

75:22 On that Day, faces shall be radiant,

75:23 Looking upon their Lord.

75:24 And faces, on that Day, shall be scowling;

75:25 Thinking that a disaster shall be wrecked upon them.

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75:26 No indeed, when (the soul) reaches the breast-bones,

75:27 And it is said: "Who shall be the charmer?"

According to Moududi, "charmer" refers to the angel who will take the soul of the reborn deceased, when it reaches, in this instance 'the breast-bone'. If you loved your life among the living, it will be an angel from the Punishment contingent who will do this; if you yearned for the Hereafter, and did all the right things, it will be an angel from the Mercy contingent. Again, this is all according to our foremost authority on Allah's Book, the first recipient of the King Faisal International Award for his contribution to Islamic studies and our understanding of the Koran.

How charming – but wait! One minute I am walking, and the next I am flying. Which is it?

I don't know! Maybe only those from the far corners of the Earth will be brought to Dabiq by air. Perhaps you will be walking part of the way and flying another distance. Don't make things complicated. Just believe, as Allah says, "with certainty," and everything will make sense; even the stuff that doesn't.

How long will the trip to Hell take?

Not long. Like Paradise, Hell will be brought closer. Unlike Paradise, it will have to be dragged to its station.

89:21 No; when the earth is demolished completely.

89:22 And your Lord comes, together with the angels, in rows upon rows;¹⁶

89:23 And Hell is brought forth on that Day.¹⁷ Then man will remember on that Day; but wherefrom will remembrance come to him?

89:24 He will say: "Would that I had advanced something for (this) my life!"

¹⁶ Angels come in a variety of configurations, which will make the spectacle even more impressive.

35:1 Praise be to Allah, Originator of the heavens and the earth, Who appointed the angels as messengers, having wings twofold, threefold and fourfold. He increases the creation as He wills. Allah, indeed, has power over everything.

¹⁷ The Prophet said: "Hell will be brought forth that Day by means of seventy thousand ropes, each of which will be held by seventy thousand angels."

89:25 On that Day, none shall punish like His (Hell's) punishment.

89:26 And none shall bind with fetters like His.

Here's an easy question; how should I dress for the occasion?

If you are an unbeliever, fireproof clothing would be a good idea; otherwise, if you have the time, put on the best finery that Allah has provided for you.

7:32 Say: "Who has forbidden Allah's finery which He fashioned for His servants, or the good things He provided?"

Say: "These are meant, in the present world, for those who believe, and exclusively for them on the Day of Resurrection." Thus We make clear Our Revelations for a people who know.

How will I know where to go? What to do?

You will be accompanied by two angels known as the Kiraman Katibeen, i.e., the Noble Writers, who have been perched on your shoulders since you were born; the one on the right records your good deeds and the one on your left records your bad ones, all in a book that they will share when the time comes.

50:16 We have indeed created man, and We know what his soul insinuates to him. We are to him closer than the jugular vein.

50:17 When the two angels receive, one sitting on the right, the other on the left;

50:18 He does not utter a word but is observed by a vigilant observer by his side.

According to a trusted website in these matters, one or both of the eavesdroppers will, on Judgement Day, take you into custody and show you the way,¹⁸ according to the driver in Revelation 50:21.

50:19 The death pang has come in truth. "That is what you were turning away from."

¹⁸ "On the Day of Resurrection, when every man will rise from his grave on the sounding of the Trumpet, the two angels will come forth immediately and take him into their custody. One of them will drive him to the divine court and the other will be carrying his record." *www.islamicstudies.info*

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50:20 The Trumpet will be blown; "That is the Day of Warning."

50:21 Every soul will come forward with (an angel) driver and a (an angel) witness.

50:22 "You were oblivious of this; so We lifted your cover from you and your vision today is keen."

So Allah will listen to the testimony of someone who should know?

Not always. If you were part of an entire nation, like that of Pharaoh, which did not believe in Allah, you will probably be judged without any preliminaries, along with other nations whose citizens and jinns couldn't have cared less about His Revelations. The driver angels, like in a massive cattle drive, will immediately herd you all into Hell, one after the other.

7:38 Allah will say: "Enter together with nations who have gone before you, jinn and men, into the Fire. Every time a nation enters it, it curses its sister-nation; so that when they shall have followed each other into it, the last of them will say of the first: "Our Lord, these led us astray; inflict on them a double punishment in the Fire." He will say: "A double [punishment] to each, but you do not know."

7:39 And the first of them will say to the last: "In no way are you better than us; so taste the punishment for what you did."

Which Pharaoh is this?

The Pharaoh of Moses and Pharaoh; he is the only historical real-world leader in all of history mentioned by name, i.e., his title, as making an appearance on Judgement Day when he will lead his people into Hell. It will be magnificent!

11:96 And we have indeed sent Moses with Our Signs and a manifest authority,

11:97 To Pharaoh and his dignitaries; but they followed Pharaoh's command, and Pharaoh's command was not sound.

11:98 He shall be at the head of his people on the Day of Resurrection; thus he shall lead them into the Fire. How wretched is the place to which they will be led!

Note to self: Don't follow the pharaoh on Judgement Day; he's going where you don't want to go. Won't the believers also be fumbling in the semi-darkness towards the judgement place?

Not really; Allah will provide them with a light.

57:12 On the Day that you will see the believers, men and women, with their light beaming in front of them and in their right hands [the sign]: "Your good news today is Gardens beneath which rivers flow; dwelling therein forever. That indeed is the great triumph."

57:19 And those who believe in Allah and His Messenger are truly the pious and the martyrs in their Lord's Sight. They shall have their wage and their light; but those who disbelieve and deny Our Signs, are truly the companions of Hell.

That "light" sounds like a metaphor for something else;¹⁹ nonetheless, if I don't have a light of my own, can I follow those who do?

Think again. Allah thinks of everything.

57:13 On the Day the hypocrites, men and women, will say to the believers: "Wait for us, so that we may borrow from your light." It will be said: "Go back and seek for yourselves a light." Then a wall will be raised between them both, which has a door. On the inner part thereof is Mercy, and on the opposite side the outer part thereof is punishment.

57:14 They will call out to them: "Were we not with you?" They will say: "Yes indeed; but you deluded yourselves, you waited long, doubted and were deceived by false hopes, until Allah's Decree came and the deceiver (Satan) deceived you regarding Allah."

I thought the hypocrites were those who couldn't make up their minds about accepting Islam? Those on-again, off-again apostates!

You may be right. All that is known for certain is that only the believers will possess this light, whatever it is.

¹⁹ "The light will be the light of righteous deeds" (www.islamicstudies.info). This only make sense if they have already been given their book of good and bad deeds.

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At least I have a driver; that is very considerate of Allah.

Again, not really – not if you believed in other gods, or worshipped the son He never had. If you did, that driver angel and his friend spell trouble, big trouble.

50:23 His companion (angel) will say: "This is what I have; it is ready."

50:24 (Allah will say): "Cast into Hell every obdurate unbeliever;

50:25 "Hinderer of the good, transgressor and doubter;

50:26 "Who has set up another god beside Allah. Cast him, then, into the terrible punishment."

What is this inner door called Mercy?

I am not sure. What I am sure of, however, is that if you are a hypocrite or an unbeliever you will not be allowed through it.

57:15 Therefore, today no ransom will be taken from you (the hypocrites), nor from the unbelievers. The Fire will be your refuge; it will be your master; and what an evil fate!"

So the believers will go through the door of Mercy to enter Paradise?

Believers who have committed no sin don't require mercy to enter Paradise; perhaps that is why Allah will gather the believers in one group and lead them to the gates. Maybe that is where the driver angel comes in again?

13:20 Those who fulfil their pledge to Allah and do not violate the Covenant;

13:21 And those who join together what Allah has commanded to be joined, fear their Lord and dread the terror of reckoning;

13:22 And those who forbear, seeking the face of their Lord, perform the prayer, spend freely of what We have provided them with, secretly and in public, and counter evil with good - to those belong the blissful end of the Hereafter.

13:23 They shall enter the Gardens of Eden, together with the

righteous among their fathers, their spouses²⁰ and their posterity; and the angels shall enter upon them from every gate [saying]:

13:24 "Peace be upon you for your forbearance and blessed is the final Abode!"

19:85 The Day we shall gather the God-fearing before the Compassionate as one party.

What about the other kind, the unbelievers?

You mean those who "spread corruption in the land."

13:25 As to those who break Allah's Covenant once it is contracted, sever what Allah commanded to be joined and spread corruption in the land, upon them shall be the curse and theirs is the evil abode (Hell).

So the unbelievers – those who spread corruption in land, who were not herded into the Fire with their leaders leading the way – will now be gathered by Allah and led into Hell by His Almightyness?

Not before parading the most culpable around its perimeter on their knees, after which there will be a selection of the most guilty.

19:66 Man says: "If I die, shall I be raised from the dead?"

19:67 Does not man remember that We created him before, when he was nothing?

19:68 By your Lord then, We shall certainly gather them together with the devils, then we will lead them around Hell on their knees.

19:69 Then We shall seize from each group the most rebellious against the Compassionate.

Then, it's into the boiling water before being herded into Hell! (Though there may be exceptions.)

19:86 And drive the wicked into Hell as one thirsty herd.

²⁰ Paradise is a sure thing for a woman whose husband was pleased with her when she died.

The Prophet said: "If a woman dies while her husband was pleased with her, she will enter Paradise."

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19:87 They have no power of intercession, except for him who has taken a pledge from the Compassionate.

40:70 Those who disbelieved in this Book and what We sent Our Messengers with; they shall surely know.

40:71 When the fetters and chains shall be upon their necks and they shall be dragged along.

40:72 In the boiling water; then, in the Fire they will be consumed.

How will He know who is most guilty and why single them out?

He is Allah, what can I say? As for why: to make an example of the “special treatment” they will receive, perhaps a double burning-to-a-crisp, although I don’t know how you would do that.

16:88 [As for] those who disbelieve and debar people from the Path of Allah, We will add punishment to their punishment on account of the mischief they used to make.

19:70 And We certainly know best who among them deserves most to be burned therein.

19:71 There is not one of you but will go down to it (Hell). That is for your Lord a Decree which must be accomplished.

He blinded them to what should have been obvious, but it won’t matter.

20:124 “But he who shuns My Reminder will have a life of hardship,²¹ and We shall raise him up a blind man, on the Day of Resurrection.”

20:125 He will say: “Lord, why did you raise me up a blind man, while I was originally capable of seeing?”

20:126 He (Allah) will say: “That is how our Revelations came to you, but you forgot them; and that is how, today, you shall be forgotten.”

²¹ In the Koran, it can appear as though the bad people had it good, which may explain www.islamicstudies.info giving a new definition to ‘hardship’: in this instance, it means “suffering from pangs of a guilty conscience and deprived of the peace of mind and real happiness” that comes from having ignored the ‘Reminder’.

20:127 And that is how We reward the extravagant who would not believe in the Revelations of His Lord. The punishment of the Hereafter is surely more terrible and more lasting.

So the unbelievers will not literally be blinded? That would be terrible!

Allah's Hell isn't just about pain and terror on a cosmic scale; it's also about gloating. Remember, Hell can be seen from Paradise, and vice versa. In fact, Hell will be a large part of the entertainment for the inhabitants of Paradise who, along with God, will laugh at and mock the tormented unbelievers from the comforts of Paradise. Throughout the Koran, Allah revels in what He will do to unbelievers when they inevitably cross into His Dominion. Blind unbelievers roasting in Hell, not being able to see the enjoyment of believers and His Messenger, would seriously reduce the gloating factor. In fact, God admits in one revelation that He will not literally blind them, so that they can "see the path they should have taken" (*Moududi*).

36:66 And had We wished, We would have blotted out their eyes. Then they would race upon the pathway but how will they see.

36:67 And had We wished, We would have deformed them upon their own seats, so that they could not take off or turn back.

Gloating?! If it wasn't for the out-of-this-world sadism, that would be so childish!

Children can be cruel—though perhaps not that cruel—and by the way, children will not be spared the terror of Judgement Day either.

73:15 We have sent unto you a Messenger (*the Prophet Muhammad*), bearing witness against you, just as We had sent unto Pharaoh a Messenger.

73:16 Then Pharaoh disobeyed the Messenger; so we seized him with terrible force.

73:17 So, how will you guard, if you disbelieve, against a Day which will make children white with fear?

73:18 The heavens shall be rent asunder thereby. His Promise is a thing accomplished.

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73:19 This is truly a reminder; so that he who wishes may follow unto his Lord a path.

What kind of god takes pleasure in scaring children? I thought Jesus was one of Allah's messengers; didn't he say something about the Kingdom of Heaven belonging to children?

Muhammad was chosen to correct lesser messengers such as Jesus, who obviously got it wrong.

Children being scared white; how awful!

If you think that's bad, those terrified children will then have to appear alone before Allah to be judged.

31:33 O people fear your Lord and beware of the Day when no father shall stand for his child and no infant shall stand for his father in the least. Allah's promise is true, so let not the present life delude you or let any deceiver delude you regarding Allah.

Did Allah actually single out infants?

In my translation, yes.

I think I am going to be sick. What next?

Then it is time to separate those deemed good from the bad.

19:72 Then, we shall deliver the righteous and leave the wrongdoers therein on their knees.

Haven't we already done that?

This time around, the selection will be made based on facial appearance.

10:25 And Allah summons to the Abode of Peace and leads whomever He pleases to a straight path.

10:26 To those who do the good is the best reward (Paradise) and more (they will be able to look at Allah); and their faces shall not be covered with blackness or misery. Those are the people of Paradise, wherein they will abide forever.

3:106 On the Day when some faces will turn white and others will turn black. As to those whose faces turn black [it will be

said]: "Did you disbelieve after you had believed? Then taste the punishment because you have disbelieved."

3:107 But as for those whose faces turned white, they will dwell in Allah's Mercy (Paradise) forever.

3:108 These are the Revelations of Allah. We recite them to you in truth, and Allah does not desire any injustice for mankind.

3:109 And to Allah belongs what is in the heavens and on earth, and unto Him all matters shall be referred.

Does that mean only white people will enter Paradise, and black people sent to Hell?

There is a difference between skin complexion that is a result of your race and skin colour that is a result of God applying His own brand of makeup to the people He will welcome into His home.

Why would Allah perpetuate a stereotype that white is better than black, and by that I mean people.

It has nothing to do with people I am sure. Don't you have a favourite colour?

That's beside the point. If I was a black person and to enter Paradise I would have to let God make me into a white-face (sic), I would be insulted.

People who are unhappy with whatever Allah does don't get an invite, so I wouldn't worry about it.

How will I know my friends if Allah has not guided me down a straight path?

You will have no friends, and God told Muhammad to make that crystal clear, but not before repeating what should be obvious by now.

40:15 Exalted in rank, Owner of the Throne, He cast the spirit by His command upon whomever of His servants He wishes, to warn of the Day of the Encounter.

40:16 The Day on which they will emerge, nothing of theirs being concealed from Allah. "Whose is the sovereignty today?" "It is Allah's, the One, the Conqueror."

40:17 Today, every soul will be rewarded for what it has earned. There is no injustice today. Allah is surely Quick in reckoning.

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40:18 Warn them of the Day of Imminence, when the hearts shall come up to the throats. The wrongdoers will have then no intimate friend and no intercessor will be heeded.

40:19 He knows what the eyes betray and what the breasts conceal.

43:67 Friends on that Day shall be enemies of one another; except for the God-fearing.

The only people you will be remotely intimate with will be the unbelievers in chains next to you, and all of your faces will be on fire or charred beyond recognition.

14:48 On the Day the earth shall change into another earth, and the heavens too; and they shall appear before Allah, the One, the Conqueror.

14:49 And you will see the wicked sinners on that Day bound together in chains.

14:50 Their garments made of pitch and their faces on fire.

14:51 That Allah may reward every soul according to what it has earned. Surely Allah is Quick at reckoning.

14:52 This is a proclamation to mankind that they be warned thereby, and know that He is One God, and that men of understanding may remember well.

39:60 On the Day of Resurrection, you will see those who told lies against Allah with their faces blackened. Is not there in Hell a resting-place for the arrogant?

39:61 And Allah will save the God-fearing on account of their felicitous deeds. No evil will touch them and they will not grieve.

The Compassionate is One Vengeful God, indeed. What is meant by "the earth shall change into another earth"?

Based on what you heard so far, Earth as we know it will take quite a beating on Judgement Day. In fact, according to one revelation Allah will smash it to bits.

69:13 Then when the Trumpet shall be blown a single time;

69:14 And the earth and the mountains shall be lifted and then crushed with a single blow.

If Judgment Day is to take place on Earth, won't God need a usable planet?

I will let Moududi explain how He will go about recreating one:

It is obvious from this verse (14:48) and some hints in the Qur'an that on the occasion of Resurrection, the Earth and the Heavens will not be totally destroyed but at the blowing of the "First Trumpet", the existing physical system shall be disarranged. After this, between the blowing of the "First" and the "Last Trumpet" the present form and aspect of the earth and the heavens shall be transformed and a new physical system with new physical laws will come into existence. That will be the world of the Hereafter. When the "Last Trumpet" will be blown, all human beings from Adam to those born before the "First Trumpet", shall be brought to life and appear before Allah. The Qur'an calls this (Hashr) which literally means "to muster and gather together". It appears from the wording of the Qur'an and some clear statements in the Traditions that this will take place on this Earth. The "Seat of Judgment" and the "Scales" will be established on the Earth and the decisions will be passed here.

A clear revelation to that effect is Verse 79:14 from Surah 79, *The Snatchers*.

THE SNATCHERS

79 An-Nâzi`ât

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

79:1 By those who snatch violently²²,

79:2 And those who draw out lightly,

79:3 And those who glide smoothly,

²² Yusuf Ali's translation of the first five revelations of *The Snatchers*:

79:1 By the (angels) who tear out (the souls of the wicked) with violence;

79:2 By those who gently draw out (the souls of the blessed);

79:3 And by those who glide along (on errands of mercy),

79:4 Then press forward as in a race,

79:5 Then arrange to do (the Commands of their Lord).

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79:4 And those who outstrip suddenly,

79:5 And those who conduct an affair.

79:6 On the day that the first blast shall reverberate.

79:7 Followed by the succeeding blast.

79:8 Hearts on that Day shall be throbbing;

79:9 Their sights downcast.

79:10 They will say: "Shall we then be restored to the original condition.

79:11 "Shall we, after we were shrivelled bones?"

79:12 They will say: "That indeed was a losing turn."

79:13 Then, it will be only a single blast;

79:14 And they will be back on the surface of the earth.

Still, it will be a tight squeeze. Imagine Earth with perhaps 200 billion or more people!

Not to mention billions of jinns and angels. Maybe that is why Allah flattens the mountains or sends them careening across the sky—to make more room.

20:105 And they will ask about the mountains, say: "My Lord will reduce them to dust,

20:106 "And leave them as bare flatland,

20:107 "In which you see no ups and downs."

27:87 And on the Day the Trumpet is blown, those in the heavens and on earth are terrified, except for whomever Allah wills; and everyone will come to Him humbly.

27:88 And you will see the mountains and suppose them immobile, whereas they are passing quickly like clouds - the Handiwork of Allah Who perfected everything. He is truly conversant with what you do.

If you can still manage, while being pressed on all sides, to do a good deed on Judgement Day, you won't be terrified by Allah's end-of-days spectacle. Then again, Revelation 27:89 may refer to doing a good deed *before* all the mayhem.

27:89 Whoever performs a good deed will receive a reward better than it, and they are secure on that day against the terror.

Of course, if you commit an evil deed on that Day, or have done evil before the big squeeze, you will be cast face-first into the fire.

27:90 And those who perpetrate an evil deed, their faces will be cast into the Fire. Will you be rewarded except for what you used to do?

39:24 Is he who wards off with his face the evil punishment on the Day of Resurrection? And it is said then to the wrongdoers: "Taste what you used to earn."

Ouch! Will I be allowed to carry anything for my journey?

You will probably be allowed to carry your book of good and bad deeds, which will be given to you by an angel before you appear before the Judge. If the angel gives it to you in your left hand or passes it behind your back, your goose is literally and figuratively cooked.

17:71 The Day [will come] when We will call every people with their leader. Then they who are given their book in their right hand - those will read their book and will not be wronged a whit.

That sounds efficient, but it hardly seems fair.

Fairness was never Allah's strong suit. And it won't be that efficient. Everyone who was given their book of good and bad deeds in their right hand will be clamouring for God's attention, wanting Him to read it in front of everybody, knowing they're going to Paradise.

69:19 As for him who has been given his book in his right hand, he shall say: "Come along, read my book.

69:20 "I knew I was going to meet my reckoning."

69:21 Therefore, he is in a well-pleasing condition;

69:22 Living in a lofty garden;

69:23 Whose clusters are close at hand.

69:24 "Eat and drink merrily for what you did in the days gone by."

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And He will do that – read each one's book – while billions upon billions of people, jinns and angels stand around doing nothing?

Allah has all the time in the world, and as long as all those billions, if not a trillion or more, are praising Him or trembling in terror before Him, He's happy. As to the angels, they will be part of a massive procession. Eight of them, as you know, will be parading Allah sitting on His Throne, while the other angels mill around praising Him and asking Him to forgive the believers for any sins they may have committed.

40:7 Those who carry the Throne and those around it proclaim the praise of their Lord, believe in Him and ask forgiveness for the believers: "Lord, You have encompassed everything in mercy and knowledge; so forgive those who have repented and followed your Path, and guard them against the punishment of Hell.

40:8 "Lord, and admit them into the Gardens of Eden which You have promised them and those who have been righteous, of their fathers, their spouses and their progeny. You are indeed the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

40:9 "And guard them against the evil deeds. He whom You guard against evil deeds on that Day, You have surely been merciful to; and that is the real triumph."

As to God reading some of the believers' books? I don't think so, but He may allow some of those handed their book in their right hand to read it aloud to the assembled masses.

78:38 The Day when the Spirit (Gabriel) and the angels shall stand in line; none shall speak except him whom the Compassionate has allowed and has spoken the truth.

78:39 That will be the True Day; he who wishes will return unto his Lord penitently.

78:40 Indeed, We have warned you of an imminent punishment, on the Day when man will see what his hands have done; and the unbeliever will say: "O, would that I have been mere dust."

What happens after everyone has been given their books?

Once everyone has settled down, there will be an official announcement for the unbelievers, who will be allowed to say a few words on their own behalf.

40:10 To the unbelievers it shall be announced: "Allah's contempt is greater than your self-contempt, when you were summoned to believe, but you disbelieved."

40:11 They will say: "Our Lord, You have caused us to be dead twice and brought us to life twice, and so we have confessed our sins. Is there now a way out?"

So, is there a way out?

In Verse 42:46, one of Allah's many revelations about those He has led astray – and that is, in essence, all unbelievers – He makes it clear that, indeed, there is no way out!

42:44 Whoever Allah leads astray will have no protector apart from Him; and you will see the wrongdoers when they see the punishment saying: "Is there a way of going back?"

42:45 You will see them being exposed to it (the Fire), abject in their humiliation, looking askew. The believers will say: "The losers are truly those who have lost themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Surely, the wrongdoers will suffer lasting punishment."

42:46 They have no protectors to support them, apart from Allah. Whoever Allah leads astray has no way out.

Not even if I confess my sins and ask for forgiveness?

Do that and you will only be incriminating yourself. Confessing your sins and asking forgiveness will only make it more likely that the Compassionate will confine and torment you in His Hell for an eternity.

67:9 They will say: "Yes indeed; a warner came to us but we disbelieved and said: 'Allah did not send down anything; you are simply in grave error.'"

67:10 And they will also say: "Had we listened or reasoned, we would not be among the companions of the Fire."

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67:11 So, they will confess their sin. Away then, with the Companions of the Fire.”

What about the people who are not given their book in their right hand...?

Do you really want to know? Can't you guess?

Yes and yes.

69:25 But as for him who is given his book in his left hand, he shall say: “Would that I had never been given my book,

69:26 “And that I did not know what my account is;

69:27 “Would that it had been the final death blow.

69:28 “My wealth has not availed me;

69:29 “And my authority has vanished from me.”

69:30 [It will be said:] “Take him and shackle him;

69:31 “Then let him roast in Hell.

69:32 “Then in a chain whose length is seventy cubits, tie him up.”

69:33 “He certainly did not believe in Allah, the Sublime.

69:34 “And did not urge feeding the destitute;

69:35 “Therefore, today he shall have no intimate friend, here;

69:36 “And no food except foul pus;

69:37 “Which only the sinners will eat.”

At least that part won't last long; who is going to linger to eat pus?!

Wrong again. God will want those He often refers to as “Companions of the Left” to know why they are going to Hell and to marvel at how accurate and meticulous a record-keeper He is.

18:49 And the book will be set down, and you will see the wicked apprehensive at what is in it, and they will say: “Woe betide us. What book is this? It does not leave out anything, small or big, but enumerates it.” And they will find what they did in front of them; and your Lord will not wrong any one.

Does Allah have something against left-handed people?

No, I don't think so, even though His equating right with good and left with bad is curious.

The book will be set down! What book? I don't get it.

Your book of good and bad deeds will be set down for you to read.

17:14 "Read your book; your own soul shall suffice today as reckoner against you."

So the actual judgement begins with a reading, before Allah, of my book of good and bad deeds?

Not quite. First you must answer at least one question, a trick question, and then, for unbelievers only, there will be an additional but more straightforward question with an answer that may surprise you.

A trick question?! You have got to be kidding.

I am not kidding; this is serious stuff. God will ask everyone who comes before Him to judge how many days he or she has lingered.

Lingered where?

Lingered on Earth.

That's easy enough.

Not really. As I said before, it's a trick question for which God may not even have the answer.

23:112 He (Allah) will say: "How long did you linger on earth, in terms of years?"

23:113 They will say: "We lingered a day or a part of a day; so ask those who count?"

Why would they say a day or less?

According to some scholars, this is God's way of making the statement that life is short. He will actually agree, more or less, with the estimate provided.

23:114 He (Allah) will say: "You only lingered for a little while, if only you knew.

23:115 "Did you, then, think that We created you in vain and that unto Us you will not be returned?"

What about that other question?

God will ask the unbelievers if they agree that the punishment is just.

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And they will say no, of course. Who in his or her right mind would say yes?

Considering all the revelations about how the unbelievers will try to avoid the Fire, you would think so; but, no.

46:34 And on the Day that the unbelievers shall be exposed to the Fire [they will be asked]: "Is this not just?" They will say: "Yes, indeed, by our Lord." He will then say: "Taste now the punishment for your disbelief."

That is nuts! Will I be allowed a lawyer to plead my case and advise me on what to say, like NO when asked if I am happy to burn in Hell for an eternity.

Allah is judge, jury and executioner. Not even your most intimate friends, your son, your brother or your spouse will be allowed to speak on your behalf; even if they did, it would not make any difference.

74:48 But the intercession of the intercessors will avail them nothing.

70:10 And no friend shall ask an intimate friend.

70:11 They shall be made to see each other. The criminal wishes that he would be redeemed from the punishment by his sons;

70:12 His spouse and his brother;

70:13 And his clan, who gives him refuge;

70:14 And everyone on earth; that he might save him.

What about my sister or my daughter?

What about them?

Will they be allowed to speak on my behalf?

I wouldn't be surprised if Allah does not mention them at all; as revealed in His Koran, women make bad witnesses and would only complicate the whole judging process.

2:282 And call to witness two witnesses of your men; if not two men, then one man and two women from such witnesses you approve of, so that if one of them (the two women) fails to remember, the other will remind her.²³

²³ The complete verse can be found in *Women and the Koran: A Divine Bias*, Boreal Books.

As if Allah hasn't already done that all by Himself. Will we be allowed to speak with one other?

Yes. Believers and unbelievers will be able to discuss their relative situations, but not too loudly if they are near the Almighty Judge, except in one specific instance.

20:108 On that Day, they will have to follow the caller who is not crooked, and the voices shall be hushed unto the Compassionate, so that you will hear nothing but whispering.

20:102 On the Day when the trumpet shall be blown and We will gather the wicked sinners blue-eyed [with terror];

20:103 Whispering to each other: "You have only lingered for ten [days]."

20:104 We know better what they say; for the straightest of them in direction will say: "You have only lingered a single day."

Blue-eyed with terror? I did not know terror could do that!

According to some scholars, this means that the blood has drained from your head out of fear – as good an explanation as any.

Getting back to the trick question, I thought the appropriate answer was less than a day?

My guess would be that the wrongdoers revise their estimates after being told what the question is all about. It is not referring to their time on Earth or since returning from the dead, but how long God has been keeping track of their bad deeds, which those who were "given knowledge and faith" will point out.

30:55 And the day the Hour comes, the criminals shall swear that they did not linger more than an hour. Thus they had been perverted.

30:56 But those who have been given knowledge and faith will say: "You have lingered in Allah's Book till the Day of Resurrection. This is the Day of Resurrection but you did not know."

30:57 On that Day, the excuses of the wrongdoers will not avail them and they will not be allowed to plead for pardon.

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What is that specific instance you mentioned earlier where I will not be able to talk to my previously dead companions?

You will be asked what you said to the messenger sent to your nation—every nation gets one, or should I say got one—but you will not be able to consult your companions before you answer; this is the meaning of “the tidings will be obscured” in Revelation 28:66, according to Moududi.

28:65 On the Day He will call them, saying: “What did you answer the Messengers?”

28:66 On that day, the tidings will be obscured for them, and so they will not question each other.”

How will I know which messenger to listen to and when to keep my mouth shut except to say that I submit?

That will be difficult. It was not that easy in the era of the city-state. With national population exceeding a billion people, it may even be next to impossible. Better do the good deeds and hope for the best, and never but never—Allah warns you often enough—associate another god with His Eminence, and don’t think that you can lie your way into Paradise.

28:67 But he who repents, believes and does the righteous deed, perchance he will be among the prosperous.

28:68 Your Lord creates and chooses whatever He wills; they have no choice. Glory be to Allah and may He be exalted above what they associate!

28:69 And your Lord knows what their breasts conceal and what they reveal.

28:70 He is Allah; there is no god but he. His is the praise in the herebelow and the Hereafter and His is the judgement, and unto Him you will be returned.

I get the picture and I am getting hungry. Will I be given anything to eat while I am waiting to be judged?

If you are a sinner, you may want to pass on it.

56:51 “Then you, erring ones and denouncers,

56:52 “Shall eat from the Tree of Bitterness,

56:53 “Filling your bellies therefrom,

56:54 "And drinking on top of it boiling water,

56:55 "Lapping it like thirsty camels."

56:56 That shall be their meal on the Day of Judgement.

Can I have a smoke while waiting for Allah to pass His Judgement?

There will be a lot of smoke on Judgement Day; just take a deep breath, if you dare, along with all those who will be pleading not to be sent to Hell claiming they were true believers. When Muhammad communicated what would happen on this Day, they said he was mad. God swore He would have his revenge. Nobody, but nobody calls His Messengers 'madmen', and certainly not His favourite Messenger, and gets away with it.

44:8 There is no god but He. He gives life and causes to die; your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers.

44:9 Yet, in doubt, they frolic.

44:10 Await, then, the Day when heaven shall bring forth visible smoke;

44:11 Enveloping the people. This is a painful punishment,

44:12 "Our Lord, lift the punishment from us, for we are true believers."

44:13 How can there be for them an admonition, when a manifest Messenger has already come to them?

44:14 But they turned away from him saying: "He is a tutored madman."

44:15 We will lift the punishment a little. Surely, you are reverting.

44:16 On the Day when We shall strike the mightiest blow, then We shall take our revenge.

Can I plead my case?

What case? If you were an unbeliever, you have no case! Of that, God will let you know in no uncertain terms.

50:28 He (Allah) will say: "Do not dispute before Me; for I warned you in advance.

50:29 "No word can be changed before Me, and I am no oppressor of servants."

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Can I have someone else intercede on my behalf?

Yes, if God is in a good mood, which is highly unlikely considering the circumstances. If you do find someone to put in a good word, make sure he is male and skilled in the art of praise.

20:109 On that Day, intercession will not avail, except him to whom the Compassionate gives leave and He is pleased with his words.

What if the devil made me do it? For example, he lured me to worship another god instead of Allah?

The devil will dispute that claim, even if God readily admits that He sent devils to incite the unbelievers to sin further.

50:27 His companion (his demon) will say: "Our Lord, I did not mislead him; but he was already in profound error."

19:83 Have you not seen how We sent the devils against the unbelievers to keep inciting them to [sin].

19:84 So do not hasten (*O Muhammad*) [their punishment] We are indeed counting for them the days.

43:36 And he who is blind to the remembrance of the All-Compassionate, We shall assign to him a demon, who will be his constant companion.

43:37 They (the demons) will certainly bar them from the Path, while they think they are well-guided.

43:38 But when he comes to Us, he will say: "Would that between me and you is the distance between East and West." What a wretched companion!

43:39 Today, it will not avail you, being wrongdoers, that you are partners in punishment.

That is wicked!

No kidding!

What if I believed in those other gods and now repudiate them?

If you did not repudiate them when you were alive (the first time), you are a criminal, so repudiating them in the Hereafter would be pointless.

30:11 Allah originates creation and then brings it back into being. Then unto Him you shall be returned.

30:12 And on the Day that the Hour comes, the criminals will be confounded.

30:13 And they will have no intercessors among their associates and they will repudiate their associates.

30:14 And on the Day that the Hour comes, they shall be divided.

30:15 As for those who have believed and done the righteous deeds, they will be in a garden, fully joyful.

30:16 But as for those who have disbelieved and denounced Our Signs and the Encounter of the Hereafter as lies, those shall be summoned to suffer the punishment.

What if I am a weak person who can't help but submit to the domineering, the bad boys?

Being mentally or emotionally handicapped, as your compulsive behavior would indicate, is not an excuse that the Compassionate will accept. If you had believed in His Revelations, they would have given you the strength to resist whom Allah calls the overbearing.

14:21 And when they all appear before Allah, the weak will say to the overbearing: "We were indeed your followers; can you, then, do anything to save us from Allah's Punishment?" They will say: "Had Allah guided us, we would have guided you. Whether we fear or forbear, we have no escape."

You may want to join the mob who will ask Allah to be allowed to trampled the men and jinn who led them astray, if that will make you feel better.

41:29 The unbelievers shall say: "Lord, show us both those who led us astray of jinn and men, that we might trample them under our feet and that they may be reckoned among the lowliest of creatures."

I have never met a jinn. Have you ever met a jinn?

No, I have not. They are spirits that inhabit another dimension. There are good and evil jinns. The caricature of the genie is probably based on this creature of the Koran.

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No three wishes and you're out of Hell, then?

No; they can't even help themselves.

46:18 Those against whom the Decree (the punishment, *Moududi*) was pronounced, from among nations which passed away before them, both of jinn and mankind, were truly the losers.

46:19 To each will be allotted ranks according to what they did, and He will certainly pay them in full for their works, and they shall not be wronged.

46:20 On the day that the unbelievers shall be exposed to the Fire: "You have squandered your goods in your worldly life and enjoyed them. Today, then, you will be rewarded with the punishment of humiliation, because you used to wax proud on earth, without any right, and because you used to sin."

What if I was oppressed or treated badly by people or jinn in power?

If you mean downtrodden, you're also out of luck.

34:31 The unbelievers say: "We will never believe in this Qur'an, nor in what came before it." If you could only see when the wrongdoers are arrayed before their Lord, each one reproaching the other, the downtrodden saying to the arrogant: "But for you, we would have been believers."

34:32 The arrogant will say to the downtrodden: "Did we really bar you from the guidance after it came to you? No, you were rather ungodly."

34:33 Then the downtrodden will say to the arrogant: "It was rather your cunning night and day, when you commanded us to disbelieve in Allah and assign equals to Him." They will be secretly remorseful, when they see the punishment. We will put shackles around the necks of the unbelievers; will they be rewarded but for what they used to do?

What if I believed those who said that Muhammad was simply repeating "Fables of the ancients"; that I was an ignorant?

Ignorance of the law is not an excuse. You should know that by now. Chances are that you will be joining those who accused Muhammad of

telling tales and of scheming in Hell. God has dealt with their types before.

16:24 And if it is said to them: "What has your Lord revealed?" they say: "Fables of the ancients."

16:25 So let them on the Day of Resurrection bear in full their burdens and some of the burdens of the ignorant whom they lead astray. How evil is that which they shall bear!

16:26 Those who came before them schemed and Allah razed their building from the foundation and the roof fell upon them from above them, and punishment came upon them from whence they did not know.

16:27 Then, on the Day of Resurrection, He will disgrace them and will say: "Where are my associates about whom you used to argue?" Those who are given knowledge will say: "Disgrace and evil will this day be upon the unbelievers;

16:28 "Who are carried off by the angels while still wrongdoing themselves." Then, they will offer submission saying: "We did not do any evil." Surely, Allah knows well what you were doing.

16:29 Enter, then, the gates of Hell, abiding therein forever. Wretched indeed is the abode of the arrogant!

I thought we were talking about those who accused Muhammad of telling tales, and the ignorant, not the arrogant.

What can I say? For Allah, they're all the same. To Hell with them!

What if I was an unbeliever and now I believe? Can I expect any mercy from Allah?

Haven't you been listening?

6:27 And if only you could see when they are stationed before the Fire and thus they say: "Would that we could be brought back so that we would not denounce the Revelations of our Lord but would be part of the believers."

6:28 Indeed, what they used to conceal before will become clear to them; and were they returned [to life], they would surely go back to that which they were forbidden from. They are indeed liars.

6:29 And they say: "There is only this life and we shall not be resurrected."

6:30 And if only you could see when they are made to stand before their Lord. He will say: "Is not this the truth?" They will say: "Yes, by our Lord." He will say: "Taste then the punishment, on account of your disbelief."

6:31 Those who deny the Encounter with Allah are losers. And when the Hour overtakes them suddenly, they will say: "Alas, we neglected much in it." For they carry their burdens on their backs. And evil is what they carry!

14:42 And do not think that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers do. He only gives them respite until the Day in which eyes shall stare blankly;

14:43 Hastening forward, their heads upraised, their gaze not returning to them, and their hearts vacant.

14:44 And warn mankind (*Muhammad*) of the Day when the punishment shall overtake them. Whereupon the wrongdoers will say: "Our Lord, give us respite for a near period and we will answer Your Call and follow the Messengers." [It will be said to them]: "Did you not swear before, that you will never cease to exist?"

14:45 You lived in the dwellings of the those who wronged themselves, and thus you saw clearly how We dealt with them, and We made [them] examples to you.

14:46 And they hatched their plots, and Allah knew their plotting although their plotting was such as to move the mountains.

14:47 Do not think, then, that Allah will break His Promise to His messengers. Allah is truly Mighty and Capable of Retribution.

16:84 And on the Day when We raise from every nation a witness, the unbelievers shall not be given leave or allowed to repent.

Having cruelly despatched the people who did not care for His Messengers or their message into the next world, you would think that was punishment enough?

No, that is just the beginning of an eternity of pain. As I mentioned earlier, you just don't mess with God's Messengers, if you know what's good for you.

Why do I get the impression that only sycophants will be allowed into Paradise?

It may not only be an impression. Even, it would seem, sinless infants—too young to know the difference between good and evil, but born to unbelieving parents—are going to roast in Hell for eternity, while believing adults who have done evil while believing in Allah will be admitted into Paradise.

64:9 On the Day when He shall gather you for the Day of Forgathering. That is the Day of Mutual Exchange. He who believes in Allah and acts righteously, He will acquit him of his evil actions and admit him into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, dwelling therein forever. That is the great triumph.

64:10 And those who disbelieved and denounced Our Signs, those are the Companions of the Fire, dwelling therein forever; and what a miserable fate!

As to the extravagant, the less said, the better.

34:34 We have never sent forth a warner to a city but the extravagant in it said: "We disbelieve in the message you have been sent with."

34:35 They say: "We have more abundant wealth and children and we will not be punished."

34:36 Say [O Muhammad]: "Indeed, my Lord expands the provision to whomever He wishes and restricts it; but most people do not know."

34:37 It is not your wealth or your children that bring you closer to Us, but it is he who believes and does the righteous deeds. To those will be meted the double reward and in the lofty chambers they shall be secure.

8:28 And know that your wealth and your children are a temptation, and with Allah is a great reward.

I don't think it is extravagant to care more about your children and having the means to look after them, which I consider 'righteous' deeds, than about pleasing a self-absorbed deity who demands that I care more about Him than my children if I am to be allowed into Paradise – not even for triple the reward!

And that is why I will probably see you in Hell.

That Day of Mutual Exchange you mentioned earlier: are we going to be exchanging gifts? Should I bring a present, and for whom?

According to al-Tabari, another respected Islamic scholar, it is the day the inhabitants of Paradise defrauded the inhabitants of Hell.

Say what?!

He's been dead for more than a thousand years. What you need to remember is that the believers who stole from those burning in Hell will be forgiven by Allah.

What else is new? Is it true that the Devil will also be sitting in judgement with God on Judgement Day?

That is correct. On Judgement Day, the Devil will be with Allah and the prophets mocking the poor souls who followed his advice instead of that of God's Messengers, and he will agree with God that they should all suffer a painful punishment.

14:22 And the Devil said when the issue was settled: "Allah has surely given you a true promise; and I made you a promise but did not keep it. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you answered me. Do not blame me then, but blame yourselves; I cannot help you and you cannot help me. I deny your associating me [with Allah] before. The wrongdoers will have a very painful punishment."

Anybody else?

Yes. For the big Day, Allah will have invited all the other gods that unbelievers believed in.

So these others gods, which Allah goes on and on about in the Koran, are real – they actually do exist?

I guess so, but then again, in one revelation, God tells Muhammad to remind those who think they have gods interceding on their behalf that they are badly mistaken, for He is not aware of their existence, and Allah, of course, always tells the truth.

10:17 For, who is more wicked than one who lies about Allah and denies His Revelations? Indeed, the wicked sinners shall never prosper.

10:18 They worship, apart from Allah, what neither harms nor benefits them, and say: “These are our intercessors with Allah.” Say: “Do you inform Allah about what He does not know in the heavens or on earth?” Glory be to Him, and may He be exalted above what they associate [with Him]!

To quote Moududi: “To say that something is not known to God amounts to saying that it does not exist. For, quite obviously, all that exists is known to God.”

That is logical if you believe in an All-Knowing, Omnipresent God; but still, it's weird that Allah would tell the unbelievers that these lesser gods are a figment of their imagination, and then give these non-existent competing deities center stage on Judgement Day.

Weird is not the word!

Are these lesser gods there to help persuade Allah not to send me to Hell?

Yeah, right! They are there to disown those who believed in them. They will call them liars to their faces, as the one-and-only god always knew they would, and will deny those who used to worship them.

16:86 And when those who associated other gods with Allah see their associates they shall say: “Our Lord, these are our associates whom we used to call upon besides you.” But their associates will retort: “Surely you are liars.”

16:87 And they shall offer Allah submission on that day; and what they used to fabricate shall stray away from them.

19:81 And they took, besides Allah, other gods, to be for them a source of strength.

19:82 No, they shall repudiate their worship and turn against them.

25:17 And the Day He shall muster them and what they worship, apart from Allah, then He says: "Was it you, then, who misled these My servants, or did they stray from the Path themselves?"

25:18 They will say: "Glory be to You; we should never have taken, apart from You, any protectors; but You accorded them and their fathers momentary enjoyment, until they forgot the Reminder and became a lost people."

Why would they do this?

By agreeing with Allah that you should spend an eternity in Hell, these lesser gods hope to avoid your fate.

10:28 On the Day We will muster them all together; then We will say to those who set up associates with Allah: "Stay in your places, you and your associates." Then We shall separate them, and their associates will say: "You were not worshipping us.

10:29 "Allah is a sufficient witness between us and you; for we were unaware of your worshipping us."

10:30 There each soul shall know what it had done in advance; and they shall be turned over to Allah, their true Master; and what [falsehood] they invented will stray away from them.

18:51 I (Allah) did not call them to witness the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor their own creation; and I did not take those who lead astray as supporters.

18:52 And on the day He will say: "Call on whom you claimed to be My Associates." They will call on them, but they will not answer them, and We will set a valley of destruction between them.

18:53 The wicked will see the Fire and will think they will fall in it, and will find no escape from it.

28:61 Is he, then, to whom We have promised a fair promise then bestowed it, like one to whom We granted enjoyment in the present life and shall summon on the Day of Resurrection.

28:62 On the Day He shall call them saying: "Where are my associates that you used to allege?"

28:63 Those upon whom the sentence will be passed shall say: "Lord, those whom we induced into error, we induced into error just as we were induced. We proclaim our innocence to You. It was not us they were worshipping."

28:64 And it will be said to them: "Call your associates"; and so they call them, but the associates will not answer. They saw the punishment and they wished they had been well guided.

35:14 If you call upon them, they do not hear your call; and were they to hear they will not answer you. On the Day of Resurrection they will repudiate your idolatry. None will inform you like the Well-Informed One.

41:47 Upon Him devolves the knowledge of the Hour. No fruit comes out of its bud and no female bears or delivers but with His Knowledge. And on the Day He shall call out to them: "Where are my associates?", they will say: "We proclaim unto you: 'None of us is a witness.'"

41:48 And what they used to allege formerly will stray away from them and they will realize that they have no escape.

And do these real and imaginary gods avoid the fate of those they mislead?

Not on your life. They are your partners in crime whom Allah deceived (Revelation 37:32), and who in turn deceived the unbelievers they will join in Hell (Revelation 37:22).

37:19 It is only one shout, and behold, they are watching.

37:20 And they say: "Woe betide us, this is the Day of Judgement.

37:21 "This is the Day of Decision which we used to question."

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37:22 Gather together those who were wrongdoers, their spouses and what they used to worship;

37:23 Apart from Allah, and lead them to the path of Hell.

37:24 And arrest them for they are accountable.

37:25 Why is it you do not support each other?

37:26 Instead, today they have surrendered.

37:27 And some of them turned to one another asking.

37:28 They said: "You used to come to us from the right."

37:29 They said: "No, you were no believers.

37:30 "And we had no authority over you; for you were an aggressive people.

37:31 "And thus the punishment of our Lord was meted out to us; therefore we are surely tasting it.

37:32 "So, we misled you, being misled ourselves."

37:33 Therefore, they are on that Day partners in punishment.

37:34 This is how We treat the criminals.

Hold on a minute! In Verse 16:86 and 10:28, the other gods, the associates, call the unbelievers liars. Now they accuse them of being aggressive, but in Revelations 18:52 and 28:64 they remain silent. Which is it?

These other gods really drive Allah around the bend, which may explain His sometimes confusing rants about their behaviour on Judgement Day.

This Allah needs some serious time on the couch.

Yes, Freud would have had a field day getting to the root of Allah's obsession with these all-consuming inner demons.

Will He be satisfied with the testimony of these "demons" and get on with the judging and sentencing already? Is that it? Any more snitches?

This one you won't believe!

At this point, I am ready to believe anything!

Your own body will accuse you of having sinned. Your various appendages and organs will call you a liar.

36:65 Today, We set a seal upon their mouths, and their

hands will speak to Us and their feet will bear witness regarding what they used to earn.

41:19 And when the enemies of Allah are mustered unto the Fire, they shall be held in check.

41:20 When they reach it, their hearing, sights and skins shall bear witness against them regarding what they used to do.

41:21 And they will say to their skins: "Why did you bear witness against us?" They will say: "Allah Who gave everything speech gave us speech, and He is the One Who created you the first time and unto Him you shall be returned."

41:22 You did not try to hide from the witness that your hearing, sights and skins would bear against you; but you thought that Allah does not know much of what you do.

41:23 And that thought you entertained regarding your Lord led to your destruction, and so you were numbered among the losers.

41:24 Now if they bear up, then the Fire is their dwelling; and if they seek restoration to favour they will not be among those restored.

41:25 And We have ordained for them companions, who embellished what is in front of them and is behind them. The sentence then was pronounced against them, along with nations which had gone before them, of jinn and men. Truly, they were the losers.

I take it that Allah is only a fan of conventional sex?

Yes.

That means billions of backsides will be given a voice on Judgement Day and called upon to testify. That has to be the creepiest, freakiest thing yet.

Talking backsides aside, I find the idea of genitalia of those who have committed adultery or had even conventional sex outside the sanctity of marriage vocalizing its experience and describing the perpetrator (or instigator, if it belongs to a female) in front of an audience of billions somewhat amusing. Allah may inadvertently provide some comic relief for the wretched He has assembled to be judged.

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That has to be it; no more snitches?

No, it isn't! It is not only the snitches you have to worry about. There will be no solidarity between those whom Allah has condemned to burn for an eternity. If you were a leader of some type, your followers will plead with God to double your punishment and increase His curse upon you for having led them astray.

33:64 Allah has cursed the unbelievers and prepared for them a blazing fire;

33:65 Dwelling therein forever, not finding a protector or supporter.

33:66 The day their faces are turned around in the Fire, they will say: "If only we had obeyed Allah and the Messenger."

33:67 They will say: "Lord, we have obeyed our masters and our chiefs and so they have led us astray.

33:68 "Lord, give them the punishment twofold and curse them mightily."

If I am a believer, and for some reason I fear ending up in Hell, is there a way to improve my chances of getting Allah to hear me out?

Actually, there is. Whenever a believer utters the phrase, "*the peace and blessings of God be upon him*" when Muhammad's name is mentioned, an angel goes to his grave and brings him the good news. On Judgement Day, the Compassionate will grant a limited number of pleas for clemency from His favourite messenger—some say up to 70,000 passes—for believers who, for some reason or other Allah wants to burn, but who pleased Muhammad with the greatest number of blessings.

Does that mean that Muhammad will be next to God on Judgement Day?

Yes.

Apart from interceding for the believers hoarse from sending their blessings, will he take up any other role, or will he just stand there with a smug "I told you so!" look on his face?

Early in his mission, when Muhammad was trying to win converts by being nice and conciliatory, God instructed him to tell Meccan unbelievers that their kin would not be questioned about their actions.

34:25 Say: "You will not be questioned about our misdeeds and we will not be questioned about what you do."

34:26 Say: "Our Lord shall bring us together and judge between us rightly. He is the All-Knowing Judge."

So he will just stand there looking smug most of the time?

That is not what I said. Muhammad will be there next to God on Judgement Day. All the prophets from the Bible and the Koran will be given the opportunity to get back at those who did not believe they were sent by Allah.

4:41 How then will it be, when We bring forward from each nation a witness (its Prophet) and We bring you (Muhammad) forth as a witness against them.

4:42 On that Day, those who disbelieved and disobeyed the Messenger will wish the earth were level upon them, and they will conceal nothing from Allah.

16:89 On the Day when We shall raise up in each nation a witness against them from among themselves. We will bring you (Muhammad) as a witness against them. We have revealed to you the Book (the Koran) which explains everything, as a guide, a mercy and good news to those who submit.

28:74 On the Day He will call them saying: "Where are My associates which you used to allege?"

28:75 And We picked from every nation a witness and said: "Produce your proof." Then they knew that the truth is Allah's and those they used to invent strayed away from them.

7:6 So, We shall question those to whom Messengers were sent; and We shall question the Messengers.

7:7 Then, We shall recount to them in full knowledge; for We are never absent.

7:8 On that Day the weighing of the deeds will be just; those whose scales are heavy will prosper;

7:9 But those whose scales are light, are those who lost their souls on account of denying Our Revelations.

This is incredible. Now we have a scale to decide who goes to Hell. First we were told that guilt was decided way back in the grave; then it was when given your book of good and bad deeds behind your back before anyone appears before the Judge (Revelation 84:100). Then, for some reason, it was revealed that Allah would call the Devil as a witness for the Prosecution (Revelation 50:27) to deny that he had led the accused astray; then there were all those revelations about the supposedly non-existent other gods, whom Allah admits to creating (Revelation 18:51), appearing on behalf of the One All-Seeing, All-Hearing, All-Knowing God to bolster His case against the accused. To cap it all off, the accused's body parts will be testifying against their owner in a grotesque imitation of someone with Lou Gehrig's Disease!

Now, you are telling me, after this mountain of surreal evidence against the accused, that Allah will call all His messengers – which one Islamic scholar estimated at more than 250 thousand – to testify against those who thought they were nuts. This is ridiculous. Don't even get me started on those confounding revelations about resurrection and being led straight into Hell, like Pharaoh's people, as if those unfortunate souls had anything to do with the decisions of this pretender to another god's favours.

Relax before you give yourself a heart attack! Remember what I told you at the very beginning about Judgement Day being strictly for show. It would have been inconsiderate of God not to give His messengers, especially His favourite and ultimate spokesman to whom He revealed most of what we know about Judgement Day, some speaking roles. As to the lesser messengers, they may not have much to say except perhaps those who wrote things down.

5:109 The Day when Allah shall assemble the Messengers, then say: "What response were you given?" They shall say: "We have no knowledge; You are indeed the Knower of the Unseen."

10:21 And If We let people taste a mercy after an affliction touches them, they begin to scheme against Our Revelations. Say: "Allah is Quicker at scheming." Surely our Messengers write down what you scheme.

As to those souls who will be marched straight into Hell? What can I say; Allah loves a parade, especially of those He wishes to humiliate.

Allah sent Messengers when writing only existed as chiselled hieroglyphics on stone tablets, if not earlier. Some of those messengers will be dragging heavy

loads of evidence against those who thought they were looney toons. Don't you find it ironic that Allah's lesser messengers could write but not His greatest who, I am told, was an illiterate?

Gods—or rather, the One God—works in mysterious ways.

You're telling me! With all the people Allah will send to Hell, how will He know when it is full?

He will simply ask it.

50:30 "On the Day We shall say to Hell: 'Are you full?'" and it shall respond: "Is there more to come?"²⁴

Is there any way to sneak into Paradise?

That would be difficult. Its borders will be well guarded.

69:17 And the angels shall be ranged around its borders, eight of whom will be carrying above them, on that Day, the Throne of your Lord.

How will Allah be able to judge more than 100 billion people, not counting the jinn, in just one day?

Allah said that one Earth day for Him is a thousand years.

22:47 They ask you to hasten the punishment. Allah will never break His Promise; but a day for your Lord is like a thousand years of what you reckon.

A thousand-year day, based on the estimated 106 billion people (Population Reference Bureau) living and dead since Adam and Eve, and a Lunar year of 360 days... This means God will be judging approximately 12 thousand people per Earth hour if Judgement Day had occurred in 2012 (106,000,000,000 people/(1000 years x 360 days x 24 hours)). This is assuming twenty-four hours of non-stop judging and does not include an undetermined number of jinns, whose lifespan and reproduction or death rates Allah has not provided, on top of God's alleged associates.

Judging 12 thousand people every Earth hour with no break may have

²⁴ **Narrated Anas:**

The Prophet said, "(The people will be thrown into Hell (Fire) and it will keep on saying, 'Is there any more?' till the Lord of the Worlds puts His Foot over it, whereupon its different sides will come close to each other, and it will say, 'Qad! Qad! (enough! enough!) By Your 'Izzat (Honor and Power) and YOUR KARAM (Generosity)!' Paradise will remain spacious enough to accommodate more people."

Bukhari 93.481

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been unrealistic, especially for a judge who is into pageantry and showing off like Allah, which may explain why He extended Judgement Day to last 50,000 years.

70:4 Unto Him the angels and the spirit (Gabriel) ascend on a Day the duration thereof is fifty thousand years.

The longer Allah waits to bring about Judgement Day, the more onerous the task of deciding who will enjoy the hedonistic pleasures of Paradise and who will burn in Hell for eternity becomes.

Obviously!

Anything else I should know about Judgement Day?

Yes; until judgement is rendered, all beings will be naked.

Didn't you say Allah instructed the believers to wear their finery for the occasion?

Yes, in Revelation 7:32.

If we're all naked, won't everybody stare at each other?

Funny, that is what Muhammad's child bride, Aisha, asked when her husband said, "Everybody will be assembled unclothed, naked, and uncircumcised." He replied: "The situation will be too hard for them to pay attention to that."²⁵ He later added that only the unbelievers would remain naked and that Allah would clothe the believers, starting with Abraham.²⁶

²⁵ **Narrated Aisha:**

Allah's Apostle said, "The people will be gathered barefooted, naked, and uncircumcised."

I said, "O Allah's Apostle! Will the men and the women look at each other?"

He said, "The situation will be too hard for them to pay attention to that."

Bukhari 76.534

²⁶ **Narrated Ibn Abbas:**

Allah's Apostle said, "You will be resurrected (and assembled) bare-footed, naked and uncircumcised."

The Prophet then recited the Divine Verse:-- "As We began the first creation, We shall repeat it: A promise We have undertaken. Truly we shall do it." (21.104)

He added, "The first to be dressed will be Abraham. Then some of my companions will take to the right and to the left. I will say: 'My companions! It will be said, 'They had been renegades since you left them.' I will then say what the Pious Slave Jesus, the son of Mary said: 'And I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them; when You did take me up, You were the Watcher over them, and You are a Witness to all things. If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if you forgive them, You, only You are the All-Mighty the All-Wise.'" *Bukhari 55.656*

So it is Muhammad who said we would all be naked, not Allah – so they are not one and the same?

Was there ever any doubt?

Yes.

Now that you know how Allah will judge you on the big Day, don't you agree that He is the "best of judges"?

Who said that?

Allah:

95:1 By the fig and the olive,

95:2 And by Mount Sinai,

95:3 And by this secure city (*Mecca*);

95:4 We have created man in the best of shapes;

95:5 Then brought him to the lowest ebb;

95:6 Except for those who have believed and done the righteous deeds; they shall have an unstinted wage.

95:7 What then causes you to deny the Judgement?

95:8 Is not Allah the Best of Judges?

Again, why am not surprised?

One last thing: on Judgement Day, the unbelievers will not be able prostrate themselves before His Eminence, thereby revealing that they are truly unbelievers.

68:39 Or do you (*Meccan unbelievers*) have solemn oaths binding Us till the Day of Resurrection? You shall have in fact whatever you judge.

68:40 Ask them (*O Muhammad*): "Who among them is a guarantor of that?"

68:41 Or do they have associates? Let them, then, produce their associates, if they are truthful.

68:42 On the Day when nothing shall be concealed and they shall be called upon to prostrate themselves, but will not be able to.

68:43 Their eyes shall be cast down, disgrace overwhelming them, although they were called to prostrate themselves while they were in sound condition.

68:44 So, leave Me alone with those who disbelieve this discourse. We shall draw them out whence they do not know.

GIVE ME A BREAK!

Questions About Bones

Most people were obviously sceptical of God's ability to recreate them from bone fragments. Allah, on many occasions, tells Muhammad to remind these cynics that these are not insurmountable problems for God, insisting that He could bring them back to life even if they were made of iron or stone.

17:49 And they say: "What, when we have become bones and mortal remains, shall we really be raised up as a new creation?"

17:50 Say: "[Even if you] be stones or iron;

17:51 "Or some creation magnified in your minds." They will say: "Who will bring us back?" Say: "He who created you the first time." Then they will shake their heads at you and say: "When will that be?" Say: "Perhaps, it will be soon.

17:52 "The Day He will summon you and you will respond with His Praise, and you will imagine that you have tarried but for a short while."

17:53 And tell My servants to say that which is best. Surely the Devil sows dissention among them; the Devil is surely a sworn enemy of man.

The creator of heaven and Earth surely will have no difficulty recreating the human form from bones, if not dust.

17:98 That is their punishment (Hell) because they disbelieve in Our Signs and say: "Shall we, after we have become bones and dust, be raised up as a new creation?"

17:99 Have they not considered that Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, is able to create the like of them? He has appointed for them a term which is undoubted; yet the wrongdoers insist on being ungrateful.

Bones, any bones, no big deal. I swear.

75:1 No! I swear by the Day of Resurrection;

75:2 No! I swear by the reproachful soul.

75:3 Does man think that We will not put his bones back together?

75:4 Yes indeed; We are Able to straighten his fingertip.

75:5 Rather, man wishes to continue his profligacy in front of him.

36:78 And He produced an equal for Us²⁷, forgetting Our creating him. He said: "Who brings the bones back to life, once they are withered?"

36:79 Say: "He Who originated them the first time will bring them back to life and He has knowledge of every creation."

36:80 It is He Who produces fire from green trees for you; and behold you are kindling flames from it.

36:81 Is not He who created the heavens and the earth able, then, to create the like of them? Yes, indeed, and He is the All-Knowing Creator.

36:82 His Command is indeed such that if He wills a thing, He says to it: "Be", and it comes to be.

36:83 Glory, then, to Him in Whose Hands is the dominion of everything and unto Whom you will be returned.

Gog and Magog On the Last Day

The story of Gog and Magog in the Koran bears a striking similarity to the tale told in the Alexander Romance, a collection of legends about the life of Alexander the Great. The chief source of all Alexander Romance, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, is "a folk epic written by a Hellenized Egyptian in Alexandria during the 2nd century A.D." Wikipedia:

According to the Romance, Alexander came to a northern land devastated by incursions from barbarian peoples, including Gog and Magog. Alexander defends the land by constructing the Gates of Alexander, an immense wall between two mountains that will stop the invaders until the end times. In the Romance, these gates

²⁷ The "equal" is not, as you might expect, a female, God forbid. According to Moududi, this is a reference to dead matter: "Forgets that We created the basic germ of life from dead matter, which became the means of his creation."

are built between two mountains in the Caucasus called the 'Breasts of the World'; this has been taken as a reference to the historical 'Caspian Gates' in Derbent, Russia. Another suggested candidate is the wall at the Darial Gorge in Georgia, also in the Caucasus.

Alexander, according to Allah, built the wall between Gog and Magog and the rest of the world out of iron and brass.

18:92 Then he followed another course.

18:93 But when he reached the point separating the two barriers, he found beside them a people who could barely understand what is said.

18:94 They said: "O Dhul-Qarnayn (Alexander the Great), surely Gog and Magog are making mischief in the land. Shall we pay you a tribute so that you may build a barrier between us and them?"

18:95 He said: "What my Lord has empowered me to do is better. So help me forcefully and I will build a barrier between you and them.

18:96 "Bring me large pieces of iron." So that when he had levelled up [the gap] between the two sides, he said: "Blow." And having turned it (the iron) into fire, he said: "Bring me molten brass to pour on it."

18:97 Then, they (Gog and Magog) could neither scale it or make a hole through it.

Like in the Alexander Romance, God expects His wall to last until the end times when He will destroy it, thereby allowing the warring factions to fight one another until the trumpet is blown signalling the coming of Judgement Day.

18:98 He said: "This is a mercy from my Lord; but when my Lord's Promise comes to pass, He will turn it into rubble, and the Promise of my Lord is ever true."

18:99 And on that day we shall make them surge upon one another, and the trumpet shall be blown, and we shall gather them together.

18:100 On that Day We shall boldly set Hell before the unbelievers.

18:101 Those whose eyes were closed to My Reminder (the Qur'an) and they could not hear [it].

Allah is your only protector.

18:102 Have the unbelievers, then, supposed that they can take My servants besides Me, as protectors? We have indeed prepared Hell for the unbelievers as an abode.

The True Promise

21:95 And it is forbidden that any city We have destroyed should come back.

21:96 Until Gog and Magog are let loose, and they slink away from every quarter.²⁸

21:97 Then the true promise will draw near; and, behold, the eyes of the unbelievers are staring [and they will say]: "Woe to us! We were heedless of this; no, we were wrongdoers."

21:98 You and what you worship, besides Allah, are the fuel of Hell, and into it you shall all descend.

Allah's Gog and Magog are not a people, as in the Alexander Romance, but false gods who will join their followers in Hell, if the phrase "Had those been real gods" (Verse 21:99) is a reference to the infamous twosome as deities and not tribes.

21:99 Had those been real gods, they would not have gone into it; yet they will all dwell in it forever.

Judgement Day Forever

Allah is obviously looking forward to Judgement Day. That He is taking forever to bring it on—one thousand, four hundred years and counting—after warning it was imminent, as billions upon billions are

²⁸ Another hadith suggesting Judgement Day was imminent is when Muhammad had a vision of a hole made in Alexander's wall while circling the Ka'ba on his camel.

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

Allah's Apostle performed the Tawaf (around the Ka'ba while riding his camel, and every time he reached the corner (of the Black Stone) he pointed at it with his hand and said, "Allahu Akbar." (Zainab said: The Prophet said, "An opening has been made in the wall of Gog and Magog like this and this," forming the number 90 (with his thumb and index finger).

Bukhari 63.215

added to the roster, is a mystery. No, we are still not done with revelations about that most ominous of days. Seven surahs in which Judgement Day figures prominently are presented without comments, except for the odd footnote and then we're done with the Day!

The Dispatched Ones

77 Al-Mursalât

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

77:1 By those dispatched (the angels) in succession;

77:2 And by the tempestuous winds;

77:3 And by those (the clouds, *Moududi*) who spread out;

77:4 And the dividing distinguishers;

77:5 And by those who deliver a reminder;

77:6 As an excuse or a warning;

77:7 Indeed, what you are promise shall come to pass.

77:8 When the stars have been extinguished;

77:9 And the heavens rent asunder;

77:10 And when the mountains are blown to pieces;

77:11 And when the Messengers have been assigned a term;

77:12 To what day have they been deferred?

77:13 Unto the Day of Decision,

77:14 If only you knew what is the Day of Decision.

77:15 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce²⁹.

77:16 Have We not destroyed the ancients?

77:17 Then, We shall send after them the latter folk.

77:18 Thus We deal with the criminals.

77:19 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce.

77:20 Have we not created them from base water?

²⁹ Those who denied the idea of Judgement Day.

77:21 That We laid in a secure place;

77:22 Until an appointed term.

77:23 We determined, and what excellent determiners were
We!

77:24 Woe on that Day (Judgement Day), betide those who
denounce.

77:25 Have We not made the earth a receptacle,

77:26 Containing the living and the dead;

77:27 And created in it towering mountains and given you
pure water to drink.

77:28 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce!

77:29 Go fourth to what you used to denounce as lies.

77:30 Go forth to a three-pronged shade;

77:31 Which neither shades nor avail against the flames

77:32 It (Hell) shoots forth sparks as huge as a castle;

77:33 Which look like golden, camel-herds.

77:34 Woe betide on that Day those who denounce.

77:35 This is a Day on which they shall not speak;

77:36 And they will not be permitted to make excuses.

77:37 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce.

77:38 This is the Day of Decision; We have gathered you
together with the ancients.

77:39 So, if you have any schemes, then scheme against Me.

77:40 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce.

77:41 The God-fearing shall dwell amid shades and springs,

77:42 And fruits of the kind they desire.

77:43 Eat and drink merely, for what you used to do.

77:44 That is how We reward the beneficent.

77:45 Woe betide, on that Day those who denounce.

84 The Islamic Hereafter

77:46 "Eat and enjoy yourselves a little; you are indeed criminals."

77:47 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce.

77:48 If they are told to bow down, they will not bow down.

77:49 Woe betide, on that Day, those who denounce.

77:50 What discourse will they believe in after this?

The Cleaving Asunder

82 Al-Infitâr

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

82:1 When the heavens are cleft asunder,

82:2 And when the stars are scattered [about].

82:3. And when the seas are blown open;

82:4 And when the tombs are strewn around;

82:5. Then each soul shall know what it advanced and what it differed.

82:6 O man, what deluded you concerning your Munificent Lord,

82:7 In whichever form He wished, He put you together.

82:8 Who created you, fashioned you and made you well-wrought.

82:9 No, but you deny the Judgement;

82:10 Yet over you stand watchers,

82:11 Noble recorders.

82:12 Who know what you do.

82:13 The pious shall, indeed, be in Bliss.

82:14 And the profligate shall be in Hell;

82:15 Burning therein on the Day of Judgement.

82:16 And they shall never be far away from it.

82:17 If only you knew what is the Day of Judgement?

82:18 Again, if only you knew what is the Day of Judgement?

82:19 A Day when no soul shall avail another soul anything,
and the Command on that Day shall be Allah's.

The Rending Asunder

84 Al-Inshiqâq

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

84:1 When the heaven is rent asunder;

84:2 And hearkens to its Lord and is judged.

84:3 And when the earth is spread out;

84:4 And casts out what is within it and is voided;

84:5 And hearkens to its Lord and is judged.

84:6 O man, you strive unto your Lord and you shall meet
him.

84:7 As for him who will be given his book in his right hand;

84:8 He shall be called to an easy reckoning.

84:9 And shall go back to his people well pleased.

84:10 But as for him who is given his book behind his back;

84:11 He shall call out: "Perdition!"

84:12 And burn in Hell-fire.

84:13 He was, indeed, in the midst of his people, living
happily.

84:14 He supposed that he will never go back.

84:15 No, indeed, his Lord was observing him.

84:16 No, I swear by the twilight,

84:17 And by the night and what it brings forth,

84:18 And by the moon when it is full,

84:19 That you will mount stage by stage.

84:20 What is the matter with them that they will not believe?

84:21 And if the Qur'an is recited to them, they will not prostrate themselves?

84:22 Yet, the unbelievers are denouncing;

84:23 And Allah knows better what they are thinking in secret.

84:24 So announce to them the good news of a very painful punishment;

84:25 Except for those who believe and do the righteous deeds. They will have an unstinted wage.

The Earthquake

99 Az-Zalzalah

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

99:1 When the earth shall quake violently.

99:2 And the earth shall bring forth its burden.

99:3 And man shall say: "What is happening to it."

99:4 On that Day, it shall relate its tales;

99:5 That its Lord has inspired it.

99:6 On that Day, men shall emerge in clusters to see their works.

99:7 Then whoever has done an atom's³⁰ weight of good shall find it;

99:8 And whoever has done an atom's weight of evil shall find it.

The Chargers

100 Al-'Adiyât

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

100:1 By the snorting chargers;

³⁰ 'Atom' comes from the Greek word 'átomos', used by the ancient Greeks to describe something infinitely small. The use of this word by the translator may not imply that Allah was familiar with the atomic structure of matter.

100:2 And the strikers of fire as they run;
100:3 And the raiders at dawn;
100:4 Raising thereon clouds of dust;
100:5 Plunging therein through a throng.
100:6 Man is thankless unto his Lord;
100:7 And he is a witness thereof.
100:8 He is indeed a passionate lover of earthly goods.
100:9 Does he not know that when what is in the grave is
scattered around?
100:10 And what is within the breasts is brought out?
100:11 Their Lord is, surely, Well-Informed about them on
that Day.

The Clatterer

101 Al-Qari'ah

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

101:1 The Clatterer!
101:2 What is the Clatterer³¹?
101:3 If only you knew what is the Clatterer.
101:4 The Day that men shall be like scattered butterflies;
101:5 And the mountains like tufted wool.
101:6 But as for him whose scales are weighty,
101:7 He shall enjoy a well-pleasing life.
101:8 But as for him whose scales are light,
101:9 His mother shall be the Pit.
101:10 And if only you knew what it is.
101:11 A blazing Fire.

³¹ "The Day of Judgement when the clatter of milling crowds fills the air." *Fakhry*

PARADISE

89:27 O quiescent soul,

89:28 Return unto your Lord well-pleased and well-pleasing;

89:29 And join the ranks of My servants;

89:30 And enter Paradise.

The Nuts and Bolts

Location and Construction

Paradise is located just above the clouds supported by invisible pillars anchored into the Earth (13:2); that is the truth, though you probably don't believe it.

13:1 These are the verses of the Book; and that which has been revealed to you (Muhammad) by your Lord is the truth, but most people do not believe.

13:2 Allah is He Who raised the heavens without pillars that you can see; there He sat upright on the Throne and made the sun and the moon subservient, each running for an appointed term. He manages the [whole] affair and makes clear the Revelations so that you may be certain of meeting your Lord.

Heaven and Earth are made of the same materials, which would explain the need for pillars to stop it all from crashing to the ground.

21:30 Have the unbelievers not beheld that the heavens and the earth were a solid mass, then We separated them; and of water We produced every living thing. Will they not believe, then?

Paradise was remodeled into seven levels after Allah created the Earth and everything on it.

2:29 It is He Who created for you everything on earth, then ascended to the heavens fashioning them into seven, and He has knowledge of all things.

While busy renovating Paradise, Allah was not unaware of what He had created below.

23:17 We have created above you seven spheres, and We were not oblivious of the creation.

Allah completed the seven heavens of Paradise in just two days, complete with lamps, or what we know today as stars.

41:9 Say: "Do you really disbelieve in Him Who created the earth in [two days] and assign equals to Him? That is the Lord of the Worlds."

41:10 And He set up immovable mountains upon it and blessed it, and ordained therein their varied provisions in four days equally to all those who ask.³²

41:11 Then He arose to heaven while it was smoke, and He said to it and to the earth: "Come over, willingly or unwillingly." They said: "We come willingly."

41:12 Then He completed them as seven heavens in two days and assigned to each heaven its proper order. And We adorned the lower heaven with lamps as protection (from the demons). That is the determination of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Paradise could be compared to a high edifice, like a skyscraper, anchored to a fixed Earth.

40:64 It is Allah Who made the earth a fixed station for you and the sky a high edifice. He fashioned you in a shapely manner and provided you with the good things. That for you is Allah, your Lord; so blessed be Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Allah created the heavens and the Earth in six days without getting tired, after which He sat on His throne, where you will still find Him to this day managing the whole thing.

³² It is unclear as to identity of "those who ask," as humans had not been created at this point. *Islamicstudies.info*'s preferred explanation: "In our opinion the correct meaning of the verse is this: Allah placed within the earth the full provisions of food precisely and exactly in accordance with the demands and needs of every kind of creature that Allah would create in the earth from the beginning of the creation till Resurrection."

50:38 Indeed, We have created the heavens and the earth and what is between them in six days, and We were not touch by weariness.

7:54 Your Lord is truly Allah, Who has created the heavens and the earth in six days, then He sat upon the Throne. He covers the day with the night, which pursues it relentlessly. The sun, the moon and the stars are made subservient by His Command. To Him belongs the Creation and the Command. Blessed is Allah the Lord of the Worlds.

10:3 Truly, your Lord is Allah Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then He sat on the Throne controlling all things. There is no intercessor without His Leave. That is Allah, your Lord; so worship Him. Do you not pay heed?

32:4 Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, sat upon the Throne. You have no guardian or intercessor, apart from Him. Do you not recollect?

32:5 He manages the affair from the heaven to the earth; then, it ascends to Him in one day whose measure is a thousand years of what you (*mortals*) reckon³³.

At one point in time during Creation, Allah, still sitting on His throne – which either hovers or floats – tested the waters.

11:7 And it is He Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and His Throne was upon the water,³⁴ that He might

³³ “The events of a thousand years of your history are a day’s work for Allah.” *islamicstudies.info*

³⁴ Water may have existed before Allah created the heavens and the earth, as incredible as that may seem.

Narrated Imran bin Hussain:

While I was with the Prophet, some people from Bani Tamim came to him.

The Prophet said, "O Bani Tamim! Accept the good news!"

They said, "You have given us the good news; now give us (something)."

(After a while) some Yemenites entered, and he said to them, "O the people of Yemen! Accept the good news, as Bani Tamim have refused it."

try you [and see] which one of you does the best work.³⁵ And if you (the Prophet) say: "You will surely be raised up after death", the unbelievers will say: "This is nothing but manifest sorcery."

Allah's heaven is close by; Neil Armstrong flew past it. In the Koran, as best as we can discern, heaven or Paradise is just above the clouds, with the moon in the same orbit as the sun, which is a large lamp illuminating a flat Earth along with the seven levels of Paradise.

78:1 What are they asking each other about?

78:2 About the great tidings,

78:3 Concerning which they are disputing.

78:4 Indeed; they will certainly know³⁶.

78:5 Then, indeed; they will certainly know.

78:6 Have We not made the earth as a couch for you?

78:7 And the mountains as pegs?

...

78:12 And built above you seven mighty [heavens]?

78:13 And created a shining lamp?

One should be able to see the foundation of the heaven closest to the Earth from the ground and notice that it is free of any cracks of the type that tend to become visible, over time, in manmade constructions.

They said, "We accept it, for we have come to you to learn the Religion. So we ask you what the beginning of this universe was."

The Prophet said "There was Allah and nothing else before Him and His Throne was over the water, and He then created the Heavens and the Earth and wrote everything in the Book."

Then a man came to me and said, "O Imran! Follow your she-camel for it has run away!"

So I set out seeking it, and behold, it was beyond the mirage! By Allah, I wished that it (my she-camel) had gone but that I had not left (the gathering)."

Bukhari 93.514

³⁵ "This enunciates the purpose of the creation: Allah created the heavens and the earth for the sake of the creation of mankind and He created mankind to test human beings by delegating to them the powers of vicegerency and making them morally responsible for using or abusing them, just as they liked." *www.islamicstudies.info*

³⁶ "That whatever they say about the Hereafter is false, and all their concepts about it are wrong." *Moududi*

50:6 Have they not beheld the heaven above them, how We erected it and adorned it, and it has no cracks.

67:1 Blessed be He whose hands is the sovereignty and He has power over everything.

67:2 He Who created death and life so as to test you as to whoever of you is fairer in action. He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

67:3 He Who has created seven stratified heavens. You do not see any discrepancy in the creation of the Compassionate. So fix your gaze, do you see any cracks?

Stare too long, or too often skyward, and you will strain your eyes.

67:4 Then fix your gaze again and again, and your gaze will recoil back to you discomfited and weary.

A much larger heaven is part of Allah's plans.

51:47 And heaven, We have built it mightily, and We shall surely expand it.

Buildings

Some buildings in heaven are made of bricks, which some unbelievers asked Allah to rain down upon them as proof that Muhammad was telling the truth.

8:32 And when they said: "O Allah, if this is indeed the truth from You, then rain down upon us brickstones from heaven, or inflict upon us a very painful punishment."

Most of heaven's buildings are likely multi-level (similar to a modern apartment complex) and built above a source of fresh water.

39:20 But those who fear their Lord will have chambers over which other chambers are built and beneath which the rivers flow. That is Allah's Promise. Allah does not break His Promise.

Some will receive the equivalent of a penthouse suite.

25:72 Those who do not bear false witness; and when they pass by idle talk, pass by with dignity;

25:73 And those who, when reminded of the Sign of their Lord, do not fall down upon them deaf and blind (turn a deaf ear, *Moududi*).

25:74 And those who say: "Our Lord, grant us, through our wives and progeny, beloved offspring, and make us a model for the God fearing."

25:75 Those shall be rewarded with a high chamber (in Paradise) for their steadfastness, and will be received therein with greeting and peace.

25:76 Dwelling therein forever. What a delightful resort and lodging!

The last revelation in Surah 25, *The Light*, has more relevance to Hell than Paradise, so it may have been in response to a some interruption or question from a non-believer or apostate.

25:77 Say (O Muhammad): "My Lord will take no notice of your supplication. For you have disbelieved and that shall be your inevitable perdition."

Single-family dwellings are also likely.

29:57 Every living soul shall taste death; then unto Us you shall be returned.

29:58 Those who have believed and done the righteous deeds, We shall install them in chambers in Paradise, beneath which rivers flow, dwelling therein forever. Blessed is the wage of those who labour!

29:59 Those who stood fast and in their Lord they trust.

Those held in high esteem may even have their own palaces.

25:10 Blessed is He Who, if He wishes, will accord you better than that - Gardens underneath which rivers flow, and will build palaces for you.

... (for intermediate revelations , see Chapter *Hell*.)

25:15 Say: "Is that better (*Hell*) or the Garden of Eternity which the God-fearing have been promised, as a reward and ultimate resort?"

25:16 They have therein what they desire, abiding forever, as a promise binding upon your Lord.

25:24 The companions of Paradise on that Day shall be better lodged and more fairly accommodated.

Still others will be provided with a piece of land to call their own.

39:73 And those who feared their Lord will be led to Paradise in throngs. Then, when they have reached it and its gates are opened [they will enter it] and its keepers will say; "Peace be upon you; you have fared well, so enter it to dwell therein forever."

39:74 They will say: "Praise be to Allah Who has been truthful in His Promise to us and has bequeathed upon us the land wherein we are able to settle in Paradise wherever we wish. Blessed is the wage of the labourers!"

39:75 And you will see the angels circling around the Throne proclaiming the praise of their Lord. And it will be justly decided between them and it will be said: "Praise be to Allah , the Lord of the Worlds."

Distance from Hell

Look down and you might be surprised who you see.

37:50 Then, they will advance one towards the other asking each other.

37:51 One of them will say: "I had a comrade;

37:52 "Who used to say: 'Are you then one of the confirmed believers?'

37:53 "Will we, once we are dead and have become dust and bones, be really judged?"

37:54 He said (to his companion): "Are you looking down?"

37:55 He looked and saw him in the centre of Hell.

37:56 He said: "By Allah, you almost caused my perdition.

37:57 "But for my Lord's Grace, I would have been one of those brought forward."

God, the people of Paradise, and the people of Hell will all be within shouting distance.

7:43 And We shall remove all rancour from their hearts; and under them rivers will flow. They will say: "Praise be to Allah Who guided us to this; we would never have been guided, had not Allah guided us. The Messengers of our Lord came with the truth." Then a voice will cry out to them: "This is indeed the Paradise which you have been made to inherit for what [good] you used to do."

7:44 And the people of Paradise will call out to the people of the Fire: "We have found what our Lord promised us to be true; so have you found what your Lord promised to be true?" They will say: "Yes." Thereupon a caller from their midst shall call out: "May Allah's curse be upon the wrongdoers;

7:45 "Who bar [others] from Allah's Way and desire it to be crooked; and they disbelieve in the Hereafter."

Gardens and Springs

48:4 It is He Who sent down the Serenity upon the hearts of the believers that they may increase in faith upon their faith. To Allah belongs the hosts (legions, *Moududi*) of the heavens and the earth; and Allah is All-Knowing and Wise.

48:5 That He may admit the believers, men and women, into gardens beneath which rivers flow, dwelling therein forever, and that He may remit their sins. That in Allah's Sight, is a great triumph.

Underground rivers, which must run in layers of extraordinary depth to be hidden from view, irrigate the gardens of Paradise.

4:57 As to those who have believed and do the good works, We shall admit them into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, abiding therein forever. They have therein purified spouses, and We will admit them to a very shady place.

Rainwater, which science tells us comes from the surface evaporation of the oceans followed by the process of condensation, may just be recycled water from Paradise.

31:10 He created the heavens without pillars that you can see and laid down in the earth immovable mountains, lest it shake with you, and scattered throughout it every variety of

beast. And We have sent down water from heaven, thereby causing it to grow in it every noble [kind of plant].

31:11 This is Allah's Creation; so show Me what those apart from Him have created. Indeed, the wrongdoers are in manifest error.

The gardens of Paradise form an impressive estate, indeed.

57:21 Vie with another unto forgiveness from your Lord and a Garden the breadth of whereof is like the breadth of the heavens and the earth; it has been prepared for those who believe in Allah and His Messengers. That is Allah's Bounty which He confers upon whoever He pleases. And Allah is the Great Bounty.

Each level of Paradise contains two gardens with much greenery, two gushing springs, fruit trees such as the drought-tolerant pomegranate, and other trees ordinarily found in oases, e.g., palm trees.

55:46 But, for him who fears his Lord two gardens [are reserved].

55:47 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (jinn and humans) deny?

55:48 They have numerous branches.

55:49 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (jinn and humans) deny?

55:50 And there are therein two flowing springs.

55:51 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (jinn and humans) deny?

55:52 Therein is a pair of every fruit.

55:53 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (jinn and humans) deny?

55:54 Reclining upon couches whose linings are of brocade and the fruits of the two gardens are near at hand.

55:55 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (jinn and humans) deny?

55:62 And beneath them (the two gardens) are two other gardens.

55:63 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:64 Of dark green colour.

55:65 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:66 Therein are two gushing springs.

55:67 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:68 Therein are fruits, palm trees and pomegranates.

55:69 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

Food and Refreshments

43:68 O My servants, today you have no cause to fear nor to grieve.

43:69 Those who believe in Our Signs and are submissive.

43:70 "Enter Paradise you, and your spouses joyfully.

43:71 "Platters and cups of gold shall be passed around them, and therein shall be whatever souls desire and eyes delight in, and in it you shall dwell forever."

43:72 That is the Paradise which you were given as an inheritance for what you used to do.

43:73 Therein you have abundant fruit from which you will eat.

The rivers running above ground on Allah's humongous seven-stacked oasis will be of milk that never turns sour, of honey, and one that you would not expect, considering God's prohibitions against alcoholic beverages.

47:15 The likeliness of the Garden which the God-fearing have been promised is this: rivers of water not stagnant, rivers of milk whose taste has not changed, rivers of wine delighting its drinkers and rivers of distilled honey. Therein

they have every variety of fruit and forgiveness from their Lord too...³⁷

There may not be that much variety in the fruits provided by Allah, it may only seem like it.

2:25 Proclaim the good news to those who have believed and have done the good works; they will have gardens under which rivers flow. Every time they get some of the fruits with which they are provided, they will say: "This is what we were provided with before", because they are given each time something that looks like it. They will also have their pure spouses³⁸ there, and they shall live forever.

44:55 They call therein for every fruit in perfect security.

Wine will be available for the privileged, delivered in a specially sealed bottle or jar after collection from a special spring; however, even they may have to fight over it.

83:25 They are given to drink from a sealed wine;

83:26 Whose seal is musk. Over that, let the competitors compete;

³⁷ Even when describing the wonders of Paradise, Allah can't resist mentioning Hell.

47:15 Are they to be compared with those who dwell in the Fire forever and are given to drink boiling water which will rip up their bowels?

³⁸ From *Love, Sex and Islam*, Boreal Books:

Islam Question & Answer (Q&A), "a website which aims to offer advice and academic answers based on evidence from religious texts in an adequate and easy-to-understand manner," explains why men in Paradise will not be blessing their partners with semen, whether these women are facsimiles or the real thing.

In Paradise, a husband has sexual intercourse with his wife and they both find pleasure, but this is done without releasing semen.

Allah the Almighty says: "And they will have therein purified spouses, and they will abide therein eternally." [Quran 2: 25]

Commenting on this verse, Mujaahid and 'Ataa' may Al-lah have mercy upon them mentioned that the people of Paradise are purified from menstruation, urine and semen.

Also, it was reported on the authority of Abu Umaamah may Allah be pleased with him that the Prophet, sallalaa-hu 'alayhi wa sallam, said that the people of Paradise have sexual intercourse with their spouses with a male organ that does not drain and a desire that does not subside.

83:27 And its mixture is from Tasmin (a spring in Paradise);

83:28 A spring from which the well-favoured drink.

Perhaps the not-so-favoured will drink from a spring of water mixed with camphor, a source whose capacity only increases the more people drink from it.

76:5 The pious will surely drink from a cup whose mixture is camphor,

76:6 A spring from which the servants of Allah shall drink, making it gush abundantly.

From a spring called Salsabil, waiters will fill cups “whose mixture is ginger” to pass around.

76:15 And cup-bearers shall go round them with vessels of silver and goblets of glass,

76:16 Goblets of silver which they measured exactly.

76:17 And they are given therein to drink a cup whose mixture is ginger.

76:18 A spring therein is called Salsabil.³⁹

Meat dishes may be available if Allah allows the slaughter of His beasts of heaven.

42:29 And of His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the beasts He has scattered abroad in them; and He is able to gather them together, whenever He wishes.

Food lovers who gave food to the destitute—not because it was the right thing to do, but for Allah’s sake—can expect to receive the silk, the garden, the food, the furniture, relaxation in the shade, etc., all in addition to avoiding Hell.

76:7 They fulfil their vows and fear a Day whose evil is rampant.

³⁹ “This is to suit the taste of the Arabs who liked the wine flavored with ginger mixed water. But this flavoring will not be achieved by adding ginger mixed water to it: it will be a natural fountain which will have the flavor of ginger but without its bitterness; Therefore, it will be called Salsabil, which implies such water as flows gently and pleasantly down the throat on account of its being sweet, light and palatable.”
www.islamicstudies.info

76:8 And they give food, despite their love of it, to the destitute, the orphans and the captive.

76:9 [They say]: "We only feed you for the sake of Allah; We do not want from you any reward or gratitude.

76:10 We fear from our Lord a dark and dreadful Day."

76:11 But Allah will guard them against the evil of that Day and give them radiance and joy.

76:12 And reward them for their forbearance, with a garden and silk.

76:13 Therein, they shall recline upon couches, and they shall see therein neither [blazing] sun nor bitter cold.

76:14 And its shades shall come close to them and fruit-bunches shall be brought down.

Clothing Etc.

In Paradise, silk garments will be all the rage.⁴⁰

18:30 As for those who believe and do the good deeds, surely, We will not waste the reward of him who does the good work.

18:31 Those shall have Gardens of Eden, beneath which rivers flow, bejewelled therein with bracelets of gold, and wearing green clothes of silk and brocade, reclining therein on couches. Blessed is their reward and fair is the resting place!

Allah's love of silk is again evident in three more reminders of what the believers will be wearing in Paradise.

22:23 Allah shall admit those who believe and do the righteous deeds into Gardens, beneath which rivers flow. Therein they shall be adorned with gold bracelets and pearls, and their raiment there shall be of silk.

22:24 They had been guided to the fair words and guided to the Path of the Praiseworthy.

⁴⁰ **Narrated Anas bin Malik:**

The Prophet said, "Whoever wears silk in this world shall not wear it in the Hereafter."

Bukhari 72.723

35:33 Into Gardens of Eden they enter, wherein they are adorned with gold bracelets and pearls and there clothing therein will be silk.

44:51 However, the God-fearing are in a secure place;

44:52 In gardens and well-springs.

44:53 They wear silk and brocade facing each other.

Clothing is *not* optional!

20:118 "You will certainly not be hungry therein, nor be naked.

Sun block will not be required in Paradise.

20:119 "And you will not thirst therein, nor be exposed to the heat of the sun."

The Password

Before the angels come to take you up to Paradise and all it has to offer, you must correctly identify your Lord.

41:30 Those who say: "Our Lord is Allah", then are upright, the angels shall descend upon them saying: "Do not fear or grieve, but rejoice in the Paradise which you were promised.

41:31 "We are your protectors in the present life and in the Hereafter, wherein you shall have whatever your hearts souls desire and you shall have therein whatever you call for;

41:32 "As hospitality from an All-Forgiving, Merciful One."

46:13 Indeed, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah", and then are upright, have no cause to fear and they shall not grieve.

46:14 Those are the companions of Paradise dwelling therein forever, as a reward for what they used to do.

A Man's Paradise

83:34 But today, the believers shall laugh at the unbelievers.

83:35 Upon couches, they gaze around.

For those who don't receive mansions, palaces, apartments or single-family dwellings—that is, the majority of the dwellers of Paradise—there will be plenty of couches. Couches, with uplifted mattresses interwoven with gold threads, lined up to face one another in an oasis that provides shade that stretches to infinity. On these couches, men will recline to drink cool, clear spring water and non-alcoholic wine from golden cups. They will also enjoy a variety of fruits and halal (permissible) meats served on platters made of gold, with wide-eyed maidens standing around averting their gazes.

37:39 And you (*unbelievers*) shall only be rewarded for what you used to do.

37:40 Except for Allah's sincere servants.

37:41 To those is assigned a fixed provision,

37:42 Of fruits; and they shall be honoured;

37:43 In the Gardens of Bliss;

37:44 Upon couches, facing each other.

37:45 A cup of pure spring water shall be passed around them;

37:46 Snow-white, a delight to drinkers.

37:47 Wherein there is no gall and they are not intoxicated by it.

37:48 And they also shall have wide-eyed maidens⁴¹ averting their gaze.

37:49 They resemble hidden pearls.

Reclining on fine furniture, popping grapes, and drinking wine are not the only enjoyment heaven will have to offer. After all, we are talking an eternity here. How to pass the time—or, more accurately, how men would amuse themselves for an eternity—presented a real problem for Allah in terms of public relations. Basically, Paradise, as described in the Koran comprises eating, drinking, fornicating, visiting with friends

⁴¹ Scholars are all over the place with regard to the existence of these maidens. Respected Islamic information site *Islamicstudies.info* speculates that they are probably “innocent girls who died immature and Allah will recreate them as young and beautiful women.” That is as good a far-fetched explanation as any.

and relatives, and making fun of the unbelievers roasting below in Hell. It is a place where each man can fornicate to his heart's content, with God providing perpetual virgins, blushing maidens and permanently aroused, sexually adept female facsimiles: the infamous houris. Sixteenth-century Islamic scholar Al-Suyuti (died 1505) wrote that in Paradise, there will be so much sex to be had that men will walk around with permanent erections.

Each time we sleep with a houri we find her virgin. Besides, the penis of the Elected never softens. The erection is eternal; the sensation that you feel each time you make love is utterly delicious and out of this world and were you to experience it in this world you would faint. Each chosen one [Muslim] will marry seventy [sic] houris, besides the women he married on earth, and all will have appetising vaginas.

How could God describe such a place without comparing Paradise to one gigantic brothel in the sky? One aspect that differentiates Paradise from a bordello is that the beneficiaries of Allah's Beneficence are married to their sex partners.

44:54 Thus it will be; and we gave them wide-eyed houris in marriage.

52:17 The God-fearing are indeed in gardens and bliss,

52:18: Rejoicing in what their Lord has given them; and their Lord shall guard them against the punishment of Hell. [saying]:

52:19 "Eat and drink merrily, for what you used to do."

52:20: Reclining on ranged couches, and We shall wed them to wide-eyed houris.

56:22 And wide-eyed houris,

56:23 Like hidden pearls;

56:24 As a reward for what they used to do.

The marriage ceremony may include branding of the houris. Professor and author Malcolm Clark, formerly of the Department of Religion at Butler University, states that according to one *Tradition of the Prophet*, one of the houris' voluptuous breasts is branded with the name of her

husband and the other with the name of her husband's benefactor, Allah. This will make it easier for men to keep track of the equivalent of their herd, a harem of houris, making it less likely for one to accidentally fornicate with another's houris. In addition to houris skilled in the sexual arts, men will have access to extra-virginal, kind-hearted (and round-breasted) girls who never lose their virginity, even after intercourse, and never grow old.

56:35 We have formed them originally;

56:36 And made them pure virgins⁴²,

56:37 Tender and unageing,

56:38 For the Companions of the Right,

56:39 A throng of the ancients,

56:40 And a throng of the latecomers (*latecomers to Islam*).

78:31 The God-fearing will score a victory,

78:32 Gardens and vineyards,

78:33 And round-breasted mates,

78:34 And a brim-full cup.

The maidens from the following verse are the pure virgins of Revelation 56:36.

55:56 Therein are maidens lowering their glances and they have not been touched, before them by any man or jinn.

55:57 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:58 They are like rubies and coral.

⁴² Why God would make this distinction is not clear (between your run-of-the-mill virgin and a pure one) until you read *Islamicstudies.info*'s singular explanation of Revelation 56:36:

This signifies the virtuous women of the world, who will enter Paradise on the basis of their faith and good works. Allah will make them young no matter how aged they might have died in the world; will make them beautiful whether or not they were beautiful in the world; and will make them virgins whether they died virgins in the world or after bearing children. If their husbands also entered Paradise with them, they would be joined with them. Otherwise, Allah will wed them to another dweller in Paradise.

55:59 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

The reward for *doing good* on Earth, i.e., beneficence, is Allah doing something good for you in the afterlife, e.g., 'virtuous maidens'.

55:60 Shall the reward of beneficence be other than beneficence?

55:61 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:70 Therein (*Paradise*) are beautiful, virtuous maidens.

55:71 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

Like on Earth, these virtuous maidens will be secluded. How else could they remain virtuous otherwise?

55:72 Wide-eyed, cloistered in pavilions.

55:73 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:74 No man or jinn touched them before.

55:75 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:76 Reclining upon green cushions and superb rugs.

55:77 So, which of your Lord's Bounties do you both (Jinn and humans) deny?

55:78 Blessed be the Name of your Lord, full of majesty and splendour.

Deserving males who would rather the company of immortal boys with alabaster-like skin—instead of purified wives, virtuous blushing maidens and voluptuous, easily aroused houris—will not be disappointed.⁴³

52:24 And boys of their own will go around them, as if they were hidden pearls.

⁴³ Whether Allah makes a distinction between adult homosexual relationships and pedophilia, banning one and allowing the other, has been the subject of much discussion.

76:19 And there go round them immortal boys; when you see them, you will think that they are scattered pearls.

76:20 If you look there you will see bliss and a vast kingdom.⁴⁴

76:21 Upon them are green silk garments and brocade; and they have been adorned with silver bracelets, and their Lord has given them a pure potion (wine, *Moududi*).

In one of the more confounding juxtaposition of verses in the Koran, God's focus then switches to Muhammad.

76:22 "This indeed has been your reward, and your endeavour has been appreciated."

76:23 We have indeed sent down the Qur'an upon you as a revelation;

76:24 So bear up with your Lord's Judgement and do not obey any sinful or thankless one of them.

Will women be allowed to have sex with multiple sexually adept, virile, hard-bodied, good-looking young men in Allah's version of heaven? Not likely. The best women can expect in heaven is sex with their former spouse.⁴⁵

3:15 Say: "Shall I tell you about something better than all that?" For those who are God-fearing, from their Lord are gardens beneath which rivers flow, and in which they abide forever [along with] purified spouses and Allah's good pleasure. Allah's sees His servants well!

36:55 Today the Companions of Paradise are busy enjoying themselves;

36:56 Together with their spouses they are reclining on couches in the shade.

36:57 Wherein they have fruit, and have all they call for.

36:58 "Peace", uttered by a Merciful Lord.

⁴⁴ "They will live as if they had a vast kingdom." *Moududi*

⁴⁵ A girl or woman who dies a spinster in Allah's good books will be wedded to an eligible male in Paradise.

For company, while their husband is busy elsewhere, mothers will have their fully grown children to talk to – but again, no idle talk!

52:21 And those who have believed and their progeny followed them in belief, We shall join their progeny to them. We shall not deprive them of any of their work; every man shall be bound by what he has earned.

52:22 And We shall supply them with fruit and meat, such as they desire.

52:23 They will exchange therein a cup of wherein there is no idle talk or vilification.

A maiden is generally understood to be a young unmarried woman. Muhammad said that in Paradise, everyone will be 30 or 33 years of age. This is worth mentioning because of the age of the “mates” in Revelation 38:52. Since no sex will be allowed with either houris or blushing maidens before marriage, this might seem somewhat old for a maiden.

38:49 This is a Reminder and the God-fearing will surely have a fair resort.

38:50 Gardens of Eden whereof the gates are wide-open for them.

38:51 Reclining therein and calling for abundant fruit and beverage.

38:52 And they have mates of equal age, averting their gaze.

38:53 “This is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning.

38:54 “This is our provision which will not end.”

In heaven, everyone will love everyone; you may even be allowed to watch the guy on the next couch next to you making out.

15:45 “The righteous will surely be amidst gardens and fountains.

15:46 [It will be said to them]: “Enter therein in peace and security.”

15:47 We shall remove all hatred from their hearts, and as brethren they shall recline, facing each other, upon couches.

You will never get tired, and never require sleep.

15:48 They shall not be touched by fatigue therein, nor will they be driven out.

35:34 They say: "Praise be to Allah Who lifted off our sorrow. Our Lord is indeed All-Forgiving, All-Thankful.

35:35 "He who out of His Bounty has made us dwell in the Abode of Everlasting Life, where no fatigue will touch us, nor any weariness."

Paradise is where it's *happening*.

THE HAPPENING

56 Al-Waqi`ah

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

56:1 When the Happening comes to pass.

56:2 Of its occurrence there is no denial;

56:3 Abasing some, exalting others.

56:4 When the earth shall be shaken violently

56:5 And the mountain shall be reduced to rubble,

56:6 So that they become scattered dust.

56:7 And you shall be three categories:

56:8 The Companions of the Right - behold the Companions of the Right⁴⁶?

56:9 And the Companions of the Left - behold the Companions of the Left?

56:10 And the outstrippers (the privileged few), the outstrippers;

56:11 Those are the favoured ones,

56:12 In the Gardens of Bliss;

⁴⁶ The Companions of the Right is taken to mean, by most commentators, "Companions of the Right Hand." On Judgement Day, those given their book of good and bad deeds in their right hand will be going to heaven.

- 56:13 A throng of the ancients,
 56:14 And a small band of the latecomers.
 56:15 Upon beds interwoven with gold;
 56:16 Reclining upon them, facing each other.
 56:17 While immortal youths go around them,
 56:18 With goblets, pitchers and a cup of limpid drink.
 56:19 Their heads do not ache from it and they do not become
 intoxicated.
 56:20 And with such fruit as they care to choose;
 56:21 And such flesh of fowl as they desire;

Again, no idle talk or disparaging words, but you will be expected to extend your best wishes to your couch companions. You will be fed twice a day (not including between-meal snacks such as fruit, based on other revelations).

19:62 They hear therein no idle talk, but only: "Peace"; and they receive from their provision therein morning and evening.

- 56:25 They do hear therein idle talk or vilification.
 56:26 Only the greeting: "Peace, Peace!"
 56:27 As for the Companions of the Right; and behold the
 Companions of the Right?
 56:28 They are in the midst of thornless (sic) Lotus trees,
 56:29 And braided acacias,
 56:30 And extended shade,
 56:31 And overflowing water;
 56:32 And abundant fruit,
 56:33 Neither withheld nor forbidden,
 56:34 And uplifted mattresses.

Once again, no idle talk. What in heaven's name will you talk about for an eternity if small talk is forbidden and you cannot have a conversation with God?

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78:35 Therein, they do not hear any idle talk or denunciation.

78:36 A reward from your Lord, a sufficient gift;

78:37 The Lord of the heavens and the earth and what lies between them; the Compassionate to Whom they do not have the power to speak.

People who may or may not spend time in the grave.

52:25 They turn one to another asking each other questions;

52:26 They say: "We were formerly in the midst of our families living in awe;

52:27 "Then Allah was gracious to us and guarded us against the torment of the scorching wind (*of Hell*).

52:28 "We used formerly to call on Him; He is the All-Gracious, the Merciful."

Try to buy your way into Paradise and you will be in for a surprise.

39:47 Had the wrongdoers possessed all that is on earth and the like of it too, they would have redeemed therewith themselves from the terrible punishment of the Day of Resurrection, and there would have appeared to them from Allah that which they did not count on.

39:48 And there would have appeared to them the evils of what they have earned, and what they scoffed at would have afflicted them.

What a Paradise it is!

19:63 Such is the Paradise which We shall give as inheritance to those of Our servants who are God-fearing.

This is where the 9/11 terrorists aspired to arrive through their devastating actions. In Mohamed Atta's heaven, he is pounding away on his couch, breaking hymens and popping grapes for an eternity, all the while enjoying the spectacle of those he slaughtered roasting in Hell.

HELL

2:119 We have sent you with the Truth as a bearer of good tidings and as a warner. You are not to be questioned about the people of Hell.

Nonetheless, here we go:

76:4 We have prepared for the unbelievers chains and fetters and a blazing fire.

89:26 And none shall bind with fetters like His.

The Fire of Hell is not magic.

52:13 On the Day they will be driven into the Fire of Hell by force.

52:14 "This is the Fire which you used to deny.

52:15 "Is this magic or do you not see?

52:16 "Burn in it. Bear up or do not bear up; it is the same for you. You are only rewarded for what you used to do."

The keeper of Allah's Hell is a fellow by the name of Malik.

43:74 Indeed the criminals shall suffer the punishment of Hell forever.

43:75 They will not be relieved and they are in it completely confounded.

43:76 We did not wrong them, but they were the wrongdoers themselves.

43:77 They call out: "O Malik, let your Lord be done with us." He will say: "You are surely staying on."

Another word for Hell is Gehennam.

32:12 If only you could see how the criminals are hanging their heads down before their Lord, saying: "Our Lord, we have seen and heard; so send us back that we might do the righteous deed. Now we believe with certainty."

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32:13 Had We wished, We would have granted every soul its guidance, but My Word is now fulfilled: "I shall fill Gehennam (Hell) with jinn and men, all together."

Still another word for Hell is Saqar, a place where everything is flammable.

74:27 If only he⁴⁷ knew what is Saqar.

74:28 It leaves nothing or spares nothing.

74:29 Scorching mankind.

Saqar is guarded by nineteen angels.

74:30 Upon it stand nineteen guards.

Allah revealed the number of angels guarding Hell as further proof for Christians and Jews that He knows what He is talking about.

74:31 We have only made angels the guardians of the Fire; and we have not fixed their numbers except as a temptation for those who have disbelieved; so that those who received the Book (Christians and Jews) might be certain and those who have believed increase in belief; and that those who received the Book and the believers together may not doubt; and that those in whose hearts there is a sickness together with the unbelievers might say: "What did Allah mean by this allegory?" Thus Allah leads those whom he wishes astray and guides those whom He wishes rightly. None knows the hosts (*armies*) of your Lord except He. He is only a reminder for mankind.

Hell's Fire will never go out; God will look after that personally.

17:97 Whoever Allah guides is certainly well-guided, and those whom He leaves in error you shall not find for them, besides Allah, any protectors. We shall gather them on the Day of Resurrection, falling on their faces, blind, dumb and deaf. Their dwelling shall be Hell, and whenever it abates, We shall rekindle its flames.

⁴⁷ al-Mughirah who insulted Muhammad, by making a joke about God not having favoured him with sons. Instead of providing His beloved mouthpiece with male descendants and making a fool of Mughirah, Allah again preferred boasting of a good roasting rather than doing what should be child's play for a god of his stature.

Hell is a warning for mankind!

74:32 By the moon;

74:33 And the night when it recedes;

74:34 And the morning when it lights up.

74:35 Surely it is one of the great ordeals (*Hell*),

74:36 A warning for mankind;

74:37 To whoever of you wishes to advance or retreat.

The Compassionate is not above getting His Hands dirty if it means making sure the suffering of unbelievers never subsides.

4:56 Those who have disbelieved Our Signs, We shall surely cast them into the Fire; every time their skins are burnt, We will replace them by other skins, so that they might taste the punishment. Allah indeed is Mighty and Wise!

God will collectively ensure that once the skin of those He sentenced to roast for an eternity is nothing but ashes in the hot, searing winds of Hell it is replaced by a fresh nerve-filled epidermis. Those whom Allah mentions by name as deserving of His personal attention, such as the hapless Abu Lahab and his wife, will have it worst of all, if that is even possible.

111 Al-Masad

THE FIBRE

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful*

1. Perish the hands of Abu Lahab, and may he perish too;
2. Neither his wealth nor what he has earned will avail him anything.
3. He will roast in a flaming fire,
4. And his wife will be a carrier of fire-wood,
5. She shall have a rope of fibre around her neck.

What Abu Lahab did to deserve this horrific punishment had nothing to do with his wife.

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

When the Verse: 'And warn your tribe of near kindred.' (26.214) was revealed. Allah's Apostle went out, and when he had ascended As-Safa mountain, he shouted, "O Sabahah!"

The people said, "Who is that?"

Then they gathered around him, whereupon he said, "Do you see? If I inform you that cavalrymen are proceeding up the side of this mountain, will you believe me?"

They said, "We have never heard you telling a lie."

Then he said, "I am a plain warner to you of a coming severe punishment."

Abu Lahab said, "May you perish! You gathered us only for this reason?"

Then Abu Lahab went away. So the "Surat: ul-LAHAB" 'Perish the hands of Abu Lahab!' (111.1) was revealed.

Bukhari 60.495

Allah tends to anthropomorphize, i.e., ascribe human features to objects, referring to His beloved Fire as the *Smasher* whose flames burn through the flesh to reach and sear the hearts of people bound to pillars.

104:5 And if only you knew what is the Smasher.

104:6 It is Allah's kindled Fire,

104:7 Which attains even the hearts.

104:8 Upon them it is closing in;

104:9 On pillars stretched out.

The same applies to Hell, which Allah considers a living thing.

67:6 And to those who have disbelieved in their Lord, the punishment of Hell is reserved; and what an evil resort!

67:7 When they are cast into it, they hear its heavy breathing as it boils over.

67:8 It almost bursts with rage. Every time a new throng is cast into it, its keepers ask them: Has no warner come to you?"

25:11 No, they deny the Hour (the Last Day); yet We have prepared for those who deny the Hour a blazing Fire.

25:12 When it (Hell) sights them from a distance, they hear its raging and exhalation.

25:13 And if they are hurled in a narrow space therein, tied up in fetters, they would call out there for ruination.

25:14 Call out today for one ruination, but call out for many ruinations.

Allah appears much more at ease when describing the horrors of Hell than when expounding on the delights to be found in Paradise. The fact that Hell is a place where no distinction is made between men, women and children probably makes it easier to describe than Paradise, with its double standard for men and women. Think evil thoughts of Allah and He will make them come true.

48:6 And that He may punish the hypocrites, men and women, and the unbelievers, men and women, who think evil thoughts of Allah. Upon them is the evil turn of fortune. Allah is wrathful at them, curses them and has prepared Hell for them; and what a wretched fate!

15:43 "Hell shall be the appointed place for them all.

Hell has seven gates by which sinners will enter depending on the sins they committed.

15:44 Seven gates it has; and to each gate a part of them is assigned.

Those condemned to roast in Allah's Fire exist in a state between life and death.

87:10 He who fears shall remember;

87:11 And the most wretched shall refrain from it;

87:12 He who shall roast in the great Fire,

87:13 Then, he will neither die therein nor live.

Allah seems to have a fondness for couches.

7:41 Hell shall be their couch and over them shall be canopies [of fire]. Thus We punish the wrongdoers.

38:55 "That is that, but the aggressors shall have the worst resort.

38:56 "Hell, in which they roast. Wretched is their couch!"

Refreshments are available but leave a lot to be desired – unless you happen to be a fan of stinking, boiling water topped with pus.

10:4 Unto him you shall all return; it is Allah's Promise in truth. He originates the creation, then He brings it back to reward equitably those who believe and do the good deeds. But those who disbelieve shall drink boiling water and shall be severely punished on account of their disbelief.

14:16 Behind him is Hell, and he is given stinking water to drink.

14:17 He sips it but can hardly swallow it, and death surrounds him from every side, but he will not die; and beyond this is still a terrible punishment.

38:57 "That, let them taste it, as boiling water and pus

38:58 "And another of the same kind, manifold.

56:90 But if he is one of the Companions of the Right;

56:91 Then "Peace upon you", from the Companions of the Right.

56:92 However, if he is one of those who denounce and err (a Companion of the Left);

56:93 Then he will be served boiling water,

56:94 And will be scorched by the Fire.

56:95 That is indeed the certain Truth.

56:96 So, glorify the Name of Your Lord, the Great One.

You might be able to chase the beverage down with some freezing hail (Verse 78:25), which would indicate that parts of Allah's Hell may indeed freeze over, and that it has some form of cloud cover.

78:21 Hell is, indeed, lying in ambush;

78:22 A refuge for the transgressors;

78:23 Tarrying therein for ages;

78:24 Wherein, they do not taste any coolness or fresh drinks;

78:25 Except for boiling water and freezing hail;

78:26 As an appropriate reward.

78:27 Indeed, they did not expect any reckoning;

78:28 And denounced Our Signs as lies.

78:29 Everything We have enumerated fully in a Book.

78:30 So taste. We will only increase your punishment.

And the food! You will eat like cattle, pus-eating cattle.

47:12 Allah shall admit those who believe and do the righteous deeds into gardens beneath which rivers flow but the unbelievers shall take pleasure and eat like cattle, and the Fire shall be their abode.

You will choke on your food trying to get it down. No kidding!

73:11 And let Me deal with those who deny and live in luxury; and give them a little respite.

73:12 We have indeed shackles and a blazing Fire;

73:13 And food upon which they choke and painful punishment.

At the bottom of the lowest level of Hell grows the tree of bitterness, the Zaqqum tree. Like Allah's cocktails for the unbelievers, its fruits leave much to be desired.

44:43 The Tree of Zaqqum (the Tree of Bitterness) will certainly be

44:44 The food of the sinner.

44:45 Like molten lead, which boils in the bellies;

44:46 Like boiling water.

It's not enough that the denizens of Hell will only have boiling drinking water; they will also be showered with it.

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44:47 "Take him and trust him into the pit of Hell.

44:48 "Then pour over his head the agony of the boiling water;

44:49 "Saying: 'Taste, you are truly the mighty and noble one.'

44:50 "That is the punishment which you used to doubt."

Workers of the world work, or else have a taste of that horrible tree.

37:58 "Are we going to die,

37:59 Except for our first death? And will we not be punished?"

37:60 Surely this is the great triumph.

37:61 For the like of this, let the workers work.

37:62 Is that a better outcome or the Tree of Bitterness?

37:63 We have made it a temptation for the wrongdoers.

37:64: It is a tree that grows out of the bottom of Hell;

37:65 Its shoots are like the heads of devils.

37:66 They shall eat from it until they fill their bellies.

What is it with God and boiling water?

37:67 In addition, they have with it a mixture of boiling water.

The Tree of Bitterness may just be a way station.

37:68 Then, their return is unto Hell.

Following in the footsteps of their parents, their parents' parents...

37:69 Indeed they found their fathers steeped in error.

37:70 And so they are fast following in their footsteps.

37:71 And before them, most of the ancients were in error.

37:72 We had sent among them some warners.

37:73 But behold what was the fate of those who were warned.

37:74 Except for Allah's sincere servants.

Don't expect a warm welcome—or is it, perhaps, *expect* a warm welcome?

38:59 “This is another throng marching with you; no welcome to them, they will roast in the Fire.”

People in Hell will fight amongst themselves, accusing one another of having lied about Allah. They will ask God to increase the punishments of those who misled them.

38:60 They say: “No welcome to you; you have offered it to us in advance, and what a wretched resting-place!”

38:61 They say: “Our Lord, whoever has offered this to us, multiply his punishment in the Fire.”

38:62 And they say: “What is it with us that we do not see men here we used to reckon among the wicked?”

38:63 “We took them for a laughing-stock, or have eyes been diverted away from them?”

38:64 This is perfectly true, the feuding of the people of the Fire.

Families in Hell will also have awnings, above and beneath them, which will be made of fire.

39:14 Say (*O Muhammad*): “Allah alone I worship professing to Him my religion sincerely.

39:15 “Worship, then, what you wish, apart from Him.” Say: “Indeed, those who have lost themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection are the real losers. That is truly the manifest lost.”

39:16 They shall have over them awnings of fire and under them other awnings. That is what Allah frightens His servants with: “O My servants fear Me, then.”

What the Hell is a “three-pronged shade”?⁴⁸

77:29 Go forth to what you used to denounce as lies.

77:30 Go forth to a three-pronged shade;

77:31 Which neither shades nor avail against the flames.

⁴⁸ “Shadow of smoke; three columns: because when a big smoke arises, it is divided into several parts at the top.” www.islamicstudies.info

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Even in Hell, clothing is *not* optional.

14:50 Their garments made of pitch, and their faces covered with fire.

People in Hell will not need the services of a barber or hair stylist.

70:15 No, it is truly a blazing fire;

70:16 Which strips off the scalps.

70:17 It summons him who has turned his back and fled;

70:18 And amassed wealth and hoarded it.

The only entertainment will be fireworks like you have never seen before.

77:32 It (Hell) shoots forth sparks as huge as a castle;

77:33 Which look like golden, camel-herds.

77:34 Woe betide on that Day those who denounce.

The most conceited of deities never tires of labelling those who did not heed His alleged messengers as being arrogant, a sin for which they will burn in Hell.

39:71 And the unbelievers shall be driven to Hell in throngs; so that when they have reached it, its gates will be opened and its keepers will say to them: "Have not Messengers from your own people come to you reciting to you the Revelations of your Lord and warning you against the Encounter of this your Day?" They will say: "Yes, indeed"; but the word of punishment has come to pass against the unbelievers.

39:72 It will be said: "Enter the gates of Hell, dwelling therein forever. Wretched is the dwelling of the arrogant."

I doubt anyone would refuse to worship a god they considered the genuine article out of a mere sense of pride.

40:59 The Hour is indeed coming, no doubt about it; but most people do not believe.

40:60 Your Lord has said: "Call on me and I will answer you. Those who are too proud to worship Me shall enter Hell totally abased."

Have too much fun and you are sure to go to Hell!

40:73 Then it will be said to them: "Where are those you used to set up as associates,

40:74 "Apart from Allah?" They will say: "They strayed away from us. Indeed, we did not call on upon anything formerly." Thus Allah leads the unbelievers astray.

40:75 That is because you used to rejoice on earth in what is other than the truth and because you used to frolic.⁴⁹

40:76 Enter then the gates of Hell, dwelling therein forever. Evil is the dwelling of the arrogant.

Romping is also considered 'having fun'. Don't participate in romping or join those who do unless you want to be considered a criminal, one of those "who used to deny the Day of Judgement," fated to burn in Hell.

74:38 Every soul is a hostage to what it has earned;

74:39 Except for the Companions of the Right;

74:40 In Gardens (Paradise), they will ask,

74:41 Concerning the criminals:

74:42 "What drove you into Saqar?"

74:43 They will say: "We were not among those who prayed,

74:44 "And we were not among those who fed the destitute;

74:45 "And we used to romp with the rompers;

74:46 "And we used to deny the Day of Judgement;

74:47 "Till the Certainty came to us."

The only fun permitted is the type when you are naked with a wife or a slave-girl (Revelations 70:30-31).

70:22 Except for those who pray;

70:23 Those who are constantly at prayer;

⁴⁹ "Allah did not create man so that he could have fun. The aim of creation was for mankind to be put to the test through hardship and prayer. An Islamic regime must be serious in every field. There are no jokes in Islam. There is no humor in Islam. There is no fun in Islam. There can be no fun and joy in whatever is serious." *Ayatollah Khomeini*

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70:24 And those who have set aside a fixed portion of their wealth,

70:25 For the beggar and the destitute.

70:26 And those who believe firmly in the Day of Judgement;

70:27 And those who fear the punishment of their Lord.

70:28 The punishment of their Lord cannot be averted;

70:29 And those who guard their private parts;

70:30 Except from their wives or what their right-hands possess (*slave-girls*); for they are not therein blameworthy.

70:31 He who seeks [pleasure] beyond that - those are the transgressors.

70:32 And those who honour their trusts and their pledges;

70:33 And those who stand by their testimonies;

70:34 And those who observe their prayer;

70:35 All those shall be in Gardens, well-honoured.

In keeping with Allah's creative mind when it comes to inflicting pain, His retributions will be in keeping with the sin.

9:34 O believers, many of the rabbis and monks devour the property of the people unjustly and bar others from the Path of Allah. Those who hoard gold and silver and do not spend them in Allah's Path, announce to them a very painful punishment.

9:35 On the Day when all that will be heated in the Fire of Hell, and their foreheads, sides and backs will be branded with it. This is what you hoarded for yourselves; taste now what you used to hoard.

You can do the righteous deed and still be a wrongdoer. It's not enough to simply do the good deed; you have to do the good deed according to Allah's standards.

35:36 But the unbelievers shall have the Fire of Hell, wherein they will not be finished off and die, nor will its punishment be lightened for them. Thus we will reward every thankless person.

35:37 Therein they will cry out: "Our Lord, bring us out and we will do the righteous deed, differently from what we used to do." Did We not prolong your life sufficiently for him to remember who is apt to remember? The warner came to you, so taste now. The wrongdoers shall have no supporter.

The Compassionate will forgive real criminals, even cold-blooded killers,⁵⁰ but not those considered criminals for worshipping gods other than His Eminence, which He compares to worshipping Satan.

36:59 "Be singled out today, O criminals.

36:60 "Did I not exhort you, O Children of Adam, not to worship Satan? For he is a manifest enemy of yours.

36:61 "And worship Me; for this is a straight path.

36:62 "He has surely led astray numerous generations of you. Did you not understand, then?

36:63 "This, then, is Hell which you were promised.

36:64 "Burn in it today for what you used to disbelieve."

Like at the time of Eve, if Allah has to sentence a husband to burn in Hell, his wives will share the blame and join him in the Fire.

37:22 Gather together those who were wrongdoers, their spouses and what they used to worship;

37:23 Apart from Allah, and lead them to the path of Hell.

For some reason, Muhammad was concerned about having devils as neighbours in the Hereafter.

23:97 And say: "Lord, I seek refuge with you from the goadings (sic) of the devils.

23:98 "And I seek refuge with You lest they join me".

Heaven or Hell: which will it be? Only Allah knows for sure!

17:54 Your Lord knows you best. If He pleases, He will have

⁵⁰ **Narrated Abu Huraira:**

Allah's Apostle said, "Allah welcomes two men with a smile; one of whom kills the other and both of them enter Paradise. One fights in Allah's Cause and gets killed. Later on Allah forgives the killer who also get martyred (In Allah's Cause)."

Bukhari 52.80

mercy on you, and if He pleases He will torture you. We have not sent you (*Muhammad*) to be their guardian.

“If He pleases He will torture you” seems like what a sadist masquerading as the embodiment of compassion and mercy might say to justify His actions.

11:106 As for the wretched, they shall be in the Fire; they shall have therein groaning and moaning;

11:107 Abiding therein forever, so long as the heavens and earth shall endure, except as your Lord pleases. Your Lord does indeed what He wants.

11:108 But as for the blessed, they shall be in Paradise abiding therein as long the heavens and earth shall endure; except as your Lord pleases, a gift, uninterrupted.

11:109 So do not be in doubt as to what these [people] worship; they only worship as fathers worshipped before them, and We shall accord them their share (of the punishment) undiminished.

18:29 And say: “The Truth is from your Lord. Whoever wishes, let him believe; and whoever wishes, let him disbelieve.” We have prepared for the wrongdoers a Fire whose canopy encompasses them all. If they call for relief, they will be relieved with water like molten brass which scalds the faces. Wretched is that drink and wretched is the resting-place!

21:100 They groan with pain therein (*Hell*) and they do not hear.

21:101 Those to whom We had given the fairest reward are kept away from it.

21:102 They do not hear its hissing, and they abide forever in what their hearts desire.

21:103 The greatest terror shall not cause them to grieve and the angels shall receive them saying: “This is your day that you were promised”;

22:19 Here are two adversaries who dispute about their Lord. To the unbelievers, garments of fire shall be cut up and over their heads boiling water shall be poured;

22:20 Whereby whatever is in their bellies and in their skin shall be melted.

22:21 And for them are iron rods (to beat their heads with).

22:22 Every time they want, in their gloom, to get out of it (the Fire), they are brought back into it. [And it is said to them]: "Taste the agony of burning."

23:106 They will say: "Lord, our misery overcame us and we were are an erring people.

23:107 "Lord, bring us out of it (Hell); then, if we revert we are indeed wrongdoers."

23:108 He (Allah) said: "Rot in it and do not talk to Me.

23:109 "There was a group of My servants who used to say: 'Lord, we believe, so forgive us and have mercy on us; you are the best of the merciful.'

23:110 "But you took them for a laughingstock, till they made you forget My Name, while you were mocking them.

23:111 "I have rewarded them this day for their forbearance, making them the winners."

Let us take a moment to remember the Companions of the Left, even if it is displeasing to the Compassionate. While the Companions of the Right are pounding away upon their couches, breaking hymens, popping grapes, sipping wine and drinking cool refreshing water, the Companions of the Left will be in Hell suffering all *It* has to offer.

56:41 As for the Companions of the Left; and what are the Companions of the Left;

56:42 Amid searing wind and boiling water;

56:43 And a shadow of thick smoke,

56:44 Which is neither cool nor bounteous.

On the Wall Between Heaven and Hell

Between Heaven and Hell is said to be a fortress-like wall atop of which men will be seen on Judgement Day walking toward Paradise.

7:46 Between them (the people of Paradise and the people of the Fire) is a veil, and on the Ramparts are men who know everyone by his mark. And they will call out to the People of Paradise: "Peace be upon you." That is, before they enter it, though they hope to do so.

7:47 And when their eyes are turned towards the people of the Fire, they will say: "Lord, do not place us among the wrongdoing people."

7:48 And the people of the Ramparts will cry out to some men who they will recognize by their marks saying: "Your amassing [of wealth] and your arrogance are of no avail to you."

7:49 "Are those the people that you swore Allah will have no mercy on?" [To these people will be said]: "Enter Paradise, you have nothing to fear, and you shall not grieve."

To these fortunate ones who will make their way to Paradise via the Ramparts and witness the terrible things the Compassionate will do to former companions and loved ones, it will be forbidden to share a single drop of water to alleviate the thirst of those who suffer.

7:50 Then the people of the Fire will call out to the people of Paradise: "Pour out upon us some water or part of what Allah has provided you with." They will say: "Allah forbids them both unto the unbelievers,

7:51 "Who take their religion as amusement and sport, and the present life deludes them." Today, We forget them as they forgot the encounter of this Day and used to deny Our Revelations.

7:52 And We have brought them a Book, which We have expounded with knowledge, as a guidance and mercy for a people who believe.

7:53 Do they only wait for its fulfilment? The Day its fulfilment comes, those who forgot it before will say: "The Messengers of our Lord brought the truth. Have we then any

intercessors to intercede for us, or shall we be taken back, so as to do something other than what we used to do?" They have indeed lost their souls, and what they fabricated has failed them.

HADITHS

Many of the revelations about Judgement Day, Paradise and Hell have the feel of an eyewitness account because they are. While Muhammad slept, he was visited by angels who took him on surreal visits to a Judgment Day that has yet to occur, a Paradise that would only have been occupied by maybe a few dozen martyrs, and a Hell yet to be filled. One such example is the following visit to Paradise, where he comes upon a palace reserved for a close collaborator and future caliph.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

We were sitting with Allah's Apostle, he said, "While I was sleeping, I saw myself in Paradise. Suddenly I saw a woman performing ablution beside a palace. I asked, 'For whom is this palace?'

They (the angels) replied, 'It is for Umar bin Al-Khattab.'

Then I remembered Umar's ghira (self-respect) and went back hurriedly."

On hearing that, Umar started weeping and said, "Let my father and mother be sacrificed for you. O Allah's Apostle! How dare I think of my ghira being offended by you?"

Bukhari 87.150

Others visions were the product of hallucinations. For example:

Narrated Abdullah bin Abbas:

One solar eclipse occurred during the lifetime of Allah's Apostle. He offered the eclipse prayer. His companions asked, "O Allah's Apostle! We saw you trying to take something while standing at your place and then we saw you re-treating."

The Prophet said, "I was shown Paradise and wanted to have a bunch of fruit from it. Had I taken it, you would have eaten from it as long as the world remains."

Bukhari 12.715

In spite of what you have been told, the Koran went through a number of necessary revisions (see Appendix), as could be expected from trying to put together a coherent text—and failing in some people’s opinion,⁵¹—largely from recollections of what had been heard years earlier. Muhammad’s sayings suffer from the same shortcomings, if not more so, having been collected 200 years after his passing. Unlike Allah’s Revelations, however, they were not subject to review but were judged as authentic if they did not contradict God and could be traced back to the man himself (via a chain of reliable transmitters), giving us a deeper insight into the Prophet’s thought process and state of mind. Following are unvarnished and authenticated observations in which you must believe as if they were revelations from God Himself unless they contradict what was revealed in the Koran.

Judgement Day

It will be a dark day indeed!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "The sun and the moon will be folded up (deprived of their light) on the Day of Resurrection."

Bukhari 54.422

The first person to be resurrected on Judgement Day will be Muhammad, or maybe Moses.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

The Prophet said, "The people will fall unconscious on the Day of Resurrection, then suddenly I will see Moses holding one of the pillars of the Throne."

Abu Huraira said: The Prophet said, "I will be the first person to be resurrected and will see Moses holding the Throne."

Bukhari 93.524

The colour and texture of the lands upon which all peoples who ever lived will be gathered to be judged.

⁵¹ British historian Thomas Carlyle called The Koran: “a confused, jumble, crude, incondite, endless iteration...”; Edward Gibbon said it was: “as toilsome a reading as I ever undertook; a wearisome confused jumble.”

Narrated Sahl bin Sa'd:

I heard the Prophet saying, "The people will be gathered on the Day of Resurrection on reddish white land like a pure loaf of bread (made of pure fine flour)."

Bukhari 76.528

Pity the camel with ten riders!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "The people will be gathered in three ways: (The first way will be of) those who will wish or have a hope (for Paradise) and will have a fear (of punishment).

(The second batch will be those who will gather) riding two on a camel or three on a camel or ten on a camel.

(The third batch) the rest of the people will be urged to gather by the Fire which will accompany them at the time of their afternoon nap and stay with them where they will spend the night, and will be with them in the morning wherever they may be then, and will be with them in the afternoon wherever they may be then."

Bukhari 76.529

The tail bones of decayed remains will be used to recreate the physical bodies of deceased beings on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Between the two blowing of the trumpet there will be forty."

The people said, "O Abu Huraira! Forty days?"

I refused to reply. They said, "Forty years?"

I refused to reply and added: Everything of the human body will decay except the coccyx bone (of the tail) and from that bone Allah will reconstruct the whole body.

Bukhari 60.338

No tail bone? No problem!

Narrated Abu Sa'id:

The Prophet said, "Amongst the people preceding your age,

there was a man whom Allah had given a lot of money. While he was in his death-bed, he called his sons and said, 'What type of father have I been to you?'

They replied, 'You have been a good father.'

He said, 'I have never done a single good deed; so when I die, burn me, crush my body, and scatter the resulting ashes on a windy day.'

His sons did accordingly, but Allah gathered his particles and asked (him), 'What made you do so?'

He replied, 'Fear of you.'

So Allah bestowed His Mercy upon him (forgave him)."

Bukhari 56.684

As mentioned in a footnote the first to be dressed on Judgment Day will be Abraham.

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

The Prophet said, "You will be gathered (on the Day of Judgment), bare-footed, naked and not circumcised."

He then recited: 'As We began the first creation, We, shall repeat it: A Promise We have undertaken: Truly we shall do it.' (21:104)

He added, "The first to be dressed on the Day of Resurrection, will be Abraham, and some of my companions will be taken towards the left side (i.e. to the (Hell) Fire), and I will say: 'My companions! My companions!' It will be said: 'They renegade from Islam after you left them.'"

Then I will say as the Pious slave of Allah (i.e. Jesus) said, "And I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them. When You took me up You were the Watcher over them, And You are a witness to all things. If You punish them, they are Your slaves and if You forgive them, Verily you, only You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise."

Bukhari 55.568

Pity the pregnant mothers on Judgement Day. Remember Revelation 22:2? Following is a hadith with additional information.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

The Prophet said, "On the day of Resurrection Allah will say, 'O Adam!' Adam will reply, 'Labbaik (*here I am*) our Lord, and Sa'daik (*I am obedient*).'

Then there will be a loud call (saying), 'Allah orders you to take from among your offspring a mission for the (Hell) Fire.'

Adam will say, 'O Lord! Who are the mission for the (Hell) Fire?'

Allah will say, 'Out of each thousand, take out 999.'

"At that time every pregnant female shall drop her load (have a miscarriage) and a child will have grey hair. And you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet not drunk, but severe will be the torment of Allah." (22:2)

(When the Prophet mentioned this), the people were so distressed (and afraid) that their faces got changed (in color) whereupon the Prophet said, "From Gog and Magog nine-hundred ninety-nine will be taken out and one from you. You Muslims (compared to the large number of other people) will be like a black hair on the side of a white ox, or a white hair on the side of a black ox, and I hope that you will be one-fourth of the people of Paradise."

On that, we said, "Allahu-Akbar!"

Then he said, "I hope that you will be) one-third of the people of Paradise."

We again said, "Allahu-Akbar!"

Then he said, "(I hope that you will be) one-half of the people of Paradise."

So we said, "Allahu Akbar."

Bukhari 60.265

The Ram of Death will make an appearance, only to be slaughtered.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Allah's Apostle said, "On the Day of Resurrection Death will

be brought forward in the shape of a black and white ram. Then a call maker will call, 'O people of Paradise!' Thereupon they will stretch their necks and look carefully.

The caller will say, 'Do you know this?'

They will say, 'Yes, this is Death.' By then all of them will have seen it.

Then it will be announced again, 'O people of Hell!'

They will stretch their necks and look carefully.

The caller will say, 'Do you know this?'

They will say, 'Yes, this is Death.' And by then all of them will have seen it.

Then it (that ram) will be slaughtered and the caller will say, 'O people of Paradise! Eternity for you and no death. O people of Hell! Eternity for you and no death.'"

Then the Prophet, recited: "And warn them of the Day of distress when the case has been decided, while (now) they are in a state of carelessness (i.e. the people of the world) and they do not believe." (19:39)

Bukhari 60.254

The appearance of a weightless fat man on Judgement Day does not mean all will be floating about like balloons waiting to be judged. It is about Allah ignoring unbelievers, as understood in a modern translation of Revelation 18:105: "Those who disbelieve in the Revelations of their Lord and in meeting Him. Their works are in vain and We will not take any account of them on the Day of Resurrection."

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "On the Day of Resurrection, a huge fat man will come who will not weigh, the weight of the wing of a mosquito in Allah's Sight, and then the Prophet added, 'We shall not give them any weight on the Day of Resurrection.'" (18:105)

Bukhari 60.253

Judgement Day is when Allah will sort out the good from those He has indiscriminately killed.

Narrated Ibn Umar:

Allah's Apostle said, "If Allah sends punishment upon a nation then it befalls upon the whole population indiscriminately and then they will be resurrected (and judged) according to their deeds."

Bukhari 88.224

Unbelievers will be subjected to some face time, but not for any social purposes.

Narrated Anas bin Malik:

A man said, "O Allah's Prophet! Will Allah gather the non-believers on their faces on the Day of Resurrection?"

He said, "Will not the One Who made him walk on his feet in this world, be able to make him walk on his face on the Day of Resurrection?"

Bukhari 60.283

Some will not be able to prostrate themselves on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Said:

I heard the Prophet saying, "Allah will bring forth the severest Hour, and then all the Believers, men and women, will prostrate themselves before Him, but there will remain those who used to prostrate in the world for showing off and for gaining good reputation. Such people will try to prostrate (on the Day of Judgment) but their back will be as stiff as if it is one bone (a single vertebra)."

Bukhari 60.441

No amount of deodorant will do.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The people will sweat so profusely on the Day of Resurrection that their sweat will sink seventy cubits deep into the earth, and it will rise up till it reaches the people's mouths and ears."

Bukhari 76.539

One who persists in bothering others, while all around him are drowning in sweat and looking to Muhammad and earlier messengers to save them, will face an even greater loss.

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Umar

The Prophet said, "A man keeps on asking others for something till he comes on the Day of Resurrection without any piece of flesh on his face."

The Prophet added, "On the Day of Resurrection, the Sun will come near (to, the people) to such an extent that the sweat will reach up to the middle of the ears, so, when all the people are in that state, they will ask Adam for help, and then Moses, and then Muhammad (p.b.u.h)."

The sub-narrator added "Muhammad will intercede with Allah to judge amongst the people. He will proceed on till he will hold the ring of the door (of Paradise) and then Allah will exalt him to Maqam Mahmud (the privilege of intercession, etc.). And all the people of the gathering will send their praises to Allah.

Bukhari 24.553

There are many with whom Allah will be angry.

Narrated Ibn Mas'ud:

The Prophet said, "Whoever takes a (false) oath in order to grab (others) property, then Allah will be angry with him when he will meet Him."

Bukhari 48.839

On Judgement Day, the worst people in Allah's Sight will be the hypocrites.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "The worst people in the Sight of Allah on the Day of Resurrection will be the double faced people who appear to some people with one face and to other people with another face."

Bukhari 73.84

However, there are men for whom Allah will provide shade on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Seven (people) will be shaded by Allah by His Shade on the Day of Resurrection when there will be no

shade except His Shade. (They will be), a just ruler, a young man who has been brought up in the worship of Allah, a man who remembers Allah in seclusion and his eyes are then flooded with tears, a man whose heart is attached to mosques (offers his compulsory congregational prayers in the mosque), two men who love each other for Allah's Sake, a man who is called by a charming lady of noble birth to commit illegal sexual intercourse with her, and he says, 'I am afraid of Allah,' and (finally), a man who gives in charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given."

Bukhari 82.798

Others will be ignored by God entirely on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "There will be three types of people whom Allah will neither speak to them on the Day of Resurrection nor will purify them from sins, and they will have a painful punishment: They are, (1) a man possessed superfluous water (more than he needs) on a way and he withholds it from the travelers. (2) a man who gives a pledge of allegiance to an Imam (ruler) and gives it only for worldly benefits, if the Imam gives him what he wants, he abides by his pledge, otherwise he does not fulfill his pledge; (3) and a man who sells something to another man after the 'Asr prayer and swears by Allah (a false oath) that he has been offered so much for it whereupon the buyer believes him."

Bukhari 89.319

The first cases to be adjudicated will be those where blood was shed; not in Allah's Cause is assumed.

Narrated Abdullah:

The Prophet said, "The cases which will be decided first (on the Day of Resurrection) will be the cases of blood-shedding."

Bukhari 76.540

On Judgement Day, Muhammad will receive guests on the banks of his private river in Paradise.⁵²

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, I will drive some people out from my (sacred) Fount on the Day of Resurrection as strange camels are expelled from a private trough."⁵³

Bukhari 40.555

Muslims will, of course, be first and foremost on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "We (Muslims) are the last (people to come in the world) but (will be) the foremost (on the Day of Resurrection)."

Bukhari 4:239

The privileged seventy-thousand!

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

Allah's Apostle said, "Nations were displayed before me; one or two prophets would pass by along with a few followers. A prophet would pass by accompanied by nobody. Then a big crowd of people passed in front of me and I asked, "Who are they, are they my followers?"

⁵² **Narrated Anas bin Malik:**

The Prophet said: "While I was walking in Paradise (on the night of Mi'raj), I saw a river, on the two banks of which there were tents made of hollow pearls. I asked, 'What is this, O Gabriel?'

He said, 'That is the Kauthar which Your Lord has given to you.' Behold! Its scent or its mud was sharp smelling musk!"

Bukhari 76.583

⁵³ Muhammad damned innovation in his religion, warning that "Every innovation is a misguidance and every misguidance goes to Hell fire." Allah obviously agreed:

Narrated Abdullah:

The Prophet said, "I am your predecessor at the Lake-Fount (Kauthar) and some men amongst you will be brought to me, and when I will try to hand them some water, they will be pulled away from me by force whereupon I will say, 'O Lord, my companions!'

Then the Almighty will say, 'You do not know what they did after you left, they introduced new things into the religion after you.'"

Bukhari 88.173

It was said, 'No. It is Moses and his followers.'

It was said to me, 'Look at the horizon.' Behold! There was a multitude of people filling the horizon.

Then it was said to me, 'Look there and there about the stretching sky!' Behold! There was a multitude filling the horizon.'

It was said to me, 'This is your nation out of whom seventy thousand shall enter Paradise without reckoning.'"

Bukhari 71.606

Believers will enter Paradise via the gate that best corresponds to Allah's judgement of their deeds.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever gives two kinds (of things or property) in charity for Allah's Cause, will be called from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, 'O slaves of Allah! Here is prosperity.' So, whoever was amongst the people who used to offer their prayers, will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was amongst the people who used to participate in Jihad, will be called from the gate of Jihad; and whoever was amongst those who used to observe fasts, will be called from the gate of Ar-Raiyan; whoever was amongst those who used to give in charity, will be called from the gate of charity."

Bukhari 31.121

Believers may still need up to four witnesses to attest to their good deeds before being admitted into Paradise.

Narrated Abu Al-Aswad:

Once I went to Medina where there was an outbreak of disease and the people were dying rapidly. I was sitting with Umar and a funeral procession passed by. The people praised the deceased. Umar said, "It has been affirmed" (Paradise). Then another funeral procession passed by. The people praised the deceased. Umar said, "It has been affirmed." (Paradise). Then another funeral procession passed by. The people praised the deceased. Umar said, "It has been affirmed (Paradise)." Then a third funeral procession passed by and

the people talked badly of the deceased. Umar said, "It has been affirmed (Hell)."

I asked Umar, "O chief of the believers! What has been affirmed?"

He said, "I have said what the Prophet said. He said, 'Allah will admit into paradise any Muslim whose good character is attested by four persons.'"

We asked the Prophet, 'If there were three witnesses only?'

He said, 'Even three.'

We asked, 'If there were two only?'

He said, 'Even two.'

But we did not ask him about one witness."

Bukhari 48.811

Those who shed their blood in a jihad will smell particularly good on Judgement Day – if, like Muhammad, you enjoy the smell of musk.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "A wound which a Muslim receives in Allah's cause will appear on the Day of Resurrection as it was at the time of infliction; blood will be flowing from the wound and its color will be that of the blood but will smell like musk."

Bukhari 4:238

Seven heavens, seven hells and now seven Earths! Is there a pattern here?

Narrated Salim's father (i.e. 'Abdullah):

The Prophet said, "Whoever takes a piece of the land of others unjustly, he will sink down the seven earths on the Day of Resurrection."

Bukhari 43.634

Show-offs beware!

Narrated Jundub:

The Prophet said, "He who lets the people hear of his good deeds intentionally, to win their praise, Allah will let the

people know his real intention (on the Day of Resurrection), and he who does good things in public to show off and win the praise of the people, Allah will disclose his real intention (and humiliate him)."

Bukhari 76.506

Land speculators beware!

Narrated Said bin Zaid:

Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever usurps the land of somebody unjustly, his neck will be encircled with it down the seven earths (on the Day of Resurrection)."

Bukhari 43.632

Traitors beware!

Narrated Ibn Umar:

The Prophet said, "Every betrayer will have a flag which will be fixed on the Day of Resurrection, and the flag's prominence will be made in order to show the betrayal he committed."

Bukhari 53.411

Zakat-avoiding rich people beware!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "Anyone whom Allah has given wealth but he does not pay its Zakat⁵⁴, then, on the Day of

⁵⁴ Compulsory charity which many of Muhammad's detractors, and even believers, considered extortion. You paid the Zakat if you did not want the Prophet's troops showing up at your door.

When the tribe of the Bani al-Mustaliq embraced Islam, the Holy Prophet sent Walid bin Uqbah to collect the zakat from them.

When he arrived in their territory, he became scared due to some reason and without visiting the people of the tribe returned to Madinah and complained to the Holy Prophet that they had refused to pay the zakat and had even wanted to kill him. On hearing this the Holy Prophet became very angry and he made up his mind to dispatch a contingent to punish those people.

In the meantime the chief of the Bani al-Mustaliq, Harith bin Dirar (father of Juwairiyah, wife of the Holy Prophet), arrived at the head of a deputation, and submitted: "By God, we did not at all see Walid; therefore, there could be no question of refusing to pay the zakat and wanting to kill him."

Moududi

Resurrection, his wealth will be presented to him in the shape of a bald-headed poisonous male snake with two poisonous glands in its mouth and it will encircle itself round his neck and bite him over his cheeks and say, 'I am your wealth; I am your treasure.'

Then the Prophet recited this Divine Verse: "And let not those who covetously withhold of that which Allah has bestowed upon them of His Bounty." (3.180)

Bukhari 60.88

Those rich in livestock may fare slightly better than those with a snake around their necks for not remitting the required Zakat.

Narrated Abu Dhar:

Once I went to him (the Prophet) and he said, "By Allah in Whose Hands my life is (or probably said, 'By Allah, except Whom none has the right to be worshipped) whoever had camels or cows or sheep and did not pay their Zakat, those animals will be brought on the Day of Resurrection far bigger and fatter than before and they will tread him under their hooves, and will butt him with their horns, and (those animals will come in circle): When the last does its turn, the first will start again, and this punishment will go on till Allah has finished the judgments amongst the people."

Bukhari 24.539

Do not have the arrogance to name any of your children the "king of kings," for Allah's Sake!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The most awful name in Allah's sight on the Day of Resurrection, will be (that of) a man calling himself Malik Al-Amlak (the king of kings)."

Bukhari 73.224

Whatever you do, don't steal from the collection plate.

Narrated Abu Humaid Al-Sa'idi:

The Prophet appointed a man from the tribe of Al-Azd, called Ibn 'Utbiyya for collecting the Zakat. When he returned he said, "This (i.e. the Zakat) is for you and this has been given to me as a present."

The Prophet said, "Why hadn't he stayed in his father's or mother's house to see whether he would be given presents or not? By Him in Whose Hands my life is, whoever takes something from the resources of the Zakat (unlawfully) will be carrying it on his neck on the Day of Resurrection; if it be a camel, it will be grunting; if a cow, it will be mooing; and if a sheep, it will be bleating."

The Prophet then raised his hands till we saw the whiteness of his armpits, and he said thrice, "O Allah! Haven't I conveyed Your Message (to them)?"

Bukhari 47.769

Taking more than your fair share of the war booty (ghulul) will incur similarly degrading treatment on Judgement Day, as will be inflicted upon those caught stealing from Allah's mandatory charity.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet got up amongst us and mentioned Al Ghulul, emphasized its magnitude and declared that it was a great sin saying, "Don't commit Ghulul for I should not like to see anyone amongst you on the Day of Resurrection, carrying over his neck a sheep that will be bleating, or carrying over his neck a horse that will be neighing.

Such a man will be saying: 'O Allah's Apostle! Intercede with Allah for me,' and I will reply, 'I can't help you, for I have conveyed Allah's Message to you.'

Nor should I like to see a man carrying over his neck, a camel that will be grunting.

Such a man will say, 'O Allah's Apostle! Intercede with Allah for me, and I will say, 'I can't help you for I have conveyed Allah's Message to you,' or one carrying over his neck gold and silver and saying, 'O Allah's Apostle! Intercede with Allah for me,' and I will say, 'I can't help you for I have conveyed Allah's Message to you,' or one carrying clothes that will be fluttering, and the man will say, 'O Allah's Apostle! Intercede with Allah for me.' And I will say, 'I can't help you, for I have conveyed Allah's Message to you.'"

Bukhari 52.307

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Amr:

There was a man who looked after the family and the belongings of the Prophet and he was called Karkara. The man died and Allah's Apostle said, "He is in the (Hell) Fire."

The people then went to look at him and found in his place, a cloak he had stolen from the war booty.

Bukhari 52.308

The mildest punishment one can expect is no walk in the park.

Narrated An-Nu'man bin Bashir:

I heard the Prophet saying, "The least punished person of the (Hell) Fire people on the Day of Resurrection will be a man under whose arch of the feet two smoldering embers will be placed, because of which his brain will boil just like Al-Mirjal (copper vessel) or a Qum-qum (narrow-necked vessel) is boiling with water."

Bukhari 76.567

Muhammad's uncle, Abu-Talib, took him in as an infant whose father died before he was born. He looked after him, loved and sheltered him, and protected him from his enemies when he grew into prophethood. Abu-Talib refused to become a Muslim, dying an unbeliever. A grateful nephew would try to negotiate the mildest punishment for him.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

I heard Allah's Apostles when his uncle, Abu Talib had been mentioned in his presence, saying, "Maybe my intercession will help him (Abu Talib) on the Day of Resurrection so that he may be put in a shallow place in the Fire, with fire reaching his ankles and causing his brain to boil."

Bukhari 76.569

Expect no mercy if you did not worship Allah and only Allah. What could be easier?

Narrated Anas bin Malik:

The Prophet said, "Allah will say to the person who will have the minimum punishment in the Fire on the Day of Resurrection, 'If you had things equal to whatever is on the

earth, would you ransom yourself (from the punishment) with it?' He will reply, 'Yes.' Allah will say, 'I asked you a much easier thing than this while you were in the backbone of Adam, that is, not to worship others besides Me, but you refused and insisted to worship others besides Me.'"

Bukhari 76.562

Purgatory, anyone?

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Allah's Apostle said, "When the people of Paradise have entered Paradise, and the people of the Fire have entered the Fire, Allah will say. 'Take out (of the Fire) whoever has got faith equal to a mustard seed in his heart.' They will come out, and by that time they would have burnt and became like coal, and then they will be thrown into the river of Al-Hayyat (life) and they will spring up just as a seed grows on the bank of a rainwater stream."

Bukhari 76.565

Narrated Anas bin Malik:

The Prophet said, "Some people will come out of the Fire after they have received a touch of the Fire, changing their color, and they will enter Paradise, and the people of Paradise will name them 'Al-Jahannamiyin the (Hell) Fire people.'"

Bukhari 76.564

The last thing you will be shown before you take your place in Paradise, or are cast into Hell:

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "None will enter Paradise but will be shown the place he would have occupied in the (Hell) Fire if he had rejected faith, so that he may be more thankful; and none will enter the (Hell) Fire but will be shown the place he would have occupied in Paradise if he had faith, so that may be a cause of sorrow for him."

Bukhari 76.573

On the last person to enter Paradise:

Narrated Abdullah:

The Prophet said, "I know the person who will be the last to come out of the (Hell) Fire, and the last to enter Paradise. He will be a man who will come out of the (Hell) Fire crawling, and Allah will say to him, 'Go and enter Paradise.'

He will go to it, but he will imagine that it had been filled, and then he will return and say, 'O Lord, I have found it full.'

Allah will say, 'Go and enter Paradise, and you will have what equals the world and ten times as much (or, you will have as much as ten times the like of the world).'

On that, the man will say, 'Do you mock at me (or laugh at me) though You are the King?'"

I saw Allah's Apostle (while saying that) smiling that his premolar teeth became visible.

It is said that will be the lowest in degree amongst the people of Paradise.

Bukhari 76.575

No longer an angry God!

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Allah's Apostle said, "Allah will say to the people of Paradise, 'O the people of Paradise!'

They will say, 'Labbaik, O our Lord, and Sa'daik!'

Allah will say, 'Are you pleased?'

They will say, 'Why should we not be pleased since You have given us what You have not given to anyone of Your creation?'

Allah will say, 'I will give you something better than that.'

They will reply, 'O our Lord! And what is better than that?'

Allah will say, 'I will bestow My pleasure and contentment upon you so that I will never be angry with you after forever.'"

Bukhari 76.557

The final announcement:

Narrated Ibn 'Umar:

The Prophet; said, "The people of Paradise will enter Paradise, and the people of the (Hell) Fire will enter the (Hell) Fire: then a call-maker will get up (and make an announcement) among them, 'O the people of the (Hell) Fire! No death anymore! And O people of Paradise! No death (anymore) but Eternity."

Bukhari 76.552

Hell will then be closed, but not before It and Paradise have a short discussion about the events of the Day.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said: "Paradise and the Fire (Hell) argued, and the Fire (Hell) said, 'I have been given the privilege of receiving the arrogant and the tyrants.'

Paradise said, 'What is the matter with me? Why do only the weak and the humble among the people enter me?'

On that, Allah said to Paradise, 'You are My Mercy which I bestow on whoever I wish of my servants.'

Then Allah said to the (Hell) Fire, 'You are my (means of) punishment by which I punish whoever I wish of my slaves. And each of you will have its fill.'

As for the Fire (Hell), it will not be filled till Allah puts His Foot over it whereupon it will say, 'Qati! Qati!'

At that time it will be filled, and its different parts will come closer to each other; and Allah will not wrong any of His created beings. As regards Paradise, Allah will create a new creation to fill it with."

Bukhari 6:373

A Fistful of Prophets

Muhammad and his followers will act as witnesses on behalf of Noah on Judgement Day.

Narrated Abu Said:

Allah's Apostle said, "Noah and his nation will come (on the Day of Resurrection and Allah will ask (Noah), 'Did you convey (the Message)?'

He will reply, 'Yes, O my Lord!'

Then Allah will ask Noah's nation, 'Did Noah convey My Message to you?'

They will reply, 'No, no prophet came to us.'

Then Allah will ask Noah, 'Who will stand a witness for you?'

He will reply, 'Muhammad and his followers (will stand witness for me).' So, I and my followers will stand as witnesses for him (that he conveyed Allah's Message)."

That is, (the interpretation) of the Statement of Allah: "Thus we have made you a just and the best nation that you might be witnesses Over mankind." (2.143)

Bukhari 55.555

Moses may be the only exemption to the rule that all must die on Judgement Day and then be resurrected.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Two men, a Muslim and a Jew, abused each other. The Muslim said, "By Him Who gave superiority to Muhammad over all the people."

On that, the Jew said, "By Him Who gave superiority to Moses over all the people."

The Muslim became furious at that and slapped the Jew in the face. The Jew went to Allah's Apostle and informed him of what had happened between him and the Muslim.

Allah's Apostle said, "Don't give me superiority over Moses, for the people will fall unconscious on the Day of Resurrection and I will be the first to gain consciousness, and behold! Moses will be there holding the side of Allah's

Throne. I will not know whether Moses has been among those people who have become unconscious and then has regained consciousness before me, or has been among those exempted by Allah from falling unconscious."

Bukhari 76.524

Abraham will get a vicious demonstration of what Allah thinks about unbelievers.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "On the Day of Resurrection Abraham will meet his father Azar whose face will be dark and covered with dust. (The Prophet Abraham will say to him): 'Didn't I tell you not to disobey me?'

His father will reply: 'Today I will not disobey you.'

Abraham will say: 'O Lord! You promised me not to disgrace me on the Day of Resurrection; and what will be more disgraceful to me than cursing and dishonoring my father?'

Then Allah will say (to him): 'I have forbidden Paradise for the disbelievers.' Then he will be addressed, 'O Abraham! Look! What is underneath your feet?'

He will look and there he will see a Dhabh (an animal), blood-stained, which will be caught by the legs and thrown in the (Hell) Fire."

Bukhari 55.569

Unbelievers like Abraham's father will be easy enough to identify.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "On the Day of Resurrection Abraham will see his father covered with Qatara and Ghabara (i.e. having a dark face)."

Bukhari 60.292

Who will save us?

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Some (cooked) meat was brought to Allah Apostle and the meat of a forearm was presented to him as he used to like it. He ate a morsel of it and said, "I will be the chief of all the

people on the Day of Resurrection. Do you know the reason for it?

Allah will gather all the human being of early generations as well as late generation on one plain so that the announcer will be able to make them all-hear his voice and the watcher will be able to see all of them.

The sun will come so close to the people that they will suffer such distress and trouble as they will not be able to bear or stand. Then the people will say, 'Don't you see to what state you have reached? Won't you look for someone who can intercede for you with your Lord?'

Some people will say to some others, 'Go to Adam.' So they will go to Adam and say to him. 'You are the father of mankind; Allah created you with His Own Hand, and breathed into you of His Spirit (meaning the spirit which he created for you); and ordered the angels to prostrate before you; so (please) intercede for us with your Lord. Don't you see in what state we are? Don't you see what condition we have reached?'

Adam will say, 'Today my Lord has become angry as He has never become before, nor will ever become thereafter. He forbade me (to eat of the fruit of) the tree, but I disobeyed Him. Myself! Myself! Myself! (has more need for intercession). Go to someone else; go to Noah.'

So they will go to Noah and say (to him), 'O Noah! You are the first (of Allah's Messengers) to the people of the earth, and Allah has named you a thankful slave; please intercede for us with your Lord. Don't you see in what state we are?'

He will say, 'Today my Lord has become angry as He has never become nor will ever become thereafter. I had (in the world) the right to make one definitely accepted invocation, and I made it against my nation. Myself! Myself! Myself! Go to someone else; go to Abraham.'

They will go to Abraham and say, 'O Abraham! You are Allah's Apostle and His Khalil from among the people of the earth; so please intercede for us with your Lord. Don't you see in what state we are?'

He will say to them, 'My Lord has today become angry as He

has never become before, nor will ever become thereafter. I had told three lies (Abu Haiyan (the sub-narrator) mentioned them in the Hadith) Myself! Myself! Myself! Go to someone else; go to Moses.'

The people will then go to Moses and say, 'O Moses! You art Allah's Apostle and Allah gave you superiority above the others with this message and with His direct Talk to you; (please) intercede for us with your Lord Don't you see in what state we are?'

Moses will say, 'My Lord has today become angry as He has never become before, nor will become thereafter, I killed a person whom I had not been ordered to kill. Myself! Myself! Myself! Go to someone else; go to Jesus.'

So they will go to Jesus and say, 'O Jesus! You are Allah's Apostle and His Word which He sent to Mary, and a superior soul created by Him, and you talked to the people while still young in the cradle. Please intercede for us with your Lord. Don't you see in what state we are?'

Jesus will say, 'My Lord has today become angry as He has never become before nor will ever become thereafter. Jesus will not mention any sin, but will say, 'Myself! Myself! Myself! Go to someone else; go to Muhammad.'

So they will come to me and say, 'O Muhammad! You are Allah's Apostle and the last of the prophets, and Allah forgave your early and late sins. (Please) intercede for us with your Lord. Don't you see in what state we are?''

The Prophet added, "Then I will go beneath Allah's Throne and fall in prostration before my Lord. And then Allah will guide me to such praises and glorification to Him as He has never guided anybody else before me.

Then it will be said, 'O Muhammad Raise your head. Ask, and it will be granted. Intercede it (your intercession) will be accepted.'

So I will raise my head and Say, 'My followers, O my Lord! My followers, O my Lord.'

It will be said, 'O Muhammad! Let those of your followers who have no accounts, enter through such a gate of the gates

of Paradise as lies on the right; and they will share the other gates with the people."

The Prophet further said, "By Him in Whose Hand my soul is, the distance between every two gate-posts of Paradise is like the distance between Mecca and Busra (in Sham)."

Bukhari 60.236

The Bridge Over Hell

There is a bridge over Hell called *Sirat*. Muslim tradition maintains that after we have been judged, we must travel over this razor sharp, jagged bridge that stretches to the horizon to get into Paradise. The angels will already have thrown the worst sinners into Hell. Everyone else will have to make the journey. Only the righteous and the prophets will get to the other side unscathed. Those who have sinned will only make it part of the way before falling screaming into the flames below. Others whose sins are minor may find themselves hovering between heaven and Hell what – what Islam calls *The Heights*, a type of purgatory – as a reminder of where they could have ended up if Allah was not so merciful. The bridge over Hell adds another layer of confusion to Judgement Day, introducing yet another way the resurrected dead will be judged, but not before settling old arguments amongst themselves the old-fashioned way.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Allah's Apostle said, "When the believers pass safely over (the bridge across) Hell, they will be stopped at a bridge in between Hell and Paradise where they will retaliate upon each other for the injustices done among them in the world, and when they get purified of all their sins, they will be admitted into Paradise. By Him in Whose Hands the life of Muhammad is everybody will recognize his dwelling in Paradise better than he recognizes his dwelling in this world."

Bukhari 43.620

The bridge over Hell, variation one; watch out for the hooks!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Some people said, "O Allah's Apostle! Shall we see our Lord on the Day of Resurrection?"

He said, "Do you crowd and squeeze each other on looking at the sun when it is not hidden by clouds?"

They replied, "No, Allah's Apostle."

He said, "Do you crowd and squeeze each other on looking at the moon when it is full and not hidden by clouds?"

They replied, "No, O Allah's Apostle!"

He said, "So you will see Him (your Lord) on the Day of Resurrection similarly Allah will gather all the people and say, 'Whoever used to worship anything should follow that thing.'

So, he who used to worship the sun, will follow it, and he who used to worship the moon will follow it, and he who used to worship false deities will follow them; and then only this nation (i.e., Muslims) will remain, including their hypocrites.

Allah will come to them in a shape other than they know and will say, 'I am your Lord.'

They will say, 'We seek refuge with Allah from you. This is our place; (we will not follow you) till our Lord comes to us, and when our Lord comes to us, we will recognize Him.'

Then Allah will come to them in a shape they know and will say, 'I am your Lord.'

They will say, '(No doubt) You are our Lord,' and they will follow Him. Then a bridge will be laid over the (Hell) Fire."

Allah's Apostle added, "I will be the first to cross it. And the invocation of the Apostles on that Day, will be 'Allahukka Sallim, Sallim (O Allah, save us, save us!),' and over that bridge there will be hooks similar to the thorns of As Sa'dan (a thorny tree). Didn't you see the thorns of As-Sa'dan?"

The companions said, "Yes, O Allah's Apostle."

He added, "So the hooks over that bridge will be like the thorns of As-Sa-dan except that their greatness in size is only known to Allah. These hooks will snatch the people according to their deeds. Some people will be ruined because of their evil deeds, and some will be cut into pieces and fall down in Hell, but will be saved afterwards, when Allah has

finished the judgments among His slaves, and intends to take out of the Fire whoever He wishes to take out from among those who used to testify that none had the right to be worshipped but Allah.

We will order the angels to take them out and the angels will know them by the mark of the traces of prostration (on their foreheads) for Allah banned the fire to consume the traces of prostration on the body of Adam's son. So they will take them out, and by then they would have burnt (as coal), and then water, called Maul Hayat (water of life) will be poured on them, and they will spring out like a seed springs out on the bank of a rainwater stream, and there will remain one man who will be facing the (Hell) Fire and will say, 'O Lord! It's (Hell's) vapor has poisoned and smoked me and its flame has burnt me; please turn my face away from the Fire.'

He will keep on invoking Allah till Allah says, 'Perhaps, if I give you what you want), you will ask for another thing?'

The man will say, 'No, by Your Power, I will not ask You for anything else.'

Then Allah will turn his face away from the Fire. The man will say after that, 'O Lord, bring me near the gate of Paradise.'

Allah will say (to him), 'Didn't you promise not to ask for anything else? Woe to you, O son of Adam! How treacherous you are!'

The man will keep on invoking Allah till Allah will say, 'But if I give you that, you may ask me for something else.'

The man will say, 'No, by Your Power. I will not ask for anything else.' He will give Allah his covenant and promise not to ask for anything else after that.

So Allah will bring him near to the gate of Paradise, and when he sees what is in it, he will remain silent as long as Allah will, and then he will say, 'O Lord! Let me enter Paradise.'

Allah will say, 'Didn't you promise that you would not ask Me for anything other than that? Woe to you, O son of Adam! How treacherous you are!'

On that, the man will say, 'O Lord! Do not make me the most wretched of Your creation,' and will keep on invoking Allah till Allah will smile and when Allah will smile because of him, then He will allow him to enter Paradise, and when he will enter Paradise, he will be addressed, 'Wish from so-and-so.' He will wish till all his wishes will be fulfilled, then Allah will say, 'All this (i.e. what you have wished for) and as much again therewith are for you.'"

Abu Huraira added: "That man will be the last of the people of Paradise to enter (Paradise)."

Bukhari 76.577

The bridge over Hell, variation two—not quite as bad, except for the target on Jews and Christians.

Narrated Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri:

The Prophet then said, "Somebody will then announce, 'Let every nation follow what they used to worship.' So the companions of the cross will go with their cross, and the idolaters (will go) with their idols, and the companions of every god (false deities) (will go) with their god, till there remain those who used to worship Allah, both the obedient ones and the mischievous ones, and some of the people of the Scripture. Then Hell will be presented to them as if it were a mirage.

Then it will be said to the Jews, 'What did you use to worship?'

They will reply, 'We used to worship Ezra, the son of Allah.'⁵⁵

It will be said to them, 'You are liars, for Allah has neither a wife nor a son. What do you want (now)?'

⁵⁵ 9:30 The Jews say: "Ezra is the son of Allah", and the Christians say: "The Messiah is the son of Allah." That is their statement, by their mouths; they emulate the statement of the unbelievers of yore. May Allah damn them; how they are perverted!

The Jews used to "confer the title of 'son of God' to a person whose piety has placed him in a very near relationship to God" (*Encyclopedia of Judaism*). Ezra is one such figure, having brought the Torah back to Jerusalem from Babylon. It does not in any way imply that the namesake is a direct descendent of the Almighty. Either Allah confused the meaning of 'sons of God' in Genesis or He heard the Jews referring to one of their own as a son of God and assumed the worst in Revelation 9:30.

They will reply, 'We want You to provide us with water.'

Then it will be said to them 'Drink,' and they will fall down in Hell (instead).

Then it will be said to the Christians, 'What did you use to worship?'

They will reply, 'We used to worship Messiah, the son of Allah.'

It will be said, 'You are liars, for Allah has neither a wife nor a son. What: do you want (now)?'

They will say, 'We want You to provide us with water.'

It will be said to them, 'Drink,' and they will fall down in Hell (instead).

When there remain only those who used to worship Allah (Alone), both the obedient ones and the mischievous ones, it will be said to them, 'What keeps you here when all the people have gone?'

They will say, 'We parted with them (in the world) when we were in greater need of them than we are today, we heard the call of one proclaiming, 'Let every nation follow what they used to worship,' and now we are waiting for our Lord.'

Then the Almighty will come to them in a shape other than the one which they saw the first time, and He will say, 'I am your Lord,' and they will say, 'You are not our Lord.' And none will speak: to Him then but the Prophets, and then it will be said to them, 'Do you know any sign by which you can recognize Him?'

They will say. 'The Shin,' and so Allah will then uncover His Shin whereupon every believer will prostrate before Him and there will remain those who used to prostrate before Him just for showing off and for gaining good reputation. These people will try to prostrate but their backs will be rigid like one piece of a wood (and they will not be able to prostrate). Then the bridge will be laid across Hell."

We, the companions of the Prophet said, "O Allah's Apostle! What is the bridge?"

He said, "It is a slippery (bridge) on which there are clamps and (Hooks like) a thorny seed that is wide at one side and narrow at the other and has thorns with bent ends. Such a thorny seed is found in Najd and is called As-Sa'dan. Some of the believers will cross the bridge as quickly as the wink of an eye, some others as quick as lightning, a strong wind, fast horses or she-camels. So some will be safe without any harm; some will be safe after receiving some scratches, and some will fall down into Hell (Fire). The last person will cross by being dragged (over the bridge)."

The Prophet said, "You (Muslims) cannot be more pressing in claiming from me a right that has been clearly proved to be yours than the believers in interceding with Almighty for their (Muslim) brothers on that Day, when they see themselves safe. They will say, 'O Allah! (Save) our brothers (for they) used to pray with us, fast with us and also do good deeds with us.'

Allah will say, 'Go and take out (of Hell) anyone in whose heart you find faith equal to the weight of one (gold) Dinar.' Allah will forbid the Fire to burn the faces of those sinners. They will go to them and find some of them in Hell (Fire) up to their feet, and some up to the middle of their legs. So they will take out those whom they will recognize and then they will return, and Allah will say (to them), 'Go and take out (of Hell) anyone in whose heart you find faith equal to the weight of one half Dinar.'

They will take out whomever they will recognize and return, and then Allah will say, 'Go and take out (of Hell) anyone in whose heart you find faith equal to the weight of an atom⁵⁶ (or a smallest ant), and so they will take out all those whom they will recognize."

Abu Sa'id said: If you do not believe me then read the Holy Verse: 'Surely! Allah wrongs not even of the weight of an atom (or a smallest ant) but if there is any good (done) He doubles it.' (4:40)

The Prophet added, "Then the prophets and Angels and the believers will intercede, and (last of all) the Almighty (Allah)

⁵⁶ See footnote 26.

will say, 'Now remains My Intercession'. He will then hold a handful of the Fire from which He will take out some people whose bodies have been burnt, and they will be thrown into a river at the entrance of Paradise, called the water of life. They will grow on its banks, as a seed carried by the torrent grows. You have noticed how it grows beside a rock or beside a tree, and how the side facing the sun is usually green while the side facing the shade is white.

Those people will come out (of the River of Life) like pearls, and they will have (golden) necklaces, and then they will enter Paradise whereupon the people of Paradise will say, 'These are the people emancipated by the Beneficent. He has admitted them into Paradise without them having done any good deeds and without sending forth any good (for themselves).' Then it will be said to them, 'For you is what you have seen and its equivalent as well.'"

Bukhari 93.532s

Paradise

The first meal provided to the people of Paradise will be fish liver.

Narrated Anas:

When Abdullah bin Salam⁵⁷ heard the arrival of the Prophet at Medina, he came to him and said, "I am going to ask you about three things which nobody knows except a prophet: What is the first portent of the Hour? What will be the first meal taken by the people of Paradise? Why does a child resemble its father, and why does it resemble its maternal uncle?"

Allah's Apostle said, "Gabriel has just now told me of their answers."

Abdullah said, "He (i.e. Gabriel), from amongst all the angels, is the enemy of the Jews."

⁵⁷ Abdullah bin Salam was a rabbi and respected member of the Jewish community before he converted to Islam. He became a Muslim after a short meeting with Muhammad where God's spokesperson answered three fatuous questions to the rabbi's satisfaction. It was fortuitous that the angel Gabriel, whom bin Salam then considered an enemy of the Jews, had just had a conversation with Muhammad about what was on bin Salam's mind.

Allah's Apostle said, "The first portent of the Hour will be a fire that will bring together the people from the east to the west; the first meal of the people of Paradise will be Extralobe (caudate lobe) of fish-liver. As for the resemblance of the child to its parents: If a man has sexual intercourse with his wife and gets discharge first, the child will resemble the father, and if the woman gets discharge first, the child will resemble her."

Bukhari 55.546

Only Muslims will be allowed into Paradise, with Arabs comprising perhaps half of the population.

Narrated Abdullah:

While we were in the company of the Prophet in a tent he said, "Would it please you to be one fourth of the people of Paradise?"

We said, "Yes."

He said, "Would it please you to be one-third of the people of Paradise?"

We said, "Yes."

He said, "Would it please you to be half of the people of Paradise?"

We said, "Yes."

Thereupon he said, "I hope that you will be one half of the people of Paradise, for none will enter Paradise but a Muslim soul, and you people, in comparison to the people who associate others in worship with Allah, are like a white hair on the skin of a black ox, or a black hair on the skin of a red ox."

Bukhari 76.535

Muhammad mentions four Paradises, two where all utensils are made of gold and two where utensils are instead made of silver.

Narrated Abdullah bin Qais:

The Prophet said, "(There will be) two Paradises of silver and all the utensils and whatever is therein (will be of silver); and two Paradises of gold, and its utensils and whatever therein

(will be of gold), and there will be nothing to prevent the people from seeing their Lord except the Cover of Majesty over His Face in the Paradise of Eden (eternal bliss)."

Bukhari 93.536

The size of the tents in Paradise are bound to impress even the most blasé Bedouin.

Narrated Abdullah bin Qais Al-Ashari:

The Prophet said, "A tent (in Paradise) is like a hollow pearl which is thirty miles in height and on every corner of the tent the believer will have a family that cannot be seen by the others."

Bukhari 54.466

Then there are the Ghuraf, with no precise measurements given.

Narrated Sahl:

The Prophet said, "The people of Paradise will see the Ghuraf (special abodes) in Paradise as you see a star in the sky."

Bukhari 76.561

The biggest pearl you will ever see will serve as a reference point for men seeking wives to enjoy at each corner.

Narrated Abdullah bin Qais:

Allah's Apostle said, "In Paradise there is a pavilion made of a single hollow pearl sixty miles wide, in each corner of which there are wives who will not see those in the other corners; and the believers will visit and enjoy them. And there are two gardens, the utensils and contents of which are made of silver; and two other gardens, the utensils and contents of which are made of so-and-so (i.e. gold) and nothing will prevent the people staying in the Garden of Eden from seeing their Lord except the curtain of Majesty over His Face."

Bukhari 60.402

There is a tree in Paradise even bigger than the biggest tent.

Narrated Anas bin Malik:

The Prophet said: "There is a tree in Paradise (which is so big and huge that) if a rider travels in its shade for one hundred years, he would not be able to cross it."

Bukhari 54:474

What about alcoholic drinks?

Narrated Ibn Umar:

Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever drinks alcoholic drinks in the world and does not repent (before dying), will be deprived of it in the Hereafter."

Bukhari 69.481

In the Hereafter you will get all the sex you can handle, as long as you abstain from it in the here-and-now, including oral sex.

Narrated Sahl bin Sa'd:

Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever can guarantee (the chastity of) what is between his two jaw-bones and what is between his two legs (i.e. his tongue and his private parts), I guarantee Paradise for him."

Bukhari 76.481

The pettiness of One who would deny Paradise for the paltriest of illusory crimes never fails to amaze.

Narrated Sa'd:

I heard the Prophet saying, "Whoever claims to be the son of a person other than his father, and he knows that person is not his father, then Paradise will be forbidden for him."

I mentioned that to Abu Bakra, and he said, "My ears heard that and my heart memorized it from Allah's Apostle."

Bukhari 80.758

All that glitters...!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The first group of people who will enter Paradise, will be glittering like the full moon and those who will follow them, will glitter like the most brilliant star

in the sky. They will not urinate, relieve nature, spit, or have any nasal secretions. Their combs will be of gold, and their sweat will smell like musk. The aloe wood will be used in their centers.

Their wives will be houris. All of them will look alike and will resemble their father Adam (in stature), sixty cubits tall."

Bukhari 55.544

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, as the saying goes.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The first group (of people) who will enter Paradise will be [glittering] like the moon when it is full. They will not spit or blow their noses or relieve nature. Their utensils will be of gold and their combs of gold and silver; in their centers the aloe wood will be used, and their sweat will smell like musk.

Every one of them will have two wives; the marrow of the bones of the wives' legs will be seen through the flesh out of excessive beauty. They (i.e. the people of Paradise) will neither have differences nor hatred amongst themselves; their hearts will be as if one heart and they will be glorifying Allah in the morning and in the evening."

Bukhari 54:468

You can smell Paradise from quite a distance in time. Yes, you read that correctly.

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Amr:

The Prophet said, "Whoever killed a person having a treaty with the Muslims, shall not smell the smell of Paradise though its smell is perceived from a distance of forty years."

Bukhari 53.391

From a distance, Paradise may look like Hell, and vice versa.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "The (Hell) Fire is surrounded by all kinds of desires and passions, while Paradise is surrounded by all kinds of disliked undesirable things."

Bukhari 76.494

So near, and yet so far:

Narrated Abdullah:

The Prophet said, "Paradise is nearer to any of you than the Shirak (leather strap) of his shoe, and so is the (Hell) Fire.

Bukhari 76.495

Muhammad, in his description of Paradise, reminds his listeners that there are ways to ensure your admittance, no questions asked.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said: "The person who participates in (Holy battles) in Allah's cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in Allah and His Apostles, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to Paradise (if he is killed in the battle as a martyr)."

Bukhari 2:35

Muhammad got it from God that martyrs go to Paradise.

Narrated Al-Mughira:

Our Prophet has informed us our Lord's Message that whoever of us is martyred, will go to Paradise.

Bukhari 93.621

A less drastic and more civilized way to obtain a ticket to Paradise than martyrdom and killing unbelievers is to learn the 99 names of Allah.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said: "Allah has ninety-nine names, i.e. one-hundred minus one, and whoever knows them will go to Paradise."

Bukhari 50:894

Goat herders probably have the easiest, least demanding method of being assured entry to Paradise.

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Amr:

That Allah's Apostle said, "There are forty virtuous deeds

and the best of them is the Maniha of a she-goat⁵⁸, and anyone who does one of these virtuous deeds hoping for Allah's reward with firm confidence that he will get it, then Allah will make him enter Paradise.

Bukhari 47.800

The riskiest way of getting into Paradise is saying the following just before you expire:

Narrated Abdullah:

The Prophet said one statement and I said another. The Prophet said "Whoever dies while still invoking anything other than Allah as a rival to Allah, will enter Hell (Fire)."

And I said, "Whoever dies without invoking anything as a rival to Allah, will enter Paradise."

Bukhari 60.24

Build a mosque in the here-and-now, and Allah will build you a mosque in the Hereafter. Is it any wonder minarets have become a ubiquitous feature of the urban landscape?

Narrated Ubdaidullah Al-Khaulani:

I heard the Prophet saying, "Whoever built a mosque Allah would build for him a similar place in Paradise."

Bukhari 8.441

If you can't afford to build a mosque...

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Allah will prepare for him who goes to the mosque (every) morning and in the afternoon (for the congregational prayer) an honorable place in Paradise with good hospitality for (what he has done) every morning and afternoon goings."

Bukhari 11.631

⁵⁸ "A gift in the form of a she-camel or a sheep which is given temporarily so that its milk may be used and then it is returned to the owner."

A Jew in Paradise?

Narrated Sad bin Abi Waqqas:

I have never heard the Prophet saying about anybody walking on the earth that he is from the people of Paradise except Abdullah bin Salam. The following Verse was revealed concerning him: "And a witness from the children of Israel testifies that this Qur'an is true" (46:10).

Bukhari 58.157

There is a palace in Paradise for Khadija, Muhammad's first wife.

Narrated Aisha:

I did not feel jealous of any of the wives of the Prophet as much as I did of Khadija (although) she died before he married me, for I often heard him mentioning her, and Allah had told him to give her the good tidings that she would have a palace of Qasab (i.e. pipes of precious stones and pearls in Paradise), and whenever he slaughtered a sheep, he would send her women-friends a good share of it.

Bukhari 58.164

What is the value of a sliver of Paradise and an afternoon's journey in Allah's Cause?

Narrated Sahl:

I heard the Prophet saying, "A (small) place equal to an area occupied by a whip in Paradise is better than the (whole) world and whatever is in it; and an undertaking (journey) in the forenoon or in the afternoon for Allah's Cause, is better than the whole world and whatever is in it."

Bukhari 76.424

Those injured in Allah's Cause will not be granted access to Paradise if they choose to end their lives rather than keep on fighting.

Narrated Jundub:

Allah's Apostle said, "Amongst the nations before you there was a man who got a wound and growing impatient (with its pain), he took a knife and cut his hand with it and the blood did not stop till he died. Allah said, 'My Slave hurried to

bring death upon himself so I have forbidden him (to enter) Paradise."

Bukhari 56.669

Upon entering Heaven's gates, remember to ask for the Firdaus if you are deserving of calling the highest level of Paradise your home.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Whoever believes in Allah and His Apostle offers prayers perfectly and fasts (the month of) Ramadan then it is incumbent upon Allah to admit him into Paradise, whether he emigrates for Allah's cause or stays in the land where he was born."

They (the companions of the Prophet) said, "O Allah's Apostle! Should we not inform the people of that?"

He said, "There are one-hundred degrees in Paradise which Allah has prepared for those who carry on Jihad in His Cause. The distance between every two degrees is like the distance between the sky and the Earth, so if you ask Allah for anything, ask Him for the Firdaus, for it is the last part of Paradise and the highest part of Paradise, and at its top there is the Throne of Beneficent, and from it gush forth the rivers of Paradise."

Bukhari 93.519

Are you mad?

Narrated Anas:

Um (the mother of) Haritha came to Allah's Apostle after Haritha had been martyred on the Day (of the battle) of Badr by an arrow thrown by an unknown person. She said, "O Allah's Apostle! You know the position of Haritha in my heart (i.e. how dear to me he was), so if he is in Paradise, I will not weep for him, or otherwise, you will see what I will do."

The Prophet said, "Are you mad? Is there only one Paradise? There are many Paradises, and he is in the highest Paradise of Firdaus."

The Prophet added, "A forenoon journey or an afternoon journey in Allah's Cause is better than the whole world and

whatever is in it; and a place equal to an arrow bow of anyone of you, or a place equal to a foot in Paradise is better than the whole world and whatever is in it; and if one of the women of Paradise looked at the earth, she would fill the whole space between them (the earth and the heaven) with light, and would fill whatever is in between them, with perfume, and the veil of her face is better than the whole world and whatever is in it."

Bukhari 76.572

Hell

From what he saw of Hell, Muhammad drew interesting conclusions, for instance claiming that Hell's Fire has an impact on the weather. In the following hadith, he may not have been aware that in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are reversed, but God surely knew.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "In very hot weather delay the Zuhr prayer till it becomes (a bit) cooler because the severity of heat is from the raging of Hell-fire. The Hell-fire of Hell complained to its Lord saying: O Lord! My parts are eating (destroying) one another. So Allah allowed it to take two breaths, one in the winter and the other in the summer. The breath in the summer is at the time when you feel the severest heat and the breath in the winter is at the time when you feel the severest cold."

Bukhari 10.512

A reminder that Hell is an enormous living thing that will have to be dragged to its appointed place on Judgement Day.

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: The Hell would be brought on that day (the Day of judgment) with seventy thousand bridles and every bridle would be controlled by seventy thousand angels.

Sahih Muslim 40.6810

How hot is Hell's Fire?

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "Your (ordinary) fire is one of 70 parts of the (Hell) Fire."

Someone asked, "O Allah's Apostle this (ordinary) fire would have been sufficient (to torture the unbelievers)."

Allah's Apostle said, "The (Hell) Fire has 69 parts more than the ordinary (worldly) fire, each part is as hot as this (worldly) fire."

Bukhari 54.487

In a fight, both murdered and murderer will go to Hell.

Al-Ahnaf bin Qais:

While I was going to help this man ('Ali Ibn Abi Talib), Abu Bakra met me and asked, "Where are you going?"

I replied, "I am going to help that person."

He said, "Go back for I have heard Allah's Apostle saying, 'When two Muslims fight (meet) each other with their swords, both the murderer as well as the murdered will go to the Hell-fire.'"

I said, "O Allah's Apostle! It is all right for the murderer but what about the murdered one?"

Allah's Apostle replied, "He surely had the intention to kill his companion."

Bukhari 2.30

A reminder, that if the murderer later gets killed fighting in Allah's Cause he will be forgiven and enter Paradise.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "Allah welcomes two men with a smile; one of whom kills the other and both of them enter Paradise. One fights in Allah's Cause and gets killed. Later on Allah forgives the killer who also get martyred (In Allah's Cause)."

Bukhari 52.80

Dead children can be used as protection 'from the Hell fire'.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Some women requested the Prophet to fix a day for them as the men were taking all his time. On that he promised them one day for religious lessons and commandments. Once during such a lesson the Prophet said, "A woman whose three children die will be shielded by them from the Hell fire." On that a woman asked, "If only two die?"

He replied, "Even two (will shield her from the Hell-fire)."

Bukhari 3.101

Be kind to your cat, and let it eat all the insects it wants.

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Umar:

Allah's Apostle said, "A woman was tortured and was put in Hell because of a cat which she had kept locked till it died of hunger."

Allah's Apostle further said, "(Allah knows better) Allah said (to the woman), 'You neither fed it nor watered when you locked it up, nor did you set it free to eat the insects of the earth.'"

Bukhari 40.553

To be on the safe side, I would get rid of the silverware.

Narrated Um Salama (the wife of the Prophet):

Allah's Apostle said, "He who drinks in silver utensils is only filling his abdomen with Hell Fire."

Bukhari 69.538

Was there ever any doubt?

Narrated Ali:

The Prophet said, "Do not tell a lie against me for whoever tells a lie against me (intentionally) then he will surely enter the Hell-fire."

Bukhari 3:106

Always be careful what you say. Better still, be quiet!

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet; said, "A slave (of Allah) may utter a word which pleases Allah without giving it much importance, and because of that Allah will raise him to degrees (of reward): a slave (of Allah) may utter a word (carelessly) which displeases Allah without thinking of its gravity and because of that he will be thrown into the Hell-Fire."

Bukhari 76.485

Men, make sure the child you adopt does not call you father.

Narrated Abu Dhar:

The Prophet said, "If somebody claims to be the son of any other than his real father knowingly, he but disbelieves in Allah, and if somebody claims to belong to some folk to whom he does not belong, let such a person take his place in the (Hell) Fire."

Bukhari 56.711

If you cause Muhammad to make a bad decision, you will pay for it later.

Narrated Um Salama (the wife of the Prophet):

Allah's Apostle heard some people quarreling at the door of his dwelling. He came out and said, "I am only a human being, and opponents come to me (to settle their problems); maybe someone amongst you can present his case more eloquently than the other, whereby I may consider him true and give a verdict in his favor. So, If I give the right of a Muslim to another by mistake, then it is really a portion of (Hell) Fire, he has the option to take or give up (before the Day of Resurrection)."

Bukhari 43.638

There are more substantial benefits of fasting for a day than losing weight.

Narrated Abu Said:

I heard the Prophet saying, "Indeed, anyone who fasts for one day for Allah's Pleasure, Allah will keep his face away from

the (Hell) fire for (a distance covered by a journey of) seventy years."

Bukhari 52.93

What about that fever you are experiencing?

Narrated Aisha:

The Prophet said, "Fever is from the heat of the (Hell) Fire, so cool it with water."

Bukhari 54.485

Do as you say or you will be dragging your intestines around Hell.

Narrated Abu Wail:

Somebody said to Usama, "Will you go to so-and-so (i.e. Uthman) and talk to him (i.e. advise him regarding ruling the country)?"

He said, "You see that I don't talk to him. Really I talk to (advise) him secretly without opening a gate (of affliction), for neither do I want to be the first to open it (i.e. rebellion), nor will I say to a man who is my ruler that he is the best of all the people after I have heard something from Allah's Apostle."

They said, "What have you heard him saying?"

He said, "I have heard him saying, a man will be brought on the Day of Resurrection and thrown in the (Hell) Fire, so that his intestines will come out, and he will go around like a donkey goes around a millstone.

The people of (Hell) Fire will gather around him and say: 'O so-and-so! What is wrong with you? Didn't you use to order us to do good deeds and forbid us to do bad deeds?'

He will reply: 'Yes, I used to order you to do good deeds, but I did not do them myself, and I used to forbid you to do bad deeds, yet I used to do them myself.'

Bukhari 54.489

Don't kill yourself in other than Allah's Cause.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet said, "Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, will be in the (Hell) Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will be carrying his poison in his hand and drinking it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his abdomen with it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever."

Bukhari 71.670

Women on Fire

Of the all the observations God's spokesman made about his mentor's massive torture chamber, the most disturbing has to be that the vast majority of those roasting in Hell will be females – wives and mothers, mostly. Muhammad claims that Allah will doom these unfortunate human beings to an eternity in agony on fire in His Hellhole for being ungrateful for the good things their husbands generously provided them, as well as for being deficient in religion and intelligence.

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Once Allah's Apostle went out to the Musalla (to offer the prayer) o 'Id-al-Adha or Al-Fitr prayer. Then he passed by the women and said, "O women! Give alms, as I have seen that the majority of the dwellers of Hell-fire were you (women)."

They asked, "Why is it so, O Allah's Apostle?"

He replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you."

The women asked, "O Allah's Apostle! What is deficient in our intelligence and religion?"

He said, "Is not the evidence of two women equal to the witness of one man?"

They replied in the affirmative.

He said, "This is the deficiency in her intelligence. Isn't it true that a woman can neither pray nor fast during her menses?"

The women replied in the affirmative.

He said, "This is the deficiency in her religion."

Bukhari 6.301

Narrated Ibn Abbas:

The Prophet said: "I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers were women who were ungrateful."

It was asked, "Do they disbelieve in Allah?" (or are they ungrateful to Allah?)

He replied, "They are ungrateful to their husbands and are ungrateful for the favors and the good (charitable deeds) done to them.

Bukhari 2.28

Narrated Abdullah bin Abbas:

The people say, "O Allah's Apostle! We saw you taking something from your place and then we saw you retreating."

The Prophet replied, "I saw Paradise and stretched my hands towards a bunch (of its fruits) and had I taken it, you would have eaten from it as long as the world remains.

I also saw the Hell-fire and I had never seen such a horrible sight. I saw that most of the inhabitants were women."

The people asked, "O Allah's Apostle! Why is it so?"

The Prophet replied, "Because of their ungratefulness."

Bukhari 18.161

AFTERWORD

A Real Life Example of the Appeal of Scriptural Sadism

What we know for sure about the horrific fate of Abu Lahab and his wife is that the tethered-like-a-dog spouse, who will have the abject duty of assisting God in roasting her husband – by gathering the wood that the Compassionate will use to stoke the fire – at no time tried to physically harm Muhammad; nor did her husband, for that matter. Allah has very much a sadist’s understanding of empathy, i.e., feeling someone else’s pain: that it can be used to add to the suffering you wish to inflict. In many ways, the wife’s suffering will be greater than that of her husband. Not only will she have to watch her beloved roasted over and over like an animal on a spit, but God has compelled her to be His accomplice in the torture.

Threatening to inflict horror and pain is what gods do to get their way; even so, Allah is different. The torture chamber that is His Hell, of which He is quite proud and on which His angels stand guard, seems to have been designed to satisfy a deep-seated pathology. This is evident in innumerable revelations where God displays all the symptoms of an inveterate sadist with a love of inflicting pain and watching people in agony, which has real-world consequences. What if you could do in the here-and-now what Allah relishes doing to human beings in the Hereafter?

Your run-of-the-mill holy warrior can only do so much. Doctors are another matter, and they are not immune to the seductive cruelty that saturates Islam’s Holy Book. Given the opportunity, trained medical personnel can do a very good impression of Allah at his most pitiless, cruelest best as revealed in Revelation 4:56, the one about replacing burnt skin.

Issam Abuanza, 37, is a doctor who left his family in the UK in 2014 to join Islamic State in Syria. On social media, Dr Abuanza has said he wished that a Jordanian pilot burnt alive by IS had taken longer to die.

On his Facebook page he is pictured wearing doctors' scrubs and carrying a gun in a holster. He smiles as he raises his finger in the air - a symbolic gesture to represent the oneness



of God that is commonly seen in the iconography of Islamic extremism.

Another image shows him in combat fatigues, cradling an automatic rifle and reading the Koran.

He wrote about the killing by IS militants of the captured Jordanian pilot who was burnt alive, complaining that: "I would've liked for them to burn him extremely slowly and I could treat him so we could torch him once more."

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Dr. Abuanza, a poster child for Arendt's "banality of evil," was trained to heal and relieve suffering, not to torture and murder, but he could not resist. God's example and approval is strong motivation for all the suicide bombers and soldiers who mercilessly murder and maim men, women, and children on His behalf. French philosophy teacher Robert Redeker, in the September 28, 2006 edition of *Le Figaro*, wrote that the Koran "is a book of incredible violence (Le Coran est un livre d'une 'inouïe violence')." You've only had a taste—but now, when someone tells you otherwise, you will know better.