

# **Al-Ghashiyah** [The Overwhelming Event] **Makkan Period**

*In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate*

[1] Has the news of the overwhelming event reached you?

[2] Some faces<sup>1</sup> that Day shall be downcast with fear,

[3] be toiling and worn-out;

[4] they shall burn in a Scorching Fire;

[5] their drink shall be from a boiling spring.

[6] They shall have no food except bitter dry thorns

[7] that will neither nourish nor satisfy their hunger.

[8] On that very Day some faces shall be radiant with joy,

[9] Well-pleased with their striving.

[10] They will be in a lofty Garden

[11] wherein they shall hear no vain talk.

[12] In it there shall be a flowing spring,

[13] and couches raised high,

[14] and goblets laid out,

[15] and cushions arrayed in rows,

[16] and rich carpets levelled out.

*1. The expression "some faces" means "some people". The word "faces" is used to denote people because the face is the most conspicuous part of a person's body.*

[17] Do (these unbelievers) not observe the camels: how they were created?

[18] And the sky: how it was raised high?

[19] And the mountains: how they were fixed?

[20] And the earth: how it was spread out?<sup>2</sup>

[21] So render good counsel, for you are simply required to counsel,

[22] and are not invested with the authority to compel them.

[23] But whoever will turn away (from the Truth),

[24] Allah will chastise him with the most terrible chastisement,

[25] Surely to Us is their return;

[26] and then it is for Us to call them to account.

*2. Those who deny the Hereafter on the grounds that it is beyond the range of possibility should look around and consider some well-known facts pertaining to God's creation of the camels, to the establishment of the mountains, to His raising the heavens to very lofty heights, and to the spreading out of the earth. They should also ponder on how all this was brought about. If it was possible to bring all these things into existence - and their existence is a tangible reality - what, then, are their grounds for believing that Resurrection cannot take place? Why can a new world not come about, and what is the basis for thinking that Hell and Heaven are beyond the range of what is possible?*