

*(Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic y, as in: you. Wherever such a word refers to God, the letter y is printed in capital, as in: You.)*

## **For Fast 27 – September 17**

### **Chapter 56**

- 57 We have created you, why do you not then accept (the life after death)? <sup>1</sup>
- 58 Do you see that (semen) which you emit?
- 59 Is it you that create it or are We the Creator? <sup>2</sup>
- 60 We have ordained death among you and We are not to be overcome,  
61 that We may change your state and make you grow into what you do not know. <sup>3</sup>
- 62 And certainly you know the first growth, why do you not then be mindful? <sup>4</sup>
- 63 Do you see what you sow?
- 64 Is it you that cause it to grow, or are We the Causer of growth?
- 65 If We pleased, We would make it chaff, then would you lament:  
66 Surely we are burdened with debt,  
67 indeed, we are deprived.
- 68 Do you see the water which you drink?
- 69 Do you bring it down from the clouds, or are We the Bringer?
- 70 If We pleased, We could make it saltish; why do you not then give thanks?
- 71 Do you see the fire which you kindle?
- 72 Is it you that produce the trees for it, or are We the Producer?
- 73 We have made it a reminder and an advantage for the travellers of the desert. <sup>5</sup>
- 74 So glorify the name of your Lord, the Incomparably Great. <sup>6</sup>

*Notes:*

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- 1 (v. 57) The creation of man in the present life provides evidence that there will be a higher life, as shown in the notes below.
  - 2 (v. 59) This and the later verses give important examples where human beings use certain basic things for continuity of their physical life on earth, but they have been given those things by God. There are quite amazing and complex processes that lie behind the production of sperm (v. 58–59), growth of food (v. 63–64), the coming of rain with drinkable water (v. 68–69), and existence of fossil fuels (v. 71–72). To bring about any of this is utterly beyond the power of man.

Not only have these things come into existence through processes that man cannot even encompass, but by merely using them man can bring into existence a complex form of life like human life and then maintain it. A male merely casts sperms and a female receives them, and this act leads to the creation of a higher form of life, namely, human physical life. That life is then maintained by food, drink and fuel.

Similarly, God has provided the means of spiritual survival and development of human beings by granting them guidance through revelation and the appearance of prophets. Man cannot provide that himself. And by using that guidance, man creates and nourishes within himself a higher, spiritual life. It is that life which continues as the life after death.

- 3 (v. 61) In the next life, the present state will be changed, and people will be made to grow into a new creation, which they *do not know*. It is not the material body of this life, but a new body which grows out of the deeds of a person. Just as sperm, food, drink or fuel are not capable of knowing or having any idea whatsoever that a higher form of life is being created from them, likewise a human being in this life is not capable of conceiving the further higher form of life that he will develop into.
- 4 (v. 62) From the first growth, which we can see and investigate in this world, we can by analogy learn about the next life, as shown in the notes above.
- 5 (v. 73) The fire burned at night points out to the desert traveller a habitation of people, where he will be welcome.
- 6 (v. 74) The glory and perfection of the Lord is manifest in the natural phenomena mentioned above, and a study of them overwhelms the human mind and heart with the urge to glorify Him.