

## For Fast 29

### Chapter 43

- 36** And whoever turns himself away from the remembrance of the Beneficent, We appoint for him a devil, so he is his associate.

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*Note:* Without the remembrance of Allah in our hearts and on our tongues, we become much susceptible to the misleading suggestions of other people and of our own minds. We are then accompanied by this devil.

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- 88** And his (the Prophet's) cry — O my Lord, these are a people who do not believe!

- 89** So turn away from them and say, Peace! They will soon come to know.

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*Note:* This is a cry of anguish by the Holy Prophet, that his people are utterly stubborn in rejecting his teachings. He is told, in v. 89, to turn away from them politely and leave the judgment to Allah.

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### Chapter 46

- 15** And We have enjoined on man the doing of good to his parents. His mother bears him with trouble and she gives birth to him in pain. And the bearing of him and the weaning of him is thirty months. Till, when he attains his maturity and reaches forty years, he says: My Lord, grant me that I may give thanks for Your favour, which You have bestowed on me and on my parents, and that I may do good which pleases You; and be good to me in respect of my offspring. Truly I turn to You, and truly I am among those who submit.

- 16** These are they from whom We accept the best of what they do and overlook their evil deeds — among the owners of the Garden. A promise of truth, which they were promised.

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*Note:* While mentioning parents in v. 15, the mother's hard work and suffering is pointed out specifically. The age of forty years is the mid-point of life and the stage when one's powers are at their peak. During the US space missions of the 1960s, the optimum age for an astronaut was determined to be about 39 years because by that age a man would be mature enough not be impetuous and rash, but young enough to have fast reactions and take quick, bold decisions.

The prayer, at that age, begins by considering the past and first we thank God for what we have achieved, and for what He gave to our parents, materially and morally, by which we benefitted to reach our present position. Having thanked God for the past, the prayer turns to the present and we pray that we may do good deeds. Then the prayer turns to the future, and we pray for our offspring.

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### Chapter 57

- 16** Has not the time yet come for the believers that their hearts should be humble for the remembrance of Allah and the Truth that is revealed, and (that) they should not be like

those who were given the Book before, but time was prolonged for them, so their hearts hardened. And most of them are transgressors.

- 17** Know that Allah gives life to the earth after its death. Indeed, We have made the signs clear for you that you may understand.

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*Note:* As these daily Quran studies have been about prayer, it is fitting near the end to ponder on the above two verses. V. 16 prophesies that after the passing of a long time, Muslims will fall off from the high standard of the earlier generations in their remembrance of God, and their hearts will be empty of humility and be hardened, just as the hearts of the followers of earlier scriptures hardened some time after the passing away of their prophets. Hardening of hearts here means that the remembrance of God, though carried out in word, does not penetrate or influence the heart, because the heart is not humble before God.

V. 17 indicates that though hearts will have become spiritually lifeless, God will bring them to life again. Before the coming of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, when hearts hardened and “time was prolonged”, Allah used to raise a prophet to rouse people to spiritual life. After the Holy Prophet Muhammad, when hearts of Muslims lose humility and harden, Allah raises among them saints and reformers (*auliya* and *mujaddids*) to revive them by means of the Holy Quran.

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