

(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 *y* is printed in capital, as in: *You*.)

For Fast 13

Chapter 13

- 8 Allah knows what every female bears, and that of which the wombs fall short of completion and that which they grow. And everything with Him has a measure.

Note: The wombs fall short of completion when no gestation takes place. The physical law of nature is spoken of here with a deeper reference to the spiritual law, according to which some receive a new birth through the Prophet and others do not.

- 9 The Knower of the unseen and the seen, the Great, the Most High.

- 10 Alike (to Him) among you is he who conceals the word and he who speaks openly, and he who hides himself by night and (who) goes forth by day.

Note: A general law is given expression to with a deeper reference to the secret and open counsels against the Prophet and to enemies seeking his life by day and by night. A perusal of the history of his life shows that those who sought his life sometimes followed him secretly, when he went out to pray during the early hours of the morning, and sometimes openly followed him in the daytime with an evil purpose.

- 11 For him are (angels) guarding the consequences (of his deeds), before him and behind him, who guard him by Allah’s command. Surely Allah does not change the condition of a people, until they change their own condition. And when Allah intends harm to a people, there is no averting it, and besides Him they have no protector.

Note: While the statement is no doubt general, there is a deeper allusion to the Divine protection specially granted to the Holy Prophet against the numerous enemies among whom he lived day and night. *Mu‘aqqibāt* (“angels guarding the consequences”) may also be translated as meaning *those following one another*. Such are the angels, who are mentioned as *ḥafāzah* or *keepers* in 6:61, and as *kirām-an kātibīn* or

honourable recorders in 82:11–12. They guard the consequences of the deeds of man, and are therefore spoken of here as *guarding him*, i.e., *guarding whatever he does*, by Allah's command.

- 12 He it is Who shows you the lightning causing fear and hope and (Who) brings up the heavy cloud.
- 13 And the thunder celebrates His praise, and the angels too for awe of Him. And He sends the thunderbolts and strikes with them whom He pleases, yet they dispute concerning Allah, and He is Mighty in prowess.