

(*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 23

### Chapter 36 (from the end of *Sura Ya Sin*)

77 Does not man see that We have created him from the small life-germ? Then lo! he is an open contender.

78 And he strikes out a likeness for Us and forgets his own creation. Says he: Who will give life to the bones, when they are rotten?

*Note:* Striking out of a likeness signifies the setting up of gods with Allah.

79 Say: He will give life to them, Who brought them into existence at first, and He is Knower of all creation,

80 Who produced fire for you out of the green tree, so that with it you kindle.

*Note:* This can be given several meanings. It may refer to the process of photosynthesis. The *green* substance in tree leaves, known as chlorophyll, absorbs *sunlight* to produce carbohydrates and oxygen from water and carbon dioxide. This process is the basis of supporting physical life on earth, providing food and energy. Similarly, light from the sun of Truth, the Holy Prophet (who is called *Yā Sīn*), produces a higher life in those who follow him. Also, the topic of this chapter is the raising to the higher life after death. Just as God brought the life on earth into existence from simpler substances, similarly He produces a higher form of life from man’s earthly life.

81 Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth able to create the like of them? Yes! And He is the Creator (of all), the Knower.

*Note:* The personal pronoun *them* refers to people, not to heaven and earth. In the Resurrection, people will be the like of what they are here, not the same earthly bodies. The body may become dust; but what a person does of good or evil is preserved, and it is according to this good or evil that he receives a new body. The idea of Resurrection is carried to perfection in Islam, and the Resurrection is meant to give a

new life to all. Ultimately the spirit of man is returned to the Spirit Divine, and that is again and again called the meeting with God.

- 82 His command, when He intends anything, is only to say to it, Be, and it is.
- 83 So glory be to Him in Whose hand is the kingdom of all things! and to Him you will be returned.