

Mary in the Qur'an

Sūrat al-Imrān (3)

31. Say: "If you do love God, Follow me: God will love you and forgive you your sins: For God is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

32. Say: "Obey God and His Messenger.: But if they turn back, God loves not those who reject Faith.

33. God did choose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham, and the family of 'Imran above all people,-

34. Offspring, one of the other: And God hears and knows all things.

35. Behold! a woman of 'Imran said: "O my Lord! I do dedicate to You what is in my womb for Thy special service: So accept this of me: For You hears and knows all things."

36. When she was delivered, she said: "O my Lord! Behold! I am delivered of a female child!"- and God knew best what she brought forth- "And no wise is the male Like the female. I have named her Mary, and I commend her and her offspring to Thy protection from the Evil One, the Rejected."

37. Right graciously did her Lord accept her: He made her grow in purity and beauty: To the care of Zakariya was she assigned. Every time that he entered (Her) chamber to see her, He found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Mary! Whence (comes) this to you?" She said: "From God, for God Provides sustenance to whom He pleases wiyout measure."

38. There did Zakariya pray to his Lord, saying: "O my Lord! Grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure: for You are He that hears prayer!

39. While he was standing in prayer in the chamber, the angels called to him: "(God) gives you glad tidings of Yahya, witnessing the truth of a Word from God, and (be besides) noble, chaste, and a prophet,- of the (goodly) company of the righteous."

41. He said: "O my Lord! Give me a Sign!" "Your Sign," was the answer, "Shall be that you shall speak to no man for three days but with signals. Then celebrate the praises of your Lord again and again, and glorify Him in the evening and in the morning."

42. Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! God has chosen you and purified you - chosen thee above the women of all nations.

43. "O Mary! worship your Lord devoutly: Prostrate yourself, and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down."

44. This is part of the tidings of the things unseen, which We reveal unto you (O Messenger) by inspiration: You were not with them when they cast lots with arrows, as to which of them should be charged with the care of Mary: Nor were you with them when they disputed (the point).

45. Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! God gives you glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to God.

46. "He shall speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. And he shall be (of the company) of the righteous."

47. She said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?" He said: "Even so: God creates what He will: When He has decreed a plan, He but says to it, 'Be,' and it is!"

48. "And God will teach him the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel,

49. "And (appoint him) an apostle to the Children of Israel, (with this message): "I have come to you, with a Sign from your Lord, in that I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by God's leave: And I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by God's leave; and I declare to you what ye eat, and what ye store in your houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if you did believe;

50. "(I have come to you), to attest the Law which was before me. And to make lawful to you part of what was (Before) forbidden to you; I have come to you with a Sign from your Lord. So fear God, and obey me.

51. "It is God Who is my Lord and your Lord; then worship Him. This is a Way that is straight."

52. When Jesus found Unbelief on their part He said: "Who will be My helpers to (the work of) God." Said the disciples: "We are God's helpers: We believe in God, and do you bear witness that we are Muslims.

53. "Our Lord! we believe in what You hast revealed, and we follow the Messenger. Then write us down among those who bear witness."

54. And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God.

55. Behold! God said: "O Jesus! I will take you and raise you to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall you all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein you dispute.

56. "As to those who reject faith, I will punish them with terrible agony in this world and in the Hereafter, nor will they have anyone to help."

57. "As to those who believe and work righteousness, God will pay them (in full) their reward; but God loves not those who do wrong."

58. "This is what we rehearse unto thee of the Signs and the Message of Wisdom."

59. The similitude of Jesus before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be". And he was.

60. The Truth (comes) from God alone; so be not of those who doubt.

61. If any one disputes in this matter with you, now after (full) knowledge Hath come to you, say: "Come! let us gather together,- our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves: Then let us earnestly pray, and invoke the curse of God on those who lie!"

62. This is the true account: There is no god except God. and God. He is indeed the Exalted in Power, the Wise.

63. But if they turn back, God hath full knowledge of those who do mischief.

Sūrat Maryam (19)

1. Kaf. Ha. Ya. 'Ain. Sad.

2. (This is) a recital of the Mercy of thy Lord to His servant Zakariya.

3. Behold! he cried to his Lord in secret,

4. Praying: "O my Lord! infirm indeed are my bones, and the hair of my head doth glisten with grey: but never am I unblest, O my Lord, in my prayer to Thee!

5. "Now I fear (what) my relatives (and colleagues) (will do) after me: but my wife is barren: so give me an heir as from Yourself,-

6. "(One that) will (truly) represent me, and represent the posterity of Jacob; and make him, O my Lord! one with whom You art well-pleased!"

7. (His prayer was answered): "O Zakariya! We give you good news of a son: His name shall be Yahya: on none by that name have We conferred distinction before."

8. He said: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son, when my wife is barren and I have grown quite decrepit from old age?"

9. He said: "So (it will be) thy Lord says, 'that is easy for Me: I did indeed create you before, when you had been nothing!'"

10. (Zakariya) said: "O my Lord! give me a Sign." "Thy Sign," was the answer, "Shall be that you shall speak to no man for three nights, although thou art not dumb."

11. So Zakariya came out to his people from his chamber: He told them by signs to celebrate God's praises in the morning and in the evening.

12. (To his son came the command): "O Yahya! take hold of the Book with might": and We gave him Wisdom even as a youth,

13. And piety (for all creatures) as from Us, and purity: He was devout,

14. And kind to his parents, and he was not overbearing or rebellious.

15. So Peace on him the day he was born, the day that he dies, and the day that he will be raised up to life (again)!

16. Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East.

17. She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them; then We sent her our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.

18. She said: "I seek refuge from you to (God) Most Gracious: (come not near) if thou dost fear God."

19. He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son.

20. She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?"

21. He said: "So (it will be): Your Lord says, 'that is easy for Me: and (We wish) to appoint him as a Sign to humanity and a Mercy from Us': It is a matter (so) decreed."

22. So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place.

23. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree: She cried (in

her anguish): "Ah! would that I had died before this! would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!"

24. But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm-tree): "Grieve not! for your Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath you;

25. "And shake towards yourself the trunk of the palm-tree: It will let fall fresh ripe dates upon you.

26. "So eat and drink and cool (your) eye. And if you see any man, say, 'I have vowed a fast to (God) Most Gracious, and this day will I enter into not talk with any human being'"

27. At length she brought the (babe) to her people, carrying him (in her arms). They said: "O Mary! truly an amazing thing hast you brought!

28. "O sister of Aaron! Your father was not a man of evil, nor your mother a woman unchaste!"

29. But she pointed to the babe. They said: "How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?"

30. He said: "I am indeed a servant of God. He has given me revelation and made me a prophet;

31. "And He has made me blessed wheresoever I be, and has enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live;

32. "(He) has made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable;

33. "So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)"!

34. Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute.

35. It is not befitting to (the majesty of) God that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! when He determines a matter, He only says to it, "Be", and it is.

36. Verily God is my Lord and your Lord: Him therefore serve ye: this is a Way that is straight.

'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali, *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an*. 10th ed. 1999. (Modified M. Calabria)