

taught him literacy, knowledge and wisdom. This is what helps man to attain perfection. Then Allah refers to another quality of perfection, in addition to what Allah granted him of virtues, as He says:

﴿a Messenger to the Children of Israel﴾. Allah sent him to this virtuous people who were the best of the worlds at their time, to call them to Allah and show them signs to prove that he was indeed a Messenger of Allah and a true Prophet. Hence he said:

﴿I have come to you, with a sign from your Lord, in that I make for you out of clay﴾ a bird; that is, he made it into the shape of a bird.

﴿and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave﴾ that is, a bird that has a soul and flies, by Allah's leave.

﴿And I heal those born blind, and the lepers﴾ by Allah's leave

﴿and I bring the dead back to life, by Allah's leave; and I tell you what you eat, and what you store in your houses. Surely in that is a sign for you if you are believers﴾. What sign could be greater than making an inanimate object come to life, healing people of ailments that doctors cannot treat, bringing the dead back to life and speaking of unseen matters? Each one of these on its own is a great sign, so how about when they are combined and confirm one another? That should be a cause of belief and faith.

﴿[I have come] to confirm that which came before me of the Torah﴾ that is, I have brought something similar to the Torah and what Moosâ brought. The sign of the truthful person is that what he tells people is similar to that which truthful people tell; he tells the truth and enjoins justice, without any contradiction in his words, unlike those who make false claims, especially with regard to the greatest claim, which is the claim of prophethood. The liar who makes a false claim thereof will inevitably demonstrate to everyone that he is lying, as he will contradict himself, and will say something that is different to what the truthful say and is in accordance with what liars say. This is what is dictated by the nature of things and as a result of divine wisdom and mercy, because the one who speaks the truth can