

it, and you fail utterly, (rest assured that) you will never be able to produce a soorah like it. However, this (challenge) is offered by way of showing fairness and going along with you. This is a great sign and clear evidence that he is telling the truth and that his message is true. Then (if you fail to meet the challenge) it will be obligatory for you to follow him and protect yourselves from hellfire which reached the ultimate heat because its fuel is people and stones; it is not like the fire of this world that is fuelled with wood. The fire of hell is prepared for those who disbelieve in Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ), so beware of disbelieving in his Messenger (ﷺ) after it has become clear to you that he is indeed the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ).

This and similar verses are called the verses of challenge; they prove that people are incapable of producing anything like this Qur'an. Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿Say: Verily, if all of humankind and the jinn were to come together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could never produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another.﴾ (*al-Isrâ' 17: 88*)

How can the words of one who is created from dust be like the words of the Lord of lords? How can one who is lacking in all aspects produce words like the words of the Most Perfect, Whose perfection is absolute and Who is completely independent of means? This is not possible and it is not within any human's capability. Anyone who has the slightest knowledge and appreciation of (Arabic) literary and oratory style will, if he compares the Qur'an with other eloquent speech, clearly see a great difference between them.

﴿And if you are in doubt...﴾ This verse indicates that the one for whom there is hope of guidance away from misguidance is the one who has doubts and is confused, who cannot tell truth from falsehood. When the truth becomes clear to such a one, he is more likely to be guided if he is sincere in seeking the truth. As for the stubborn one who recognises the truth but ignores it, he cannot come back because