

Surah 26, ash-Shuara, Mecca 47
The Quran's Text & Yusuf Ali's Translation:

كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ﴿١٧٦﴾

26: 176. The Companions of the Wood rejected the messengers.

[3214. See n. 2000 to 15:78.]

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ شُعَيْبٌ ...

26: 177. Behold, Shuaib said to them:

[3215. For Shu'ayb see n. 1054 to 7:85.]

... أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٧٧﴾

"Will ye not fear (God)?"

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ ﴿١٧٨﴾

26: 178. "I am to you a messenger worthy of all trust.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرِي ﴿١٧٩﴾

26: 179. "So fear God and obey me.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ ...

26: 180. "No reward do I ask of you for it:

...إِنْ أَجْرِي إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٨٠﴾ ^{up}

my reward is only from the Lord of the Worlds.

أَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُخْسِرِينَ ﴿١٨١﴾ ^{up}

26: 181. "Give just measure, and cause no loss (to others by fraud).

[3216. They were a commercial people, but they were given to fraud, injustice, and wrongful mischief (by intermeddling with others). They are asked to fear God and follow His ways: it is He Who also created their predecessors among mankind, who never prospered by fraud and violent wrong-doing, but only justice and fair dealing.]

وَزِنُوا بِالْقِسْطَاسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ ﴿١٨٢﴾ ^{up}

26: 182. "And weigh with scales true and upright.

وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ... ^{up}

26: 183. "And withhold not things justly due to men,

...وَلَا تَعْتُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

nor do evil in the land, working mischief.

وَاتَّقُوا الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالْجِبِلَّةَ الْأُولِينَ ﴿١٨٤﴾ ^{up}

26: 184. "And fear Him Who created you and
(Who created) the generations before (you).

﴿١٨٥﴾ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مِنَ الْمُسَحَّرِينَ ^{up}

26: 185. They said:

"Thou art only one of those bewitched!

وَمَا أَنْتَ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُنَا... ^{up}

26: 186. "Thou art no more than a mortal like
us,

...وَإِنْ نَظُنُّكَ لَمِنَ الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

and indeed we think thou art a liar!

[3217. They deny that he is a prophet or that they are doing wrong, or that any former generations behaved differently. They think they are the true exponents of human nature, and that such as he-idealists-are mere madmen.]

﴿١٨٧﴾ فَاسْقِطْ عَلَيْنَا كِسْفًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ^{up}

26: 187. "Now cause a piece of the sky to fall
on us, if thou art truthful!"

[3218. 'If you really claim any real contact with God, let us see if you can bring down a piece of the sky to fall on us!']

Muhammad Asad's Translation:

26:176 [AND] **the dwellers of the wooded dales [of Madyan]** gave the lie to [one of God's] message-bearers

(26:177) when their brother Shu'ayb 74 said unto them: "Will you not be conscious of God?

(26:178) Behold, I am an apostle [sent by Him] to you, [and therefore] worthy of your trust:

(26:179) be, then, conscious of God, and pay heed unto me!

(26:180) "And no reward whatever do I ask of you for it: my reward rests with none but the Sustainer of all the worlds.

26:181 "[Always] give full measure, and be not among those who [unjustly] cause loss [to others];

(26:182) and [in all your dealings] weigh with a true balance,

(26:183) and do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs; 75 and do not act wickedly on earth by spreading corruption,

(26:184) but be conscious of Him who has created you just as [He created] those countless generations of old!" 76

26:185 Said they: "Thou art but one of the bewitched,

26:186) for thou art nothing but a mortal like ourselves! And, behold, we think that thou art a consummate liar!"

(26:187) Cause, then, fragments of the sky to fall down upon us, if thou art a man of truth! "

[Asad's comments:

71 As is evident from 7:83, 11:81, 27:57 and 29:32-33, the old woman was Lots' wife - a native of Sodom - who chose to remain with her own people instead of accompanying her husband, whom she thus betrayed (cf also 66:10).

72 See 11:82 and the corresponding note 114.

73 Or, in the past tense: "dire was the rain upon those who had been warned" - in which case this sentence would refer specifically to the sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, it is much more probable that its purport is general (see note 1 1 5 on the last sentence of 1 1 :83). Zamakhshari's interpretation of the above sentence is analogous to mine.

74 See note 67 on the first sentence of 7:85. The story of Shu'ayb and the people of Madyan (the 'wooded dales") is given in greater detail in 1 1 :84-95.

75 Cf. surah 7, note 68.

76 An allusion to the ephemeral character of man's life on earth and by implication to God's judgment.

26:188 Answered [Shu'ayb]: "My Sustainer knows fully well what you are doing." (26:189) But they gave him the lie. And thereupon suffering overtook them on a day dark with shadows: 78 and, verily, it was the suffering of an awesome day! (26:190) In this [story], behold, there is a message [unto men], even though most of them will not believe [in it]. (26:191) But, verily, thy Sustainer - He alone - is almighty, a dispenser of grace!"