The Qur’an

ABOUT THE READING The Qur’an is the holy book of Islam. Muslims believe it was revealed by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Mohammed.

As you read, pay attention to the repeated questions. Like other sacred texts, the Qur’an is thought to contain prophecies about things that would happen long after it was written. Look for any lines in this passage that might be considered prophetic.

The Merciful

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

It is the Merciful who has taught the Qur’an.

He created man and taught him *articulate* speech.

The sun and moon pursue their ordered course.

The plants and the trees bow down in adoration.

He raised the heaven on high and set the balance of all things, that you might not *transgress* it. Give just weight and full measure.

He laid the earth for His creatures, with all its fruits and blossom-bearing palm, chaff-covered grain and scented herbs. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

He created man from potter’s clay and the *jinn* from smokeless fire. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

The Lord of the two easts is He, and the Lord of the two wests. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Yet between them stands a barrier which they cannot overrun. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Pearls and corals come from both. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

His are the ships that sail like banners upon the ocean. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

All who live on earth are doomed to die. But the face of your Lord will abide for ever, in all its majesty and glory. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

All who dwell in heaven and earth beseech Him. Each day some new task employs Him. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Mankind and jinn, We shall surely find the time to judge you! Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Mankind and jinn, if you have power to penetrate the confines of heaven and earth, then penetrate them! But this you shall not do except with Our own authority. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**

1. What answer to the rhetorical question, “Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?” seems to be expected?

2. To what modern-day events might the last verse refer?