

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: SŪRAT *Al-Humaza*, 104.

This Makkan Sūra condemns all sorts of scandal, backbiting, and selfish hoarding of wealth, as destroying the hearts and affections of men.

Al-Humaza, or the Scandal-monger.

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful.*

1. Woe to every
(Kind of) scandal-monger
And backbiter,⁶²⁶⁶
2. Who pileth up wealth
And layeth it by,
3. Thinking that his wealth
Would make him last
For ever!
4. By no means! He will
Be sure to be thrown into
That which Breaks to Pieces.⁶²⁶⁷
5. And what will explain
To thee That which Breaks
To Pieces?
6. (It is) the Fire
Of Allah
Kindled (to a blaze),
7. The which doth mount
(Right) to the Hearts:⁶²⁶⁸

سُورَةُ الْهُمَزَةِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ ﴿١﴾

الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ ﴿٢﴾

يَحْسَبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ ﴿٣﴾

كَلَّا لَيُنْبَذَنَّ فِي الْحُطَمَةِ ﴿٤﴾

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطَمَةُ ﴿٥﴾

نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمَوْقَدَةُ ﴿٦﴾

الَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ عَلَى الْآفِنَةِ ﴿٧﴾

6266. Three vices are here condemned in the strongest terms: (1) scandal-mongering, talking or suggesting evil of men or women by word or innuendo, or behaviour, or mimicry, or sarcasm, or insult; (2) detracting from their character behind their backs, even if the things suggested are true, where the motive is evil; (3) piling up wealth, not for use and service to those who need it, but in miserly hoards, as if such hoards can prolong the miser's life or give him immortality: miserliness is itself a kind of scandal.

6267. *Huṭama*: that which smashes or breaks to pieces: an apt description of the three anti-social vices condemned. For scandal-mongering and backbiting make any sort of cohesion or mutual confidence impossible; and the miser's hoards up the channels of economic service and charity, and the circulation of good-will among men.

6268. The Fire of Punishment mounts right up to the hearts and minds of such men, and shuts them out of the love of their fellows. "Heart" in Arabic means not only the seat of affection, pity, charity, etc., but also of understanding and intelligent appreciation of things.

8. It shall be made
Into a vault over them,

إِنهَاعَلَيْهِمْ مُّؤَصَّدَةٌ ۖ

9. In columns outstretched.⁶²⁶⁹

فِي عَمَدٍ مُمَدَّدَةٍ ۚ

6269. Those guilty of these vices will be choked and suffocated, for this Vault of Fire will cover them all over, and its scorching columns will extend over a far wider area than they imagine.