

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: SŪRAT *Al-Kauthar*, 108.

This very brief early Makkan Sūra sums up in the single meaningful word *Kauthar* (Abundance) the doctrine of spiritual Riches through devotion and sacrifice. The converse also follows: indulgence in hatred means the cutting off of all hopes of this life and the Hereafter.

Al-Kauthar, or Abundance.

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

1. To thee have We
Granted the Abundance.⁶²⁸⁶
2. Therefore to thy Lord
Turn in Prayer
And Sacrifice.⁶²⁸⁷
3. For he who hateth thee,—⁶²⁸⁸
He will be cut off
(From Future Hope).



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ﴿١﴾

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ ﴿٢﴾

إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ﴿٣﴾

6286. *Al-Kauthar* literally means "good in abundance". It is the abundant bounty which Allah bestowed on Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him). This includes a river (or fountain) in heaven of this name which Allah has promised the Prophet (peace be on him).

6287. He who grants these blessings is Allah, and to Allah alone must we turn in adoration and thanksgiving, and in sacrifice. *Nahr*=sacrifice: in a restricted ritual sense, the sacrifice of camels: see n. 2813 to xxii. 36. But the ritual is a mere Symbol. Behind it is a deep spiritual meaning: the meat slaughtered feeds the poor, and the slaughter is a symbol of the self-sacrifice in our hearts. "It is not their meat nor their blood, that reaches Allah: it is your piety that reaches Him" (xxii. 37).

6288. Hatred and spite are not constructive contributions to the work of this world, but its opposites. Abū Jahl and his Pagan confederates vented their personal spite and venom against the holy Prophet by taunting him with the loss of his two infant sons by Khadija, but where were these venomous detractors a few years afterwards, when the divine Light shone more brilliantly than ever? It was these that were cut off from all future hope, in this world and the next.