

Sūratu l-Humazah – The Backbiter – 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 الْمَوْقِدَةُ ﴿٦﴾ الَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ عَلَى الْأَفْئِدَةِ ﴿٧﴾ إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّوَصَّدَةٌ ﴿٨﴾ فِي عَمَدٍ مُّمَدَّدَةٍ ﴿٩﴾

In the name of Allāh, the Unimaginably Merciful, the All-Merciful:

¹ Woe to every fault-finding backbiter ² who amasses riches, counting them over, ³ thinking they will make him live for ever. ⁴ No indeed! He will be thrust into the Crusher! ⁵ What will explain to you what the Crusher is? ⁶ It is Allāh's Fire, made to blaze, ⁷ which rises over people's hearts. ⁸ It closes in on them ⁹ in towering columns. [M. A. S. Abdel Haleem]

Vocabulary Words

he thinks	يَحْسَبُ	destruction	وَيْلٌ
it made immortal [1 M]	أَخْلَدَ	someone who insults behind the back	هُمَزَةٍ
The Crusher	الْحُطَمَةُ	someone who insults to the face	لُّمَزَةٍ
it climbs [1 F]	تَطَّلِعُ	he gathered	جَمَعَ
the hearts	الْأَفْئِدَةِ	he counted/prepared	عَدَّدَ

Short-Answer Questions

1. Is this a مَكِّيَّة or a مَدَنِيَّة sūrah? What does that mean?

- a. This sūrah is مَكِّيَّة , meaning it was revealed **1)** while the Prophet Muḥammad, صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ , was residing in Makkah, **2)** in the first 13 years of receiving waḥy (revelation), **3)** before the hijrah (migration).

2. How does this sūrah connect to the two before it, al-‘Aṣr and at-Takāthur?

Connection	at-Takāthur	al-‘Aṣr	al-Humazah
a.	This speaks about what distracts a human, leading to loss.	This speaks about what a human is distracted from, leading to loss.	This speaks about how bad this loss is and its consequence.

3. What is the relationship between someone who insults others behind their back, someone who insults others to their face, and someone who gathers wealth to be immortal?
 - a. Oftentimes, to gather so much wealth by any means necessary, one turns to backbiting and slander to keep moving “forward.”

4. Why might Allāh have used the word مَالٌ (the singular) instead of أَمْوَالٌ (the plural)?
 - a. Allāh is belittling the wealth that this person gathers.
 - b. This is because no matter how much wealth anyone gains in this world, it is nothing in comparison to the amount of wealth in the rest of the world. Even if they spend their whole live gathering wealth, it is still practically nothing.

5. What are some examples of 'akhlada? List **two**.
 - a. One example is someone building a monument for themselves in order to be remembered forever.
 - b. Another example is someone donating a building so that it is named after themselves in order to be remembered forever.
 - c. Someone starting an organization or charity named after themselves to be remembered forever is also an example.
 - d. Someone publishing their own biography so that they can be remembered forever is one more example.