

Tafseer Surah al-Humazah (الهمزة)

Notes on Nouman Ali Khan's Concise Commentary of the Quran

By Rameez Abid

Introduction

- There are generally three phases of punishment distributed throughout the Quran
 - Destruction of nations
 - Usually mentioned in context of those people who were enemies to prophets sent to them face-to-face
 - Horrors of the Day of Judgement
 - Hell
- This surah is discussing some of the worst qualities a person can possess
 - The two negative qualities mentioned in the first verse are speaking about the same person
 - Both of these qualities are intent on hurting other people
- There are three crimes mentioned in this surah:
 - Being condescending in order to hurt people
 - Obsession with money and showing it off
 - The assumption that somehow wealth is going to make you last forever
 - You go through life as if you are going to live forever

Tafseer of the Verses

1. Woe to every scorner and mocker

- a. The Arabic word *wayl* (woe)
 - i. Used when you have a great degree of regret, sadness, frustration, anger, etc. towards someone
 1. In the context of this surah, it is being used to describe Allah's anger towards such people
 - ii. In some literatures, it is also described as the worst part of Hell
- b. The Arabic word *humazah* (scorner)
 - i. Various meanings for it have been suggested
 1. Someone who criticizes people for all types of things
 2. Someone who insults you behind your back
 - a. Ex: backbiting
 - b. This is the dominant meaning and most likely what is meant here
 3. When you insult someone in a subtle way
 - a. Ex: the way you look at them
- c. The Arabic word *lumazah* (mocker)

- i. Various meanings for it have been suggested
 - 1. Someone who criticizes someone's family or his/her background
 - 2. Someone who insults you to your face
 - a. It does not have to be direct, it could be indirect as well
 - i. Ex: to make a gesture with the face or eyes
 - b. This is the dominant meaning and most likely what is meant here
 - 3. Someone who insults you in a direct way
 - a. Ex: using foul language to your face
- d. We should be careful not to fall into these two qualities because the dignity of a believer is more sacred than the Ka'ba as the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) indicated in a hadith

2. Who collects wealth and [continuously] counts it

- a. Meaning such a person is obsessed with wealth and accumulating it
 - i. He is constantly counting it
- b. He may do this because it makes him feel worth something, it is a form of insecurity. Because his whole worth is dependent on his material wealth in his mind
 - i. This is why such people show off their wealth to others and look down on those who do not have it

3. He thinks that his wealth will make him immortal

- a. It makes him feel invincible because money can have that type of effect on people
- b. Why did Allah use a past tense to refer to immortality?
 - i. Because in such a person's mind, he already believes as if he can live forever

4. No! He will surely be thrown into the Crusher

- a. The Arabic word *kalla* (No!)
 - i. It is a very strong form of No
- b. The Arabic word *nabadha* (throw away)
 - i. It is used to refer to throwing something worthless away
 - 1. Ex: the way you throw away trash, crumbs, etc.
 - ii. The implication here is that such people used to think of themselves as quite worthy due to their wealth, however, they are completely worthless to Allah
- c. The Arabic word *hutamah* (crusher)
 - i. It is one of the words used for a camel because they crush whatever is beneath their feet
 - ii. It is also used to refer to crushing something worthless, such as, dried up leaves, dried up grass, small pebbles, etc.
 - iii. In this context, it is in reference to Hell because it is a place designated to crush worthless things

5. And what can make you know what is the Crusher?

- a. Because the Arabs were not used to hearing the word *hutamah* (crusher) in reference to Hell, Allah is saying that He will define it for them

6. It is the fire of Allah, [eternally] fueled

- a. This person used to endlessly gather wealth in the worldly life so now the fire in Hell will be endlessly fueled against him

- i. The heart that was filled with endless greed is now being punished with endless fuel for fire

7. Which mounts directed at the hearts

- a. Some said it means that there will be flames that will climb up to them from their feet and penetrate into their hearts
 - i. Why their hearts?
 - 1. Because this was where their love of wealth was settled and it was devoid of Allah's remembrance
- b. The Arabic word *fu'aad* (heart)
 - i. It refers to when your heart is in an intense state
 - 1. Ex: when it is excited with fear, anger, love, etc.
 - ii. It is used in this context because the heart is overwhelmed at the time of punishment and it is going to be physically roasted
- c. Some said the degree to which your heart was hurtful to others, that is the degree to which your heart will feel like it is on fire

8. Indeed, Hellfire will be closed down upon them

- a. The Arabic word *mu'sadah* (closed down)
 - i. Meaning the fire is crushing them tightly from top, there is no room for them to move. This is a just punishment for them because in this life they suffocated people by hurting them with their tongues
 - 1. It could also apply to those rich employers who hoard wealth for themselves by which they suffocate poor workers by not paying them what they deserve. This is because they just want to get richer and richer no matter at what cost

9. In extended columns

- a. The pillar which holds up a building is called *'amad* in Arabic
- b. Meaning they are trapped inside of pillars which are endlessly stretched out
 - i. The fire is burning them from below and they are being crushed from the top by the weight of the pillar