

Sura 100: Al-‘Adiyat (The Chargers)

In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy

Verses 1 to 11:

1. *By the charging steeds, panting;*
2. *And striking sparks;*
3. *Raiding at dawn;*
4. *Raising clouds of dust;*
5. *Storming in the midst;*
6. *Indeed, humankind is ungrateful to his Lord;*
7. *And he bears witness to that;*
8. *And he is fierce in his love of wealth.*
9. *Does he not know, when the contents of the graves are scattered around;*
10. *And that which is (locked up) in (human) breasts is made manifest;*
11. *On that Day, their Lord will be fully aware of them.*

“By the charging steeds, panting; and striking sparks; raiding at dawn; raising clouds of dust; storming in the midst.” God makes an oath by the battle horses and describes its movement one after the other; as they charge forward panting, striking the ground with their hoofs, raiding at dawn, and raising clouds of dust. They charge in the middle of the ranks causing disturbance and chaos. This is a battle scene that was familiar to the people at the time of the revelation of the Qur’an.

What is the oath about? *“Indeed, humankind is ungrateful to his Lord; and he bears witness to that; and he is fierce in his love of wealth.”* Humankind is indeed ungrateful to his Lord. The signs of this are shown in his actions and in his sayings. These actions and sayings bear witness to his ingratitude as if he was the one who was giving the testimony. Humankind is extremely selfish, he loves himself; and he loves wealth and power. This is part of his initial natural disposition. However, when faith enters his heart this can be changed. When faith enters his heart, it will change his values and standards. It will transform his ingratitude into gratitude. His nature will be transformed from a selfish nature into an altruistic one.

One remedy for ingratitude and miserliness is to reflect on one of the scenes of the Day of Judgment, *“Does he not know, when the contents of the graves are scattered around; and that which is (locked up) in (human) breasts is made manifest; on that Day, their Lord will be fully aware of them.”* It is a horrifying scene: contents of the graves being scattered and secrets of the hearts being exposed. People should know that God is fully aware of all what they do.