

Sura 102: Al-Takathur (Striving for More)

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

Verses 1 to 8:

1. *Striving for more distracts you;*
2. *Until you visit the graves.*
3. *No indeed, you will come to know;*
4. *No indeed, you will come to know.*
5. *If you knew with certain knowledge,*
6. *You will most certainly see Hellfire.*
7. *And you will most certainly see it with the eye of certainty.*
8. *Then on that day you shall most certainly be questioned about the Bliss.*

‘Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, “*Whoever recited one thousand verses in one night, Allah will smile in his face when He meets him.*” They asked him, “*Who can recite one thousand verses in one night?*” He (PBUH) recited Surat al-Takathur and said, “*By He who has my soul in His hand, it is equivalent to the one thousand verses.*” Al-Ghazali indicated that it elucidates one sixth of the objectives of the Qur’an. These are definition of the Message, definition of the straight path, description of what one should expect when he/she meets God, describing the state of the obedient servants, stating what the ungrateful servants say, and description of the stages on the path.

“*Striving for more distracts you; until you visit the graves.*” You heedless idiots! You who are competing for more wealth, progeny, and the pleasures of life; look where your end will be. You will end up in a small grave. In this grave there will be neither wealth nor pleasure. You should wake up and reflect on what is waiting for you.

You will certainly come to know, a statement that is repeated so that it sinks in the psyche. If you know the truth, you would see the Hellfire and you will most certainly see it with the eye of certainty. Then you will be asked on that Day about the Bliss. Where did you get it? Where did you spend it? What did you use it for? Did you use to earn a sin or to perform an act of obedience?