

Sura 104: Al-Humaza (The Backbiter)

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

Verses 1 to 9:

1. *Woe to every slanderer, backbiter,*
2. *Who amasses wealth and counts it over;*
3. *Thinking that his wealth would make him live forever;*
4. *By no means. He will be thrown into the Crusher;*
5. *And what will explain to you what is the Crusher?*
6. *It is God's kindled Fire;*
7. *Which rises over people's hearts.*
8. *It will be closed down on them;*
9. *In extended columns.*

This Sura reflects one of the images of real life at the early days of Islam in Mecca. It also describes a model that exists in all societies. The Sura paints an image for a mean person who becomes obsessed by wealth. Wealth becomes his ultimate goal for which all values can be trampled upon. He thinks that he can control people and their destiny with his wealth. He thinks that wealth can buy him anything even life; it may even buy his salvation.

The Sura warns those who belong to this category of people. The warning is portrayed in one of the scenes of the Day of Judgment. The person who belongs to this category will find himself on the Day of Judgment thrown into the Crusher which crushes everything that is thrown into it. He will be crushed, and he will also burn in God's fire, which rises over his heart, the source of his slander and backbiting.