

*Sūrah al-Qalam*¹⁵⁹⁷

Bismillāhir-Rahmānir-Raḥeem

1. Nūn.¹⁵⁹⁸ By the pen and what they inscribe,
2. You are not, [O Muḥammad], by the favor of your Lord, a madman.
3. And indeed, for you is a reward uninterrupted.
4. And indeed, you are of a great moral character.
5. So you will see and they will see
6. Which of you is the afflicted [by a devil].
7. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has gone astray from His way, and He is most knowing of the [rightly] guided.
8. Then do not obey the deniers.
9. They wish that you would soften [in your position], so they would soften [toward you].
10. And do not obey every worthless habitual swearer
11. [And] scorner, going about with malicious gossip –
12. A preventer of good, transgressing and sinful,
13. Cruel, moreover, and an illegitimate pretender.¹⁵⁹⁹
14. Because he is a possessor of wealth and children,
15. When Our verses are recited to him, he says, "Legends of the former peoples."
16. We will brand him upon the snout.¹⁶⁰⁰

¹⁵⁹⁷ *Al-Qalam*: The Pen.

¹⁵⁹⁸ See footnote to 2:1.

¹⁵⁹⁹ i.e., claiming a particular lineage falsely. The description given in these verses is of al-Waleed bin al-Mugheerah (see also 74:11-25) or possibly, as asserted by Ibn Katheer, al-Akhnas bin Shurayq.

¹⁶⁰⁰ Literally, "trunk," meaning the nose of an elephant or pig.

17. Indeed, We have tried them as We tried the companions of the garden, when they swore to cut its fruit in the [early] morning
18. Without making exception.¹⁶⁰¹
19. So there came upon it [i.e., the garden] an affliction from your Lord while they were asleep.
20. And it became as though reaped.
21. And they called one another at morning,
22. [Saying], "Go early to your crop if you would cut the fruit."
23. So they set out, while lowering their voices,
24. [Saying], "There will surely not enter it today upon you [any] poor person."
25. And they went early in determination, [assuming themselves] able.¹⁶⁰²
26. But when they saw it, they said, "Indeed, we are lost;
27. Rather, we have been deprived."
28. The most moderate of them said, "Did I not say to you, 'Why do you not exalt [Allāh]?'"¹⁶⁰³
29. They said, "Exalted is our Lord! Indeed, we were wrongdoers."
30. Then they approached one another, blaming each other.
31. They said, "O woe to us; indeed we were transgressors.
32. Perhaps our Lord will substitute for us [one] better than it. Indeed, we are toward our Lord desirous."¹⁶⁰⁴
33. Such is the punishment [of this world]. And the punishment of the Hereafter is greater, if they only knew.

¹⁶⁰¹i.e., without conceding that nothing can be accomplished unless Allāh wills, saying, "...if Allāh wills" ("*in-shā'-Allāh*"). See 18:23-24.

¹⁶⁰²To carry out their plan, confident of their ability.

¹⁶⁰³i.e., remember or mention Him by saying, "...if Allāh wills." An additional meaning is "praise" or "thank" Him for His bounty.

¹⁶⁰⁴Of His mercy, forgiveness and bounty.