

16. So I swear by the twilight glow
17. And [by] the night and what it envelops
18. And [by] the moon when it becomes full
19. [That] you will surely embark upon [i.e., experience] state after state.¹⁷⁶⁵
20. So what is [the matter] with them [that] they do not believe,
21. And when the Qur'ān is recited to them, they do not prostrate [to Allāh]?
22. But those who have disbelieved deny,
23. And Allāh is most knowing of what they keep within themselves.
24. So give them tidings of a painful punishment,
25. Except for those who believe and do righteous deeds. For them is a reward uninterrupted.

¹⁷⁶⁵i.e., various stages, both in this life and in the Hereafter.

*Sūrah al-Burūj*¹⁷⁶⁶

Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem

1. By the sky containing great stars
2. And [by] the promised Day
3. And [by] the witness and what is witnessed,
4. Destroyed [i.e., cursed] were the companions of the trench¹⁷⁶⁷
5. [Containing] the fire full of fuel,
6. When they were sitting near it
7. And they, to what they were doing against the believers, were witnesses.¹⁷⁶⁸
8. And they resented them not except because they believed in Allāh, the Exalted in Might, the Praiseworthy,
9. To whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. And Allāh, over all things, is Witness.
10. Indeed, those who have tortured¹⁷⁶⁹ the believing men and believing women and then have not repented will have the punishment of Hell, and they will have the punishment of the Burning Fire.
11. Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds will have gardens beneath which rivers flow. That is the great attainment.

¹⁷⁶⁶ *Al-Burūj*: The Great Stars. Also explained as "the planets" or their "high positions in the heaven."

¹⁷⁶⁷ Or "May they be destroyed" or "cursed." The "companions of the trench" (or ditch) were agents of a tyrannical king who refused to allow his people to believe in Allāh. Their evil deed in obedience to their ruler earned for them the curse of Allāh (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*).

¹⁷⁶⁸ After casting the believers into a trench filled with fire, they sat at its edge, watching them burn to death. This event occurred before the time of Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ).

¹⁷⁶⁹ Or, in this instance, the literal meaning of "burned" is also appropriate.