

17. No!<sup>1789</sup> But you do not honor the orphan
18. And you do not encourage one another to feed the poor.
19. And you consume inheritance, devouring [it] altogether,<sup>1790</sup>
20. And you love wealth with immense love.
21. No! When the earth has been leveled – pounded and crushed –
22. And your Lord has come<sup>1791</sup> and the angels, rank upon rank,
23. And brought [within view], that Day, is Hell – that Day, man will remember, but how [i.e., what good] to him will be the remembrance?
24. He will say, "Oh, I wish I had sent ahead [some good] for my life."<sup>1792</sup>
25. So on that Day, none will punish [as severely] as His punishment,
26. And none will bind [as severely] as His binding [of the evildoers].
27. [To the righteous it will be said], "O reassured soul,
28. Return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing [to Him],
29. And enter among My [righteous] servants
30. And enter My Paradise."

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<sup>1789</sup>It is not like you imagine. Rather, Allāh tries people through prosperity and hardship and rewards both gratitude and patience with honor in the Hereafter.

<sup>1790</sup>Not caring whether it is lawful or unlawful.

<sup>1791</sup>To pass judgement. See footnote to 2:19.

<sup>1792</sup>The everlasting life of the Hereafter.

## *Sūrah al-Balad*<sup>1793</sup>

### *Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem*

1. I swear by this city [i.e., Makkah] –
2. And you, [O Muḥammad], are free of restriction in this city –
3. And [by] the father<sup>1794</sup> and that which was born [of him],
4. We have certainly created man into hardship.
5. Does he think that never will anyone overcome him?
6. He says, "I have spent wealth in abundance."
7. Does he think that no one has seen him?
8. Have We not made for him two eyes?
9. And a tongue and two lips?
10. And have shown him the two ways?<sup>1795</sup>
11. But he has not broken through the difficult pass.<sup>1796</sup>
12. And what can make you know what is [breaking through] the difficult pass?
13. It is the freeing of a slave
14. Or feeding on a day of severe hunger
15. An orphan of near relationship
16. Or a needy person in misery
17. And then being among those who believed and advised one another to patience and advised one another to compassion.
18. Those are the companions of the right.<sup>1797</sup>

<sup>1793</sup> *Al-Balad*: The City.

<sup>1794</sup> Said to be Adam (upon him be peace).

<sup>1795</sup> Of good and evil.

<sup>1796</sup> i.e., the steep incline or obstacle. In other words, he has not spent in the cause of Allāh but only boasts of spending in front of others.

<sup>1797</sup> Or "the companions of good fortune," i.e., those who receive their records in their right hands and proceed to Paradise.