

Sûrat Al-Masad
(The Palm Fibre) CXI

**In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.**

1. Perish the two hands of Abû Lahab (an uncle of the Prophet) and perish he!^[1]

2. His wealth and his children will not benefit him!

3. He will be burnt in a Fire of blazing flames!

4. And his wife, too, who carries wood (thorns of *Sa'dân* which she used to put on the way of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, or use to slander him).^[2]

5. In her neck is a twisted rope of *Masad* (palm fibre).^[3]

^[1] (V.111:1) Narrated Ibn 'Abbâs رضى الله عنهما : "When the Verse, 'And warn your tribe (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) of near kindred.' (V.26:214) was revealed, Allâh's Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم went out, and when he had ascended As-Safâ mountain, he shouted, '*Yâ Sabâhâh!*' * The people said, 'What is that?' Then they gathered around him, whereupon he said, 'Do you see? If I inform you that cavalymen are proceeding up the side of this mountain, will you believe me?' They said, 'We have never heard you telling a lie.' Then he said, 'I am a plain warner to you of a coming severe punishment.' Abu Lahab said, 'May you perish! You gathered us only for this reason?' Then Abu Lahab went away. So [*Sûrat Al-Masad*] 'Perish the hands of Abu Lahab!' was revealed. (V.111:1). (*Sahîh Al-Bukhârî*, Vol. 6, *Hadîth* No. 495).

* "*Yâ Sabâhâh!*" is an Arabic expression used when one appeals for help or draws the attention of others to some danger.

^[2] (V.111:4) 'And his wife too, who carries wood.' Mujâhid said, 'Carries the wood' means that she used to slander (the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم) and goes about with calumnies.

^[3] (V.111:5) "In her neck is a twisted rope of palm fibre, [i.e. the chain which is in the Fire (of Hell)]." (*Sahîh Al-Bukhârî*, Vol.6, Chapter 356, Page 469).

[Imâm Qurtubî says in the *Tafsîr* of the (V.17:45)]:

Narrated Sa'îd bin Jubâir رضى الله عنه : "When *Sûrah* No.111 *Al-Masad* was revealed, the wife of Abu Lahab came looking out for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم while Abu Bakr رضى الله عنه was sitting beside him. Abu Bakr said to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم : 'I wish if you get aside (or go away) as she is coming, to us, she may harm you'. The Prophet said: 'There will be a screen set between me and her'. So she did not see him صلى الله عليه وسلم. She said to Abu Bakr: 'Your companion is saying poetry against me.' Abu Bakr said: 'By Allâh he does not say poetry.' She said: 'Do you believe that'. Then she left. Abu Bakr said, 'O Allâh's Messenger! She did not see you'. The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: 'An angel was screening me from her.' " [This Hadîth is quoted from *Musnad Abû ya 'lâ*]

It is said that if the Verse [(17:45) The Qur'ân] is recited by a real believer (of Islâmic