



## ANSWER

وَالْبَحْرِ الْمَسْجُورِ

and by the sea, filled up with fire [52:6]



## COMMENTARY

(and by the sea, filled up with fire ... 52:6) The word *bahr* means sea and the passive participle *masjur* is derived from *sajr* which is used in several different senses, one of which is to kindle with fire. Some of the commentators interpret the participle in this sense here, that is, by the sea which will be kindled with fire on the Day of Resurrection, just as Allah said in another verse "And when the seas will be kindled with fire". In other words, it will be kindled with fire and become a raging fire surrounding the people in the plain of hashr. This was reported by Sayyidnā Sa'id Ibn Musayyab from Sayyidnā 'Alī ibn Abī Tālib *radi'allāhu 'anhu*. Sayyidnā Ibn 'Abbās, Mujāhid, and 'Ubaidullāh Ibn 'Umair *radi'allāhu 'anhum* also report likewise. (Ibn Kathīr)

A Jewish person asked Sayyidnā 'Alī *radi'allāhu 'anhu* 'where is the Hell?'. He replied 'the sea'. The Jew, who was the scholar of the previous scriptures, confirmed this. (Qurtubī) Sayyidnā Qatādah *radi'allāhu 'anhu* and others interpreted the phrase to mean 'filled sea'. Ibn Jarīr *rahimahullāh* preferred this interpretation (Ibn Kathīr). This is the interpretation adopted by Maulānā Ashraf 'Alī Thanawī *rahimahullāh*.

## TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

(And by the sea that is Masjur.) The majority say it refers to the oceans of the earth. Masjur, means, the sea will be kindled with fire on the Day of Resurrection just as Allah said in another Ayah (And when the seas become as blazing fire.) (81:6) i.e., it will be kindled with fire and become a raging fire that surrounds the people in the gathering area, this was reported by Sa'id bin Al-Musayyib from 'Alī bin Abi Talib. It was also reported from Ibn 'Abbas, and it is the view of Sa'id bin Jubayr, Mujahid, 'Abdullah bin 'Ubayd bin 'Umayr and others. Qatadah said, "Masjur is the 'filled sea.'" Ibn Jarir preferred this explanation saying, "The sea is not lit with fire now, so it is filled."

And Allah Ta'ālā knows best.

