



ANSWER

وَالْأَرْضِ

and by the earth...[91:6]



COMMENTARY

The sixth oath is:

(and by the earth, and the One who spread it ... 91:6). The *ma* in this phrase too stands for *masdariyyah* or infinitival particle, signifying 'by the earth and its expanse'. The word *tahwun* means 'to spread'. Thus in the two verses above attention has been focused on the great Designer and Architect of the sky and earth [that is, the universe], and on the perfection and complete freedom from flaw or defect in the design and creation of the universe. Sayyidnā Qatādah *radi'allāhu 'anhū* and others reported this interpretation. Kashshāf, Baidāwī and Qurtubī preferred this interpretation. Some of the commentators have taken *ma* in the sense of man 'the One Who' and refer it to 'Allah', signifying 'by the sky and its Maker and by the earth and One who spreads it. Thus far, all the oaths were taken by the created objects and phenomena. In between is taken oath by Allah.

TAFSĪR IBN KATHĪR

(By the earth and Ma Tahaha.) Mujahid said, "Tahaha means He spread it out." Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, **(and Ma Tahaha.)** "This means what He created in it." `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "Tahaha means that He proportioned it." Mujahid, Qatadah, Ad-Dahhak, As-Suddi, Ath-Thawri, Abu Salih and Ibn Zayd all said that **(Tahaha)** means, He spread it out.

And Allah Ta'ālā knows best.

