

- 2:205. When [such a person] leaves you, he strives to spread mischief in the land and to destroy crops and livestock. But Allah does not like mischief.
- 2:206. When it is said to him: Fear Allah, his arrogance leads him to sin. Hell is enough for him – what a wretched resting-place.

When Allah (ﷻ) commanded us to remember Him a great deal, especially at the best times, which is good and is in our best interests, and is a righteous deed, He also told us about the one who speaks words but his actions do not match his words. For what a person says will either raise or lower him in status. Hence Allah says: ﴿Among people are those whose speech pleases you in this world﴾ that is, when such a person speaks, his words please the listener, and when he speaks, he thinks that he is saying something useful, and he supports what he is saying by calling ﴿Allah to witness as to what is in﴾ his heart, by saying that Allah knows that what is in his heart is in harmony with what he is saying, but in fact he is lying, because his words contradict his deeds.

If he were telling the truth, his words and deeds would be in harmony, as is the case with the believer who is not a hypocrite. Hence Allah says of such people: ﴿yet they are the most contentious of opponents﴾ that is, if you argue with him, you will find him quarrelsome, difficult and stubborn, and what results from that is the worst kind of attitude. This is unlike the attitude of the believer, whose way is the easiest and who submits to the truth and is easy-going.

﴿When [such a person] leaves you﴾ – this refers to the one whose speech pleases you when he speaks to you  
 ﴿he strives to spread mischief in the land﴾ that is, he does his utmost in committing sins, which is spreading mischief in the land  
 ﴿and to destroy﴾ because of that ﴿crops and livestock﴾. Crops and livestock are destroyed and the blessings in them decrease because of his striving to commit sin.