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to whomever He wills. And Allah is All-Encompassing, All-Knowing.

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This is an explanation of the multiplication of reward mentioned previously: «Who is he that will lend to Allah a goodly loan, so He will multiply it for him manifold?» (2: 245). Here Allah says: «The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah» that is, they spend it in obedience to Him, seeking His pleasure. The most important kind of spending is spending on jihad for His sake.

«is that of a grain of corn that produces seven ears, each ear bearing a hundred grains». What is meant by this example is to give a likeness of that multiplication, so that a person may form a mental picture of it, by means of which his faith will be strengthened and he will be motivated to spend in the hope of attaining that multiplied reward and great blessing.

«Allah gives manifold increase» which is this multiplication of reward «to whomever He wills» that is, according to the giver's condition and level of sincerity, and how beneficial and appropriate the spending is. And it may be that Allah will multiply the reward even further for «whomever He wills», giving without limit.

«And Allah is All-Encompassing» in His generosity, so He gives abundantly and His giving does not deplete what He has. No one who spends (for His sake) should think that this multiplication of reward is a kind of exaggeration, because nothing is too much for Allah (۞), and this giving does not decrease His resources, no matter how great it is. At the same time He is «All-Knowing»; He knows who is deserving of that multiplied reward and who is not, so He multiplies appropriately in accordance with His perfect knowledge and wisdom.