

﴿And the likeness of those who spend their wealth, seeking Allah's pleasure﴾ that is, seeking thereby to attain the pleasure of their Lord and closeness to Him

﴿and out of their own inner certainty﴾ that is, they are happy with what they are doing, with no hesitancy or lack of resolve in giving. Two problems may be encountered with regard to spending: either the individual may seek to win praise from people when doing it, which is showing off, or he may spend reluctantly, with a lack of resolve and with hesitation. But the people referred to in this verse are free of these two problems; they spend seeking Allah's pleasure and not for any other purpose, out of their own inner certainty. The likeness of their spending ﴿is that of a garden﴾ with lots of trees and shade covering what is in it. This garden is ﴿on high ground﴾ that is, an elevated area that is open to the sun from the beginning of the day until the end, so its fruits are more abundant and beautiful. It is not on low ground, shielded from the wind and sun.

﴿If heavy rain falls on it﴾ that is, this garden that is on high ground, ﴿it makes it yield a double increase of harvest﴾ that is, its fruits multiply because of the goodness of the ground and for other reasons that lead to this outcome. The availability of plentiful water makes it grow and reach maturity.

﴿and if it does not receive heavy rain, then a light drizzle﴾ that is, light rain is sufficient, because of the fertility of the place where it grows. This is the likeness of those who spend a large or small amount, each according to his means; what he spends grows and multiplies until it reaches fullness. The One Who causes it to grow is more merciful to you than you are to yourself; He cares about you when you are not paying attention. If it so happened that such a garden existed in this world, people would rush to acquire it and there would be great competition for it, which would lead to conflict, even though this world is transient and will end, and it is the realm of hardship, stress and problems. It is as if the believer can see, through the lens of his