

Enslaved Scholars:
The Arabic Writings of Muslim Scholars Enslaved in the Americas
Edited by Mbaye Lo and Carl W. Ernst
The Writings of Omar ibn Said
Editorial Procedures

Document 16

Qur'an Verses No. 3 (Ayat Thalitha)

Repository: Cambridge, MA, Charles Sumner scrapbook, MS Am 1.68, page 47. Houghton Library, Harvard University.

URL: [https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:483116752\\$1i](https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:483116752$1i)

URI: 1280CumarIbnSayyid.AyatThalitha.HarvardAm168D16-ara1

Provenance: “Presented [to Charles Sumner] by Wm. W. Williams of Terre Haute, In.”¹

(Notation on manuscript). Given by Charles Sumner to the Harvard Library.

Descriptions:

- “Written by a black man owned by Gen. Owen. Wilmington North Carolina” (pencil notation on manuscript).
- “Translation of the Arabic sentences written by Gen. Owen’s slave in North Carolina.” (ink and pencil notation on paper attached to the manuscript, followed by an English translation of the text, translator unknown).
- “Gov. Owen’s slave’s writing, a present from W. W. Williams” (pencil notation on reverse).

Arabic Text

.A

1. اللهم يا به صلى على محمد
2. والحمد لله رب العالمين ﴿الفاحة: ١﴾
3. الخير عند الله لا غيره
4. ان الذين ءامنوا

.B

1. وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ ﴿٢﴾ يَحْسَبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُ أَخْلَدَهُ ﴿٣﴾ كَلَّا لَيُنْبَذَنَّ فِي الْحُطَمَةِ ﴿٤﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْحُطَمَةُ ﴿٥﴾ نَارُ اللَّهِ الْمَوْقِدَةُ ﴿٦﴾ الَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ عَلَى الْأَفْئِدَةِ ﴿٧﴾ إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِمْ مُّوْصَدَةٌ ﴿٨﴾ فِي عَمَدٍ مُمَدَّدَةٍ ﴿٩﴾ (الهُمَزَةُ 1-9)
2. سورة الفيل

Translation

[A. Invocations]

1. God, you by whom one blesses Muhammad!
2. “Praise be to God, the Lord of creation” (Qur'an 1:1).
3. “The Good is with God, and belongs to no other” (Good formula).
4. “Those who believe . . .” (Qur'an 2:62, etc.).

[B. Warnings of punishment]

1. “Woe to every back-biter and slanderer / who gathers wealth and counts it up. / He figures that his wealth will make him immortal! / But no! Let him be thrown into the Crusher. / And how will you know what the Crusher is? / It is the fire of God,

blazing, / Which will rise above their hearts. / Indeed it will close over them / In
outstretched flames” (Qur’an 104: 1-9).

2. The Chapter of the Elephant (Qur’an 105 title).

¹ Wm. W. Williams (d. 1839) was a prominent businessman in Terre Haute (not to be confused with William Williams, Republican congressman from Indiana).