

Four Rivers of Paradise

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alalbaany.com

Silsilat-ul-Hudaa wan-Noor (280) - aFatwa.com

[nudhum al-faraa.id vol. 2 p. 460-1 / alalbaany.com]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Aboo Hurairah narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“Sayhaan, Jayhaan, Al-Furaat (i.e. the Euphrates) and An-Neel (i.e. the Nile) are all rivers of Paradise”¹

Aboo Hurairah narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“Four rivers are gushed forth from Paradise: Al-Furaat (i.e. the Euphrates), An-Neel (i.e. the Nile), As-Sayhaan and Jayhaan”²

Anas bin Maalik narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“(The tree) Sidratul-Muntahaa appeared before me in the seventh heaven; its fruits were (enormous) like jugs from (the town of) Hajar and its leaves were (enormous) like the ears of elephants. Two visible rivers and two hidden rivers were flowing out from its trunk. I said: ‘O Jibreel! What are these?’ He replied: ‘The hidden ones are in Paradise and the visible ones are the Nile and Euphrates.’”³

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: “Furthermore, perhaps what is meant by these rivers being from Paradise is that they are originally from there, just like man is originally from Paradise; and such is indicated by the wording of the second hadeeth: ‘are gushed forth . . .’ So the hadeeth does not contradict the perceived phenomenon of these rivers emanating from their well-known springs on Earth.

If this, or something similar, isn’t the meaning, then the hadeeth is one of the matters of the unseen: it is obligatory to believe in them and submit to the one informing us of them.

[But no, by your Lord, they will not have faith until they make you (O Muhammad) judge in whatever disputes occur between them, and then find within themselves no discomfort over what you have judged and submit completely].”⁴

¹ Saheeh, As-Saheehah no. 110.

² Hasan, As-Saheehah no. 111.

³ Saheeh, As-Saheehah no. 112.

⁴ Soorah an-Nisaa [4:65]