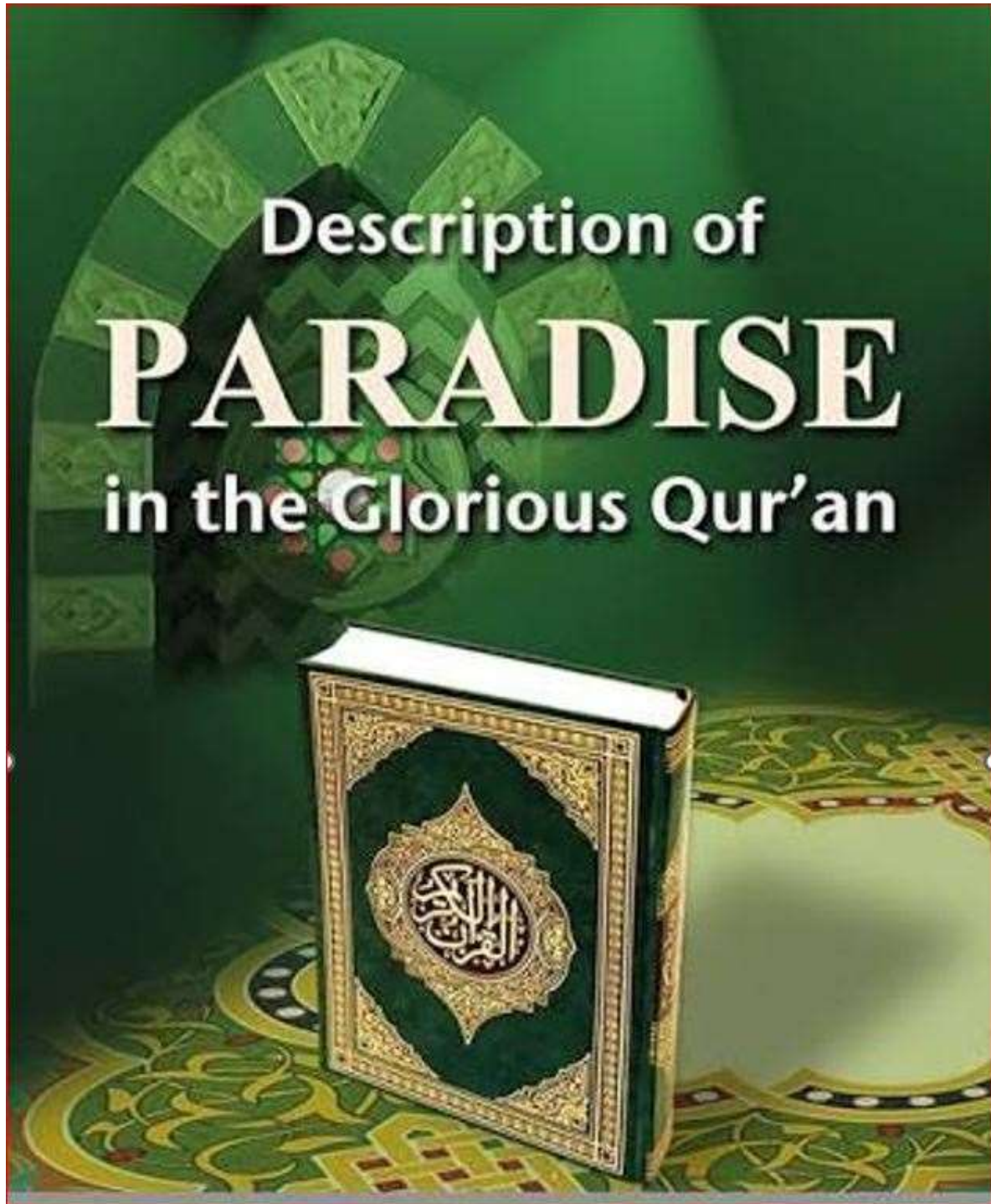


A Description of Paradise in The Noble Qur'an and Sunnah



Makkan Verses of the Qur'an abound with descriptions of the Hereafter. Rare are the Makkan Chapters of the Qur'an that do not contain some mention of the terrifying events that will take place on the Day of Resurrection, of the bliss that dwellers of Paradise will enjoy, of the punishment that dwellers of the Hellfire will be subjected to, of how people will be resurrected, or of how they will be judged for their deeds. So vivid is the description of the Hereafter in the Qur'an that it is as if a person reading the Qur'an sees the Day of Resurrection with his very own eyes:

وَمَا قَدَرُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ قَدْرِهِ وَالْأَرْضُ جَمِيعًا قَايِضَتُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ مَطْوْنَتٌ بِيَمِينِهِ سُبْحَنَهُ
وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَصَعِقَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ
بِالنَّبِيِّينَ (٧٤) نُفِ فِيهِ أُخْرَى فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ وَجَئِ
وَالشَّهَادَاتُ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ وَرَفِيتَ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَا عَلَتْ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ
وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَامُوهَا فَتِيَحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ
يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ
قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَنَٰوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ
زُمَرًا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ وَقَالُوا
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعْدَهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَّبِعُوهُ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ وَتَرَى
الْمَلَائِكَةَ حَافِينَ مِنْ حَوْلِ الْعَرْشِ يُسَبِّحُونَ حَمْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ

"They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified be He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him! And the Trumpet will be blown, and all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth will swoon away, except him whom Allah will. Then it will be blown a second time and behold, they will be standing, looking on (waiting). And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord (Allah, when He will come to judge among men) and the Book will be placed (open) and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward, and it will be judged between them with truth, and they will not be wronged. And each person will be paid in full of what he did; and He is Best Aware of what they do. And those

who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups, till, when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened (suddenly like a prison at the arrival of the prisoners). And its keepers will say, "Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves, - reciting to you the Verses of your Lord, and warning you of the Meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say: "Yes, but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!" It will be said (to them): "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein. And (indeed) what an evil abode of the arrogant!" And those who kept their duty to their Lord will be led to Paradise in groups, till, when they reach it, and its gates will be opened (before their arrival for their reception) and its keepers will say: Salamun 'Alaikum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein." And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah Who has fulfilled His Promise to us and has made us inherit (this) land. We can dwell in Paradise where we will; how excellent a reward for the (pious good) workers!" And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne (of Allah) from all round, glorifying the praises of their Lord (Allah). And they (all the creatures) will be judged with truth, and it will be said. All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn, and all that exists)." (Qur'an 39: 67-75).

Many Verses of the Qur'an contain a description of Paradise: that there is nothing similar to it; that it has doors; that it has levels; that rivers flow underneath it; that it contains springs, castles, and tents; and that in it are trees of various kinds, such as SidratulMuntahah and the Toobah tree. Allah also mentioned the blissful existence of the dwellers of Paradise: their food, their drink, wine, drinking vessels, clothes, jewelry, servants, speech, and women. Heaven mentioned the best of what they will be given. Here are some of the qualities of Paradise that are mentioned or described in the Noble Qur'an:

There is nothing that is similar to Paradise. The bliss of Paradise is something that Allah, from His boundless generosity, has prepared for His obedient slaves. We have to keep in mind that, although Allah described for us some of the pleasures of Paradise, He has kept hidden from us much that we cannot in this present life comprehend.

فَلَا تَغْلَمْ نَفْسٌ مَّا أَخْفَىٰ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءُ بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

"No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do." (Qur'an 32: 17)

Allah clarified the reason why His obedient slaves will be rewarded: the good deeds that He has guided them to perform such as praying in the late hours of the night and spending for the cause of Islam. Allah said:

نَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ مَّا أُخْفِيَ لَهُمْ مِنْ قُرَّةِ أَعْيُنٍ جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

"Their sides forsake their beds, to invoke their Lord in fear and hope, and they spend (charity in Allah's Cause) out of what We have bestowed on them. No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do." (Qur'an 32: 16, 17)

The levels of Paradise Human beings are at different levels in this world: Allah guides some more than others, and some perform more and better deeds than others; similarly, people will be at different levels in Paradise. Allah said:

وَمَنْ يَأْتِهِ مُؤْمِنًا قَدْ عَمِلَ الصَّالِحَاتِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الدَّرَجَاتُ الْعُلَى

"But whoever comes to Him (Allah) as a believer (in the Oneness of Allah, etc.), and has done righteous good deeds, for such are the high ranks (in the Hereafter)." (Qur'an 20: 75)

An obedient slave of Allah will be at a level that is suitable to his Eemaan (faith) and piety:

انْظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَالْآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا

"See how We prefer one above another (in this world) and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preference." (Qur'an 17: 21)

"See how We prefer one above another (in this world) and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in preference." (Qur'an 17: 21)

"And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, - to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything. Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned." (Qur'an 52: 21)

"But those who fear Allah and keep their duty to their Lord (Allah), for them are built lofty rooms; one above another under which rivers flow (i.e., Paradise). (This is) the Promise of Allah: and Allah does not fail in (His) Promise." (Qur'an 39: 20)

The Rivers of Paradise

In many Verses of the Noble Quran, Allah mentioned the rivers of Paradise:

مَثَلُ الْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي وُعِدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ فِيهَا أَنْهَارٌ مِنْ مَّاءٍ غَيْرِ آسِنٍ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِنْ لَبَنٍ لَمْ يَنْغَيَّرْ طَعْمُهُ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِنْ خَمْرٍ لَذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ وَأَنْهَارٌ مِنْ عَالٍ تُصْفَى وَلَهُمْ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ وَمَغْفِرَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ كَمَنْ هُوَ خَلِدٌ فِي النَّارِ وَسُقُوا مَاءً جَمِيمًا فَقَطَّعَ أَمْعَاءُهُ

"The description of Paradise which the Muttaqoon (pious) have been promised is that in it are rivers of water the taste and smell of which are not changed; rivers of milk of which the taste never changes; rivers of wine delicious to those who drink; and rivers of clarified honey (clear and pure) therein for them is every kind of fruit; and forgiveness from their Lord." (Qur'an 47: 15)

The Springs of Paradise

There are many springs in Paradise, and they vary in their taste. Allah said:

"Truly! The Muttaqoon (pious and righteous persons) will be amidst Gardens and water-springs (Paradise)." (Qur'an 15: 45)

He said in another Verse:

"Verily, the Muttaqoon (pious) shall be amidst shades and springs." (Qur'an 77: 41)

Describing the two gardens that He prepared for those who fear Him, Allah said:

"In them (both) will be two springs gushing forth water." (Qur'an 55: 66)

In Paradise there are two springs whose water Allah's close, obedient slaves will drink in pure, unmixed form; The Abrar (pious ones who fear Allah and avoid evil)

will also drink from those springs, but the water they drink from will be mixed with other things. One of the two springs being referred to is Kafur, and it is mentioned in this Verse:

إِنَّ الْأَبْرَارَ يَشْرَبُونَ مِنْ كَأْسٍ كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا كَافُورًا عَيْنًا يَشْرَبُ بِهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ يُفَجِّرُونَهَا تَفْجِيرًا

"Verily, the Abrar (pious who fear Allah and avoid evil), shall drink a cup (of wine) mixed with water from a spring in Paradise called Kafur. A spring wherefrom the slaves of Allah will drink, causing it to gush forth abundantly." (Qur'an 76: 5, 6)

In this Verse, we learn that the Abrar will drink from the spring of Kafur a drink that is mixed with other substances, and that the slaves of Allah will drink Kafur's water in pure form. The second spring is called At-Tasneem. Allah said:

"Verily, Al-Abrar (the pious ones who fear Allah and avoid evil) will be in Delight (Paradise). On thrones, looking (at all things). You will recognize in their faces the brightness of delight. They will be given to drink pure sealed wine. The last thereof (that wine) will be the smell of Musk, and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive (i.e., hasten earnestly to the obedience of Allah). It (that wine) will be mixed with Tasnim. A spring whereof drink those nearest to Allah." (Qur'an 83: 22-28)

Another spring in Paradise we know about is called As-Salsabil. Allah said:

وَيُسْقَوْنَ فِيهَا كَأْسًا كَانَ مِزَاجُهَا زَعِجًا عَيْنًا فَهَا تَسْمَى سَلْسَبِيلًا

"And they will be given to drink there a cup (of wine) mixed with Zanjabil (ginger, etc.), A spring there, called Salsabil." (Qur'an 76: 17, 18)

The Trees in Paradise

Sidrat-ul-Muntaha is a tree that Allah informed us about in the Noble Qur'an; it was near Sidrat-ul-Muntaha that the Prophet saw Jibreel upon his natural form - the form upon which Allah created him. Allah a said:

وَلَقَدْ رَمَاهُ نَزْلُهُ أُخْرَىٰ عِنْدَ سِدْرَةِ الْمُنْهَىٰ عِنْدَهَا جَنَّةُ الْمَأْوَىٰ إِذْ يَغْشَى السِّدْرَةَ مَا يَغْشَىٰ مَا رَآهُ الْبَصَرُ وَمَا طَغَىٰ

"And indeed he (Muhammad saw him [Jibreel (Gabriel)] at a second descent (i.e., another time). Near Sidrat-ul-Muntaha [lote-tree of the utmost boundary (beyond which none can pass)], Near it is the Paradise of Abode. When that covered the lote-tree which did cover it! The sight (of Prophet Muhammad) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond (the) limit (ordained for it)." (Qur'an 53: 13-17)

Then there is the Tooba tree, a huge tree from which garments are made for the dwellers of Paradise. Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudree reported that the Messenger of Allah said,

"Tooba, a tree in Paradise, is the distance of 100 years (this means that it takes 100 years to traverse it, and Allah & knows best). The garments of the people of Paradise come out from its shoots."

Silsilatul-Ahaadeeth-As-Saheehah by Albaanee (may Allah have mercy on him): 3/639. Hadeeth number: 1985.

In another narration, Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet said, "Verily, in Paradise there is a tree under whose shade a rider travels for 100 years. And recite if you wish:

وَلَقَدْ مَدَدُودٍ

"In shade long-extended." (Qur'an 56: 30)

Saheeh Bukhaaree, "The Beginning of Creation"; chapter, "What is Related About Paradise and About It Being Created." Hadeeth number: 3352.

Food and Drink of Paradise

Allah mentioned that Paradise contains in it every kind of food and drink that people desire:

* وَفَكَهَّةٍ مِّمَّا يَخِيزُونَ

"And fruit; that they may choose." (Qur'an 56: 20)

"Trays of gold and cups will be passed round them (there will be) therein all that the one's inner-selves could desire, all that the eyes could delight in, and you will abide therein forever."(Qur'an 43:71)

*"Eat and drink at ease for that which you have sent on before you in days past!"
(Quran 69: 24)*

The Wine in Paradise

Allah will bless the dwellers of Paradise with wine, but certainly not the wine that people drink in this world; in fact, in many regards, it will be exactly opposite of the wine of this world. The wine of the Hereafter will be free of all of the defects that are found in the wine of this world. In this world, wine has an intoxicating and harmful effect on the mind. When people drink wine in this world, they can develop headaches, stomachaches, and other sicknesses. These are some problems associated with drinking moderate quantities of wine; the problems associated with drinking large quantities at a time are too many to enumerate here. The wine of the Hereafter is free of all of the above-mentioned problems and defects; it is in contrast a beautiful and wonderful drink. Allah said:

"Round them - will be passed a cup of pure wine; white, delicious to the drinkers. Neither they will have Ghoul (any kind of hurt, abdominal pain, headache, a sin, etc.) from that, nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom." (Quran 37: 45-47)

Describing the wine of the Hereafter in another Verse, Allah said:

يَطُوفُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَدُنْ تَخْلُدُونَ بِأَكْوَابٍ وَأَبَارِيقَ وَكَاسٍ مِنْ مَعِينٍ لَا يُصَدَّعُونَ عَنْهَا وَلَا يُنْزِفُونَ

"They will be served by immortal boys, with cups, and jugs, and a glass from the flowing wine, wherefrom they will get neither any aching of the head, nor any intoxication." (Qur'an 56: 17-19)

And in yet another Verse, Allah said:

يُسْقَوْنَ مِنْ رَحِيقٍ مَخْتُومٍ (خَتَمُهُ مِسْكٌ وَفِي ذَلِكَ فَلْيَتَنَاسُوا) الْمُنْتَفِسُونَ

"They will be given to drink pure sealed wine. The last thereof (that wine) will be the smell of Musk, and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive (i.e., hasten earnestly to the obedience of Allah)." (Qur'an 83: 25, 26)

In this last Verse, Allah informs us first that the wine they will be given is pure, and second that, while they finish drinking it, they will perceive the smell of Musk.

Refer to Tafseer Ibn Katheer (6/514).

The Food and Drink of Paradise are pure, in Entering and Exiting the Body

Paradise itself is free from impurities, and so too are its Dwellers. The Messenger of Allah said, "The first group from my nation to enter Paradise will be upon the form of the moon, on the night of a full moon. Then those that follow them will be upon the light of the brightest star in the sky. Those that come after them will be of various levels. They (i.e., all of them) will neither defecate nor urinate; they will neither blow their noses (i.e., they will not have phlegm in them) nor spit.

Saheen Muslim, "The Book of Paradise"; chapter, "The First Group of People to Enter Paradise." Hadeeth number: 2834. And Bukhaaree related it in the "Book of Prophets."

Here, the Prophet informs us that the dwellers of Paradise differ from one another in terms of their light. But in another regard, they will all be similar: They will be free from all impurities – feces, urine, phlegm etc. The food and drink which they consume will turn into sweat which has the sweet fragrance of Musk, and which will flow from their bodies. Some of their food will leave through belching, but it will be belching that is redolent of sweet and wonderful fragrances. The Messenger of Allah said,

"Verily, the dwellers of Paradise will eat and drink in Paradise. They will not spit, urinate, defecate, or blow their noses."

The Prophet's Companions asked, *"Then, what will happen to their food after they have consumed it?"*

The Prophet replied, *"Belching and sweat, that is like the sweat of Musk, the best kind of perfume."*

The Clothing, Perfume and Jewelry of the Dwellers of Paradise

Attired in wonderful attire, such as clothing made of silk, the Dwellers of Paradise will also be adorned with jewelry made of gold, silver and pearls. Allah said:

"Their garments will be of fine green silk, and gold embroidery. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink."
(Qur'an 76: 21)

"And (Eden) Paradise (Everlasting Gardens), will they enter, therein will they be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments there will be of silk (i.e. in Paradise)." (Qur'an 35: 33)

"Their garments will be of fine green silk, and gold embroidery. They will be adorned with bracelets of silver, and their Lord will give them a pure drink."
(Qur'an 76: 21)

They will wear clothing of many different colours; for example, they will wear 'green garments of fine and thick silk':

أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهِمُ الْأَنْهَارُ يُحَلَّوْنَ فِيهَا مِنْ أَسَاوِرَ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَيَلْبَسُونَ ثِيَابًا خُفْرًا
مِنْ سُندُسٍ وَإِسْتَبْرَقٍ مُتَّكِينَ فِيهَا عَلَى الْأَرَائِكِ نِعَمَ الثَّوَابِ وَحَسَنَتَ الْمُزْنِ

"These! For them will be 'Adn (Eden) Paradise (everlasting Gardens); wherein rivers flow underneath them, therein they will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and they will wear green garments of fine and thick silk. They will recline therein on raised thrones. How good is the reward, and what an excellent Murtafqa (dwelling, resting place, etc.)!" (Qur'an 18: 31)

In addition to sweating Musk from their pure bodies, the dwellers of Paradise will perfume themselves with sweet smelling incense. Describing the dwellers of Paradise, the Prophet said:

"Their vessels (dishes, plates, utensils) are made of gold and silver, and their combs are made of gold. And the firewood of their censers (vessels in which incense is

burnt) consists of sticks of perfume. And their sweat is Musk (the best kind of perfume).

Saheeh Bukhaaree, "The Beginning of Creation"; chapter, "What is Related About the Description of Paradise." Hadeeth number: 3246.

Elsewhere, the Messenger of Allah described the everlasting qualities of clothes and jewelry in Paradise: *"Whoever enters Paradise will enjoy eternal bliss and will never be wretched; his clothes will not wear away, and his youth will not pass away."*

Saheeh Muslim, "The Book of Paradise, Its Bliss, and Its Dwellers"; chapter, "The Eternal Bliss of Paradise's Dwellers." Hadeeth number: 2836.

The Gatherings of the people of Paradise

The dwellers of Paradise will visit one another, and they will assemble in pleasant and good gatherings. In their conversations, they will reminisce about their worldly doings and about how Allah blessed them by admitting them into Paradise. Allah said of their gatherings:

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِّنْ عِلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَىٰ سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَامِينَ

"And We shall remove from their breasts any sense of injury (that they may have), (So they will be like) brothers facing each other on thrones." (Qur'an 15: 47)

Allah also informs us of some of the things that the dwellers of Paradise will say:

وَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ قَالُوا إِنَّا كُنَّا قَبْلُ فِي أَهْلِنَا مُشْفِقِينَ فَمَنِ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَوَقَّنَا عَذَابَ السَّمُومِ إِنَّا كُنَّا مِن قَبْلُ نَدْعُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْبَرُّ الرَّحِيمُ

"And some of them draw near to others, questioning. Saying: "Aforetime, we were afraid (of the punishment of Allah) in the midst of our families. But Allah has been gracious to us, and has saved us from the torment of the Fire. Verily, we used to invoke Him (Alone and none else) before. Verily, He is Al-Barr (the Most Subtle, Kind, Courteous, and Generous), the Most Merciful." (Qur'an 52: 25-28)

They will even reminisce about evil people, those who would try to turn Muslims away from their faith:

فَأَقْبَلَ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ يَتَسَاءَلُونَ قَالَ قَابِلٌ مِنْهُمْ إِنِّي كَانَ لِي قَرِينٌ يَقُولُ أَأَنْتَ لِمَنِ الْمُصَدِّقِينَ أَذَا مِئْنَا وَكُنَّا نِعْمَةً رَبِّي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ أَفَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَتِينِينَ إِلَّا مَوْنَتَنَا الْأُولَى وَمَا نَحْنُ مُعَذِّبِينَ إِنَّ هَذَا هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ لِمِثْلِ هَذَا فَلْيَعْمَلِ الْعَامِلُونَ تَرَابًا وَعِظْمًا أَنَا لَمَدِينُونَ قَالَ هَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُضِلُّعُونَ فَأُطْلِعَ فَرَاهُ فِي سَوَاءٍ الْحَحِيمِ قَالَ اللَّهُ إِنْ كَدْتَ لَتُرَدِّدِينَ وَلَوْلَا

"Then they will turn to one another, mutually questioning. A speaker of them will say: "Verily, I had a companion (in the world), who used to say: "Are you among those who believe (in resurrection after death). (That) when we die and become dust and bones, shall we indeed (be raised up) to receive reward or punishment (according to our deeds)?" (The man) said: Will you look down?" So, he looked down and saw him in the midst of the Fire. He said: "By Allah! You have nearly ruined me. Had it not been for the Grace of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought forth (to Hell)." (Allah informs about that true believer that he said): "Are we then not to die (any more)? Except our first death, and we shall not be punished? (after we have entered Paradise)." Truly, this is the supreme success! For the like of this let the workers work." (Qur'an 37: 50-61)

The Wives of Paradise's Dwellers

If a believer's wife in this world is a believer herself, then they will be husband and wife in the Hereafter. Allah said:

جَنَّتُ عَدْنٍ يَدْخُلُونَهَا وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ عَانِ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ يَدْخُلُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ بَابٍ

"Adn (Eden) Paradise (everlasting Gardens), which they shall enter and (also) those who acted righteously from among their fathers, and their wives, and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate." (Qur'an 13: 23)

هُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُمْ فِي ظِلِّ عَلَى الْأَرْبَابِ مُتَّكِئُونَ

"They and their wives will be in pleasant shade, reclining on thrones." (Qur'an 36: 56)

"Enter Paradise, you and your wives, in happiness." (Qur'an 43: 70)

Al-Hoor Al-'Een (Fair Maidens of Paradise with wide, beautiful eyes)

Allah said:

كَذَلِكَ وَزَوَّجْنَاهُمْ بِعُورٍ عَيْنٍ

"So (it will be), and We shall marry them to Hoor 'Een (houris female fair ones) with wide, lovely eyes." (Qur'an 44: 54)

In this Verse, the fair women of Paradise are called Hoor 'Een, both of which words are descriptive in nature. Hoor is the plural of Hoora, a woman whose eyes are extremely white in the white portion of her eyes, and extremely black in the black portion of her eyes. 'Een is the plural of 'Aina, which means: wide eyes. In the following Verse, Allah mentions two other descriptive qualities of the Hoor 'Een, that they are Kawaa'ib and Atraab:

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَاقًا حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا

"Verily, for the Muttaqoon, there will be a success (Paradise); gardens and vineyards; and young full-breasted (mature) maidens of equal age." (Qur'an 78: 31-33)

Kawaa'ib is the plural of Kaa'ib, which refers to a beautiful woman whose breasts protrude forward. And Atraab means that they will be of equal age to their male partners. Allah created the Hoor 'Een specially for Paradise:

"Verily, We have created them (maidens) of special creation. And made them virgins. Loving (their husbands only), equal in age." (Qur'an 56: 35-37)

That they are virgins obviously means that no one before their male counterparts in Paradise had ever had sex with them:

فِيهِنَّ قَصِيرَاتُ الْظُرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِئِنَّ لَهُنَّ إِن قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانُّ

"Wherein both will be those (maidens) restraining their glances upon their husbands, whom no man or jinn yatmithhunna (has opened their hymens with sexual intercourse) before them." (Qur'an 55: 56)

Allah used various metaphors to describe the Hoor 'Een:

وَجُورُ عَيْنٍ (٢) كَأَمْثَالِ اللُّؤْلُؤِ الْمَكُونِ

"And (there will be) Hoor 'Een (houris-female fair ones) with wide, lovely eyes (as wives for the pious), like unto preserved pearls." (Qur'an 56: 22, 23)

In this Verse, they are likened to pearls that are Maknoon, or hidden, protected, and preserved, pearls who's pure colour has not been changed by the light of the sun or by the handling of people. In another Verse, Allah compares them to rubies and coral:

رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ كَأَنَّهُنَّ الْيَاقُوتُ (٧٠) فَيَنْ قَصِيرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ لَمْ يَطْمِئِنَّهُنَّ إِسْ قَبْلَهُمْ وَلَا جَانُّ (فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ) وَالْمَرْجَانِ

"Wherein both will be those (maidens) restraining their glances upon their husbands, whom no man or jinn yatmithhunna (has opened their hymens with sexual intercourse) before them. Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you both (jinn and men) deny? (In beauty) they are like rubies and coral." (Qur'an 55: 56-58)

Rubies and corals are precious, beautiful, and valuable stones, which are wonderful to look at. The Hoor 'Een are also described as being Qaasirat-ut-Tarf, which means that they have eyes for their husbands only, and not for anyone else. And so, they are good and beautiful, both in the way they look and in the way they make their husbands feel.

فَيَنْ خَيْرَاتُ حِسَانُ فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ

"Therein (Gardens) will be fair (wives) good and beautiful; Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you both (jinn and men) deny?" (Qur'an 55: 70, 71)

Unlike the women of this world, the women of Paradise are pure from menstruation and post-natal bleeding, from spittle and phlegm, from urine and

feces. The men of Paradise will also be pure. The Prophet said:

"The form of the first group of people to enter Paradise will be the moon, on the night of a full moon. In it (i.e., in Paradise), they (the dwellers of Paradise, men and women alike) will not spit, blow their noses, or defecate. Their vessels (dishes, plates, utensils) will be made of gold, and their combs will be made of gold and silver. (The fuel of) their censers (vessels in which incense is burnt) will be Al-Uluwwah (a kind of stick that one uses for perfuming oneself with incense). Their sweat is Musk (the best kind of perfume), and each one of them will have two wives, whose bone marrow from their legs can be seen from behind their flesh, so beautiful are they."

In another Hadeeth, the Prophet said, *"Were a woman from the dwellers of Paradise to overlook the people of the earth, all that is between them would be illuminated and filled with fragrance. And indeed, the veil on her head is better than the earth and all that is in it."*

Saheeh Bukhaaree, "The Book of Jihaad and Biographies"; chapter, "Al-Hoor Al-'Een (The fair maidens of Paradise who have wide, beautiful eyes) and Their Description. (2796).

The Best That Is Given to The Dwellers of Paradise

The Messenger of Allah said, *"When the people of Paradise enter Paradise, Allah, the Blessed, the Exalted, will say, 'Do you want something that I can give you in addition (to what I already gave you)?' They will say, 'Did you not whiten our faces? Did you not admit us into Paradise and save us from the Hellfire?' He will remove the veil, and they will not have been given anything that is more beloved to them than looking at their Lord, the Blessed, the Exalted."*

At the end of one of the narrations of this Hadeeth, the Prophet then recited this Verse:

لِّلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْمُسْنَىٰ وَزِيَادَةٌ وَلَا يَرْهَقُ وُجُوهَهُمْ قَتَرٌ وَلَا ذِلَّةٌ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

"For those who have done good is the best (reward, i.e., Paradise) and even more (i.e., having the honour of glancing at the Countenance of Allah). Neither darkness

nor dust nor any humiliating disgrace shall cover their faces. They are the dwellers of Paradise; they will abide therein forever." (Qur'an 10: 26)

Saheeh Muslim, "The Book of Faith"; chapter, "It Being Established That the Believers will See Their Lord in the Hereafter." Hadeeth number: 180.

Also, Allah will be pleased with the dwellers of Paradise, never again to become angry with them. Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudree related that the Messenger of Allah said:

"Verily, Allah will say to the people of Paradise, 'O people of Paradise.' And they will say, 'Labbaik, our Lord, and Sa'daik (here we are, with continual obedience, and continually seeking to please You), and all goodness is in Your Hands.' He will say, 'Are you pleased?' They will say, 'And why should we not be pleased, O our Lord, when You have indeed given us that which You have not given to anyone else from Your creation?' He will say, 'Shall I not give you even better than that?' They will say, 'Our Lord, and what can be better than that?' He will say, I will make incumbent upon you My Good Pleasure, so that I will never afterwards be angry with you."

Saheeh Muslim, "The Book of Paradise, Its Description, and Its Bliss"; chapter, "The Good Pleasure (of Allah) Settles Down Upon the Believers." Hadeeth number: 2829.

The close of Their request will be: "All the praises and Thanks Be to Allah, The Lord of All that Exists."

The believers will witness many terrifying events on the Day of Resurrection, the last of which is passing over the Siraat (bridge that is erected over the Hellfire; those that safely cross it will enter Paradise). Then, after removing from them all grief, Allah will admit them into Paradise. Seeing what Allah has prepared for them; they will glorify and praise Allah.

"Adn (Eden) Paradise (everlasting Gardens) will they enter, therein will they be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments therein will be of silk (i.e., in Paradise). And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, WI.

has removed from us (all) grief. Verily, our Lord is indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds and to recompense)." (Qur'an 35: 33, 34)

And the close of their request in the gardens of Paradise will be, "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, Lord of all that exists."

دَعْوَتُهُمْ فِيهَا سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَتَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ وَعَاجِرُ دَعْوَتِهِمْ أَنْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

"Their way of request therein will be Subhanaka Allahumma (Glory to You, O Allah!) and Salam (peace, safe from each and every evil) will be their greetings therein (Paradise)! And the close of their request will be: Al-Hamdu Lillahi Rabb-il-'Alamin [A the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)]." (Quran 10: 10)

Both Allah, in the Qur'an, and the Prophet, through his sayings, gave a vivid description of Paradise to the Companions, so vivid in fact that it was as if they could see Paradise before them. While a Companion read or heard Verses that described Paradise, he was made to feel that the reality of this life is in the distant past, while the reality of Paradise is in their immediate present. That the Prophet's Companions felt this way mainly because of the vivid descriptions of Paradise in the Qur'an attests to the stylistic and linguistic miracle of the Qur'an. For the Muslim nation to prosper, it is of the utmost importance that Muslims both clearly visualize Paradise and believe with certainty in it. When the description of Paradise becomes alive in the individuals of this nation, they will collectively work hard to please Allah 4, making any sacrifice that is necessary along the way; and they will no longer feel weak or fear death. In fact, the many military victories that Muslims enjoyed throughout history were achieved through many reasons, one of the most important of which was a desire, on the part of generals and soldiers alike, to become martyred in the way of Allah and to consequently enter Paradise.

Taken from the Noble Life of the Prophet PBUH by Dr Ali Muhammad As-Sallabi.

